

They talked of those as good times, and spoke of the conduct of the Chinese as very *zabardast* (oppressive), saying the Turks were like sheep to submit to it.

Kuchê town and district has, probably, sixty thousand inhabitants. There are remains of the walls of the old Turk city south-east of the Chinese, but the greater number of houses and all the shops are outside of this. The shops are small, like those in India, and nothing of native manufacture is sold, excepting sheep-skins, which are a speciality of this place.

After leaving Kuchê the country was still more populated, though the greater part of each march was over bare desert or through barren hills. We would also pass through country watered by numerous streams running down from the mountains, the road lined with trees, and snowy mountains in the background. Wheat, oats, and maize were the chief crops. Reaping was just beginning. A noticeable thing in this part was the absence of local carts. They were not used at all for farm purposes or for carrying country produce into town. Donkeys only were employed for this, and one