

country except that in which they are at the time living. And this habit of rubbing up against men of so many different countries gives them a quiet, even temperament and breadth of idea which makes them charming company.

I engaged one of these men, a native of the Pathan state of Bajaur on our Indian frontier, and which I eight years later visited during the Chitral expedition. His name was Rahmat-ula-Khan, and he agreed to accompany me to Kashgar, by Ush Turfan, while my cart went by Maral-bashi. He was a good specimen of his class, and full of adventurous projects, his great ambition being to visit England.

Under the guidance of this man, I left Aksu on August 10, riding one pony myself, while another was ridden by the Turki servant, and a third, carrying all the baggage we took with us, was led. In this way we could travel fast, and make long marches. Several of the cheery sociable merchants from India accompanied us for the first half of the march, and provided a lunch in a garden under the cool shade of fruit trees. The country, for several miles beyond Aksu, was well cultivated, and the road good. We crossed the Aksu river,