

owner of the one we applied to was very surly, but eventually agreed to give us accommodation for the night.

It was, therefore, with no very grateful feelings towards him that we left his camp on the following morning. We travelled hard all day, and, at the end of a march of forty-six miles, over a country mostly composed of bare hills and gravel plains, but with occasional clumps of trees in the hollows, we reached a wide plain of light clay, in the middle of which we found a large encampment of fully a hundred tents, and the people, besides keeping large flocks and herds, also cultivated a considerable amount of land. I noticed, too, some houses scattered here and there over the cultivated part of the plain, but was told that these were merely storehouses. The Kirghiz said that houses were good enough to put stores of grain in, but they would never run the risk of living in any erection which might fall down like a house! The inhabitants of this encampment were far from friendly, and it was only after considerable difficulty that a man was found who was willing to put us up. Rahmat-ula-Khan was most tactful and persuasive, but