

from under ground springs at the foot of the hills; and where these flow on the surface are planted the farm settlements. These conduits are called *karez* by the Musalmans, and *khin* by the Khitáy, and *nukhun-bukhá* by the Kalmák; some of them flow in a considerable stream for many miles and irrigate and fertilize wide tracts of otherwise bare desert.

Turfán extends from Gumish Akma hills separating it from Karáshahr valley on the west to Chíktam or Chightam on the borders of the desert on the east, a distance of forty *tásh* or 200 miles. Chightam is the limit of the Amír's territory eastward. The north boundary is an irregular range of hills called Ayghúr Bulák Tágh on the west and Kará Bulák Tágh on the east; whilst the southern border is an undefined line on the desert waste separating it from Lob. Within these limits the population is reckoned at 18,000 houses, or at seven per house 126,000 souls; but it does not contain anything like that number now.

After the capture of Kúchá and the destruction of the Khoja power there by the Amír, the Turfán State for a brief period formed part of the principality ruled by Dáúd Khalífa, till it was wrested from him by the conqueror as mentioned in the History. Under the Chinese this division was one of the most populous and flourishing of all the States of Káshghar, but it has suffered frightfully during the late revolution of the Tungani and succeeding conquest by the Amír, and now it is described as a long succession of ruined farmsteads and barely tenanted settlements.

Its city, which is called Kuhna Turfán or "Old Turfán" in distinction to U'sh Turfán in the west, was a thriving commercial city on the great caravan route between China and Western Asia, and the several lesser towns of the division were active seats of life and industry, but both their merchants and their wealth alike have disappeared in the recent troubles.

Turfán is described as a strong walled city surrounded by populous suburbs all watered by numerous *Karez* streams. Its population were mostly Khitáy and Tungání, and numbered 6,000 houses in and around the city, which was protected by a citadel with a garrison of 3,000 men. It was the emporium for the silks and teas of China, and had manufactures of leather and woollen fabrics of its own. The common fuel of the city was coal brought from the Sirkip hills to the north-east. It is of brown colour and much inferior to that found at Aksú, which is black, and burns well. The city is now in a decayed state with less than half its former population, and is entirely cut off from communication with China, whence it derived its wealth. It is held as a military post by a strong garrison of the Amír's troops who, to the number of 5,000 men, are quartered in the citadel, and a new fort built on the Khokand model close to the city.

The other principal places in this division are the following, *viz.*, Tokhsún, a small fortified town on the Karáshahr road, 600 houses including the suburbs. Dabánchí, a hill castle, on the road north to Orúmchí, 500 houses with the suburbs. Súbáshi, a market town of 300 Khitáy homesteads, now in ruins. Kará Khoja, a Musalmán settlement of 500 houses. Mazár Abul Fattáh, 300 houses, Musalmán market town. Lukchun, 2,000 houses, on the Gochang River which in floods reaches Lob; this is a market town, and its farmsteads spread many miles north and south along the course of the rivulet; though the fields are irrigated by *Karez* streams. Up to this the country all the way from Turfán, a distance of fifty miles, is a succession of farmsteads held by Musalmáns. Beyond, across a strip of desert waste, is another Musalmán settlement (as in fact are all the peopled places, though many of the holdings in each are tenantless), Pichán, 500 houses, and a Khitáy fort on a small stream from Gochang Tagh; and beyond again is the frontier outpost of Chightam, 100 houses. Gochang, at the foot of the hills to the north, is a market town of 400 houses. Yangi-Khín to its south 100 farms. Sirkip at foot of hills 200. And all the other settlements 6,500. Total 18,000 houses.

The soil of Turfán is described as similar to that of Káshghar, but more gravelly, and the productions are the same, though the climate is said to be much milder. The cotton produce here