

## CHAPTER XII.

### MONEY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES OF KÁSHGHAR.

#### MONEY.

The denominations and values of the current coins are these—

2 púl or fúl = 1 dárchin or pysa.

25 dárchin = 1 tanga = 4 annas Indian currency.

26 tanga = 1 tilá = 5 rupees 12 annas.

30 tilá = 1 yámbú or kúrs = 172 rupees 8 annas.

The *púl* is a thin copper disc with a square hole in the centre for stringing. It bears a Chinese inscription on each side, and is the only copper coin current. Two of them go to a *dárchin* and fifty to a tanga. The metal appears to be much alloyed with iron, and is of Chinese mintage.

The *tanga* is a small silver coin, recently issued by the Amir, in the name of the Sultan of Turkey, 'Abdul' aziz Khan (on the obverse), as the coinage of the "protected State of Káshghar" (on the reverse). It is said to be of pure silver and worth about six pence. The *tilá* is a gold coin in the name of 'Abdul' aziz, and bears the same legend as the *tanga*, simultaneously with which it was issued. Its market value varies between five and six ruples.

The *yámbú* or *kúrs* is a silver ingot something the shape of a deep boat with projecting bow and stern. The upper surface is slightly hollowed, and stamped with a Chinese inscription. It is said to be pure silver, and to weigh fifty *ser* = 30,000 grains English. It is divided into fifths and tenths, called *on ser* and *besh ser*, respectively, which are of the same shape and stamp, and proportionate size and value.

The *Kurs* is really an article of merchandize and not a coin, its value depreciating as the value of silver depreciates; it may be in fact regarded as "bar silver."

Indian Rupees are, at present, but little known in the Yarkand market; like the silver *Kurs* they are regarded solely as articles of merchandize, and receive their value as silver in equivalent coinage (*i.e.*, the copper circulating medium).

They suffer, at present, however, from an additional disadvantage in being but little known: that is, they are affected by a variety of circumstances, and their value may fall below the value of silver.

For instance, taking the *Kurs* to represent 800 *Tangas* as at present, the value of a rupee would be 5 *Tangas*, whereas it realizes no more than from 4 to 4½ *Tangas*, and is differently priced by individuals according to circumstances.

In exchanging rupees at this moment an actual loss of from 2 annas 9 pies to 1 anna 4 pies is incurred.

*Gold* in the market may be thus classified:—

I.—*The Kóten Régh*.—This is a small gold bead unstamped; it sells at the present time at the following rate:—

Three sérs 7 miskals, or 3 sérs 8 miskals weight, obtain 1 silver *kurs* of 50 sérs, *i.e.*, 800 *Tangas*.

This places the seller of gold at a disadvantage; should however the value of the *Kurs* increase so as to represent 1,000 *Tangas* as formerly, the buyer will then suffer.

It must however be remembered on the other hand that as much as 4 sérs of this gold have been given for a silver *Kurs*.

II.—*The Yarkand Régh*.—This is of gold obtained in the Yarkand river and washed on the spot; it sells as follows:—