

Yarkand some months later he demanded the fullest apologies from the Chinese magistrate. The Chow-Kuan came, kotowed to him, and at his temporary residence humbly waited his convenience for the discharge of business. Such was the gist of the news I received at Khotan.

The next ten days I spent in travelling to Yarkand, about 220 miles, and there I learned that my letters had only just arrived, and that the Chow-Kuan himself was absent. On foot, I had performed the journey more quickly than the Chinese post.