

went at once to the rescue, accompanied by a few unarmed men, while M. Petrovsky despatched his Secretary with a few Cossacks. The damage actually inflicted was not very great, but the nature of this disturbance, got up by officials who professed to be well disposed to the missionaries, but unable to control the dislike of the populace, illustrates the methods of the Chinese. The missionaries' wives, Mrs. Högberg and Mrs. Raquette, found shelter for a time in the Russian consulate; but M. Petrovsky took no effective steps to secure the immunity of the missionaries from such attacks in the future, at least as far as I could ascertain.

At length, on April 25th, the caravan began its journey and I had the satisfaction of seeing my own section and that hired from Niaz Akun file out of Yarkand before ten o'clock in the morning. Then, that all my proceedings might be in perfect order, I went with Niaz Akun to the Yamen to bid farewell to Liu Ta-jin, the Chow-Kuan. Niaz Akun had many misgivings about this visit and showed both surprise and fear when I insisted on his accompanying me; but a few words sufficed to quiet his alarm. I wished the Chow-Kuan to have some personal knowledge of him and to be fully informed of the contract between us, so that there should be no appearance of concealment or mystery. The Chow-Kuan requested him to give security for his good behaviour by depositing a sum of money, or to produce some near relation who might be seized and punished in case Niaz Akun deserted me. These Chinese methods did not enter into my purpose, for, if security were given, it would probably never be returned, and if I were deserted there would be little justice in punishing any one but the actual offender. I therefore suggested a compromise: that the Chow-Kuan should refuse Niaz Akun a passport for Ladak until he produced one of my visiting-cards, signed and sealed by me, as evidence that