

and the Chow-Kuan of Karghalik, who was then in bad repute, and had been petitioned against by the people of his district, sought to regain favour with the Futai by releasing at his own cost all the slaves within his jurisdiction. When Macartney went to Khotan to urge on the work of manumission, he insisted on having all slaves examined, to ascertain whether any among them were from India. This process was likely to prove troublesome, and the Chow-Kuan, merely from a desire to save himself trouble, declared by public proclamation that all slaves in his district were thenceforth free. The Indian Government, which had thus, at a cost to itself not exceeding three thousand rupees, exerted a most beneficial influence, sent a telegram thanking the Taotai of Kashgar for his action, but sent it by way of the Tsungli Yamen at Peking, whence, up to March, 1899, it had not been despatched. In what way Macartney's able conduct of the negotiations was acknowledged I am not aware. The work was accomplished unostentatiously and with no newspaper celebration, for little or nothing was said about the matter either by the Indian or the English press.

The chief agricultural produce of the country consists of Indian corn, rice, wheat, barley, cotton, hemp, tobacco, and vegetables. Oats are not grown. Fruits commonly produced are grapes, melons, peaches, apricots, plums, &c., while pears and apples are somewhat rare. European potatoes are rare, but the Chinese variety can be obtained in all large towns. A notion among the people that rain-water contains salt, and is therefore injurious to the crops, is probably derived from the fact that the ground in many places contains a good deal of salt, usually covered by the muddy deposit from the canal water, but exposed to view when this surface mud has been washed off by heavy rain.