

125. FRESCO PANEL SHOWING SCENE FROM THE LIFE OF THE BUDDHA.
FROM RUINED BUDDHIST TEMPLE EXCAVATED AT 'MING-OI' SITE,
KARA-SHAHR.

The disposition of the ruins in long rows of detached
SCALE, ONE-SIXTH.
cellas, varying in size but all similar in plan and construc-
tion, facilitated systematic clearing with a large number of
laborers. Apart from the destructive effect of rain and
snow, the temples had suffered from a disaster from a great
conflagration. This is seen in the fact of many of the
ruins being in the state of complete ruin, and the
remains of the earliest Buddhist architecture which they
contained. But in spite of these circumstances the excavations were rewarded by the discovery of
archaeological spoil. The deep layers of earth, which
of the larger cellas and their surroundings, yielded
a great quantity of excellent pottery, which
had once adorned the interior of the temples.
(Fig. 127). The heat of the conflagration had
been imparted to the pottery, which otherwise would
have been in a state of ruin.

124. PIECE OF FIGURED 'SASANIAN' SILK FABRIC, FOUND AS FACE-COVER
OF DEAD BODY IN TOMB, ASTANA CEMETERY, TURFAN.

SCALE, ONE-HALF.

The piece of silk fabric, which was found as a face-cover
of a dead body in a tomb at the Astana Cemetery, Turfan,
is a fine example of the quality of the Sasanian silk
which was once enjoyed, and the delicate and
delicate workmanship of the fabric.