



BADAHSHANI TRADER, YARKAND.

mercial centre of Chinese Turkestan, and owing to its geographical position at the point where the routes to India, Afghanistan, and to the North meet, has something of a cosmopolitan air about it. The colonies of Kashmiris, Gilgitis, Badakhshanis, and people from other parts of the Indian frontier regions are large, and each of them has members of some position anxious to show attention to a 'Sahib.' So I had to hold regular receptions with the assistance of old Munshi Bunyad Ali, and "the carpet of my presence" was rarely clear of more or less picturesque visitors. If their statements as to the strength of their respective communities can be trusted, Yarkand

must have a strangely mixed population. Immigrants from Wakhan, Shighnan, Badakhshan, and the other Iranian tracts westwards abound; Kashmir and Ladak are strongly represented; even little Baltistan has sent its colony from beyond