

(now Hsi-an-fu)<sup>4</sup>. The population was reckoned at 3,300 families with 19,300 people<sup>5</sup>, the number of soldiers being 2,400. Several high dignitaries, among them commandants of the Western and Eastern cities, are enumerated. To the south lay the territory of the Jê-Ch'iang nomads, who appear to have held the plateaus and valleys along the whole Kun-lun range from Tsaidam westwards, while to the north was that of Ku-mo (Ush-Turfau). The abundance of jade is specially noticed; the statement that all rivers west of Yü-t'ien flowed into the western ocean and those east into Lop-Nor betrays geographical confusion, of which the 'Notice of the Western Regions' shows other unmistakable signs<sup>6</sup>.

That Yü-t'ien during the period of the Former Hans must have been a relatively weak state becomes evident from the mention which the 'Notice of the Western Regions' makes of the three small territories of *Jung-lu* 戎盧, *Yü-mi* 扞彌, and *Ch'ü-lê* 渠勒 as separate 'kingdoms' to the east of it<sup>7</sup>. The T'ang Annals distinctly tell us that Yü-t'ien had absorbed these territories, together with P'i-shan, since the Han period. They further show that *Yü-mi*, also called *Ning-mi* 寧彌, or *Chü-mi* 拘彌, must be identified with the oases which extend between Ch'ira and Keriya<sup>8</sup>. *Jung-lu* and *Ch'ü-lê* were petty tracts at the foot of the mountains, south-east and south of Yü-mi<sup>9</sup>; they cannot be located with the same certainty as the latter, but correspond manifestly to the present 'Tāgh' ('hill') district, comprising the small submontane settlements which extend east and west of Polu. Considering how close these oases and hill tracts lie to Khotan, and how limited their resources are compared to those of the Khotan oasis, their political dependence upon any firm rule established at the latter would follow almost as a matter of course. The same observation applies to P'i-shan, in which we have already recognized the small oases about Gūma and Moji<sup>10</sup>. From the way in which Yü-mi is described in the Former Han Annals it seems safe to conclude that this little state was at that time not only independent, but also quite as powerful as Yü-t'ien.

The Annals of the Later Hans show clearly that it was only after the middle of the first century A.D. that Yü-t'ien rose to political importance for the Chinese. We are there informed that towards the end of the reign of the Emperor Kuāng-wu ti (25-57 A.D.) King Yü-lin of Khotan had become subject to the powerful king of *So-ch'ê*, i.e. the territory of Yarkand, and had been reduced to the rank of the ruler of *Li-kuei*<sup>11</sup>. During the period comprising the years 58-73 A.D., however, a general of Yü-t'ien, called Hsiu-mo-pa, revolted and made himself independent as ruler of the territory. His nephew and successor Kuang-tê in turn conquered *So-ch'ê* and made Khotan so powerful that thirteen 'states' to the north-west, as far as Kāshgar,

Small  
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Khotan in  
Later Han  
Annals.

<sup>4</sup> See for this extract *Ville de Khotan*, p. 2, and Wylie, *J. Anthropol. Inst.*, x. p. 30. It seems probable that the designation 'Western City' corresponds to that of 'city of Western mountains' (*Hsi-shan*) used for the Khotan capital in the T'ang Annals; see *Turcs occid.*, p. 125.

<sup>5</sup> Rémusat, loc. cit., p. 2, has '2300 maisons ou familles'.

<sup>6</sup> Wylie (loc. cit., p. 30 note) saw in this erroneous statement an indication that the territory of Khotan extended westwards to the Pāmīr watershed, and looked for the site of the capital of Yü-t'ien in the neighbourhood of Yarkand. This explanation is in direct contradiction to the text of the 'Notice', which specifies quite a series of independent 'kingdoms' between Khotan and Sarikol; see above, pp. 91 sq.

<sup>7</sup> See Wylie, loc. cit., p. 29.

<sup>8</sup> Compare *Turcs occid.*, p. 125. The identification of

Yü-mi with the present Keriya, which M. Chavannes, *ibid.*, p. 128, note 1, adopts from a modern Chinese geographical work, the *Hsi yü shui tao chi*, is somewhat too limited. I shall discuss the position of Yü-mi below, chap. XIII., when dealing with Keriya.

<sup>9</sup> The pettiness of these 'states' is indicated by the recorded population of 1,610 and 2,170 persons, respectively. Yü-mi, on the other hand, is credited in the 'Notice of the Western Regions', with 20,040 people, and a larger number of trained troops than Yü-t'ien itself; see Wylie, loc. cit., p. 29.

<sup>10</sup> See above, p. 103.

<sup>11</sup> See Rémusat, *Ville de Khotan*, p. 3. For the probable location of *So-ch'ê* (Wylie's *Sha-keu*), at, or in the vicinity of, Yarkand, see above, p. 88. The name of *Li-kuei* cannot be traced by me elsewhere. [Mr. Thomas tentatively suggests some connexion with *Li-yul*.]