

from Hami, Chiang made me put in a good word for Wang. I do not know what attention, if any, was paid to it; but before I left Turkestan Chiang heard the cheerful news that Wang had been finally exonerated and given a fresh magisterial charge elsewhere.

We left Su-chou on September 16th, and after passing again through the gate of Chia-yü-kuan lost all trace of the 'Great Wall' until we reached the small district town of Yü-mên-hsien five days later. There was good reason to believe that the road we had followed was already in ancient times the main line of communication. But the *Limes* intended to safeguard it had evidently been constructed farther north, where the rugged desert range first touched at Chia-yü-kuan offered the advantage of a strong natural rampart. I had subsequently the satisfaction of finding this assumption verified. On a reconnaissance made from Yü-mên-hsien to the north, I discovered a line of ancient towers just beyond the hamlets appropriately named Shih-tun ('Tower x.') and Shih-êrh-tun ('Tower XII.'), and on closer search I was able to trace unmistakable remains of the wall once connecting them.

Far-advanced decay had been caused by the proximity of marshy ground liable to inundation from a branch of the Su-lo Ho, whose great westward bend lies close by. Yet my archaeological conscience as to the connection of these scanty remains with the ancient *Limes* of Han times was assured when, on scraping the somewhat higher ground near one of the towers, I came upon those significant fascines, here composed of half-petrified twigs, so familiar from the Tun-huang border. The very name of Yü-mên-hsien, 'the town of the Jade Gate,' was manifestly borrowed from that *Limes*, though its transfer to a point so far east could certainly not have taken place until long after T'ang times.

On the second day after leaving Yü-mên-hsien for An-hsi I again sighted the old wall with its line of towers stretching along the north bank of the Su-lo Ho. It here afforded protection to the string of small oases which extend south of the river on both sides of the large walled town of Bulunjir; this is now but for a tiny garrison almost deserted. Some twelve miles west of Bulunjir I was able