

had hampered any kind of enquiry, I could also appreciate the hospitable and open-hearted reception we met with everywhere among the Turki settlers after leaving Hami. Yet I wondered how long these pleasant features among the rural gentry would hold out against the influence of 'civilized' Chinese ways which is manifestly spreading in these parts—if that influence is destined to last.

The first thing I noticed when we left Hami was the change in the atmosphere. The air was fresher, the people more friendly. We were met everywhere by the Turki settlers, who were hospitable and open-hearted. They were glad to see us and to hear of our journey. They told us of the many changes that were taking place in the oasis, and of the influence of the Chinese ways which were spreading among the rural gentry.

I was struck by the way in which the Turki settlers had adapted themselves to the new conditions. They had learned to use the tools and implements which the Chinese had introduced, and they had adopted many of their customs and habits. They were no longer the nomadic people of old, but they were still true to their own ways. They were proud of their heritage, and they were determined to preserve it as long as they could. They were also proud of their progress, and they were glad to see the oasis becoming more and more civilized.

As we traveled through the oasis, we saw many signs of the Chinese influence. We saw the Chinese buildings, the Chinese shops, and the Chinese people. We saw the Chinese ways of life, and we saw the Chinese influence spreading among the Turki settlers. We saw the Turki settlers learning to use the Chinese tools and implements, and we saw them adopting many of the Chinese customs and habits. We saw the Turki settlers becoming more and more civilized, and we saw the oasis becoming more and more a part of the Chinese world.