

treats of 'the River of the North', i.e. of the rivers of Kāshgar and Yārkand, and proceeds to tell us:—<sup>20</sup>

'The waters of the *Ho*, i.e. "River [of the North]", move further east and pass to the south of the kingdom of *Mo-shan* 墨山. [This kingdom] has for its capital the town of *Mo-shan*; on the west, it is 240 li from *Wei-li* 尉犁. The waters of the *Ho* move further east and pass to the south of the town of *Chu-pin* 注賓; further east they pass south of the town of *Lou-lan* 樓蘭 and then run off eastwards. This is, no doubt, the place where the colony of soldiers sent to clear the fields [for cultivation] was established, and this is why the town inherited the name of the kingdom. The waters of the *Ho* proceed further east, to empty themselves in the *Yu* marshes 幼澤, which are those called by the [*Shui*] *ching* the *P'u-ch'ang* lake 蒲昌海. The water accumulates in the north-east of *Shan-shan* and in the south-west of the Town of the Dragon 龍城'.

Location of  
*Mo-shan*,  
*Wei-li*.

I think that the topographical indications here furnished can be fully explained if we keep in view the facts which recent surveys and explorations have established. The kingdom of *Mo-shan*, as M. Chavannes has pointed out, is rightly identified by an early commentator with the kingdom of *Shan* 山, which the Former Han Annals name as adjoining *Shan-shan*, and which, as we have already seen, can safely be located in the western *Kuruk-tāgh*.<sup>21</sup> His location is fully supported by the bearing and distance recorded for *Wei-li*, which, as a reference to the *Ch'ien Han shu*'s notice of this territory discussed below shows, is identical with the tract on the *Konche-daryā* south-west of *Korla*.<sup>22</sup> A glance at the map makes it clear that the interlacing beds of the *Tārim* and the *Konche-daryā*, which the text manifestly does not distinguish, lie south of the westernmost *Kuruk-tāgh*.

'Town of  
*Chu-pin*.'

When next we are told that the waters of the 'Ho', on their further course eastward, 'pass to the south of the town of *Chu-pin*', it is difficult not to think of the ruined station of *Ying-p'an*, situated near the northern bank of the large dry river-bed which branches off eastwards from the present *Konche-daryā* and marks the beginning of the *Kuruk-daryā*. My explorations of 1915 at this site have proved that the remains of Buddhist shrines found at *Ying-p'an*, and probably also those of an ancient circumvallation, go back to the early centuries of our era and belonged to a fortified Chinese station which was occupied down to about the same period as the *Lou-lan* site.<sup>23</sup> The line of massive watch-towers which stretches away from *Ying-p'an* north-westwards in the direction of *Korla*, and which on archaeological evidence must be assigned to early Han times, makes it quite certain that the ancient Chinese high-road, coming from the *Lou-lan* Site, passed here. The station was, no doubt, meant to guard an important point of the route where it was joined by the road leading up from *Charchan* and *Charkhlik*,<sup>24</sup> and I consider its identity with the 'town of *Chu-pin*' highly probable.

Li Tao-  
Yüan's  
'town of  
*Lou-lan*'.

Close to the south of *Ying-p'an* there passes the ancient well-defined river-bed of the *Kuruk-daryā*, running eastwards, and down this we are clearly taken when Li Tao-yüan tells us that 'further east [the waters of the *Ho*] pass south of the town of *Lou-lan* and then run off eastwards'. The account given in the preceding chapter shows that, coming from the south, we crossed a succession of ancient river-beds, all deltaic branches of the *Kuruk-daryā*, before reaching the *Lou-lan* Site, while north of it only a few dry beds, and none of any great width, were met with on

<sup>20</sup> Cf. *T'oung-pao*, 1905, p. 570.

<sup>21</sup> See Chavannes, *T'oung-pao*, 1905, p. 552, note 7; above, p. 334.

<sup>22</sup> See below, chap. xxx. sec. i; Wylie, *Notes on the Western Regions*, *J. Anthropol. Inst.*, xi. p. 101; also Chavannes, *T'oung-pao*, 1905, p. 552.

<sup>23</sup> For a preliminary note, see my *Third Journey of*

*Exploration*, G.J., xlviii. p. 208. The ruins had first been noticed by Colonel Kozloff and Dr. Hedin; cf. the latter's *Central Asia*, ii. pp. 30 sqq.

<sup>24</sup> That this road led to the east of the present main bed of the *Tārim* is suggested by the position of the small ruined post of *Merdek-tim*, which also dates back to Han times; see below, pp. 452 sqq.