

for the small territory of *Ch'ü-lê* 渠勒, which the Former Han Annals note to the south of Yü-mi 汙彌,<sup>6</sup> can safely be identified with the present submontane tract known as *Tāgh* and comprising, as mentioned above,<sup>7</sup> the various small settlements from the Keriya River to those on the river of Chīra. Of Yü-mi I have made it certain, as I believe, that it comprised the whole of the oases between Chīra and Keriya,<sup>8</sup> and the *Tāgh* subdivision lies, as Maps Nos. 28, 32 show, exactly to the south of these. *Ch'ü-lê* is described as a very small territory with only 310 families. We have no means of fixing the position of its 'capital . . . the city of Keen-too'. The equally small territory of *Jung-lu* 戎盧, which is mentioned as lying to the east of *Ch'ü-lê* and off the high road, may safely be located in the submontane tract east of the Keriya River, from Achchan to beyond Surghak.<sup>9</sup> The Later Han Annals do not mention *Ch'ü-lê*; but in the *Wei lio* it appears along with Jung-lu, Han-mi, and P'i-k'ang as a petty kingdom dependent on Yü-t'ien or Khotan.<sup>10</sup> The absorption by the latter of all these little states is distinctly attested by a passage of the T'ang Annals where we meet with the name of *Ch'ü-lê* for the last time.<sup>11</sup>

Territory  
of *Ch'ü-lê*  
identified.

One march from Tört-Imām brought us to the village of Pölur (Map No. 32. c. 4), some 8,500 feet above the sea. It nestles above a side stream of the Keriya River, at the very foot of high snow-covered spurs which descend straight from the great wall of the K'un-lun Range southward. It was the last inhabited place of Chinese Turkestan I was to see for long years, and the starting-point for our expedition into a difficult and for the most part wholly unexplored mountain region. Three busy days, which were needed for final preparations, enabled me also to secure anthropological measurements among these 'Tāghliks'; their type was of interest as it showed an unmistakable difference from that of the people in the Khotan oases and suggested, perhaps, early Tibetan influence from the south.<sup>11a</sup> Then on August 12 we set out for the long-planned explorations. Their objects were purely geographical, and no detailed account of them is here needed; for the ample results secured, as well as the efforts and sacrifices which they involved, have already been fully recorded and illustrated in my Personal Narrative.<sup>12</sup> But a rapid synopsis may all the same fitly find a place here, were it only to indicate the few points on this journey of more than 500 miles across barren wastes of rock, ice, or detritus which can ever have been scenes of human endeavour since history dawned for mankind.

Prepara-  
tions at  
Pölur.

The route through the terribly confined gorges above Pölur, which brought us after four trying marches to the northernmost high plateau adjoining the outer main K'un-lun Range at an elevation of about 15,000 feet, has indeed been used about half a dozen times by European explorers since the 'Pandits' of the Forsyth Mission traversed it in 1873. But important as it is by giving direct access to the great uplands of westernmost Tibet, it can never have served for movements of any conse-

Difficulties  
of Pölur  
gorges.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Wylie, *Notes on the Western Regions*, *J. Anthropol. Inst.*, x. p. 29.

<sup>7</sup> See above, p. 1321, note 2.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. *Ancient Khotan*, i. pp. 167, 467, where full references will be found to the passages of the *Wei lio* and T'ang Annals, translated by M. Chavannes, which mention this territory under the graphically but slightly differing name of *Han-mi* 汗彌. For a fuller notice of the same territory under the name *Chü-mi* 拘彌 in the *Hou Han shu*, see now Chavannes, *T'oung-pao*, 1907, pp. 170 sq. The identification remains unaffected by the question as to the position of the capital of Yü-mi (*Han-mi*), which Herrmann, *Seidenstrassen*, i. pp. 96 sqq., has discussed before being in a position to make adequate allowance for the evidence of archaeological facts

and recent surveys.

<sup>9</sup> See Maps Nos. 32, 38. This location is made quite certain by the mention of the *Ch'ien Han shu*, Wylie, *loc. cit.*, p. 29, that Jung-lu lay four days' journey to the south of Ching-chüeh, i.e. the tract represented by the Niya Site; see above, p. 219.

<sup>10</sup> See Chavannes, *T'oung-pao*, 1905, p. 538; for *P'i-k'ang* 皮亢 or *P'i-shan*, corresponding to the present Gūma tract, cf. *Ancient Khotan*, i. pp. 97, 103.

<sup>11</sup> See Chavannes, *Turcs occid.*, p. 125.

<sup>11a</sup> See Joyce, Appendix C.

<sup>12</sup> See *Desert Cathay*, ii. pp. 442-82, also Map II and Panoramas XII, XIII. The details of the surveys made are to be found in Maps Nos. 22, 28, 29, 32, 33.