

Tereks or poplars of the cultivated variety (*Populus alba*), the only specimens I had seen at the site. One trunk measured forty-seven feet in length, with a circumference of six feet. Their size clearly showed that at this point, in any case, cultivation must have gone on for a long time before the site was abandoned.

On December 28 I visited the ruins which Dr. Hedin's reference had enabled me to trace about half-way between L.B. IV-V and the Stūpa first seen on our approach to the site.<sup>15</sup> I found them to be situated about two and a quarter miles in a straight line to the E.S.E. of L.B. IV (see Plate 22), and their remains very scanty. Close to a belt of dead Toghraks a small wind-eroded ridge, running from N.E. to S.W., bears the badly-decayed remains of two structures built partly of burnt bricks and partly of the usual timber and wattle. The one to the north-east, L.B. VI, showed a small brick-built room, about  $15\frac{1}{2}$  feet square, enclosed by walls three feet thick and still rising to a height of over two feet, on a foundation of tamarisk bundles. The ground beneath the N.E. wall was undercut by erosion. The bricks measured  $16'' \times 10'' \times 2''$  and were laid in single courses alternating with layers of stamped clay. Adjoining the S.W. wall was one of timber and wattle, about eleven feet long in its extant portion, of which the foundation beam was at one end overhanging the eroded slope.

Remains at  
L.B. VI.

On clearing the interior of the cella we found in the southern corner several small and very friable fresco fragments, painted in tempera on mud plaster. The largest of them, L.B. VI. 002, now reduced by vicissitudes of transport from six to about three inches across, shows white leaves with scalloped edges on a pale green ground. On the eroded slope outside this corner there were recovered, besides some undecorated pieces of wood-carving, two trellis-work panels, L.B. 0019, a, b (Plate XXXIII), showing a screen pattern of diagonal bars and wheels, which resembles that of similar panels from L.B. II and V; also a wooden block, L.B. VI. 001 (Plate XXXII), decorated in rilievo with an eight-petalled lotus. The design corresponds closely to that of the carved flower from the cella entrance, M. V. 0012 (Pl. XLVII), and that of the other represented on the lintel of the palace gate in the painted frieze of the Mīrān temple M. V. (Fig. 134; see below, pp. 514, 518). These finds, scanty as they are, make it quite certain that the structure had contained a small Buddhist shrine. The other building, occupying the south-west end of the same eroded terrace and about twenty yards off, seems to have been larger, but had suffered even more decay. Only on the south-west side could a line of wall, about twenty-seven feet long, be distinguished, marked by a single course of burnt bricks which seem to have served as a foundation. Among the confused heap of timber near it there were massive beams showing lengths up to twenty-five feet and a thickness of fourteen by ten inches.

Relics of  
Buddhist  
shrine.

Plentiful pottery debris of the local type strewed the ground close to these two structures and towards the shapeless mound of sun-dried bricks which was found about a furlong further east, and which evidently marked the position of a completely decayed Stūpa. It measured at its base about 30 feet from N.E. to S.W. and 18 feet across. Its top rose about 11 feet above the original level of the ground. About half a mile to the south-west of this Stūpa remnant, going over ground where potsherds were abundant, I found another mound about 35 feet in diameter which, by the successive layers of charred tamarisk wood and brick fragments cropping out all round its sides, could be clearly recognized as an ancient brick-kiln. Its maximum height above the original ground was about eight feet. But the latter now showed as a terrace, quite 16 feet high on the south-west, owing to the depth of wind-erosion. Mounds of this origin were familiar enough to me from the vicinity of old cities in Northern India, where, as round Lahore, they often form a conspicuous feature of the environs. But in the Tārīm Basin, where the extreme dryness of the

Ancient  
brick-kiln.

<sup>15</sup> See Hedin, *Central Asia*, ii. pp. 627 sq.