

from entering into relations of direct intercourse with the inhabitants of the interior of Asia. Movements, which emanated from the remotest parts of China, produced the most rapid, although not long-persisting changes in the political condition of the vast territories which lie between the volcanic celestial mountains (Thian-schan) and the chain of the Kuenlun in the north of Thibet. A Chinese expedition subdued the Hiungnu, levied tribute from the small territory of Khotan and Kaschgar, and carried its victorious arms as far as the eastern shores of the Caspian. This great expedition, which was made in the time of Vespasian and Domitian, was headed by the general Panschab, under the Emperor Mingti, of the dynasty of Han, and Chinese writers ascribe a grand plan to the bold and fortunate commander, maintaining that he designed to attack the Roman empire (Tathsin), but was deterred by the admonitory counsel of the Persians.\* Thus there arose connections between the shores of the Dead Sea, the Schensi, and those territories on the Oxus in which an animated trade had been prosecuted from an early age with the nations inhabiting the coasts of the Black Sea.

The direction in which the stream of immigration inclined in Asia was from east to west, while in the New Continent it was from north to south. A century and a half before our era, about the time of the destruction of Corinth and Carthage, the first impulse to that "immigration of nations," which did not, however, reach the borders of Europe until five hundred years afterward, was given, by the attack of the Hiungnu (a Turkish race confounded by De Guignes and Johann Müller with the Finnish Huns) on the fair-haired and blue-eyed Yueti (Getæ?), probably of Indo-Germanic descent,† and on the Usun, who dwelt near the wall of China. In this manner the stream of population flowed from the upper river

\* Klaproth, *Tableaux Historiques de l'Asie*, 1826, p. 65-67.

† To this fair-haired, blue-eyed Indo-Germanic, Gothic, or Arian race of Eastern Asia, belong the Usun, Tingling, Hutis, and great Yueti. The last are called by the Chinese writers a Thibetian nomadic race, who, three hundred years before our era, migrated to the district between the upper course of the Hoang-ho and the snowy mountains of Nanschan. I here recall this descent, as the Seres (Plin., vi., 22) are also described as "rutilus comis et cæruleis oculis." (Compare Ukert, *Geogr. der Griech. und Römer*, th. iii., abth. 2, 1845, s. 275.) We are indebted for the knowledge of these fair-haired races (who, in the most eastern part of Asia, gave the first impulse to what has been called "the great migration of nations") to the researches of Abel Remusat and Klaproth, which belong to the most brilliant historical discoveries of our age.