

on the north-west side, below which there is a sharp precipice of some 2000 feet. Down below pine trees can be seen. The hill-sides, when not rocky, are covered with bracken, wild flowers and occasional fruit trees now in blossom; and wild goats, leopards and wolves are to be found.

After climbing for three hours, Pereira reached the half-way temple, Ch'ing-ko-p'ing (altitude 5000 feet), where he stayed the night. It stands at the end of the valley under the perpendicular walls of the lower ridge of the Hwa Shan on the left, the precipices of the Hsi-feng in front and steep but accessible hills on the left. Here he was given a quite comfortable and clean room with a kang to lie on and thick coverlets. In accordance with the usual custom in Chinese temples he was offered a circular box, divided, like the eight Chinese diagrams, into eight outer compartments and one in the centre, containing different kinds of sweetmeat. Cups were then produced and filled with tea. And for dinner he had some really excellent small Irish potatoes with Chinese vermicelli and bread, whilst the remainder of his party had a regular Chinese meal. The potatoes were grown on the mountain, but most of the other provisions had been brought from the plain.

The next day, starting at 7.30, he began the real ascent of the mountain, making for the Pei-feng or northern peak (6280 feet). Close by the temple was a small circular cave hewn out of the solid rock about 20 feet high and 20 feet in diameter, with a circular roof, and filled with the usual hideous idols of the country. A difficult path up rocks a little above it leads to