

others being Peking (the north), Nanking (the south), L'oyang (the east). It is now again officially called by its ancient name of Ch'angan, though the people still keep to Sian. (Other ways of describing it are Signan and Hsi-an-fu.) Twenty years previously there was a walled Manchu city on the east side; but the Manchus were massacred after the republic was declared, and their city was pulled down. There is now a fine "mali", some 30 or 40 yards wide, from the east gate to the Bell Tower, and on either side are long two-storied buildings with Chinese roofs. The Bell Tower, in the centre of the city, was used in former days for fire-alarms. It is now supposed to ring the hours, though it seldom does. The drum tower had a drum, which was beaten in case of attacks.

From Mr. F. E. S. Newman (a great-nephew of the Cardinal and a high authority on things Chinese) Pereira learnt that Sian, which was built 500 B.C., was a city of some 30 miles in circumference at the time of the Han dynasty, and had a population of about 4,000,000. Later it was destroyed; but it rose again to prominence under the T'angs. At present the population is officially estimated at 110,000, and is probably over a quarter of a million at most, including suburbs, though a missionary put it at a million.

Near Sian are the tombs of the T'ang dynasty, A.D. 618 to 907. In the old days these tombs extended for from 5 to 10 li underground by different passages. To prevent the evil spirits following the Imperial carcasses, wives and servants were buried alive with the corpse, and the