

was erected in A.D. 787 in honour of the bishop, Izadbuzid of Walk. It is the earliest monument of Christianity in China, and dates back to the second year of Hsüan Chung of the T'ang dynasty. It is an oblong black piece of stone, shining like polished marble, 6 to 7 feet high and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. It stands on a tortoise, and is surmounted by a top piece 3 feet high, on which are carved two intertwined dragons. The monument is said to have been dug up early in 1625 near Chow Chih. Pereira was the first European after the Boxer Rising to visit it. It then stood in the open outside the west gate. Later a foreigner had the stone copied, and tried to carry off the original. But his plans were prevented, and for greater safety and better preservation the tablet has been removed to the old Confucian temple in the city, near the south wall. This building is now known as the Peilin or "Forest of Tablets", and contains 424 tablets, mostly of the T'ang dynasty, but some are of the Sung dynasty.

One hundred and twenty-two tablets of the T'ang period (A.D. 618 to 907) are inscribed with the five classics, both sides of each stone being used. The tablets are chiefly taken up with writing, but some have poor pictures. One is of the Goddess of Mercy (Kuan-yin) of the T'ang period. Another is of the first Manchu emperor. Others represent the outlines of the Hwa Shan and Tai-pai Shan, the two sacred mountains of the Province.

A seven-storied pagoda, the Ta-yen Ta, of the T'ang period stands about 2 miles to the south