

these Chinese soldiers, when away from their comrades and alone with the foreigner, are always docile and anxious to help.

At Ningia the magistrate came to meet him outside the city and prepared an official house with a nice clean room for him. He sent him a lot of ducks, chickens, etc., as a present. But Pereira told him he made a rule not to accept presents and that he had expressly asked the foreign bureau at Sian to send a letter to all magistrates on his route, telling them not to offer him any gifts. Unfortunately these requests were always ignored, as the officials would regard the request as a delicate way of asking for presents.

The scenery, especially after the P'ingho-liang, was very fine and was like the hilly parts of Szechwan. The valleys were green with rice and wheat. Trees covered the hills and on their sides was a profusion of wild flowers, lilac, yellow and white. Added to them were the pink and white blossoms of the fruit trees. April 27 was a glorious day and Pereira walked the whole $24\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Liang-ho to Kin-shui-ho (the Gold Water River). After crossing a river by a ferry he had a steep climb of 1880 feet up the Shan-tzu P'o and a further climb along the top of ridges for another 390 feet. From there he had splendid views all round, over range after range with deep valleys between. Some of the hills were gently sloping and partly cultivated or covered with trees. All along the path was the sweet smell of flowers. And coolies swarmed up and down the slopes, which from a distance looked like a gigantic ant-heap. After a sharp descent of