

## CHAPTER VI

### HAN-CHUNG TO CHENGTU

IN spite of difficulties due to soldiers and brigands, Pereira was able to leave Han-chung on May 4, taking with him eight chair-bearers and fourteen coolies. A bevy of lesser officials came to see him off. And as the main road by Kwang-yüan-hsien was occupied by undisciplined soldiers without any leader, he took a small road. At  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the south gate of the city he crossed the Han River by a ferry. It is navigable the whole way from here to Hankow.

On the far side he ascended the Leng-shui Ho, which comes out of a hole in the mountains. A temple is built picturesquely over its exit and a cascade comes down to join it close by. Here he entered the region of palm trees, and the scenery was very beautiful. The foot-hills of the Pa Shan (the parallel range to the Ching Ling) were dotted over with houses. And as the main range was reached, the hill-sides were steep and covered with scrub, while torrents roared below.

The border between Szechwan and Shensi was crossed 35 miles south of Han-chung Fu. In places here the hills were quite white with wild strawberries. But a robber band of three