

hundred men was near at hand, and two delegates from a village had to be sent to tell them that Pereira was travelling under an escort and that they were not to molest him on the morrow. But there are honest men as well as robbers in China, for Pereira had left his watch in the inn and the innkeeper walked 12 miles the next day to return it to him.

A little tea and several fields of poppy were seen growing near Pei-pa, 16 miles from the border.

After leaving Pei-pa there was a steep climb of 3100 feet and a drop of 2300 to Shapa, where again there were poppies growing. The scenery was beautiful—high sloping hills, crowned by perpendicular rocks covered with trees. The hillsides were partly covered with trees and partly under crops. A golden pheasant was seen. After climbing the big hill and covering 20 miles the coolies were very tired—as they might well be.

Since leaving Han-chung Pereira had had an escort of one officer and ten men and these now returned. They were Chihli and Shantung men and were a well-set-up, smart lot, and very well behaved. He could not wish for better men. It only showed what Chinese soldiers can be when properly taken in hand.

The country ahead being apparently free from robbers, he took no local militia as escort from Kuei-min-kuan on May 9. Heavy rain now fell and the glorious scenery was spoilt by the weather. The path was over rocks and often became the channel for miniature mountain torrents. At times the whole country was hidden by mists.