

valley was under cultivation. The scattered farm-houses added to the picturesque effect. The path, like most of the paths along the main routes in Szechwan, was fairly well paved. The mosquitoes, especially in the neighbourhood of paddy fields, now became very troublesome.

Pao-ning Fu (4120 feet) was reached on May 19. Pereira walked the whole $87\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Pachow, and what with making a survey of the road and looking after his coolies he had had a strenuous time. Pao-ning Fu (now called Lang-chung-hsien) had declined under the Republic. It had now about 20,000 inhabitants, mostly in the large eastern suburb, where the Church of England have two large compounds with a fine cathedral.

From here he hired coolies for the whole journey of eight days to Chengtu at about two shillings each a day. Several villages on the road had most of the houses destroyed, probably as the result of military pillage. And the inns were in a ruinous state, with no paper on the windows. All was very different from the life and bustle of the old times.

Another brigand-infested area was reached on May 25, and the magistrate of Tungchwan Sze was very anxious for Pereira to go by the northern road to Chengtu. But the next magistrate after all advised him to go by the main road, as he said the brigands were not likely to attack a foreigner. He sent an escort of four men with Pereira, but sent them unarmed as he said the brigands wanted rifles and would probably attack the escort if they had any. So Pereira had to rely on his revolver. The region he now entered used indeed to be a