

inhabited by Chinese, who in their fight for existence are always spreading out north and west, wherever the ground can be cultivated, and slowly pressing back the natives. The path rises and falls along the hill-side. The stream in this valley was bigger than the Teng-ch'ih-kou stream, and either this or one farther south near Mu-p'ing is the chief branch of the headquarters of the Ya River, that mad mountain torrent which everywhere runs in wild rapids from its upper reaches till it joins the T'ung River to the west of Kiating-fu. Pereira was surprised to find a banana tree at 6000 feet, and he also saw lacquer trees, which the Chinese were busily tapping. He spent the night in a hovel of wooden planks with a roof of bamboo rafters held down by stones on the top; and he seems to have attracted the attentions of the Chinese to more than the usual extent. They watched him consume some eggs and vegetables with as great a thrill as an English crowd would watch a close Derby finish.

On October 12 he climbed 2700 feet to a height of 9180 feet to a shelter on the upper slopes of the Hsü-chia-shan. Round the Chinese hovel the trees had been cleared to a considerable extent. But on the heights the forest was dense. And from his camp he had a beautiful view across the valley to the high tree-covered hills to the north. The following day the dogs put up a serow, but drove him away so that Pereira never even had a glimpse of him. Some wood-cutters said they had seen a pander hereabouts a month previously. But still no game appeared, and on October 17 Pereira returned to Teng-ch'ih-kou