

The return journey to headquarters at Teng-ch'ih-kou, over a mountain 12,000 feet high, was very trying, as he had to wade through deep snow in socks and sandals. In consequence, he had four toes of his right foot partially frost-bitten. And as this precluded all further possibility of hunting he decided to return to Chengtu. Leaving Teng-ch'ih-kou on November 7, carried on the back of a coolie, he descended the valley by a fairly good path. All the way he passed small Chinese villages and hovels with crops. At 23 miles he reached Mu-p'ing, a small Chinese walled town. The native prince (with a few prehistoric Mantzu men as a guard) lived in a yamen surrounded with a wall on a hill-side just north of the town.

Ten miles beyond Mu-p'ing the hills are lower and open out into a picturesque little valley covered with small Chinese villages, paddy fields and trees. His escort here consisted of six Mantzu soldiers belonging to the semi-Mongol-Tibetan tribes who entered Tibet from Mongolia. With the exception of a few soldiers and passing natives these were the only Mantzu he came across in the whole of his hunting trip. They were dressed in old-fashioned Chinese uniforms and retained their pigtails.

Leaving the main Ya-ho valley on November 9 he crossed the divide separating it from the Ta-ho branch, and on the far side passed through a very deep gorge with precipitous cliffs. And the following day he crossed the divide between the Ya and the Min Rivers and gradually descended to Kao-hsin-ch'ang. Beyond this he passed down