

## CHAPTER IX

### TO TA-CHIEN-LU

PEREIRA spent a month at Chengtu and whilst there studied the causes of the student troubles in China. The first cause, he records, is the bad treatment of Chinese by some foreigners. Then he finds that foreign-educated students are educated up to a certain standard and afterwards discover that there is a lack of suitable employment for them. The teachers are over-familiar and imbue students with ideas of equality. Definite Christian teaching is replaced by science and comparative religion. Students under foreigners are called "foreign tripe" by their compatriots, and to show that they are not foreigners turn against their benefactors. Students also strongly resent having to repay the money lent them to enable them to study.

Having recorded these conclusions and also had his boy taught the way to make omelettes, scrambled eggs, ginger bread, ginger biscuits, muffins and other luxuries, Pereira left Chengtu on December 15 for Ta-chien-lu, 294 miles distant, an important town on the Tibetan border from whence one road leads to Lhasa.

The Chengtu plain was mostly covered with