

last moment to Ta-chien-lu, after removing his Christians to a place of safety. Several priests of Batang have been massacred. And one at Tao-fu was imprisoned by the Tibetans for sixteen days with his arms and legs chained together. Also his beard was pulled out.

From Meng-kung he might have taken a more direct route by Fu-pien and the Hung-ch'iao Pass, 16,280 feet, and struck the Min River at Hsin-pau-kuan on the road to Choni, an important town about 100 miles south of Lan-chow, but he only heard of this route after he had made all his preparations to go by Kwan-hsien. So he left Meng-kung on January 19 for that town. The country was now fairly well inhabited. At Kuan-chai, a village of fifty-five families, mostly Chinese, there lived the Tu-ssu of the Tibetan tribe, the Ooje. His palace was a curious square building with a high tower in the centre and buildings resembling temples on the south-east corners. The courtyard was small and interesting. It looked very old and had some fine wood carving. The architecture was like old Saxon. Pereira climbed up uneven stairs to a reception-room where the Tu-ssu, dressed like a Chinese, received him. But as he could not speak Chinese, Pereira soon took his leave.

The next day he reached Jih-lung-kuan, 11,050 feet, and here on the following day he had to leave the valley of the Hsiao-chin and ascend a tributary to the south in order to cross the Pa-lang (generally written Balan on maps), the range dividing the Ta-tu and Min Rivers. A stiff climb brought him to a solitary inn which bore