

another range, the Niu-t'ou Shan, was begun. The path lay up a narrow, winding, rather steep valley, the small stream of which had constantly to be crossed by logs. Pereira halted for the night in a miserable inn at 9200 feet. There was one long draughty room with doors opening out, and he was frozen with cold even though he was not far from the fire in the centre of the room.

He reached the summit of the pass, 10,410 feet, after 2 miles of steep climb over very slippery snow on the following day. Then he had a very steep descent again over slippery frozen snow for 5 miles. So far the weather had been the coldest he had met. The morning had been gloomy and misty and bitterly cold. The warm sunshine of the high plains of Tibet had been left behind. And the Niu-t'ou Shan, though 5000 feet lower, was much more difficult to cross than the Pa-lang-Shan. But in the afternoon the weather turned much milder and Pereira finished his march at Ts'ao-p'u-p'ing at an altitude of only 5310 feet, the lowest he had been at for a long time.

The next day was again gloomy, with a succession of ascents and descents. He would ascend to mist, frost and snow and descend to damp and chills. He passed through several big Chinese villages and the valley was fertile. He saw a wretched thief stripped to the waist, with his arms suspended at right angles and fastened to a beam, whilst two lictors marched behind. This, remarks Pereira, is another form of punishment which Europeans might have to endure if placed under Chinese law.

Kwan-hsien, 2550 feet, was reached on January