

26. It is 168 miles from Meng-kung, 217 from Tanpa, and 325 from Ta-chien-lu. It is a dirty little city containing from ten to twelve thousand inhabitants. It is situated on the Min River and lies on the north-west edge of the Chengtu plain. It has a very poor climate, with constant rain, gloom and damp. Here Pereira stayed for three days with Mr. J. M. Edgar of the China Inland Mission, a frequent traveller between Chengtu and Batang. From him Pereira gathered that the Ch'ang originally occupied Tibet. About A.D. 400 they set up a dynasty which took the title of T'upa. This degenerated into T'u-fan or T'u-bo. The present-day Tibetans call themselves Bö. Lha-sa (spelt with one s) means the place of a god. There are three special types of Tibetans: (1) the beak-nosed, who are allied to the black Lolu; (2) the lighter Circassian type; (3) the Mongol type. Tibet was a land to which the conquered and oppressed fled, and inter-marriage among these produced the present hybrid race.

Pereira, on leaving Kwan-hsien on January 29, took a general northerly direction for some time, making for Lanchow-fu, and at first following up the valley of the Min River. He had a rough climb over the Nian-tzu-ling, 5000 feet, on January 30, and then descended again amid wild mountain scenery, into the valley through which darted the impetuous Min River over a rocky course, but comparatively small at this time of year. He passed a few large convoys of ponies carrying skins. Wen-chwan-hsien, 4220 feet, is a diminutive walled city with hardly twenty houses. A rope-bridge