

here crosses the Min River. The weather was dull and cloudy, and a little snow fell at night.

Continuing up the valley of the Min by a good road he passed Hein-pau-kuan (also called Weikiu or Wei-chou), a walled town with 415 families, where there is another rope-bridge over the Min, and on the other side a road leading westerly to Lifan-Ling. Beyond this cultivation increased and the hills were more sloping. At Wen-cheng, which he reached on February 1, he had the luxury of a new inn, though the luxury was tempered by the draughts from many gaps in the planks.

Mow-chow (now Mow-hsien), 5300 feet, was reached on the following day. It is a dirty walled town containing 750 families. On February 3 he crossed a small fertile plain for 24 miles, and then the valley of the Min again closed in and the road lay between high, bare, rugged mountains. Often the scenery was wild and grand, and at one place there was a small tunnel through the rock and a little shrine above, with memorial inscriptions to the benefactors who had made the tunnel. At 10 miles from Kou-k'ou-chai the valley of the Min divides, the Min being formed of two branches, one named Sung-pan and the other Hei-shui. The Sung-pan is not much more than a small mountain torrent. And it was this branch that Pereira ascended, reaching Ta-tien on February 4. Occasionally on the left bank were houses with the peculiar high towers. There is great doubt as to the origin of these towers. Mr. Edgar thought they had some religious significance. But others said they were for defence and pointed out that the rear wall was