

but in the winter it is snow-bound and is not generally used till April or May. Pereira, therefore, descended the Pai-shui-ho, here an insignificant mountain stream. The valley lies between hills of a height of from 600 to 1200 feet. A high range stands some miles to the north, running from east to west, and occasional glimpses are had of a high rocky range to the south. Only three villages of over ten houses and a few scattered houses were passed on February 14. The inhabitants were mostly Tibetans of the Shu tribe. Pheasants appear to be plentiful.

Nan-p'ing was reached on February 15. It is a town of 345 families situated at an elevation of 5350 feet. The weather was beautifully warm, and Pereira saw a lizard and several butterflies. The inhabitants had seen few or no Europeans, so he had a continuous stream of visitors passing his door and making holes in the paper windows so as to have a view of him. After considerable trouble he found a Mohammedan who could talk Tibetan and knew the short direct route to Choni, and he left Nan-p'ing on February 18.

He first had to retrace his steps up the Pai-shui-ho for 18 miles, and then on the following day ascend the valley of the Hei-shui-ho, which flows down from the northward. The stony path led up the left bank through gorges and narrow valleys bounded by rocky hills up to 1000 feet. A few Chinese villages were passed, and as probably no foreigner had ever been along this route before, the villagers turned out in numbers to see him. A few miles from T'sao-pa he left the Hei-shui-ho and ascended the narrow valley