

4 miles to the top of the K'uya Shan, 10,700 feet, and then a very steep descent to Shui-pi'-kou, which consisted of seven wretched Tibetan hovels situated on the Pai-shui Chiang, which farther east is called the Pai-ling Chiang. It is a swift river sunken between steep banks over 100 feet in height. Shui-pi-kou, 7050 feet, is the limit of the territory of the Prince of Choni. Ta-ku-ssu, the next village, is under the magistrate of Minchow. The Tibetans between Yang-pi-chai and Shui-pi-kou are Hsia (lower) T'ich-po. Their hovels are wretched buildings of wattle and planks, and are very dirty and uncomfortable. Leaving the Pai-shui Chiang the road ascends the Ta-la Ho valley to Chien-tsiang, 6600 feet, where another Chinese is stationed as representative of the Minchow magistrate.

Pereira halted here for a day, and on February 26 marched to Ta-la, 22 miles. The road lay up the valley of the Ta-la Ho and mostly through gorges. For the first time Pereira met about a dozen Chinese either on the road or in villages. Ta-la is a village of about 25 families, and three Tibetan villages were passed on the way.

After a steep climb of 4 miles, on the following day, the Ta-la Shan, 11,700 feet, in the Min Shan range was reached. It was the last pass on the journey from Chengtu to Choni. And here Pereira left the basin of the Yangtse-kiang and was now in the basin of the Yellow River once more. There was snow on the top of the pass, and a bitter wind blew from the north. On the far side was a steep descent of nearly 1800 feet