

## CHAPTER XI

### LAN-CHOW TO TANGAR

LAN-CHOW, now officially called Kao-lan-hsien, is a city of some 300,000 inhabitants and is 5300 feet above sea-level. It has a dry climate—except during the rainy season in July and August. And even in March Pereira experienced beautiful warm summer weather. The city has an inner wall, and on the west, south and east sides an outer mud wall enclosing an inner suburb. Beyond this is a more scattered outer suburb. The Huang Ho (Yellow River) flows past the north wall. An iron bridge built by a German firm in 1908 spans the river north-west of the city.

Several Europeans live in Lan-chow, and Pereira was entertained by Mons. Geerts, the Salt Commissioner, and his sister, and lived in luxury and comfort through their overwhelming kindness and hospitality. Père Esser, of the Belgian-Dutch Mission *Étrangères*, and the members of the China Inland Mission also showed Pereira the greatest hospitality. Mons. Geerts was formerly director of some copper and gold mines near Sining. If he had been allowed to manage them they would have been profitable, but as usual a horde of Chinese officials, whose sole business was to squeeze