

not too long dinner. Behind his yamen was one of the largest and pleasantest gardens Pereira had seen in China. It contained some fine old elms besides other trees; and there were picturesque little summer-houses and a private path up to the North Wall, from which there is a fine view over the city.

The arsenal was situated in a mud-walled enclosure in the north-west corner of the western suburb. It is a very poor place where about three hundred workmen are employed—principally in making two-cent pieces. They also repair rifles and mountain guns and manufacture bugles.

As to the corruption among officials, Pereira says it had never been so bad before. Under the Manchus officials had not the same opportunity, whilst at least some of the money that went to the Court returned to the people. Now the officials hold on to it. But the love of money among the Chinese is extraordinary, for when they get it they do not know how to make themselves really comfortable, and unless they are in the security of the foreign concession there is always the risk of their being forced to disgorge. Everywhere in China are sinecure posts in which officials accumulate money and then bolt to Peking, Tientsin or Shanghai with their ill-gotten gains.

The people of Kansu struck Pereira as being taller than the Szechwan men. At Chengtu his Tientsin boys towered over the natives of that place, whereas in Lan-chow they were not noticeable.

The poppy is again being extensively cultivated in Kansu. Under the Empress Dowager and