

their cart, take off their shoes, and bow themselves down in prayer.

The same bare, treeless, desolate-looking country was passed through on the following day on the way to Hung-ch'eng-pu, $26\frac{1}{3}$ miles. The only exceptions were two fertile valleys each about 4 miles long. The road was very sandy and dusty and was constantly rising and dipping, 6580 feet was the highest point reached, and Hung-ch'eng-p'u lay at 6270 feet. It contains 820 families and is situated in the fertile valley of the P'ing-fan River. Next day Pereira followed up the valley, which was fertile all the way and covered with many villages, to P'ing-fan-hsien, $24\frac{1}{4}$ miles. This is a prosperous city of 1250 families at an elevation of 6910 feet.

The divide between the P'ing-fan and Ta-t'ung Rivers was crossed on the following day by the Hsiang-lu-shan, 8460 feet, and the road descended among downs and sandy hills to Shuang-niu-kou, 7470 feet, a hamlet of ten hovels and a poor inn, $23\frac{3}{4}$ miles from P'ing-fan-hsien.

Continuing to descend on April 7, Pereira struck the Ta-t'ung Ho valley at 12 miles and found it fertile and dotted with villages and a few trees. The intervening country in this region is generally barren and treeless and holding only an occasional village. But the valleys themselves are fertile and well inhabited. The road led down the Ta-t'ung Ho and at 15 miles Pereira crossed the river by a rope ferry. The river was here 50 yards wide and 20 feet deep. Chinese were here washing for gold, and a few miles to the south were the gold and copper