

mines which Mons. Geerts used to work till Chinese corruption necessitated closing them down.

Next day there was a rather steep ascent for 3 miles to the top of the Ping-kou Shan, 7840 feet, the divide between the Ta-t'ung and Sining Rivers, from which there was a fine view to the south-west over a low range to a high snowy range beyond. The descent at first was good but later very bad with steep places. The fertile valley of the Sining River was reached at $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The soil was loess and it was about 1 mile wide, lying between bare, treeless sandy hills. It contained many villages and some trees. At 12 miles was Lao-ya-ch'eng, 6270 feet, standing on rising ground and containing 55 families. At $19\frac{1}{4}$ miles was Kao-miao-tzu, 140 houses; and at 30 miles Nien-pai-hsien. This latter is a small city of about 2000 inhabitants, situated at an elevation of 6270 feet. Pereira had pushed on so as to be there on Palm Sunday, as it contained a Roman Catholic Mission station. This Mission was presided over by Monseigneur Otto, who after fifty years in Kansu was moving with the Belgian-Dutch missionaries to Mongolia to make room for German priests. Monseigneur Otto on account of age had resigned his vicariate and was acting as a simple missionary.

After Mass on Palm Sunday, April 9, Pereira breakfasted with Monseigneur Otto and Père Costanoble, and then left for P'ing-chung-yi, $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles. After half-a-mile he crossed the Sining Ho by a rope ferry. The river was here