

Pass, 12,820 feet. The descent was rather steep among grass hills to the broad valley of the Ta-ch'i, a branch of the Ta Ho. On the west was the Za-Lung range. At 15 miles he forded the stony bed of the Ta-ch'i, here 2 feet deep, and 5 miles farther on left this valley and ascended the narrower Cha-su-ra, camping at an elevation of 12,300 feet.

Snow fell that night and on May 25 Pereira had a disagreeable climb through mud and snow to the top of the Ch'i Cha-su-ra, 14,607 feet. He descended to the great Lung-ch'i plain, where the pasturage was very poor, and camped at 13,987 feet. The day was cloudy and cold. A strong west wind was blowing with occasional sleet, and he was in great anxiety about his mules. Light as their loads were he now found they ought to have been lighter still. They ought not to have been heavier than 100 catties or even less.

The Chü-ri or Chi-da Pass, 14,507 feet, was crossed on May 26. The ascent was easy and the descent lay through gloomy valleys between snow-covered hills for 6 miles to the Lüan-ch'üan plain, which was mostly sandy with poor pasturage. Here Pereira encamped by a stream as his mules were done. He had meant to make only a short march, but he came across no suitable pasturage and had to march 19 miles. Consequently one mule collapsed and died in the night. Another mule only just crawled in.

From this plain Pereira saw what is of extraordinary geographical interest—the great mountain Amné Machin. Rumour had said that it was