

But what seemed to distress him were the rain and snow and the broken marshy ground, and the paucity of inhabitants and lack of anything to be bought.

The Ch'a la Shan, the divide between the Yangtze and Huang Ho, he crossed the next day at an elevation of 15,439 feet. Hills on either side rose some 400 to 600 feet higher and were covered with snow. This main range runs N.N.E. to S.E., and its branches are likewise covered with snow and must be about 16,000 feet high.

The headwaters of another great river, the Ya-lung, which flows down to Szechwan, lay on the far side of the Pass. It was the only great river of China he had not yet crossed, and is here known as the Ch'a Ho. He reached it after a very boggy descent from the pass, and having waded across it followed down the broad, grassy, boggy Hsia-ma-t'an valley and gradually leaving the snowy hills entered a fine rolling grass country where he camped, having marched 11 miles.

Following down this same valley on June 14 he camped by a pond after a march of 17 miles. The going was good for the first 6 miles, then marshy and broken. On the way he saw a herd of about a hundred wild asses. Snow lay on the ground as he started and a cold wind was blowing, but the snow soon melted, the day became mild, and in the afternoon he basked in the sun. There was a fine view to the south-east of a range 20 to 30 miles away, apparently of black rock and partly covered with snow.

Again, on June 15, he followed down the same