

ho-pa. It was quite a summer's day for these parts.

He lodged that night in a room of the Hsiu Monastery. It contains about eighty lamas and is pleasantly situated at the confluence of two streams which flow into the Yangtze and facing grass hills. In front is a level patch of grass about half a mile wide. Here Pereira halted for a couple of days waiting for the yaks with his baggage. Of four mules which he had left with the Tibetans two had died and two had been sold for twenty-two taels for the two. At the monastery he bought some quite good butter and rice. He was also brought a dish of "chiao-ma", banana hemp, small long brown roots with bulbous ends. It tasted like sweet potato but much better. This was the first vegetable he had seen since Tangar.

Very steep paths, barely 1 foot wide, led up the rocky hill-side, past coarse vegetation, to the narrow uneven tiers of terraces on which are built the monks' houses, small mud buildings painted slate-grey in the centre, with narrower bands of red and white on the sides and above. The roofs were flat. The temples are of mud painted with red above a broad tier of brushwood into which are let bronze designs of various patterns, some circular, some like bells and some representing stags. On the edge of the flat roof are curious large bronze ornaments apparently representing bells and other ornaments. There were a few patches of barley cultivation. And at the foot of the hill is a Tibetan village of about twenty houses.