

and there might be delay at Lhasa itself, Pereira would have to possess his soul in patience for some time and assume, in the face of the Tibetans, that of course the reply would be favourable.

Chamdo is a remote spot in which to have to wait for several weeks, but it is not entirely unknown to Europeans. Three British Consuls, Teichman, Coates and King, had visited it, and perhaps other travellers as well. And dirty as was the town the surroundings were by no means without beauty: the lights and shades on the mountains were often very beautiful; and the weather was warm—sometimes even hot.

The population of Chamdo, when it was under the Chinese, used to be about three hundred families. But in the fighting the village was partly destroyed, and now there were only 180 families. These were nearly all Tibetan, though a few were Chinese with Tibetan wives. The shops were evidently very poor, and a few pounds would have bought up the whole contents.

The monastery is situated on high ground on the narrow peninsula between the two branches of the river. Formerly there were three thousand monks attached to it, but after the Chinese burnt it in the fighting of 1912 there were only four hundred. And from the number which Pereira saw when he visited it he judged there were even fewer. A steep climb of 80 to 100 feet brought him to the higher ground of the monastery. It had been partly restored, but many ruined mud and stone walls still remained. Pereira thought it had not the curious attraction and novelty of most Tibetan temple buildings, and the new