

There were several small villages with fields of wheat and barley. Then at 8 miles he left the Dze Chu valley, and the Riwoche road turned more westerly up a beautifully narrow valley between high well-wooded hills. The path, though, was very stony, and at 10 miles there was a very steep climb of 1700 feet to the Wa la Ri, 14,357 feet. On the lower slopes there were trees and bushes with grass and a profusion of flowers. From the top, at  $13\frac{1}{4}$  miles, there was a grand panorama of mountain ranges all round, free of snow and mostly bare. About 10 miles to the south-west was the Li-jou la, the Wa Ho mountain of Huc, a bare high hill. The descent was very steep for 1630 feet to  $16\frac{1}{4}$  miles, when there was easy going to Kama Sumdo,  $20\frac{1}{4}$  miles.

The only building here was a rest-house built a few months before. But nomads dwelling in tents and now living 20 or 30 miles away occupy the country. Pereira's caravan was augmented by four damsels on a pilgrimage to Lhasa, who seized the opportunity of his protection. A monk from Ta-chien-lu also joined him.

On September 10 he continued westerly up the valley of the Om Chu and passed a monastery of fifty monks. Beyond was an uninhabited country with bare hills and occasional enclosures of stone or brushwood for grazing. There was a stiff climb to  $8\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the top of the Mula, 15,667 feet, which is the divide between the Salween and Mekong Rivers. The descent was easy down the bed of a stream to a house at 17 miles. At 18 miles he entered the broader grass valley of the Ta Chu, where there was one house and some tents. Mi-ru