

east. There were trees and bush for the first 6 miles, then bare hills for another 5, after which trees again. There was a most tedious ascent up the Baré Chu valley, very steep for the last mile and a half to the East Semé-gung La, often called Gung La, at 6 miles. At 8 miles was the West Semé-gung La, 13,300 feet. Then there was a descent along the hill-side to the Gatung Chu, and at 12 miles good going across a grass belt. Then the Gatung is joined by another river and is called the Sa Chu. Here the valley narrows, and at 20 miles the road passes through the beautiful Sa Chu gorge between high fantastic rocky hills covered with bush in gorgeous autumn tints of deep red and gold. Such scenery, Pereira thought, puts the Saxon Schweitz into the shade. The Sa Chu was here 25 yards wide, of a grey colour and deep. It was crossed by a brushwood bridge, and the road then wound round rocky hills to Lha-tse, 12,350 feet, a village of sixteen families, where there is also a small temple with thirty monks. The country was almost uninhabited; on the march only four nomad tents were seen. To the south-east of the Semé-gung La snow had recently fallen and an icy blast came from that direction. Otherwise the weather was fine and warm. The Sa Chu joined by the Jua Chu flows N.N.E. to join the Salween.

A shorter march of only 15 miles took Pereira to Pem-bar, and he was glad to rediscover traces of Huc, which are not on the Indian map, for this is obviously the Pian Pa of Huc. At 2 miles he crossed the Jua Chu by a bridge in a ravine 70 feet deep. It was, like most other bridges, made of