

to the river, which at 18 miles narrows and winds through a beautiful little wood. This wood Huc describes as a thick fir forest, but Pereira says it was like an English wood with undergrowth and trees of all sorts. Beyond the wood the river is crossed by two rickety log bridges. Alando is a poor village of nine families, on a narrow strip in a narrow winding valley. There had been frost in the night but the day was quite hot.

Of the march next day Huc had spoken in exaggerated terms, and parts indeed were shocking; if it could be called a road it was the worst Pereira had seen in 40,000 or 50,000 miles of travel in the Far East. But there was nothing alarming in it. The scenery was magnificent, the route lying between fir-covered hills 2000 feet high and through delightful woods. Leaving the Sia Chu valley the path turns first northerly and then westerly through the Nok Chu defile. The Nok Chu, a foaming torrent, is crossed twice by log bridges and the path zigzags up and down the mountain-side never more than 400 feet above it and sometimes alongside it. Between 11 and 18 miles there is some very bad going over rocks and boulders which have been falling for centuries and are of all shapes except smooth. At $12\frac{3}{4}$ miles is A-lan-ga, a hamlet of three houses on a rather more open piece of sloping ground. A mile farther the defile narrows to a gorge. At $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles a more open valley is reached with a sloping grass belt and some trees, and the hills are less precipitous. Beyond this the Ja-bu Chu, a torrent 3 feet deep, is crossed by a log bridge and there is a steep climb of 150 feet to A-la-ja-güng,