

of a small official, who called on Pereira in his robes of state bringing a present of eggs and vegetables. Pereira returned his call. He sat cross-legged on a divan while Pereira was enthroned on the chair of state. He expressed wonder at Pereira at his age walking up all the hills, and said that he himself always rode, though he was only forty-four. From his account Huc did not exaggerate the terrors of the passes in winter, when the Shiar-güng La is the worst.

The Banda La was crossed on October 2 and Pereira marched 11 miles to Atsa. The way lay up and down barren hills with no inhabitants, and at $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles there was a steep climb to the top of the Banda Pass, which he made, 16,000 feet in height. Though snow covered the ground the path was clear. There was a rather steep winding descent and a beautiful view of the Atsa Lake lying light blue amidst the white mountains. Atsa is a village of ten families and thirty monks situated in a small valley at an elevation of 13,000 feet. To the south is a range about 17,000 or 18,000 feet in height.

Pereira was not well this day and walked only 2 miles. The climb up the zigzags to the top of the pass made him gasp. And when he rode he shivered badly. His boy had brought two cocks from Chamdo, not for eating, but to call him in the morning as he had no watch.

On October 3 he marched $18\frac{1}{4}$ miles to Guo-lê. It was an easy stage but rocky and stony after the first 5 miles. Except for a few nomads, the country was uninhabited. The Atsa-shung Chu was crossed by such a poor log bridge that