

on. Pereira was escorted by Chinese soldiers. But the brigands themselves were soldiers who had deserted because they were never paid. But sometimes when one faction drives out the other the soldiers of the first become brigands and the erstwhile brigands become soldiers. The line of distinction between a brigand and a soldier is, in fact, rather difficult to define. With these brigands Pereira had an encounter on February 27 near Lu-feng-Hsien, four days' march from Yünnan. They fired at him as his party was descending a ridge. But fortunately their fire was ineffective, and no harm was done.

Pereira would have wished from Yünnan to travel in Lolo Land, but the country was too disturbed. Père Walta, who had been there, told him they were tall, but not a race of giants. Some were 2 metres in height, but the average height was about 1.85 metres. The Chinese used formerly to have a small garrison and a walled city at Chao-chu in the centre of Lolo Land, but two years previously the Lolos had attacked and massacred the Chinese soldiers, and the country was now too disturbed for any one to visit it, and Père Walta had heard nothing of his converts. The Lolos say of themselves that they came from the direction of Burma. They consider a man who captures another man to be a man: a man who allows himself to be captured they regard as a sheep—as only half a man.

Leaving Yünnan-fu, 6400 feet, 200,000 inhabitants, on March 16, he made northward in the direction of the Yangtze, first following the main road to Kwei-yang across undulating