

Chao-t'ung, which he reached on the 12th. The plain was now one mass of poppy in full bloom—mostly white, but also red and purple. The Governor was, however, quite unaware that any poppy is being grown!

Another excursion he had intended to make from Chao-t'ung to Wei-ning he had to abandon after the first day on account of brigands. So on April 16 he set out finally for Sui-fu on the Yangtze, taking with him an escort of four men with single-loading Mauser rifles. The Chao-t'ung plain was fertile at first but gradually became poorer, and the villages consisted of wretched hovels. This poor country extends eastward into northwest Kwei-chow. At 9 miles the road led up a narrow valley to Chuang-k'ou Ya-k'ou, 6926 feet, at 11 miles. It then led down the narrow Wu-tsai Ho valley to Hsiao-si-tang, 6150 feet, at 18 miles, a village of twenty hovels. The day was very cloudy and chilly with much wind and a slight drizzle.

On April 17 the road lay down the same rather poor valley with hills from 500 to 1000 feet on either side; but at 9 miles there was a very steep rocky descent between clefts in rocks to a much lower level. The scenery was now magnificent, the hills rising to 1000 or 2000 feet in height and the valley becoming fertile again, with crops of wheat, barley and poppy. At $20\frac{1}{4}$ miles Ta-kuan Hsien was reached. It is a dirty, crowded town of 670 families, at an elevation of 4002 feet. Pereira heard a cuckoo for the first time this day.

Ta-wan-tzu was reached on April 18 after a march of 17 miles. It is only 2622 feet above