

rapids were small and the river from 100 to 200 yards wide. At first the hills were high and covered with vegetation and some trees. At 20 miles the river passes through a beautiful gorge, and here in several places coal was being hauled down in baskets from the hill-tops by means of two ropes running in a pulley. At 25 miles the hills became much lower. At 28 miles was An-pien Hsien, 240 families, opposite which the Ta-kuan Ho, which Pereira had followed down for some way, joins the Yangtze. It forms the boundary between Yünnan and Szechwan. At 35 miles the hills were much lower and there was more cultivation.

Sui Fu is a big crowded city at the junction of the Min River with the Yangtze, and the Chinese consider the Min as the main branch because it is navigable up to Ch'eng-tu and Kwan-Hsien. From here Pereira travelled in a small Chinese steam launch to Chung-King, 277½ miles, leaving Sui Fu on the 3rd and arriving on May 4. The boat was crowded with passengers and very uncomfortable. There were low hills covered with vegetation all the way. On the river, too, there was still risk of brigands. Very few junks dared make the passage. Steam launches have a better chance. But Pereira's launch bore bullet marks on it, and the bridge for the pilot and steersman was protected by armour plating.

The first night was spent at Lu Chou, 94½ miles, but a start was made in the middle of the night to avoid the brigands. Thirty miles above Chung King the Mao-erh Hsia gorge in low hills was passed. This is the greatest brigand centre, but