

CHAPTER XVIII

THE LAST TREK

PEREIRA had now crossed China and Tibet to India. Starting again from India he had re-crossed China from west to east. He had ascended the Irrawady, had traversed Yünnan to the highest navigable point of the Yangtze, and had journeyed down that river to its mouth. At Shanghai he might have boarded any P. & O. steamer and been taken straight back to London without any further effort. But the thirst for travel was insatiable for Pereira. Not even yet was it assuaged. There was still something left to be done on the Tibetan border, and return there he must.

So, in addition to his journey from east to west and from west to east across the Chinese Empire, he now meant to make a journey from south to north. Instead of proceeding to England, he sailed for French Indo-China, from whence he would go by rail to Yünnan Fu, and from there make his way to Batang and Kanze on the Tibetan border and thence to Lanchow Fu.

He spent a fortnight at Hong-Kong, and on June 9 landed at Hoihow and left it on June 25 for Pakhoi and Haiphong, arriving at this latter