

miles Hsiao-wei-si, 5610 feet, was reached. It has thirty families. Pereira and Thompson stayed at the Roman Catholic Mission with the Chinese Père Li.

Chinese soldiers passed on the way had no greatcoats or mackintoshes. They were probably not paid. No one takes care of soldiers in China, and they looked quite untrained. No wonder if these boys are attacked they get a panic and bolt. And it is not surprising, Pereira reflects, that they find it more lucrative to become brigands.

Continuing up the valley of the Mekong on August 22, he reached K'ang-pu at 17 miles. The going was easy all day, without any steep climbs. The hills were mostly sloping and well-wooded. The crops were maize and millet and, when the valley was more level, rice. The people were chiefly Chinese in the villages by the roadside and Mosu and Lisu higher up in the hills. The weather was mild and fine. At Ai-wa, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, there was a ferry boat, but the road to A-tun-tzu continued up the left bank of the river, and three or four tributaries had to be crossed by rope bridges. In the hills there are leopards, bear, roe, wild boar, serow, but no pandars or tigers.

On August 23 he marched $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Yeh-chih, still up the Mekong valley. The country gets wilder and the path leads alongside the river up narrow gorges between steep well-wooded hills, with only an occasional farm or patch of cultivation. At $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles is a steep climb of 800 feet, and fine views to the north are obtained. Three streams are seen breaking through the mountains,