

the stage to Kanze. It would be difficult, because he would have to cross high ranges with the winter now approaching. And it would be risky, because there was no kind of rule or order in the region he and Thompson would have to traverse. So risky was it that the Chinese magistrate tried to make the Wa-shi muleteers whom Pereira had engaged give a guarantee for his safety. This they naturally refused to give, and after much dispute Pereira accepted the responsibility himself, and both he and Thompson sent letters to the magistrate and the general relieving them of all responsibility. After various threats these Chinese officials allowed Pereira to proceed. But, as Pereira remarked, this was bad for him and Thompson, as it left the brigands free to do what they liked with them. The fact that the Chinese had refused to be responsible would doubtless become known and trouble might be expected. However, that risk Pereira determined to face, and on October 5 left Batang, the American Mission kindly making up his deficiencies in such stores as cocoa, kerosine, baking powder, etc.

His first march was a short one— $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles—to Meliting. He ascended the valley by the Litang road and then had a steep stony climb up the narrow Ba-chu—a smaller branch—between high bare hills. At  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles he passed a rock, with an inscription in Chinese, at the place where the Amban Feng was killed by Tibetans in 1905. The small torrent had to be crossed by four log bridges. At  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles the valley became more open. At 9 miles is the hamlet of Ba-chiang-hsü with eight families. Meliting has only two houses.