

rifles. And from here onward to the Wa-shi country Pereira would be passing through a danger zone, as it was all infested with brigands, though it was said that these brigands were only in small bands. He would have to encamp, too, as there would be no houses. He had two tents made at Batang—one for himself and Thompson and one for the boys. But these tents, with only a single fly, were bitterly cold, and the cold would be increasing, as not only was winter approaching but they were rising higher. Pongdramo was 12,231 feet elevation.

Next day's march was the most anxious as regards brigands. The path continued up the Ba Chu, ascending a steep narrow valley between high hills. At $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles the limit of trees was reached and a steep climb over stony open ground followed. The main Litang road, which was at that time closed on account of brigands, was then left and Pereira followed the small more northerly Litang track, and at $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles reached the summit of the Ta-so-shan (Tsang-bung-a La), 15,610 feet, the divide between the Ba Chu and the Ding Chu. This was the highest point he had reached on his present journey from Yünnan. At the top forty or fifty Chinese soldiers returning to Batang after going up the valley for the Litang convoy were met. The descent was steep, leading down open slopes. Some pretty small emerald and blue ponds, probably the source of a branch of the Ding Chu, were passed. Then the path lay down a deep narrow valley between high rocky peaks, some of which were covered with snow. At 12 miles he encamped at To-sumba-ala, 13,903 feet,