



*View of the village of
Lavtai, destroyed during the
Dungan revolt.*

destroyed buildings. A couple of shops and signboards of craftsmen give the road through the village a bazaar-like appearance. The plain becomes broader to the E towards Tsimusa and is similar in character to the open spaces we crossed during the last few days. The vegetation is very sparse, only a few creeping plants. In the fields we saw the ruins of a couple of deserted houses. The plain is slightly over 4 miles broad. On its E edge we came to the village of Liu shu khöza with 20 houses. Immediately beyond its first houses there is again a tilled area with some scattered trees. On either side of the road there are ruins of houses destroyed during the Dungan revolt. To the W of Tsimusa there was a ruined village, or rather town, a mile or two in length, the walls of a considerable impanj being visible.

We reached Tsimusa after riding 14—15 miles. It is surrounded by a clay wall roughly rectangular in shape and $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms high, with a crenellated parapet. The S wall is slightly broken. The length of the side is 200—250 fathoms. There are gates on the E, W and S, and corner buttresses of the same height as the wall. In the W wall there are two slight projections between the gates and corner buttresses, but no moat. The gateways are of baked bricks. The gates are of wood with light reinforcements of iron. The esplanade is limited somewhat by a clump of trees in the W, ruins in the NW and the bazaar in the E. Inside the fortress there are a main street and a side street from W to E leading from one gate to another, another at an angle from the E to the S gate. The greater part of the area is not yet inhabited. A Shenguan is resident in the town. The garrison consists of 1 infantry and 1 cavalry in. Of the former there are 18 men and of the latter 13, who form the »town garrison» of the »fupiao» under the command of a »tsan dian» (red hat button). The barracks are approximately in the middle of the town. There is a beautiful temple close to the S gate of the town with a lion and an incense burner of cast iron. These are a little over 100 years old and were brought here from a temple in Eh'rkung (?) destroyed during the Dungan rising.