

to imagine in advance what striking views will succeed each other on the way to the pass, but the reality usually surpasses your wildest imagination and I cannot recall any instance of disappointment.

The road leads through tilled fields with solitary trees, bushes and clumps of trees. The direction is SW. In a mile and a half we came to the bank of the river Talunkhu which flows N. The road turned S and we followed the bank of the Talunkhu at first and later one of its arms. 2 miles further on we resumed the original SW direction, crossed the arm of the river that had disappeared at the bottom of its hollow and  $1/3$  of a mile later reached the village of Nju tyenza with 4 houses, the last cultivated land N of the mountains. The fields were small and poor and the houses looked poverty-stricken and uncared for. The trees disappeared altogether from the fields which had become rarer. Immediately beyond the village the northernmost considerable spurs of the mountains begin. The ground N of these is in the nature of a series of parallel ridges of considerable height running northward in tongues. The Talunkhu flows in a valley between two such ridges and further N another hollow is visible. Still further north, at about the height of the place where yesterday's road crossed the river Tjutienti kuza, appreciable solitary hills arise, forming a frequently interrupted chain of mountains, apparently running parallel to the main chain. Some, at any rate, of these hills, are bare granite rocks. The road now led us into a gorge, where we reached the bank of the river again a mile or two from the village. On the right large mountains rose up, often with denuded granite surfaces. On the left they were smaller at first and covered with a layer of earth, on which firs grew. The direction of the road was decidedly N. A mile and a half further on we crossed the river and zigzagged up the steep opposite bank. The mountains on the left now displayed their granite faces and often dropped from an appreciable height sheer into the river. Firs still grew in all the crevices, often on such steep slopes that it was incomprehensible that they could find a foothold. On the right the mountains took on softer outlines and granite points protruded from the earth only in places.  $1\ 1/2$  and  $2/3$  of a mile further on we crossed the river again. The bridges are new and built with care.

Soon after crossing the first bridge the road, which had been running south for a time, resumed its SW direction. It is very picturesque, creeping along the steep slope with a roaring and foaming little river far below. In some places it passes through fir-woods mixed with deciduous trees. The beautiful yellow and red autumn tints were particularly lovely in such magnificent surroundings.

A mile and a half SW of the third bridge the road leads over Sa dawan, a projecting point of the mountains on the right, and almost  $2/3$  of a mile from there we reached the Sung shu go station, a modest building on a level spot on the slope of the bank. The road is good and suitable for wheeled traffic as far as the gorge. In the gorge, too, it is mostly good. Only in two places immediately to the S of the bridge N and S of Sa dawan it is so steep that a wheeled vehicle would require assistance. In some places it is so narrow that only pack-horses can pass. Blasting would be necessary to make it passable for carts, though not to any great extent. The road is firm and good for pack-horses. There is water, fuel and timber everywhere, also edible grass. Many small spots are suitable for resting places