

under the command of a tusy. Together they comprise 340 houses. The ground rises and becomes slightly hilly. We found ourselves among some insignificant mountains and hills, and we crossed two low ridges in succession, running N—S. An extensive grassy valley in a W—E direction spread out before us from the top of the second ridge. Immediately to the S of us it appeared swampy and covered with ice.

At the foot of the hills we had passed lies the village of Chih-chin-hu with 10—12 houses, about $1\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile from Chih-chin-pao. The houses were poor and small. A couple of Chinese had dismounted and were having a short rest. A crowd of idlers, who had been standing and staring at them, now transferred their attention to me, the newly arrived »djankuiza«. My clothes, boots, cap, compass and watch had all to be fingered and examined. One old man was sitting in the sun knitting stockings in our northern way with 4 knitting needles.

For $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles there was luxuriant grass growing on hummocks. The road was the width of an arbah and was firm, but had cut deep into the ground. A group of trees and one or two houses were visible on the left at a distance of about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile. We saw the ruins of a sarai about 10 miles from Chih-chin-hu. The grass had grown thinner and the hummocks had given way to mounds and slight undulations. Gradually the grass ceased almost entirely.

We crossed 3 slight ridges in succession, running S, divided by small river beds containing water only in the spring and never in such quantity as to impede traffic. Immediately beyond the third ridge we reached the village of Hao-shao-Kow at the beginning of a fairly large open plain, enclosed by spurs of the mountains from the N. The ground here, covered with hummocks and mounds, bore grass again and in character it was like the plain we had recently crossed. On its E edge we crossed a larger river bed, also containing water only in spring or after rain. Its eastern bank was steep, a few fathoms in height. Thence we proceeded across constantly rising hilly ground with innumerable ascents and descents, which, though not particularly steep, were often fairly long and trying for heavily laden carts. We were among mountains of no great height coming from the N.

Darkness had fallen and there was no possibility of taking our bearings in this confusion. The journey in semi-darkness up and down along the ice-covered road seemed interminable. We began to feel the cold and longed for one of those dark, fusty dens that seemed quite comfortable after a long day's march in spite of the smells from the beds and the smoke from the brazier. The road had led downward again for some time. Finally we caught sight in the dark of the outlines of a row of tall trees and on the right the straight lines of some farm buildings. We crossed the small river Chin-ho, rising from springs not far to the S, skirted a slight hill and a fairly large impanj near it and immediately beyond reached the village of Hui-hui-pao. The distance covered during the day was about 30 miles. The Chinese call it 110 li. The arbahs took 23 hours to come up with us. In Hui-hui-pao there were 3—4 shops, 3 sarais and 42 houses. A detachment of 10 men was stationed in the impanj which was intended for a whole in. They were commanded by a tiendzung of the Chih-chin-pao in. Tchumiza, peas, tchinkho and wheat are grown and yield up to a 6-fold crop. The stock of cattle amounts to 400 sheep, 20 oxen and 70—80