

bridge and behind them a miao shaded by trees. The road leads for about half-a-mile between two steep rises in the ground, a couple of fathoms in height. About $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile from the town we crossed an arm of the river which takes a more easterly course N of the town and encloses it on the N and E. The grey walls of an impanj could be seen in the S at a distance of a mile or two. It was surrounded by a great many trees and an avenue led from it towards the town. It was built during the suppression of the Dungan revolt by the Chinese general Tsoa gung pao who had his camp there. Now the mobile troops of Suchow are quartered there.

The land now became quite flat and the road ran between trees, some in rows, others growing haphazard. The river, $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms in breadth, wound on the left, and a yellow strip of ground ran in a direction parallel to ours a few miles off, probably marking the bed of the main arm of the river. On the right there was a row of houses and trees at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 miles. Far to the S we could see the chain of the Nanshan mountains, though only faintly visible in the hazy atmosphere. After about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles the houses, which had been closely built on either side of the road, grew scarcer. About 5 miles from the town stood an inn Ehr-Shih-li ma fong, where some Chinese travellers were devouring »lapsha«, so that you could hear them half-a-mile off. 2 miles further we came to a ruin, the first of a whole row of similar ones along the road. They, too, are said to be the result of the Dungan revolt. The largest were another two miles farther on and the ruins of a miao and a memorial of recent date were visible among them. They were called Santung shito tan. Here and there a hut was inhabited among them. Almost a mile further on, two arms of the river crossed the road. The broader one was about 7 fathoms wide and the current was swift. It was crossed by a good, but narrow bridge. The village of Ning shui lies on the right bank; it consists of 90 families, 32 shops and 5 sarais. To the N we saw the village of Hsiao dja tung djuang with an uncommon wall, built in a circle, and a good deal further off there were small mountains. A short bazaar street was succeeded by the village of Ning shui itself, enclosed by a dilapidated wall. A pazung of 5 or 6 men (instead of 15) of the Chinta garrison and 1 officer and 13 matui of the troops of the Titai at Kanchow, constitute the military force of the place.

The neighbourhood is simply alive with pheasants. During the day I shot 7 fine cocks, one of them brought down with my Browning while mounted, and a bird of prey streaked with white. The road is good throughout the whole distance and the bridges are satisfactory, but narrow. Wood is available all along the road. The distance is 10 or at most 11 miles. Here the road divides. The main road goes on to Gaotai and Kanchow, while a branch road leads to Chinta. — At Ning shui there is snow from the 10th to the end of the 1st Chinese month, about 3 vershoks in depth. Rain often occurs between the 3rd and 9th months. Westerly burans are rare, 3—4 times a year.

December 10th. From Ning shui the road proceeds eastward along the bazaar street and through the *Chinta* village. The latter is surrounded by a wall, the length of which is about 250 fathoms from N to S and 120 fathoms from W to E with 2 gates on the W and E. To the E of the wall we went along a small bazaar street for a few minutes. At the end of it we turned off from