

the main road which leads to Kanchow, and took a NNE course. The neighbourhood is like the one we traversed yesterday just E of Suchow, tilled fields, many houses and trees planted along ariqs and roads and round the houses. In some places the road had cut a ravine-like hollow in the ground. We crossed several small ariqs. The houses are not large, but look well cared for.

4 miles from the village we came to the ruins of the large Chinese wall that had been severely damaged during the Dungan revolt, at the spot where it stopped on the right bank of the Ning shui-ho and started again on the left bank. This place is called »Na myng» and Hsia-Kou-cheng. A small miao stands close to it. In a NW direction a long height, coming from the west, is visible on the left bank of the river at a considerable distance from it. The river winds in a single arm in a NNE direction. The houses and trees became scarce on our bank. On the opposite bank the fields ceased soon after. 4—5 miles further on lay a group of houses called Yuan-yung-che. They lay close to the western foot of a gravel hill that ran in a southerly direction here. Some kind of tuntai tower was placed on the hill close to the village and the S point of the hill was marked by the ruins of a smaller tower. About $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile before, we had crossed a tributary of the Ning shui-ho. It turned north and flowed for a time along our road before joining the Ning shui-ho. The ground on the left of the road is marshy here for a width of scarcely $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile. On the left bank insignificant hills of sand or gravel come down to the bank from the west. Further to the N the considerable hills and mountains that we noticed yesterday from the road were visible. In character they resemble a conglomeration of gravel mounds and small mountains that form a row and run in a curve from the W or SW to the SE. Almost due N of the village we noticed a gorge that provides an outflow for the Ning shui-ho, which is said to join the Pei-ta-ho there.

The cultivated area ended with the last houses of Yuan-yung-che. The road took us over slightly rising ground, thinly covered with gravel, towards the mountains. Soon we had low gravel hills on either side of the road and within 2 miles of the village we found ourselves in the mountains. These we crossed by a narrow gorge, or rather, a valley between small mountains of soft outline. After ascending the gorge for a few minutes the ground began to drop slowly and immediately afterwards we got on to an open slope with a slight descent to the ESE. On the W and S it was enclosed by the mountains we had just passed and in the N and E by other similar hills. We cut across the plain in a northerly direction, the ascent being almost imperceptible, and again began to descend along a similar gorge, also very short. The mountains were a conglomerate of gravel and sand, the wall of rock only protruded on a couple of slopes facing N. From the latter half of the second valley there was a wide view of the plain northward, though to-day it was very much limited by the hazy atmosphere. A mile or two further N there was another chain of hills in a W—E direction and a few miles further off the fields and trees of Chinta appeared like a green ribbon against the snow-covered plain. In the NE a long rise in the ground ran in a N—S direction towards the mountains we had passed through and in the W there was a valley going N that looked like that of the Ning shui-ho. West of it there were hills and mountains again with soft outlines, the continuation of those we had left behind. We reached the hills