



*A procession carrying an image  
during the Year celebrations  
outside the town gate  
of Lanchow.*

about under the guidance of leaders, also painted, who run by their sides. In another a small carnival procession moves along in bright costumes. Far away a gigantic dragon, supported on the heads of a dozen men, twists and turns majestically.

The garrison marched up about midday. The men looked pleasing in their black, turban-like headgear and dress of the same colour with an inscription in red characters on their chests. The bayonets on their old rifles were decorated with large yellow paper flowers. They marched in two rows with a broad gap between them. They were of medium height and young, but they took whatever steps they liked in marching. The battalion commanders were surrounded by masses of bright flags. One battalion after another marched up and formed up on either side of the lane between the vehicles. The smart, complete battalions that had already been organised afresh, were succeeded by the old «tchyping» troops with their typical apron-like uniforms. Their numbers were very small. A battalion consisted of only a few dozen men, but the number of officers and flags was, perhaps, larger than in the new battalions and the latter, especially, decorated the plain. From time to time some monotonous notes were blown on long Chinese trumpets which are probably doomed to disappear soon like the old uniforms. Finally two small detachments of cavalry with many coloured flags trotted up. The horses were spirited, small and well-fed, the riders looked smart and sat their mounts well, but had no idea of keeping line or guiding and managing their horses. At the head of each of the latter detachments rode a horseman clad in ancient armour that sparkled in the sun, carrying a quiver on his back with arrows showing above his shoulders. At last, when all the troops were drawn up, a blast of trumpets announced the arrival of the Viceroy. The battalions presented arms and, followed by the admiring gaze of the crowd, a green palanquin with the historic armour of the Viceroy of Kan Su moved forward between the lines. — The festival was over and with it the series of extremely modest entertainments with which the Chinese mark