



*The armour of the Viceroy of Kan Su from the time of the Emperor Ming.*

the arrival of the New Year. The noise of the drums and explosions will continue up to this evening, but to-morrow the town will resume its ordinary appearance and it will at last be possible to work in peace.

Shen, the present Viceroy of Kan Su, has for 2 1/2 years administered the 3 provinces that form the area under his viceregency. He must be scarcely 50 and was formerly Fantai and subsequently Governor in Hing-anfu, where he enjoyed a good reputation. His attitude towards Europeans is said always to have been very correct, and though he may not be a pronounced pro-European, the fact that several Europeans have been appointed to posts in the Chinese service proves that he is not anti-European. To my surprise he took no notice for several days of the card I sent him on arrival, though this may have been because the Chinese New Year coincided with my arrival, for later he paid me more attention than I could have expected by calling on me twice. For want of room I was unable to receive him.

When I had recovered from my illness and inquired, if he would receive me, I was invited at once to his yamen. I was received in exactly the same way as by an ordinary Chinese mandarin, excepting that the official residence (yamen) was more spacious and the number of officials was slightly larger. There was stricter discipline, too, for there were none of the inquisitive men who usually followed on my heels into the reception room.