

the two rivers go on in an ENE direction and further on you see them being shut in by mountains. Escaping from these, they take a southerly course and describe a wide curve and disappear in the N or NE in the far distance. At the foot of the mountain on the other side lies a small village, named after the river, Kuanlupho. — The sun had broken through the clouds and the scenery was delightful. The river, 25 fathoms in width, wound along a valley of 1—2 miles' breadth, framed in high mountains of löss. These were no longer the same grey, bare and ugly mountains, but slopes reflecting various shades of green according to the height, to which the grass had come up. Here and there the green colour was broken by a patch of red or grey. The slopes either dropped gently to the valley or in the familiar tilled terraces. Down in the valley, where cut willows were planted in rows, an endless series of green shades delighted our eyes, from the pale green leaves of the willows to the rich green of the crops and the dark verdure of cedars or cypresses, cut in the shape of cones, in the cemeteries. High on a hill stood a tower like a lighthouse and on another the ruins of one of the forts in which the population sought shelter during a revolt. Far off, where the river turned, the irregular wall of Ning yuan was outlined against the mountains like an ancient ruin. Crowds of pedestrians and horsemen moved about, now a woman in bright colours on a donkey led by her husband, then again a person in blue with enormous spectacles and a red oilcloth umbrella, all contributing to the riot of colour.

10 miles before Ning yuan we passed the village of Santa ho on a tributary of the Wei ho. — At Ning yuan we merely stopped to feed our horses and ourselves, 11 li from the town we passed a small village, after 15 li Tyngtja kei, 21 li Myng tja chang and finally after 30 li we reached our goal at Liohmen, a village of about 900 houses. It lies on the river Nan ho, a tributary of the Wei ho from the south, and is inhabited exclusively by Chinese. Trade is lively, but purely local. The only article exported are straw hats with very wide brims. They are supplied mostly to Tsinchow. — Snow between the 9th and 3rd months, but melts at once. Rain plentiful between the 3rd and 8th months. Burans do not occur, but strong east winds in spring. — Wheat, tchumiza, millet, opium, rice, tchinkho, barley, gaolyan, huma, tchau mi (?), mustard, peas and beans are grown. Average crop 7 fold. — The distance covered to-day was 26—27 miles.

The Ning yuan hsien is subordinated to Kung-Chang-fu and is divided into the following li:

	tja	annual crop	cattle	horses	mules	donkeys	sheep
Town and surroundings —							
Tsei cheng li	1,100	5,500 tan	1,000	100	45	550	450
E Lingweili	2,000	10,000 »	3,000	550	200	1,000	10,000
Weih sien li	100	400 »	100	75	35	100	850
Yungnan li	1,000	5,500 »	1,000	250	75	850	8,500
Shengili	500	2,000 »	1,000	100	75	65	4,500
S Wing ingli	1,000	4,000 »	850	200	75	200	7,500
Chengsangenli	370	1,000 »	350	65	25	200	3,500
Yeng tyngli	1,000	4,000 »	850	200	35	550	6,500