

RECORDS OF THE JOURNEY

is densely populated and prosperous. The villages succeed each other at short intervals and many others can be seen on either side of the road. The slopes of the mountains are bordered with whole colonies of these peculiar caves.

The lush verdure of the plain is interrupted here and there by fiery yellow fields of mustard and many fruit-trees in full bloom, white and pink, climb high up the gentle slopes. The latter are tilled everywhere and are reminiscent, with their terraces, of the mountains in the vicinity of Lanchow, which are probably also green and beautiful at this season of the year.

The curious, scoop-like head-dress of the women is of a slightly different shape with more upright points. There are plenty of more or less appetising refreshments and food on small stands, tables or trays in the villages and in the shade of big trees. Everything looks cleaner and more attractive than in Kan Su, but perhaps this is due to the sun, the verdure and the heat. The people are also brighter and more obliging.

We reached the W suburb of Cheng-ngang after riding about 26 miles and stopped in a sarai quite near the newly built Protestant mission station. It was in charge of two ladies, Miss Nordin, an American Swede, and Miss Jönsson, a Norwegian. They were so kind as to invite me to stay at their station, but I declined. I was very pleased, however, to have a couple of excellent meals with them, cooked in the Swedish, Norwegian, English and American style. This afforded me an opportunity of meeting Mr and Mrs Nilsson, the missionaries, who were on a visit here from Lungchow. The little station with its rocking chairs, white muslin curtains and simple dining-room benches, built and managed by two capable Northern women, made an excellent impression on me. — One of my horses fell ill yesterday and forced me to take a day's rest.

There is a Hsien kuan resident in the town, subordinated to Feng-siang-fu. Trade is local and of no importance. The exports, which principally go eastward via Feng-siang-fu, consist of brandy, which is said to be popular (about 20,000 taels a year), wheat, maize, opium, straw mats and basketwork of reeds. The district is divided into the following Shang-ja districts:

	tja	annual crop	cattle	horses	mules	donkeys	sheep
E Shunghuali	10,000	30—40 tan	8—9	1	1	3—4	25
Tsungtingli	4,500	20 »	3—4	1	1	2—3	15
		10 »	1—2	1/4	1/4	1	—
W Shunghsiaoli	5,500	30—40 »	6—7	1	1	3—4	25
		20—30 »	3—4	1/2	1/2	1—2	10
Homuli	7,500	8—9 »	1	1/4	1/4	1	—
N Tiepeili	10,000	40—50 »	8—9	1	1	3—4	35
		20 »	5—6	1	1	3—4	25
		10—20 »	3—4	1/4	1/4	1—2	—
S Sykutsun	2,500	30—40 »	7—8	1/2	1/2	3—4	15
Shuikutsun	2,000	15 »	4—5	1/4	1/4	3—4	—
		8—9 »	1—2		1/7	2—3	—