

To the E of the village we crossed a deep ravine going NNE—SSW. The road, too, ran in a considerable ravine-like hollow which prevented our seeing anything on either side. After 20 li we rode across a small stream, Yeh ho, at the bottom of a narrow valley with steep banks. The mountains that were clearly visible at a distance on the left disappeared for some time. Our course was still ENE. Soon mountains appeared again in the N, but lower and closer to the road. The latter ran for miles in a hollow only as wide as an arbah. It only grew wider in a few places, so that 2 arbahs could just pass each other. The vehicles we saw were driven with loud shouts in order that traffic in the opposite direction should stop and wait at one of these »sidings». Whenever we came up to the surface of the ground, as we did from time to time, the landscape around us was exactly like yesterday's. 30 li from Famyng sy we crossed the Myngdja ho, 25 yards wide, the water coming a little above the horses' knees and flowing NNE—SSW. It is also called Yu feng ho and is probably the river that is called Hangu ho on the map of the General Staff, a name that is unknown here. The village of Mutjatien with 20 houses lies on the opposite bank. A ridge running further south was passed along a sunken road.

April 25th.
(Tsiang chow)
Kienchow.

We met a couple of caravans with cotton cloth and an endless number of old Chinese women, most of them terrifyingly ugly. There were arbahs full of this precious burden, 7 or 8 old women squeezed on to a cart. Others tripped on their tiny feet along the sticky and uneven road, leaning on long, narrow sticks. It must require a great deal of practice to walk long distances on these small goat's-feet. Shensi is said to be famous for the unusually small and neat feet of its women, in other words they go through worse torture there than in most of the other provinces.

40 li from Famyng sy we passed the village of Singtien-tzu with 50 houses and at intervals of 10 li Lingping with 120 houses, enclosed by a town-like wall, and Sanshih siung with 50 or 60 houses. After riding 80 li we reached the town of Tsiang chow. Like most of the towns in this neighbourhood it covers a large area and is sparsely populated. It has 6 gates and is supposed to be built in the shape of a turtle. 5 li N of the town there are some very ancient graves with blocks of stones bearing inscriptions or carved in the form of various animals. They are supposed to contain the ashes of Kao tsong, his Empress Wu Heo and of princes, eunuchs, concubines etc. It was late at night that I was told of them, so that I was unable to see them for myself. The town was founded under the name of Ch'ih sien during the T'ang dynasty. It was a fortress built to resist a certain Chutszi, who was subsequently vanquished by the supporters of the Emperor T'ang. The town was given its present name under the Emperor Tei Ti of the Sung dynasty (in 1,138). There are several temples in the town said to have been built during the T'ang dynasty.

The local Protestant mission station is in the charge of a Swedish American, Mr Hagkvist, and his wife, a genial man who had lived for a long time in Si-an-fu and seemed to know the province uncommonly well. The population of the district is supposed to be 20—30,000. — Wheat, mustard and two kinds of peas (winter sowing) and in the spring millet, tchumiza, beans, tchingmi (?), gaolyan, maize and lucerne are grown. All the crops depend on rainwater. Average crop 6—7 fold. Snow falls between the 11th and 2nd