

months, but melts in a couple of days. Plenty of rain between the 3rd and 10th months. — N winds are common. No burans occur.

April 26th. We did not cover more than 45 li to-day. I had intended doing 80—90, but, while taking a rest at Li-tsui-an, I called on some Swedish Americans, Mr and Mrs Beckman and the brothers Palmberg, and was persuaded to stay the night. This change will not put off my arrival at Si-an-fu, but forced me to do 120 li on the following day instead of 75—85.

The road took us through densely populated and cultivated country with a slight dip to the SE. Our course was almost due E. There were no villages next to the road, but a good many at a distance of about one li on either side. Those nearest the road were: 20 li Yu-yuan-tung with 4 houses, 25 li Yuan-tsung-pu 8 houses, 30 li Ting cheng 100 houses, 40 li Tjatsung 40 houses. A little further on Hsing chiaotsun with 250 houses.

Li-tsui-an was the same kind of town as those we had passed through recently. The very dilapidated crenellated wall of pounded clay enclosed a sparsely populated space of scarcely $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile square. All these towns are regular in shape and dominate the surrounding plain. The crenellated parapet was of baked bricks, the walls of clay and very decayed. There is no outer ditch in most cases. The buttresses are small. Those in front of the gates have an outer gate walled in, in a line with the street. There are no towers, only wooden pagodas over the gates. There are no garrisons or else they consist of a dozen men under the command of an officer. — There was not much to see in the town. A couple of temples that I visited, the larger one dedicated to Confucius, were scarcely worth looking at. — Trade is local and unimportant. The district is very fertile and partly irrigated. The population is said to be about 100,000. — The greatest pleasure I enjoyed in this place was the sight of two delightful, rosy-cheeked Nordic girls, who spoke Swedish, the small daughters of Mr and Mrs Beckman. Neither America, nor China had been able to alter their genuine Swedish type by a hair's-breadth.

April 28th. At 4 a.m. we continued our all too monotonous journey. The ground was cultivated and densely populated. Large clumps of trees indicate the positions of villages. After 30 li we passed through Tien chang, a village of 40—50 houses. 10 li beyond lay Sie tsi tsun with 100 houses and at intervals of 5 and 10 li we passed Shang tiao with 5—6 and Sang do with 20 houses. Two enormous graves rose up in the SW and SSW at a distance of a few miles, surrounded by a number of smaller ones. After another 5 li we rode through the village of Shang chu with 70—80 houses. Quite close to the road, on the left, there were a great many tombs, 4 of colossal size, towering above the rather flat ground. They looked as if they were square at the base, the sides tapering towards a flattened top. Two of these colossi were quite close to the road, the other two at a great distance. We now came to a declivity, a few dozen feet deep, by which the plateau, on which we had travelled for several days, dipped towards the river. We could see the broad river shining in front of us at a distance of a few miles. For a considerable time there were small graves on either side of the road, down in the valley.