



*Part of the temples in the grottoes
at Lung meng near Honan-fu.*

There was lively traffic on the road, long strings of arbahs, small caravans, pedestrians and horsemen with and without loads in great numbers. The usual rough body of the arbah is placed on a couple of low, heavily iron-rimmed wheels, which makes them look like a misshapen, very low toy cart. Now and then you meet a box rolling along on 4 small discs, a horribly ugly and clumsy contraption.

Kwang ying tang has 250 houses. It goes back to the Ming dynasty. Wheat, various kinds of peas, barley, red kunsjut, mustard, millet and tchumiza are grown. Average crop 5—6 fold. The rainfall is said to be inadequate. — A couple of elementary schools have been opened and are greatly frequented by the inhabitants. — The building of the railway is awaited impatiently. Here it is stated that the population will only advance the necessary funds to the Government in the form of a loan, though 1,250 dollars have been subscribed. — 2 pyn fandziun from Shanchow are stationed here. — A mountain road leads to Siu-chow (Wu chow).

May 24th. We had a long journey to-day, but much less monotonous than during the last few days. There were no sunken roads and we had an extensive view on either side for almost the whole way. The mountains had retreated, but were visible in the distance. The ground was uneven with large, ridge-like hills sloping gently down to slight valleys. The land was cultivated everywhere, the villages thickly dotted about and shady. Here and there groves of trees appeared. Traffic on the road was very lively. In the afternoon the wind rose and after a couple of hours' rain the dust was laid.

Most of the villages were small. Among the larger ones we passed Hsi yin ho with 100 houses at 15 li and Ying ho cheng with 300 at 20 li. After covering 45 li we reached the town of Nyen chi hsien, of about 1,000 houses. It lies on a small river, the Chen ho.