

right, a couple of li from the town and at some distance from the road, we saw the arsenal with a tall chimney placed at one end of a shining white group of buildings. There were mountains in the E and W at a great distance. Light rain that had been falling during the night and throughout the greater part of yesterday had laid the dust on the road. It was a great pleasure to walk a great part of the day's journey, for in China you seldom have an opportunity of walking along a road that is not smothered in dust.

After passing the inevitable Shih-li-pu we entered a sunken road in soft ground. It was comparatively wide and some trees were even growing there. — At 20 li we came to Singtien with 30—40 houses enclosed by a decayed wall. From this point the road only led occasionally for a time between walls of earth. Just as often we were on the surface of the ground. We reached Hwanghei-i with 50—60 houses about a li further on. Beyond it the sunken road began again. All the crevices and the ground on the plateau of löss were tilled and cut up into small fields. — At 30 li we passed Yen chuichen, a village of 200 houses with a bazaar, several li in length and a small watercourse at its end. The road led up again on to the plateau of löss. From time to time we caught sight of the river. On either side of the road there were small hills not far from it, rising in terraces. Beyond them, still very far off, the mountains were visible. At 50 li we came to the village of Ching-lungcheng with 300 houses, intersected by a river bed, about 25—35 yards wide, of the same name. The bed consisted of löss. The channel was small. Here it described a curve from S to W, pressing against the very high, perpendicular bank. In descending to the river bed we passed a row of monuments on the right, placed on a terrace of bricks along the edge of the bank with a long balustrade. On the other side of the village we entered a slightly stony valley, about 700 yards wide, between heavily scored small slopes of löss. Some solitary trees could be seen. We crossed a small river, the Hwangtu chai ho, again, flowing SSW, about the place where it joined the Shenku ho, another river just as small, flowing eastward. Small stone projections built to protect the bank at highwater indicated that it could rise considerably. A sunken road led us up an easy slope to the level of the löss. On the left we passed a temple, Laoje miao. Once more another sunken road led us down into the same river bed at the spot where the stream flowed in two arms through the village after which it is called. The distance covered was 60 li. The village of Hwangtu chai consists of about 800 houses. Gaolyan, millet, peas, wheat, mustard, hemp, tchaumey and a little opium are grown. The average crop was said to be 9 (?) fold. The livestock consisted of 7—800 head of cattle, 600 horses, 1,500 donkeys and about 1,000 sheep.

June 22nd. At first the road ran in the same NNE direction as during the greater part of yesterday.
Chih-tsung We followed a river valley, about 350 yards wide and stony in parts, between hills of löss
village. of no great height. 3 or 4 times the road crossed a river bed almost devoid of water. The bottom was soft, in places marshy. There were tilled fields on both sides in the valley.

After 10 li we passed the village of Piti with 80 houses. A sunken road led on from there, ascending gradually. We reached the level of the plateau of löss after about 9 li. The country that spread in front of us was a large, bare plain. Excepting the village