

The landscape we passed through on to-day's 60 li was of the same character as yesterday. Long, gentle slopes and very slightly marked valleys, occasionally at the bottom a slight water-channel, often inclined to be marshy. Two or three conical hills raised their pointed peaks not far from the road independently of the surrounding long ridges. Here and there a hill was surmounted by the ruins of a tuntai tower. They were said to have been built at the same time as the Great Chinese Wall. A distinct dark chain of mountains still extended in the N and NE at an angle to the road. *July 2nd.*
Soping.

The villages were small and did not look prosperous. Clay was the only building material apart from the necessary beams and poles. There were few tilled fields, at the beginning of the journey practically none. No woods. Even in the villages a solitary tree was an exception. The direction of the road was NW and NNW, mostly the latter. After 5 li Hwa tsun with 70—80 houses, 15 li Liu chang pu with 10 and at 20 li Santsaku with 10. Soon after the road began to climb a slightly more pronounced chain of large, dune-like hills, coming from the mountains in the NE and N and running in a SSW direction.

At the village of Hwantupu (25 li) with 40 houses we reached the crest of the chain. Barometer No. 1 624.9. The village was built in two groups on either side of the ruins of the brick wall of a fortified village. The road descended along a valley running NW. After 35 li the village of Sachiapu with 15 houses and 40 li Hwantualia with 15. Here, too, the ruins of a village wall were visible. Both were said to have been built during the reign of the Emperor Wan Te. 10 li beyond we reached a wider valley with some scattered villages embedded in clumps of shady trees. Further west, on the other side of the valley, another chain rose up parallel to the one we had crossed. In the N the wall of Soping was visible. We reached it after covering another 10 li.

On the way we met another 2 or 3 long processions of Mongol pilgrims, both men and women, a variegated crowd, some with packs tied to their backs, others riding donkeys, mules, horses and camels. Here and there we passed arbahs carrying coal from the neighbourhood of Tsoyung hsien. It is sold at Soping at a little over 2 cash per djin. I was told that coal was carted from there as far as Kweihwa ting.

Soping is supposed to have been called Yu pinfu originally and the town is still called so by a large part of the population. It stands on the plain not far from a small, long hill rising in the NE. The wall is going to ruin. Storms have swept such masses of sand and earth, now covered with grass, against its E and N parts that it is easy to walk up them. Soping is another of the places where a great deal of innocent blood was shed during the Boxer rising. 13 Europeans obeyed the order of the local Manchurian mandarin to proceed to Peiping under military escort. They had scarcely got outside the gates of the town before they were turned out of their carts and stoned to death by the crowd and the military escort. 10 Swedes and 3 Americans (1 a child) perished here. Scared by the European guns, which unfortunately did not get to this place, the Chinese authorities made haste to pretend to bury those of the 13 bodies that could be found, outside the E gate. Blocks of stone with Chinese inscriptions have been put up over the graves. Their devoted, noble work and horrible death deserved an inscription in their own language. The Chinese names are unrecognisable. If I recollect rightly, one of them, whose name was Larsson, was dubbed