

of 230 yards in width with a very slight fall. A small watercourse wound at its bottom. Here and there the gorge grew very narrow and stony, squeezed between steep granite spurs of the mountains. A couple of li beyond it grows wider again. The road was now less stony and the mountains less rocky. — After 115 li the village of Jankoujouza with 30 houses.

July 4th.
Kweihwa ting. We continued our journey along the same valley. After 5 li the village of Vlatchangpe with 15 houses. The mountains were low, the road led along a stony watercourse. After 20 li Hsi ku myng with 70—80 houses at the mouth of the gorge. Before us there was a large cultivated plain with many groups of light-grey villages. In the S and SW it was entirely open, in the N a very considerable part of the mountain range we had recently crossed still projected into it. In the present conditions, with the air full of particles of dust, to which I was well accustomed, we could only see the faint outlines of an enormous chain of mountains running from the N to the W, where it disappeared entirely in the distance. — We met 160 horses that were being driven by 3 Chinese to be sold at Yutai Shan. They were powerfully built, short Mongolian horses.

We passed Singinza with 50 houses, Shapno with 200, Htempan with 70—80 and Yang keipan with 70 after 30, 40, 48 and 58 li. In the last we stopped for dinner. Here the average crop is 4—5 fold. The sarais in Northern Shansi are mostly built with long, barrack-like rooms that often take up a whole building. Two long »kangs» extend across the room, provided with a great many small, low tables, the only thing a traveller can reasonably expect. A small room is a rarity and is usually inhabited. It is only after long and patient negotiation that you can obtain one, and often you have to wander from one village to another before you find a corner in which you are not obliged to share the vermin with someone else.

The tillage on the land, which still remained level, grew scarcer. Large stretches lay unused, covered with poor grass. There were practically no villages in this neighbourhood. — The mountain range that extended from the NE to the SW and bounded the plain was now clearly visible with its imposing dark mass and very rough outlines. After 88 li we crossed a dry river bed, Ta ho. Its depth was 42 inches in some places. It was said to be filled with water in spring and autumn, when a bridge is thrown across. On the river the village of Taho ho with 40 houses.

Drenched by heavy rain accompanied by a SW squall of such severity that it almost upset both horse and rider we crossed after 98 li a river flowing in two arms, 35 and 40 feet wide and of a depth of 0.25 and 0.1 m. When these rivers rise, traffic is said to be interrupted for 2 days at most. The village of Siaoho ho with 30 houses lies on the river. Many villages were visible again, especially towards the mountains.

We reached the suburb of Kweihwa ting after 108 li without seeing a glimpse of the town, which is hidden among shady trees by the surrounding suburbs. — We were met by Hsy, who was worn out by his vain efforts to discover a decent sarai. As nothing else was to be had, he had taken two microscopic rooms that formed a separate shed in a narrow backyard. They were so low that a slight heat from the sun was sufficient to raise their temperature almost to boiling point. The sarai is used chiefly by merchants from Sinkiang, who pass through with their goods. The hosts, three elderly men from Tientsin, came in turn to