

yellow river bed appearing through the verdure on the right. After 35 li Shih tu tsun with 30 houses, after 38 li Koumiao-tzu, a little temple built on a spur of rock and a couple of houses.

Now we could see a stone bridge of modern construction at a distance of a few li. A little further on we caught sight of the first houses of the town. Its situation was charming, shut in between the dark mountains with other mountains in the background. The town wall was thickly surrounded by buildings, so that only a glimpse of it could be seen. We went along a street that rounded the wall from the E and continued for several miles northward between rows of shops, that thinned out at times, only to combine again a little further on into a dirty, but noisy Chinese bazaar street. It is merely necessary to take a ride through this long and narrow town to realise that the place carries on very lively trade. The rows of shops are interminable.