

bushes right on the missionary property, namely, on the grounds of a former Tibetan temple called Lu ba tze and though he was not aware of these things being good for anything but firewood, he now has become much interested in them and for all I know he might have despatched already some seeds for you, for I made the arrangement with him on Nov. 27, 1914, and gave him your address and instructions to send through the American Consul at Shanghai. I may say that the altitude of New Taichow is, by my aneroid 9,400 feet; the climate is semi-arid, the rains falling in the summer, with clear, cold winters in which comparatively little snow falls. The growing seasons are short and local Chinese and Tibetans say that the summers are becoming cooler these last years.

"He will also try to obtain for us seed of the real Moutan peony, which occurs in very inaccessible mountain valleys in Tibet proper, where white men are not allowed to proceed to under ordinary circumstances. He has native helpers, however, who can do such a job.

"In regions West and South West of Siku, heretofore unexplored by white men, I found groves of hazelnut trees growing from 80 ft. to 100 ft. in height (*Corylus tibetica?*) The season for the nuts was passed long ago and the few nuts I collected are probably bad, since the rodents carry away all the good ones. I collected scions, however, which I hope will arrive alive.

"In these same regions we went through groves of magnificent spruces, growing 150 ft. to 200 ft. in height and with trunks 12 to 15 ft. in circumference. I also found a few trees of very peculiar make, standing midway between a chestnut and a hazelnut. Then I noticed a Ribes growing 25 feet in height, *Hippophae rhamnoides* as a tree, 40 ft. tall; splendid red-barked birches (*Betula bhojpattra?*) up to 100 ft. in height and stranger yet, clumps of a very hardy small bamboo, *Arundinaria nitida*, growing well in the shade of firs, spruces, red and white birches and covered with snow at elevations from 8,000 to over 10,000 feet above sea level. On one mountain top even tall firs, tree-like Rhododendrons and this bamboo formed an almost impenetrable jungle and this place was just about 10,000 ft. in altitude by my aneroid. I really never had expected to find a bamboo there and in such a company.

"This *Arundinaria nitida* is really not a handsome bamboo, for it is rather leafless and dies off at the tops, the canes grow from a few feet in height up to 40 feet in very favorable localities, with much shelter, they remain very thin, however, more or less in the nature of a reed. The natives, however, use them extensively in the weaving of large mats; in basketry of various forms; as house building material and in the making of strong cables, along