



THE CANTON CHINESE: OR,
THE AMERICAN'S SOJOURN IN
THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE

OSMOND TIFFANY

k928.965

B20121

182
42

THE
CANTON CHINESE,

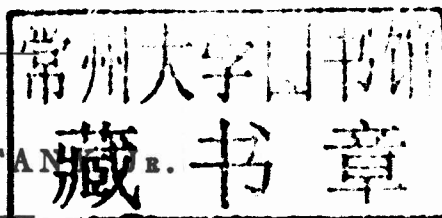
OR THE

AMERICAN'S SOJOURN

IN

THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE.

BY
OSMOND TIFFANY, JR.



BOSTON AND CAMBRIDGE:
JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY.

M DCCC XLIX.

SPV

K928.965

B20121

The Canton Chinese: Or, The American's Sojourn In The Celestial Empire

Osmond Tiffany

Nabu Public Domain Reprints:

You are holding a reproduction of an original work published before 1923 that is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other countries. You may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. This book may contain prior copyright references, and library stamps (as most of these works were scanned from library copies). These have been scanned and retained as part of the historical artifact.

This book may have occasional imperfections such as missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were either part of the original artifact, or were introduced by the scanning process. We believe this work is culturally important, and despite the imperfections, have elected to bring it back into print as part of our continuing commitment to the preservation of printed works worldwide. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections in the preservation process, and hope you enjoy this valuable book.

•

THE CANTON CHINESE.

•

THE CANTON CHINESE.

THE
CANTON CHINESE,

OR THE

AMERICAN'S SOJOURN

IN

THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE.

BY

OSMOND TIFFANY, JR.

BOSTON AND CAMBRIDGE:
JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY.

M DCCC XLIX.

— SPV

DS 759

Feb

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1849,
By JAMES MUNROE AND COMPANY,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

BOSTON:
THURSTON, TORRY & COMPANY,
81 Devonshire Street.

TO

MY BROTHER,

WILLIAM SHAW TIFFANY,

THIS VOLUME

IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.

PREFACE.

This book has not been written as a history of the Chinese, or as an elaborate essay on that great nation.

In May, 1844, I sailed in the barque Pioneer for Canton, and after a tedious passage arrived at Macao on the 21st of September following. It was uncertain how long we should remain, but thought at first that our stay would occupy a very few days. We at once went to Canton, and as I had little or nothing to do connected with the vessel, my time was my own, and I soon found that it was better employed. Desirous of studying, as far as lay in my power, the aspect, manners, customs, habits, and ranks of Chinese life, I determined to come in actual contact with the people, instead of remaining in the hongs and obtaining all my information from the numerous books which had been written on the Celestials. In this spirit, the next day, I went about the streets, into all kinds of shops, passed much time on the densely peopled river, and made acquaintance, as far as lay in my power, with the various ranks of the inhabitants.

I studied intently all that passed before me, and was rewarded for any trouble undertaken by the knowledge gained of the most extraordinary people, the only unchanged representatives of antiquity to be found among civilized beings. The observation of one day was carefully compared with that of the next, and the result of my researches submitted to the decision of gentlemen, who had lived years in China, with the best opportunities of becoming acquainted with the natives.

Finally, I referred to works of established merit, and adopted nothing until I was fully borne out by unquestionable authority. In this manner (our stay being protracted for several months) I became intimately acquainted with the inhabitants of Canton, who differ only in slight peculiarities from the great mass of their countrymen.

But as I visited no other great city in the empire, I have called my book the "Canton Chinese." I determined before engaging in this work to treat of nothing that did not come under my own observation, and so my range of subjects is limited. But the reader may rely on the truth of the volume. I had several reasons for adopting the course that I have pursued. I considered the Chinese so wonderful a people, and so unjustly underrated, that I was desirous of bringing them to the more intimate knowledge of my countrymen, as far as could be effected by my feeble efforts. Thus I preferred to work out carefully a cabinet picture, rather than attempt a great historical painting.

In the second place, my stay in China was limited, and

though ample time elapsed to glean all that is contained in the following pages, yet it was not sufficient to study Chinese history and polity. Therefore I have said nothing of dynasties, governments, laws, language or literature. Nothing that I could have written on these heads would have possessed the least interest or weight, and would have been mere plagiarisms.

Lastly, my utter ignorance of the Chinese language, without which no one can of himself study Chinese history, held me firm in the course I had chosen.

A few of the leading chapters were originally published in the *Baltimore American*, but they have been much enlarged, and are now presented to the public in an improved form.

I shall be happy if my humble efforts are the means of inducing my readers to turn a portion of their attention towards the Celestial Empire ; and the further they pursue their researches, the more will they find to praise in the peaceful energy, industry and ingenuity of the most enlightened of orientals.

BALTIMORE, MD., August, 1849.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

THE VOYAGE — JAVA — THE CHINESE SEA 1

CHAPTER II.

THE RIVER POPULATION 15

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL APPEARANCE OF THE PEOPLE 40

CHAPTER IV.

SHOPS, MANUFACTURES AND ARTS 59

CHAPTER V.

A CHINESE MUSEUM 80

CHAPTER VI.

THE GREAT TEA HONGS 108

CHAPTER VII.

WHAMPOA	130
-------------------	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

THE ENVIRONS OF CANTON	145
----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER IX.

THE OPIUM SMOKERS	169
-----------------------------	-----

CHAPTER X.

THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE	180
-------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XI.

POPULAR AMUSEMENTS	192
------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XII.

EUROPEAN LIFE IN CHINA	212
----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

HONG KONG AND MACAO	247
-------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

THE CHINESE AS A NATION	264
-----------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XV.

THE FAREWELL TO CHINA	267
---------------------------------	-----

THE CANTON CHINESE.

CHAPTER I.

THE VOYAGE — JAVA — THE CHINA SEA.

Voyages are proverbially tedious, even from the days of Columbus, and every commercial traveller who now-a-days embarks in a Liverpool packet, never fails to inform his friends or the reading world in general, how long the passage seemed, how often the sails of the ship flapped wearily, who composed the party in the after cabin, when he cast his bait for a shark, saw a suspicious sail, and threaded a deal of seaweed.

Useless as all such experience is to the voyager, it cannot equal that of his readers, from the simple fact that like long yarns have been heard a thousand times before, and the devoted victim, who has piously made up his mind to wade through "A foreign tour," because he is expected to feel the deep-
interest in its author, cannot help wishing that the

first chapter, written "at sea," had never been permitted to appear on dry land.

I will merely say, that we had flown through the Indian ocean, with all the sail that a strong south-east trade wind had permitted us to carry, and one fine afternoon in August, 1844, we heard the first mate sing out "Land!" as Java Head loomed majestically over the dark gray waters.

We deemed it prudent to lay to that night, as no one on board knew the perils of the Straits of Sunda, and we had good reason to hope, that the morning would see us safe past Angier Point, and hurrying for the Java Sea.

But we were not so fortunate.

The morning dawned and the sun rose almost simultaneously, for the brilliant equatorial climes know not the romance of the twilight hour, the wind blew, we made sail, came abreast of Princes Island, caught a glimpse of the noble scenery of the straits, when the clouds gathered in quick as a storm among the Alps.

The wind chopped round, the tide turned strong against us, and thus in the face of sea and sky did beat for seven days, along the great headlands of Western Java, and at length, weary with reverses and ill luck, anchored in Anjier roads.

It was pleasant to ride at quiet anchor after tossing for months upon the ocean, to hear the soothing sound of waves break with a distant roar upon the shining beach, and to look upon scenery as beautiful as that around us.

On one side the length of Java extended for many miles, its headlands and mighty mountains towering

face cloud; while its rich valleys shone in the sunlight as green as emerald.

Vast trees, thick grown along the shores, gave deep shade to the huts of the natives, whose long narrow boats with latteen sails, dotted the sparkling bay, and the bungalows of the Dutch residents, and the white-walled fort glistened brightly.

To the left, the magnificent peaks of scattered islands rose from the waters, covered to their sharp summits with the dense quick vegetation of the sunny tropic, and dim in distance on the southernmost point of Sumatra, upreared the mighty Rajah Bassa, half veiled in shade, like the majesty of an eastern despot.

Scarcely had we been anchored five minutes, when we saw a long piro full of men, pulling directly for us. We had heard from childhood awful stories of Malay pirates, fellows who cut your throat more readily than your purse-strings, and we had had all our arms ready, ever since we entered the Straits of Sunda.

Our two six pounders were run out of their ports, our muskets loaded for the crew, and the captain and I had put our Colt's revolvers into our pockets, firmly determined to astonish the natives only as a dernier resort, when pacific measures should be totally unavailing.

But we took courage, as we saw that there was nothing in the bow of the boat, and actually asked whether we could not detect small arms among the crew; she carried a Dutch flag, and only bore a small crew. He was a Malay mail agent, sent by the Resident, to ask us accidentally on our