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英国驻华使馆设馆第一年间的北京和北京人

Peking and the Pekingese during the First Year of the British Embassy at Peking

[英] 芮尼 D. F. Rennie 著 [美] 李国庆 整理

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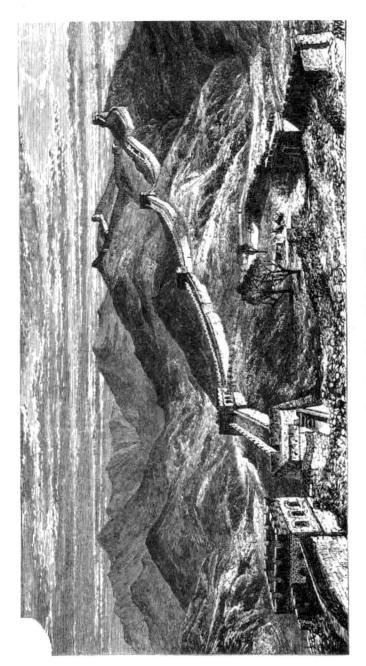
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THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

PEKING AND THE PEKINGESE

DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY AT PEKING.

By D. F. RENNIE, M.D.,

STAFF-SURGEON,

ON SPECIAL SERVICE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AUTHOR OF "THE BRITISH ARMS IN NORTH CHINA AND JAPAN."



LEGATION COURT AT LEANG-KOONG-FOO.

IN TWO VOLUMES.-VOL. II.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET. 1865.

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PEKING AND THE PEKINGESE.

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August 16th, 1861.—This morning the Prince of Su arrived with a long train of followers and baggage at the Su-wang-foo, having come straight from Je-ho, where, as one of the princes of the first degree of Imperial nobility, he has been in immediate attendance upon VOL. II.

the Emperor. This apparent break-up of his establishment there, and return to his family mansion, would seem to afford strong corroborative evidence of the Emperor's death. The reason, however, assigned for the Prince's return is the approaching marriage of his niece. His retainers, when interrogated, deny the death of the Emperor, but say that he is very ill, and that his physicians state that he cannot survive the Eighth Moon (September). It is therefore not improbable that he is dead, and that the event will not be made public until that time. The death of Tan-quang, the present Emperor's father, was kept secret for one month.

Yang, on coming to his duties this morning, informed us that his wife had yesterday presented him with a fine girl, somewhat, of course, to his disappointment, as it knocks on the head the hopes he had been cherishing of providing his rich relative with an adoptable male Mrs. Yang, like a pattern mother, is up to-day, and engaged at her domestic avocations. To-morrow a great ceremony takes place—the washing of the baby; an event which is deferred until the third day after The mamma officiates, and friends and relations drop in and honour the ceremony with their presence. In the water in which the child undergoes its first ablutions there is boiled a bough of a tree of the acacial species, which is supposed to impart a primary vigour to the infant, rendering it less susceptible of disease, and, when attacked, predisposing it to suffer only from ailments of a mild type. While speaking on this subject, Yang mentioned a curious fact, which explains to me an impression that has frequently struck me, namely,