

“十一五”国家重点图书出版规划项目

“中国研究”外文旧籍汇刊·中国记录

第二辑·4

中国北方游记

Journeys in North China

[英] 韦廉臣 Alexander Williamson 著

[美] 李国庆 整理

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GUANGXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY PRESS
广西师范大学出版社



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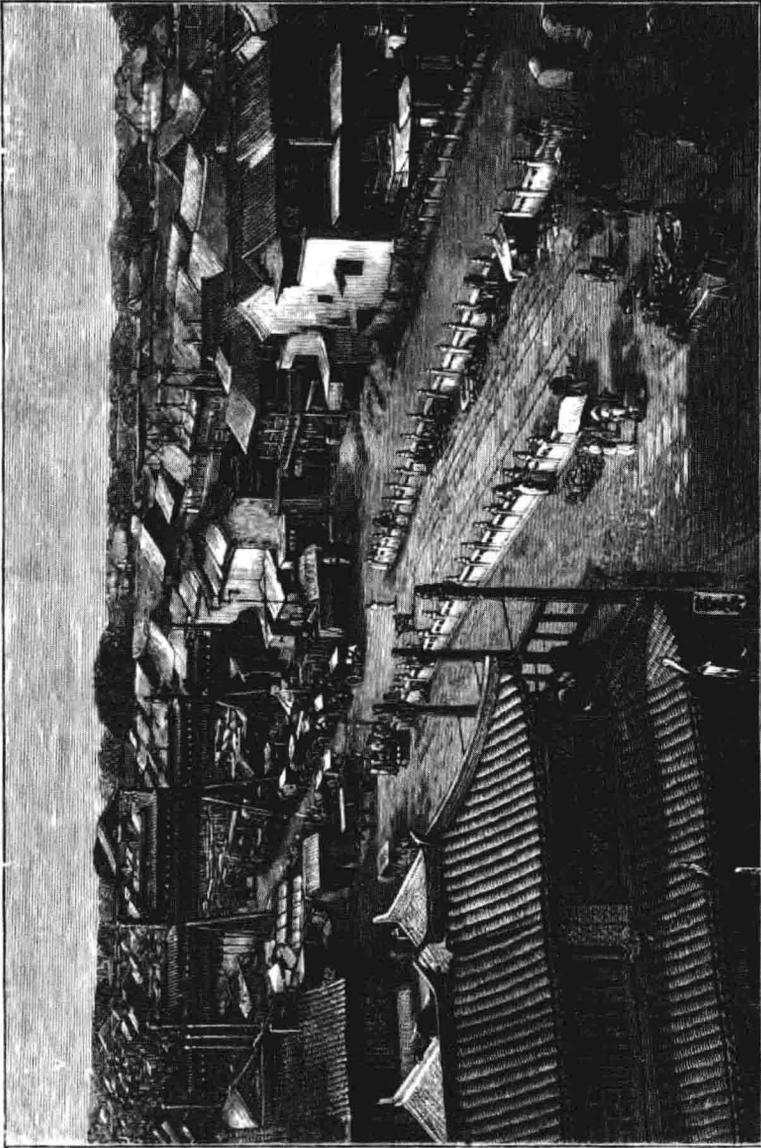
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VIEW OF PEKING, WITH IMPERIAL BRIDGE, LEADING TO THE TEMPLE OF HEAVEN.

**JOURNEYS IN NORTH CHINA,
MANCHURIA, AND EASTERN MONGOLIA;**

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF COREA.

BY THE

REV. ALEXANDER WILLIAMSON, B.A.,

AGENT OF THE NATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND TWO MAPS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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JOURNEYS IN NORTH CHINA, MANCHURIA, AND EASTERN MONGOLIA.

CHAPTER I.

INNER, OR EASTERN MONGOLIA.

Boundaries—Surface—Mountains—Rivers—Lakes—Wells—Climate—
Government—Population—Nomads and Agriculturists—The Part
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Minerals—Fertility of the Soil—Animals—Birds—Cities and
Towns—Je-hol—Do-la-nor or Lama-miau—Hada (Chi-feng-hien)
—Ho-shui-tan—Pa-kow—Monasteries—Education—Religion—
Greek Church in Mongolia.

I HAVE made two journeys through this country, tra-
versing the most important districts within its limits.
The first journey was from Peking to Je-hol (also spelt
Zeh-hol), thence to Do-la-nor,—*Sinicè* Lama-miau,—
and home, *viâ* Kal-gan. The second journey was from
Mouk-den, entering Mongolia by the Fa-kwo-mun gate,

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INNER, OR EASTERN MONGOLIA.

thence in a north-westerly direction as far as a point opposite Petuna, on the north-east bank of the Soongari in Manchuria. Referring readers to my Journeys for particulars, I here subjoin some general observations.

Eastern Mongolia is bounded on the east by Manchuria; on the south by Chih-li and Shan-si; on the west by Trans-baikal, or the country of the Kalkas tribes; and on the north by the Amoor. It thus embraces an area of, say, 240,000 square miles. By far the greater portion of the country consists of an elevated plateau, relieved here and there by undulations of greater or lesser extent, with abrupt dips and as abrupt rises, and occasionally a low range of hills. The remainder of the country, especially the portions in the centre and the south-eastern districts, are extremely mountainous. The mountains have the same general direction as in China Proper, and much the same features; the columnar tops, indicating limestone, are especially interesting in the neighbourhood of Pa-kow, south-east of Je-hol. Many of the valleys are of great extent and exceedingly fertile.

The chief river is the Liau-ho, which rises among the hills on the north of the Great Wall, flows first nearly due north, then N. by E., then E. by S., into Manchuria, discharging its waters into the Gulf of Liau-tung. It receives a good many tributaries, especially in the first part of its course. Somewhere in lat. 43° 30' it unites with another great river, called the Sira-muren, which name it assumes, and retains till it reaches Manchuria,

RIVERS.—LAKES.

3

when it takes the name Liau-ho. Till it receives the Hersu river from Central Manchuria, it is a slow, shallow stream; but from that point it is navigable for boats and small junks. Several rivers of greater or lesser volume rise between N. lat. 46° and 48° ; some flowing N.W. and joining the Amoor, and others flowing S.E. and joining the Nonni. One speciality deserves notice in connection with these streams; not a few of them rise among the hills and more elevated undulations, and after a definite course pour their waters into inland lakes which have no outlet. A glance at the map will show the locality of such better than any description in words. These things prove that Inner Mongolia is much better watered than many have imagined.

The largest lake is that called Gou-lou-omo, lat. 49° , long. $116^{\circ} 30'$; the next Fou-your-omo, lat. 48° , long. 112° . These are connected by slow streamlets with each other and the Amoor. The inland lakes which have no outlet are scattered throughout the country, and are of varying sizes. The largest are Tal-nor-omo, lat. 44° , long. $115^{\circ} 30'$; Do-la-nor, lat. $42^{\circ} 20'$; Cha-han-omo, lat. 45° , long. 123° ; and Tap-sou-ton-omo, lat. $44^{\circ} 15'$, long. $119^{\circ} 40'$. Wells are easily obtained in most parts by sinking. Springs are not uncommon, sometimes oozing out from the side of some elevated ridge, forming good natural watering-places, and at other times issuing from a number of different points, and all running together into a low locality and forming large swamps—a blessing to the nomads and their flocks and herds, and

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INNER, OR EASTERN MONGOLIA.

the wild ducks and geese; but sometimes a very unpleasant obstruction in the way of a traveller: some of these swamps are of considerable extent. Small streamlets rise here and there and flow languidly along towards the great arteries of the country, or towards some of the inland lakes.

Owing to the situation and character of the country the extremes of climate prevail. The latitudes being comparatively low, the rays of the sun are direct and powerful in summer, while the wide sweep of level land presents a vast area of radiation, and so the cold of winter comes quickly and bitterly. Another cause of the extreme cold is the great elevation of the plateau, which, for the most part, lies several thousand feet above the plains of China. It is winter in Mongolia while the flowers are all in bloom down below on the edge of the plain in “the flowery land.” Some have said that there are only two seasons in Mongolia, summer and winter; but this is scarcely correct. Spring begins later, and is contracted into very narrow dimensions: yet still there is a month and a half which may be called spring; two months and a half of summer, and one of autumn. Winter generally commences with a tremendous storm, and afterwards retires again for a little—perhaps retires twice—and then comes in earnest and rules with an iron sceptre. Here, as elsewhere in Mongolia, cultivation makes a perceptible difference in a few years’ time. Boreas yields to Ceres: for it has been observed that the warmth increases and the seasons lengthen as cultiva-

CLIMATE.—POPULATION.

5

tion advances. And it has been found by the Chinese, who have entered Mongolia as agriculturists, that crops which at first did not thrive, owing to the cold, after a few years yield an excellent return.

The inhabitants of Inner Mongolia are divided into forty-nine families, or clans, called “banners,” owing to their having each a distinguishing flag and a separate chieftain, who is called a “Wang,” or prince. These princes are descended from Genghis Khan, and their dignity is hereditary. They all own allegiance to the Emperor of China, who invests them with their rank, and this inferiority is acknowledged by stated visits, at longer or shorter intervals,—depending upon the distance from Peking,—on the part of the several princes; who, on such occasions, bring, as a tribute to the Emperor, sheep, wine, silk, or other produce of their country. They appear to be very loyal to the present dynasty; for, though not compelled to provide him with soldiers or money, large numbers join his armies, and many of his best generals are Mongols. San-ko-ling-sin, now so famous in China as the general who tried to prevent the march of foreign troops on Peking, was a Mongol; and his son, Prince Po, was of great service in putting down the late rebellion in Manchuria. According to Mr. Edkins, the average number of men, women, and children in a “banner” is said to be about 200,000, which gives a population of about 10,000,000 to Eastern Mongolia; and I should say that this is not far from the truth. These “banners” have