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Alicia E. Neva Little
Frontmatter
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Published in Tokyo in 1894, Mrs Archibald Little’s diary of her summer stay at a local farmhouse in the Chinese interior near Chongqing provides a first-hand account of rural Chinese life in the nineteenth century from a European’s perspective. Little was an accomplished author, having written numerous novels on women’s social roles under her maiden name, Bewicke. In *My Diary*, she continues this theme of women’s place in society. Her account also touches on the interactions between Christian missionaries and the local people. She was an active campaigner against the Chinese tradition of binding the feet of young girls, and helped to bring about its abolition. A limited run of only 500 copies of *My Diary* was originally printed. It contains 26 illustrations and is an invaluable historical source for studying rural life in nineteenth-century China.

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MY DIARY

IN

A CHINESE FARM

BY

MRS. ARCHIBALD LITTLE

(A. E. N. BEWICKE).

“ I DESIRE TO PRODUCE IN MYSELF A LOVING HEART TOWARDS
ALL LIVING CREATURES.”
“ IF THOU BE BORN IN THE POOR MAN’S HOVEL, YET HAVE WISDOM, THEN
WILT THOU BE LIKE THE LOTUS-FLOWER GROWING OUT
OF THE MIRE.”

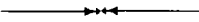


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COLLOTYPES AND PHOTO-ENGRAVINGS
BY
K. O G A W A,
Tokyo, Japan.
————

INTRODUCTORY WORDS.



We were living in the far West of China, 1300 miles from the sea, 300 miles beyond the reach of steamers, and against its becoming too hot in Chung-king, a large city, the commercial Capital of Szechuan, all shut in by walls, and so full of houses as not to have an available breathing space left empty, we had rented a hill side on which to build ourselves a Summer cottage. But the Magistrate had stopped our building on the pretext that the country people were so much opposed to foreigners he dared not sanction our living amongst them ; then made a great favour of having persuaded a certain Farmer to have us as tenants, and suggested that, if we went out to him for three months, perhaps gradually the people might become accustomed to us.

It was very hot in the daytime and all day long I was shut up in the one Farm house sittingroom, so I started a Diary for much the same reason probably, that I have often observed people do so on a Sea Voyage. They generally do not keep it up till the end, neither did I; but I noted down every thing I could observe of interest, as long as I wrote in it, and here it is, recalling many simple pleasures and some painful days.

“Sorrow and Shine is Life, little Annie, Flower and Thorn.”



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Country House on the Yangtse.