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Alicia E. Neve Little

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### Li Hung-Chang

Alicia Little (1845–1926) was a prolific writer who moved to China after her marriage to missionary Archibald Little (1838–1907) in 1866. She published many accounts of Chinese culture and society before founding the successful campaign against foot-binding in 1895. This volume, first published in 1903, contains her biography of the eminent Chinese statesman Li Hung-Chang (1823–1901). Li was a towering figure in late nineteenth century Chinese political life, exerting a profound influence over Chinese foreign policy and relations and overseeing China's development of western style industrialism until his dramatic fall from power following China's defeat in the 1894 Sino-Japanese War. Using contemporary newspaper accounts, eyewitness descriptions, and interviews with his contemporaries, Little describes Li's life chronologically, describing his rise to prominence following the Taiping Rebellion in 1851. This volume was the first extensive account of Li's life to be published in English.

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LI HUNG CHANG IN 1896.

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## HIS LIFE AND TIMES

BY

MRS. ARCHIBALD LITTLE

AUTHOR OF "INTIMATE CHINA"

"THE LAND OF THE BLUE GOWN"

"MARRIAGE IN CHINA" "OUT IN CHINA"

*WITH SEVERAL PORTRAITS, AND A MAP.*

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## Dedication.



TO MY DEAR HUSBAND,  
IN OUR DISTANT HOME IN WESTERN CHINA,  
COUNTING UPON WHOSE CO-OPERATION I DARED TO UNDERTAKE  
THIS WORK,  
AND WHOSE RICHLY-STORED MEMORY,  
CALM JUDGMENT,  
AND SUSTAINING SYMPATHY I HAVE MISSED MORE AND MORE  
WHILE WRITING EACH SUCCESSIVE PAGE.



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## PREFACE.

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I DESIRE to express my deep obligations to Mr. Alexander Michie's "The Englishman in China," and Professor Douglas's "Li Hung Chang" in the Public Men of To-day Series; and yet more to the *North China Herald*, that rich storehouse of information on all matters connected with the Far East; and to other contemporary newspapers both foreign and Chinese, the back numbers of which I have ransacked painfully and toilsomely for many a long month, trying wherever I could to reproduce the impressions of an eye-witness, or at least of one who wrote at the time, as sure to be more vivid than any carefully written after-account. Mr. W. C. Howard's short sketch of the Taiping Rebellion has been specially useful in this way, although I have taken for my guide as to Li's life accounts specially written for me by his own countrymen, whose names I do not give—any more than those of the many gentlemen who have kindly supplied me with much valuable information, and to whom I am indebted for many a telling anecdote; because they have themselves played no small part in the political events here touched upon, and being still connected with China would probably prefer to remain unknown.

The value of the tael has varied so greatly during Li Hung-chang's long life, that as it would be impossible for me to reproduce its exact value at different times I

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have given all large money estimates in taels. With regard to measurements, I have taken a mile as the equivalent of ten Chinese *li*.

Although many more detailed accounts may yet be published of Li Hung-chang's financial enterprises and diplomatic successes, yet the fact that I am unable to give the secret history of these, having been in no wise implicated in them, may perhaps the better qualify me to write with that strict impartiality which I have tried to observe, not only about the man himself, but also of the friends and surroundings of one of the most brilliant figures of the nineteenth century.

ALICIA BEWICKE LITTLE.

PIONEER CLUB, GRAFTON STREET.