

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Travel and Exploration

The history of travel writing dates back to the Bible, Caesar, the Vikings and the Crusaders, and its many themes include war, trade, science and recreation. Explorers from Columbus to Cook charted lands not previously visited by Western travellers, and were followed by merchants, missionaries, and colonists, who wrote accounts of their experiences. The development of steam power in the nineteenth century provided opportunities for increasing numbers of 'ordinary' people to travel further, more economically, and more safely, and resulted in great enthusiasm for travel writing among the reading public. Works included in this series range from first-hand descriptions of previously unrecorded places, to literary accounts of the strange habits of foreigners, to examples of the burgeoning numbers of guidebooks produced to satisfy the needs of a new kind of traveller - the tourist.

China Under the Search-Light

A London-born Wesleyan Methodist missionary, William Arthur Cornaby (1860–1921) spent over thirty years in China, where he edited *The Chinese Christian Review*, and, from 1905, the *Ta Tung Pao*, a weekly magazine targeted at Chinese officials and scholars. His many books on Chinese culture and civilisation, including *A String of Chinese Peach-Stones* (1895) and *Rambles in Central China* (1896), provide detailed sketches of Chinese rural life and customs. The later *China Under the Search-Light*, first published in 1901, uses Western clichés about China as a point of departure to offer a more nuanced understanding of the underlying facts and problems specific to Chinese society. In this book, Cornaby discusses contemporary topics such as overcrowding in Shanghai, mandarins, and Buddhism. He also scrutinises newspapers, novels, and aesthetic traditions, offering an elementary introduction to Chinese culture as perceived by a nineteenth-century British missionary.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

China Under the Search-Light

WILLIAM ARTHUR CORNABY



Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108014113

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1901

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-01411-3 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CHINA UNDER THE SEARCH-LIGHT

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

BOOKS ON THE CHINESE PROBLEM.



The Peoples and Politics of the Far East.

By HENRY NORMAN, B.A. Fourth Thousand.
Profusely Illustrated. Small demy 8vo,
cloth, 7s. 6d.



As the Chinese See Us.

By T. G. SELBY. Crown 8vo, cloth, 6s.



How to Read the Chinese War News :

A Vade-mecum of Notes and Hints to Readers
of Despatches and Others. With a Glossary
of Military and Technical Terms. 1s.



LONDON : T. FISHER UNWIN, PATERNOSTER SQUARE.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CHINA UNDER THE
SEARCH-LIGHT By
Wm. Arthur Cornaby, Editor
of the *Chung-si-chiao-hui-pao*, Author of
“A String of Chinese Peach-Stones,” etc.



LONDON
T. FISHER UNWIN
PATERNOSTER SQUARE
1901

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
William Arthur Cornaby
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

TO
ARTHUR H. SMITH,
AUTHOR OF "CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS,"
THESE CHAPTERS ARE DEDICATED
IN ALL AFFECTIONATE
ADMIRATION.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light

William Arthur Cornaby

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

*Chapters ii–vii and ix are reprinted from the
“North China Herald.”*

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
 William Arthur Cornaby
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

	PAGE
Readiness to write about China decreases with residence— Travel and residence contrasted—Essential conditions of familiarity with national characteristics—Sources of reliable information—Also of unreliable information —The latter illustrated by the Chinese national banner—Plan of the present work—A few familiar sights as topics—First impressions of Shanghai .	1
(Quotations from Max Müller, Confucius, Herbert Spencer, George Eliot, Henry Norman.)	

CHAPTER II.

OVER-CROWDING.

The Yellow Peril discussed—China's millions graphically
 represented—Density of population local and arising
 from want of distribution—But a fact in regions
 familiar to residents—And most evident in country
 places—The remarkable fertility of the soil—National
 characteristics fostered by over-crowding—The struggle
 for life—Development of utilitarian instincts—Poverty
 of the masses—Religion a mere "luck-pidgin"—
 Confession of a Buddhist monk—Keen perception of
 vii

	PAGE
character—Survival of the fittest—Such fitness often means adeptness in artifice	15
(Quotations from <i>History of the Contending States</i> , Sylvester Whitehead, Sir Robert Hart, Ernst Faber, Adam Smith.)	

CHAPTER III.

SOLIDARITY.

Its relation to over-crowding—Three fostering influences—The Far Eastern Europe of the Confucian era—Necessity for local combination—Confucian consolidation of the family—Individuals regarded as fractions of the family unit—Neighbours half relatives—The brotherhood of man a Chinese sentiment—"Celestial Empire" a mistranslation—We are Celestials if the Chinese are	31
(Quotations from Edmund Demoullins, King Hsien-ho, Merle D'Aubigne, Lieh Tzŭ.)	

CHAPTER IV.

HUMANITY IN BUNDLES.

Clannish consolidation—Evolution of Chinese politeness—Imperial recognition of personal responsibility—Legal enforcement of mutual responsibility—Its application to <i>yamên</i> underlings and thieves—Utility of the system—Its local limitations—Absence of a wider patriotism—But possibilities of combination against a common foe—Patriotic cannibalism—Patriotism resembling our own existent among reformers—But has to be imported	47
(Quotations from Josiah Strong, Native newspaper, Marion Crawford, I. T. Headland.)	

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
 William Arthur Cornaby
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS ix

CHAPTER V.

DEAD - LEVELS.

	PAGE
Huddling together inimical to individual development— China's creative age—Decadent generations—How ancestral worship becomes the death-knell of progress —Resultant stagnation and superstition—Evolution of fatalism—Its general acceptance—Discontent with dead-levels—Nirvana anything but an ideal—Absolute need of recreation—Samshoo and opium—A higher quest—Studious drudgery—Classical literature charac- terised—Rise of the essayists—Literary art-copyists— Gulliver's travels	59
(Quotations from Blackwood, Carlyle, National Gallery inscription.)	

CHAPTER VI.

RUTS.

Classification of mankind—Country simplicity and town sharpness—"Foreign inventions should be despised" —Foreign mastery the real objection—"China's birth- right to rule"—Those who admire foreign things, but not the foreigner's religion or want of it—The magic word "Western"—The Emperor Kuang Hsü—Imita- tion the first principle of progress	75
(Quotations from Herbert Spencer, Pope, Johnson, P'eng Yü-lin, Hung Wu, Chinese newspaper, J. T. Headland, Winwood Reade.)	

CHAPTER VII.

THE "NATIVE FOREIGNER."

The term explained—Missionary criticism—Why need mis-
 sionaries come at all?—Is the Gospel adapted to the

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
 William Arthur Cornaby
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Far East?—How does it fit in with Confucian ethics? —What has been its success?—What methods have been adopted?—National questions—Entanglement in politics—How far are missionaries responsible for disturbances?—Nutshell statement of the Boxer tragedy	89
(Quotations from Winwood Reade, Channing, An Ancient Divine, Heinrich Heine, St. Patrick, Chang Chih-tung, Prof. Drummond, Li Hung-chang, M. Pichon, Lord Salisbury.)	

CHAPTER VIII.

SOME ACTORS IN THE TRAGEDY OF 1900.

How an adventuress became Empress Dowager—Rise of Li Hung-chang—The Tientsin massacre of 1870— “Missionaries and merchants do not count,” nor officials much—A night surprise and its sequel— Murder of Consul Margary—Disturbances of 1891— Attitude of the Western press—Yung Lu introduces himself—Betrayal of the Emperor—The Manchu Gunpowder Plot—Edict of extermination—Its partial success—Two statesmen-martyrs—How a nation has mourned for them	111
(Quotations from various documents, the <i>Japan Mail</i> , Mr. Brodrick, etc.)	

CHAPTER IX.

MANDARINDOM.

Western civilisation and the incongruities of mandarindom
—Starvation salaries—Thrice-paid taxes—Cost of de-
capitation cases—The suffocated conscience—Judean
parallels—Why China has lasted—Utilisation of the

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
 William Arthur Cornaby
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS xi

	PAGE
Three Religions—No place for Western civilisation— The final alternative	149
(Quotations from Johnson, Chesterfield, Confucius, Empress Dowager, Dryden, Han Yü, Duc d'Audiffret- Pasquier, Marquis Tséng, Wau Sing.)	

CHAPTER X.

THE LAND OF ÆSTHETIC TRADITIONS.

The true "Land of the Pigtail"—How Buddhism prospered in China—The two gates in the Great Wall—Artistic composition in Chinese calligraphy—And in the language itself—"Maps"—Turner a photographer!—"Consider the Temple"—Must it pass away?	161
(Quotations from Pressensé, Geo. Matheson, Sir William Fairfax, Marquis Tséng, Chinese author translated by Prof. Giles, the <i>Standard</i> , Ruskin.)	

CHAPTER XI.

THE TRIPLE LANGUAGE OF CHINA.

Is Chinese difficult?—The "tones" explained—Simplicity of Chinese to children—The Mandarin dialect—Hieroglyphics, and how to recognise them—Harmonic literature—Fifty words expressed by five—Miltonic parallels—Dress-coats—Crystals in the mosaic—Dualism—Anthem-prose—Convocation of moralists—Novelists avaunt!	175
(Quotations from Alfred Lister, Joseph H. Choate, Dr. Martin, Chinese newspaper.)	

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-01411-3 - China Under the Search-Light
 William Arthur Cornaby
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

xii

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XII.

A CHINESE BOOKSTALL.

	PAGE
A motto-anecdote—Ballads and plays—How to make an historical novel—Smuggling a Son of Heaven across the sea—A modern novel of a million characters—Detective knights—Jekyll and Hyde explained—A drunken demigod—Love tales—The Dream of the Red Chamber	195
(Quotations from Aubrey, Spenser, J. J. Rousseau, Sir John Lubbock, A Modern Taoist, W. F. Mayers, Alban Butler, Baring Gould.)	

CHAPTER XIII.

A DAILY NEWSPAPER.

Newspapers dangerous and editors disreputable—Mrs. Partington—Genesis of a leading Chinese daily—Its advertisement sheet and contents—Suggested tax on opium-lamps—A specimen of patriotic rage—General outlook—Birth-throes rather than break up	227
(Quotations from Confucius, <i>North China Herald</i> , A Chinese leading article.)	