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Beyond the Great Wall of China

George Fleming

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First published in 1863, this is the enchanting account of the travels of George Fleming (1833–1901) in the far north of China. Fleming began his epic journey in Tien-tsin, where he was stationed as an army doctor at a British military garrison; there he was granted special permission to travel almost 700 miles as far as Moukden and to Manchu Tartary, the birth place of the Manchu dynasty. Fleming's route took him through many regions that had been inaccessible to western travellers until the Treaty of Tien-tsin (1858–9). His vivid account describes the people and customs he met; the landscape; the climate; the language and dialects; the agricultural practices of the various regions; and the struggles and hardships he faced during his journey. Fleming's work is a monument of Victorian travel literature and an important source in understanding Victorian perceptions of China and of Chinese culture.

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IN
MANTCHU TARTARY:

BEING

A SUMMER'S RIDE BEYOND THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

BY

GEORGE FLEMING, Esq.

With a Map and numerous Illustrations.

LONDON:
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TO

A. MICHIE, ESQ.

OF SHANGHAI,

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED IN KINDLY

REMEMBRANCE OF HIS PLEASANT AND VALUABLE COMPANIONSHIP DURING

A LONG RIDE IN A DISTANT REGION.

Comes jucundus in via pro vehiculo est.

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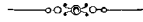
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PREFACE.



PARTLY to while away the tedium and monotony of a long sea voyage from China to England, and partly to redeem a promise made before leaving that country, the following narrative of a somewhat novel ride through one of the most distant regions of the great Chinese empire was written for publication.

Much as its southern portion has been explored and described, little in reality is known regarding the far north, more especially of those hitherto inaccessible districts which border on, or lie beyond, that marvellous monument of human industry—the Great Wall, in its course along the eastern margin of Old China.

It is therefore hoped that an attempt to describe the general features of the country, and the special characteristics of the northern Chinese—differing as they do very widely from their brethren of the south—together with the incidents inseparable from the wanderings of two adventurous Britons travelling in their proper costume, for nearly seven hundred miles, among a people to whom the

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PREFACE.

existence of such a place as Great Britain was unknown—may prove in some degree interesting. It may be a long time before Europeans will again venture so far as from the vicinity of Peking to the birthplace of the Mantchu dynasty, and journey unscathed through the fair provinces that exist between the two capitals, inhabited by thousands of an industrious race, to whom rebellion and its attendant horrors are unknown. So, until a more leisurely survey can be made of this extensive tract by those who care to travel such a distance, and do not object to very unpleasant fare and very bad accommodation—for the country is not quite adapted to the thousand and one desires of dilettante tourists—these notes of a holiday pilgrimage the author hopes will not be unacceptable to the general reader.

WOOLWICH : *May* 1863.

Cambridge University Press

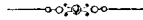
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