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Walter Medhurst's 1872 book traces his personal impressions of nineteenth-century Chinese society. The author is determined to give a picture of the country and its inhabitants that is realistic and free of the tired clichés often found in contemporary Western accounts of the country. Medhurst engages with a wide spectrum of Chinese traditions and habits: looking at the characteristics of advertising and how Chinese newspapers are run; describing opium-smoking and Chinese burial customs; delving into the relationship between men and women; and sampling the delights of Chinese cuisine. He also writes about the position of foreign citizens in China and focuses on the relationship between China and the Western world. Concerned that the West should show China the respect it deserves, he attempts especially to capture the essence of the Chinese character.

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WALTER HENRY MEDHURST



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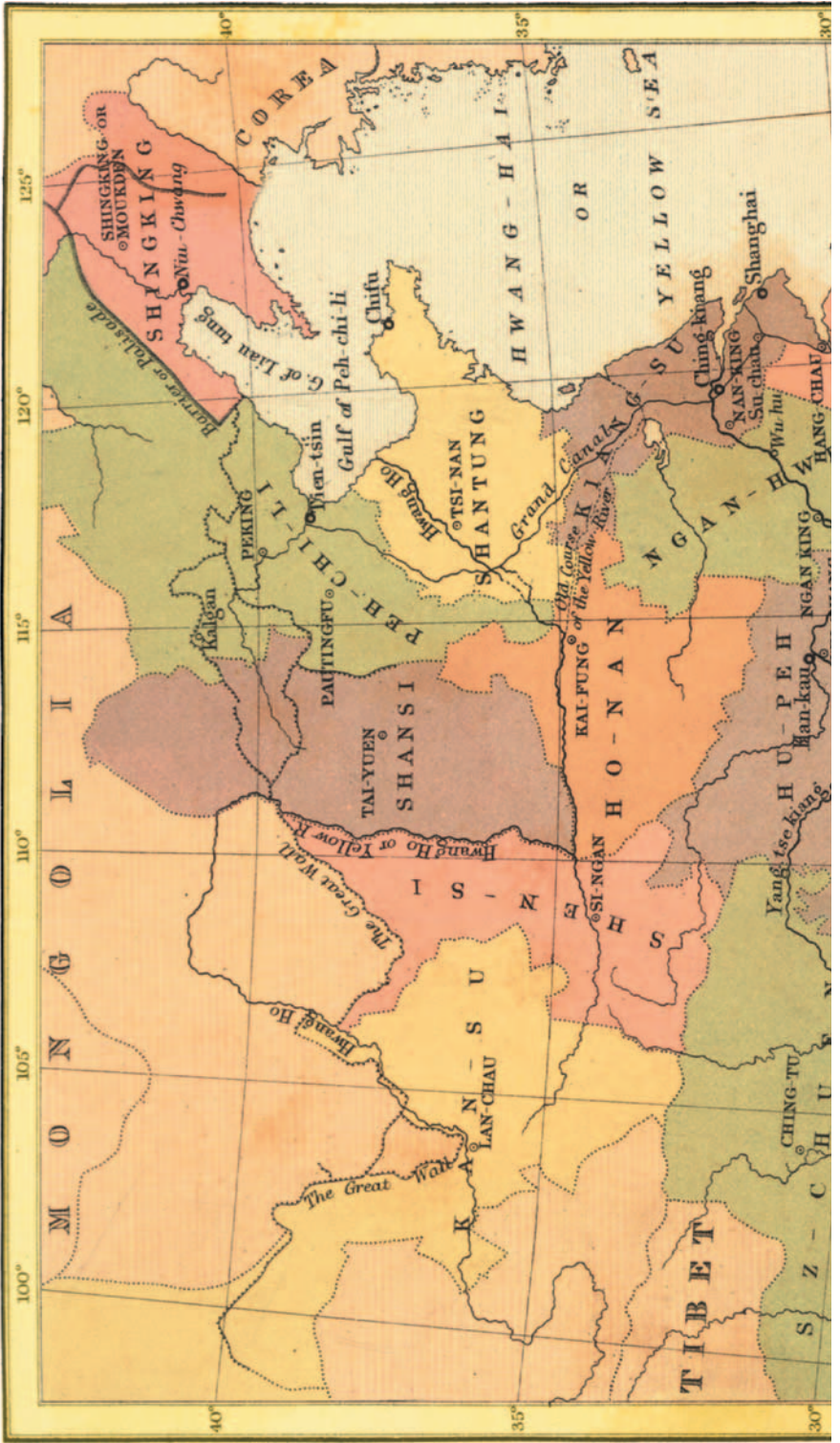
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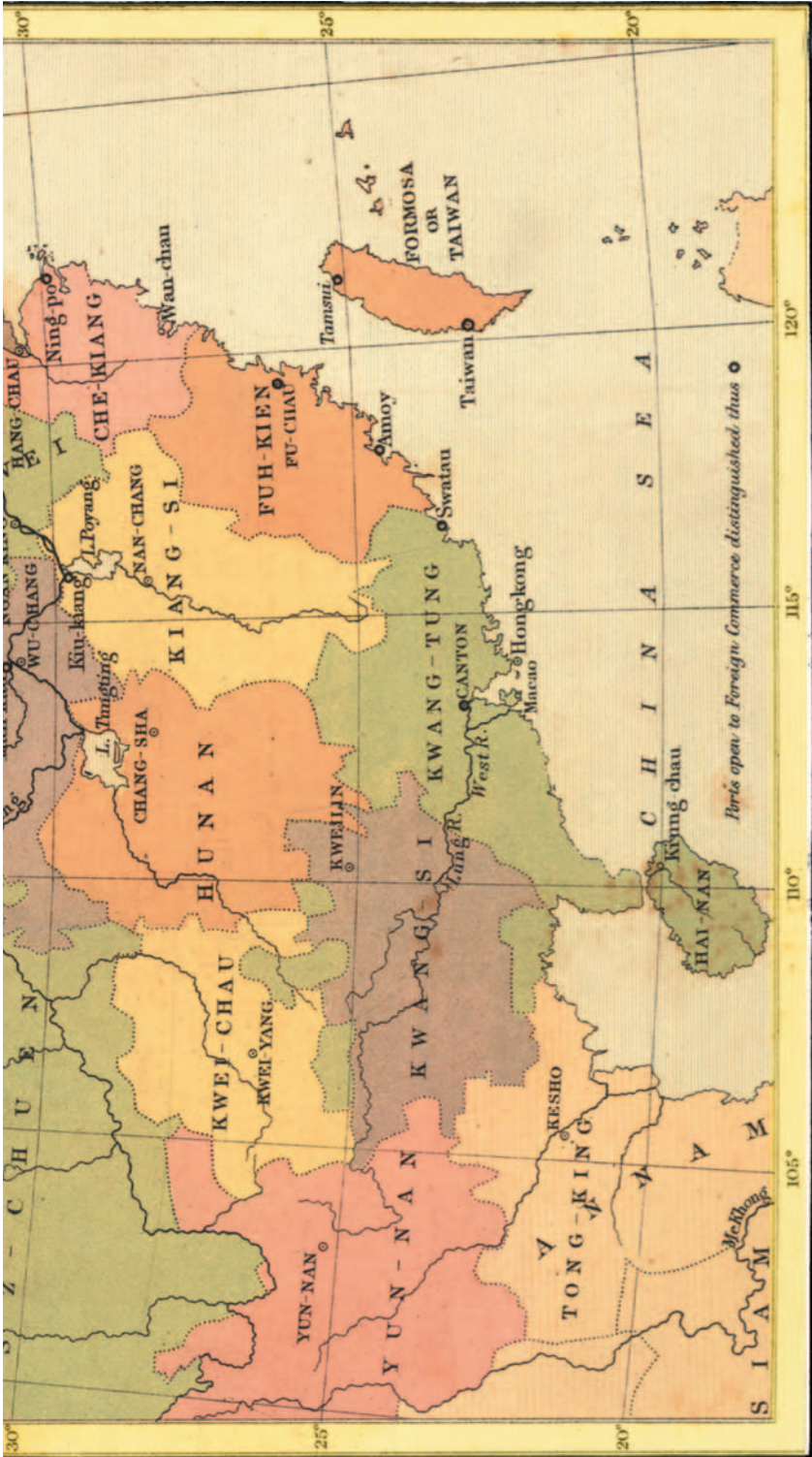
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MAP OF CHINA.



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Stanford's Geographical Establishment's Charting Office

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THE
FOREIGNER IN FAR CATHAY.

BY
W. H. MEDHURST,
H.B.M. CONSUL, SHANGHAI.

With Map.

LONDON:
EDWARD STANFORD, 6 & 7, CHARING CROSS, S.W.
—
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PREFACE.

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THIS little book does not pretend to the importance of a work on China. Its aim is simply to enlighten the home public as to the actual circumstances in which residents in that remote region find themselves, and to supply a few scraps of information, part of it new, and part of it hitherto misapprehended, respecting the Chinese themselves. Existing relations between China and the leading Western powers are inevitably tending towards results, the importance of which to both sides cannot be exaggerated, and I shall consider myself fortunate if the few words, which I have herein ventured, should lead to a better understanding in England of our true position and interests in “Far Cathay.”

W. H. MEDHURST.

ATHENÆUM CLUB.
August, 1872.