

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01953-8 - The River of Golden Sand, Volume 1

William John Gill

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.



INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

- § 1. Captain Gill's Communication with the Writer before going to China. § 2. Introduced to Baron von Richthofen and Mr. T. T. Cooper. § 3. Title of the Book Explained; and Scope of the Introduction. § 4. The Great Parallel Rivers issuing from Eastern Tibet: (i.) The Subanshiri. § 5. (ii.) The Dihong, and the Identity of the Great River of Tibet with the Great River of Assam. § 6. Comparative Discharges of Rivers involved in the Question. § 7. Theory of Identity of Tsanpu and Irawadi. § 8. General Grounds for Adhering to Former Conclusion. § 9. (iii.) The Dibong; does not come from Tibet. § 10. The Lohit, or True Brahmaputra; (iv.) its Identity with the Gak-bo or Ken-pu of Tibetan Geography; Murder of the Missionaries Krick and Boury. § 11. The (v.) Tchitom-chu or Ku-ts' Kiang; almost certainly a Source of the Irawadi. § 12. The (vi.) Lung-Ch'uan Kiang or Shwéli River; The Lu-Kiang (vii.) or Salwen. § 13. The Lan-t'sang (viii.) or Mekong. § 14. (ix.) The KIN-SHA, RIVER OF GOLDEN SAND, or Upper Stream of the Great Yang-Tzu Kiang. § 15. The Ya-lung, or Yar-lung (x.); its Confluence with the Kinsha. § 16. The Min-Kiang (xi.), the Great River of Ssü-Ch'uan. § 17. Its Ramifications in the Plain of Ch'êng-tu. § 18. History of the Problem of Direct Communication between India and China; First Chinese Knowledge of India. § 19. Indications in Greek Writers. § 20. Alleged Chinese Invasion of India in Seventh Century. § 21. Mediæval Counter Attempts from India. § 22. Marco Polo's Journey in Western Yun-nan. § 23. Ta-li-fu and the *Pan-thés*; Bhamò. § 24. The Treaty of Tien-tsin; Previous Journeys of Roman Catholic Missionaries. § 25. French Missions on the Tibetan Frontier. § 26. Curious Episode in Connection with these Missions. § 27. The Journey of Huc and Gabet. § 28. Klaproth's *Description du Tibet*. § 29. Blakiston's Exploration of the Upper Yang-Tzü.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01953-8 - The River of Golden Sand, Volume 1

William John Gill

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

[6]

CONTENTS OF

	PAGE
§ 30. The French Camboja Expedition, and Excursion to Ta-li under Garnier. § 31. Garnier's Later Efforts and Projects.	
§ 32. T. T. Cooper's Attempts to Reach India from China; and to Reach China from India. § 33. Major Sladen's Expedition from Bhamò into Yun-nan; its Consequences. § 34. Baron Richthofen's Attempt to Reach Ta-li by Ning-yuan. § 35. The Abbé Desgodins. § 36. The Deputation of Augustus Margary, who successfully reaches Bhamo from China. § 37. Murder of Margary on the Return Journey. § 38. Negotiations that followed; and Grosvenor's Mission to Yun-nan. § 39. The Agreement of Chefoo; and the Margary Proclamation. § 40. Reports from the Grosvenor Mission—Mr. Baber's; and his subsequent Journey to Ning-yuan and the Lolo Mountains. § 41. A more recent Journey by Mr. Baber by a New Route to Ta-chien-lu. § 42. Journeys of Protestant Missionaries; Mr. McCarthy, the First Non-official Traveller to Bhamò from China; Mr. Cameron's Journey in Captain Gill's Traces. § 43. Captain Gill's own Journeys: that in Pe-chih-li; that to the Northern Mountains of Ssü-ch'uan; the Non-Chinese Races of the Western Frontiers. § 44. Man-tzü and Si-fan; Comparison of Numerals. § 45. Captain Gill joined by Mr. Mesny, and his Debt to that Gentleman. § 46. The Journey by Ta-chien-lu; the Tea Trade with Tibet; some recent Information by Mr. Baber. § 47. Currency of English Rupees in Tibet; and of Tea-bricks, which they are superseding; Singular Kinds of Tea Discovered by Mr. Baber; § 48. Ta-chien-lu; its Tibetan Names; its Position in regard to the Great Plateau. § 49. The Mu-sus and Li-sus. § 50. The remarkable MS. brought by Captain Gill from the Mu-su Country. § 51. Nature of Work achieved by Captain Gill; Baron Richthofen's Opinion. § 52. Concluding Remarks [15]	

CHAPTER I.

'OVER THE SEAS AND FAR AWAY.'

China resolved on—Preliminary Visit to Berlin—Baron Ferdinand v. Richthofen—Marseilles, and Voyage in the 'Ava'—Sea-flames—The Straits—Chinese Practices first realised—Approach to Saigon—The City—Hong-Kong reached and quitted—Shanghai and its peculiar Conveyances—The Chinaman's Plait—Voyage to Chi-Fu—The Chi-Fu Convention—The Minister Li-Hung-Chang—Ceremonial of his Departure—Voyage to the Pei-Ho—Difficulties of Navigation up that River—Scenery—Arrival at Tien-Tsin—Choice of Conveyances—Carts of Northern China—Mongol Ponies—'Boy' found—Horse-buying—Scenes on the Tien-Tsin Bund—Risky Building and Chinese Devotion—Tien-Tsin Hotel—Preparation for Travel—Suspicious Wares—Arrangements for a Start completed

THE FIRST VOLUME.

[7]

CHAPTER II.

'CHINA'S STUPENDOUS MOUND.'

	PAGE
Departure from Tien-Tsin—Rural Characteristics—Pictures by the Way—Chinese Hostelry—The 'Kang'—Long First Day's Ride—Early astir—Approach to Peking—A Fair going on—The British Legation—Visit to the Temple of Heaven—Money Arrangements and Currency Difficulties—Carts or Mules?—The Latter and their Packs—Bread in China—Chinese Lamps and Candles—Items of Travelling Stock—Visit to Prince Kung—Chinese Whim of picking Melon-seeds—The Journey commenced—The Difficulties of a Name—The Pei-Ho crossed—Picturesque Villages—Incidents by the way—City of Chi-Chou—Tombs of the Manchu Emperors—The Great Wall first seen—Profusion of Fruit—The Day's Routine—Frank Curiosity of People—Roadside Pictures—Pass of Hsi-Feng-K'ou—Village Inn at Po-Lo-Tai—Bean-curd, what it is—Oak-leaf Silk—Millet—Pa-K'ou Ying—Exaggerated Ideas of Chinese Population—Foreigners as seen by Chinese Eyes—Journey to Jehol abandoned—Chinese Encroachment on the Mongols—Halt to Rest—Ta-Tzü-K'ou—Ideas of a Lion—Splendid Autumn Climate—Palisade Barrier of Maps non-existent—Stentorian Commandant—Smoking in China—Lovely Sunset Scene—The Inn at San-Cha—Impressions of the Great Wall—The Sea in sight—Shan-Hai-Kuan	35

CHAPTER III.

'ATHWART THE FLATS AND ROUNDING GRAY.'

Halt at Shan-Hai-Kuan—Deserted City of Ning-Hai at Sea Terminus of Great Wall—Ancient Inscriptions and Vandal Treatment—Dirty Habits of Chinese—Salt Manufacture described—Itinerant Pieman's Wares—Chinese Love of Hot Water—Mouth of the Lan—Mud-flats by the Sea—Rich Monotonous Plains—Kublai Kaan's Shooting Grounds—Chinese House Fittings—Swampy Plains—Tumultuous Curiosity at Fêng-T'ai—River of Pei-T'ang—Coal expected to be found to Order—The Pei-T'ang Commandant—The Ferry—Mud-flats and Fragrant Artemisia—Dutch-like Landscape—Water-logged Country—Weary Swamps—Rest at Urh-Chuang—Hawking Ground of the Great Kaan—Chinese Wrangles—Chinese Agriculture and Use of Sewage—The Traveller's Sympathy with Marco Polo—Swamp-Lands again—Lin-Ting-Chen—Marshlands—Hsin-An-Chen—Figures bound for the Fair—Roadside Pictures—Pleasures of Travel—Peking reached again—Recreations there—'Bis cocta Recambe'—Chinese Dinners—Sir T. Wade's re-

[8]

CONTENTS OF

	PAGE
gretted Departure—The Inscribed Stone Drums—Visit to the Summer Palace—Needless Havoc—A Great Bell—Modern Cambaluc—Public Examinations—Departure from Peking—The Hilarious Serving-Man—The Kang Mismanaged—Tien-Tsin, a Land of Fat Things—Shanghai once more	87

CHAPTER IV.

'A CYCLE OF CATHAY.'

Cradle of the Chinese Nation—Their Settlement in Shan-Si—Characteristics of Chinese History—Manifold Invasions of China, but Chinese Individuality always predominates—Imagination essential to Advancement, but the Chinese have it not—Inventions ascribed to them—Stoppage of Development—China for the Chinese—Foreign Help inevitable—The Woo-Sung Railway—Defects of Chinese Character—Shanghai in Winter—Pigeon-English—Perverse Employment of it—The word 'Pagoda'—Preparations again for Travel—Detail of Packages—The Shanghai Theatre—Chinese Treatment of Chinese—The Chinese Performers—Sport at Shanghai—A Shooting Excursion on the Yang-Tzū—Names of the Great River—The so-called 'Grand Canal,' and its Humours—Shooting Scenes—The Mixt Court at Shanghai—The Yang-Tzū Steamers—Additions to our Following	139
---	-----

CHAPTER V.

THE OCEAN RIVER.

Start up the Yang-Tzū—The Dog Tib, and his ethnological perspicacity—On Board the 'Hankow'—Transshipment and Arrival at Hankow—Manufacture of Brick-Tea—Tea in Chinese Inns—H.M.S. 'Kestrel'—Boat engaged for Upper Yang-Tzū—The Lady Skipper and her Craft—Our Departure—Chinese Fuel—Our Eccentricities in Chinese Eyes—The New Year Festival—Chinese View of the Wind-points—Hsin-Ti—Entrance of the Tung-Ting Lake—Aspects of the River—Camel Reach—Vicissitudes of Tracking—Chinese Duck-Shooters—Great Bend—Wild Geese and Porpoises—Rice as Food—Huo-Hsiüh and Sha-Shih—River Embankments—Tung-Shih—Meeting with H.M.S. 'Kestrel'—The Hills Entered—Walks ashore—Population dense only on the River—Passage in a Cotton Boat—The Telescope Puzzles—Arrival at I-Ch'ang—The Chinese Gun-boat	172
--	-----

CHAPTER VI.

THE GORGES OF THE GREAT RIVER.

The I-Ch'ang Mob—Chinese Unreason—Departure from I-Ch'ang, and Adieu to English Faces—The Gorges Entered—Vicissi-	
---	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01953-8 - The River of Golden Sand, Volume 1

William John Gill

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

THE FIRST VOLUME.

[9]

PAGE

tudes of Ascent—Scenery of the Gorges—Preparation for the Rapids—Ascent of Rapids—Difficulties of Nomenclature—Puzzles of Orthography—Yang-Tzù Life-boats—Dangers of the Rapids—View at Ch'ing-Tan—Ch'ing-Tan Rapid—Waiting our Turn—Pilots of the Rapid—Successful Ascent—Kuei-Chou—Its Means of Support Obscure—Mode of Tracking—Coal Districts Entered—The She-Skipper's History—Cave of the Cow's Mouth—Expedition in the Hills—Position of Pa-Tung—Long Gorge of Wu-Shan—Weird and Gloomy Aspect—Oracular Rock Discs—Cave Habitations—Rough Scrambling—Opium hostile to Bees—Town of Wu-Shan—Perplexing Eddies—Kuei-Chou-Fu—A Visitor, and his Monstrous Torrent of Speech—Method of Local Salt Manufacture—The Kuei-Chou Aqueduct—Credulity and Untruth—Civility of Ssü-Ch'uan Folk—Troubles in the Rapids—River Wall of Miao-Chi—Great Haul of Fish—City of Yün-Yang—Extraordinary Richness of Soil—Importance of Rape Cultivation—Chinese Skill in Agriculture Overrated—Their True Excellence is in Industry—Ample Farmsteads—Rock of Shih-Pao-Chai—Story of Miraculous Rice-Supply—Luxuriant Vegetation—'Boat Ahoy'—The Ch'ung-Shu Flowers—St. George's Island—Cataplasm for a Stove-in Junk—'The River of Golden Sand' at last—Fu-Chou—A Long Chase—Effort to Reach Ch'ung-Ch'ing—The Use of the Great Sculls—Arrival at Ch'ung-Ch'ing 201

CHAPTER VII.

CH'UNG-CH'ING TO CH'ENG-TU-FU.

Arrival at Ch'ung-Ch'ing—M. Provôt, Monsgr. Desflèches, and the French Missionaries; their Cordiality—Official Visits—The Last of our Lady-Skipper—We are satirised in verse, and enabled to see ourselves as others see us—Mê, the Christian—Persecution of Christians—News of Tibet—Unfavourable Change of Feeling in Tibet as to Admission of Europeans—The Consulate at Ch'ung-Ch'ing Proclaimed—Consular Relations to Missionaries—Cheapness of Ch'ung-Ch'ing—General 'Fields-within-Fields'—Difficulties of Mr. Baber's Photographer—Exchange Troubles—Preparations to Start for Ch'eng-Tu—Elaborate Coolie Contract—Chinese Commercial Probity—Baggage Arrangements—Adieu to Baber—Joss-Houses and Paper Offerings—Characteristics of the Rice-Culture—Wayside Tea-shop—Pleasing Country—Poppy-fields—Yung-Ch'uan-Hsien—Everything Roofed in—T'ai-P'ing-Chên—Grand Thunderstorm—Paved Roads—Inns of Ssü-Ch'uan—Chinese Parsimony—Good Manners of Ssü-Ch'uan Folk—Jung-Ch'ang-Hsien—Characteristics of a Restaurant—Coolies at their Meal

[10]

CONTENTS OF

	PAGE
—Cooper's Dragon Bridge—Realistic Art—Want of Ideality in Chinese Character—Lung-Ch'ang-Hsien—Charming Inn—Wang-Chia-Ch'ang—Niu-Fu-Tu—Hsien-Tang—The Brine Town of Tzū-Liu-Ching—The Christian Landlord—The Brine-wells and Fire-wells—Mode of Boring and of Drawing the Brine—Further Details and Out-turn of Salt—Politeness of the People—River Ch'ung-Chiang—Tzū-Chou—Gratuitous Diversion for a Village School—A Chinese Regiment—The School System—Sanitary Paradox of China—Red Basin of Ssü-Ch'uan—Transfers of Property—Yang-Hsien—Safflower Crop—Thickly Peopled Plain—Still Ascending Valley of the Ch'ung-Chiang—Thrift in Excess—Arrival at Ch'êng-Tu-Fu—Public Examinations in Progress	260

CHAPTER VIII.

A LOOP-CAST TOWARDS THE NORTHERN ALPS.

I. CH'ÊNG-TU TO SUNG-P'AN-T'ING.

Kindness of French Missionaries at Ch'eng-Tu—Arrangements with Mr. Mesny—Endeavour to take a House—Mystifications on the Subject—Pleasures of French Society—Proposed Excursion to the North—The Man-Tzū, or Barbarian Tribes—Preliminaries of Departure—Leave Ch'êng-Tu-Fu—Pi-Hsien—Engaging Official there—The Escort—Irrigated and Wooded Country—Halt at Kuan-Hsien—Scope of Excursion Extended—Frantic Curiosity of People, but no Incivility—Irrigation Works—Rope Suspension Bridge—Coal-beds—Yu-Ch'i Charming Inn—Yin-Hsiu-Wan, and Water-Mills—Hsin-Wên-P'ing—The 'Min River'—Macaroni-making—Wên-Ch'uan-Hsien—First Man-Tzū Village—Pan-Ch'iao—Traces of War—Relentless Advance of Chinese—Miraculous Sand Ridge—Hsin-P'u-Kuan—Rapid Spread of the Potato—Excursion to Li-Fan-Fu in the Man-Tzū Hills—Scenes that recall the Elburz—Carefully-made Hill Road—The 'Sanga' of the Himalayas—Angling—Village of Ku-Ch'êng—Peat Streams—Musk Deer—Arrival at Li-Fan-Fu—The Margary Proclamation—Tales of Local Wonders—The Traveller fain would see—The Lions of Li-Fan-Fu—Search for a Man-Tzū Village—Man-Tzū here a term of reproach—The I-Ran Tribes and their Language—Ku-Ch'êng—Local Wonders again—Return to Hsin-P'u-Kuan—Resume Valley of Hsi-Ho (or 'Min River')—Wên-Ch'êng—The Himalayan Haul-Bridge in Use—Polite Curiosity at Mao-Chou—Grandeur of the 'Nine Nails' Mountain—Precipitous Gorges—Wei-Mên-Kuan—Difficulties of the Road—The Su-Mu, or White Barbarians—Alpine Scenery—Ta-Ting—Tieh-Chi-Ying—War with the Su-Mu—The Yak seen at last—Travellers'

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01953-8 - The River of Golden Sand, Volume 1

William John Gill

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

THE FIRST VOLUME.

[11]

	PAGE
Disappointments—Glorious Mountain View (Mount Shih-Pan-Fang) — P'ing-Ting-Kuan — Expulsion of Man-Tzū — Maize Loaves—Wood Pigeons—Nean-Hua-Kuan—Delicious Tea — Smoking in Ssü-Ch'uan—Country of the Si-Fan—Sung-P'an-T'ing	317

CHAPTER IX.

A LOOP-CAST TOWARDS THE NORTHERN ALPS—*continued.*

II. SUNG-P'AN-T'ING BACK TO CH'ËNG-TU.

Si-Fan Ponies—Reports of Game—Musk Deer—Si-Fan Lama—Language—Crops—Butter, Fish, Yak-Beef — Bitter Alpine Winds—Foreign Remedies Appreciated—The Traveller Quits the Valley ('Min River') and Turns Eastward—Si-Fan Lamasery—Herds of Cattle and Yaks—Desolate Hospice at Fêng-Tung-Kuan—Tibetan Dogs—Reported Terrors of the Snow-Passes—Summit of the Plateau of Hsüeh-Shan—Descent Begins—Forest Destruction—Verdure of Eastern Slopes—Splendid Azaleas—Slaughter by the Si-Fan—Luxuriant Gorges—Inhabited Country Regained—Chinese Dislike of Light—Shih-Chia-P'u—Miracle-Cave — Hsiao-Ho-Ying—Iron Suspension Bridges—Peculiarities of Chinese Building—Road to Shui-Ching-Chan—Gold-Washing—'Ladder Village'— <i>Mauvais Pas</i> —Lung-An-Fu—Approach to the Plains—Ku-Ch'êng—Fine Chain Bridge—Road to Shen-Si—Chiu-Chou—Chinese Fête Day—Moderate Drinking of Coolies—Preserved Ducks' Eggs, a Nasty Delicacy—P'ing-I-P'u—Boat Descent of River (Ta-Ho)—Great Irrigation Wheels and Bunds—Populous Country Again—Chang-Ming-Hsien—City of Mien-Chou—Road Resumed—Ill-smelling Fields—The Red Basin Again—Lo-Chiang-Hsien—Tomb of Pong-Tung—His History—Pai-Ma-Kuan, or Pass of the White Horse—Summer Clothing of the People—Method of Irrigation—Fine Vegetables—Roadside Pictures—Official Civilities at Te-Yang-Hsien—Progress to Han-Chou—Marco Polo's Covered Bridge—Hsin-Tu-Hsien—Rich Country—Suburbs of Ch'êng-Tu—End of Excursion	376
--	-----