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978-1-108-04556-8 - Address to the People of Great Britain, Explanatory of Our Commercial Relations with the Empire of China

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Address to the People of Great Britain, Explanatory of Our Commercial Relations with the Empire of China

This anonymous work, sometimes attributed to G.J. Gordon, a researcher into tea cultivation, was published in 1836 after the East India Company's loss of its monopoly on trade two years earlier had opened up the market to private individuals. The pamphlet is aimed at a popular readership and feeds national anxiety about the British government's weak stance towards China and potential trade. It outlines the history and characteristics of the country and its society, and the reasons why previously stifled trade should now flourish. Based on first-hand knowledge, the work is observant and insightful, yet zealous and inflammatory in its tone. Convinced that British goods are equal or superior to Chinese products, the author exhorts the British government to take a firm hand and demand the respect of the Chinese people and their 'insolent' rulers in order to tap into the potentially huge free-trade market.

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EXPLANATORY OF

OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE

EMPIRE OF CHINA,

AND OF

THE COURSE OF POLICY BY WHICH IT MAY BE RENDERED

AN ALMOST UNBOUNDED FIELD FOR

BRITISH COMMERCE.

BY A VISITOR TO CHINA.

LONDON:

SMITH, ELDER AND CO., CORNHILL,

BOOKSELLERS TO THEIR MAJESTIES.

1836.

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It is proper to premise, that this attempt to throw light on a subject which has been much misrepresented, and is but little understood by the public at large, is from the pen of a gentleman who visited China for purposes entirely unconnected with commerce; and who, with the advantage of personal observation, may reasonably be supposed to have formed a more impartial and dispassionate judgment, than could have been arrived at by one writing under the smart of the injuries which he portrays.