

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China
Robert Fortune
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.

A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

'My object is to give a peep into the Celestial Empire, to show its strange hills and romantic valleys, its rivers and canals ... and its strange and interesting people.' Robert Fortune (1813–80), the author of several books on China, was a keen botanist. He first went to China for the Royal Horticultural Society, but soon returned on behalf of the East India Company in order to collect tea specimens for the British government's plantations in the Himalayas. In this entertaining account, first published in 1852, Fortune includes stories of how he disguised himself in Chinese clothes to gain access to districts barred to Europeans, of watching farmers sail in what seemed to be wash-tubs, and the bizarre dyeing process that saw large quantities of Prussian Blue and gypsum poured into green tea. Full of panoramic descriptions and engaging anecdotes, this book is ideal for historians and modern-day travellers alike.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

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 other partner libraries, 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 brings 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

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

ROBERT FORTUNE



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China
Robert Fortune
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

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

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108046411

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1852
This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04641-1 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.

The original edition of this book contains a number of colour plates, which have been reproduced in black and white. Colour versions of these images can be found online at www.cambridge.org/9781108046411

Cambridge University Press

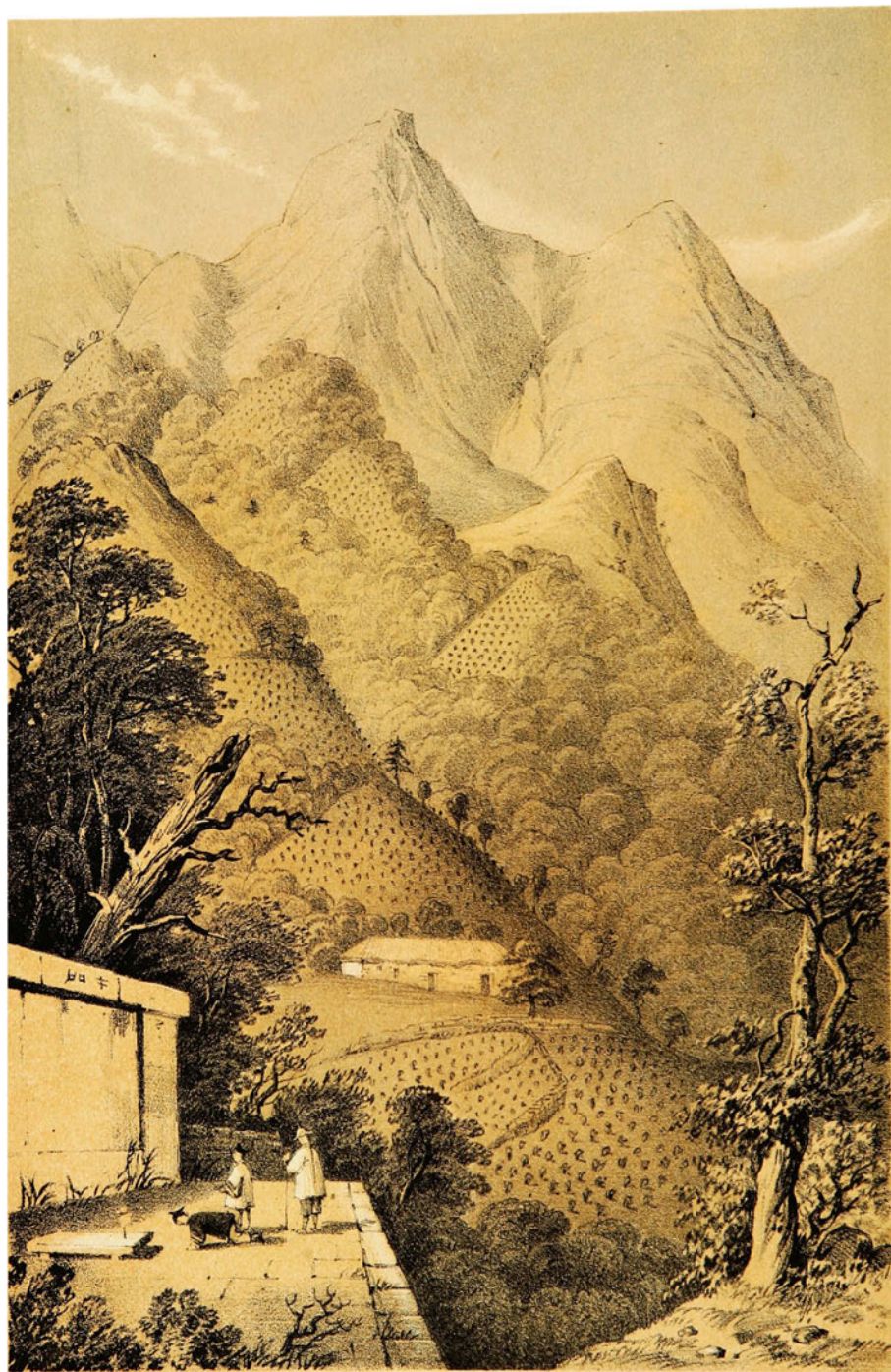
978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China
Robert Fortune
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



W. I. Walton, del.

Printed by Hallmandel & Watson

TEA PLANTATIONS.
VIEW IN THE GREEN TEA DISTRICT.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China
Robert Fortune
Frontmatter
[More information](#)



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China
Robert Fortune
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

A JOURNEY
TO THE
TEA COUNTRIES OF CHINA;

INCLUDING
SUNG-LO AND THE BOHEA HILLS;

WITH
A SHORT NOTICE OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S TEA PLANTATIONS
IN THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS.

BY
ROBERT FORTUNE;
AUTHOR OF THREE YEARS' WANDERINGS IN CHINA.

WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
1852.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LONDON : PRINTED BY W. CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

P R E F A C E.



It is now about five years since I submitted to the public my 'Three Years' Wanderings in the Northern Provinces of China.' Shortly after the publication of that volume I was deputed by the Honourable the Court of Directors of the East India Company to proceed to China for the purpose of obtaining the finest varieties of the Tea-plant, as well as native manufacturers and implements, for the Government Tea plantations in the Himalayas. On the 20th of June, 1848, I left Southampton, with many other passengers, in the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steam-ship 'Ripon,' Captain Moresby, I.N., and landed in Hong-kong on the 14th of August.

As I went far inland, and visited many districts almost unknown to Europeans, I now venture to lay an account of my travels and their results before the public. Blessed with a sound constitution and good health, I cared little for luxuries, and made light of

the hardships of a traveller's life. New scenes, new countries, and new plants were day by day spread out before me and afforded gratification of the highest and purest kind. And even now, when on a different side of the globe and far removed from such scenes and such adventures, I often look back upon them with feelings of unalloyed pleasure.

The important objects of my mission have been brought to a successful termination. Upwards of twenty thousand tea-plants, eight first-rate manufacturers, and a large supply of implements were procured from the finest tea-districts of China, and conveyed in safety to the Himalayas. In the course of my travels I discovered many useful and ornamental trees and shrubs, some of which, such as the *Funereal Cypress*, will one day produce a striking and beautiful effect in our English landscape and in our cemeteries.

In publishing this account of my journey I may repeat what I said in the introduction to my former 'Wanderings':—"I have no intention of writing or *making* a book upon China." My object is to give a peep into the Celestial Empire, to show its strange hills and romantic valleys, its rivers and canals, its natural productions, whether in the field, on the hill-side, or in the garden, and its strange and interesting people, as they were seen by me in their every-day

PREFACE.

vii

life. As I hope my readers will accompany me through the whole of my journey, I shall have the pleasure of taking them to India and the Himalayas, and showing them the Government Tea plantations, from which much is expected, and which are likely to prove of great advantage, not only to India but also to England and her wide-spreading colonies.

Having thus given an idea of what may be expected in the following pages, I have only to express a hope that the work may be received by the public in the same kind spirit, and with the same indulgence and favour, that were shown to my former ‘Wanderings.’

Brompton, April, 1852.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

CHAPTER I.

Arrive at Hong-kong — Excitement on the arrival of the mail — Centipede boats — Bay of Hong-kong by moonlight — Town of Victoria — Its trees and gardens — Mortality amongst the troops — Its cause — A remedy suggested — Sail for Shanghae — Its importance as a place of trade — New English town and shipping — The gardens of the foreign residents Page 1

CHAPTER II.

My object in coming north — Difficulty in procuring tea-plants — No dependence can be placed upon the Chinese — Adopt the dress of the country — Start for the interior — Mode of getting my head shaved — City of Kea-hing-foo and its old cemetery — Lakes and “ling” — Mode of gathering the ling — Great silk country — Increase in exports — City of Seh-mun-yuen — Fear of thieves — Hang-chow-foo — The “Garden of China” — Description of the city and its suburbs — Gaiety of the people — Adventure in the city — Kan-du — A “chop” — A Chinese inn — I get no breakfast and lose my dinner — Boat engaged for Hwuy-chow — Importance of Hang-chow both for trading and “*squeezing*” 19

CHAPTER III.

Leave Hang-chow-foo — A China passage-boat — Scenery and natural productions — Remarkable hills — Our fellow-passengers — A smoker of opium — I am discovered to be a foreigner — City of Yen-chow-foo — A Chinaman cheats a Chinaman! — The river and

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

CONTENTS.

water-mills — Botany of the country — A valuable palm-tree — Birds — Lime-kilns and green granite — Tea-plant met with — The new FUNERAL CYPRESS discovered — Its beauty — How its seeds were procured — Dr. Lindley's opinion of its merits — Strange echo — River and land beggars — Charity Page 45

CHAPTER IV.

City of Wae-ping — Threatened attack from boatmen — A false alarm — A border country and a border guard — Enter the district of Hwuy-chow — The tea-plant and other crops — A Chinese play — Ferry-boat and ladies — Cargo transshipped — Two coffins below my bed — A mandarin's garden — Botany of the hills — A new plant (*Berberis japonica*) — My servant's advice — Leave the boat — The opium-smoker outwitted — Town of Tun-che — Its importance in connection with the tea-trade — Features of country, soil, and productions — First view of Sung-lo-shan 67

CHAPTER V.

Sung-lo-shan — Its priests and tea — Its height above the sea — Rock formation — Flora of the hills — Temperature and climate — Cultivation of the tea-shrub — Mode of preserving its seeds — The young plants — Method of dyeing green teas — Ingredients employed — Chinese reason for the practice — Quantity of Prussian blue and gypsum taken by a green-tea drinker — Such teas not used by the Chinese — Mr. Warrington's observations 86

CHAPTER VI.

My reception in the house of Wang's father — A smoky Chinese cottage — My coolie and the dwarf — The dangers to which they had been exposed — Chinese mode of warming themselves on a cold day — Tea-seeds, &c., obtained — Anecdote of the new *Berberis* — Obtain some young plants of it — Deceitful character of the Chinese — Leave the far-famed Sung-lo-shan — Wang tries to cheat the chairmen — Invents a story of a "great general" — Leave Tun-che — Mountain scenery — Pleasure of going down the river — Gale of wind amongst the mountains — Arrive at Nechow — Shaou-hing-foo — Tsaou-o — Pak-wan — Arrive at Ning-po . . . 96

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

xi

CHAPTER VII.

Kintang or Silver Island — Its inhabitants and productions — Bay of Chapoo — Advantages of an inland route — New year at Shanghai — Flower-shops and flowers — Sacred bamboo — The Chrysanthemum — Mode of cultivating it — Weather-prophets — Sail for Hong-kong — A game-ship — The *Enkianthus* — Canton seeds, and mode of packing them — False notion regarding their being poisoned
Page 115

CHAPTER VIII.

Foo-chow-foo — Jealousy of the mandarins — A polite way of getting rid of a spy — Scenery amongst the mountains — Temple of Koo-shan — Its priests and idols — Buddha's tooth and other relics — Trees and shrubs — City of Foo-chow-foo — Chinese mode of getting out when the gates are shut — Journey up the Min — Chinese sportsmen and their dogs — A deer-hunt — Scenery about Teintung — Wild flowers — Roadside temples — The bamboo — A priest and siphon — Lakes of Tung-hoo 133

CHAPTER IX.

Leave Ning-po for the Bohea mountains — My guides — A flag and its history — The Green River again — Spring scenery on its banks — Yen-chow and Tā-yang — A storm in a creek — Boatwomen — A Chinese Mrs. Caudle and a curtain lecture — Natural productions — Funereal cypress and other trees — Our boat seized for debt and the sail taken away — A Chinese creditor — Town of Nan-che — Its houses, gardens, and trade — Vale of Nan-che — Productions and fertility — City of Chu-chu-foo — Moschetoes and Moscheto "tobacco" — Arrive at Chang-shan 159

CHAPTER X.

City of Chang-shan and its trade — Land journey — My chair and chair-bearers — Description of the road — Trains of tea coolies — Roadside inns — Boundary of two provinces — Dinner at a Chinese inn — Value of the chopsticks — Adventure with two Canton men — City of Yuk-shan — Its trade and importance — Quan-sin-foo — My servant speculates in grass-cloth — A Chinese test of respectability — Description of the country and its productions — Arrive at the town of Hokow 182

b

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XI.

Town of Hokow — Its situation, trade, and great importance — Bohea mountain chair — Mountain road — Beggars by the wayside — Beautiful scenery — the priest and his bell — Town of Yuen-shan — Appearance of the road — Tea coolies — Different modes of carrying the tea-chests — Large tea-growing country — Soil and plantations — My first night in a Chinese inn — Reception — Dirty bed-rooms — I console myself, and go to dinner . . . Page 197

CHAPTER XII.

First view of the Bohea mountains — Mountain pass — A noble fir-tree — Its name and history — Flora of the mountains — New plants — Source of the river Min — Entertainment for man and beast — A rugged road and another pass — A gale amongst the mountains — An amusing old China-woman — Sugar and tea-spoons — A kind landlord — The Tein-sin — Arrive at the city of Tsong-gan-hien — Its situation, size, and trade — Tea-farms 208

CHAPTER XIII.

Woo-e-shan — Ascent of the hill — Arrive at a Buddhist temple — Description of the temple and the scenery — Strange rocks — My reception — Our dinner and its ceremonies — An interesting conversation — An evening stroll — Formation of the rocks — Soil — View from the top of Woo-e-shan — A priests' grave — A view by moonlight — Chinese wine — Cultivation of the tea-shrub — Chains and monkeys used in gathering it — Tea-merchants — Happiness and contentment of the peasantry 223

CHAPTER XIV.

Stream of "nine windings" — A Taoist priest — His house and temple — Du Halde's description of these hills — Strange impressions of gigantic hands on the rocks — Tea-plants purchased — Adventure during the night — My visitors — Plants packed for a journey — Town of Tsin-tsun and its trade — Leave the Woo-e hills — Mountain scenery — The lance-leaved pine — Rocks, ravines, and waterfalls — A lonely road — Trees — Birds and other animals — Town of She-pa-ky — Productions of the country — Uses of the Nelumbium — Pouching teas — City of Pouching-hien 240

CONTENTS.

xiii

CHAPTER XV.

Some advice to the reader — Botany of the black-tea country — Geological features — Soil — Sites of tea-farms — Temperature — Rainy season — Cultivation and management of tea-plantations — Size of farms — Mode of packing — Chop names — Route from the tea-country to the coast — Method of transport — Distances — Time occupied — Original cost of tea in the tea-country — Expenses of carriage to the coast — Sums paid by the foreign merchant — Profits of the Chinese — Prospect of *good* tea becoming cheaper — Tüing-po's directions for making tea — His opinion on its properties and uses Page 253

CHAPTER XVI.

Geography of the tea-shrub — Best tea districts of China — Names of tea-plants — Black and green tea made from the same variety — My Chinamen asked to make tea from *Pongamia glabra* — They succeed ! — Difference between black and green tea depends upon manipulation — Method of making green tea — Of making black — Difference in the manipulation of the two kinds — Mr. Warrington's remarks on this subject — A familiar illustration — The tea-plant — Inferior teas made from *Thea bohea* — Best teas made from *Thea viridis* — The Woo-e-shan variety — The tea-plant affected by climate and reproduction — Tea cultivation in America and Australia — In English gardens 272

CHAPTER XVII.

Inn at Pouching-hien — Opium-smokers and gamblers — Value of life in China — A midnight disturbance — Sing-Hoo fights with a joss-stick — Difficulty of procuring men next day — Sing-Hoo carries the luggage, and we march — His bamboo breaks — Scene amongst beggars — Description of beggars in China — A "king of the beggars" — Charity always given — I continue my journey — Mountain passes and Buddhist temples — A border town and Tartar guard — We are inspected and allowed to pass on 288

CHAPTER XVIII.

A celebrated Buddhist temple—Scenery around it—Its trees and shrubs—Buddhist worship—Leave the temple—Reflections on Buddhism—Important station for Christian missionaries—Privations they would have to endure—Roman Catholics and their labours—Christian charity—Protestant missionaries—Their views as to the interior of China—A day-dream of China opened—Bamboo paper—A mandarin on a journey—Town of Ching-hoo—Engage a boat for Nechow—Return to Shanghae . Page 302

CHAPTER XIX.

Tea-plants, &c., taken to Hong-kong—Shipped for India—I sail again for the north—Shanghae gardens in spring—"South Garden"—Double-striped peach and other plants—Moutan gardens—Fine new varieties of the tree-pæony—Chinese method of propagating them—Mode of sending them to Canton—Value there—Introduction to Europe—Size in England—Azalea gardens—*Skimmia Reevesiana*—New Azaleas—The "Kwei-wha"—The *Glycine*—Its native hills—Chinese mode of training it—The yellow *Camellia* 315

CHAPTER XX.

Safe arrival of tea-plants in India—Means taken in China to engage tea-manufacturers—I visit Chusan—My lodgings—A mandarin who smoked opium—His appearance at daylight—A summer morning in Chusan—An emperor's edict—The Yang-mae—Beauty of its fruit—City of Ting-hae—Poo-too, or Worshipping Island—Ancient inscriptions in an unknown language—A Chinese caught fishing in the sacred lake—He is chased by the priests—The bamboo again—The sacred *Nelumbium*—My holidays expire—Collections of tea-seeds and plants made—Return to Shanghae—Tea-manufacturers engaged—We bid adieu to the north of China 340

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

xv

CHAPTER XXI.

Experiments with tea-seeds — Best method of sending them to distant countries — How oaks and chestnuts might be transported — Arrive at Calcutta — Condition of the collections — East India Company's botanic garden — Amherstia and other plants in bloom — Proceed onwards — The Sunderbunds — Arrive at Allahabad — Land journey — Reach Saharunpore — State of the tea-plants — Saharunpore garden — Mussooree garden — Its trees and other productions — Its value to the country and to Europe . . . Page 355

CHAPTER XXII.

Ordered to inspect the tea-plantations in India — Deyra Doon plantation — Mussooree and Landour — Flora of the mountains — Height and general character — Our mode of travelling — Hill-plants resemble those of China — Guddowli plantation — Chinese manufacturers located there — I bid them farewell — The country improves in fertility — Tea-plantations near Almorah — Zemindaree plantations — Leave Almorah for Bheem Tal — View of the Snowy range — Bheem Tal tea-plantations — General observations on tea culture in India — Suggestions for its improvement — Other plants which ought to be introduced — Nainee Tal — Arrive at Calcutta — The Victoria regia 368

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. View in the Green Tea Country	-	-	-	<i>Frontispiece</i>
2. Engraved Title-page.				
3. Map	-	-	-	<i>to face page</i> 1
4. Curious mode of gathering the Ling near Kea-hing-foo	,	,	,	27
5. Palm-tree (<i>Chamaerops excelsa</i> ?)	-	-	-	59
6. Funereal Cypress	-	-	-	63
7. Relic-Cage	-	-	-	138
8. Buddha's Tooth	-	-	-	139
9. Crystal Vase	-	-	-	140
10. Mo-ze, the Chinese Sportsman	-	-	-	151
11. Roadside Altar	-	-	-	154
12. Mode of carrying the finest Tea across the Bohea mountains	-	-	-	202
13. Mode of carrying common Tea	-	-	-	203
14. Chinese Tomb	-	-	-	239
15. Chinese Bird's-eye View of the "Stream of Nine Windings" and strange Rocks	-	-	-	241
16. Ancient Inscription	-	-	-	347
17. Old Stone at Poo-too	-	-	-	348

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China

Robert Fortune

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-04641-1 - A Journey to the Tea Countries of China
 Robert Fortune
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

