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978-1-108-06138-4 - The Closing Events of the Campaign in China: The Operations in the Yang-Tze-Kiang, and Treaty of Nanking

Granville Gower Loch

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The Closing Events of the Campaign in China

This 1843 work by naval officer Granville Gower Loch (1813–53) is based on his journal of the capture of Chinkiang (Zhenjiang) in July 1842, the last major battle of the First Opium War. Covering not only military and diplomatic activity, the work also contains Loch's colourful descriptions of the region's landscape, architecture, commerce, people and customs. Having been promoted to captain in August 1841, Loch had gone to China as a volunteer and aide-de-camp to General Sir Hugh Gough (1779–1869). Following service in the West Indies, he was killed on a mission in Burma during the Second Anglo-Burmese War. A monument was erected to his memory in St Paul's Cathedral. One of his brothers, Henry Brougham Loch (1827–1900), also later served under Gough and his *Personal Narrative of Occurrences during Lord Elgin's Second Embassy to China* (1869) has been reissued in this series.

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THE
CLOSING EVENTS
OF THE
CAMPAIGN IN CHINA:

THE
OPERATIONS IN THE YANG-TZE-KIANG;
AND
TREATY OF NANKING.

BY
CAPT. GRANVILLE G. LOCH,
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PREFACE.

ANXIOUS to see China and witness the operations then proceeding there, I took the opportunity that offered of my return from active service in the Mediterranean to apply in December, 1841, to the Admiralty for leave to join the Expedition, which was most kindly granted, and I embarked for a passage on board H. M. S. Dido by the invitation of her captain the Hon. H. Keppel, my old and esteemed friend.

When we joined the force at the mouth of the Yang-tze-kiang, I was invited by Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker to live with him; and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to him for his unvaried kindness, as also to Sir Hugh Gough, who permitted me to act as his extra aide-de-camp whenever the army landed, and not

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less to Sir Henry Pottinger, who afforded me the same opportunity that he himself possessed of meeting and observing the Chinese authorities, with whom we came in contact during the period of the negotiations.

While I was with the Expedition I kept a journal, and this volume is the result of it.

After the treaty was signed, I proceeded to Calcutta in the H. C. S. Tenasserim, the vessel sent with the despatches to Lord Ellenborough, announcing the conclusion of the war and the treaty which had been agreed upon.

Desirous of seeing something of the British possessions in India, I visited the three presidencies, therefore did not reach England until the end of March, which circumstance has delayed the publication of this book three months longer than I could have wished.

During the period of our short stay, after the capture of the city of Chin-kiang-foo, I had no opportunity of examining, with any degree of accuracy, its extended suburbs, or the course of the Great Canal; but I have been so fortunate as to receive some valuable observations from Captain

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the Hon. Fred. Grey, who was left there as senior naval officer pending the negotiations which succeeded the treaty of Nanking : these he has kindly permitted me to insert, and they will be found in the APPENDIX.

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