

THE  
CHINA QUESTION

1. THE COMMERCIAL CONVENTION OF 1869.
2. LORD CLARENDON'S CHINA POLICY.
3. THE MISSIONARIES; AND OPIUM CULTIVATION.
4. NOTES. CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

BY  
JAMES MAC DONALD, F.R.G.S.,  
FORMERLY OF SHANGHAI.

LONDON:  
EFFINGHAM WILSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE.  
—  
1870.

For those not conversant with Chinese affairs who may read the following pages, it may be useful that I explain some of the terms frequently used.

*Mandarin* is a word of Portuguese derivation, and denotes Government officials generally. The Chinese is *Kwan*.

The *Pecul* weight is equal to  $133\frac{1}{3}$  lbs. Aver. In Chinese, *Tan*.

The *Tael* is a Chinese ounce—about  $1\frac{1}{8}$  oz. Eng. Their accounts are kept in ounces of silver, and the English value is about 6/0, according to the rate of exchange. In Chinese, *Leang*.

*Shanghai* is the Mandarin pronunciation. In the local *patois* it is *Szonghae*.

The *bale* of *China Raw Silk* weighs about 106 lbs., and is worth £120 to £150.

The *chest* of *Opium*, for some years past, has been quoted at about £125 to £160.

## PREFATORY.

---

A MAN'S worth and value is often more fully appreciated after his death. Had my excellent friend, the late Mr. Samuel Gregson, M.P., President of the East India and China Association, been now alive, it is probable the blow which this day threatens the future prosperity of Lancashire, would never have been attempted to be struck. Had that good and shrewd man been here to be consulted, I cannot doubt that Her Majesty's Government would have paused before thinking of ratifying this new Convention. But with Mr. Gregson's death, the Association, as such, seems to have expired, or to have degenerated into "meetings." Nevertheless, I trust there is yet time to prevent the ratification. I foresee its injurious effects *here*,—the exasperation it will cause *there*,—and the calamitous consequences to China, that sooner or later will follow from that exasperation. And, therefore, I have hastily resolved to publish these my views, as, I believe, for the public weal; and I claim, and confidently rely on receiving, every indulgent consideration for all the imperfections attending this honest and independent expression of opinion.

February 28th, 1870.

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
The writer's qualifications . . . . .	1
The two great phases of the question . . . . .	2
The Convention would not work well . . . . .	2
Chinese Government could not enforce its observance . . . . .	3
Chinese accustomed to pay small duties . . . . .	4
Inland charges hitherto exaggerated . . . . .	5
Trade in manufactures beneficial, and must be guarded . . . . .	6
Proposed increase of silk duties . . . . .	7
French would object to it . . . . .	8
Proposed increase of opium duty inadvisable . . . . .	9
Other "important advantages" of the Convention . . . . .	10
Are almost worthless . . . . .	11
Origin of the Convention . . . . .	12
Mr. Hart and Mr. Burlingame . . . . .	13
Mr. Alexander Rutherford Alcock, a Consul of 1844 . . . . .	14
His failure at Foochow . . . . .	15
How the duties were " <i>economised</i> " after he came to Shanghai . . . . .	16
His embargo on the Grain Fleet in 1848 . . . . .	17
The missionary affair at Tsingpo in 1848 . . . . .	18
Captain O'Callaghan and the battle of "Mudflats" . . . . .	19
The "situation" at Shanghai on Mr. Alcock's exit . . . . .	20
Mr. Alcock's grand progress through Japan . . . . .	21
His deportation of Mr. Moss and the consequences . . . . .	22
Convention leaves American interests untouched . . . . .	23

### CHAPTER II.

The Clarendon Peace Policy both just and expedient . . . . .	24
Origin of the first or Opium War . . . . .	25
How to have brought Canton to reason . . . . .	26