



THE
ORIGIN OF THE CHINESE:

AN ATTEMPT TO TRACE THE CONNECTION OF THE CHINESE
WITH WESTERN NATIONS
IN THEIR RELIGION, SUPERSTITIONS, ARTS, LANGUAGE, AND TRADITIONS.

BY
JOHN CHALMERS, A.M.

HONGKONG:
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PREFACE.

THE following chapters are intended to be suggestive merely, and do not in any case exhaust the subjects on which they touch. If they are useful in exciting, and in any measure directing further investigation, my object will be accomplished.

The student of Chinese may soon find many examples not included in the list given in the IIIrd Chapter: as—NIP, to NIP; TĀI, a TIE; PĀI, to worship, Lat. *pīo*; sz', self, Lat. *se*, &c.

The statement made on the first page regarding the theory of 'natural selection' is not invalidated by the fact that some have totally misunderstood that theory. Darwin's investigations all lead to the derivation of present variety from previous uniformity, as in the case of the tame pigeons now presenting so many striking varieties, yet all derived from the rock-pigeon. A writer in the *Saturday Review* for Feb. 11th, 1865, speaks of 'latest investigations' leading to the 'derivation of mankind from the various twigs of that tree so rich in branches which we surround with the order of primates or apes.' In other words, the human species is to be derived not only from all the species of a genus, but from all the genera of an order of apes! A detailed account of these 'latest investigations' would be curious.

Canton, December 26th, 1866.