

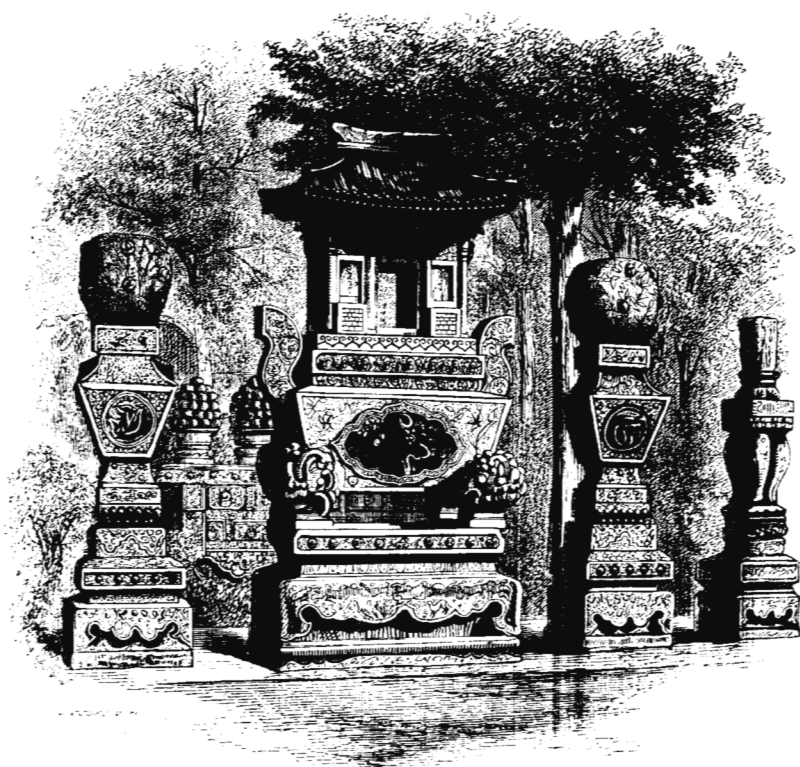
Photo. by Beato.

(Frontispect.)

PAGODA AND GARDENS OF THE EMPEROR'S SUMMER PALACE,  
YUEN-MIN-YUEN.

THE  
SIBERIAN OVERLAND ROUTE  
FROM PEKING TO PETERSBURG,  
THROUGH THE DESERTS AND STEPPES OF MONGOLIA,  
TARTARY, &c.

BY ALEXANDER MICHIE.



TOMB AT THE DEPOT, PEKING.

LONDON :  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.  
1864.



## PREFACE.

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THE following work has but moderate claims, I fear, to public attention ; and it would probably not have seen the light at all but for the urgent request of friends, who think better of it than the author does. It has no pretensions to any higher merit than that of being a plain narrative of the journey, and an impartial record of my own impressions of the people among whom I travelled.

Although some portions of the route have been eloquently described by Huc and others, I am not aware that any continuous account of the whole journey between the capitals of China and Russia has appeared in the English language for nearly a century and a half. Important changes have occurred in that period ; and, if I may judge of others by myself, I suspect that many erroneous notions are afloat respecting the conditions of life in these far-off regions, and more especially in Siberia. Observation has modified my own pre-conceived opinions on many of the subjects touched on in the following pages, and I am not without a hope that they will be found to contain some information which may be new to many people in this country.