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TRANSLATIONS

FROM THE

CHINESE AND ARMENIAN,

WITH

NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,

BY

CHARLES FRIED. NEUMANN.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE ORIENTAL TRANSLATION FUND,

AND SOLD BY

J. MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET;

PARBURY, ALLEN, & CO., LEADENHALL STREET;

THACKER & CO., CALCUTTA; TREUTTEL & WÜRTZ, PARIS;

AND E. FLEISCHER, LEIPZIG.

1831.

## I.

HISTORY of the PIRATES who infested the China Sea,  
from 1807 to 1810.

## II.

The CATECHISM of the SHAMANS; or the Laws and  
Regulations of the Priesthood of Buddha, in China.

## III.

VAHRAM'S CHRONICLE of the Armenian Kingdom of  
CILICIA during the time of the Crusades.

靖海氛記

HISTORY  
OF  
THE PIRATES

WHO  
INFESTED THE CHINA SEA,  
FROM 1807 TO 1810.

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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

CONQUERORS are deemed successful robbers, while robbers are unsuccessful conquerors. If the founder of the dynasty of the Ming had failed in his rebellion against the Moguls, history would have called him a robber; and if any one of the various robber-chiefs, who in the course of the two last centuries made war against the reigning Manchow, had overthrown the government of the foreigners, the official historiographers of the "*Middle empire*" would have called him *the far-famed, illustrious elder father* of the new dynasty.

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10X, Great Queen Street,  
St. James's Fields.

Robbers or pirates are usually ignorant of the principles concerning human society. They are not aware that power is derived from the people for the general advantage, and that when it is abused to a certain extent, all means of redress resorted to are legitimate. But they feel most violently the abuse of power. The fruit of labour is too often taken out of their hands, justice sold for money, and nothing is safe from their rapacious and luxurious masters. People arise to oppose, and act according to the philosophical principles of human society, without having any clear idea about them. Robbers and pirates are, in fact, the opposition party in the despotical empires of the East; and their history is far more interesting than that of the reigning despot.\*

\* The Chinese have particular histories of the robbers and pirates who existed in the *middle empire* from the most ancient times; these histories form a portion of every provincial history. The three last books (the 58th, 59th, and 60th) of the *Memoirs*

The sameness which is to be observed in the history of all Asiatic governments, presents a great difficulty to any historian who wishes to write a history of any nation in Asia for the general reader.

The history of the transactions between Europeans and the Chinese is intimately connected with that of the pirate chiefs who appeared from time to time in the Chinese Sea, or Southern Ocean. The Europeans themselves, at their first appearance in the *middle empire*, only became known as pirates. Simon de Andrada, the first Portuguese who (1521) tried to establish any regular trade with

*concerning the South of the Meihling Mountains* (see the Catechism of the Shahmans, p. 44) are inscribed *Tsing fun* (10,987, 2,651), and contain the Robber history from the beginning of Woo wang, of the dynasty Chow. The Memoirs only give extracts of former works; the extracts to the three last books are taken from the *Great History of Yuē*, or Province of Kwang tung (*Yuē ta ke*), from the *Old Transactions of the Five Realms* (*Woo kwō koo sse*), the *Old Records of Yang ching*, a name of the ancient city of Kwang tung (*Yang ching koo chaou*), the *Official Robber History* (*Kwō she yñ shin chuen*), &c.