

The Historie of the
great and mightie kingdome
of *China*, and the situation
thereof:

Togither with the great riches, huge
Citties, politike gouernement, and
rare inuentions in the same.

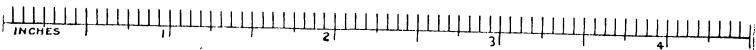
Translated out of Spanish by *R. Parks.*



L O N D O N.

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and are to be sold at the little North
doore of *Paules*, at the signe
of the *Gun.*

1588



They neuer
had plague,
pestilence
nor hunger.

They say that they neuer had amongst them neither pestilence nor hunger, which is the like as we haue said of the kingdom of China.

Let him that can, do it in such sort that so great and infinite a number of soules that at this day are vnder the tyranny of the diuell, may see them in the Christian libertie, and in the other life intoy their creator.

C H A P. XXI.

In this chapter is declared of such kingdomes as are adioyning vnto that of Cochinchina, and of some notable thinges in them, with the rites and customes of the inhabitants.

The king-
dome of
Champa
Rich of
drugs.

Nigh vnto this kingdom of Cochinchina, there is another called Champa, that although it be poore of gold and silver, yet is it very rich of drugges and gallant wood, and great store of prouision. This kingdom is very great and full of people, & they somewhat whiter then those of Cochinchina, they are as nigh & as willing to become Christians as their neighbors but for the performance thereof, they doo lacke that which the other doo. They haue the same lawes and ceremonies as well the one as the other, and are all Idolaters, and doo worship the second causes, in the same order as the Chinos do, vnto whom likewise they do make one manner of acknowledging.

The king-
dome of
Cambola.

From this Iland you may go with ease vnto Malaca, lea-ving on the right hand a kingdom which is called Camboia, the which is great & very full of people, and all of them affectioned to go to sea, and nauigation, by reason whereof they haue an infinite number of vessels: It is a very fertill country, with great store of prouision: there are Elephants in great number & Abadas, which is a kind of beast so big as two great buls, and hath vpon his snout a little horne. At this day there is one of them at Madrid, the which was brought out of the Indians to his maiesty, and many do go to see it for a strange thing, and neuer the like scene in Europe, whose skinn is so hard (according vnto the report) that no man although he be of great force and strength can passe it with a thrust. Some haue saide that it is an Unicorn, but I take it for the contrarie, and they are

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of my opinion almost all those that haue bene in those partes, and haue scene the true Unicorn.

In this kingdom there is a religious man of the order of St. Dominicke, called frier Siluester, whome God did carrie into those parts for to remedy the soules that are therein: hee dooth imploy himselfe to learne their naturall language, and to preach the holy gospell in the same tongue, and hath them likewise prepared, that if he had any companions for to help hym, they should obtayne much fruite for the heauens: he hath sent and requested for some vnto the India of Portugal, but they would neuer send him anie, peraduenture by some sinister information, by men which the diuell doth marke as instruments, for to stay and let the saluation of those soules, for euer to remayne in his tyrannicall power. This frier did write a letter vnto Malaca vnto fyer Martin Ignacio, and vnto other religious men, intirely requesting them for the loue of God, to giue such order that hee might be holpen with some religious men, of what order soeuer, with certification that therein they shall doe great seruice vnto God, and put remedie in those soules, whome he dare not baptize, for feare that after lacking the euangelical refreshing, to water and cherish them, they retarne to bying forth that euill fruit of Idolatrie. This petition did not take effect according to his desire, for y there was not to serue his turne, nor any that was vnoccupied. They vnderstood of him that brought this letter, that the king of that kingdom had in great veneration the sayd father Siluestro, in so ample manner, as was the patriarch Joseph in Egypt: hee had in all that kingdom the seconde place, and euery time that the king would speak with him, he gaue him a chaire: and gaue him great p'suiledges, and licence for to preach the holy gospell throughout all the kingdom without any contradiction, and for to edifie the churches and all other thinges whatsoever he thought necessarie: this king himselfe helping thereunto, by giuing of great gifts and charitie. He said also that in al y kingdom there were erected many crosses, and were had in great reuerence. And for y confirmation of the truth hereof, the aforesaid frier Ignacio did see in Malaca a present y the king of this kingdom of Camboia did send vnto another friend of his: and amongst many thinges contained therein of great riches & curio-

Kingdome: there were two crosses very great and well made, of a gallant wood & very swete, and all garnished very richly with silver and gold, with their titles enamelled.

The kingdome of Sian. High vnto this kingdome is that of Siao, in the hight of foure score degrees from the pole Arctike, and three hundred leagues from Machao, wheras the Portugals do go to trade: It is the mother of all Idolatrie, and the place from whence hath proceeded many sectes, vnto Iapon, China and Pegu. It is a flourishing countrey and well replenished of all such things as be requisite for to merite the name to be good. There be in it manie Elephants and Abadas, and other beasts that are nourished in that countrey: besides this, it is very rich of mettals, and gallant swete woods.

Saint hearted people.

The people of this kingdome for the most part are saint-hearted or towards, for which occasion although they are infinite in number, yet are they subiect vnto the king of Pegu, who overcame them long time since, in a battell (as afterwards shall be declared:) and they doo pay him ordinarily great and heavy tributes. They would be converted very easily vnto the faith of Iesu Christ, and would leaue their Idols, if they had any to preach vnto them: yea, & would subiect themselves vnto any king or Lord that would fauour them, and not vnto this whom now they do obey, for that hee dooth intreate them tyrannously. They haue amongst them many religious men after their fashion, who doo liue in common, and leade an asper and sharp life: for the which they are had of al the rest in great veneration. The penance which they do is wonderfull & strange, as you may iudge by some things that I will declare here: amongst a great number that be tolde of them, there are none of them that can marrie, neither speake to any woman, & if by chance he do, they are without remission punished by death. They go alwayes barefote, & very poorly apparelled, & do eate nothing but rice & greene herbes, and this they do alke for charitye euery day, going from doore to doore with their wallet at their backs, alwayes with their eyes looking ou the ground, wth such modesty & honesty, that it is to be wondered at: they doo not craue their charity, neither take it with their hands, nor do any other thing but cal or knocke, & stand still, till such time as they giue them their answer, or put some thing into their wallets. It is tolde them for a truth, that many times for penance they

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do put themselves naked in the heate of the sunne, which is there very great, for that this countrey is in twenty five degrees of the Equinoctiall, whereas they are much troubled there with gnats, whereof there is an infinite number, and is a thing that if they did passe it for Gods sake: it is a kinde of martyrdom of great desert. God for his mercy lighten them with his grace, that this which they do finally vnto the profite of their soules, may bee the occasion that after they are baptised, they may deserue for the same many degrees of glory.

Likewise in secreat they doo great penance, and doo rise vp at midnight to praise vnto their Idols, and they do it in quiers, as is vsed amongst vs Christians. It is not permitted them any rentes, nor any other kinde of contradiction: and if they be seene to deale in any, they are detested and hated, as an heretike is amongst vs.

For this kind of asper liuing (the which they do, according vnto the report) for the loue of the heauen, and that with great zeale: they are respected of the common people for saints, and for such they do reuerence them, and do commit them vnto their prayers, when they are in any trouble or infirmity. These and many other things mo be declared of them in like order, which may serue for to confound vs, that confessing, we do not obserue & keepe, hauing for the same our sure reward, not of humaine interrest, but that which God hath prepared for the good in heaue.

The law of the Gospell in this kingdome would bring forth much fruite, for that the people are charitable, and louers of vertue, and of them that haue it. This experience had the father Ignacio and his companions in China, at such time as they were prisoners, where there were in a city certain ambassadores from the king of Syan, who were bound to the court, and there they vnderstood that the Spaniards were sentenced to death for entring into that countrey without licence: they went to visite them, & when they saw them with their asper habites and very poorly, & did resemble very much the habit of their religious men, they had so great affection vnto them, that ouer and aboue they sent the good charity, the which was two bags of rice, much fish & fruits: they did offer to the al the money they would desire, & to ransom them in al that the Iudges would demand of them: in recompence of this good wil they shewed vnto the Spaniards, they