

HISTORY

OF

A VOYAGE

TO

THE CHINA SEA.

*Chas. Mason*  
*5/23/14*

By JOHN WHITE,

LIEUTENANT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

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Prolesse quam conspici

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## CHAPTER X.

*Animals—Reptiles—Vegetable productions—Naval Architecture—Ignorance of the Luçonians respecting Cochin China—Arrival of the Marmion—Monsoons and seasons—Imposing ceremonies—Dramatic representations—Murder—Sensual indulgences—Departure from Manilla.*

I WAS assured by what I deemed very good authority, that the elephant would not live in Luçon, which had been proved by many experiments. This, if true, is a very singular fact; for in the same parallels of latitude in both the Indian peninsulas, they are indigenous, and in the eastern peninsula they grow to an enormous size.

The horses in this island are well formed and hardy, though small and not very strong; they do not, however, exhibit the light, airy grace of the Arabian steed, or the finely proportioned limbs of the horses of Europe. They are docile, when care and attention are directed to their education; their food is of the best and most invigorating kinds, and they are never allowed to drink water only, but it is always mixed with a proportion of molasses, the aperient qualities of which are very conducive to health. The indian buffalo abounds here, and is the only quadruped used for agricultural purposes. Bullocks are plentiful and cheap, and the milk from their cows,

owing to the excellence of their pastures, is of the best quality. Neither asses or mules are used here; nor have they any sheep. Goats are plentiful and fat. Their hogs are of the Chinese breed, and abound. Domestic fowls are in great abundance, and cheap. Of wild game there is no great variety; but herds of deer inhabit the mountains, and the rhinoceros is sometimes seen. Beasts of prey are unknown; but reptiles of various descriptions, and some of a large size, infest the forests and morasses. Among the latter is the *boa constrictor*, a serpent, who, by his strong muscular powers, is enabled easily to crush the frame of the largest bullock within his tremendous folds. The prey, thus reduced to a mangled corse, is lubricated by the tongue with the saliva of the monster, till it becomes a slippery, shapeless lump. He then proceeds to gorge the body, which, together with the horns, gradually disappears, till finally the whole mass is swallowed. Goats, deers, hogs, and fowls, are also the food of this serpent. He is said not to be venomous. The skin of a large *boa constrictor* was offered me for sale, which measured twenty-five feet in length. The ourang outang, or wild man of the woods, is found in the mountains. This is a large species of baboon, of which, as well as of the monkey tribe, there are many varieties in the islands.

The botanist and the ornithologist would find an ample and copious field for their researches in these islands: the flora particularly is said to be very interesting.