

THE OLDEST  
AND  
THE NEWEST EMPIRE:  
CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

BY

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Who does not see that henceforth every year, European commerce, European politics, European thoughts and European activity, although actually gaining greater force, and European connections, although actually becoming more intimate, will nevertheless ultimately sink in importance; while the Pacific ocean, its shores, its islands, and the vast regions beyond, will become the chief theatre of events in the world's great hereafter?

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All these annually send their tribute to Peking, and, with very little interruption, they appear to have done so for many ages.

If we limit our observations to China Proper (which, it must be remembered, is about twelve hundred English miles long, and nearly as broad as it is long), and make every deduction for the less-favored parts of the land, we must still admit, with our best informed travelers, that it deserves the name of a vast, a fertile, a wealthy and a beautiful country.

The zoology of China is very rich and varied, for although there are scarcely any animals which are not to be found in some other countries, she has within her wide limits and diversified surface nearly all those which are found collectively in all the other countries of the globe. The elephant, the rhinoceros, the dromedary abound in various parts. Bears are very common in the hilly country west of Peking, and the paws of these animals, which abound in fat, are eaten by the Chinese as a delicacy. Deer of various kinds, from the majestic elk to the diminutive tippity, wild boars, foxes and other wild animals, swarm in some of the provinces. The lion, the royal tiger, the leopard, the ounce, the lynx, the hyena, the jackal and other savage creatures, are found. It is declared by the Chinese that the tiger abounds to a fearful extent in some parts of the empire, but we are inclined to believe that a good many of the animals they speak of are not tigers, but leopards. The lion has become degenerate and scarce. The woods of the south swarm with a breed of wild-cat, which, though rather small, is fierce and altogether untamable.