

A

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Empire of *CHINA*

AND

CHINESE-TARTARY,

Together with the KINGDOMS of

KOREA, and TIBET:

CONTAINING THE

GEOGRAPHY *and* **HISTORY**
(NATURAL as well as CIVIL)

OF THOSE

COUNTRIES.

Enrich'd with general and particular MAPS, and adorned
with a great Number of CUTS.

From the FRENCH of P. *J. B. Du HALDE*, Jesuit:

WITH

NOTES Geographical, Historical, and Critical; and
Other Improvements, particularly in the *Maps*,

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I.

L O N D O N:

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*The Fourth City, Se-nghen fu.*ProvXill.
Quang-fi.
Se-nghen-fu.

THE District of this City is of no great Extent, containing only one City of the second Rank, and two of the third. It is encompassed with Mountains, whose Inhabitants, who were formerly rude, and half Barbarians, but have become civiliz'd by Degrees, since they were incorporated with the Empire.

The Fifth City, Ping-lo-fu.

THIS City stands on a River, which, tho' large, is hardly navigable. It runs among very narrow Valleys, interspersed with Rocks, which makes it full of Water-Falls. Its Jurisdiction contains one City of the second, and seven of the third Rank. Ping-lo-fu.

All these Cities are environ'd with Mountains, which render the Country disagreeable; some of them however are cover'd with Orange-Trees; abundance of that white Wax, made by certain Insects, is found here, whereof I have spoken more than once already.

The Sixth City, U-chew-fu.

ALL the Rivers of the Province meet near this City, which borders on *Quang-tong*; whence it is look'd on as the most considerable for Trade, and of greatest Importance, because it is the Key of that Province. Its District comprizes one City of the second, and nine of the third Rank. U-chew-fu.

The Country is partly plain, and partly mountainous. It produces *Red Lead*, and a remarkable Tree, nam'd *Quang-lang*; which instead of Pith contains a soft Substance, employ'd to the same Use as Meal, and of no disagreeable Taste. Cinnabar.
Tree produ-
cing Meal.

Besides the common Animals of *China*, one meets here with the *Rhinoceros*; and a kind of Apes, with yellow Hair, which by their Shape, and Shrieks of their Yell, have a great Resemblance of Dogs. Rhinoceros.

The Seventh City, Sin-chew-fu. (A)

THIS City stands at the Confluence of two Rivers, in an agreeable Country, if compar'd with the rest of the Province. The Forests and Mountains, wherewith it is encompassed, have something inexpressibly gay and smiling, especially to such as come from those steep Mountains, on the Spot which strike the Eye with nothing but what is frightful and melancholy. Sin-chew-fu.

The Country produces a sort of Cinnamon, much inferior to that of *Ceylan*, in Goodness and Smell; also those Trees, whose Wood is so hard that it has the Name of *Iron-Wood*. They make Cloth of a certain Grass, which sometimes bears a greater Price, than the common Silks. A kind of yellow Earth is found here, which they say is a sovereign Remedy against all sorts of Poison. The District of this City is not considerable, containing no more than three Cities of the third Rank.

The Eighth City, Nan-ning-fu.

THE Place where this City stands, is almost surrounded with Rivers, and little Lakes. Four Cities of the second, and three of the third Rank are within its District, which is intermixt with Plains and Mountains. Nan-ning-fu.

Great Parrots are found here, that are easily taught to speak; also a kind of Fowl, which discharges out of its Mouth Threads of Cotton; and very large Porcupines, which dart very long and sharp Quills at those who approach them. Some of its Mountains produce Iron Mines.

The Ninth City, Tay-ping-fu.

THIS City is situate in an Elbow made by a large River, by which it is inclosed on three sides, and fortify'd on the fourth by a Wall running from one Branch of that River to the other. Tay-ping-fu.

The Country depending on it is the best in the whole Province. The Soil is fertile, very populous, and well cultivated. It contains a great Number of Forts, as bordering on the Kingdom of *Tong-king*.

The Inhabitants are look'd on as *Barbarians* by the *Chinese*, because they have not much Politeness, and shew a Roughness in their Behaviour, very different from the *Chinese* Affability. The District of this City contains twelve Cities of the second, and two of the third Rank.

(A) In the Table Page 6. *Tsu cheu fu.*