AN ORIENTAL LAND OF THE FREE; OR, LIFE AND MISSION WORK AMONG THE LAOS OF SIAM, BURMA, CHINA AND INDO-CHINA

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An oriental land of the free; or, Life and mission work among the Laos of Siam, Burma, China and Indo-China by John H. Freeman

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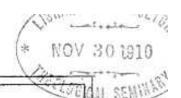
JOHN H. FREEMAN

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A SACRED PO TREE Probably five hundred persons could sit under its shade



AN ORIENTAL LAND OF THE FREE

or

Life and Mission Work Among the Laos of Siam, Burma, China and Indo-China

By V

REV. JOHN H. FREEMAN Missionary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions at Chieng Mai, Laos

> Philadelphia The Westminster Press 1910

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AN ORIENTAL LAND OF THE FREE

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EDITORIAL PREFACE

Mr. Freeman's furlough expired before he was able to see the manuscript of this book through the press. Dr. J. W. McKean, of Chieng Mai, has advised with the editor and has supplied the tables of distances between the Laos stations, and of the pronunciation of proper names. The only editorial changes worth mentioning have been a slight rearrangement of the original order of the chapters, the insertion of subsequent information received from Mr. Freeman, which will be found at the end of Chapter I, and the substitution of a set of questions on the text for the use of study classes.

T. H. P. SAILER.

March, 1910.

It is not the wish of the writer to forestall in any way that story. He rather seeks to answer for a larger audience a few of the questions that constantly have been asked of him as he told the story of the work of the kingdom in that faraway land. Who are the Laos? Where do they live? What is their religion? How do they make What do they eat? a living? What of their language, homes, schools? What special helps and hindrances does the missionary find in presenting the gospel to the Laos people? By picture, as well as by pen, he hopes to answer these questions regarding a people he has grown not only to respect but to love, for their physical prowess and mechanical skill; for their courtesy, kindness and openness of mind; for moral qualities that make them morally the peers of any race in Asia: our brothers for whom Christ died.

The writer hopes, above all, so to present the facts that the reader will be enabled to appreciate a people less known to the world than any that compares with them in numbers and in character, and to estimate fairly the responsibility that rests upon the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America for the evangelization of this great and growing people.

This little book is intended primarily for study classes and for reference, but it is hoped that the facts have been so presented as to commend it also to a larger public who are interested rather in strange people and lands than in mission work.