### THE OUTBREAK IN CHINA: ITS CAUSES

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The Outbreak in China: Its Causes by F. L. Hawks Pott

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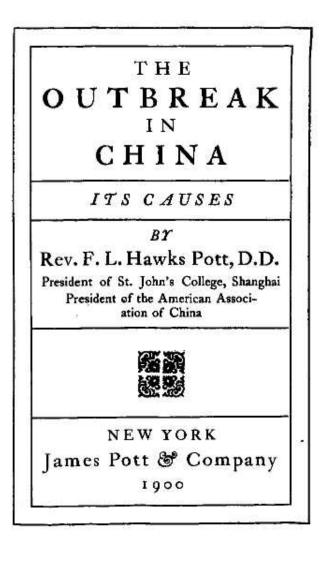
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F. L. HAWKS POTT

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### Introduction

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### Introduction

DECENTLY the eyes of the world have been directed toward China as never before. The unprecedented anti-foreign uprising has taken us by surprise, and found us at first quite unprepared to cope with it. All great cataclysmal catastrophes, however, are the result of forces that have been silently and secretly at work. So is it with this eruption in China. The missionaries, who live in closest touch with the people, and hence naturally know the temper of their minds, had been predicting for a long time that we were on the eve of the outburst of a mighty conflagration. The "North China Daily News," the leading paper of the East, also read aright the signs of the times, and uttered many warnings as to what might be expected. These prophets of unpleasant events were not,

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however, greatly heeded. Blindness seemed to fall on the eyes of the foreign ministers in Peking, and, as their respective countries regarded the utterances of their official representatives as almost oracular, but little credence was given to statements of an ominous nature. Thus, although the outbreak came to people in the West like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, it was not without its preparatory stages and might have been foreseen.

My present purpose is to inquire into the causes of this outbreak. It may seem to some that this undertaking is superfluous; they may argue, "Since the disturbance is come, we need not waste our time in speculating as to its causes, but only exert ourselves to suppress it and restore law and order." It is just because people are apt to reason in this way that the writer deems it important to make as clear a statement as he can of what he believes to be the origin of the trouble. Unless we know the causes, we cannot discover the best way of dealing with the disturbance, any more