

**THE GOLDEN WINDOW
OF THE EAST; ORIENTAL
IMPRESSIONS**

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The golden window of the East; oriental impressions by Milton Reed

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MILTON REED

**THE GOLDEN WINDOW
OF THE EAST; ORIENTAL
IMPRESSIONS**

The Golden Window
of the East

Oriental Impressions

by

Milton Reed

Author of "A Roving He Would Go," "The
Democratic Ideal," "The Sea of Faith," etc.

An hour before the worshipp'd sun
Peered forth the golden window of the east.

—Shakespeare



Boston
Sherman, French & Company
1912

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FOREWORD

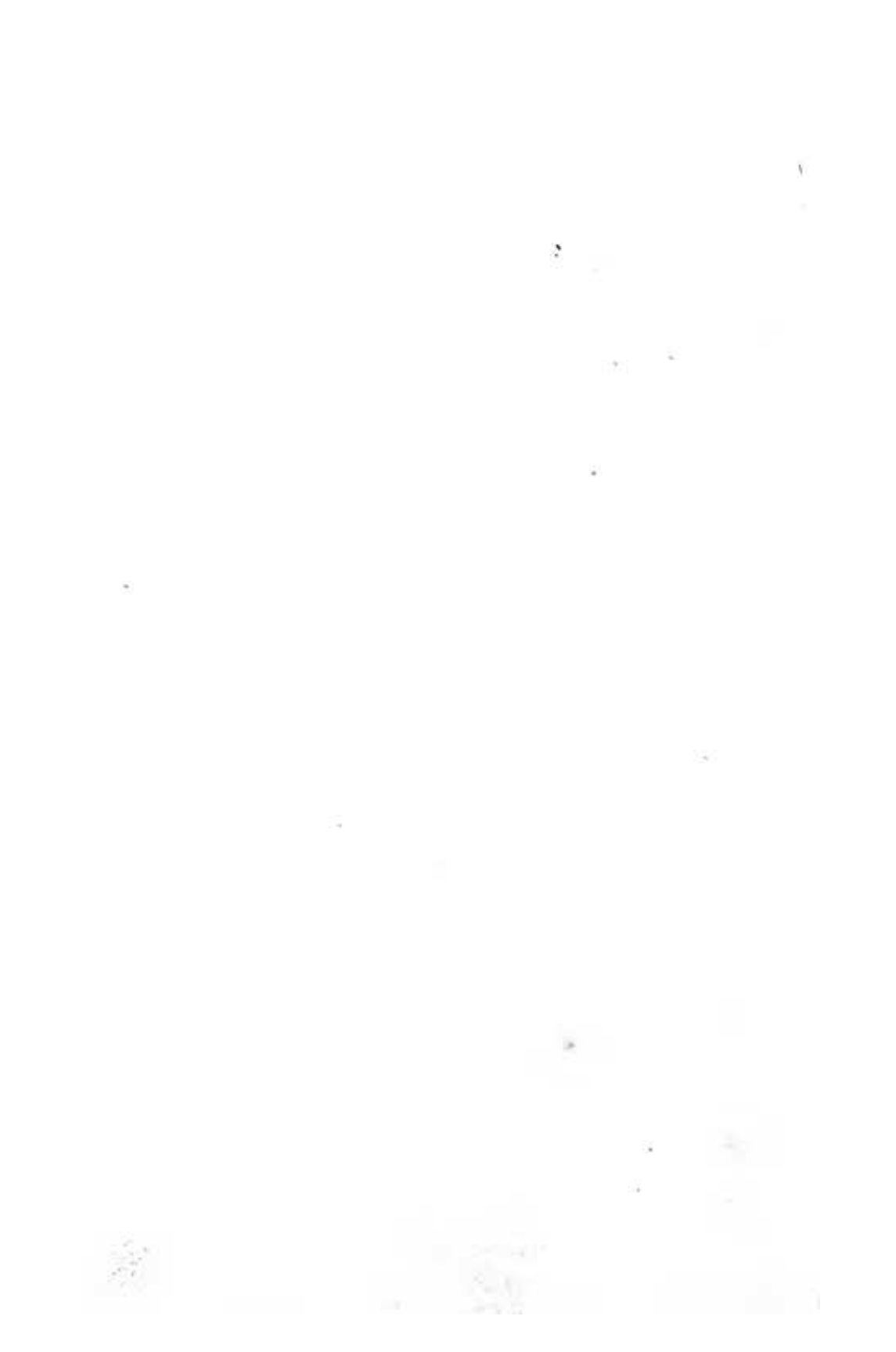
The matter of this volume is not built upon guide-books and itineraries. For these the author has little use, and has used them but little in his many wanderings.

The author's theory has been that the wanderer, before his start, should absorb in his memory all the information possible of the countries he is about to visit, keep his mind open for local impressions, see with his own eyes and make his own judgments.

All the following chapters were written on the spot, as the author moved from place to place, and while the local color was most vivid. His most abiding interest was in the human element: the ancient races of the Oriental home-land: and in the sharp contrasts in the social life of the East and West.

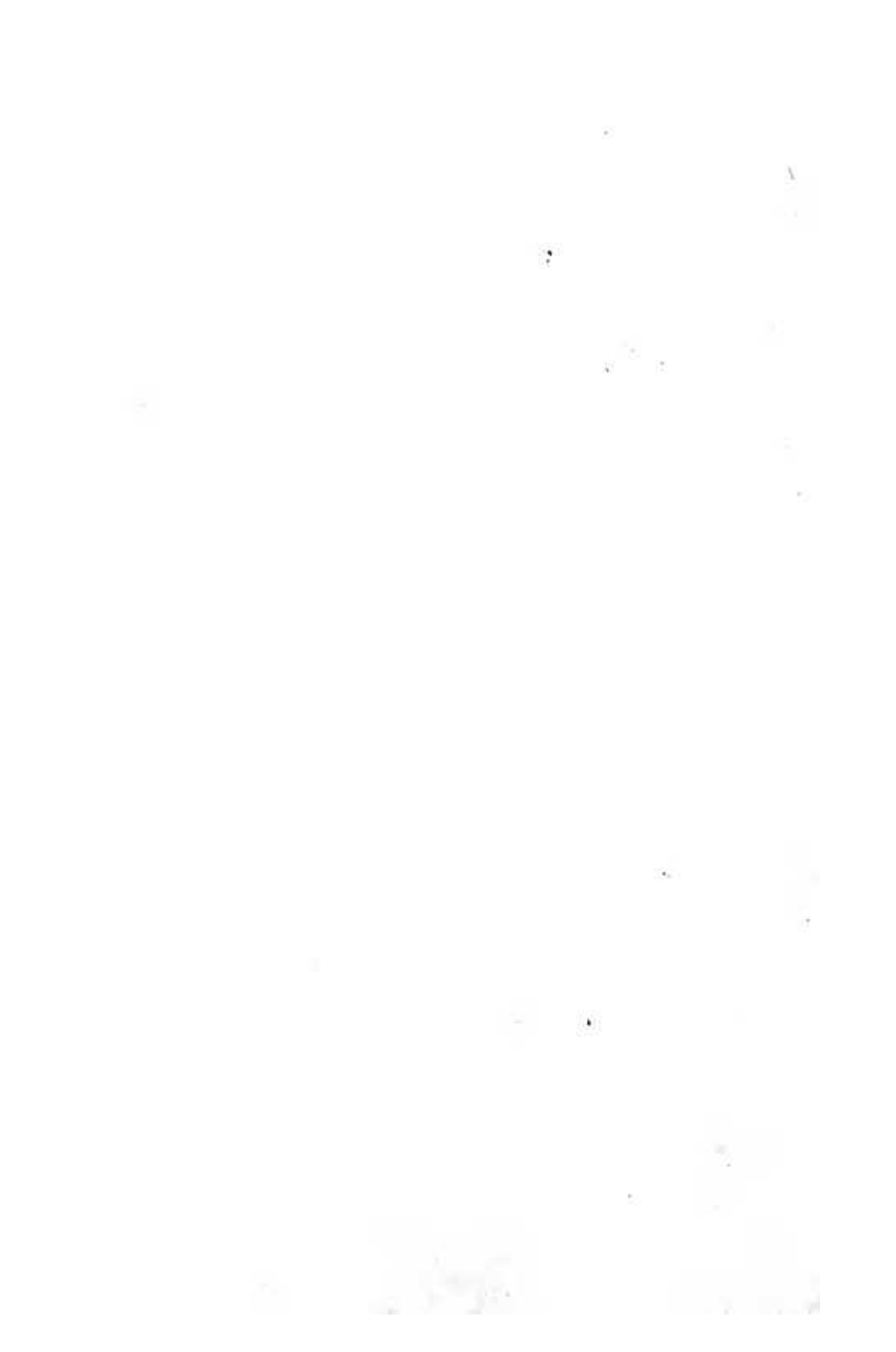
He hopes that some of this interest may be transmuted into the minds of those who are kind enough to read the volume.

MILTON REED.



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I

OVERLAND

There lies your way, due West. Then Westward-ho.
Shakespeare.

Leaving Boston, under November skies, the train whisked over the Berkshire Hills into the Hudson Valley; thence reeled through the rich plains of Central New York; chopped into the northwest corner of Pennsylvania; then cut an almost straight line through the Western Reserve of Ohio; flitted through great cities as if over beds of mushrooms; penetrated into Indiana and slipped along a cordon of manufacturing cities; skirted the sandy shores of Lake Erie; thence bounced over the Indiana levels; touched the watery hem of Lake Michigan; and, at last, emptied its passengers in the monster city of Chicago.

CHICAGO

Such a maze of human interests; such a gaunt and smoky exterior; but such cordial and hospitable interiors; such abounding good-fellowship; warm welcomes and regretted partings. Chicago is the typical expression of the American spirit; with its rush, its incredible dynamics

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of energy, its masterful advance. One's head almost reels in reading of its mighty cobweb of streets; of its millions of capital; of its ambitious buildings, its restless vigor. Chicago is a wonderful mirror of modern life. It has lured to itself some of the best human stuff of the world. It has offered opportunities which have been grasped by the shrewd. Along with talent and brain, there naturally has come also a sweeping-in of some of the world's bilge, from which no community is exempt. The youth and vigor of the city have made it plastic; it responds to every pressure of science and progress.

The instinct for great undertakings, the audacity of conception, the thoroughness of completion, the masterful designs, are what have most deeply impressed me, in the Chicago spirit. Here are two instances:

The immense increase in population, the extension of the city in every direction but the east,—where Lake Michigan imposes an impassable barrier,—the general flatness of the land, the vast volume of railroad traffic, have led, as in other cities, to the abolition of grade crossings. Much of the work has been done; among those uncompleted is the Grand Avenue crossing. It has been learned that 1,400 trains pass over this crossing every day. Now, by the concerted action of the five railroad corporations using it, a gigantic work of engineering, at an estimated cost of \$155,000,000, is to create viaducts and