

**A MOST SOLEMN AND IMPORTANT  
EPISTLE TO THE EMPEROR OF CHINA;  
ON HIS UNCOURTLY AND IMPOLITIC  
BEHAVIOUR TO THE SUBLIME  
AMBASSADORS OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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A most solemn and important epistle to the emperor of China; on his uncourtly and impolitic behaviour to the Sublime Ambassadors of Great Britain by John Wolcot

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**JOHN WOLCOT**

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TO THE  
**EMPEROR OF CHINA.**

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**EMPEROR OF CHINA;**  
ON HIS  
*Uncourtlly and Impolitic Behaviour*  
TO THE  
SUBLIME AMBASSADORS  
OF  
**GREAT BRITAIN.**

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BY DR. JOHN WOLCOT,  
(*Oris* PETER FINDAR, Esq.)

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— *Facis indignatio versus.* —

I, who had dropp'd the Muse's quill,  
And long had left th' AONIAN hill,  
Start from my slumber, with my wonted might;  
To scourge a Monarch of the EAST,  
For mocking Monarchs of the WEST,  
A Lord of BRITAIN, and advent'rous Knight.

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EPISTLE  
TO THE  
EMPEROR OF CHINA.

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DESCENDANT of the Great KIEN LONG,  
Immortal for his lyric song,  
The PETER PINDAR of the *China* Bards;  
Why AMHERST so disgrace, and STAUNTON,  
Like fools dismissing them to CANTON!--  
How very badly thou hast play'd thy cards!

---

*Nine times knock heads!*---a sad prostration!—  
Degraded, lo! the BRITISH NATION,  
Had AMHERST yielded to thy proud commands:—  
To Kings tho' BRITONS deign to truckle,  
*Once*—and *once only*—down they knuckle,  
Whene'er indulg'd at Levees to *kiss hands*.

Inform me what their crying sin,  
That thou shouldst banish them PEKIN!--  
For mercy's sake, I hope thou didst not strip 'em,  
Expose them to a grinning mob—  
(For such had been a horrid job)—  
And for its merriment like culprits whip 'em!

---



Know, we were growing all *Chinese*—  
Nought but the Eastern style could please;—  
Witness the glittering gold Pavilion rooms;  
Where (for the noses of the Great,  
His HIGHNESS may vouchsafe to treat)  
Snakes of a size enormous puff perfumes.

Each animal in NOAH'S Ark  
Had fill'd our fam'd SAINT JAMES'S Park;  
From trees huge monkeys by their tails would swing—  
Cats play their gambols—parrots squall—  
Toads, frogs, and snakes, and lizards crawl,  
To rival the rich scenes of *Ying-ming!*

Tow'r'd had Pagodas to the sky,  
Of tuneful bells a vast supply  
Had pour'd their tinkling tones from glades to glades;  
Our rivers had been fill'd with junks,  
Our groves with DUBUY's playful punks,  
Inviting shepherds to their secret shades.

That Man of merit, Master NASH,  
Who *never* deals in gaudy trash—  
Tho' ROME and ATHENS at his taste may grin—  
Who, for his Oriental style,  
Has gain'd his PRINCE's gracious smile,  
Had swell'd from CARLTON-HOUSE a Mandarin!

A sparkling pair of coal-black eyes,  
Or brilliant blue of goodly size,  
Had lost dominion—led no more the fashion ;—  
But eyes that seem the light to shun,  
Just like a cat's before the Sun,  
With peeping ray had wak'd the tender passion.

The *Roman* nose, a comely feature,  
And celebrated work of Nature,  
Had by a *snub* been robb'd of just renown;  
The cheek with ruddy health that glows,  
Whose blushes emulate the rose,  
Had mourn'd the triumph of a *dirty brown*.