

**THE CELESTIAL AND HIS
RELIGIONS: OR, THE RELIGIOUS
ASPECT IN CHINA. BEING A
SERIES OF LECTURES ON THE
RELIGIONS OF THE CHINESE**

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J. DYER BALL

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THE
UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

THE
CELESTIAL
AND
HIS RELIGIONS:
OR
THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT
IN
CHINA:

Being a Series of Lectures on the Religions
of the Chinese.

BY

J. DYER BALL, M.R.A.S., &c.,

of His Majesty's Civil Service, Hongkong.

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To
My Mother
who spent many years in
efforts for the good of the Chinese and who in the
evening of her life takes the keenest interest
in all that concerns them.

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PREFACE.

These lectures were delivered at the Young Men's Christian Associaton in Hongkong in the Spring of this year. A few additions and alterations have been made to them before publication.

In short lectures of this kind there must be much condensation on many points and many omissions. The aim has been to try and present a short account of what these different systems in China have been, and are, and enough of their doctrines, beliefs, and results, so as to enable those who have not the time or opportunity to delve deeper to gain some knowledge of these marvellous and wonderful schemes of philosophy, atheism, idolatry, and self righteousness, combined with nicer traits of character and gentler sides of human nature and with occasional lovely touches—all mixed up in China at the present day with the grossest superstitions.

J. DYER BALL,

Hongkong, January, 1906.

LECTURE I.

THE PRIMEVAL CONCEPTION OF GOD
IN CHINA

AND

THE PRIMITIVE
RELIGION OF THE CHINESE.

