

**THE MODERN HERO: IN  
THE KINGDOM OF  
CATHAI. IN THE  
YEAR 90000, PP. 2-193**

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The Modern Hero: In the Kingdom of Cathai. In the Year 90000, pp. 2-193 by Mr. B. Frere

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**MR. B. FRERE**

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T H E  
MODERN HERO,  
IN THE KINGDOM OF  
C A T H A I.

In the YEAR 90000.

Translated from the FRENCH of  
Mr. B. FRERE, DE CHERENSI,

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*Mibi sic usus est; tibi, ut opus est facto, fac.*  
TERENCE.

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HERFORD:

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ford; Hazard and Bull, Barb.

MDCCKCI.

*[Handwritten signature]*

his former occupation ; an employment which his ancestors for five generations had pursued with credit, and for which he himself had received a suitable education, when the force of his genius rendered him the substitute of an Esculapius. The employment alluded to, was that of a Cobler ; and notwithstanding a considerable part of his time was taken up in the necessary business of his trade, he nevertheless appropriated the remainder to the improvement of his medicinal knowledge. E. G. His observation having discovered the stimulative quality of wine ; he thence inferred, that the acid part gave a degree of  
energy

energy to the soul, and strengthened the fibres of the brain ; at the same time it redoubled the vigour of the body. His usual place of resort was situated at a little distance from the town, and he made this choice, not without two reasons. In the first place, the dear partner of his heart, could not, by her presence or complaints, disturb the serenity of his disposition, and consequently retard the due operation of the medicine. In the second, his walk thither furnished him with an opportunity of pursuing his favorite employment, the collecting of simples. He constantly returned home loaded with herbs ; and so peculiarly happy was

( 4 )

he in the distribution of them, that though the number of his patients decreased every day, yet his pocket-book was filled with the account of a great variety of cures.

CHAP.

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 C H A P. II.

*Important news. — Grand enterprise begun. — Mournful reverse of Fortune.*

IT seems necessary here to observe that, our adventurer never entered upon his day's employment, till he had first satisfied his curiosity by a perusal of the public papers. On a certain day, he chanced to cast his eye upon a passage of such consequence, in the Gazette of Wowali\*, that the impartial paper fell from his hand. Seated in a large antique chair, legs and arms crossed, eyes

\* One as little given to falsehood as any in the kingdom of Cathai.

riveted to the ground, firm as a rock, and totally absorbed in thought, Harlequin was scarcely sensible of his existence. In short, no consideration, however powerful, could draw aside his attention from the object which had taken possession of it. Part of the morning passed in these profound meditations, when having made his determination, he dressed himself, boiled some herbs, extracted the juice in a vase, and began writing. This finished, he took his paper and his medicine, quietly opened the door, crept out, and made the best of his way to the King's palace. He had already prepared himself to enter the first cham-

chamber, when he was perceived by the centinel, who supposing the dress to bespeak the man, in a rough tone demanded whither he was going. He who comes to cure the Queen's lap-dog (replies Harlequin) has, I should imagine, a right to go where he pleases.—What says this drunken fellow, replies the other.—It is the characteristic of impertinence (fiercely rejoins Harlequin) thus to give its qualities to others. Ah, you become insolent! Begone, says the guard, ill-satisfied with the dispatch of the Physician, at the same time quickening his pace with a stroke of his musket, dismissed him.

CHAP.