

THE CHINA QUESTION

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The China question by James MacDonald

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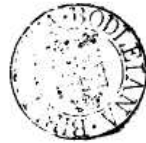
JAMES MACDONALD

**THE CHINA
QUESTION**

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CHINA QUESTION.

1. THE COMMERCIAL CONVENTION OF 1869.
2. LORD CLARENDON'S CHINA POLICY.
3. THE MISSIONARIES; AND OPIUM CULTIVATION.
4. NOTES. CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

BY
JAMES MAC DONALD, F.R.G.S.,
FORMERLY OF SHANGHAI.



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1870.

232 h 59.

For those not conversant with Chinese affairs who may read the following pages, it may be useful that I explain some of the terms frequently used.

Mandarin is a word of Portuguese derivation, and denotes Government officials generally. The Chinese is *Kwan*.

The *Pecul* weight is equal to 133½ lbs. Aver. In Chinese, *Tan*.

The *Tael* is a Chinese ounce—about 1¼ oz. Eng. Their accounts are kept in ounces of silver, and the English value is about 6/0, according to the rate of exchange. In Chinese, *Leang*.

Shanghai is the Mandarin pronunciation. In the local *patois* it is *Ssonghae*.

The *bale of China Raw Silk* weighs about 106 lbs., and is worth £120 to £150.

The *chest of Opium*, for some years past, has been quoted at about £125 to £160.

PREFATORY.

A MAN'S worth and value is often more fully appreciated after his death. Had my excellent friend, the late Mr. Samuel Gregson, M.P., President of the East India and China Association, been now alive, it is probable the blow which this day threatens the future prosperity of Lancashire, would never have been attempted to be struck. Had that good and shrewd man been here to be consulted, I cannot doubt that Her Majesty's Government would have paused before thinking of ratifying this new Convention. But with Mr. Gregson's death, the Association, as such, seems to have expired, or to have degenerated into "meetings." Nevertheless, I trust there is yet time to prevent the ratification. I foresee its injurious effects *here*,—the exasperation it will cause *there*,—and the calamitous consequences to China, that sooner or later will follow from that exasperation. And, therefore, I have hastily resolved to publish these my views, as, I believe, for the public weal; and I claim, and confidently rely on receiving, every indulgent consideration for all the imperfections attending this honest and independent expression of opinion.

February 28th, 1870.



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