THE TRANSMIGRATIONS OF THE MANDARIN FUMHOAM (CHINESE TALES)

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The transmigrations of the Mandarin Fum-Hoam (Chinese tales) by Leonard C. Smithers

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LEONARD C. SMITHERS

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OF THE

MANDARIN FUM-HOAM

NOTE.—Six hundred and eighty copies only of this Edition have been printed, seventy-five of which are on Arnold's unbleached hand-made paper, royal octavo, and five of which are on Japanese vellum, royal octavo.

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EDITED BY

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LONDON

H. S. NICHOLS AND CO.

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PREFACE

The success which the edition of "The Thousand and One Quarters of an Hour (Tartarian Tales)" issued last year by the present publishers met with, has induced them to print in similar style its companion work, "The Transmigrations of the Mandarin Fum-Hoam (Chinese Tales)," written by the same author, Thomas Simon Gueulette, of whom a brief biographical sketch was given in the prefatory note to the Quarters of an Hour.

Commenting on these collections of stories, Mr. W. A. Clouston, a well-known "storiologist," remarks: "Much of the groundwork of these clever imitations of the Arabian Nights has been, directly or indirectly, derived from Eastern sources; for instance, in the so-called Tartar tales, the adventures of the Young Calender find parallels, (x) in the well-known Bidpai tale of the Brahman, the Sharpers and the Goat (Kalila and Dimna, Pánchatantra, Hitopadesa, &c.) and (2) in the world-wide story of the Farmer who outwitted the Six

Men (Indian Antiquary, vol. 3) of which there are many versions current in Europe, such as the Norse tale of Big Peter and Little Peter, the Danish tale of Great Claus and Little Claus; the German tale (Grimm) of the Little Farmer; the Irish tale of Little Fairly (Samuel Lover's collection of Irish Fairy Legends and Stories); four Gaelic versions in Campbell's Popular Tales of the West Highlands; a Kaba'il version in Rivière's French collection (Contes populaires Kabylies); Uncle Capriano in Crane's recently published Italian Popular Tales; and a Latin mediæval version (written probably in the 11th century) in which the hero is called 'Unibos,' because he had only one cow."

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