

**A LITTLE HISTORY  
OF CHINA AND A  
CHINESE STORY**

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A Little History of China and a Chinese Story by Alexander Brebner

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A LITTLE HISTORY OF CHINA.

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# Little History of China

AND

# A Chinese Story

BY

ALEXANDER BREBNER

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## P R E F A C E.

BEING engaged on a wider "Little History," it occurred to the Author that an expansion of the part therein relating to China might be of interest at a time like the present, when that Ancient Empire is about to enter on a new lease of life.

In his researches into matters Chinese, the Author came across an anonymous book, published in the last quarter of last century.

The editor of this book remarks in his Introduction that one can get more knowledge of the English people from a page of Fielding than from many formal histories or collections of letters containing the impressions of intelligent foreigners. Applying this principle to Chinese history, and assuming, perhaps somewhat rashly, a Chinese Fielding, he edits a translation of a Chinese novel, which came into his posses-

sion by a curious chance. It is called "The Pleasing History," and an adaptation of it for the benefit of modern readers follows the "Little History."

The translations quoted in the history are taken from Dr Legge's "Religions of China," and the English edition of the Abbé Huc's "Christianity in China."



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# A LITTLE HISTORY OF CHINA

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## CHAPTER I.

CHINESE historians make the nucleus of the nation a wandering and settling in a region of the country somewhere within the present province of Shan-se. The Hoang-ho, or Yellow River, bounds two sides of this province ; and, as most of the nationalities of the world have been cradled in a river bed, it is likely enough that the Yellow River, perhaps nearer the sea than any part of the province of Shan-se, was the *raison d'être* of that early segregation, which has grown and spread and become the Chinese Empire. Their language indicates that the people were originally pastoral and nomadic : their great shepherds became also "pastors of men," rulers of tribes.

The national histories supply genealogies going back millions of years ; it would take a long list of ordinary generations to fill all these centuries, but some of the