

## PREFACE

LESS than three years ago I made a journey with a friend, Miss MacDougall, across the Chinese Empire from north-east to south-west, and while my interests in the changes going on there was intensified, a profound anxiety took possession of my mind as to the effect these changes would produce in the national life. The European and other Powers who had wrangled over the possibility of commercial and political advantages to be obtained from the Chinese Government (after the Boxer troubles) have withdrawn to a certain extent, but like snarling dogs dragged from their prey, they still keep covetous eyes upon it, and both Russia and Japan continue steadily but silently to strengthen their hold upon its borders. These borders are Manchuria and Korea, and it is in this direction that fresh developments must be expected. I read all the available literature bearing on the subject, but so rapidly had the changes occurred that books were already out of date, and they failed to make me *see* the country as it now is.

As an instance of this, let me quote Whigham's (correspondent to the *Morning Post*) "Manchuria and Korea," published in 1904.<sup>1</sup> "One cannot seriously

<sup>1</sup> Whigham's "Manchuria and Korea," pp. 117-119, 153, 49.