

## VII.

### IMPRESSIONS OF CHINA

THERE follow some of the impressions that he gained of China, its people, religion, commerce and geography.

The passage over the endless waste of waters, sixteen thousand miles, to the mouth of the Shu Kiang River, occupied nearly four months. And then, I was in China. Had I taken a balloon and landed in the Moon, and found it inhabited with human beings, I could not have been more astonished than I was in sailing up this River. Here was an immense Empire, the oldest civilized nation upon the Globe, carrying on its commerce and doing all its business in such a peculiar manner and so very different from that of my own country.

Macao, at the mouth of the River, is situated on an island belonging to the Portuguese. As they, together with the Spanish and Dutch, were the first European discoverers of this Country, they hold many important places in the Eastern part of the World.

The banks of the River for some thirty miles from its mouth are barren rock covered with a grey kind of moss, and the scenery is not very inviting until you reach Lintin.