

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

in height, and varies in width from fifteen to thirty feet.

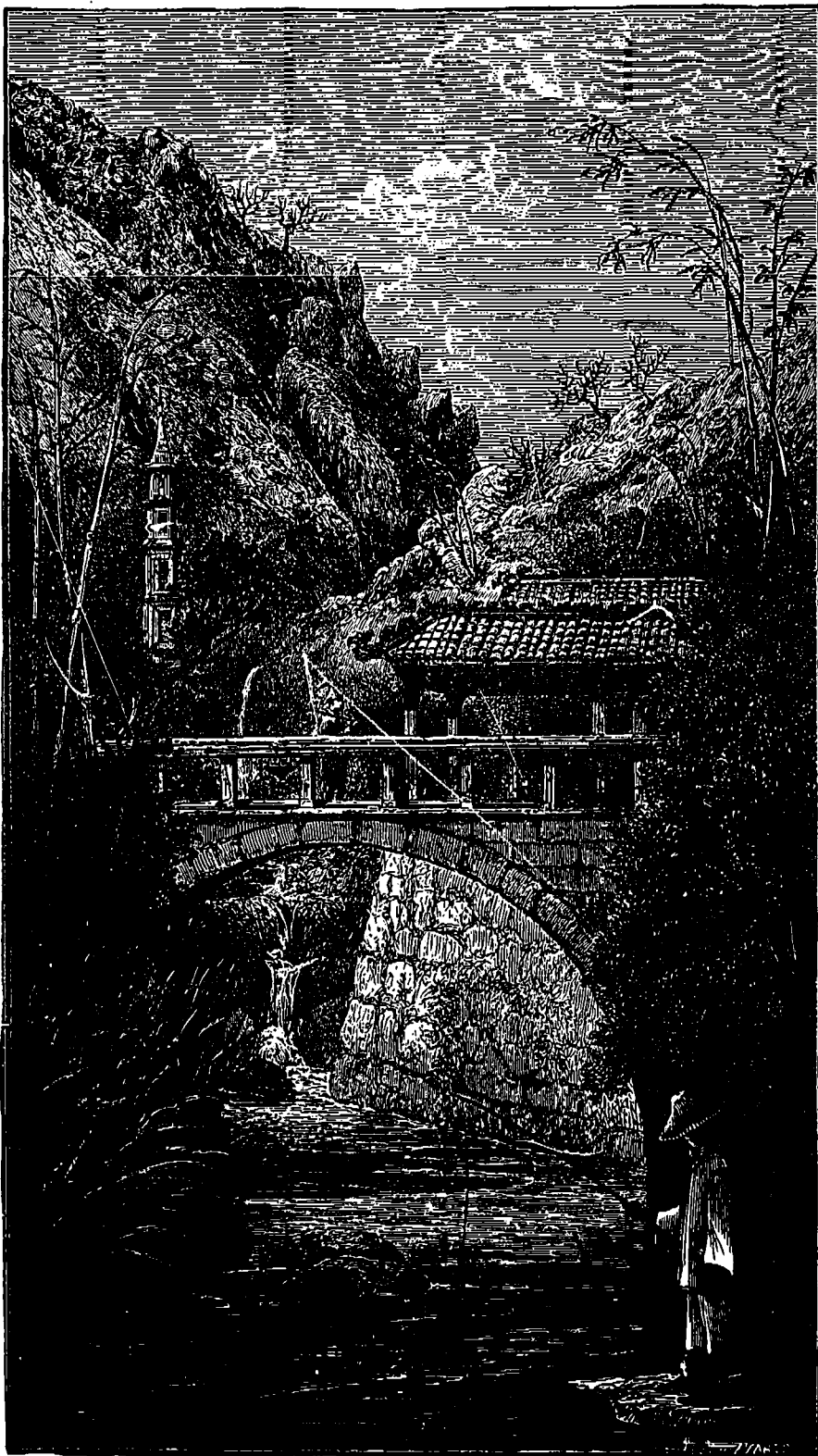
This wall is built right over the mountains. It crosses peaks 5,000 feet above the sea. A large part of it has a foundation of granite blocks from two and a half to four feet thick. The bricks of which it is made weigh from forty to sixty pounds, are of a slate color and measure fifteen by nine by five inches. They are built up from the foundation in two walls, each about three feet thick running parallel with each other, the space between being filled with earth and stone well rammed down. The top of the wall is paved with these bricks, and its average width is about fifteen feet. On each side of the top along its whole 1,500 miles is a brick crenellated wall between five and six feet high. At short intervals the wall is crowned by great two and three-story towers, made of these big blue bricks, and at the passes in the mountains there are arched gates of stone. Here and there the wall is double, a second wall running over the country some distance back from the first. Much of the same wall is still in perfect condition.

Two hundred years before our Lord came on earth, when our blue-blooded ancestors, half naked and all savage, were wandering through the wild forests of France, Germany and England; when Rome was still a republic fighting her last battles with the Carthaginians, these Chinese people built this mighty wall. There was no machinery used, and few cattle and horses. Every foot of it was built by man. These doubtless carried the earth and stones which formed the filling, in baskets, and this earth was probably rammed down by means of discs of stone or iron, as big around as a half bushel measure, and from six to eight inches thick as are used at the present time. It takes eight men to each of these discs. There are holes cut about its circumference, and in these ropes about ten feet long are fastened. The men stand at equal distances about the discs, and by pulling back raise it and throw it upward often to a height above their heads, and it falls on the ground with a thud. A ninth man often sings a song while these men thus work, keeping time to his music with the weight and joining in the chorus, the weight falling at the end of every line. It is the same with the packing of the earth with wooden stamps.

The bricks were made by hand, and men and

women aided in their laying. Such wood as was used in the tower was pulled up by human

palaces of the rulers he had conquered, and he took them to his capital.



CHOCK SING-TOON.