

from Taoist recluses and next from the wonderful claims put forward by the Buddhists, who for a time have held a sort of religious monopoly of the Hadean manifestations here exhibited to the upper world. Some of the stone monuments erected a thousand years ago are still standing, and the characters engraved upon them are still decipherable. Yen-lq-Wang, King of Tartarus, is the chief divinity worshipped; but the religious tastes of the Chinese are too varied to permit any one god to hold absolute sway over any celebrated locality, so we find both Buddhist and Taoist gods, who hold the destinies of mortals in their keeping—not only in Sheol and Hades, but in Paradise—receiving full honours here. The Goddess of Mercy, with a thousand hands and eyes, is popular here as everywhere throughout China. Votive offerings are in very general use all over China, and many are promised which are never paid.



PART OF GREAT WALL, WITH TOWERS.

"A story is told of a man on a boat which was in great danger of being wrecked, who vowed that if saved he would give a certain saint a taper as large as himself. A fellow-sufferer suggested that he would not remember his promise, when the first man replied, 'Did you think me in earnest. Let me get my feet on dry ground, and I would not give him so much as a tallow candle.' But the amount of offerings adorning these temples prove that many such promises are religiously fulfilled.

"The only evidence I had of the proximity of Fung-teu (Tophet) was that as I sought my boat above the city a crowd of vagabonds followed me, throwing mud and gravel."

Coming to anchor at the somewhat important city of Feu-cheu our traveller had an agreeable greeting. "Irish potatoes in full bloom are no longer a rare sight, but to stumble into a cabbage garden—foreign cabbages, beautiful heads—was a greeting. I