

# P R E F A C E.

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published in 1741, and the last Letter is dated in 1740 ; consequently these Letters (many of them at least) have one Circumstance to recommend them, I mean Novelty. The first eight Volumes of the Original were communicated to the World by Father *le Gobien* ; and the succeeding Volumes by Father *du Halde*, now living, who compiled the four large Folio Volumes, containing a general History of *China*.

The next considerable Pieces are two Journies, undertaken by the *Chineze* Emperor into *Eastern* and *Western Tartary*, in 1682 and 1683 ; to which is annexed, a Relation of a Descent made by the *Spaniards*, in 1683, into *California*. These three Pieces make a *Duodecimo* Volume, printed at *Paris* in 1685 ; and they appearing to me curious, I translated them throughout, and have given them a Place in the present Collection.

I likewise introduced (before the three last mentioned Pieces) all the essential Particulars in a Treatise, written by an Author of great Eminence, the late learned Mr. *la Croze* of *Berlin*, Professor of Philosophy, Librarian, and Antiquary to his *Prussian* Majesty. The Treatise I mean, relates to the State of the *Christian* Religion in *Ethiopia* ; was printed at the *Hague* in 1739, 12mo. and intitled *Histoire du Christianisme d' Ethiopie*, &c. As *Ethiopia* is so little known to the *Europeans*, and such fabulous Accounts have been writ concerning it, I made all the Researches possible with regard to its former

We here present you (reverend Fathers) only the first-fruits of these rising Settlements. We conjure you to contribute, by your Vows, your Prayers, and Sacrifices, towards obtaining for us, by the heavenly Mercy, others much more considerable.—

*I am, reverend Fathers,*

*Your most humble and most obedient Servant,*

CHARLES LE GOBIEN.