

JESUIT PIONEERS OF THE FAITH.

**Priests who Adopt the Pigtail and the Chinese Dress—A Novel
Mission-House Near Shanghai.**

The introduction of the Christian faith into China was first accomplished in the sixteenth century by the Jesuit Fathers, although there is no doubt that Christian refugees had obtained a foot-hold in the Celestial Empire at a somewhat earlier date, as there is abundant proof that a colony of Christians existed in the city of Tsi Nafoo, in the province of Shantung. Evidence of this fact rests on the discovery of a stone tablet bearing the signs of the cross and an inscription setting forth that the monument was erected as a memorial to the true faith of the Lord of Heaven. The Roman Catholic faith was the first to obtain a foot-hold in China. In 1586 the Chinese Emperor had ceded the peninsula of Macao to the Portuguese, in return for services rendered by them, in exterminating pirates. Sailing from Goa—the capital of the Portuguese possessions in the East Indies—three Jesuit Fathers, who had formed a portion of the mission that came to the East under St. Francis Xavier, arrived at Macao. Speedily these pioneers erected a temporary church which in after years became known as the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and at a conclave held in 1588 it was resolved that Father Ricci should endeavor to enter the neighboring province of Kwantung to spread the gospel. Fortified by the success that had attended his chief, Francis Xavier, in the East Indies, Ricci, set forth, confident in his ability to convince, by