

## CHAPTER I

GEORGE PEREIRA

GEORGE PEREIRA died in 1923 on the borders of China and Tibet at almost the close of the third of three remarkable journeys made in succession through the Chinese Empire. The first and most important was from Peking across Tibet to Lhasa and India. This was a great enough journey in itself to satisfy most men; but no sooner had he completed it than he started off back again—this time from west to east instead of from east to west—across the Chinese Empire from Burma to Shanghai. And even this was not enough: not content with travelling from east to west and west to east, he must needs now travel from south to north. And it was on his way from Yünnan to Kansu that he finally succumbed.

Before the War he had travelled much in China; but the present record is of this series of journeys which he had undertaken after the War from 1921 to 1923. And the journeys are all the more remarkable because they were made by a man nearer sixty than fifty years of age, and partially lame from a riding accident he had had in his youth. Physically he was a weak man. But his spirit was indomitable. And before the account