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Dedication and Preface.

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PRELIMINARY ESSAY ON THE INTERCOURSE OF CHINA AND THE WESTERN NATIONS PREVIOUS TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE SEA-ROUTE BY THE CAPE.

I. EARLIEST TRACES OF INTERCOURSE. GREEK AND ROMAN KNOWLEDGE OF CHINA.

1. Double names applied to China at different eras, as approached by land or by sea.

2. Origin usually ascribed to the name *China*. But both people and name seem to have been known to the Hindus from an antiquity inconsistent with that origin.

3. Most ancient Chinese notice of intercourse with western nations; notice of envoys supposed to have come from Chaldæa.

4. Coincident traditions of China and Persia regarding ancient intercourse. Less valuable Persian legends regarding China.

5. Chinese record of a party from a distant kingdom, which has been supposed Egypt. The alleged discovery of Chinese porcelain phials in ancient Egyptian tombs.

6. The *Sinim* of the Prophet Isaiah.

7. The name *Chin* or *China* reaches the Greeks and Romans late, and then in the forms *Thin, Thinæ, Sinæ.*

8. These names certainly indicated China.

9. Ancient authors by whom they are used. Discrepancy of Ptolemy and the author of the Periplus in position assigned to the country.

10. Marcianus of Heraclea; only an abstracter of Ptolemy; but so showing that geographer's views more compactly.

11. The *Seres,* more frequently named than Sinæ; at first by poets and in a vague way; more precisely by Mela and Pliny whose words point to China.

12. Ptolemy; his *Sera* and *Serice.* Precise in definition, far in excess of his knowledge; yet even his view consistent with the indication of the Chinese empire from the landward. Inferior to his predecessors in not recognizing the Eastern Ocean.

13. Ammianus Marcellinus; his geography of the Seres only a paraphrase of Ptolemy's. A mistake to suppose that he refers to the Great Wall.