

14. General result of a fusion of the ancient notices of the Seres. The characteristics have nearly all foundation in the character and circumstances of the Chinese. The Seric iron which Pliny lauds.

15. Sole record of direct political intercourse with the Seres in Roman history.

16. We are not to look for accuracy in the ancient views of such remote regions. Real vagueness of Ptolemy's data. Confusions that were natural.

17. Curious analogy in the views and mistakes of Chinese and Romans with respect to each other.

18. Association of the name *Seres* with silk. *Etymologies*. Long prevalence of error as to the nature of silk. Yet some had exceptional knowledge; account given by Pausanias. Fluctuation of geographical knowledge in ancient times; and paralleled among the Arabs.

19. Chinese notices of the ancient silk trade with Europe. Consistent with the circumstances related by Byzantine writers in reference to the introduction of the silkworm. The country indicated in that narrative uncertain.

20. Curious links between Greek and Chinese history in the fragments of Greek writers touching the Turkish tribes of Central Asia. Two remarkable notices of China itself in Greek authors of the sixth and seventh centuries.

21. The first of these, *Cosmas*: some account of him and his book.

22. His correct view of the position of China.

23. The name which he gives it. Knows the general position of the clove country.

24. The other Greek writer, *Theophylactus Simocatta*: his notice of China under the name of *Taugas*.

25. Extract from *Theophylactus* with notes showing application to China.

26. Remarks on the passage; name probably indicated in *Taugas*.

27. Geographical darkness of the later Byzantines exemplified in *Chalcondylas's* mention of China.

II. CHINESE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

28. First historical relations of the Chinese with Western Asia. The expedition of Changkian (B.C. 135), Chinese authority established over Eastern Turkestan, and recognized west of the Bolor.

29. Decay and revival of the Chinese domination in first century A.D. Conquests of Panchao. An officer despatched to reconnoitre *Tathsin* or the Roman empire.

30. Notices of *Tathsin* in Chinese geographical works of the early centuries of the Christian era. Meaning of the name.

31. Particulars from those notices of *Tathsin*.

32. In the later notices the title is changed for *Fulin*; Greek origin of this name. Things ascribed by China to Europe which Europe has ascribed to China.

33. Some of the more accurate particulars which shew some basis of real information in the notices of *Tathsin*.