

Continent,' I endeavoured to give as many of the geographical details I had observed as seemed to me would be of service to geographers and future travellers. In the present I have felt myself at liberty to discard such dry matter and retain only what has some small chance of interesting an overburdened public.

Travellers are not less vain than the rest of mankind—probably more so—and I like to delude myself with the hope that some of my experiences, some account of those remote haunts of nature which I visited as well as of the child-races and historical people whom I met may still be of interest to my countrymen at home. My sincerest wish at any rate is that I may be able to communicate to them even a spark of that keen pleasure and enthusiasm which exploration so amply affords.

For greater convenience I have divided the previous book into two parts. The first dealing with my travels in the Chinese Empire I now