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See more of this Author Alvarez. emedo, pa. 297.



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THE HISTORY  
 OF  
 That Great and Renowned  
 MONARCHY  
 OF  
 CHINA.

Wherein all the particular Provinces are accurately  
 described: as also the Dispositions, Manners, Learning, Lawes,  
 Militia, Government, and Religion of the People.  
 Together with the Traffick and Commodities  
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 and Conquest of that flourishing Kingdom  
 by the TARTARS.

With an exact Account of the other affairs of CHINA,  
 till these present Times.

LONDON,  
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 Sign of the Ship in S. Pauls Church-yard. 1655.

THE HISTORY

OF

THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES

THE SECOND

BY

JOHN

WELLES



## The Epistle to the Reader.

Courteous Reader,



*Present thee with that long expected, most exact History of the Lawes, Government, Manners, and present state and condition of that great Monarchy of China; in its circuit little less then all Europe; Heretofore (as zealous of its rare treasures) shut and locked up from the curious eyes of strangers: so that this booke (first) yeilds to thee a full discovery thereof. & (I dare say) the most valuable, that this our world hath been acquainted with, since that of America; whereby now the furthest East, as well as West; is disclosed, and laid open to the present age. For, as for some former relations, thou mayst have seen thereof, thou wilt by this discern them to be as fabulous, as they are compendious and imperfect.*

*It was written by one, who, after, first, a strict education in all sorts of learning, for two and twenty yeares space lived in that Kingdome, was resident at the Court, and in the greatest Cities thereof: and in all that time*



To the Reader.

(as designing such a worke) was a diligent Observator and Collector of all their manners and customs ; as likewise (after much paines taken in the Language) a great student of their Histories, and Writings. Whose laborious worke, after it had already bin clothed in many other Languages, besides the Authors, and welcomly entertained in most states of Europe, it was thought fit no longer to be concealed to a Nation, either for curiosity of knowledge, or industry of forraigne commerce, no way yeilding to her neighbours.

The variety of the subjects handled therein is so great (as comprehending the whole fabricke of that nation: their Politicks, Oeconomicks, Sciences, Mechanicks, Riches, Merchandise, &c.) that those of whatsoever profession, may reap no small benefit in reading the designs, managements and practices therein, of so ingenious a People. Whose manners also (as their site) are so remote and different in most things from ours, that (I may say) in this piece is happily united, with the truth of History, the delight of a Romance: where it will be no small pleasure to thee to see their braines, as well as their bodies, as it were of a severall mould from the Europeans, and their inventions in many things, to walke antipodes to us, and yet in these no way below us, but in many superiour, or what in them appears less compleat, yet will the knowledge thereof not be ungratesfull unto thee, because tis new and singular. As for many morall vertues, thou wilt find them so far to transcend us therein, that they may be proposed as an excellent patterne, (as also they are a shame) to Christian states. Lastly, to correct and reforme any their defects, and  
make



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## To the Reader.

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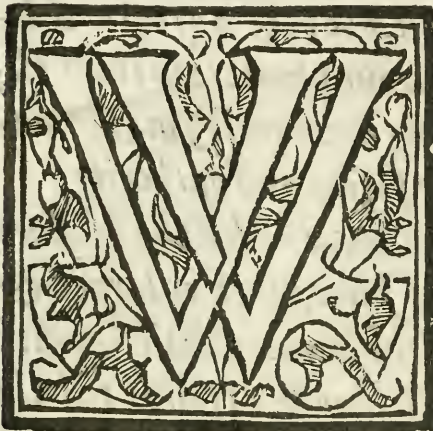
make the nation perfectly happy, the light of Christianity hath of late visited this people, who sate in darknes: so that now (after America also enlightned) there is no end of the world left, wherinto the sound of the Gospel is not gone forth. The foundation of which being (there) already laid, there is great hopes that it may sooner cometo a full purity, reformation & perfection, & the indefatigable pains & undaunted courage of those laborers who cultivate it in the East, provoke a greater diligence and emulation therein, in our planters in the West; where the Gospel (as following a conquest) may be advanced both with much more safety and authority.

To the end of this Treatise, I have added the History of the Tartarian invasion of China, much enlarged & freed from divers Erratas of the former Edition; which gives thee an account of the Chinesse affaires till the yeare 1653. (Reader, thus much I thought good to advertise thee in the front of this Booke, that thou mayst not be so great an hinderance to thy selfe, as not to be acquainted with so curious and beneficiall a discourse. Farewell.)

The



## The Preface.



Who writeth of things farre remote, doth almost alwayes incurre the inconvenience of many, and those no small defects : hence it is, that we see many Books, whose Authours, for their personal Qualities, might deserve more credit than may justly be given to their writings. As for those, who have written of *China*, I have perused some of them, who leaving in oblivion almost all Truths, take the liberty to wander in discourses altogether fabulous : for this Kingdome being so remote, and having alwayes with much Care avoided all Communication with Strangers, reserving onely to themselves the knowledge of their own Affairs, with a most particular Caution : hence it followes, that nothing is knowne without the Confines thereof, but what doth, as it were, overflow into the skirts of the Country of *Cantone*, (a part of this Empire, whither the Portugheses have been suffered to come) so that the most internall and secret knowledge thereof hath been reserved, either for the Natives of the Country, who know well enough how to conceale it; or for those, who, upon a better Motive, have, to discover it, little lesse then forgotten their own nature, their language, their customs, and manner of living, and transformed themselves into the naturall humour of that Country.

Now this last hath by divine dispensation, fallen to the lott  
of



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## The Preface.

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of the Religious of the Company of *Jesus*; who although they came late to the Culture of the Church, are, notwithstanding, arrived to that honour to be reckoned among the first, that after Saint Thomas the Apostle, did cultivate those remote Confinēs of the world.

It is now fifty eight years, that they have laboured under this so distant Climate, where directing all their force and endeavours, to the conversion of Souls, they account it a manifest Theft, to employ any otherwise that time which they owe to the Service of God, and is of so much importance for the Eternall Salvation of men. Hence it is, that never any yet did, or would it have been permitted him, if he had desired it, to employ himselfe in writing the Relation of this Kingdome; except it were Father *Nicolaus Trigalzins*, after he had by permission with-drawn himself from the culture of Christianity among the *Chineses*, and passed from thence into *Europe*.

Vpon the same occasion I have undertaken to give a briefe account thereof, sufficient at least for the instruction of those, who desire to be informed concerning those parts: forbearing to make a more large discourse at the present; but reserving it for another time; which may be, when wee shall returne to that vast Country, with new Labourers in so great a number, that some of the greatest Authority and Experience among us, may find leisure and convenience to undertake a perfect Relation.

In the mean time, abbreviating, as much as 'tis possible, this Information, without rendring that knowledge confused, which wee pretend to gratify the world with, we shall divide the work into two parts. The first containeth the materiall part of the Kingdome; that is, the Provinces, Land, and Fruits; and in a manner, the formal part too; that is, the people, their learning, and customes. The second, the Beginning of Christianity there, the progresse thereof, the persecutions suffered therein; and finally the condition, wherein I left it, at my departure thence. I hope this worke shall gain some esteem and credit, if not for the greatnesse of the Appearance, at least for the certainty of the reality of it; having  
taken

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## The Preface.

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taken what I write, from the infallible Testimony of mine eyes; which though they may not be of the quickest sighted, yet have had the advantage to reiterate very often their speculations. And if he which vieweth for a long time, although his sight be not of the best, doth commonly see more, then he who looketh in haste, be his eyes never so good: I, who, for the space of two and twenty years, have had the opportunity to observe all Passages of *China*, have certainly seen so much what I write, and what others have written, who have not seen them so well, that I must necessarily speak of them with more Certainty then they, although with lesse Eloquence.

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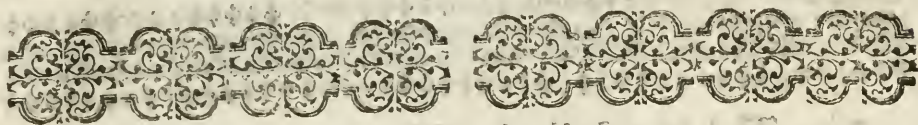
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The Table of all the Chapters contained  
in the first part of the History of China.

Chap. 1. <b>O</b> F the Kingdome in Generall	Fol. 1.
Chap. 2. Of the Provinces in particular, and first of those of the South.	fol. 8.
Chap. 3. Of the Northern Provinces.	fol. 15.
Chap. 4. Of the persons of the Chineses: of their nature, wit, and inclination.	fol. 22.
Chap. 5. Of the manner of their habit.	fol. 29.
Chap. 6. Of their Language and Letters	fol. 31.
Chap. 7. Of their manner of study, and admittance to examination.	fol. 35.
Chap. 8. Of the manner of their Examinations, and how their degrees are conferred.	fol. 40.
Chap. 9. Of the degree of Doctour.	fol. 45.
Chap. 10. Of the Bookes and Sciences of the Chineses.	fol. 47.
Chap. 11. Of their Sciences and liberall Arts in particular,	fol. 51.
Chap. 12. Of the Courtesies and Civilities of the Chineses.	fol. 58.
Chap. 13. Of their Banquets.	fol. 65.
Chap. 14. Of the Games which the Chineses use.	fol. 68.
Chap. 15. Of their Marriage	fol. 69.
Chap. 16. Of the Funerals and Sepultures of the Chineses:	fol. 73.
Chap. 17. Of the Funerall of the Queen Mother.	fol. 78.
Chap. 18. Of the severall sects of Religion in China.	fol. 86.
Chap. 19. Of their superstitions and sacrifices in China.	fol. 93.
Chap. 20. Of the Militia and Arms of the Chineses.	fol. 96.
Chap. 21. Of the war which the Tartars made upon China,	fol. 100.
Chap. 22. Of the Kings and Queens of China, and of the Eunuchs	fol. 106.
Chap. 23. How the Kings of China are married.	fol. 119.
Chap. 24. Of the Nobility of China.	fol. 121.
Chap. 25. Of the Government of China, and of the Officers-	fol. 124.
Chap. 26. Of the Government of the thirteen Provinces.	fol. 128.
Chap. 27. Of the Badge of honour, or Ensigns of the Mandarin.	fol. 132.
Chap. 28. Of the Prisons, Sentences, and Punishments of the Chineses.	fol. 135.
Chap. 29. Of some particular things, which doe facilitate and rectify the Government in China.	fol. 144.
Chap. 30. Of the Moors, Iews, and other Nations which are in China.	fol. 151.
Chap. 31. Of the Christian Religion planted many ages since in China: and of a very ancient stone lately discovered there, which is an admirable testimony thereof.	fol. 154.



**A Table of the contents of the Chapters in  
the second Part of the History of China.**

- Chap. 1. **O**F the first beginnings of the preaching of the Gospel in China fol. 166.
- Chap. 2. Of the proceedings and Persecutions of the Fathers before they arrived at Nankim. fol. 172.
- Chap. 3. Of what happened after, till the Fathers entred into Pekim. fol. 177.
- Chap. 4. The Fathers enter into Pekim and settle there. fol. 183.
- Chap. 5. Of the proceedings and ruin of their House at Xaocheu. fol. 187.
- Chap. 6. Of the progresse of the Christian Religion at the two Residencies at Nancham and Nankim, and of the death of Father Mathæus Riccius. fol. 192.
- Chap. 7. Of the burying place, which was bestowed upon us by the King, and of the progresse of the Christian Religion, untill the time of the persecution at Nankim. fol. 197.
- Chap. 8. A fierce persecution is raised against the Christians in Nankim, fol. 205.
- Chap. 9. The continuation of the Persecution and the Banishment of the Fathers out of China. fol. 214.
- Chap. 10. How things began to be calmed again after the persecution, and of the foundation of severall Residencies. fol. 220.
- Chap. 11. Of the second persecution at Nankim, and of the martyrdome of a Christian named Andrew. fol. 226.
- Chap. 12. How things began to be quiet and settled, and how the Fathers were sent for to Court by order of the Mandarinnes. fol. 232.
- Chap. 13. The life and death of Dr. Leo : and the conclusion of this History. fol. 239.
- \* After which follows the supplement to these present times, wherein is contained the Chinesses most cruell warre with the Tartars, by whom they are now conquered. fol. 249.



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An Exact. MAPP of CHINA, being faithfully Copied from one brought from Peking by a Father lately resident in that City.

1655



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# THE FIRST PART

## Of the Temporall State of

# CHINA.

### CHAP. I.

#### *Of the Kingdom in Generall.*



*China* in its extent is one great continued Continent, without having any thing which devides it: and taking it from the latitude of *Haynam* (which is not farre distant from the continent, and lyeth in nineteen degrees) it extends it self twenty fowre degrees, inclining towards the East; and ending in fourty three degrees, it comes to make a circuite so much the more spacious, by how much the coasts thereof run along in various and un-equall windings; and so comes to be the

cheifest kingdome of the world in greatnesse and almost equall to all Europe. On the west side thereof are many small Islands, but soe neere together, that they seem all to Compose but, as it were, one body.

All this Monarchy is divided into fifteen Provinces; each of which is a spacious Kingdome, and so they were all anciently; each having a King of its own. Of those nine, which they call the Southern Provinces, the greatest part of them are watered with large rivers, and some of those, having so great plenty of water, that in many places the opposite banks are out of sight, one of the other; and elsewhere, that which appeareth, is hardly to be distinguished what it is. They are all navigable, and are frequented with so a great concourse of divers sorts of vessels, that what might be said upon this occasion, will hardly seem credible: I shall onely

say, that in this, they do exceed all other rivers of the world. In an Arme of the river of *Nanchim*, which with a moderate breadth runneth down to *Hamchen*, I stayed eight dayes for a passage through that vvonderful con-course of vessels : and whilest an houre-glasse of sand was running out, I counted three hundred small sh. ps, reckoning only those which came up the river. It is a marvellous thing, there being so many, that all are so vvell accommodated for Merchandize, and so convenient for passengers; They are all covered and kept very neat, and some of them so beautified and adorned with pictures, that they seem rather made for the recreation, than the traffick of Merchants.

The manner, after which they are governd. is very notable : for the Marriners keep all without the place, where the passengers make their abode, there being space enough without for them to run up and down, that trim the Sayles and guide the Bark, without any disturbance of the others, who enjoy a pleasant ease and rest. In which the Barks of the pr ovince of *Hanceo* exceed the rest.

The six Northern provinces, as they come nearest to our latitude, do most resemble our climate, and are more dry and healthfull than the rest. But in all of them (more or lesse) there are not wanting many of a long and happy life; there being to be found many, and very vigorous and lusty old men.

*Of the same more particularly.*

This Kingdom is so populous, that not only the Villages, but even the Cities are in sight one of another; and in some places, where the rivers are most frequented, the habitations are almost continued. Of these there are foure sorts; great Cities which they call *Fu*: the lesser, which they call *Cen*, (concerning these, Writers have somewhat differed in their Relations:) Townes, which they call *Hien*; and Castles, which they call *Cid*. Besides these, there are Villages and Hamlets almost innumerable. Of all these the Walls are kept night and day with a four-fold Guard at the sound of a Bell, even to the innermost City of the Kingdom, as if they were alwayes in a condition of Warre: shewing, that to prevent the least imaginable danger, which may fal out in an houre; it is good to stand, during life, upon our guard: for ordinarily all sudden ruines proceed from a long confidence. The streets are kept by Courts of Guard and Sentinels, with so much rigour, that if they find them asleep, or stragled from their Post, or that they do not speedily answer, they are presently condemned to the *Bastinado*, which is immediately executed in the same place. The publick gates are shut every night with great care, and if there fall out any accident, they are not opened, til they are sarisfied, how the Fact was done. In the year one thousand six hundred thirty four, I was in the City of *Kiamsi*, where thirty theeves broke prison, and having routed the guards, wounding some and killing others, set themselves at liberty. The Fact was known; and the opening of the gates being suspended according to their inviolable custome, before next night the Malefactors were all taken, nor could the greatnesse of the City hide any one of them.

This



This Kingdom is so exceeding populous, that I having lived there two and twenty years, was in no lesse amazement at my coming away, than I was in the beginning, at the multitude of the people: certainly, the truth exceedeth all Hyperboles; not onely in the Cities, Townes, and publick places, (in some of which one cannot walk without great violence of thrusting and crowding;) but also in the High-wayes, there is as great a concourse, as is usually in Europe at some great feastivall, or publick meeting. And if we will referre our selves to the generall register book, wherein only the common men are enrolled and matriculated, leaving out women, children, eunuchs, professours of armes and letters, (almost an infinite number) there are reckoned of them to be fifty eight millions, and fifty five thousand, one hundred and fourescore.

The houses, where they inhabite, are not so sumptuous and lasting, as ours: yet are they more convenient for the good contrivance, and more pleasant for their exquisite neatnesse. They use much in their houses *Charam*, an excellent vernish, and painting of an accurate diligence. They build them not very high, esteeming them more convenient for being low, as well for habitation, as for good accommodation. The richer sort of people doe plant the courts and approaches to their houses with flowres and small trees; and, towards the North, they use fruit trees. In like manner, where they have roome enough, they set greater trees, and raise artificiaall mountaines, to which end they bring from farre, great pieces of rocks: They keep there severall sorts of fowl; as Cranes and Swannes, and other beautifull birds: and also wild beasts, as Stagges, and fallow Deare: They make many fish-ponds, where are to be seen gliding up and downe painted fish with gilded finns, and other things likewise of curiositie and delight.

Their way of building is in this manner. They frame first exactly the rooffe of the house, which they set upon pillars of wood, the which by how much the bigger they are, are so much the more esteemed: after they fit up the walls with brick, or some such like matter. There is a Tradition, that, anciently, they made their buildings according to exact rules of measure and proportion; of which Art there are yet some bookes remaining; but those rules are now only observed in the Kings palaces, and in publick workes; as, towres of Cities and Townes, which they make of severall formes; as round; square; octangular; very beautifull, with staires, some winding, some plaine, and Balansters on the out-side.

In the vessels and utensiles of their house they are both very curious and expensive; using much the abovesaid *Charam*, a sort of vernish, which is taken from certaine trees, proper only to that, and the neighbouring Countries: and in truth it is an excellent thing, as well for the perfection of the matter, (as may be seen in the workes which come from thence) as for the easinesse in working it, as well in making new things, as in retrimming the old, and reducing them to their former beauty.

As for plenty; whereas this kingdome, by reason of its large extent, doth participate of diverse latitudes and climates, it produceth and enjoyeth so great varietie of fruits, that nature seems there to have laid upon heapes, what shee but scatters through the rest of the world. It hath

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within its owne doores all that is necessary for mans life, together with all superfluity of delicacies : whence it hath, not only no need to take almes of other Countries; but, with what it is able to spare, (which is both much and very good) it satisfieth the desires of the neighbouring and remote kingdomes, who have always a longing desire to see and enjoy it. Its chiefe sustenance is that which is most used throughout the world, to wit, wheat and rice ; some Countries making most use of the one, and some of the other. *China* produceth both in so great plenty, that a *Pico* of each (a *Pico* containes 125 pound of our weight) is commonly worth five Reals, (that is, about halfe a crowne of English mony) and if it cometh to seaven and a halfe 'tis counted a dearth.

The Northern Provinces use for their proper sustenance Wheate, Barly, and Maiz ; eating Rice but seldome, as we doe in Europe; leaving it for the Southern Provinces; Which although they have Wheat in great plenty, make use of it with the same moderation, as we doe of Rice, or any other sort of fruit. They have Pulse of diverse kindes, the reliefe of the poorer sort of people, and the ordinary provinder, in stead of Barly, for the Beasts of Burthen. They use Herbes much; they being the food of the ordinary people, almost all the year throughout ; & the chiefe Inventorie of their Apothecaries shops, for their physicke; which is founded only upon Herbes and very safe physick. Yet they want both Endive and Carduus, but have in stead thereof others, which we want.

Flesh they have every where plentifully, even in small villages. That which they use most constantly throughout the yeare, is Hogs-flesh, Beefe is sold there without any bones, they taking them alwayes out, first. Venison they have not so plentifull: nor doe they much affect it; although they have there the same which here afford us so much recreation ; as, wild Boares, Stagges, fallow Deare and Hares, but no Conies. Of fowle there is great plenty, they have all ours in great abundance : Partridges of two sorts, one whereof differeth not from ours, but only in their call. The Nightingales, though they are bigger than ours, have the same voice and manner of singing. Other birds there are which we have not here, and are in great esteeme, as well for their beauty to the eye, as for their excellent taste to please the Palat. The birds which we see painted in their workes that come into Europe have, without doubt, for the most part, the resemblance of those there. Art alwaies favouring nature, or but little altering from her. They are excellent in bringing up of tame fowle, and have of every sort without number ; Geese they have in so great quantity, that they feed up and downe the fields in huge flocks. That which is reported of their hatching egges by art, is very certaine; but it is only in the spring time, and then they have no need of the dam.

Wild Beasts, as Tigers and Wolves there are in abundance throughout the kingdome, though they doe not much hurt. There are Elephants alwaies to be seen at court, but they are brought from other Countries. For tame creatures they have all ours, as well for burthen (without using Oxen for this, as they are faine to doe throughout all India) as also for tillage of their land, in which they make use of Oxen. In the Southern parts the *Busolo's* undergoe the chiefe labour. They have store of horses, but  
without



without mettle, and little worth. Coaches were formerly much in use with them, and growing out of fashion there, we took them up, being first used, in Italy and Spain, in the year 1546. Since they have only used Chaires and Sedans, finding them of lesse pompe and expence, and of greater convenience; wherefore to this day in all their journies they serve themselves with litters carried by Mules, or Chaires borne by 4, 6, or 8, men, according to the quality of the persons. Those which they use most in Cities are in forme not unlike unto ours. Those in which the women are carried, are bigger, more convenient, and more beautified; and also the manner of carrying them is different. In the two Cities of *Penckin* and *Nanckin*, where there is a greater concourse of all sorts of people, they have in all publick places a good quantity of Horses and Mules, with handsome furniture, and very well fitted with bridles and saddles, standing ready to be hired by such persons; as are desirous, with more ease and lesse expence, to travell up and downe the City upon their occasions.

In the Northern provinces, they have but little fish, (except it be at the Court; which, for being such, wants nothing.) The reason is, because in those parts there are no many Rivers: yet they cause great store of fish to be brought from the Southern Provinces, (which very much abound therein, taking them on the sea coasts, in lakes, and in pooles in great plenty) dried and accommodated in diverse manners, so much as is sufficient. In the River of *Nanckin* there is every yeare a fishing for the Kings use; and till that be done, there is a prohibition upon a rigorous penalty for any other person to fish: and the voyage being between five and fourty and threescore daies journey, yet it is brought fresh and sweet; without salting it. Troutes are not there so much esteemed as with us; but Sturgeon every whit as much; which, when it is sold at the dearest, doth not exceed five-pence the pound: By which you may perceive the cheapnesse of all other things.

Among fruits; Cherries, and Mulberries have there no esteeme, for their tast is not very good; they use the greatest part of those fruits we have in Europe: but they are not comparable to ours, neither in quantity nor quality, except it be the Oranges of *Cantone*, which may well be called the *Queens* of Oranges: and are by some esteemed to be, not so much Oranges as *Muscattell* Grapes, disguised in that forme and habit. The Southern provinces have the best fruit of all India; particularly *Cantone*; for they have *Anans*, *Manghas*, *Bananas*, *Giachas*, & *Giambas*; & above all, there are some fruits proper to them of a particular excellency, such as in *Cantone* are; the *Licie*, (so the *Portughefs* call them; but the *Chineses*, *Lici*.) These on the outside are of an Orange colour, and when they are ripe doe very much beautify the trees they grow on. They are made like chafnuts, in the forme of an heart: when the shell is pilled of, which is only contiguous to it, the fruit remaines like a pearl in colour, very pleasing to the sight, but more to the taste.

There is likewise a fruit called *Longans*, named by the *Chineses*, *Lu-mien*, that is, Dragons eye, they are in figure and greatnesse not much unlike a small nut, but the *Pulpe* is very little, and different; but between



the shell and the stone it is sweet and wholesome: this fruit is found in *Cantone* and *Fokien*.

Throughout the kingdome there are red figges, (a name put upon them by the *Portughefes*: for in the *Chinese* tongue they are called *Suzu*:) it is a fruit very different from figges in colour, figure and taste; the colour on the outside is red, on the inside like gold; the figure is of the bignesse of an Orange, bigger or lesser; for there is as much diversitie of them, as there is among us of figges. The rinde is very thinne, and is of so extraordinary good taste, that in my opinion it may be reckoned among the chiefest in the world. They have one or two seeds, which are like unto blanched Almonds: the best are in the cold Countries. The provinces *Honan*, *Xiansi*, *Xensi*, and *Xantum* enjoy the best in quality, and in great quantity; and dry enough of them to serve the whole kingdome. When they are dry, they are better than our dried figges, to which they have some kind of resemblance.

The province of *Hamcheu* produceth a particular fruit, which they call *Fammoi*, as bigge as a plumbe, round, and in colour and taste like unto the best *Mulberries*: but the tree is very different.

Peaches there are none, unlesse it be in the Province of *Xensi*, where there are some of a notable bignesse: some are red both within and without; others of a yellow colour, of the same figure and taste with ours.

There are Melons every where in great abundance: but the best are not to be compared to our good ones: there are water melons in great plenty and very good.

Grapes are very rare and scarce, and grow only in Arbours, and close walkes, except it be in the Province of *Xensi*, where they are in abundance; and where they also dry them in great plenty. They make not their wine of Grapes, but of Barly, and in the Northern parts, of Rice; where they also make it of Apples, but in the Southern parts of Rice only; yet this is not ordinary Rice, but a certaine kind of it proper to them, which serveth only to make this liquor, being used in diverse manners.

Vineger they make of the same ingredients as their wine; and, in the Westerne Provinces, of *Millet*; which notwithstanding is sharp and well tasted.

The wine used by the common people, although it will make them drunke, is not very strong nor lasting, 'tis made at all times of the year: but the best only in the winter: It hath a colour very pleasing to the sight; nor is the smell lesse pleasing to the sent; or the Savour thereof, to the taste: take altogether, it is a vehement occasion, that there never want drunkards; but without any mulct of shame; for they have not yet placed it in that consideration. Winter and Summer they drink it warm.

Flowers are in singular esteeme with these people, and they have some exceeding beautifull and different from ours; which (yet) they doe not want. They have Clove-gilliflowres, which have no smell at all. They endeavour to have, the yeare throughout, flowers for every season in their gardens, in which they are very curious. They have some flowres, which in their duration exceed the ordinary stile of nature; in which they seeme to be exempt from their common tribute of a short life. For when these  
plants



plants have no moyſture left for the nourishment of their leaves, and exposed to the cold, these do fall off, then do new flowres sprout againe, & those the most odoriferous, during the greatest inclemency of the frost and snow. These are called *Lamui*, more pleasing to the sent than the eye; their colour being not unlike that of Bees-wax. They have other flowers like Lillies, called *Tiahoa*, which they keep in the house, because that being carefully taken up with their roots entire and well cleansed from earth, they live and flourish in the ayre.

Their Garments, as also the furniture of their chambers and houses, they make of wooll, Linnen, Silke and Cotton, which they make great use of and weave thereof many faire and curious stuffs.

The riches of that kingdom is admirable: for besides that the earth is so fruitfull in all kinde of sustenance, and what ever is necessary for mans life, as may be perceived by what hath been already said; they do vend unto strangers the best and richest merchandise of all the East; such as are Gold-threed; Gold in the leafe and Ingot; Rubies, Saphires, small Pearle; Muske; raw silke; and wrought silk quick-silver; Copper, Tin, *Tommaga*, which is a kind of mettall more fine, and as hard as Tin; Vermilion, Salt-nitre, Brimstone, Sugar, and other things of lesse importance.

Their gilded workes for household-stuffe, ornaments and jewells for women, both for necessity and curiositie, are sufficiently known to the world: nor doth all this issue out at one port, but by many in a great and perpetuall commerce. In all this abundant riches of the Country, industry of the inhabitants, Arts and means of gaining their living to an excessive plenty, they doe not let passe any other thing, that can bring them any profit; and notwithstanding the sight of so great affluence of noble commodities, they make a profit of their Beefe-bones; Hogges-haires; and of the smallest ragge, that is throne into the streetes. There raigneth among them that only pledge & suretie of the duration of Empires; that is, that the publike is rich, and no particulars. They are not so rich there as in *Europe*; nor so many which can properly deserve that name: nor are the poor here so many, nor so poor; as those there. The people is infinite, nor can they have a capitall, or stock, sufficient for so many; or mony to fill so many purses. Hence it comes to passe, that the partition among them is such, that much comes to few, a mediocrity to not many, and a little to almost infinite. Their mony is much at one stay, which may be perceived by the same low price of things, salary of servants, pay of workmanship, and stipend of publick Ministers.

So that even to this day, at least in diverse of these countries they live, as they did formerly in *Portugall*; when a *Maraved is*, which is worth a farthing and a half, divided into six blanes, would buy six severall things. So was it also in *Castile*, not only in ancient times, but even to the raign of *Don John* the first: the records of which are still preserved: but such temperance and plenty long since are gone out of the world. From hence it is manifest, how much that admirable duration of the Empire of *China* dependeth on observing its lawes and ancient customes, without ever opening a gate (that the great ones might seeme greater, and the small ones, great) to luxurie in apparel, and excesse in diet; which are the irreparable

ruine



ruine of Common wealths.

A pound of mutton is worth a penny, a pigeon a farthing and a halfe the hire of a man-servant for a year, two hundred farthings, and his dyet and lodging. But there is a great difference betwixt some places and others, those of the South, as they have the advantage in commerce, so they exceed the rest in money; and the price of things, which continually riseth, as we find every day by experience: but even there to this day, the rate is very moderate.

## CHAP. 2.

### *Of the Provinces in particular, and first of those of the South.*

**T**his kingdome is divided into two parts, South and North; and both these subdivided into fifteen provinces, as is above-said. To this Southern part belong nine; which are *Cantone*, *Quamsi*, *Tunnam*, *Fukien*, *Kiamsi*, *Suchuem*, *Utquam*, *Cbekiam*, *Nankim*, we wil treate of these in this chapter, and of the rest in the next. That we may proceede distinctly, speaking of them in the same order that we have named them.

*Cantone* is the first; and lyeth in that part of the South, that is properly named *Quantum*. It is in the latitude of twenty three degrees, it is large, rich, and abounding in wheat and rice, of these it propuceth each yeare two harvests though for the most part they are of a severall graine. There is store of suger, copper and tin, materials, which they worke, with great variety, into innumerable sorts of vessels, as also, workes made with *Charam*, an excellent vernish, and with guilding, some whereof are transported into *Europe*.

The Jesuits in this province had two residencies with their Churches and houses, vvhich perished by reason of Severall persecutions, as you shall find hereafter.

The people are able Mechanicks, and though of small invention, yet they imitate excellently whatsoever they find invented. To the City called also *Cantone* (though the proper name thereof bee *Guamcheufu*) the *Portugesses* go twice every year with their marchandice. It is distant from *Macao* an hundred and five miles: and *Macao* is distant from the first Islands, and from the greater Cities of that Empire fifty four: The circumference thereof is 15 good miles. The concourse of merchants thither is very great, and therefore it is more peopled than many of the other Cities. The most and best comodities of that Kingdome are brought thither, because it is the most open and free seat of trade in that nation. And to say nothing of the six neighbouring kingdomes, from whence all sorts of merchandise is brought thither, as well by natives as strangers: only that which the *Portugesses* take in for *India*, *Giappone* and *Manila*, cometh one year with another to five thousand three hundred chests of severall silke stufes, each chest including 100 peices of the most

most substantial silks, as velvet damask and sattin; of the slihter stufes, as halfe-damasks, painted and single taffities 250 peices of gold 2200 Ingots of 12 ounces weight a peece; of musk, seaven *Pichi*: which is more then 35 *Arrova's* every *Arrova* weighing 25 pound, of 6 ounces to the pound; besides small pearle; sugar; *Porcellane* dishes; *China* wood; *Rheubarbe*; and severall curious gilded workes; and many other things of lesse importance; it being hard to name them all even in a longer relation.

To this Province belongeth the Island of *Aynan*, where pearls are fished in great plenty. It is sufficiently populous, by one city, it hath Several villages on the North part thereof: toowards the South there lyeth a barbarous people, which admit the *Chinesses* only to trafficke and commerce, without submitting to their dominion. It produceth that precious wood of *Aquila* and that sweet wood, which the *Portugeses* call rose-wood, and the natives, *Hoalim*; and other things of lesse importance.

On the North side of *Cantone* the Province of *Quamsi* extendeth it selfe to the latitude of 25 degrees: it enjoyes the same climate without any considerable difference; (so that it hath nothing particular, which is notable,) and is counted the second Province.

*Tunnam* is the third; and lyeth in the latitude of 24 degrees, and is the furthest distant of any from the Centre of *China*: it is a great countrie, but hath little merchandise, I know not any thing is brought from thence, unlesse it bee that matter, whereof they make the beads for chapplets, which in *Portugall* they call *Alambras*; and in *Castile*, *Ambares*; and are like Amber, they are counted good against the catarre; it is digged out of mines, and sometimes in great peices: it is redder than our Amber, but not so cleane. In this province is violated that custome of the Kingdome that women do not go to the market to buy or sell, as in other countries of the world.

On the other side of *Cantone* is the fourth Province called *Fukien*, or by another name *Chincheo*, in the latitude of 26 degrees: it is for the greatest part Mountainous; and therefore not so well inhabited. Contrary to the lawes of the Kingdom, the Natives of this Province do go into the countries of the neighbouring strangers, which are upon the sea-coasts. It yeeldeth gold, good sugar in great quantitie, good Canvas-cloath; for other linnen there is none in *China*. There is made excellent paper of diverse kindes, which for plenty, goodnesse, and cheapnesse, is very remarkable. They make use of printing no lesse conveniently, and (as it appeareth) more anciently, than in *Enrope*, although not in the very same manner: for here, after the printing of each sheet, the letters are taken asunder: there they carve what they would print upon boards or plate, so that the bookes are still preserved entire in their work-houses; and therefore as often as there is occasion, they can reprint any book, without the expence of new setting the letters. This country is scituated upon the Sea-side, and is another eminent port, from whence are issued out of that Kingdom, infinite Merchandise, which are carried by the people of this country, that are industrious, and brought up to it, to *Manila*, *Giappone*, and particularly to the Island *Formosa*, which is even in the sight of the land, (for with a



a good wind it is not above 24 houres voyage thither) where they trade with the *Hollanders*.

There are two houses and Churches there belonging to our company; under whose Government and direction are a great number of very good Christians; who have about ten Churches belonging to them, the which are visited by us very diligently at set times. Two of their chiefe Churches are in the City of *Fuchen* which is their Metropolis: another in the City of *Cieumchu*, the rest in other Cities. There are (besides) many particular Oratories.

The Island *Formosa* lyeth in the Latitude of 22 degrees, it is situated between the Kingdomes of *China* and *Giappone*: before you come thither you must passe by a great number of Islands named *Liquen*: the length of this Island is 150 miles, the breadth 75.

The *Hollanders* have there a fort placed in a sandy vale, under which lyeth the Port, which is encompassed with bankes of sand, and if it were not distinguished and secured by certaine posts set up in the water, the entrance would be very difficult even to those of the Countrey. On the other side of the Island toward the East, the *Spaniards* have a fort, distant from that of the *Hollanders* 90 miles by sea, and by land 45, as is reported. The soyle of the Island is so fruitfull, that it produceth grasse nine or ten palmes high (a palme is nine inches, English measure) where the *Hollanders* feed their cattell. There is so great abundance of Stagges, that it seemeth incredible to him that hath not seen it. Father *Albertus Miceschi*, (who lived there in the condition of a slave) relateth, that, riding to the next woods with leave from the Governour, to gather some medicinall hearbes, he saw by the way so great a multitude of Stagges, that he judged them to be the herds belonging to the people of the Countrey, dispersed up and downe the fields, till coming neerer he found with his eyes the contrary. There are also many of those *Animals* called *Alces* or *Elkes*, the which, I did hitherto beleve, were only to be found in *Lituania* and the adjacent Countreies. There are also many other *Animals* wholly differing from ours, and altogether strange to us. It is the likest Countrey to *Europe* of all *India*: it enjoyeth an healthfull ayre, and cold, like ours. It produceth some spices, but not in great plenty; as Pepper in the woods, and Cynamon on the mountaines, & *Camphire* trees of a notable bignesse, *China* roots, and *Salsapariglia*, in great quantitie. There are also gold mines, but the *Hollanders* have not yet open'd them.

The people of the Countrey weare no manner of cloathes; nevertheless both men and women doe cover that, which in all the *India's* useth to be hidden from sight, by the instinct of nature. They dwell in round houses made with Bulrushes of severall colours, beautifull to behold a farr off. Their ordinary food is Stagges flesh as fat as porke; and Rice; of which also they make very strong wine. Many of them doe turne Protestants by the perswasion of the *Holland* Ministers, and live vertuously. They are tall and active of body, so fleet in running that they are able to single out, and run downe a Stagge in their hunting. Their Lords doe weare a Crowne of dead mens skulls, stitched together and embellished with silke: and these are the heads of their enemies killed by themselves.

Their



Their King weareth two wings of various feathers upon his head: others crowne themselves with apples of gold, others make themselves hornes of a certaine straw, made up with *Bufo's* haire: They gird themselves also about with a girdle of young Bulrushes curiously woven. They carry hanging at their breast two Tortoises and a wooden mallet, which serve them in stead of a drum. There is likewise another Island neere to it, inhabited by fierce savage people, who kill, whosoever goeth thither. The above-named father *Miceschi* saw one of them taken by the Hollanders, who was fifteen palmes high, as it seemed to him.

The fift place we will give to the Province of *Kiamsi*, which is contiguous to that of *Cantone* toward the North, in the latitude of 29 degrees. It takes its beginning from a great ridge of mountaines, which reare themselves upon the confines of *Cantone*, from these Mountaines two Rivers have their originall; one, which runneth toward the South, and is presently navigable; the other towards the North; which after it hath watred a good part of this Province receiveth into his channell another large River of the Province of *Huquam*, and then runneth forward with the name of the famous *Nankim*. The skirts of these Mountaines are considerable for the good Cities that are scituated thereon; very convenient for the passage of travailers, and for the conduct of Merchandise; which for the most part passeth upon the backs of men and boyes, according to the abilities of each, learning this trade from their youth, which is the most usuall employment of that Countrie. The voyage is but of one whole day, and it is very much to see what passeth by in it. For there being no other bridge; and these Rivers being the most frequented passes of all *China*, 'tis almost incredible, how great a concourse of people there is, and what a multitude of commodities, which goe and come without intermission. The Merchandise is all put in one store-house, and is received by weight into another with so much fidelitie, that it is not necessary the owner should be present, because upon all accidents the Hostes are bound to make good whatsoever is wanting. They are obliged also to give to every guest of qualitie, or Merchant two banquets, or one at least, as also to their servants; and if they be not satisfied therewith, they tell them of it, expostulate, and threaten not to frequent any more their *Inne*, there not wanting many others.

By this Government they make their covetous Hostes very sumptuous and bountifull. The Hostes are also obliged, as soone, as their guests are imbarqued, (for if they goe by land this priviledge ceaseth) to send them a present of two things, or of one at least, as fruit, two fishes, a little flesh, a couple of pullets; and this without paying, either at your entrance, abode, or departure; for there is nothing to be payd, either for the lodging or bedstead, I say bedstead, because the Hoste allowes you no bed but every one carrieth one with him at his backe, when he hath no other convenience; but they are not so big as our beds, but much lighter. The profit of the Hoste consisteth in so much *per cent*, which is payd them by the Boateman for such persons, or goods as are carried by water; and by the porters for such as passe by land; and as the concourse is great, the profit cannot be little. Every thing passeth through the hands of Insurers, so



that if any thing be wanting, they supply it and make it up.

In the Custome-house (for there is a very famous one here) there is not so much honour done the Merchant, but more favour. There is no house where the Merchandise is deposited, weighed or visited; neither is it taken out of the barke; but only a moderate rate is payed for it by the eye, and according to the Merchants booke of accounts. If the passenger be no Merchant, although he goe alone in a Barke with his servants, and carry five or six chefts, and severall other things, which are usually transported from one Country to another, they are not searched nor opened, neither doe they pay any custome. A good example for the Custome and Gabell-houses of *Europe*, where a poore traveller is so beastly and barbarously, robbed and spoiled; when all he carrieth with him is not worth so much as they aske him for custome.

For strangers ships, which come into the Port of *Maao*, as soone as any arriveth, they unlade their Merchandise as they please, without any hinderance; and when the customers come, they pay them according to the content of the vessel, without making any enquiry into the qualitie of the *Cargazon*.

But to returne to the Province of *Kiamsi*, (of which we were discour-  
sing;) it particularly aboundeth in Rice and fish, but most of all in people. So that the *Chineses* call them *Laochu*, that is to say, Rats. Whereof, we have a resemblance in *Portugall*, in the Country that lyeth between the Rivers *Duero* and *Migno*; which, where it confineth upon *Gallitia* hath so great multitude of people, that it is therefore called by the same name; although learned men doe derive it from *Rates*, an ancient part of that Country.

Now this people running over the whole kingdom, like swarmes of Bees, do fill it with severall Trades whereunto they apply themselves, and for the greatest part they lead a miserable life, and are therefore so penurious, niggardly, and drie in their presents, that they passe, in ridiculous proverbs, through the rest of the Provinces.

It is famous for Sturgeon, which it hath of very great bignesse; and more for the *Porcellane* dishes (indeed the only work in the world of this kinde) which are made only in one of its Townes: So that all that is used in the Kingdom, and dispersed through the whole world, are brought from this place: although the earth, whereof they are made commeth from another place: but there only is the water, wherewith precisely they are to be wrought to come to their perfection, for if they be wrought with other water the worke will not have so much gloss and lustre. In this worke there are not those mysteries that are reported of it here, neither in the matter, the form, nor the manner of working; they are made absolutely of earth, but of a neate and excellent quality. They are made in the same time, and the same manner, as our earthen vessels; only they make them with more diligence and accuratenesse. The Blew, wherewith they paint the *Porcellane*, is *Anill*, whereof they have abundance, some do paint them with *Vermilion*, and (for the King) with yellow.

This Province, and that of *Chincheo* and *Cantone*, which border one upon

upon another, do unite, as it were, in an angle, with many Mountaines between them: In the middle of which Mountaines there is a small Kingdome, which hath a particular King of its own without any subjection to the *Chineses*; from whom he doth defend himselfe, if they pretend to assault him; nor is the defence difficult, there being but one entrance into that kingdome. They admit of the *Chinesse-Physitians* in their infirmities, but not of their learned men into the administration of their government. If they have an ill Harvest, and that there is like to be a scarcity they go out, and rob in a military order, to the sound of the drum. So in the year 1632 they gave no small trouble to this province of *Kiamsi*.

The last account shall be concerning the Christianity there, which hath prospered very well, being also beneficed with two Churches and houses which we have in that Province, the one in the City of *Nanchan*, which is the Metropolis; The other in the City of *Naubium*.

The six: Province is called *Suchuen*, in the same paralel with that of *Kiamsi*, and in the same latitude of 29 degrees, nor hath it any thing in particular differing from the former, worthy the relation.

The Province of *Huquam* is the seventh in Scituation, it lyeth more to the North, in the height of 31 degrees, it exceeds the whole Kingdom for the abundance of Rice. The *Chineses* say, that that whole Kingdom is able to give but a breakfast in respect of *Huquam*, which provideth for the whole yeare. It hath store of oyle, and no lesse Fish, by reason of the rivers, which it enjoyeth, and the lakes, which seem rather Seas. In the Metropolis of this Province there was a Residencie begun at the time of my arrival.

The province of *Cakiam*, which is the eighth, lyeth in the Latitude of 30 degrees: it is for the most part scituated by the Sea-side, fertile, plain, and almost all divided by severall rivers, some whereof run through their Cities and Townes. In riches it exceeds many of the Provinces, as being, the Fountain, from whence the best Commodities of that Monarchie doe flow: it is singular in silke, which it distributeth through every part, whether it be raw, or wrought; in Balls or in Stuffle. All that goeth out of the Kingdome any way, cometh from this Province: though all *China* hath the benefit of the Silk-worme, yet all the rest would not serve them, to make them Scarfes: the name of the Metropolis is *Hanchen*. Here we have two houses, which upon certain good considerations are reduced to one, where there is cultivated a copious and good Christianity, and also much honoured, by reason of the number of people of quality that are in it,

Finally, this Province is famous for many things, but particularly for three. The first is a lake called *Sihu*, which is one of the rarest in the world. It is in circuite Thirty *Lis*, which are six miles: it is set about with excellent Palaces, and these environed by pleasant Mountaines cloathed with grasse, plants, and trees: the water is alwayes running, for there comming in a current at one side, & issuing out at the other, it is so cleere, that it inviteth one to behold it with great delight, the smallest sand, that lyeth at the bottome, being to be discovered. There are cer-



taine wayes paved with stone, that do crosse over it, offering passage to those that travell over it, either upon their occasions or curiositie: there stand ready small Barkes of a considerable burden which are made for recreation and banquets; the kitchen is in the steerage, or the forecattle, and the middle space serveth for a hall. Above higher, there is a place for the women, covered with lattices, that they might not be seen. These Barkes are painted and gilded after a curious and various manner, and are provided in great abundance with all things necessary for the navigation which is short and free from wracks of water, but not so well from those of wine; there happening many: as also shipwrackes of estates very often; there being scarce any in the whole kingdome that hath any thing, that doth not come to spend in these delights, either part or the whole; and sometimes more than his whole stock is worth.

The second is, the excellency of the silke, as well for the plenty above-said, as for the curiositie of the Art, with which a good part of it is wrought, engrayling it with precious and beautifull workes of gold. This is only after their manner and gusto; and is not sent out of the kingdome, but as a singular worke is reserved for the Kings Palaces, who every yeare buyeth up all that is made of this sort.

The third is, the worshipping of their Idols; in which is particularly to be perceived whence the fabrick of their Temples proceeds, which are without doubt very famous.

The last of these nine Southerly Provinces is *Nankim*, situated in 32 degrees of latitude, and is one of the best Provinces of the kingdome, and the perfection of the whole realm. It sendeth abroad its commodities, or workes of importance, to no part; as if they were unworthy, to participate of its perfection; which is most rare in all sort of varietie, and so much exceeding all the rest, that every one, to sell his commodities the better, pretendeth, that they are of *Nankim*, and so passeth them off, at a greater price.

That part which is towards the West, is the most rich, and maketh so much Cotton-wool, that those of the Country affirme, that there is only in the towne of *Xanuchi* and the precinct thereof, which is large, 200000 Loomes for this stuffe; so that from that place only the King draweth 150000 crownes yearly.

In one house there useth to be many of them for they are narrow, as the stuffe is. Almost all the women are employed in this work.

The Court did reside in this Province for a long time; and even to this day all the Courts of justice and priviledges thereof are conserved in the City of *Nankim*, whose right name is *Umthiensu*; and it seemeth to me to be the best and greatest City of the whole Kingdome, both for the form of the building, the largeness of the streets, the manners and dealing of the people, and for the plentie and excellency of all things.

It hath admirable places of recreation, and is so populous through its confines, that the villages succeed one another, in a manner, from three miles to three miles; although at this day, by reason it wants the presence of the King it is, in its selfe lesse populous; neverthelesse in diverse parts thereof it is yet troublesome to walke the streets for the crowde of people that

that one meeteth. Besides, the many Palaces, Temples, Towers, and Bridges doe render it very considerable. In the wall thereof there are twelve gates, barr'd with Iron, and guarded with Artillery: a good way without runneth another wall with no small ruines. The circuit thereof (for I was desirous to know the measure of it) is two daies journey on horse-back: That of the inner wall is eighteen miles; both the one and the other have within them many populations, gardens, and fields which are tilled, the bread whereof useth to be applied to the use of the soldiery within the City, to the number of fourty thousand.

In one part thereof there is cast up an artificiall Mount, on the top whereof there is seen a wooden spheare, not armed, although the circles thereof are placed at the latitude of the same City, which is 32 degrees; a small latitude in respect of the great colds, but a very large one, for the great heate which it suffereth: The spheare is in circumference of a notable bignesse, and is a very compleat piece of work.

It hath moreover a Tower divided into seaven stories of singular beauty for the workmanship thereof, it being full of figures, and wrought like *Percellane*: an edifice, which might be ranked among the most famous of ancient *Rome*. The river cometh to kisse the feet of this City, and sendeth up some armes of it selfe into it. The name of the river is *Yanchukiam*, that is to say, the Sonne of the sea; nor vainly is it so called, it being the most abundant in water, of any that is knowne in the world. There is also great plenty of fish.

We have foure Churches in this Province, the first in *Nankim*, with a house of *Jesuites*, and is of a very ancient, and exercised, Christianity: having suffered foure persecutions, and come of from each of them with more vigour. The second, in the Towne of *Xambai*, with a great number of belevers. The third in the City of *Xamkiam*. The fourth in the Towne of *Kiatini*: beside these Churches there are many Oratories. And so much shall suffice concerning the nine Southern Provinces,

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 CHAP. 3.

## Of the Northern Provinces.

SIX are the Provinces, which are called Northern, and their names are *Honam*, *Xemsi*, *Kiansi*, *Xantum*, *Pekim*, and *Leaotum*. The first lyeth in the latitude of 35 degrees, as centre of the Kingdome, and produceth most gallant fruits, as well those that are proper to the Countie, as ours in *Europe*; nor is the cheapnesse of them lesse: I bought for a farthing and a halfe 88 Apricocks; it hath nothing else notable, except a Son of the Kings called *Fovam*, the last of those which came out of the Palace. He liveth with so great splendour and authoritie of a King, that to be such, he only wanteth the name and jurisdiction. In *Caifum*, the Metropolis thereof, we have had onely for these few yeares, a Church and house, but a good plenty of Christians.

The second is *Xemsi*; it lyeth in 36 degrees, and more, to the West:



it is very large, but dry for want of water, as also are the three neighbouring Provinces: notwithstanding it doth abound in Wheate, Barly and *Maize*, of Rice they have but little. All winter long they give wheat to their Beasts; which are many; particularly their sheep, which they sheare three times a year; once in the Spring, another time in the Summer, a third in the Autume; but the first time of shearing yeeldeth the best wool.

From hence cometh all the wooll, of which are made the felts and other things used, either in this Province or elswhere. They make there of no sort of cloath, not using to spin wool, but only Goats-hair; of which they weave certain Stuffles for the hanging of their roomes, in so great perfection that the most ordinary are better than ours, and the Best are esteemed more precious than silk. They make likewise of Goats-haire a very fine Felt, which they call *Tum*, and is made use of for garments: But this is not made of every sort of Goats-hair, but of a very fine haire which lyeth under the first. They pull it out with great care, and make it up in certain bals of the bignesse of an ordinary loafe, and then put it out to be wrought with singular skill.

Musk is proper to this Province; and because it is in question, after what manner this excellent perfume is made; I will give you account of it according to the most diligent enquiry I have made concerning it. It is the Navel of an Animal about the bignesse of a small Stagge, whose flesh is very good meate; and only that part is taken containing that precious matter: but all those Cods, which are brought hither to us, are not true and perfect Navells; for the *Chinesses* have learnt to falsifie them, by stuffing some peices of the skin of that *Animall* with musk, that is vitiated, and mingled, with some other things,

Here is also Gold found, but not in Mines (for though there be Mines both of Gold and Silver, the King doth not suffer them to be opened) but out of Rivers and Eddies: and although it be found only in smal peices and graines, yet being put together, it amounts to a great quantity, there being Infinite people both young and old, which go in search of it.

There is *Rubarbe* and *Profumo*, which are not found in any other part; for that which cometh from *Persia* doth not seem to be naturall, to that place; for, of as many as have travelled through that countrie, there is not any that gives an account to have seen there that healthfull plant. It is something tall, with leaves bigger than Cole-worts: it doth not grow wilde, as some have imagined, but is Cultivated in gardens with a great deale of care.

In this Province is opened the third Gate, the which, as I sayd above, is a seate of much Merchandise: for it hath two Cities in the borders thereof, *Gauchen* and *Suchen* toward the West, (as *Machao* is in the Province of *Cantone* toward the South) from whence come numerous Caravans of above a thousand in company, of severall Nations and Provinces, but for the most part Moores, Thus far came Brother *Benedict*. Goes to seek for the Kingdom of *Cathaya* (which is no other than *China* it selfe) whose voyage we will here breefly relate,

He departed in lent, the year 1603 for to find out the truth of what