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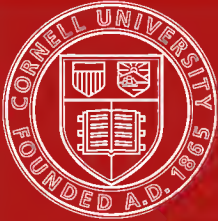
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— MAP —

AND

SHORT DESCRIPTION

OF

TIENTSIN

BY

NOAH FIELDS DRAKE.

1900.

Asia

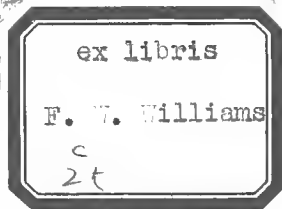
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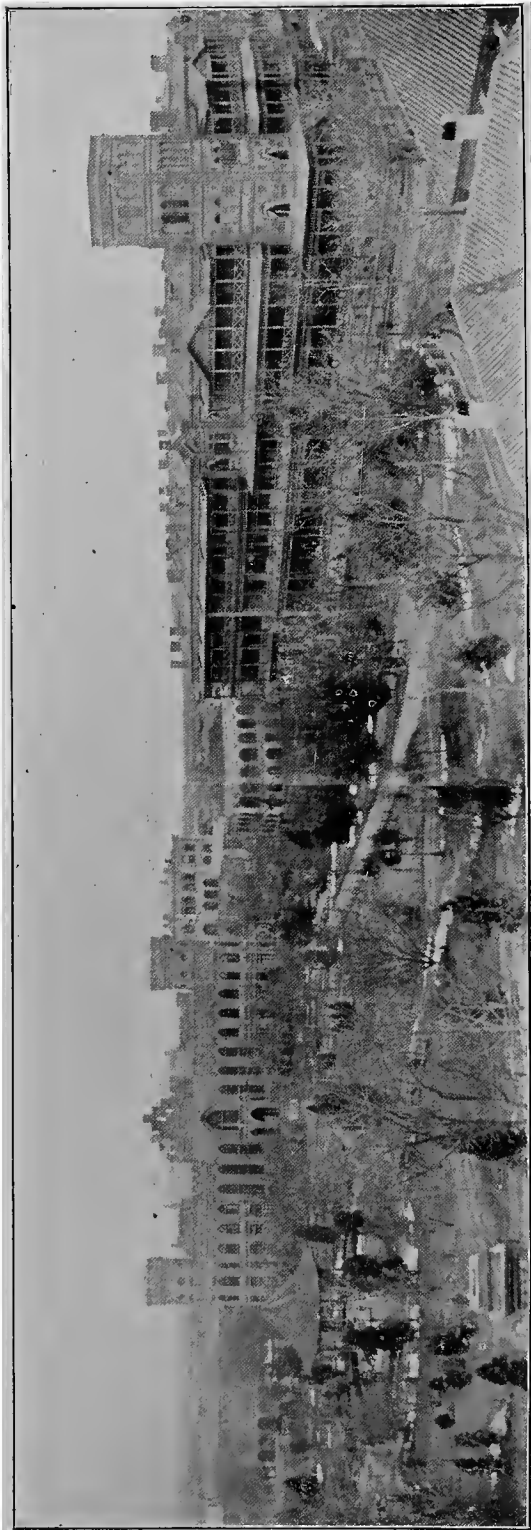
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THE
CHARLES WILLIAM WASON
COLLECTION ON CHINA
AND THE CHINESE



GORDON HALL.

VICTORIA PARK.

ASTOR HOUSE HOTEL.

Description of Tientsin.

TIENTSIN (天津 Heavenly Ford) is situated at the junction of the Pei-ho and the Yü-ho, or Grand Canal, and is about forty miles from the coast at Taku. Its latitude is 39° 4 min. N. and longitude 117° 3 min. 36 sec. E. It has a Chinese population which is usually estimated at from 600,000 to 800,000. The European-American population, while very fluctuating, may be reckoned at about 1,000 persons. The foreigners include a wide range of nationalities. British, German, American, French, Russian, and Japanese are the leading foreigners.

Both geologic conditions* and references in Chinese writings† lead us to believe that Tientsin was at one time, probably not more than 2,000 years ago, a village on the sea coast.

The system of navigable waterways branching from Tientsin, especially the Grand Canal, which was built about 1,300 years ago, made it a flourishing place at an early date. The growth of the place to political importance appears to date back to the first year of Yung-lo, Ming Dynasty (A. D. 1403), when it became a Wei or fortified post.‡ In the third year of Yung Ching (A. D. 1726) it became a Chou or sub-prefectural city, and in the ninth year of Yung Ching (A. D. 1732) it became a Fu or prefectural city, governing one Chou and six Hsien.§

* The rivers of northern China are heavily burdened with sediments, so that they are rapidly filling the shallow Gulf of Pechili. The sandstorms, so common to this part of China, bring great quantities of rock materials from the north and north-west, and assist in filling the gulf and extending the coastal plains seaward. While this method of land growth rapidly increases its areal extent, the increase in elevation is very slow. Tientsin is about forty miles away from the coast and normally only three to four feet above tide. Practically all the land in Tientsin that has been built upon has been filled from two to four feet.

† Chi Fu T'ung Chih, Vol. 2, Chapter 17, page 9.

‡ Chi Fu T'ung Chih, Vol. 11, Chapter 16, page 3. § Ibid.

Tientsin was opened to foreign commerce by the treaty of Tientsin, in 1858. Since that time its foreign trade has grown rapidly. It is now and has long been thoroughly a trading city. The commercial activity is one of the first things that attracts one's attention on coming into the settlements during the shipping season. From about the 10th of March to near the 20th of November the transferring of cargoes is the most conspicuous form of work one sees. The rivers are crowded with river boats as well as with many tugs and lighters. The boat-crowded river-ways extend throughout the native city in even a more congested form than in the foreign settlements, and give a total length of crowded river-way of ten to twelve miles. Thousands of coolies fill the passage ways along the Bund, carrying articles of commerce to and from those boats. One novel feature of the Bund in the foreign settlements is that most of the goods are stacked in open air, along the river front, until they are ready for reshipment. This gives a good opportunity to see in bulk the various articles of commerce that pass through Tientsin. In the native trade, salt is and has long been the most conspicuous example. At the present time there are about 1,000,000 bags, or 50,000 tons, of salt stacked along the left bank of the Hai-ho opposite the foreign concessions.

FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS.

At present the foreign settlements consist of the British, the French, the Japanese, and the German concessions.*

* Since preparing the accompanying Map for publication, proposed concessions have been marked out for the Italians, the Austrians, the Belgians, and the Americans. The proposed Italian concession lies along the left bank of the Hai-ho and includes that part of the native city commonly called Ho-tung Yen-t'ò. The proposed Austrian concession lies immediately north of that of the Italian, and includes that part of the native city which is commonly known as Ho-tung. The proposed American concession is the small block of land lying on the right bank of the Hai-ho between the British and the German concessions. The proposed Belgian concession lies on the left bank of the Hai-ho below the proposed Russian concession and slightly outside the limits of the Map.



VIEW of TIENTSIN to the north of the north-west corner of City Wall.
MAHOMETAN MOSQUE on the right.

Those parts of the British and the French concessions that lie along the river form most of the present foreign settlements. There the land is nearly all built upon and has well kept but rather narrow macadamized streets or roads.

The most important business streets are Victoria and Taku Roads, and Rue de France.

SPORTS.

Autumn and spring races, with their training seasons at the race-course, about two miles south of the settlements, and tennis, polo, cricket, and skating, at the Recreation Grounds in the British concession, are popular forms of sport entered into by a large part of the foreign population of Tientsin.

VICTORIA PARK AND CITY HALL.

This small park is a good illustration of what care and skill can do towards beautifying the treeless, marshy, and alkaline plains about Tientsin. Its attractiveness is further increased by open air concerts given by the Public Band during the late spring and summer months, in the afternoons and evenings.

The City Hall (Gordon Hall) stands beside Victoria Park, and is a worthy monument to the energy of the handful of foreigners who built it. The hall was named in honor of General Gordon who laid out the British concession.

LIBRARIES.

Gordon Hall contains the public library, which consists of about 7,000 volumes, besides a large number of the leading magazines and journals of Europe and America.

The French Municipal building contains a small French library—books, magazines, and journals.

*SCHOOLS.**

Pel-yang University. (No. 68 on Map.)

This is a Chinese institution with foreign president and heads of departments. Mr. C. D. Tenney, an American, is president. The University has departments of civil engineering, railway school, mining engineering, mechanical engineering, and law, with good laboratories and machine shops. The department courses of studies, excluding the four years spent in the preparatory department, run from two to four years. With the exception of studies in Chinese literature all the lecturing is delivered in English. About 300 students were in regular attendance in the spring of 1900.

Medical College. (No. 63 on Map.)

This is a Chinese institution with French professors. A four years' course of studies is given. About thirty to forty students has been the average attendance.

Imperial Telegraph College.

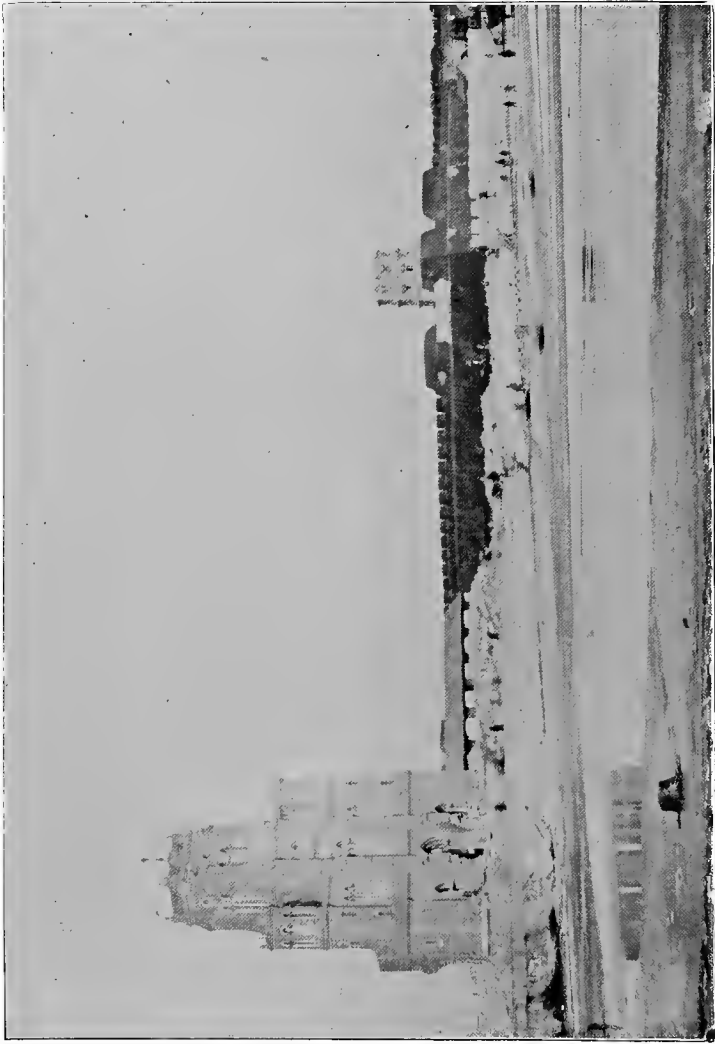
This is a Chinese institution situated in the French concession. It has from thirty to forty students.

All Saints' High School.

Situated on the Race-course Road, in the same compound as All Saints' Church and Parsonage. It is for boys and girls of European and American parentage only. The clergyman in charge of All Saints' Church has general management of the school and also takes part in teaching. The head mistress—Miss Prindiville—is assisted by three junior mistresses. Average attendance of pupils is fifty to sixty.

Besides the above named schools there are several others of more or less importance which are mainly for Chinese.

* The Imperial Naval College at the East Arsenal, about three miles east of the railway station, and the Military College in the proposed Russian concession, have been destroyed, so we shall not include them in the list of schools at Tientsin.



THE SHUI-SHIH YING, AND THE RUINS OF THE FRENCH CATHEDRAL.

CHURCHES.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (Episcopalian).—Corner of Meadows and Race-course Roads.

UNION CHURCH (Protestant).—Gordon Road, opposite south-east corner of the Recreation Grounds.

ST. LOUIS' CHURCH (Roman Catholic).—Fei-tung Road.

Besides these there are other chapels used mainly for the Chinese.

HOTELS.

Astor House Hotel.—This hotel, situated on Victoria Road opposite Victoria Park, is the leading hotel in Tientsin, and contains fifty-six guest rooms, besides parlors, dining-rooms, billiard room, etc.

Tientsin Hotel	...	...	...	...	<i>The Bund.</i>
Clarence House Hotel	...	...	...	...	<i>Rue de France.</i>
Hotel des Colonies	...	...	...	...	<i>Rue de France.</i>

BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	...	...	...	...	<i>The Bund.</i>
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	...	...	...	...	<i>Victoria Road.</i>
Deutsche Asiatische Bank	...	...	...	...	<i>The Bund.</i>
Russo-Chinese Bank	...	...	...	...	<i>Consular Road.</i>
Yokohama Specie Bank	...	...	...	...	<i>Victoria Road.</i>
Imperial Chinese Bank	...	...	...	...	<i>Victoria Road.</i>



NATIVE CITY.

Poor means of transit and lack of appreciation of public utilities has caused the present population of about 700,000 to be crowded into an area approximately three miles in length by two miles in width. With the exception of the rivers, the sewer pools, and the narrow streets that lie in this area, it is closely built upon.

The crowding of people in the streets and of boats in the rivers makes progress through it very difficult.

The style of architecture of the houses is monotonous, but novel and interesting to a new comer. Here and there a temple or an archway adds beauty and breaks the monotony.

Most of the places of interest are numbered, and their names given on the accompanying Map. Some of these places were destroyed during and after the disturbances of the past summer, and the lands on which they stood have been appropriated to other uses. This was the case with most of the military head-quarters and the city wall. Historic interest will still remain with some of these places, especially the place occupied by the city wall.

City Wall.

From Chinese records* we learn that the city wall was built in the second year of Yung Lo (A. D. 1405); that during the 496 years of its existence it several times underwent repairs and some remodeling; and that at two different times flooding of the city by overflows from the breaking of the river banks, caused large sections of the wall to fall down.

The wall, as it now stands, is about thirty feet thick and twenty-five feet high, faced on the sides with brick work four to five feet thick, and filled in the centre with earth. The top is covered with brick or lime cement. A brick parapet about five feet high is built on the outer edge of the top of the wall.

*Tien Ching Hsien Chih, Vol. 111, Chapter 7, pp. 1-2.



CITY WALL, showing the West Gate at a Distance.

Over the four gates and the four corners of the wall, two-storied buildings were constructed for lookout stations and for ornamental purposes.

The Earth Wall.

San-k'o-lin-sin, Commander of the Army Forces at Tientsin, built the Earth Wall in 1860. This wall is about thirteen miles in length, ten to twelve feet high, fifteen to thirty feet thick, and has a parapet on top, usually at the outer edge, but sometimes in the centre.

Tu-t'ung Yamên.

This was the residence and official head-quarters of the Viceroy of the province of Chihli. At present this Yamên is used as head-quarters of the Tientsin Provisional Government. The buildings consist of several "compounds," and presents nothing unusual from the ordinary substantial Chinese houses.

Shui-shih Ying, or Naval Force Camp. (No. 57 on Map.)

This was the best built fort in Tientsin, and had a large number of mounted guns. It has a good range of the foreign settlements and of the Hai-ho between the fort and settlements. During the siege of the past summer, its guns did effective work against the settlements. The ruins of the French cathedral by its side stand on the same ground as the temple which was occupied by the French as their Consulate in 1861. This ground also contained the old French cathedral, which was ~~probably~~ burned by the Chinese during the massacre in 1870. The temple or Consulate buildings were also destroyed at that time. Several French people were killed inside the buildings during the massacre. The last cathedral was early marked for destruction by the Boxers last summer and was destroyed at the first outbreak.

Lien-chün-chung Ying, or Military Middle Camp.***(No. 55 on Map.)***

The fort around this camp also had mounted guns on it, which fired on the foreign settlements. The firing, it is said, was directed from the tall tower in the next camp (Chêng Chung Ying) immediately to the north.

Hai-kuang-ssü, or Treaty Temple and West Arsenal.***(No. 23 on Map.)***

These places were set on fire by shells from the British guns during the siege last summer and most of the buildings were burned.

The temple connected with the place was of interest, because it was in that temple that the treaty of Tientsin was signed by Lord Elgin and Chinese plenipotentiaries in 1858.

Hsing-kung, or Imperial Traveling Lodge. (No. 51 on Map.)

This place was used as naval board head-quarters until 1898, when it was enlarged and prepared for the Emperor and his court when they were expected to visit Tientsin during that year. A large theatre room and an abundance of wood carvings throughout the principal rooms, are the special features of interest in the buildings. The buildings and enclosure cover a piece of land about 900 feet long by 500 feet wide.

Lung-t'ing, or Dragon Hall. (No. 30 on Map.)

This place is used for keeping tablets of the Emperors. It has two rather pretty buildings and some large stones with dragons carved on them, that are interesting pieces of work.

Ku-lou, or Drum Tower.

This is situated at the exact center of the walled city and is used to sound alarms from. The streets leading from the gates across the center of the city pass under this tower.



KU-LOU, or DRUM TOWER.

Temples.

Temples are numerous and are the most artistic buildings to be found in the city. Some families have their own temples. The list given on the Map gives the most important ones.

A visit to the T'ien-how-kung, or Temple to the Queen of Heaven, to the Yü-huang-ko, or Temple of the Emperor of Heaven; to the Mahomedan Mosque, and to the Confucian Temple, gives one a fair idea of Chinese temples, and will well repay one who has not seen such places.

The Sêng-wang-tzū, or Memorial Temple to San-ko-lin-sin, is of interest to foreigners, because he built the earth wall around Tientsin and fought against the foreigners in 1860.

Colleges.

These buildings would be practically without interest were they not Chinese educational institutions. They are simply ordinary Chinese buildings with rooms and halls somewhat larger than usual, and the furnishing consists for the most part of only wooden benches.

Charitable Institutions.

The list of charitable institutions shown on the Map includes the most important ones, and is worthy of note as showing something of the extent of the efforts of the Chinese to care for the unfortunate.

THE MAP OF TIENSIN.

The accompanying Map was made after the capture of the native city of Tientsin by the Allied Forces, and at a time when rapid changes were in progress in public institutions, in street improvements, and in the location of concessions. So that much will appear in the map of the native city which

will have only historic interest. The Tientsin Provisional Government has begun the tearing down of the city wall and will construct broad streets in its place. A street sixty feet wide has been opened northward from the north gate of the city wall to the Yü-ho. A street sixty feet wide is being constructed along the right bank of the Hai-ho from the old French Bund road to opposite the north-east corner of the city wall, where it connects with the streets to be made along the present city wall. A number of other smaller changes in the city are being made and many important changes will soon be made in the new concessions.

The names scattered about over the map of the native city are in common use in referring to those parts of the city, but sections so named have no definite boundaries.

We have used the name Hai-ho for the river below the junction of the Yü-ho, or Grand Canal, and the Pei-ho, because these names are so applied to those rivers by the Chinese.

The Map of Tientsin offers some interesting suggestions about street growth in Chinese cities. It will be seen that the city walls and river courses have been the guiding features in the linear growth of the streets. One set of streets runs approximately parallel while the other set runs nearly at right angles to the walls and to the rivers.

The width of the streets changes almost constantly and is on an average probably not over ten or twelve feet. With the linear growth of the streets there is a tendency to encroach upon their sides and make them narrower, because the land becomes more valuable and room for shops more in need.

The amount of marsh land around Tientsin varies very much with the seasons. As shown on the Map the marshes are slightly too large for the dry season, but they are much too small to represent the wet season conditions. The Map, therefore, practically represents the extent of marsh area that lasts throughout the year.

