

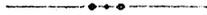
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DEATH BLOW TO CORRUPT DOCTRINES

A PLAIN STATEMENT OF FACTS

PUBLISHED BY

THE GENTRY AND PEOPLE



TRANSLATED FROM THE CHINESE

SHANGHAI:
1870.

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P R E F A C E.

THE book of which this pamphlet is a translation came into the hands of the missionaries in Teng-chow, Shantung, several months since, though it is only recently that special attention has been given to its contents. In the present juncture of affairs in China we regard it as of too much importance to be withheld from the foreign public, believing as we do that it is a remarkably truthful representation of the animus of the ruling and literary classes of China towards foreigners, and such a representation as is rarely met with. We believe also that it has been largely instrumental in giving rise to the vile and slanderous stories concerning foreign residents and native Christians which have recently spread throughout China; and that it sheds important light on the means by which the recent massacre at Tien-tsin was brought about. No mere description however full, could possibly convey any adequate idea of its vileness and deadly animosity. Moreover, it has been secretly used as a powerful engine against us, and one which in the circumstances we have no means of successfully resisting. Hence we publish it that its contents and the spirit which prompted it, may be fully known.

It may be said that the book is directed against the Roman Catholics, and that Protestant missionaries

need not concern themselves with it. It is a sufficient reply to say that although its phraseology applies primarily to Roman Catholics, it has in point of fact been used and quoted against Protestant missionaries; not only so, but in the body of the book itself, Roman Catholics and Protestants are expressly declared to be the same, [see page 49]; and it is explicitly stated that the distinction made between them in the recent treaties is a mere pretense or subterfuge, devised for the purpose of avoiding the obloquy which the previous history of that religion has brought upon itself. It is furthermore notoriously the fact that the masses of the people know no distinction. They class all Europeans together, and their religion they regard as one. Practically then, and in the intent of the author, the book is an attack on Christianity and Christian nations at large. It is for the most part a compilation from other works, and a portion of it was written against the Jesuits as long ago as the 17th century, at which time it was answered by them. The author with great pains and no little research, has collected every false and slanderous charge within his reach which would suit his purpose, and without intimating that they have been disproved, or answered, or suppressed by imperial edict, reproduces and reiterates them in the ears of the present generation, with all the confidence of truth, and makes them the occasion of a fresh appeal to the people to rise against foreigners, and exterminate them.

We are aware that serious objections may be urged against publishing in English a book so full of obscenity, but at the present crisis, when a true insight into the Chinese mind is essential in order to the

proper adjustment of the relations between this nation and foreign countries, these objections seem to us to be outweighed by the advantage of having so direct and reliable a means of ascertaining the dispositions and plans of the Chinese as is afforded by a truthful translation of a book of their own in which their views of foreigners are, as it were, photographed. It is not an ordinary obscene book, nor are its obscenities their own end. They have a subtle aim. It is to connect with the very idea of a foreigner, associations the lowest and most repulsive. For this reason, its obscenity constitutes one of its most dangerous features, and to appreciate this it must be read. It is certainly not a book to be left on centre tables, yet it has its place and its use. It is part of the literature of the present controversy between China and the outside world.

It may seem to some that in a book so full of exaggerations, misrepresentations, and wholesale falsehoods, its excesses are its own refutation. But the author doubtless understood his readers better than we do. He knew their extreme ignorance of every thing relating to foreigners, and with what ready credulity they drink in such stories as those here presented. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who know the Chinese, that nearly all who read this book will believe it.

As to its circulation in places remote from the sea-coast, we have had no means of gaining accurate information. We know certainly of its circulation in three districts and two departmental cities, and we have reason to believe that it has been extensively distributed throughout the north of China. At Laichow fu the book is well known and it is currently reported that copies were given by the magistrate to the petty