

## Preface

♦HE following pages are designed to present a view of China and the Chinese from the stand-point of industrial development as it exists at present and along the lines it is likely to follow in the future. Such phases of the Chinese question as the missionary problems, and the causes and treatment of the recent political disturbance, are left entirely to be dealt with by others, as, likewise, are all matters of government, internal and foreign politics, and personal or national characteristics, except in so far as they may come within the subject scope. the years 1898 and 1899 the author was in China, under retainer of an American syndicate to examine, survey, and report on an extensive railway enterprise, and the duties connected with his professional work placed him in an exceptional position to study and observe this interesting country and its people from a quite different point of view from that taken by other writers. The journey made in the course of the survey had a special interest, in that it traversed Hu-nan, that province of China of which the least was known, and presented the opportunity, successfully availed of, to obtain an entrance to, and an



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Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-05276-4 - An American Engineer in China William Barclay Parsons Excerpt More information

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official recognition in, Chang-sha, the one large city in China which hitherto had been closed to foreigners. The author was accompanied by a corps of engineers, consisting of Mr. R. C. Hunt, Chief of Staff, and Messrs. A. E. Coulter, H. B. Magor, W. K. Brice, and W. S. K. Wetmore-to whom were added Mr. Charles Denby, Jr., as interpreter and manager, and Dr. R. B. Jellison as physician. Shêng Ta-jen, Director-General of Imperial Chinese Railways, kindly attached to the party Mr. W. W. Rich, his consulting engineer, and Woo Yung-fo, and Lo Kwok-shui, two of his secretaries. The two last mentioned gentlemen had been educated in the United States, the latter as an engineer. They both had been recalled in the midst of their collegiate studies, and subsequently Mr. Woo entered the Chinese navy, where he served as flag-lieutenant to Captain Lang, R.N., at that time acting as Chinese Admiral. When Admiral Ting succeeded Captain Lang, Mr. Woo was transferred to the former's staff, and stood at the side of his chief in the conning tower of the flag-ship in the famous battle of the Ya-lu in the Japanese War.

The journey was not without its rough as well as its interesting side, and was one of some considerable personal risk. The party was accompanied by a large force of Chinese soldiers for



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protection, Chinese officials to indicate its character, and a body of coolies acting as porters, for all stores had to be carried. Provisions, except eggs, fish, and fresh meat, were purchased before starting in sufficient quantity to maintain the party in the field for some months. The articles mentioned above were obtained without trouble, and usually as presents from the local officials, the meats consisting of buffalo, sheep, goat, deer, wild ducks and chicken.

The author desires to take this opportunity to express his sense of personal obligation to Their Excellencies: Sheng, the Director-General of Railways and Telegraphs, with whom the author was necessarily brought into close contact; Chang Chih-tung, the great central Viceroy, through whose territory the survey was made; and Wu Ting-fang, China's able representative in Washington; to Mr. Conger, the United States Minister at Peking, the latter particularly for such personal aid as his official position permitted; and to Mr. John Goodnow, United States Consul-General at Shanghai.

Part of the matter contained in this volume has previously appeared in *McClure's* and *Engineering Magazines* and *Harper's Weekly*, and is republished through the courtesy of the respective editors,



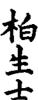
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Cambridge University Press 978-1-108-05276-4 - An American Engineer in China William Barclay Parsons Excerpt More information

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although now entirely rewritten and enlarged. All the illustrations are from photographs actually taken on the expedition, and for the most part represent Chinese life as it exists in the interior of the Empire.

NEW YORK, November, 1900.





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Since the publication of this volume the following facts regarding the Chinese officials shown in the picture on page 28 have come to light.

Hsü Yungi was beheaded by order of the Empress during the siege of Pekin.

Wang Wen-shao died from exposure during the flight of the Imperial party.

Chao Shu-chiao is one of the officials whom Minister Conger thinks should be beheaded.

Yü Keng has recently been appointed Chinese Minister to France and is now in Paris

WILLIAM BARCLAY PARSONS.