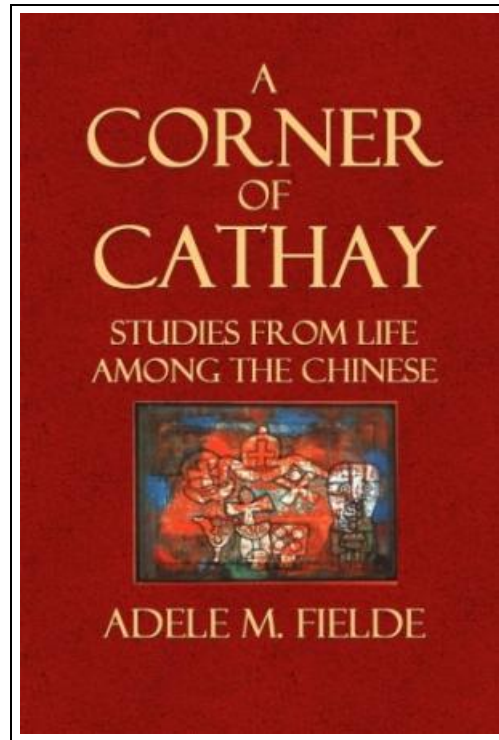


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A CORNER OF CATHAY: STUDIES FROM LIFE AMONG THE CHINESE



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.A Corner of Cathay: Studies from Life Among the Chinese is a chatty book giving the experiences of the author among the people of Southern China in the neighborhood of Swatow. Like everyone else who has lived in the interior of the country, Miss Fielde entertains a profound admiration for the industry and frugality of the people, and an equally deep abhorrence of the way that justice is administered. Her chapter on legal processes is instructive reading for those who are under the impression that the Chinese Government possesses the right to be called civilized. She describes faithfully the various preliminary processes, legal and illegal, through which a plaint has to pass before it is adjudicated upon: - The amount of money given to the underlings of the court determines the speed with which the complaint reaches the hands of the magistrate; and then, if there be no personal gain in the case, the magistrate gives the plea no attention, plaintiffs being many, and lucrative business pressing. A common method of extortion practiced by the underlings charged with a summons is thus described: - The family usually flees at the appearance of the constables, and the latter smash dishes and break furniture until some responsible negotiator presents himself a bribe and a breakfast is offered, but the harpies are not easily appeased. They bluster, poke holes with their staves in the tile roofing, batter the iron pans, dislocate the tables, and threaten arrest, until a sum of money, as large as the afflicted family can, by begging, borrowing, and pawning, scrape together, is handed over to them. Meanwhile, they are invited to smoke opium; a fowl is caught...



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