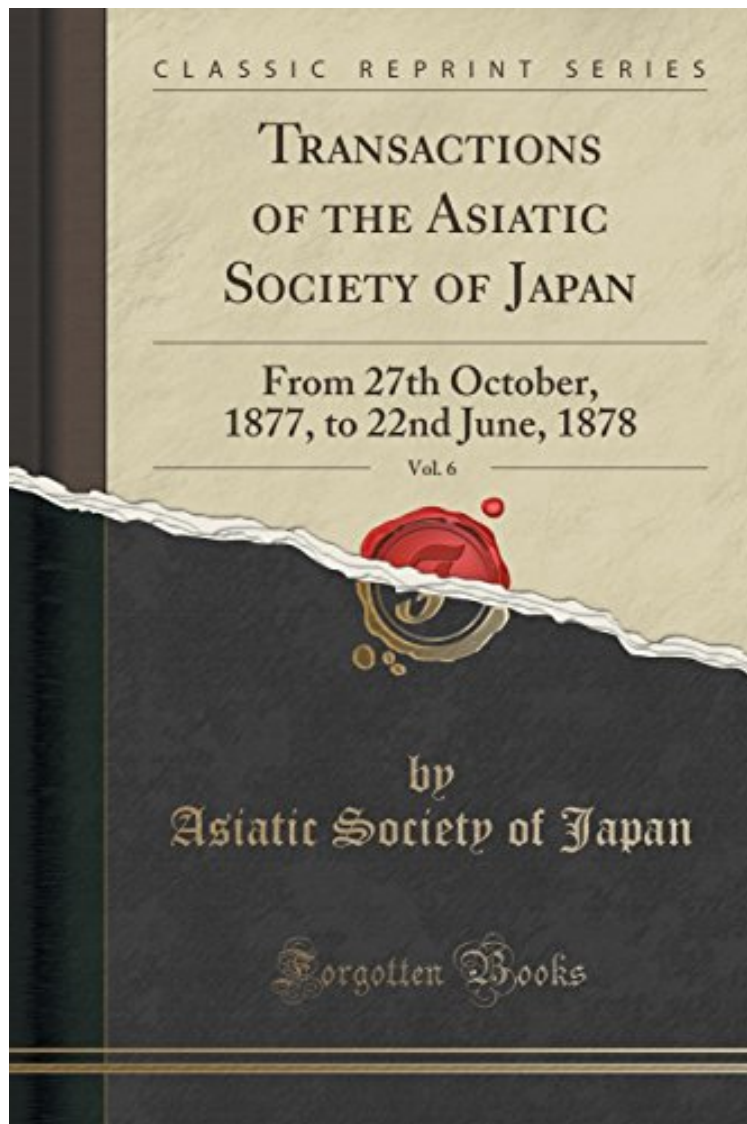


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Excerpt from Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Vol. 6: From 27th October, 1877, to 22nd June, 1878
Singanfu, to the inscription on which we are indebted for so much information. From this inscription - a fac simile of which is given in an old book on China written by a missionary named Kirchere, - we learn that in the 6th, 7th and 8th centuries missionaries were successively sent to China by the Nestorian Church in Armenia, and that their efforts towards the conversion of the Chinese were attended with considerable success. Christian communities were founded in numerous places with ramifications extending throughout the Empire. The Nestorians appear to have carried on their operations uninterruptedly, until they met with a fierce persecution at the hands of Genghis Khan, from which time they rapidly dwindled away in numbers, and disappeared with the downfall of the Mongol Dynasty in a.d. 1369. During the last century of their residence in China, the Nestorians were joined by missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1246 Carpina was sent on a mission to the Tartars of Mongolia by Pope Innocent IV, and he was followed a few years later by another papal legate named Buhrah, who was sent on a similar special mission. The first Roman Catholic missionary to settle in China was Jean de Corvin, a Monk of the order of Minorites. Owing to the jealousy and Opposition of the Nestorians, who according to one authority cited by Le Huc numbered about some years elapsed before he succeeded in establishing any footing in the country. At length in 1307 he succeeded so far as to be appointed Archbishop by Pope Clement V, who detached several other monks to assist him in his mission. According to Le Huc, Corvin, at his death in 1330, left behind him a flourishing Christian community. Be this as it may, its vitality was small, for forty years later no trace of it was left. Williams, in his History of China, is of opinion that the Roman Catholic missionaries, like the Nestorians, were concentrated chiefly round the Mongol Court, on which they relied for protection, and that they shared the fate of their patrons on the overthrow of that dynasty. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works."