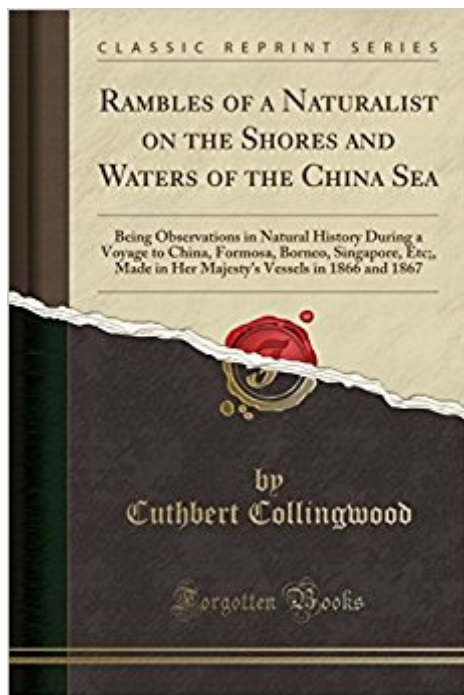


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The circumstances under which the voyage here recorded was undertaken need not be fully entered into. Suffice it to say, that, actuated solely by a desire of increasing my own information, and the hope of, in some measure, advancing science, I was induced to seize an opportunity which seemed to present itself of fulfilling what had always been an object of my ambition. The pleasure I have myself derived from it has entirely overshadowed the vexations and drawbacks to which I have been subjected in its fulfilment. That I have met with disappointment and discouragement from those to whom I had most right to look for support and co-operation, is a circumstance which, although it greatly limited and curtailed my operations, is entirely forgotten in the delight of having visited Nature in her deepest recesses, and viewed her in her grandest aspects.

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Book Information

Paperback: 472 pages

Publisher: Forgotten Books (February 9, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1331966221

ISBN-13: 978-1331966227

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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