

THE  
MISSION  
TO  
SIAM, AND HUÉ  
THE  
CAPITAL OF COCHIN CHINA,  
IN  
THE YEARS 1821—2.

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FROM THE JOURNAL OF  
THE LATE GEORGE FINLAYSON, Esq.  
ASSISTANT SURGEON OF THE NAVAL FORCE  
OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY,  
SURGEON AND NATURALIST TO THE MISSION.

WITH A  
MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR,  
BY  
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extensive forests, and fertile vallies and plains. The passage thence to Cambodia is of short distance, a ridge of mountains dividing the two countries. It possesses a good and convenient harbour, well protected by numerous beautiful islands in front. The river is obstructed in a great measure at its mouth, but affords convenient and safe navigation to small vessels and boats. It once possessed an extensive and profitable commerce, which has been upon the decline since the place fell into the hands of the Siamese. The produce of the country is annually removed to Bangkok, and the commerce with foreign ships is prohibited.

The principal productions are pepper, the cultivation of which may be increased almost to an unlimited extent, benzoin, lac, ivory, agila wood, rhinoceros' horns, hides of cows, buffaloes, deer, &c., gamboge, some cardamoms, and precious stones, the latter of inferior quality. The forests abound in excellent timber, and afford the best materials for ship-building: accordingly, many junks are built at this place. Many of the islands in front of the port, and particularly that called Bangga-cha, produce abundance of precious stones. The island Sama-ra-yat, to the east of the harbour, is said to produce gold. In the former of these islands, there is a safe and convenient harbour,

self; the general import was as follows: that Mr. Crawford had brought a letter for the king, which, being in the English language, they could not understand; but that having a Chinese interpreter with him, they understood through the latter that the object of the letter was to obtain for the English commercial intercourse with Cochin China; that Mr. Crawford had offered, on the part of the Governor General, 500 muskets and two chandeliers. The English should be permitted to trade on the same conditions as the Chinese, Portuguese, and French nations. The King sent as a present to the Governor General, a few cattles of cinnamon of the first quality, some of inferior quality, some agila wood, two rhinoceros' horns, elephants' teeth, and a few peculs of sugar-candy. The Agent of the Governor General had been presented with some agila wood, two elephants' teeth, and the horn of a rhinoceros. Such was the subject of the letter.

Mr. Crawford now expressed his satisfaction at the hospitality and kind treatment we had experienced since our arrival, as well as with the manner in which the objects of the mission had been conducted; that he had no doubt, the more the two nations were acquainted with each other, the better friends they would become; that he should accept of the presents which the King