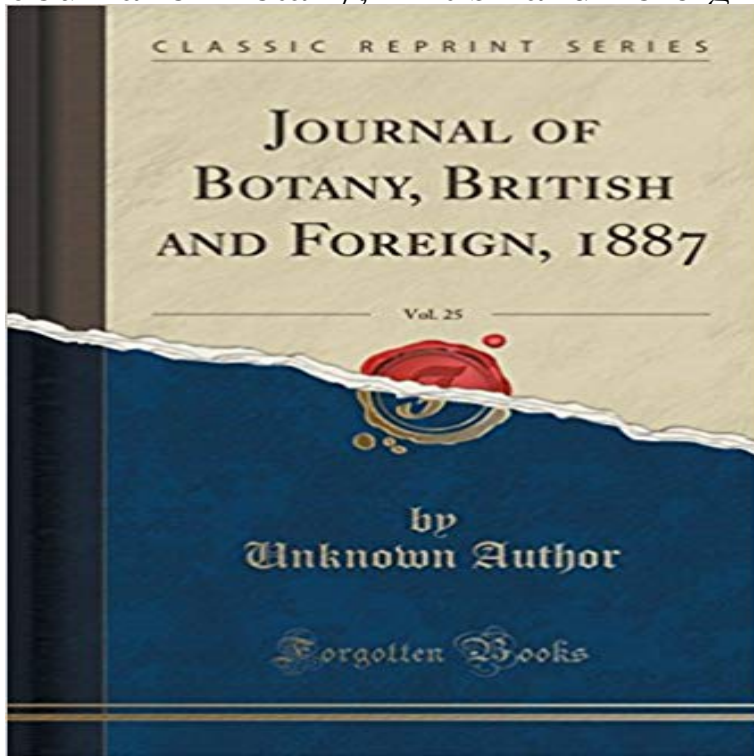


## Journal of Botany, British and Foreign, 1887, Vol. 25 (Classic Reprint)



Excerpt from Journal of Botany, British and Foreign, 1887, Vol. 25 Whenever his training was received, it resulted in making him a polished Latinist and a facile writer of French, while his knowledge of German certainly influenced his tone of scientific thought in after years. On the 1st of September, 1844, when he was seventeen years of age, he entered the civil service of Hongkong, on the nomination of Sir John Davis, Governor of that colony. In rather less than ten years he was transferred to the Superintendency of trade in China, under the control of the foreign office, taking his place as 4th assistant on May 1st, 1854. As his friend sir Thomas Wade writes: - His position was slightly, his prospects very much, improved by the transfer, which he owed to the recommendation of Sir John Bowring, who was always ready to bring forward any man connected with science or literature. At the time of the disturbance arising from the attack on the lorcha Arrow, which led to the second war with China, he was attached to the Canton consulate as senior assistant under the late Sir Harry (then Mr.) Parkes, and, in the words of Sir Thomas Wade, right well he worked during the exciting period of the commencement of hostilities. In December, 1856, after the burning of the foreign factories at Canton, which cost him a serious loss of property, including books and botanical collections, he left for Hongkong. There he became senior assistance in the superintendency, with the care of the archives, his experience in the work of this department securing him an appointment which he himself had in no way solicited. In May, 1859, when the superintendency was broken up by the establishment of H. M.s legation in China, Dr. Hance found, to his regret, that he had to go back to his post as senior assistant at Canton; but on March 26th, 1861, he was made vice-consul at Whampoa, a post about twelve miles further down the river.

This position he held continuously for seventeen years, until the departure of the late Sir Brooke Robertson for home, when he took charge of the Canton Consulate from March, 1878, till November, 1879. In 1881 he was again acting consul at Canton from August to December, and he held the same appointment for a third time during Mr. Consul Hewletts absence on sick leave from July 14th, 1883, till May 31st, 1885. In September, 1883, serious riots occurred at Canton, and for some hours the English settlement on Shameen lay at the mercy of a Chinese mob. During this crisis, although some people thought that Dr. Hance might have assumed a stronger attitude, the general feeling was that he had exhibited no lack of those qualities which should distinguish a British official. Naturally, throughout this troubled period, his scientific work had to be suspended, and in January, 1884, he wrote me: - Amidst the constant worry and anxiety of my daily life, I have been unable, except for a spare half-hour or so, to do anything at all botanically; but I hope, rather than expect, in a more or less proximate future, to get a little more time. I quite gave up library and herbarium at the time of the irruption on Shameen! About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://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.

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