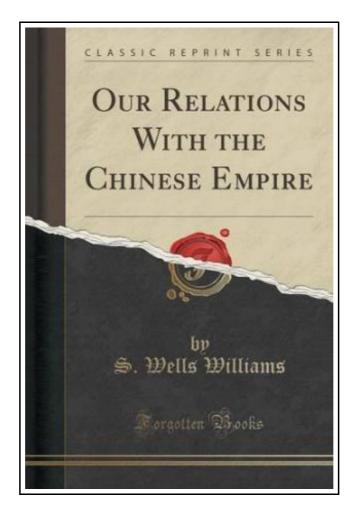
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Our Relations With the Chinese Empire In 1839, before hostilities had actually commenced with the British, in consequence of his seizure of opium, Commissioner Lin found that the Americans had this reputation at Canton, and he endeavored to enlist them on his side in his efforts to suppress it. On one occasion, he sent a special agent to Macao, to request Rev. Mr. Bridgman, the American missionary, to come to him, supposing that he might have some influence in this direction. An interview was held, and although Lin was disappointed in his plan of intermediation, he learned many new ideas concerning the impending struggle, and the relative power of his own country and Great Britain, as well as the inefficiency of his attempt to prevent it. It was the first effort on the part of any Chinese official to open political relations with the Americans, and was in itself a tacit acknowledgment of the reputation which Mr. Bridgman had obtained among the people during his ten years residence at Canton. At that time, the American trade was second in value to the British. The Chinese Government sincerely desired to stop only the opium trade and develop all other branches; but the British Government, ruled as it is by the shortsighted selfishness of trade, refused to cooperate in this despairing effort to restrain an evil of which its victims knew the effects better than their destroyers. England then lost a golden opportunity to elevate moral above mercenary motives in the eyes of a heathen people, which she has never recovered. She showed no desire to stay the destroying agency so profitable to herself. The proposal of...



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