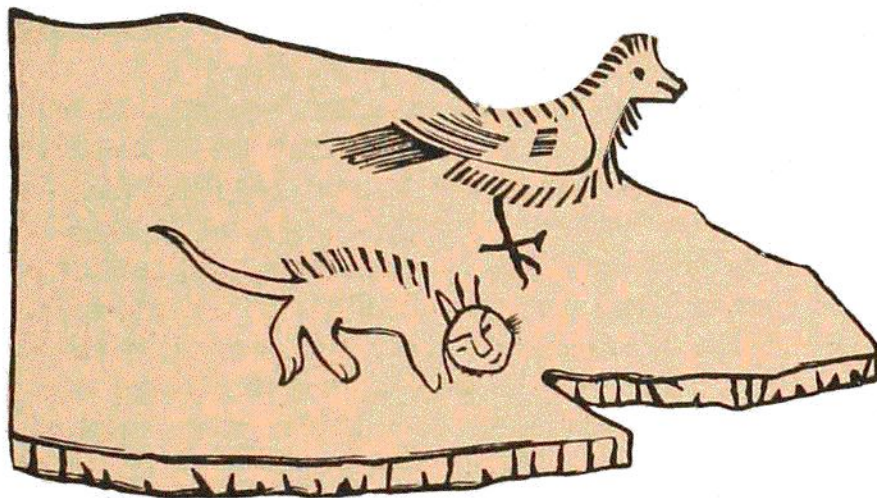


hole with it. The description of the figures at the margin runs: "The Bird and the Rat live together in the same hole. They come from the mountain of the tailed rats and birds in Wai Une, where they may still be seen."

Professor Legge has pointed out to me a reference in "The Chinese Classics" to the mountain called the Neauou-shoou-tung-heüe, or that of the Bird and the Rat in the same hole; and to a note of his on the subject.* The name of the mountain in "The Classics" certainly dates back as far as 2300 B.C.

No doubt the Rat is the Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mongolicus*), and the bird must be an Owl, which is associated with it, just as is the small Ground Owl *Speotyto cunicularia* of America with the Prairie Dog and also the Ground Squirrel of California, in the holes of which, as familiarly known, it lives.



THE BIRD AND THE RAT LIVING TOGETHER IN THE SAME HOLE.

The genus *Speotyto* is, however, peculiar, as far as is known, to America and the West Indies; and the fact that an Owl lives in the holes of the Asiatic Ground Squirrel is not known to naturalists. Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, however, tells me that a small owl, *Carine plumipes*, exists in Northern China, which lives in holes in the ground. Possibly this bird has developed the same curious habit of association with a Rodent as the American Ground Owl. If so, the fact is very remarkable.†

Meangis Islands, February 10th, 1875.—The ship left Hong Kong on January 6th, 1875, and after visiting various ports in the Philippine Group as already noted, lay on February 10th

* Rev. James Legge, D.D., etc. "The Chinese Classics," Vol. III., Pt. III., p. 140. London, Trübner, 1865.

† An account of Chinese Zoology is given in the "Preussischer Expedition nach Ostasien," Zoologie, Bd. I. s. 169, "Ueber die Thierkunde der Chinesen und unsere Kenntniss chinesischer Thiere."