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A collection of Chinese proverbs /



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A COLLECTION OF

CHINESE PROVERBS

TRANSLATED AND ARRANGED

BY

WILLIAM SCARBOROUGH,

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY, HANKOW.

With an Introduction, Notes, and Copious Index.

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P R E F A C E .

This Collection of Chinese Proverbs owes its publication to the belief that there is room for a work of the kind, and that such a work can hardly fail to be both useful and interesting. That the ground is almost unoccupied is easily shown. As far as I can learn, the small compilation of "Chinese Moral Maxims" by Sir J. F. Davis, containing only 200 examples, published in 1823, and now for a long time out of print; and the 441 examples contained in the "Proverbes Chinois" by P. Perny M. A., published in 1869, are the only books that have ever appeared on the subject. Add to these a number of scattered lists, and especially those to be found in Mr. Doolittle's "Hand-book of the Chinese Language," and we have all the previous literature of this subject under our notice.

The probable usefulness of such a book as this I gather partly from my own experience, and partly from the observations of many others. A knowledge of their proverbs is of great value to all who are brought into contact with the Chinese; it is especially so to the Missionary in preaching to them; and even to the general reader, a translation, however imperfect, cannot be without its use and interest. In order that the present compilation may prove useful to those who desire to study both the language and the people of this great empire, I have spared no pains in its preparation; and I feel assured that any faults which may be discovered therein; are not the result of over haste, or carelessness.

It would have been easy to have doubled the size of this compilation, but I have deemed it wiser to publish only a part of the proverbs in my possession. In doing so the reader's convenience has been consulted; and it is hoped that this collection will be found large enough for all practical purposes. In writing out the sounds of the Chinese characters I have adopted Mr. Wade's system of orthography and tones, being under the impression that that is the one at present most widely known, and most generally admired.

In regard to the translations, it may be remarked that in a few cases the vulgarity of the proverb has not allowed of a literal rendering; and that in many others I have refrained from translating the Chinese by an equivalent English proverb, thinking that a literal translation must be more interesting, while at the same time it could not fail to call up to the reader's mind English, French, or other equivalents. It will be observed that most of the chapters begin with a number of rhymed translations. As a principle, I think it right that proverbs rhyming in the original should do so in translation; hence I have endeavoured so to translate all such as rhymed to my ear in the Hankow dialect. The task has been anything but easy, and my attempts at versification may be rough and faulty, but I hope they will not be found unendurable.

The Classification of proverbs is, confessedly, a most difficult undertaking; but, considering the care bestowed thereon, I venture to hope that this compilation will be found tolerably convenient and satisfactory as a book of reference. In making this selection of proverbs, it was not thought fair to exclude altogether

the vulgar and immoral. A few of these are admitted—veiled under free translations—as the representatives of a class, which, so far as my experience goes, is not a very large one. Classical proverbial sayings are omitted, since they are well known to be quotations from the standard works.

My most sincere thanks are due to Messrs. A. Wylie and W. Warrick, for their kindness in reading the greater part of the proofs. Other gentlemen have aided and encouraged me in different ways, and to them also this expression of my gratitude is due,

W. S.

HANKOW. MAY 8th 1875.



INTRODUCTION.

Proverbial Philosophy, if genuine, commands the suffrages of all nations. By common consent Asia is acknowledged to be the soil in which it grows to most perfection ; and of all Asiatic countries, perhaps China above all others supports and justifies the general opinion. Even a slight acquaintance with the language and people of this country is enough to convince any one of its richness in the maxims of proverbial wisdom. And the closer one's acquaintance becomes, the higher grows our estimate of the value of an extensive knowledge of this branch of native literature. By some, mere lists of proverbs may be treated with contempt, and knowledge of proverbial lore esteemed a light thing in comparison with skill in other branches of philology ; but the man does not deserve to become proverbial for his philosophy, who can in any way discountenance the study of the folk-lore of an empire like that of China. The proverbs of China deserve a careful and enthusiastic study.

Naturally enough, the Reader will here expect to find some definition of the subject of this essay. Definitions of proverbs in general have not been attended with very great success ; certainly they have not been very unanimous. Ray defines a proverb to be,—“ a short sentence or phrase in common use, containing some trope, figure, homonymy, rhyme, or other novelty of expression.” According to Bohn, a proverb is “ an instructive sentence, or common and pithy saying,” The Imperial Dictionary defines a

proverb as “a short and pithy sentence often repeated, expressing a well known truth or common fact, ascertained by experience or observation.” There are few who are not familiar with Lord John Russell’s definition—“The wisdom of many, and the wit of one.” And there are fewer who will not be glad to be reminded of Tennyson’s.—

.....“Jewels five-words long,
That, on the stretch’d fore-finger of all Time,
Sparkle for ever.”

None of these definitions can be accepted as accurate, or nearly accurate, descriptions of that which the Chinese themselves call 俗話 *Su-hua*, or a Common Saying. A Chinese proverb is something almost, if not utterly, indefinable. Of course it bears, in several features, a strong likeness to other branches of the family in various countries; but, of “that sententious brevity,” which is said to “constitute the principal beauty of a proverb”—of that brevity without obscurity, which is said to be the very soul of a proverb, it is often totally lacking. Other features it has which are peculiarly its own, and which impart to it a terseness, beauty, and symmetry, inimitable, at least in the English language.

In order that we may discuss the subject of Chinese Proverbs with some degree of completeness, let us direct our attention to their Number, Sources, Form, Qualities, and Uses.

I.—NUMBER.

The number of Chinese proverbs is certainly very great. In proof of this it is only needful to point to the frequent recurrence of them in the conversation of the people. No matter what may be the topic of conversation, a proverb suitable to the occasion is very likely

to be forthcoming. Further proof of this is found in the readiness with which almost any educated man can write off long lists of proverbs from memory. And still further proof is afforded by the great number to be found in native books. In his "Curiosities of Literature," Disraeli assigns to the whole of Europe 20,000 proverbs: China could probably furnish an equal number.

Nor should we look upon the great number and frequent recurrence of such maxims as matter of surprise; for, there is some thing in the humorous and cynical nature of proverbs, certain to recommend them strongly to such a people as the Chinese. Besides, they are a people glad to be saved the trouble of thinking for themselves, and therefore predisposed to adopt the maxims of others who have, by common consent, been esteemed wise men. Moreover, the writings of Confucius, *Facile princeps* of China's sages, contain very much of that brevity and sententiousness characteristic of proverbs in general. And there can be little doubt that, of all language, the Chinese is best adapted to such kind of speech.* Its marvellous flexibility enables it to take any mould the whim of man or custom may suggest; its remarkable copiousness affords an almost unlimited scope in the selection of words, its extreme conciseness fits it to express the greatest number of ideas in the fewest possible symbols; whilst the peculiar construction of its written characters gives it a power of playing upon words altogether unparalleled.†

* See M. Julien's "Syntaxe nouvelle de la Langue Chinoise," p. 2, Max Müller's "Lectures on the science of language, pp. 120, 322.

† For a good instance of this, see the proverb number 2720—too long for insertion in this place.

II.—SOURCE

The Foreign sources of Chinese proverbs have been, up to this time, somewhat meagre. The subject could not fail to attract the attention, and to excite the interest, of those Foreign sinologues who have written on China; hence very few books have appeared, either on the language or people, which have not contained some reference to it, and a specimen list of proverbs. Beyond these numerous lists in which the same examples are repeated again and again, there have only, to my knowledge, appeared two small works exclusively on this subject, namely, those of Sir. John. F. Davis and P. Perny. The "Vocabulary and Handbook of the Chinese Language," published in 1872, by the Rev. Justus Doolittle, contains by far the greatest number of proverbs ever before translated into English or any other Western language. They were supplied by various paræmiographers, and printed, unfortunately, with little or no attempt at classification or arrangement.

Turning to Native sources we find almost the same meagreness. The proverbial lore of China remains yet to be written. Of the vast mass of proverbs in existence, only very few, comparatively, have been reduced to writing and printed in books. A few collections are to be found, and many specimens to be met with scattered over various works; but no book of any size has been compiled on this subject. The reason of this is, probably, the low esteem in which the literati are accustomed to hold all such publications. One of the best and most popular books of this class is the *Chien-pên-hsien-wên* (鑑本賢文), 'A Book of Selected Virtuous Lore'—otherwise, and

more commonly called the *Tséng-kuang* (增廣), or 'Great Collection.' Notwithstanding this latter title it is only a small book of 22 pages, containing about 350 proverbs. Its date and authorship are alike unknown. The book itself is known to almost every one, and if we may judge from a proverb which says that—"Who ever has read the *Tséng-kuang* is able to converse*"—it is duly appreciated.

Another collection of proverbs, or as Sir John Davis calls it, "a dictionary of quotations," is the *Ming-hsin-pao-chien* (明心寶鑑), "A Precious Mirror to throw light on the mind." This work, not nearly so colloquial as the preceding one, is held in higher esteem by native scholars. It contains about 430 proverbs, arranged in 20 chapters; the compiler's name, however, is withheld, and nothing can be learned respecting its origin.

Many proverbs are found scattered throughout the *Yü-hsio* (幼學), or "Youths' Instructor," an encyclopedia in four volumes, divided into 33 chapters, containing much useful and interesting matter. Beginning with a chapter on Creation and Astronomy, it runs through almost every imaginable subject, stopping with a chapter on Flowers and Trees.

A great number of very excellent proverbs may be found in the *Chieh-jên-i* (解人頤), a work in two volumes, divided into eight sections, by 'Hu Tan An. It has been published some time during the present dynasty, and the latest edition is dated 1859. It is a compilation in prose and verse of many interesting things on domestic duties, morals, and manners.

The *Chia-pao-ch'üan-chi* (家寶全集), or 'Complete Collection of Family Treasures', is a book out of

* See proverb number 507.

which many proverbs may be gathered. It is a work in 32 volumes, divided into four collections: the first collection treats of the fundamentals of Happiness and longevity; the second, of self-government and the government of a family; the third, of stirring men up to intelligence; and the fourth, of harmonious dispositions. The author of this highly esteemed work is *Shih T'ien-chi* (石天基), who published it in the 46th year of the reign of Kanghi, A. D. 1707.

The amplification of the *Shêng-yü* (聖諭), or "Sacred Edict," as well as the *Kan-ying p'ien* (感應篇), or "Book of Rewards and Punishments," supplies several useful examples. The same may be said of the well-known tractate of *Chu Pai-lu* (朱柏廬), called *Chu-tzū-chia-yen* (朱子家言), or 'The Household Rules of the Philosopher Chu.' But when all the native literature on the subject has been gathered together, it still remains certain that the bulk of the proverbs current in the land, exist only in the memories, and on the lips of the population.

III.—FORM.

Nothing will sooner strike one who examines a number of Chinese proverbs than the fact of their extreme diversity of form. It may seem, at first, as though there were no rules shaping them after any models whatever. But, just as to the eye of a skilful botanist, the promiscuous growths on the sides of a shady stream fall into ranks and classes, so to one who examines these proverbs with a little care, they will be seen to class themselves together, until, out of what seemed a perfect chaos, several orders arise.

The first and greatest law evident in the formation of Chinese proverbs is that of Parallelism. Great

numbers of them take the form of Couplets. This may be accounted for by the facts that couplet making is a favourite amusement of the educated classes, and that couplets, when well turned, are objects of their intense admiration.

Of these Couplet-proverbs there are three kinds. The first and most important of these is the *tui-tzŭ* (對子), or Antithetical Couplet. This is formed according to strictly technical rules. A *tui-tzŭ* may contain any number of words, but the most frequent number is seven in each line. It must be so written that the order of the Tones in the first line shall be, *firstly* deflected, *secondly* even, and *thirdly* deflected; in the second line, *firstly* even, *secondly* deflected, and *thirdly* even; or *vice versa*. Should the first, third, or fifth characters violate this rule, it is of no consequence; the second, fourth, and sixth cannot be allowed to do so. It is essential also that the last character in the first line should be in a deflected tone, and the last in the second line in an even tone. The same characters may not be repeated in either line; and it is essential that there be an antithesis, as well in the sense as in the tones, of the words composing the two lines of the couplet. It is also a rule that particles must be placed in antithesis to particles; and nouns, verbs, etc., to nouns, verbs, etc. The following example will be found to illustrate all these particulars.*

天	上	衆	星	皆	拱	北
T'ien ¹	shang ⁴	chung ⁴	hsing ¹	chieh ¹	kung ³	pei ³ ;
世	間	無	水	不	朝	東
Shih ⁴	chien ¹	wu ²	shui ³	pu ⁴	ch'ao ²	tung ¹

* That this description may become more intelligible to any reader unacquainted with the Chinese language, I may observe that the *even* tones are those numbered one and two, the *deflected* tones are those numbered three and four.

"All the stars of heaven salute the north; every stream flows towards the east:" i. e. The Emperor is the centre of attraction.

How highly the Chinese themselves prize these *tui-tzū* may be gathered from the following story. Formerly an Imperial Examiner from Peking, surnamed *Shé* (snake), seeing the haughty inscription over one of the entrances to the examination hall at Wuchang—"Only the men of *Hu-quang* possess talent,"—resented the statement, declaring that he would issue one line of a *tui-tzū* to which no *Hu-quang* man could write a reply. Accordingly he put forth his riddle in the following line:—

七鴨浮江數數三雙一隻

"Seven ducks floating on the *Chiang*; reckon as you will are only three couples and one." On his return to Peking he mentioned this circumstance to *Hsiung Tzū-kang* (熊子剛), an officer in the capital, who happened to be a *Hu-quang* man. Said he, "there are no men of talent in *Hu-quang*; I put out a couplet line to which nobody could reply." "Indeed," said *Hsiung Tzū-kang*, "what was it you gave them?" On hearing the line given above, he guilefully replied, "I have heard that a response has been written." Thereupon he repeated to the astonished Examiner his own impromptu line, as follows:—

尺蛇出洞量量九寸十分

A "*Snake* a foot long comes out of its hole: measure as you will it is only 11 inches and 8 eighths long." So the *Hu-quang* man got the best of the joke, and at the same time vindicated his fellow provincials from the charge of stupidity.

After the *tui-tzū*, the next class of couplet-pro-

verbs to be mentioned is one which the Chinese call *lien-chü* (聯句), or Connected Sentences. The proverbs in this class are exceedingly numerous; they are of various lengths, of different styles of composition, and are informal in all else but the corresponding number of words in each line. There is generally, however, a sharp antithesis* between the first and second lines. One example will suffice for illustration.

窮 莫 與 富 鬪。 富 莫 與 官 鬪。
 Ch'ung² mo⁴ yü³ fu⁴ tou⁴; fu⁴ mo⁴ yü³ kuan¹ tou⁴.

“The poor must not quarrel with the rich; nor the rich with magistrates.”

Another class of couplet-proverbs is composed of such as rhyme. Of these there are a great many which do not seem to rhyme to a foreigner; and, on the other hand, he can hear many rhymes where the native can hear none. The explanation of this is, that in order to rhyme to a native ear, the *tones* must correspond; while a foreigner's ear catches the ring of the rhyme through all such artificial distinctions. One example will suffice to show how melodiously some in this class of proverbs can chime.

好 妻 無 好 漢 天 下 一 大 半
 'Hao³ ch'i¹ wu² 'hao³ 'han,⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ i¹ ta⁴ pan³;
 好 漢 無 好 妻 天 下 一 大 堆
 'Hao³ 'han⁴ wu² 'hao³ ch'i,⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ i¹ ta⁴ tui¹.

“In the great majority of cases,
 Wives have fair and husbands ugly faces;
 But there are many, on the other side,
 Where the man is bound to an ugly bride.”

We have now done with Parallelism and its influence on the formation of proverbs, and must briefly glance at such as are cast in a more irregular and

* See a striking example of this antithesis in proverb No. 1674.

prosaic mould. Among these a small number is discovered possessing a kind of rhythm, which gives to the proverbs in question a very easy and flowing utterance, almost deserving for them a place along with the versified classes. An example of this is found in the following.—

紐 得 過 人 來, 紐 不 過 天
 Niu³ tē² kuo⁴ jên² lai,² niu³ pu⁴ kuo⁴ t'ien.¹

“Man can be bound, but Heaven cannot.”

The great bulk of these prose-proverbs are prosaic enough. Many of them consist of one plain sentence; such as—君子言前, 不言後 *Chün¹ tzü³ yen² chien², pu⁴ yen² hou.⁴* “The superior man speaks beforehand, not when all is over.” Many others are most irregular in shape, amply deserving the name given to them by the Chinese of 長短句 *ch'ang-tuan-chü*, or ‘Long and Short Sentences.’¹ Enough having now been said on the Form or construction of proverbs, we will proceed to consider the more interesting subject of their qualities.

IV.—QUALITIES.

It will surprise no one to learn that many of the proverbs of China are low, vulgar, and licentious. It could hardly be otherwise, considering the morally depraved condition of the Chinese as a nation. Nevertheless, it is much to the credit of heathen China that, in this respect, her proverbs do not compare unfavourably with those of Christian England.

Nor will any one at all familiar with the Chinese, be surprised to hear that many of their proverbs are expressive of the highest morality. They are not to be excelled in their praise of virtue and denunciation.

¹ See the proverb No. 2597, too long for quotation, for a striking illustration of this point.

of vice. But, while giving them credit for so many virtuous sayings, the error must be avoided of crediting them with anything like a corresponding amount of virtue or morality. They are not so good as their proverbs; "for they say, and do not." Still it is a matter for congratulation to find so many closely resembling the sayings of Holy Writ.¹ Many of the Proverbs of Solomon have their counterparts in the proverbs of China. And it will be admitted that in the following, selected out of many quite as good, the tone of morality falls little below that of the Christian standard. 'Better not do kindnesses at all than do them in the hope of recompence.'² 'Kindness is greater than law.'² 'Do good regardless of consequences.'² 'It is a little thing to starve to death; it is a serious matter to lose one's virtue.'²

Beauty of sentiment and expression are by no means rare in Chinese proverbs. Expressive of the transient character of earthly happiness, we have—'The bright moon is not round for long; the brilliant cloud is easily scattered.'³ The vanity and emptiness of earthly wealth and fame could hardly be more beautifully expressed than in the following couplet:

'Wealth among men is like dew among plants:

Foam on the waves is the fame which earth grants.'³ 'Good words are like a string of pearls,'³ is perhaps less ornate, but certainly it is little less beautiful than Solomon's—"a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."⁴ And how could the danger of unguarded speech be more beautifully expressed

1 Reference to the Index will give a list of these.

2 See Nos. 1895, 1898, 1655, 1835.

3 See Nos. 830, 962, 1120, 1123.

4 Prov. 25; 11.

than in the following?—‘As the light of a single star tinges the mountains of many regions; so a single unguarded expression injures the virtue of a whole life.’³ Many more such examples might be quoted, but these few will suffice to show that the proverbs of China are not all bald, prosy, and utilitarian.

Great numbers of proverbs might be quoted to illustrate the quality of Shrewdness; and the difficulty is to know which to select. Let the following, taken almost at random, suffice. ‘Don’t buy everything that’s cheap, and you’ll escape being greatly taken in.’¹ ‘Before you calculate on buying, calculate on selling.’¹ ‘It is not so safe to open the mouth as it is to keep it shut.’¹ ‘It takes little time to reprove a man; but it takes a long time to forget reproof.’¹ ‘He learns less who looks on than he does who makes; Less by mere doing than by many mistakes.’¹

The cynical element, said almost always to characterize the true proverb, abounds in those now under discussion. Tried by this test they are proverbs of the first water. ‘A dwarf cannot kick up his feet to any great height.’² ‘Though a dumb man has eaten gentian he keeps his trouble to himself.’² ‘Hoping to lift up his head, he lifts up his feet: i. e. dies.’² ‘Get the coffin ready and the man won’t die.’² ‘Men mourn for those who leave fortunes behind them.’² ‘The head may be cut off, but the tongue cannot be restrained.’²

Of Wit and Humour abundance can be found in Chinese proverbs; much more of the latter than the former. To the reader it shall be left to classify, ac-

¹ See Nos. 220, 233, 1050, 1692, 2022.

² See Nos. 705, 787, 801, 931, 958, 1042.

ording to his own taste, the following specimens under one or other of these two categories. A not very thriving business is denoted by the saying, 'To sell a couple of cucumbers in three days.'¹ 'When there's aught to do, the more the better; not so when there's aught to eat.'¹ It is against anything but a doting husband that the following shaft of ridicule is shot: 'To flit and forget to take one's wife.'¹ The *Argumentum ad hominem* is somewhat droll in the following example: 'The lion opens his mouth; the elephant shuts his; shut yours.'¹ An individual out of whom no ray of wisdom shines, is spoken of as 'a leather lantern.'¹ In this class Puns may be included. These, however, to be enjoyed, must be read in the original.²

Finally, under the head of Qualities, it must be observed, that amongst Chinese proverbs there are many closely resembling those well known in the West. We find "Practice makes perfect,"³ in words which cannot well be otherwise translated. The same may be said of "Easier said than done;"³ of "Never too old to learn;"³ and several others. "Too many cooks spoil the broth," is expressed in Chinese by, 'Seven hands and eight feet.'⁴ "Bad workmen quarrel with their tools," appears in Chinese thus; 'All unskilful fools, Quarrel with their tools.'⁴ "As the twig is bent the tree's inclined," becomes slightly altered into, 'As the twig is bent the mulberry grows.'⁴ Instead of "a pig in a poke," the Chinese buy 'A cat in a bag.'⁴ "At Rome do as the Romans

¹ See Nos. 209, 604, 614, 1051, 1381.

² See Nos. 257, 309, 1310, 1890.

³ See Nos. 103, 118, 563.

⁴ See Nos. 107, 306, 460, 650, 1969, 2313, 2314.—For more illustrations of this point, see Nos. 36, 77, 106, 178, 317, 605, 620, 727, 752, 1066, 1278, 1396, 1434, 2052, 2335, 2457, 2485, 2 715.

for parents, is thus illustrated: 'Rear sons for old age; and lay up grain against famine.'¹ The importance of filial piety, and its nature, we find fully set forth. 'Of a myriad virtues filial piety is the first.'² 'He is unfilial who loves wife more than mother.'³ We dare not injure the bodies received from our parents.'⁴

On the whole, it is evident that parents and children, even in the country renowned for filial piety, do not stand to each other in anything like so satisfactory and pleasant relations, as they do in the west. There is on the part of Chinese parents a great deal of what *we* never expect to find in *our* parents, namely, selfishness. They long for male children that, when ill, they may be supported, and when dead, worshipped by them. They despise their female children because the return of personal service to be expected from them in the future is much less than that which is expected from boys. There is also too much of the proprietor in the Chinese father. His children are his chattels, to be dealt with absolutely as such: he can sell them if he likes; and even should he, in punishing, kill them, he would be very likely to escape scotfree. The mother, too, though not entirely ignored, retires into a much more obscure position than that ordained to her by Providence. In short, there is a stiffness, an artificiality, existing between Chinese parents and children, owing to the many ceremonies which intervene upon their relationship, which does much to destroy the beauty, ease, and gracefulness, of the native home.

There is yet another relation, and one which in

1 No. 2047.

2 No. 1877.

3 No. 2121.

4 No. 2150.

China obtains great prominence, on which a few remarks must be offered, namely that of Elder and Younger Brothers. 'Brothers,' we are told, 'resemble hands and feet.'¹ They are often compared with wives to the disadvantage of the latter: 'Is he a superior man who listens to his wife, and turns against his brother?'² The same odious comparison is hinted at in the following: 'The most difficult thing on earth to get is a brother.'³ The importance of harmony amongst brothers—a theme much insisted on in all books on morality—finds repeated proverbial expression: 'Though the left hand conquer the right no advantage is gained.'⁴ That, after all the instructions given, Chinese brothers fail to live together like angels, is evident from the saying that, 'Top and bottom teeth sometimes come into awkward collision.'⁵ And the general cause of these fraternal quarrels appears to be the stuff: 'Though brothers are so closely akin, it is each for himself in money matters.'⁶ Yet the value of a brother's friendship is fully appreciated, even when business is concerned, for we read the advice, 'go into partnership with a brother.'⁷ Here, again, one cannot avoid noticing the omission of any mention of the sisterhood. The relation of Brother and Sister, so pleasant in our ideas, never seems to have dawned upon the native mind. And here—in the constantly implied inferiority of the female—we have the secret explaining the failure of family life in China. Mother, wife, sister, must be restored to the high place which they have a right to adorn, before the homes of China can become worthy of the name.

1 No. 2245.

2 No. 2224.

3 No. 2255.

4 No. 2446.

5 No. 2253.

6 No. 2251.

7 No. 2296.

do," is varied into, 'Wherever you go talk as the people of the place talk'¹ And "Man proposes, but God disposes," has more than one counterpart in Chinese.¹

Possibly enough has now been advanced to show that Chinese proverbs furnish indubitable signs of mental power, and to justify the claim, which we make on their behalf, of equality with the proverbs of other nations.

V.—USES.

In connection with these proverbs the most interesting question remains to be considered, namely, Of what use are they?—Of what use are they to the Chinese themselves? to the foreign student of the Chinese language? and finally, to the general reader? Answers to these questions will bring this introductory essay to its close.

The uses to which the Chinese themselves put these proverbs are principally two. At the great festival of the new year the service of some able penman is obtained, who writes out a number of admired sayings, on long strips of red, orange, yellow, green, or blue paper, as the case may be. These are affixed to doors, to the side-posts of doors, to the pillars of houses, to the masts, stems and sterns of ships, and indeed in all directions. In this way the very habitations of the Chinese become eloquent with sage maxims, felicitous sayings, and well-expressed prayers. But the decorative use to which the proverbs are thus put, is of little importance in comparison with

¹ Nos. 107, 306, 460, 650, 1969, 2313, 2314. For more illustrations of this point, see Nos 36, 77, 106, 178, 317, 605, 620, 727, 752, 1066, 1278, 1396, 1434, 2052, 2335, 2457, 2485, 2715.

the use made of them in daily conversation. The talk of modern China is highly seasoned with the salt of its ancient wisdom. And he is a stupid "son of *Han*" indeed, who cannot quote aptly some wise old saw on almost any occasion.

Of what use are these proverbs to the foreign student of the Chinese language? Sir John F. Davis has said that Chinese proverbs are of great grammatical value, inasmuch as they illustrate every grammatical law in the language. It may be true that, to some extent, they will supply models on which the student may construct sentences of his own; but, as they are often very concise and formal, the student who should make a point of doing so would run the risk of speaking in a very stilted and uncommon style. Far greater is their value, as supplying him with phrases and sentences which may be used to enrich and embellish his conversation. Used as quotations their value is immense. So used in conversation they add a piquancy and flavour which greatly delights the Chinese, and makes mutual intercourse more easy and agreeable. But it is to the Missionary that the value of an extensive acquaintance with Chinese proverbs is of the highest importance. Personal experience, as well as the repeated testimony of others, makes us bold to assert that even a limited knowledge of Chinese proverbs is to him of daily and inestimable value. A proverb will often serve to rouse the flagging attention of a congregation, or to arrest it at the commencement of a discourse. A proverb will often serve to produce a smile of good nature in an apparently ill-tempered audience, and so to call forth a kindly feeling which did not seem before to exist. And very often a proverb aptly quoted will

serve to convey a truth in the most terse and striking manner, so obviating the necessity for detailed and lengthy argument, whilst they fix at a stroke the idea you are wishing to convey.

And now we come to the use which these proverbs are to the general reader. The question to be discussed is this: what light is thrown upon the character and condition of the Chinese by these proverbs? "The maxims of a people may be considered as a medium which reflects with tolerable accuracy the existing state of their manners and ways of thinking."¹

To begin with the Chinaman himself. He certainly is a being whose character it is by no means easy to describe; and, if left to our unaided imagination, we might easily caricature him in words, as absurdly as he has long been caricatured in pictures. Guided by the evidence of proverbs we should say that the ideal Chinaman is born with a genius for trade. The number and excellence of those maxims which relate to business point to this conclusion.² Next to, or rather in connection with, his business-like qualifications, come out his characteristic shrewdness and prudence.³ He is a keen observer: 'Those who can do a good trade don't wrangle over taxes.'⁴ He is a cautious man: 'Do not lace your boot in a melon field, nor adjust your hat under a plum tree.'⁵ He is very discreet: 'If you want to be quiet, do not meddle with other people's business.'⁶ He is wonderfully economical: 'Make every cash serve two purposes.'⁷ He is not remarkable for honesty: 'If you would not be cheated ask the price at three shops.'⁸ Nor is he

1 Sir John Davis.
section on Prudence.
2015. 8 No. 175.

2 See the section of proverbs on Business. 3 See the
4 No. 229. 5 No. 1928. 6 No. 1976. 7 No.

distinguished for truthfulness, for sometimes he deserves the appellation, 'A lying machine.'¹ He is very polite: 'Much politeness offends no one.'² The numerous proverbs of a jocular description point him out as a lover of fun. That he is a lover of pleasure, we may gather from the maxim, 'All men love wealth, wine, and women.'³ And he is a proud man: 'He will be honoured who respects himself; but he who holds himself cheap will be lightly esteemed.'⁴ There is a good deal of the Mark Tapley element in him: 'If the wind be strong, yield to the wind; if the rain be heavy, yield to the rain.'⁵ He is a very sober man, looking upon wine as, 'A poison which perforates the bowels.'⁶ He is a loquacious person, or else many proverbs had not been needed to help him to control his tongue. He is hospitable in his way, and feels bound to entertain his guest with generosity; but he expects quite as much in return, and hopes for more. 'He who lacks hospitality to a guest must be a fool.'⁷ He is very conservative. The past with its institutions is all in all to him: 'Observe the present, but reflect the past; without the past there had been no present.'⁸ Finally, he is a religious man. His religion fails to make him anything like a virtuous man; it leaves him the victim of many gross superstitions, and enchains him in the fetters of a determined fatalism; but it does something to soothe his conscience, and to satisfy his moral wants. Proverbs in support of these points are too numerous to mention.⁹

Next to the man himself comes the family. The

1 No. 1269.

2 No. 1532.

3 No. 1498.

4 No. 2716.

5 No. 1973.

6 No. 1000.

7 No. 1579.

8 No. 2450.

9 See section xvii, On

Religion.

social life of the Chinese, however much has been written about it, still remains comparatively a mystery to foreigners. Into the secrets of their home life the outside barbarian is not admitted. Under these circumstances we can obtain no better information as to the actual condition of a Chinese home than the numerous proverbs on this subject supply.

Home is founded on the relation existing between Husband and Wife; and it would seem that in China the importance of this relation is properly appreciated. 'There are Five Relations, but that of Husband and Wife stands first; there are 3000 great rites, but that of marriage is most important.'¹ The obligation to marry is very clearly acknowledged: 'Early marriage is the duty of both sexes.'² It is also firmly believed that marriages are fated: 'Wife, wealth, children, pay, are all predestined.'³ There is a great deal of superstition cherished in regard to match-making, as well as a great deal of manœuvring on the parts both of parents and professional match-makers. 'When doorways match and houses pair, A marriage may be settled there.'⁴ 'Those who rear daughters hope for great suitors.'⁵ The parties principally concerned in this matrimonial compact have no voice whatever in the matter, the betrothal taking place when they are both very young; and it cannot afterwards be broken, for, while 'You may exhume a coffin, you may not reject a betrothed son-in-law.'⁶ It is of course inevitable, on this principle of selection, that many alliances contracted should turn out anything but satisfactory, or mutually pleasing. So it

1 No. 2202.

2 No. 2189.

3 No. 680.

4 No. 2175.

5 No. 2191.

6 No. 2200.

happens that—‘Nine out of ten go-betweens being liars’¹—‘Ugly men marry pretty wives;’² and ‘A talented bridegroom is sometimes matched with a worthless bride; and a clever woman is sometimes married to a dolt.’³ And sometimes these matches turn out anything but harmonious, as suggested by the proverb, ‘A good husband will not beat his wife.’⁴ Occasionally however love ensues upon the marriage tie, and then ‘The husband sings and the wife accompanies.’⁵ But there is no such thing as even approximate equality between them: ‘Husbands are as Heaven to their wives; wives are the slaves of their husbands.’⁶ Still the wife, placed in this degrading position, makes her influence, both for good and bad, tell upon her lord and master: ‘A virtuous wife causes her husband to be honoured; a bad one brings him to shame.’⁷ Her weapon of defence is her tongue; and she is skilful enough in the use of it. Hence the advice. ‘Take no notice of what you hear said on the pillow.’⁸ It would seem that conjugal fidelity is sometimes violated: ‘He detests his own wife, but loves other men’s.’⁹ Divorce seems to be against the rule, for ‘When the two have been united they may not be separated.’¹⁰ And when the husband dies the widow is expected to remain a widow till her death: ‘A loyal minister will serve but one prince, a virtuous woman but one husband.’¹¹ Concubinage is allowed and commonly practised; not, as it seems, to the entire satisfaction of the principal wife: ‘If your wife is against it, do not get a concubine.’¹²

1 No. 2195.	2 No. 2206.	3 No. 2213.	4 No. 2223.	5 No. 2209.
6 No. 2220.	7 No. 2230.	8 No. 2229.	9 No. 2227.	10 No. 2214.
11 No. 2242.	12 No. 2226.			

From these and many more illustrations we are well able to form a tolerably correct idea of the relation of husband and wife in China. It differs from the same relation in the west mainly in the matters of betrothal, the use of go-betweens, the toleration of polygamy, and the degraded position of the woman. There is certainly less of that true love, which alone can crown the married state with felicity, in the East than in the West; and consequently married life is not with the Chinese so happy a thing as it is with us.

From husband and wife we come in due sequence to the relation of parents and children. The first thing to be remarked here is the silence of the proverbs on one side of the question. Much is said about the duty of children to parents, but nothing of the duty of parents to children. This silence is very expressive; for no one can have observed the Chinese for long without being struck with the prominence and emphasis with which they insist upon "Children obey your parents," while they almost ignore "Train up a child in the way he should go," and "Ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath." There is another silence equally ominous. Daughters are very seldom mentioned. And this silence is eloquent on the shameful disregard in which female offspring are held by the fathers and mothers of China. It suggests the unnatural, brutal, but common crime, of female infanticide. At her birth the female child is insulted by a comparison to her disfavour with male children. She is said to be worth but one-tenth of what a boy would have been worth.¹ This degrada-

1 See also No. 195.

tion follows her to her grave ; it clings to her as a daughter, sister, wife, and is only partly shaken off when she becomes a mother. As a mother she is honoured by her children with a love and reverence equal to that which they give to their father. But, alas ! as soon as she becomes the mother of a child of her own sex she begins to display the traditional disrespect for it, under which she has herself groaned.

Having noticed these two unwelcome silences, let us listen awhile to the many voices which describe to us the state of affairs as existing between parents and children in general. The kindness of parents, so much eulogized in Chinese books, is thus spoken of : ‘ You must rear children to know parental kindness.’¹ Petting seems to form a part of this parental kindness ; for ‘ The parents’ pet is the obedient child.’² And this notwithstanding the sensible maxim, ‘ The rod produces obedient, petting and spoiling disobedient children.’³ Sometimes great severity is resorted to : ‘ When the father pursues the son with the rod, he must not follow him for a hundred paces.’⁴ It is quite evident that parents exact from their children a vast amount of deference while living and of honour after death : ‘ Whilst the father lives the son dare not put himself forward.’⁵ ‘ Ancestors however remote must be sacrificed to.’⁶ The reason of their intense longing for offspring finds expression in the following homely saying : ‘ If we have none to foul the bed, we shall have none to burn paper at our graves.’⁷ Their unworthy perversion of the Biblical law that parents lay up for their children, not children

1 No. 2138. 2 No. 2129. 3 No. 2133. 4 No. 2144. 5 No.
2132. 6 No. 2363. 7 No. 2171.

From Homes we come to Shops. The excellence and superabundance of their business proverbs, would justify us in holding the opinion that they are indeed "a nation of shop-keepers." Without doubt the Chinese are in their very element when driving a bargain and making money. It is truly a study to watch two men engaged in this interesting occupation. It is then that one appreciates, fully, the saying, 'Bargaining is as necessary to trade as poling to a vessel.'¹ They have a correct idea of the personal qualifications necessary to a successful tradesman: 'A man without a smiling face must not open a shop.'² They are wide awake to the principle of supply and demand: 'Use both such goods and money as suit your market.'³ The necessity for speculation is fully acknowledged: 'If a little cash does not go, much cash will not come.'⁴ The necessity and potency of capital is fully acknowledged: 'You must have a couple of grains of rice in order to catch fowls.'⁵ That a very steady eye is kept on the item of profit, we may learn from the following: 'If no profit he espies, where's the man will early rise?'⁶ For ready money they have a relish, notwithstanding that credit is the curse and ruin of their trade: 'Better take 800 than give credit for 1000 cash.'⁷ Notwithstanding the frequent assertions by native shop-keepers that they 'Really have but one price,' that their's is indeed a 'One word hall,' there are more proverbs than one suggestive of the fact that prices vary according to circumstances. 'When one cheats up to heaven in the price he asks, you come down to earth in the price

1 No. 198.

2 No. 179.

3 No. 187.

4 No. 176.

5 No. 239.

6 No. 161.

7 No. 253.

‘Once in a while you may go to a play,
But they are not the things for every day.’¹

On gambling we read, ‘Money goes to the gambling-house as criminals to execution.’² ‘If you believe in gambling you will have to sell your house.’³ There doubtless exist many proverbs on the subject of amusements which have not been met with, and which would fully substantiate what has been said on the pleasure-loving proclivities of the Chinese.

Passing from gay to grave we enquire what the proverbs teach respecting the Religion of the people. To discover what are the real religious sentiments of a people like the Chinese is no easy matter; but it is not unlikely that we may get nearer to the truth by observing what the people say in their common talk, than by reading what authors and sages have said in books but seldom read.

First, we learn from proverbs that the objects of worship are Heaven, Earth, Sun, Moon, Stars, Idols, and Ancestors. This is not a complete list but it will serve our purpose. The religion which makes most show, and which forces itself perpetually on our attention, is that of idol worship. It is the popular worship of the land. On the feasts of the new and full moon our ears are dinned with the explosion of innumerable crackers. Whenever any act of importance is to be performed, there is a great outward show of belief in the power and control of the idols. Everywhere we stumble on costly temples, filled with the expensive gilded images of a numerous hierarchy of deities, and tended by a throng of shaven priests. People and rulers, high and low, unite to do homage

1 No. 759.

2 No. 764.

3 No. 762.

to the gods of the two friendly sects of Buddhism and Taouism. Now the question is, can the proverbs tell us whether all this is sham or reality? From several it would seem that the idols do not command the faith of the people. 'All idolatrous superstitions are man's invention.'¹ In several well-known proverbs the gods are turned to ridicule, which surely could not be done by men who sincerely believed them to be divine. 'Three strokes of the axe are enough to complete an image of the idol *Yang-ssü*.'² In this saying the god is made the butt of raillery as the type of uncouth, unmannerly boor. In the following he is twitted for his youthful appearance. 'A beard should not be put on his worship the god of sailors.'³ The same raillery and contempt are shown in another proverb—less elegant than caustic—namely, 'The stinking pig's head meets the smell-less idol.'⁴ It would not be fair to take these contemptuous proverbs as conclusive proof of general disbelief in idols. They may be evidence of doubt in many minds, and of total disbelief in the minds of a few, but that is all. The Chinese give many proofs, as well in their conduct as in their proverbial sayings, of their faith in idols. Their faith is doubtless a very superstitious thing, and largely mixed with fear; but such as it is, it is strong enough to tinge their whole life and conduct, and to force out of them large sums of money. 'Though you don't believe in other gods, you'll believe in the god of thunder.'⁵ You may carry deception into the *Yamên*, you cannot carry it into the temple.'⁶ 'Though you neglect to offer

1 No. 2365.
6 No. 2354.

2 No. 2358.

3 No. 2359.

4 No. 2375.

5 No. 2370.

incense when all is well, you will have to fall at Buddha's feet in time of sorrow.¹

Should the testimony of proverbs be thought wavering as to the popular faith in idols, it will be admitted that it distinctly proves that the faith of the people firmly centres upon, and clings to, one great supreme being whom they call *T'ien* and we call Heaven. And if this *T'ien* be not the true God, the likeness is very strange. To *T'ien* the people are in the constant habit of ascribing many of the attributes and actions only ascribable to the true God. He is the God of Providence: '*T'ien* never sends a man without providing for him clothes and income.'² 'Our daily bread depends on *T'ien*.'³ The bountifulness of his regime is thus quaintly expressed: 'when *T'ien* rears a man he grows very fat; when men rear one he is nought but skin and bone.'⁴ His omniscience is again and again plainly asserted: 'Man only sees the present, *T'ien* sees into the future.'⁵ 'Nothing can escape the eye of *T'ien*.'⁶ His rule, as the moral governor of men is alluded to in the following: '*T'ien* sees clearly, and rewards quickly.'⁷ And that his rule is merciful appears from the following: 'Imperial *T'ien* will never slight men of sorrow.'⁸ As the hearer of human prayers, '*T'ien* responds to man as quickly as shadow to form or echo to voice.'⁹ Whilst firmly believing that these and many other proverbs point to the highest and truest religious life of the people, it would not be candid on our part not to allude to the fact that the popular faith in *T'ien* is mixed up with much alloy. *T'ien* is very often confounded with the visible

1 No. 2362. 2 No. 2316. 3 No. 2320. 4 No. 2341. 5 No. 2330.
6 No. 2324. 7 No. 2325. 8 No. 2312. 9 No. 2315.

heavens; sometimes *T'ien* is stated to be 理 *li*, Reason or Principle; and oftener still the honour is divided between *T'ien* and *Ti*, the Earth. 'Heaven and Earth are great; father and mother are honourable.'¹ The people seem to associate *T'ien* and *Ti* together as the equivalent of our one word Nature, and to offer there—to a sort of pantheistic reverence. Still the truth remains that the Chinese are not altogether without some knowledge of what closely resembles the true God. Him they ignorantly worship, worship with a divided heart, and with many gross superstitions, yet we should not, on that account, fail to recognise the truth which exists, or fail to make the most of it in order to impart a purer knowledge and a truer faith.

The influence of religion on morals is very small. Indeed religion and morality in China might be assumed to belong to totally different categories, they have so little to do with each other. Even the priesthood, who ought to be the best samples of morality China can produce, are certainly not regarded in the light of holy men. Several proverbs refer to them in terms of anything but respect for the purity of their character, the sincerity of their vows, or the usefulness of their lives. The doctrine of a future state, expressed in many of the proverbs on Rewards and Punishments,² may be supposed to exercise some influence for good on the lives of the people; and no doubt this is the case. But then, again, the legitimate influence of this doctrine is negatived by the all-prevalent belief in Fate. The philosophy of their sages; the practical, worldly character of all their moral teaching; the contradictions existing between

1 No. 2343. 5 See chapter on Priests and Nuns. 2 See chapter so named.

their Confucianism and the religious systems of Buddha and Lao Tzū, together with the want of power to make men good, visible in all their creeds, have driven them, in a great measure, to the resource of the despairing—to a belief in the inevitable.¹ It is true that Confucianism has furnished them with an ideal saint, the creation of Confucius' imagination, called by the Chinese 君子 *Chun-tzū*, and by most foreigners, The Superior man.² But this is an ideal only, not a model, not a copyable example; and even as an ideal it is very imperfect.³ So, to sum up the whole matter of religion, it appears that with the Chinese it is neither dark nor light; the darkness is not utter darkness, the light is not clear. They confuse God with idols, mix superstition up with their worship, separate morality from religion, paralyse themselves by believing in fate, admire and extol an ideal which they never try to copy and could not if they did, and, with a faith in a future state more or less vivid and strong, allow themselves to be completely engrossed in the pursuit of the present.

One more subject of importance claims our attention, namely, the government of the country; and with a few remarks thereon, suggested and supported by the proverbs, our task will be finished. To begin with the Emperor. His exalted position is thus acknowledged: 'The light of all the stars is not equal to that of the moon.'⁴ His despotic power is hinted at somewhat significantly thus: 'When the prince wants a minister to die, he dies.'⁵ And yet it is said that 'If the Son of Heaven breaks the laws, he is

¹ See chapter on Fate.

² See chapter on the Superior and Mean man.

³ See a very good article on the subject in the 3rd Vol. of the Chinese Recorder, page 129, by the Rev William Ashmore. ⁴ No. 2093. ⁵ No. 2091.

guilty like one of the people.¹ Descending from the Emperor to his servants, we find abundance of proverbs very freely criticising them and their doings. The relative importance of civil and military officers is thus shown :

‘ One dash of a civil magistrate’s pen,
Makes the martial magistrate jump again.’²

The question of magisterial integrity is apparently settled in the following apologetic saying : ‘ An honest magistrate cannot get on.’³ It would seem that the mandarins are notorious for extortion for we read : ‘ A magistrate will not consider your poverty, nor the devil your leanness.’⁴ And that the magistracy pays well is evident if it be only partially true that, ‘ even an honest *Chih-fu* may during a three years’ term of office, save ten myriad snow-white taels of silver.’⁵ It is quite right that the mandarin be ‘ A lord among his people’⁶, but from what is said below, it appears that he lords it over them too severely : ‘ Men’s hearts are like iron, and the rule of mandarins like a furnace.’⁷ After this it is some satisfaction to find that there are three good rules for men in office, namely, ‘ Be upright, be cautious, be diligent.’⁸ If we come from mandarins to their courts of justice, we find nothing but condemnation. Hell only is the fitting emblem of a magistrate’s *yamên*.⁹ The *yamên* satellites are comparable only to voracious tigers, or blood-sucking flies.¹¹ It is shrewdly and significantly said,

‘ With only right to back you,
Be sure the *yamêns* lack you.’¹²

1 No. 2096.
6 No. 1187.
11 No. 1216.

2 No. 1169.
7. No 1183.
12 No. 1145.

3 No. 1178.
8 No. 1196.

4 No. 1181.
9 No. 1160.

5 No. 1194.
11 No. 1212.

Yet in respect of laws and their administration, we find this noble saying ; ‘ In making laws, severity is indispensable ; in administering them, clemency.’¹ From the general testimony of the proverbs it appears that the relations between rulers and ruled in China, is anything but satisfactory. Notwithstanding a few notable exceptions in the persons of disinterested officers ; notwithstanding many good laws, and the power to execute them ; notwithstanding the many excellent precepts exhorting the Officers to do their duty ; Justice often cries out for her rights in vain, the people are oppressed, whilst the mandarins and their satellites are enriched.

In the preceding essay we have endeavoured to express the impartial testimony of the proverbs themselves, rather than to advance any opinions of our own ; if error has crept into the account, the means of correcting it lies before the reader. And if the sketch drawn of the condition of things in China be blamed for incompleteness or exaggeration, we can only add that, in the collection of proverbs now presented to the reader, he has ample means at his own disposal for the completion or correction of the picture.

¹ No. 1137.



PROVERBS.

SECTION I.—ON AGENCY.

CHAPTER I.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

1

Every effect has its cause. *Lit.*: Rivers have sources, trees have roots.

水有源頭。木有根
Shui³ yu³ yüan² t'ou,² mu⁴ yu³ kên.¹

2

It thunders loudly, but rains very little.

打得雷大。落得雨小
Ta³ tê² lei² ta,⁴ lo⁴ tê yü³ hsiao.³

NOTE.—*e. g.* A trade is conducted with great bustle and show, but little profit is made.

3

Every thing must have a cause.

凡事必有因
Fan² shih⁴ pi⁴ yü³ yin.¹

4

Cut up grass by the root, and it will sprout no more.

剪草除根。萌芽不發
Chien³ ts'ao³ ch'u² kên,¹ mêng² ya² pu⁴ fa.¹

5

No wind, no motion in the trees.

風不來。樹不動
Fêng¹ pu⁴ lai,² shu⁴ pu⁴ tung.⁴

6

When the tree falls the shade is gone.

樹倒無陰
Shu⁴ tao³ wu² yin.¹

7

Putrid flesh breeds maggots ; rotten fish generates grubs.

肉腐出蟲。魚枯出蠹。
Jou⁴ fu³ ch'u¹ ch'ung² yü² k'u¹ ch'u¹ tu.⁴

8

More fuel more fire.

棚柴火餽高
P'êng² ch'ai² 'huo³ yen⁴ kao.¹

9

Though a tree grow never so high, its falling leaves return to the root.

樹高千丈。葉落歸根。
Shu⁴ kao¹ ch'ien¹ chang⁴ yeh⁴ lo⁴ kuei¹ kên.¹

10

When a wall is cracked and lofty, its fall must be speedy.

牆隙而高。其崩必疾。
Ch'iang² ch'i⁴ êrh² kao,¹ ch'i² pêng¹ pi⁴ chi.³

11

To foul the spring and expect the stream to be pure.

濁其源而求流之清。
Cho² ch'i² yüan² êrh² ch'iu² liu² chih¹ ch'ing.¹

12

He wishes to hide his footprints, and yet walks upon the snow.

欲滅跡而足雪踪。
Yü⁴ mieh⁴ chi¹ êrh² tsu² hsüeh³ tsung.¹

13

In digging up a tree you must begin with the root.

挖樹必從攪子起。
Wa¹ shu⁴ pi⁴ ts'ung² tou¹ tzü³ ch'i³

14

Every thing has its lord.

物各有主。
Wu⁴ ko⁴ yu⁴ chu.³

CHAPTER II.

THE NECESSITY OF EFFORT.

— 15 —

Sharp as a needle to grind a blunt axe,
Your strength to the utmost will surely tax.
鈍斧磨成鍼。只要工夫深。
Tun⁴ fu³ mo³ ch'êng² chên,¹ chih³ yao⁴ kung¹ fu¹ shên.¹

— 16 —

To make a man of yourself you must toil; if you don't, you won't.

成人不自在。自在不成人。
Ch'êng² jên² pu⁴ tzū⁴ tsai⁴; tzū⁴ tsai⁴ pu⁴ ch'êng² jên.²

— 17 —

If you don't scale the mountain, you can't view the plain.

不上高山。不顯平地。
Pu⁴ shang⁴ kao¹ shan,¹ pu⁴ hsien³ p'ing² ti.⁴

— 18 —

Without climbing mountains no one can know the height of heaven; without diving streams no one can know the thickness of the earth.

不登山不知天之高。
Pu⁴ têng¹ shan¹ pu⁴ chih¹ t'ien¹ chih¹ kao¹;
不臨溪不知地之厚。
pu⁴ lin² ch'i¹ pu⁴ chih¹ ti⁴ chih¹ 'hou.⁴

— 19 —

Generals and Premiers spring not from seed sown; men must exert themselves.

將相本無種。男兒當自強。
Chiáng¹ hsiang⁴ pên³ wu² chung⁴; nan² êrh² tang¹ tzū⁴ ch'iang.²

— 20 —

Strike a flint, and you'll get fire; strike it not, and you'll not get even smoke.

擊石原有火。不擊乃無烟。
Chi¹ shih² yüan² yu³ 'huo³; pu⁴ chi¹ nai³ wu² yen.¹

21

Without going you can get to nowhere; you can complete nothing without doing.

路 不 行 不 到。事 不 爲 不 成
Lu⁴ pu⁴ hsing² pu⁴ tao⁴; shih⁴ pu⁴ wei² pu⁴ ch'êng.²

22

He who does nothing but sit and eat, will wear away a mountain (of wealth).

坐 食 山 崩
Tso⁴ shih² shan¹ pêng.¹

23

If you long for pleasure, you must labour hard to get it.

欲 求 生 快 活。須 下 死 工 夫
Yü⁴ ch'iu² shêng¹ k'uai¹ 'huo,² hsi¹ hsia⁴ ssü³ kung¹ fu.¹

24

If you do not enter a tiger's den, you cannot get his cubs.

不 入 虎 穴。不 得 虎 子
Pu⁴ ju⁴ 'hu³ hsieh,⁴ pu⁴ tê² 'hu³ tzü.³

25

He is equal to any task who can subsist on cabbage stalks.

咬 得 菜 根 百 事 可 做
Yao³ tê² ts'ai⁴ kên¹ pai³ shih⁴ k'o³ tso.⁴

26

You had better return home and make a net, than go down to the river and desire to get the fishes.

臨 淵 羨 魚。不 如 退 而 結 網
Lin² yüan¹ hsien⁴ yü², pu⁴ ju² t'ui⁴ êrh² chieh² wang.³

27

Never was a good work done without much trouble.

從 來 好 事 必 竟 多 磨
Ts'ung² lai² hao³ shih⁴ pi⁴ ching⁴ to¹ mo.²

CHAPTER III.

EXAMPLE.

28

When the upper beam is crooked, the lower must be wry.

When the middle beam is crooked, in a ruin all must lie.

上 梁 不 正 下 梁 歪
 Shang⁴ liang² pu⁴ cheng⁴ hsia⁴ liang² wai¹;
 中 梁 不 正 倒 下 來
 Chung¹ liang² pu⁴ ching⁴ tao³ hsia⁴ lai.²

29

Keep company with good men : and good men you'll learn to be ;

But you must shoulder false gods if you follow sorcery.

跟 好 人 學 好 人
 Kên¹ 'hao³ jên² hsió² 'hao³ jên²;
 跟 端 公 扛 假 神
 Kên¹ tuan¹ kung¹ kang¹ chia³ shên.²

NOTE.—*Tan kung* or *Ma chiao* (馬脚) are mediums through whom the idols are supposed to grant answers to prayer.

30

Keep company with good men, and good men you will imitate ;

Keep company with beggars, and sleep outside some temple gate.

跟 好 人 學 好 人
 Kên¹ 'hao³ jên² hsió² 'hao³ jên²;
 跟 討 飯 的 睡 廟 門
 Kên¹ t'ao³ fan⁴ ti¹ shui⁴ miao⁴ mén.²

31

One takes the colour of one's company. *Lit.* : Near vermilion one gets stained pink ; near ink one gets stained black.

近 硃 者 紫。近 墨 者 黑
Chin⁴ chu¹ ché² tzü³; chin⁴ mei⁴ ché² 'hei¹

32

One takes the odour of one's company. *Lit.*: Near putrid fish you'll stink; near the epidendrum you'll be fragrant.

近 鮑 者 臭。近 蘭 者 香
Chin⁴ pao⁴ ché² ch'ou⁴; chin⁴ lan² ché² hsiang¹

33

Never be with a bad man.

人 斷 不 可 和 小 人 在 一 塊
Jên² tuan⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ 'ho² hsiao³ jên² tsai⁴ yi¹ k'uai⁴

34

Imitate *Ssü-ma* who laid up much secret merit.

法 司 馬 廣 積 陰 功
Fa³ Ssü¹-ma³ kuang³ chi² yin¹ kung¹

35

All bad alike. *Lit.*: Putrid flesh is all of a flavour.

臭 肉 同 味
Ch'ou⁴ jou⁴ t'ung² wei⁴

36

When one sheep leads the way all the rest follow.

一 羊 前 行 衆 羊 後 繼
Yi¹ yang² ch'ien² hsing² chung⁴ yang² 'hou⁴ chi⁴

37

Look not at thieves eating flesh, but look at them suffering punishment.

莫 看 強 盜 吃 肉
Mo⁴ k'an⁴ ch'iang² tao⁴ ch'ih¹ jou⁴
只 看 強 盜 受 罪
Chih³ k'an⁴ ch'iang² tao⁴ shou⁴ tsui⁴

38

Follow the good, and learn to be so.

跟 好 學 好
Kên¹ 'hao³ hsió² 'hao³

39

When white calico has been dipped in the dyeing vat,
nobody can tell it from black.

白布吊在染缸皂白難分
Pai² pu⁴ tia⁴ tsai⁴ jan³ kang¹ tsao⁴ pai² nan² fen¹

40

When old men are not upright, they teach their sons
and grandsons to be rogues.

爲老不正教壞子孫
Wei² lao³ pu⁴ chêng⁴ chiao⁴ 'huai⁴ tzū³ sun¹

41

Follow example. *Lit.*: Recite according to the book.

照本宣科
Chao⁴ pên³ hsüan¹ k'o¹

42

Follow example in drawing your calabash.

照樣畫葫蘆
Chao⁴ yang⁴ 'hua⁴ 'hu² lu²

43

He who leads an ox to drink must first wet his
own feet.

牽牛喝水先打濕脚
Ch'ien¹ niu² 'ho¹ shui³ hsien¹ ta³ shih¹ chiao³

44

Bad men leave their mark wherever they go. *Lit.*:

He who carries lime in a basket, leaves traces
wherever he stops.

籬筐裝石灰。在處有跡窩
Lo² k'uang¹ chuang¹ shih² 'hui¹ tsai⁴ ch'u⁴ yu³ chi¹ wo¹

45

The people follow the example of those above them.

上之所爲民之歸也
Shang⁴ chih¹ so³ wei² min² chih¹ kwei¹ yeh³

46

When a large vessel has opened a way, it is easy for
a small one to follow.

大 船 拖 成 漕。小 船 不 用 篙。
 Ta⁴ ch'uan² t'o¹ ch'êng² ts'ao,² hsiao³ ch'uan² pu⁴ yung⁴ kao.¹

47

They looked on the good as though they were inimitable; on the bad as on plunging the hand into boiling water.

見 善 如 不 及。見 惡 如 探 湯。
 Chien⁴ shan⁴ ju² pu⁴ chi²; chien⁴ o⁴ ju² t'an¹ t'ang.¹

NOTE.—This was an old saying in Confucius' time, and was quoted by him as applicable to several of his own disciples, as well as to others his contemporaries. See Legge, vol. i, page 178.

48

Shoes made by the Elder Brother's wife, are a pattern for the Younger Brother's wife to copy.

嫂 嫂 做 鞋 孀 子 有 樣。
 Sao³ sao³ tso⁴ hsieh¹ shên³ tzü³ yu³ yang.⁴

49

You have an itching to do whatever you see others doing.

見 人 屙 尿 喉 嚕 癢。
 Chien⁴ jên² wo¹ niao⁴ 'hou² lung³ yang.³

NOTE.—This is a very coarse, but very common saying. I have purposely given it a free translation.

CHAPTER IV.

IMPOSSIBILITIES.

50

Little pillars, it is plain,
Cannot heavy weights sustain.

不 大 其 棟。不 能 任 重
Pu⁴ ta⁴ ch'i² tung⁴ pu⁴ nêng² jên⁴ chung⁴

51

No needle has two sharp points.

針 無 兩 頭 利
Chên¹ wu² liang³ t'ou² li⁴

NOTE.—The meaning of this is that it is impossible for a man to do two things at once.

52

To force a hen to hatch chickens.

按 倒 雞 母 孵 兒
An⁴ tao³ chi¹ mu³ pao⁴ êr²

53

A toad propping a bedpost firmly.

癩 蝦 蟆 墊 牀 脚 硬 掙
Lai⁴ 'ha² ma³ tien⁴ ch'uang² chiao³ ying⁴ chêng⁴

54

To box in the stern of a pair of trowsers.

褲 襠 裏 打 拳
K'u⁴ tang¹ li³ ta³ ch'üan²

55

Ants removing Mount T'ai.

螞 蟻 搬 泰 山
Ma³ i³ pan¹ T'ai⁴ Shan¹

56

You cannot shade off the sun's light with one hand.

一 把 掌 遮 不 住 這 日 頭
Yi¹ pa¹ chang³ ché¹ pu⁴ chu⁴ ché⁴ jih⁴ t'ou²

57

Throw a tile over a wall and you cannot say on which side it has lighted.

隔 牆 丟 瓦 未 知 仰 撲
Ko² ch'iang² tiu¹ wa¹, wei⁴ chih¹ yang³ p'u.¹

58

It is impossible to tell what is in the future. *Lit. f*
One may feel but not see the hair on the back of one's neck.

後 頸 窩 裏 毛 摸 得 到 看 不 見
'Hou⁴ kêng³ wo¹ li³ mao² mo¹ tê² tao⁴ k'an⁴ pu⁴ chien.⁴

59

A clever daughter-in-law cannot cook without rice.

巧 媳 婦 難 作 無 米 之 炊
Ch'iao³ hsi² fu⁴ nan² tso⁴ wu² mi³ chih¹ ch'ui.¹

60

One foot cannot stand on two boats.

一 隻 腳 踏 不 得 兩 隻 船
Yi¹ chih¹ chiao³ tao⁴ pu⁴ tê² liang³ chih¹ ch'uan.²

61

If an ox won't drink, you can't make him bend down his head.

牛 不 吃 水。按 不 住 頭
Niu² pu⁴ ch'ih¹ shui³, an⁴ pu⁴ chu⁴ t'ou.²

62

You cannot clap with one palm.

一 個 巴 掌 拍 不 響
Yi¹ ko⁴ pa¹ chang³ p'ai¹ pu⁴ hsiang.²

63

A single strand of silk cannot make a thread; a solitary tree cannot make a grove.

單 絲 不 成 綫。孤 木 不 成 林
Tan¹ ssu¹ pu⁴ ch'êng² hsiên⁴; ku¹ mu⁴ pu⁴ ch'êng² lin.²

64

The materials used in building a temple and its ante-rooms, are not the branches of one tree only.

廟廊之材非一木之枝
Miao⁴ lang² chih¹ ts'ai² fei¹ yi¹ mu⁴ chih¹ chih¹ ;

65

One man cannot do two yamen-runners' work.

一身不能當二役
Yi¹ shên¹ pu⁴ nêng² tang¹ êrh⁴ yi⁴

66

One man cannot manage too many affairs. *Lit.:*
Like pumpkins in water, one pops up while you
press another down.

水裏接葫蘆你起我落
Shui³ li³ an⁴ hu² lu² ni³ chi³ wo³ lo⁴

67

One bamboo pole cannot reach the bottom.

一根竹篙打不倒后
Yi¹ ken¹ chu² kao¹ ta³ pu⁴ tao³ tu²

68

Beyond one's strength ; as *K'ua Fu's* race after the
sun's shadow.

事不量力。如夸父追日
Shih⁴ pu⁴ liang² li⁴; ju² K'ua¹ Fu⁴ chui¹ jih⁴

NOTE.—*K'ua Fu*, desiring to overtake the sun's shadow, pursued it into the
Vale of *Yang* (陽). In this chase he grew thirsty. He found a river ; but its
waters could not quench his thirst. He then turned his steps northward that he
might drink the waters of *T'ai-tse* (太澤). But before he got there he died of
thirst. Dying, he flung down his staff. Thereupon a heavy rain fell and covered
it over with mud. From it sprang the bamboo forest of *T'eng* (鄧), which
overs ten *li* of ground. *Yu-hsio* (幼學). Bk. I. § *T'ien wên* (天文).

69

One actor cannot perform a play.

獨脚戲難唱
Tu² chiao³ hsi⁴ nan⁴ ch'ang⁴

70

One louse cannot raise a coverlet.

一箇蝨子頂不起被窩
Yi¹ ko⁴ shih¹ tzü³ ting³ pu⁴ ch'i³ pei⁴ wo¹

71

How can one pole build a great house!

一木焉能支大廈

Yi¹ mu⁴ yen¹ nêng² chih¹ ta⁴ hsia.⁴

72

This cup of strong wine is hard to swallow.

這一杯湧酒難得吃

Chê⁴ yi¹ pei¹ yung³ chiu³ nan² tê² ch'ih.¹

73

Sandals for the same foot must be worn by different persons.

同邊草鞋各穿一隻

T'ung² pien¹ ts'ao³ hsieh² ko⁴ ch'uan¹ yi¹ chih.¹

74

Who can secure a thousand-years' scheme?

誰人保得千年計

Shui² jên² pao³ tê² ch'ien¹ nien² chi.⁴

C H A P T E R V .

MODUS OPERANDI.

———— 75 ————

Would you yourself a perfect workman find,
To an embroidery needle an iron pestle grind.

若 要 功 夫 深
Jo⁴ yao⁴ kung¹ fu¹ shên,¹
鐵 杵 磨 成 綉 花 針
T'ieh³ kan¹ mo² ch'êng² hsiu⁴ 'hua¹ chen.¹

———— 76 ————

Save thoroughly, if you will ;
Kill thoroughly, if you kill.

救 人 救 到 頭。殺 人 殺 斷 喉
Chiu⁴ jên² chiu⁴ tao⁴ t'ou²; sha¹ jên² sha¹ tuan⁴ 'hou.²

———— 77 ————

Practice makes perfect. *Lit.* :—

The boxer's fist must keep to its task ;
And the singer's mouth no rest must ask.

拳 不 離 手。曲 不 離 口
Ch'üan² pu⁴ li² shou³; ch'ü¹ pu⁴ li² k'ou.³

———— 78 ————

Do thoroughly aught you set about :
Kill a pig,—kill him out and out.

做 事 做 到 頭。殺 猪 殺 到 喉
Tso⁴ shih⁴ tso⁴ tao⁴ t'ou²; sha¹ chu¹ sha¹ tao⁴ 'hou.²

———— 79 ————

Suppose your wish is to excel,
Before an expert practise well.

要 得 高。人 前 操
Yao⁴ té² kao,¹ jên² ch'ien² ts'ao.¹

———— 80 ————

The loftiest towers rise from the ground.

萬 丈 高 樓 從 地 起
Wan⁴ chang⁴ kao¹ lou² t'sung² ti⁴ ch'í.³

81

Every thing is difficult at first.

萬事起頭難
Wan⁴ shih⁴ ch'í³ t'ou² nan.²

82

It is easier to know how to do a thing than to do it.

知非難行之爲難
Chih¹ fei¹ nan² hsing² chih¹ wei² nan.²

83

Easy to look at; difficult to imitate.

見者易。學者難
Chien⁴ ché² yi⁴; hsió² ché² nan.²

84

Whoever undertakes a task cannot repudiate the responsibility.

領其手不能謝其責
Ling³ ch'í² shou³ pu⁴ nêng² hsieh⁴ ch'í² tsê.²

85

What one knows not how to do is difficult; what one knows how to do is not.

難者不會。會者不難
Nan² ché² pu⁴ 'hui⁴; 'hui⁴ ché² pu⁴ nan.²

86

What is earned with hard labour is eaten with pleasure.

辛苦討得快活吃
Hsin¹ k'u³ t'ao³ tê² k'uai⁴ 'huo² ch'ih.¹

87

Draw a tiger incompletely and it is only like a dog.

畫虎不成終類犬
'Hua⁴ 'hu³ pu⁴ ch'êng² chung¹ lei⁴ ch'üan.³

88

A hundred paths present a hundred difficulties.

百般道路百般難
Pai³ pan¹ tao⁴ lu⁴ pai³ pan¹ nan.²

89

In hurry is error.

忙 中 有 錯
Mang² chung¹ yu³ ts'o.⁴

90

Done leisurely, done well.

從 容 幹 好 事
Ts'ung² yung² kan² hao³ shih.⁴

91

Slow work produces fine goods.

慢 功 出 細 貨
Man⁴ kung¹ ch'u¹ hsi⁴ 'huo.⁴

92

Would you have a steady aim, bore through the rock to the fountains of the sea.

若 要 心 腸 堅。鑿 山 通 海 泉
Jo⁴ yao⁴ hsin¹ ch'ang² chien,¹ tso² shan¹ t'ung¹ 'hai² ch'ian.²

93

Nine-storied terraces rise by a gradual accumulation of bricks.

九 層 之 臺 起 於 累 土
Chiu³ ts'eng² chih¹ t'ai² ch'i³ yu² lei³ t'u.³

94

If you ferry at all, ferry right over.

渡 人 渡 上 岸
Tu⁴ jên² tu⁴ shang⁴ an.⁴

95

What is done hastily is not done well.

辦 事 太 忙 就 有 參 差 了
Pan⁴ shih⁴ t'ai⁴ mang² chiu⁴ yu³ ts'en¹ ch'a¹ liao.³

96

Iron long fired becomes steel.

久 火 鍊 成 鋼
Chiu³ 'huo³ lien⁴ ch'êng² kang.¹

97

Anything beyond one's strength is never done well.

費力不討巧
Fei⁴ li⁴ pu⁴ t'ao³ ch'iao.³

98

When the arrow is on the string it must go.

箭在弦上不得不發
Chien⁴ tsai⁴ hsien² shang⁴ pu⁴ tê² pu⁴ fa.¹

99

What is chopped has not the roundness of what is turned.

砍的沒得車的圓
K'an³ ti¹ mu² tê² ch'é¹ ti¹ yüan.²

100

What you have to do, do without delay. *Lit.*: Wait till the Yellow River becomes clear, and how old will you be?

等得黃河清人壽幾何
Têng² tê² 'Huang² 'Ho² ch'ing¹ jên² shou⁴ chi³ 'ho²?

101

To bottom an affair. *Lit.*: To dig up a tree in search for the root.

挖樹尋根
Wa¹ shu⁴ hsin² kên.¹

102

Use careful reflection, and all things grow easy: shrink from considering, and all things grow hard.

用心計較般般易
Yung⁴ hsin¹ chi⁴ chiao⁴ pan¹ pan¹ yi⁴:
退步思量事事難
T'ui⁴ pu⁴ ssü¹ liang² shih⁴ shih⁴ nan.²

103

Practice makes perfect.

習慣成自然
Hsi² kuan⁴ ch'êng² tzü⁴ jan.²

104

A novice at the first attempt, an adept at the second.

一回生。二回熟
Yi¹ 'hui² shêng.¹ erh⁴ 'hui² shou.²

105

To do or say anything by instalments!

傘把通屁眼。一節一節的來
San³ pa³ t'ung¹ p'i⁴ yen,³ yi¹ chieh¹ yi¹ chieh¹ ti¹ lai.²

NOTE.—The literal translation of this proverb, more expressive than elegant, I leave to readers of Chinese.

106

Too many cooks spoil the broth. *Lit.*: Seven steersmen, eight sailors, one is uniform the other is not.

七梢公。八水手。你齊我不齊
Ch'i¹ shao¹ kung,¹ pa¹ shui³ shou,³ ni³ chi² wo³ pu⁴ ch'i.²

107

The Same. *Lit.*: Seven hands and eight feet.

七手八腳
Ch'i¹ shou³ pa¹ chiao.³

108

As easy as to seize a tortoise in a jar.

罇子裏捉烏龜。手到擎拏
T'an² tzu³ li³ cho¹ wu¹ kuei,¹ shou³ tao⁴ ch'ing² na.²

109

It is easier than to blow dust off anything.

不費吹灰之力
Pu⁴ fei⁴ ch'ui¹ hui¹ chih¹ li.⁴

110

Too great haste. *Lit.*: The same night that he catches a thief to the yamun he hurries him.

捉倒強盜連夜解
Cho¹ tao³ ch'iang² tao⁴ lien² yeh⁴ chieh.¹

111

To do hurriedly. *Lit.*: He breaks the *ch'ing* in burning his incense.

燒香打破磬
Shao¹ hsiang¹ ta³ p'o⁴ ch'ing.⁴

NOTE.—The *ch'ing* is a musical stone used for ringing on during worship.

112

Congee naturally thickens as it cools.

粥 冷 自 然 綢
 Chou¹ lêng³ tzü⁴ jan² ch'ou.²

NOTE.—The design of this proverb is to warn against hurry or anxiety in doing anything.

113

Mistakes occur through haste, never through doing a thing leisurely.

只有急過的。沒有緩過的
 Chih³ yu³ chi² kuo⁴ ti,¹ mu² yu³ 'huan³ kuo⁴ ti.¹

114

To perfect diligence nothing is difficult.

一勤天下無難事
 Yi¹ ch'in⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ wu² nan² shih.⁴

115

He who hurries cannot walk with a stately step.

忙行無好步
 Mang² hsing² wu² hao³ pu.⁴

116

There is nothing difficult in the world; the only fear is that men will be lacking in perseverance.

世上無難事。只怕心不堅
 Shih⁴ shang⁴ wu² nan² shih⁴; chih³ p'a⁴ hsin¹ pu⁴ chien.¹

117

A thousand artisans a thousand plans.

千個師傅千個法
 Ch'ien¹ ko⁴ shih¹ chuan⁴ ch'ien¹ ko⁴ fa.³

118

Easier said than done.

說得出來。做不出來
 Shuo¹ té² ch'u¹ lai,² tso⁴ pu⁴ ch'u² lai.²

CHAPTER VI.

RESOLUTION.

— 119 —

Be resolved and the thing is done.

有志者事竟成
Yu³ chih⁴ ché² shih⁴ ching⁴ ch'eng.²

— 120 —

Resolution is independent of great age ; but without it one lives a hundred years in vain.

有志不在年高
Yu³ chih⁴ pu⁴ tsai⁴ nien² kao¹ ;
無志空長百歲
wu² chih⁴ k'ung¹ chang³ pai³ sui.⁴

— 121 —

Through all his ranges of spires the murex will force out his head.

螺螄彎彎就自有出頭路
Lo² shih¹ wan¹ wan¹ chiu⁴ tsū⁴ yu³ ch'u¹ t'ou² lu.⁴

— 122 —

Every task can be accomplished by a man of resolution.

事怕有心人
Shih⁴ p'a⁴ yu³ hsin¹ jên.²

— 123 —

With ease a man of worth establishes a family : and what is hard to the true superior man when he resolves ?

大丈夫起家容易
Ta⁴ chang⁴ fu¹ ch'i³ chia¹ yung² yi⁴ :
眞君子立志何難
Chên¹ chün¹ tzū³ li⁴ chih⁴ 'ho² nan[?]

— 124 —

To do a good trade wants nothing but resolution ; to do a large one nothing but application.

事業要好只在志氣
 Shih⁴ yeh⁴ yao⁴ hao³ chih³ tsai⁴ chih⁴ ch'i⁴;
 事業要大只在勤勞
 shih⁴ yeh⁴ yao⁴ ta⁴ chih³ tsai⁴ ch'in² lao.²

125

Possessed of resolution a man may make his living thereby; without it a man must earn his bread by the sweat of his brow.

有志吃志。無志吃力
 Yu³ chih⁴ ch'i¹ chih⁴; wu² chih⁴ ch'i¹ li.⁴

126

One with life-long resolution rivals the loftiness of Heaven.

平生志氣與天高
 P'ing² shêng¹ chih⁴ ch'i⁴ yü³ t'ien¹ kao.¹

127

He who refuses to serve either king or prince is possessed of lofty resolution.

不事王侯高尚其志
 Pu⁴ shih⁴ wang² 'hou² kao¹ shang⁴ ch'i² chih.⁴

128

The first thing a scholar does is to establish resolution.

士先立志
 Shih⁴ hsien¹ li⁴ chih.⁴

129

He cannot see the river, his heart is so set on leaping the dragon gate.

兩眼並不觀河水
 Liang³ yen³ ping⁴ pu⁴ kuan¹ 'ho² shui,³
 一心只望跳龍門
 Yi¹ hsin¹ chih³ wang⁴ t'iao⁴ lung² mên.²

NOTE.—In this figurative way the resolution with which a scholar attempts to gain his degree is set forth.

130

To be possessed of resolution. *Lit.*: To open the hand in order to grasp the moon in the heavens; to plunge into the sea in order to seize leviathan.

舒 手 就 捉 天 上 月
 Shu¹ shou³ chiu⁴ cho¹ t'ien¹ shang⁴ yüeh⁴;
 入 水 能 擒 海 中 鰲
 ju⁴ shui³ nêng² ch'in² 'hai³ chung¹ ao.²

NOTE.—The *Ao* is a fabulous sea monster, said to support the mountain *P'êng-lai* (蓬萊山) on its back.

131

Till transformed into a dragon, the glittering-scaled fish never lost his resolution.

錦 鱗 未 變 志 常 存
 Chin³ lin² wei⁴ pien⁴ chih⁴ ch'ang² ts'un.²

SECTION II.—ON ANIMALS.

CHAPTER I.

BEASTS.

132

Although dogs together fight,
They are very soon all right.

狗相咬。易得好

Kou³ hsiang¹ ao,³ yi⁴ té² hao.³

133

The dog understands his master's mood.

狗通人性

Kou³ t'ung¹ jên² hsing.⁴

134

The dog has no aversion to a poor family.

狗不嫌家貧

Kou³ pu⁴ hsien² chia¹ p'in.³

135

Dogs have more good in them than men think they have.

狗有義人不知

Kou³ yu³ i¹ jên² pu⁴ chih.¹

136

One dog barks at something, and a hundred bark at him.

一犬吠形。百犬吠聲

Yi¹ ch'üan³ fei⁴ hsing,² pai³ ch'üan³ fei⁴ shêng.¹

137

The dog guards the night, the cock rules the morn.

犬守夜。鷄司晨

Ch'üan³ shou³ yeh,⁴ chi¹ ssü¹ ch'ên.²

138

The cat steals the rice, and the dog comes and eats it.

貓子搬倒甑。替狗子趕倒張

Mao¹ tzü³ pan¹ tao³ tsêng,⁴ t'ü⁴ kou³ tsü³ kan² tao³ chang.¹

139

The horse never turns its back on its master.

馬 不 背 主
Ma³ pu⁴ pei⁴ chu.³

140

Cavalry horses delight in battle.

征 馬 戀 鬪 戰
Chêng¹ ma³ lien⁴ tou⁴ chan⁴.

141

A good horse resembles a superior man.

良 馬 比 君 子
Liang² ma³ pi³ chün¹ tzü.³

142

Men and beasts are all alike.

人 畜 一 般
Jên² shou⁴ yi¹ pan.¹

NOTE.—This proverb, which reminds one of the saying in the Book of Ecclesiastes—"so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast"—is used sometimes to prevent cruelty to animals, and sometimes to dissuade from killing them for food.

143

"In a wind horses and cows don't agree."

風 馬 牛 不 相 及
Fêng¹ ma³ niu² pu⁴ hsiang¹ chi.²

144

The horse knows his owner.

馬 能 識 主
Ma³ nêng² shih⁴ chu.³

NOTE.—"The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib." Isa. i: 3.

145

The Stag, Phoenix, Tortoise, and Dragon, are the four chiefs of birds and beasts.

麟 鳳 龜 龍。 謂 之 四 靈
Lin² fêng⁴ kuei¹ lung² wei⁴ chih¹ ssü⁴ ling.²

146

The impetuous steed won't brook restraint.

迅 馬 遊 韁。 不 必 守 防
Hsin⁴ ma³ yu² chiang¹ pu⁴ pi⁴ shou⁴ fang.²

CHAPTER II.

BIRDS.

147

The swallow's plastering up its nest is labour lost.

燕子啣泥一場空
Yen⁴ tzü³ hsien² ni² yi¹ ch'ang² k'ung.¹

NOTE.—This saying rests on the migratory character of the bird for its justification.

148

The yellow hawk does not rob nests for food.

黃鶯不打窩下食
'Huang² ying¹ pu⁴ ta³ wo¹ hsia⁴ shih.²

149

A sparrow is a little bird yet it has liver and gall all complete.

麻鵲雖小肝膽俱全
Ma² ch'iao³ sui¹ hsiao³ kan¹ tan³ chü⁴ ch'üan.²

NOTE.—This proverb enforces the necessity of careful attention to the smallest details of any work or service.

150

In cold weather cocks crow at midnight.

寒鷄半夜啼
'Han² chi¹ pan⁴ yeh⁴ t'i.²

151

Crows are black all the world over.

處處老鴉一般黑
Ch'u⁴ ch'u⁴ lao³ ya¹ yi¹ pan¹ 'hei.¹

152

The crow does not devour fowls; they are the prey of the eagle.

老鴉不吃鷄。該鷹的
Lao³ ya¹ pu⁴ ch'ih¹ chi¹; kai¹ ying¹ ti.¹

153

The wild goose brings the beginning of Autumn.

新秋鴈帶來
Hsin¹ ch'iu¹ yen⁴ tai⁴ lai.²

154

The heron eats not heron's flesh.

鷺 鷺 不 吃 鷺 鷺 肉
 Lu⁴ ssü¹ pu⁴ ch'ih¹ lu⁴ ssü¹ jou.⁴

155

Does the swallow know the wild goose's intention?

燕 雀 豈 知 鴻 鵠 志
 Yen⁴ ch'iao³ ch'i³ chih¹ 'hung² ku³ chih.⁴

SECTION III.—ON BUSINESS.

CHAPTER I.

BUYING AND SELLING.

156

When two partners have one mind,
Clay is into gold refined.

二人同一心。黃土變成金。
Erb⁴ jên² t'ung² yi¹ hsin,¹ 'huang² t'u³ pien⁴ ch'êng² chin.¹

157

At market prices do your trade,
And mutual wrangling you'll evade,

時值估價。不得相罵。
Shih² chih² ku¹ chia,⁴ pu⁴ té² hsiang¹ ma.⁴

158

Where much pushing must be made,
There cannot be a lively trade.

求買求賣。生意不快。
Ch'iu² mai³ ch'iu² mai,⁴ shêng¹ i⁴ pu⁴ k'uai.⁴

159

Who does not ready money clutch,
Of business talent has not much.

現錢不抓。不是行家。
Hsien⁴ ch'ien² pu⁴ chua,¹ pu⁴ shih⁴ 'hang² chia.¹

160

In melon plots, picking and choosing,
As one proceeds, grow more confusing.

園裡選瓜。越選越差。
Yüan² li³ hsüan³ kua,¹ yüeh⁴ hsüan³ yüeh⁴ ch'a.¹

161

If no profit he espies,
Where's the man will early rise?

人無利息。誰肯早起
Jên² wu² li⁴ hsi,² shui² k'ên³ tsao³ ch'i³?

162

Hurrying along on both one's feet,
Is all for clothes and something to eat.

兩足忙忙走。只爲身合口
Liang³ tsu² mang² mang² tsou,⁴ chih³ wei⁴ shên¹ 'ho² k'ou.³

163

After a heavy fall of snow,
Fuel, rice, oil, and salt, all dearer grow.

大雪紛紛下
Ta⁴ hsüeh³ fên¹ fên¹ hsia,⁴
柴米油鹽都長價
Ch'ai,² mi,³ yu,² yen,² tu¹ chang³ chia.⁴

164

From small profits and many expenses,
Comes a whole life of sad consequences.

賺錢少用錢多。一身受奔波
Chuan⁴ ch'ien² shao³ yung⁴ ch'ien² to,¹ yi¹ shên¹ shou⁴ pên¹ po.¹

165

Fortunes of thousands, of thousands ten,
Cannot be made but by able men.

成千累萬。要有力賺
Ch'êng² ch'ien¹ lei³ wan,⁴ yao⁴ yu³ li⁴ chuan.⁴

166

He plans less for profit than for quick returns, who
Will buy a thing for three cash and sell it for two.

三個錢買，兩個錢賣
San¹ ko⁴ ch'ien² mai,³ liang³ ko⁴ ch'ien² mai,⁴
不圖賺錢只圖快
Pu⁴ t'u² chuan⁴ ch'ien² chih³ t'u² k'uai.⁴

167

Whenever you go abroad to trade,
Of showing your silver be afraid.

出外做客。不要露白
Ch'u¹ wai⁴ tso⁴ k'o,⁴ pu⁴ yao⁴ lou⁴ po.²

— 168 —

In fine weather he won't go out ;
 In dull he hawks cold jelly about ;
 In the sixth month felt hats he'd sell ;
 And in the first, door gods as well.

天晴不出門。天濕賣涼粉
 T'ien¹ ch'ing² pu⁴ ch'u¹ mên;² t'ien¹ shih¹ mai⁴ liang² fên;³
 六月賣氈帽。正月賣門神
 Lu⁴ yüeh⁴ mai⁴ chan¹ mao;⁴ chêng⁴ yüeh⁴ mai⁴ mên² shên.²

NOTE.—In the Chinese December a brisk trade is done in all directions in pictures of gods, etc. for the doors ; but no sooner does the new year come in than that trade ceases entirely, and he would show a very foolish inattention to the state of the market who should attempt such a trade in January.

— 169 —

You skim the oil, with the broth make free,
 Without a word of consulting me.

撇開油喝湯。不與我相商
 P'ieh¹ k'ai¹ yu² 'ho¹ t'ang,¹ pu⁴ yü³ wo³ hsiang¹ shang.¹

— 170 —

Pay your cash and take your grog ;
 Drink it off and on you jog.

先錢後酒。吃了就走
 Hsien¹ ch'ien² 'hou⁴ chiu;³ ch'ih¹ liao³ chiu⁴ tsou.³

— 171 —

Profits equally share ;
 Losses equally bear.

賺錢公分。折本公認
 Chuan⁴ ch'ien² kung¹ fên;¹ ché² pên³ kung¹ jên.⁴

— 172 —

Buyers are esteemed ;
 Goods mere grass are deemed.

客是寶。貨是草
 K'o⁴ shih⁴ pao;³ 'huo⁴ shih⁴ ts'ao.³

— 173 —

By entering all that's sold or bought,
 You'll escape much anxious after-thought.

隨筆登賬。免後思量
 Sui² pi² têng¹ chang,⁴ mien³ 'hou⁴ ssü¹ liang.²

174

Though you have money do not spend it in the twelfth month.

有錢莫買臘月貨
Yu³ ch'ien² mo⁴ mai³ la⁴ yüeh⁴ 'huo.⁴

175

If you would not be cheated ask the price at three shops.

貨買三家不尙當
'Huo⁴ mai³ san¹ chia¹ pu⁴ shang⁴ tang.¹

176

If a little cash does not go, much cash will not come.

小錢不去。大錢不來
Hsiao³ ch'ien² pu⁴ ch'ü,⁴ ta⁴ ch'ien² pu⁴ lai.²

NOTE.—If you do not expend a little money in the entertainment of customers, you will get none.

177

Use the little to get the big.

以小到大
I³ hsiao³ tao⁴ ta.⁴

178

Throw a brick to allure a gem.

拋磚引玉
P'ao¹ chuan¹ yin³ yü.⁴

179

A man without a smiling face must not open a shop.

人無笑臉休開店
Jên² wü² hsiao⁴ lien³ hsiu¹ k'ai¹ tien.⁴

180

Cheap things are not good ; good things are not cheap.

便宜不是貨。是貨不便宜
Pien⁴ i² pu⁴ shih⁴ 'huo;⁴ shih⁴ 'huo⁴ pu⁴ pien⁴ i.²

181

The melon seller declares his melons sweet.

賣瓜的說瓜甜
Mai⁴ kua¹ ti¹ shuo¹ kua¹ t'ien.²

182

Seeing a rush don't pursue.

見 快 莫 趕

Chien⁴ k'uai⁴ mo⁴ kan.²

183

After ten days' waiting above the rapids, you may traverse nine provinces in a day.

十 日 灘 頭 坐。一 日 走 九 州

Shih² jih⁴ t'an¹ t'ou² tso,⁴ yi¹ jih⁴ tsou³ chiu³ chou.¹

NOTE.—This and the preceding proverb point out the advantage to be gained by patient perseverance in trade.

184

There is a time to fish, and a time to dry nets.

打 網 日 灑 網 時

Ta³ wang³ jih,⁴ shai⁴ wang³ sbih.²

185

Fuel is not sold in a forest, nor fish on a lake.

林 中 不 賣 薪。湖 上 不 鬻 魚

Lin² chung¹ pu⁴ mai⁴ hsin,¹ 'hu² shang⁴ pu⁴ yu² yü.²

186

Great profits, great risks.

利 大 害 大

Li⁴ ta⁴ 'hai⁴ ta.⁴

187

Use both such goods and money as suit your market.

貨 消 碼 頭。錢 用 地 頭

'Huo⁴ hsiao¹ ma¹ t'ou,² ch'ien² yung⁴ ti⁴ t'ou.²

188

It is easy to open a shop, but hard to keep it open.

開 店 容 易 守 店 難

K'ai¹ tien⁴ yung² yi⁴ shou³ tien⁴ nan.²

189

Count cash as though it were gold, and so avoid the least mistake.

數 錢 如 看 金。不 差 半 毫 分

Shu⁴ ch'ien² ju² k'an⁴ chin,¹ pu⁴ ch'a¹ pan⁴ 'hao² fên.¹

190

Better sell for small profits than fail in business.

折本不如賤賣貨
Chê² pên³ pu⁴ ju² chien⁴ mai⁴ 'huo.⁴

191

You cannot cheat one in the trade.

內行不上當
Nei⁴ 'hang² pu⁴ shang⁴ tang.¹

192

When a steelyard hook is beaten into a nail, both its ends are drawn out straight.

秤鈎打釘兩扯直
Ch'êng³ kou¹ ta³ ting¹ liang³ ch'ê³ chih.²

NOTE.—The steelyard hook in question is formed by bending one straight piece of iron wire; straightened out again it assumes its former condition. Hence this proverb is applied to one who is neither richer nor poorer for his trading.

193

Wares are good and bad; prices high and low.

貨有好歹。價有高底
'Huo⁴ yu³ hao³ tai;³ chia⁴ yu³ kao¹ ti.¹

194

A man may be more vigorous than his luck; or he may be more unbending than his goods.

人強命不強。人硬貨不硬
Jên² ch'iang² ming⁴ pu⁴ ch'iang;² jên² ying⁴ 'huo⁴ pu⁴ ying.⁴

195

When there is no fish in the river, shrimps are dear.

河裡無魚。蝦也貴
'Ho² li³ wu² yü,² hsia¹ yeh³ kuei.⁴

NOTE.—This saying is sometimes applied to children, showing that daughters are precious in the absence of sons.

196

There may be trade to be done, and none able to do it.

生意有路。人無路
Shêng¹ i⁴ yu³ lu,⁴ jên² wu² lu.⁴

197

What the customer dreads is to be taken in.

買貨的客人怕上當
Mai³ 'huo⁴ ti¹ k'o⁴ jèn² p'a⁴ shang⁴ tang.¹

198

Bargaining is as necessary to trade as poling to a vessel.

嘴要爭。船要撐。
Tsui³ yao⁴ chêng,¹ ch'uan² yao⁴ chang.³

199

Ready money can buy any thing in stock.

現錢買現貨
Hsien⁴ ch'ien² mai³ hsien⁴ 'huo.⁴

200

Bad silver will only buy old sow's flesh.

銅銀子買母豬肉
T'ung² yin² tzu³ mai³ mu³ chu¹ jou.⁴

201

He sings for joy who makes a profit easily.

得了便財唱雅調
Tè² liao³ pien⁴ ts'ai² ch'ang⁴ ya³ tiao.⁴

202

When one cheats up to heaven in the price he asks;
you come down to earth in the price you offer.

瞞天講價。就地還錢
Man³ t'ien¹ chiang³ chia,⁴ chiu⁴ ti⁴ 'huan² ch'ien.²

203

To fatten the mule and starve the horse.

肥了驢子瘦了馬
Fei² liao³ lo² tzu³ shou⁴ liao³ ma.³

NOTE.—This refers to what is said to be common enough in China, namely, one partner's fattening himself at the expense of another.

204

Who cannot catch fish must catch shrimps.

不得魚也得蝦
Pu⁴ tê² yü² yeh³ té² hsia.¹

205

In business one must be perfectly affable.

生意中要一團和氣
Shêng¹ i⁴ chung¹ yao⁴ yi¹ t'uan² 'ho² ch'i.⁴

206

Every trade has its ways.

生意各有道路
Shêng¹ i² ko⁴ yu³ tao⁴ lu⁴

207

He who can turn his hand to anything, has not the mind of a fool; and stock which never lies dead, naturally yields a profit.

人多變化心不蠢
Jên² to¹ pien⁴ hua⁴ hsin¹ pu⁴ ch'un³;
貨不停留利自生
huo⁴ pu⁴ t'ing² liu² li⁴ tzū⁴ shêng¹

208

There are customers for all sorts of goods.

百貨中百客
Pai³ huo⁴ chung¹ pai³ k'o.⁴

209

To sell a couple of cucumbers in three days.

三天賣兩條黃瓜
San¹ t'ien¹ mai⁴ liang³ t'iao² huang² kua.¹

210

When water rises vessels rise; so rise market prices.

水長船高。高抬市價
Shui³ ch'ang² ch'uan² kao¹; kao¹ t'ai² shih⁴ chia.⁴

211

High prices attract sellers from afar.

價高招遠客
Chia⁴ kao¹ chao¹ yüan³ k'o.⁴

212

One word now will settle a bargain, though prices vary from morning to night.

目下一言爲定
Mu⁴ hsia⁴ yi¹ yen² wei² ting⁴;
早晚時價不同
tsao³ wan³ shih² chia⁴ pu⁴ t'ung²

213

Buyers and sellers dispute over a single cash.

買 賣 爭 毫 厘
Mai³ mai⁴ chêng¹ 'hao² li.²

214

Dispute the price, but don't dispute the weight.

爭 價 不 爭 平
Chêng¹ chia⁴ pu⁴ chêng¹ p'ing.²

215

Buying fresh fish and vegetables examine them first, then fix the price.

鮮 魚 小 菜 提 藍 着 價
Hsien¹ yü² hsiao³ ts'ai⁴ t'i² lan² cho² chia.⁴

216

Hold back your goods for a thousand days, and you'll be sure to sell at a profit.

放 得 千 日 貨。自 有 賺 錢 時
Fang⁴ tê² ch'ien¹ jih⁴ 'huo,⁴ tzü⁴ yu³ chuan⁴ ch'ien² shih.²

217

Ten thousand per cent is a cargo of wealth and return to one's home.

一 本 萬 利。滿 載 而 歸
Yi¹ pên² wan⁴ li,⁴ man³ tsai³ êrh³ kuei.¹

218

For profits as small as a fly's head, to rush from east to west.

蠅 頭 小 利。奔 西 走 東
Ying¹ t'ou² hsiao³ li,⁴ pên¹ hsi¹ tsou⁴ tung.¹

219

Just scales and full measures injure no man.

秤 平 斗 滿 不 虧 人
Chêng³ p'ing² tou³ man³ pu⁴ k'uei¹ jên.²

220

Don't buy every thing that's cheap, and you'll escape being greatly taken in.

買 不 盡 便 易 上 不 盡 當
Mai³ pu⁴ chin⁴ pien⁴ yi⁴ shang⁴ pu⁴ chin⁴ tang.¹

221

He who has patience to wait for a shoal of fish, will catch small ones if not large.

耐 煩 等 得 羣 魚 到

Nai⁴ fan² têng² tē² ch'un² yü² tao.⁴

● 大 魚 不 來 小 魚 來

ta⁴ yü² pu⁴ lai² hsiao³ yü² lai.²

222

Own brothers keep careful accounts.

親 兄 弟 明 算 賬

Ch'in¹ hsiung¹ ti⁴ ming² suan⁴ chang.⁴

223

Relations or not relations, my turnips are three hundred cash per picul.

親 家 不 親 家

Ch'in¹ chia¹ pu⁴ ch'in¹ chia,¹

蘿 蔔 三 百 錢 一 擔

lo² po¹ san¹ pai³ ch'ien² yi¹ tan.¹

224

Small trades make great profit.

小 生 意 賺 大 錢

Hsiao³ shêng¹ i⁴ chuan⁴ ta⁴ ch'ien.²

225

Even a dolt will not sell under cost price to favour any one.

癡 僕 不 把 本 錢 人

Ch'ih² 'han⁴ pu⁴ pa³ pên³ jao² jên.²

226

When you buy, buy genuine articles; and if you must lose, lose as little as possible.

買 貨 買 得 真。折 本 折 得 輕

Mai³ 'huo⁴ mai³ tē² chên;¹ chē² pên³ chē² tē² ch'ing.¹

227

Those who make money make little exertion; those who make much exertion make no money.

賺 錢 不 費 力。費 力 不 賺 錢

Chuan⁴ ch'ien² pu⁴ fei⁴ li;⁴ fei⁴ li⁴ pu⁴ chuan⁴ ch'ien.²

228

A good customer won't change his shop, or a good shop lose its customer, once in three years.

好 客 三 年 不 換 店
 'Hao³ k'o⁴ san¹ nien² pu⁴ 'huan⁴ tien⁴
 好 店 三 年 不 換 客
 'hao³ tien⁴ san¹ nien² pu⁴ 'huan⁴ k'o⁴

229

Those who can do a good trade don't wrangle over taxes.

會 做 買 賣 不 爭 衙 稅
 'Hui⁴ tso⁴ mai³ mai⁴ pu⁴ chêng¹ ya² shui⁴

230

When *Kuan Lao-yeh* sells bean-curd, the man is strong, the goods are weak.

關 老 爺 賣 豆 腐 人 強 貨 弱
 Kuan¹ Lao³ yeh² mai⁴ tou⁴ fu³ jèn² ch'iang² 'huo⁴ jo⁴

NOTE.—In the popular idea *Kuan Lao-yeh* or the god of war, was originally nothing but a bean-curd seller. As such he is represented on the stage. And this proverb is employed in telling a man that however fine a salesman he may be, his goods are not up to the mark.

231

Able to buy, don't so buy as to frighten the seller: able to sell, don't so sell as to frighten the buyer.

會 買 莫 買 怕 人
 'Hui⁴ mai³ mo⁴ mai³ p'a⁴ jèn²;
 會 賣 莫 賣 怕 人
 'hui⁴ mai⁴ mo⁴ mai⁴ p'a⁴ jèn²

232

When there is no fish in one spot, cast your hook into another.

此 處 無 魚 別 下 鈎
 Tz'u³ ch'u⁴ wu² yü² pieh² hsia⁴ kou¹

233

"Before you calculate on buying, calculate on selling."

未 算 買 先 算 賣
 Wei⁴ suan⁴ mai³ hsien¹ suan⁴ mai⁴

234

Don't reckon on this year's bamboo, but on next year's bamboo sprouts.

不圖今年竹也圖來年笋
 ,Pu⁴ t'u² chin¹ nien² chu,² yeh³ t'u² lai² nien² sun.³

235

A string of cash can but reach to the back of one's heel.

一串錢打起腳後跟
 Yi¹ ch'uan⁴ ch'ien² ta³ ch'i³ chiao³ 'hou⁴ kên.¹

NOTE.—This proverb says in effect:—The sum is a mere trifle, not worth contending about.

CHAPTER II.

CAPITAL.

236

Two men seeing eye to eye,
Having money gold can buy:
Without money, though he try,
One can but a needle buy.

兩 人 一 般 心。有 錢 堪 買 金
Liang³ jên² yî¹ pan¹ hsin,¹ yu³ ch'ien² k'an¹ mai³ chin:¹
一 人 一 般 心。無 錢 堪 買 針
Yî¹ jên² yî¹ pan¹ hsin,¹ wu² ch'ien² k'an¹ mai³ chên.¹

237

Small profits on large capital are after all great ; great profits on small capital are after all small.

本 大 利 小 還 是 大
Pên³ ta⁴ li⁴ hsiao³ huan² shih⁴ ta:⁴
本 小 利 大 還 是 小
pên³ hsiao³ li⁴ ta⁴ huan² shih⁴ hsiao.³

238

Great capital great profits.

本 大 利 大
Pên³ ta⁴ li⁴ ta.⁴

239

You cannot trade without some capital. *Lit.* : You must have a couple of grains of rice in order to catch fowls.

捉 鷄 也 要 兩 顆 米
Ch'a⁴ chi¹ yeh³ yao⁴ liang³ k'o³ mi.³

240

The same. *Lit.* : No one can sew without a needle : no one can row without water.

非 針 不 引 線。無 水 不 渡 船
Fei¹ chên¹ pu⁴ yin³ hsien:⁴ wu² shiu³ pu⁴ ta⁴ ch'uan.²

241

Though boiled to ribbons the meat is still in the pan.

肉 爛 了 在 鍋 裏
Jou⁴ lan⁴ liao³ tsai⁴ kuo¹ li.³

NOTE.—Applicable to stock in trade, or capital in hand.

242

Union of capital is like union of fate.

同 夥 本 如 同 命
T'ung² 'huo³ pên³ ju² t'ung² ming.⁴

243

Having capital to open an eating house, I dread not the most capacious stomach.

有 錢 開 飯 店。不 怕 你 大 肚 漢
Yu³ ch'ien² k'ai¹ fan⁴ tien,⁴ pu⁴ p'a⁴ ni³ ta⁴ tu³ 'han.⁴

244

A dry finger cannot lick up salt.

乾 指 甲 舔 不 取 鹽 來
Kan¹ chih³ chia³ t'ien³ pu⁴ ch'ü³ yen² lai.²

245

Without capital. *Lit.*: A farmer without an ox; a merchant without capital.

庄 家 無 牛。客 無 本
Chuang¹ chia¹ wu² niu;² k'o⁴ wu² pên.³

246

To get on without capital. *Lit.*: He picks up grain and opens a mill.

撿 倒 麥 子 開 磨 坊
Chien³ tao³ mai⁴ tzü³ k'ai¹ mo² fang.¹

247

To attempt great trade without capital. *Lit.*: With never a single hemp thread in his hand, he thinks to make a dozen nets.

手 上 沒 得 一 根 麻 線
Shou³ shang⁴ mu² t'ê² yi¹ kên¹ ma² hsien,⁴
心 裡 想 打 十 二 股 網
hsin¹ li³ hsiang³ ta³ shih² êrh⁴ ku³ wang.³

CHAPTER III.

DEBTS, CREDIT, BORROWING, AND LENDING.

248

My capital's small and profits slender,
On credit my goods I can't surrender.

本 小 利 窄。 賒 欠 不 得
Pên³ hsiao³ li⁴ tsê,⁴ shê¹ ch'ien⁴ pu⁴ té.²

249

Lend the man money if you have it to spare ;
And if you have not, to be civil take care.

有 錢 將 錢。 無 錢 將 言
Yu³ ch'ien² chiang¹ ch'ien;² wu² ch'ien² chiang¹ yen²

250

It is not considered debt when the interest has been paid ;

Nor when the principal's paid back can a charge of fraud be made.

還 利 不 爲 欠。 還 本 不 爲 騙
'Huan² li⁴ pu⁴ wei² ch'ien;⁴ 'huan² pên³ pu⁴ wei² p'ien.⁴

251

You borrow my umbrella,—to thank me do not try ;
But through the night, I'd ask you, please, hang it up to dry.

借 傘 勿 用 謝。 只 要 晾 過 夜
Chieh⁴ san³ wu⁴ yung⁴ hsieh⁴; chih³ yao⁴ liang⁴ ko⁴ yeh.⁴

252

Iron or brass,

Let nothing pass.

是 銅 是 鐵。 腰 裏 一 撇
Shih⁴ t'ung² shih⁴ t'ieh,³ yao¹ li³ yi¹ p'ieh.¹

NOTE.—This proverb advises to take whatever can be got of a debt.

253

Better take eight hundred than give credit for a thousand cash.

千 賒 不 如 八 百 現
Ch'ien¹ shê¹ pu⁴ ju² pa¹ pai³ bsien.⁴

254

Credit cuts off customers.

除賬斷主顧
Shé¹ chang⁴ tuan⁴ chu³ ku.⁴

255

We can deal with ready money customers; those who want credit may spare their breath.

現錢照顧。除者免言。
Hsien².ch'ien² chao⁴ ku⁴; shé¹ ché² mien³ yen.²

256

Better twenty per cent on ready money, than thirty per cent on credit.

除三不如現二
Shé¹ san¹ pu⁴ ju² hsien² èh.⁴

257

Debt oppresses man. *Lit.*: The character *ch'ien* (debt) presses on the head of the character *jên* (man).

欠字壓人頭
Ch'ien⁴ tzū⁴ ya¹ jên² t'ou.²

NOTE.—This ingenious play on the word *ch'ien*, will be readily appreciated on an inspection of the way in which that word is written.

258

I shall easily get over this year's famine; but in my plenty it will be hard for you to meet me.

荒年易得過。實收難見人
'Huang¹ nien² yi⁴ tê² ko⁴; shih² shou¹ nan².chien⁴ jên.²

NOTE.—Said by one in low water, who wishes to borrow money, to one who refuses to lend it.

259

If any one wishes to enjoy the good will of his kind, let him sell on credit and never collect the money.

世上若要人情好
Shih⁴ shang⁴ jo⁴ yao⁴ jên² ch'ing² 'hao,³
除去貨物莫取錢
shé¹ ch'ü⁴ 'huo⁴ wu⁴ mo⁴ ch'ü³ ch'ien.²

260

One year borrows another year's food.

寅年支了卯年糧
Yin² nien² chih¹ liao³ mao³ nien² liang.²

261

He will even lend the plinths of his pillars.

耽倒柱頭把礮礮借人
Tan¹ tao³ chiu⁴ t'ou² pa³ sang³ tun¹ chieh⁴ jên.²

262

He who checks his appetite avoids debt.

忍嘴不欠債
Jên³ tsui³ pu⁴ ch'ien⁴ chai.⁴

263

To lend without prospect of repayment. *Lit.*: To throw a fleshy bone at a dog.

丟肉骨打狗子
Tiu¹ jou⁴ ku³ ta³ kou³ tzü.³

264

The same. *Lit.*: If you pelt dogs with meat dumplings you will lose all and get nothing.

肉餃打狗有去無來
Jou⁴ chiao³ ta³ kou³ yu³ ch'ü⁴ wu² lai.²

265

Urged to pay he resembles a tortoise.

逼得像烏龜
Pi¹ tê² hsiang⁴ wu¹ kuei.¹

NOTE.—This very uncomplimentary saying indicates the difficulty (experienced more particularly as the New Year approaches) of meeting with a debtor. Like the tortoise when assailed, he draws in his head, and hides himself.

266

He cannot pay his debts. *Lit.*: If I kill him he has no skin; if I scrape him he has no flesh.

殺他無皮。剗他無肉
Sha¹ t'a¹ wu² p'i;² kua¹ t'a¹ wu² jou.⁴

267

No fear of dishonesty; the only fear is of penury.

不怕奸。只怕沒錢
Pu⁴ p'a⁴ chien¹; chih³ p'a⁴ mu² ch'ien.²

NOTE.—Payment may be compelled in the one case, not in the other.

268

When the man dies the debt is lost.

人 死 債 爛
Jên² ssü³ chai⁴ lan.⁴

NOTE.—That is if he leave no responsible persons behind, such especially as sons.

269

A son pays his father's debts, but a father will not recognise a son's.

父 債 子 還。子 債 父 不 知
Fu⁴ chai⁴ tzü³ huan,² tzü³ chai⁴ fu⁴ pu⁴ chih.¹

270

Rather check your appetite than get into debt; and though penniless be patient.

忍 口 莫 欠 債。無 錢 且 耐 煩
Jên³ k'ou³ mo⁴ ch'ien⁴ chai⁴; wu² ch'ien² ch'ieh³ nai⁴ fan.²

271

As the rivers pour their waters back again into the sea, so what a man has lent is returned to him again.

水 流 長 江 歸 大 海
Shui³ liu² ch'ang² Chiang¹ kuei¹ ta⁴ 'hai,³
原 物 交 還 舊 主 人
yuän² wu⁴ chiao¹ 'huan² chiu⁴ chu³ jên.²

272

Lend to one who won't repay, and you'll provoke his dislike.

借 錢 不 還 反 招 怪
Chieh⁴ ch'ien² pu⁴ 'huan² fan³ chao¹ kuai.⁴

273

For criminals there are prisons; where are there prisons for debtors?

只 有 犯 罪 的。那 有 該 債 的 牢
Chih³ yu³ fan⁴ tsui⁴ ti¹; na³ yu³ kai¹ chai⁴ ti¹ lao.²

274

If you owe a man anything there is nothing like seeing him often.

欠 債 不 如 勤 見 面
 Ch'ien⁴ chai⁴ pu⁴ ju² ch'in² chien⁴ mien⁴

NOTE.—By this means it is supposed you will keep him in good temper.

———— 275 ————

It is easier to capture a tiger on the mountains, than to ask for a loan of money.

上 山 捉 虎 易。開 口 借 錢 難
 Shang⁴ shan¹ cho¹ hu³ yi,⁴ k'ai¹ k'ou³ chieh⁴ ch'ien² nan²

———— 276 ————

To borrow of one to pay another. *Lit.*: To tear down an eastern to repair a western wall.

拆 東 牆 補 西 壁
 Chê² tung¹ ch'iang² pu³ hsi¹ pi.³

CHAPTER IV.

FRAUDS.

277

Dealing in smuggled wine is very much in vogue ;
Who does so undetected is the clever rogue.

家家賣私酒。不犯是好手
Chia¹ chia¹ mai⁴ ssü¹ chiu³; pu⁴ fan⁴ shih⁴ hao³ shou.³

278

If you get taken in say nothing about it.

上當莫做生
Shang⁴ tang¹ mo⁴ tso⁴ shêng.¹

279

With money in your hand don't be taken in.

將錢不買輸
Chiang¹ ch'ien² pu⁴ mai³ shu.¹

280

You may sell a small quantity of an adulterated
article ; but you cannot buy a picul of the genuine.

賣得三分假。買不得一担真
Mai⁴ tê² san¹ fên¹ chia³; mai³ pu⁴ tê² yi¹ tan⁴ chên.¹

281

The priest may run away, the temple cannot.

走了和尚。走不了廟
Tsou³ liao³ 'ho² shang⁴ tsou³ pu⁴ hiao³ miao.⁴

NOTE—Said of men, who, trading in their native places, where their shops or
houses are situated, are in no danger of running away.

282

I shall only be taken in this once.

吃虧只這一回
Ch'ih¹ k'uei¹ chih³ ehé⁴ yi¹ 'hui.²

283

If you try to dye a genuine red with spurious colouring,
you must bear the unfavourable criticisms of by-
standers.

假 顏 染 就 真 紅 色
 Chia³ yen² jan³ chiu⁴ chên¹ 'hung² sê⁴
 也 被 旁 人 說 是 非
 yeh³ pei⁴ p'ang² jên² shuo¹ shih⁴ fei¹

284

To stand under a tree waiting for wind.

站 得 樹 下 等 風
 Chan⁴ tê² shu⁴ hsia⁴ têng² fêng¹

NOTE.—This proverb is said to be aimed at those who meanly wait for an opportunity to defraud others by specious offers of worthless services.

285

Ignorant of the jetties to pretend to be a porter.

碼 頭 未 找 倒 就 挑 簞
 Ma³ t'ou² wei⁴ chao³ tao³ chiu⁴ t'iao¹ lo²

286

To pretend that the house leaks in order to defraud the landlord of his rent.

借 屋 漏 騙 店 錢
 Chieh⁴ wu¹ lou⁴ p'ien⁴ tien⁴ ch'ien²

287

Buy a cheap thing out of another's hand and you'll be taken in.

吃 虧 是 佔 便 宜
 Ch'ih¹ k'uei¹ shih⁴ chan⁴ pien⁴ i²

288

To follow the Dragon Boat shouting its cry.

跟 倒 龍 船 喊 號 子
 Kên¹ tao³ lung² ch'uan² 'han³ 'hao⁴ tzū³

NOTE.—This is said of or to any one who makes a mere pretence of working.

289

If I have cheated you out of one, may I die a year before my time!

少 一 個。短 一 歲
 Shao³ yi¹ ko⁴ tuan³ yi¹ sui⁴

C H A P T E R V .

PAWNING AND SURETISHIP.

290

Who consent as middle-men or sureties to behave,
Accept responsibilities which are exceeding grave.

做 中 做 保。 孰 代 不 小
Tso⁴ chung¹ tso⁴ pao,³ tan¹ tai⁴ pu⁴ hsiao.³

291

Do not be surety for one in custody, or for another
man's debts.

官 不 保 人。 私 不 保 債
Kuan¹ pu⁴ pao³ jên,² ssü¹ pu⁴ pao³ chai.⁴

NOTE.—“He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.” Prov. 11: 15.

292

To be surety for the bow means being surety for the
arrow.

招 弓 如 招 箭
Chao¹ kung¹ ju² chao¹ chien.⁴

293

Redeem one pledge with another, still that other is
in pawn.

當 當 抵 當 當 還 在
Tang⁴ tang⁴ ti² tang⁴ tang⁴ huan² tsai.⁴

294

When going to pawn say nothing about it.

當 當 莫 做 聲
Tang⁴ tang⁴ mo⁴ tso⁴ shêng.¹

295

To do nothing else but pawn. *Lit.:* To pawn, and
take out of pawn, and pawn again.

當 當 取 當 當 抵 當
Tang⁴ tang⁴ ch'ü³ tang⁴ tang⁴ ti² tang.⁴

296

Military offenders open small pawn shops; wealthy
men open large ones.

軍 犯 開 小 押。財 主 開 典 當
 Chün¹ fan⁴ k'ai¹ hsiao³ ya¹; ts'ai² chü³ k'ai¹ tien³ tang⁴.

297

The axe strikes the chisel, and the chisel enters the wood.

斧 打 鑿。鑿 入 木
 Fu³ ta³ tso,² tso² ju⁴ mu⁴.

NOTE.—The axe represents the creditor, the chisel the surety, and the wood the debtor.

298

All middle-men prompt you to increase your offer: where is the middle-man who will assist you with his money?

只 有 添 錢 中 人
 Chih³ yu³ t'ien¹ ch'ien² chung¹ jên²;
 那 有 貼 錢 中 人
 na³ yu³ t'ieh¹ ch'ien² chung¹ jên²?

299

He who can recommend another has great respectability.

薦 主 面 子 大
 Chien⁴ chu³ mien⁴ tzü³ ta⁴.

300

“A man is better than a pledge.”

當 人 不 當 物
 Tang⁴ jên² pu⁴ tang⁴ wu⁴.

301

“Middle-men bear no responsibilities; and sureties pay no debts.”

中 人 不 挑 担。保 人 不 還 錢
 Chung¹ jên² pu⁴ t'iao¹ tan¹; pao³ jên² pu⁴ huan² ch'ien².

302

The middle-man settles the bargain. *Lit.*: The words drop from the middle-man's mouth.

話 落 中 人 口
 Hua⁴ lo⁴ chung¹ jên² k'ou³.

303

A firm-shouldered surety.

硬 肩 的 保

Ying⁴ chien¹ ti¹ pao.³

304

You may be surety for a general's going into battle ;
can you be surety for his coming out ?

保 得 將 軍 進。保 得 將 軍 出

Pao³ tê² Chiang¹ chün¹ chin⁴; pao³ tê² Chiang¹ chün¹ ch'u¹?

NOTE.—This proverb is of general application.

305

Selling land sell the house on it ; and invite a middle-
man to settle your bargain.

賣 基 賣 窠。請 中 說 合

Mai⁴ chi¹ mai⁴ ch'ao²; ch'ing³ chung¹ shuo¹ ho.²

CHAPTER VI.

TRADERS.

306

All unskilful fools,
Quarrel with their tools.

自 已 無 能。反 推 物 鈍
Tzū⁴ chi³ wu² nêng² fan³ t'ui¹ wu⁴ tun⁴

307

Beat your gong, your candies vend;
Each must to his trade attend.

打 鑼 賣 糖。各 有 一 行
Ta³ lo² mai¹ t'ang²; ko⁴ yu³ yi¹ 'hang²

308

Bachelors to talk of books incline;
Pork butchers delight to talk of swine.

秀 才 談 書。屠 戶 談 豬
Hsiu⁴ ts'ai² t'an² shu¹; t'u² 'hu⁴ t'an² chu¹

309

One, like the letter *kung*, which can never raise its head,
Can only for one mouth alone secure daily bread.

工 字 不 出 頭。只 能 養 一 口
Kung¹ tzū⁴ pu⁴ ch'u¹ t'ou² chih³ nêng² yang³ yi¹ k'ou²

NOTE.—A slight inspection of the character *kung* (workman) will show the ingenuity of this pun.

310

On new year's day, and on a feast,
Every kind of work has ceased.

逢 年 遇 節。百 工 都 歇
Fêng² nien² yü⁴ chieh² pai³ kung¹ tu¹ hsieh¹

311

No men occupy so degraded a position,
As the brothel-keeper, actor, and low musician.

世 間 只 有 三 般 醜
Shih⁴ chien¹ chih³ yu³ san¹ pan¹ ch'ou³
忘 八 戲 子 吹 鼓 手
Wang⁴ pa¹ hsi⁴ tzü³ ch'ui¹ ku³ shou³

312

Porters and chairmen, without delay,
Soon as the job is done, want their pay.

挑 羅 抬 轎 歇 下 就 要
T'iao¹ lo² t'ai² chiao,⁴ hsieh¹ hsia⁴ chiu⁴ yao.⁴

313

When silversmiths decline to steal,
Their families starvation feel;
When tailors cabbage do refuse,
Their wives are minus drawers to use.

銀 匠 不 偷 銀。餓 死 一 家 人
Yin² chiang⁴ pu⁴ t'ou¹ yin,² o⁴ ssü³ yi¹ chia¹ jên²:
裁 縫 不 偷 布。婦 人 莫 得 褲
Ts'ai² fêng³ pu⁴ t'ou¹ pu,⁴ fu⁴ jên² mo⁴ tê² k'u.⁴

314

When husbandmen have stored their grain,
They go to law, or build again.

鄉 裏 老 收 了 穀
Hsiang² li³ lao³ shou¹ liao³ ku.³
不 打 官 事 就 蓋 屋
Pu⁴ ta³ kuan¹ shih⁴ chiu⁴ kai⁴ wu.¹

315

To learn to play the fife and drum steadfastly decline,
If you don't want to sit outside, and to sip cold wine.

爲 人 莫 學 吹 鼓 手
Wei² jên² mo⁴ hsiao² ch'ui¹ ku³ shou,³
坐 階 簷 喝 冷 酒
Tso⁴ chieh¹ yen² 'ho¹ lêng³ chiu.³

316

To his books a teacher must ever adhere:
His pigs, a poor man must continue to rear.

教 學 不 離 書。窮 人 不 離 豬
Chiao⁴ hsiao² pu⁴ li² shu¹: ch'ung² jên² pu⁴ li² chu.¹

317

Better be master of one than Jack of all trades.

百 藝 無 如 一 藝 精
Pai³ i¹ wu² ju² yi¹ i¹ ching.¹

318

Every man to his calling. *Lit.*: Separate hong's are like separate hills.

隔 行 如 隔 山
Ko² 'hang² ju² ko² shan.¹

319

The same. *Lit.*: The river does not overflow the well.

河 水 不 汎 井 水
'Ho² shui³ pu⁴ fan⁴ ching³ shui.³

320

Two of a trade hate one another.

當 行 厭 當 行
Tang¹ 'hang² yen⁴ tang¹ 'hang.²

321

There is mutual love between men of a creed, mutual jealousy between men of a trade.

同 道 者 相 愛。同 藝 者 相 嫉
T'ung² tao⁴ ché² hsiang¹ ai,⁴ t'ung² i⁴ ché² hsiang¹ chi.⁴

322

Serve but a day and you are a slave; deal in ever so small a way and you are a merchant.

幫 人 一 日 爲 奴
Pang¹ jên² yi¹ jih⁴ wei² lu²;
肩 挑 四 兩 爲 客
chien¹ t'iao¹ ssü⁴ liang³ wei² k'o.⁴

323

The fisherman must not desert his boat.

打 魚 的 不 離 船 邊
Ta³ yü² ti¹ pu⁴ li² ch'uan² pien.¹

324

There is room for all sorts of traders. *Lit.*: Many boats do not stop up a channel; many vehicles do not block up a road.

船 多 不 礙 港。車 多 不 礙 路
Ch'uan² to¹ pu⁴ ai⁴ chiang³; ch'ê¹ to¹ pu⁴ ai⁴ lu.⁴

325

Every one to his calling. *Lit.*: The priest reverts to his monastery, and the merchant to his shop.

和 尙 歸 寺。客 歸 店
Ho² shang⁴ kwei¹ ssü,⁴ k'o⁴ kwei¹ tien.⁴

326

Pork butchers and dog-slayers will come to no good end.

殺 豬 剝 狗 無 有 下 稍
Sha¹ chu¹ po¹ kou³ wu² yu³ hsia⁴ shao.¹

NOTE.—In this saying vegetarians predict the sure punishment of all who indulge themselves in flesh meat.

327

Traders are like priests.

買 賣 如 修 行
Mai³ mai⁴ ju² hsiu¹ hsing.²

NOTE.—“Priests” *i.e.* virtue cultivators. Patience is the virtue needed by both, and the one here inculcated on tradesmen.

328

Trading with petty hucksters, don't banter them down too much.

與 肩 挑 貿 易。勿 佔 便宜
Yü³ chien¹ t'iao¹ mao⁴ yi,⁴ wu⁴ chan⁴ pien⁴ i.²

329

A cloth huckster fears not your measure, though long as a carrying pole.

賣 布 的 不 怕 扁 担 量
Mai⁴ pu⁴ ti¹ pu⁴ p'a⁴ pien³ tan⁴ liang.²

NOTE.—You cannot outdo the tallyman. If he uses your measure, which is longer than his, he charges you a higher price.

330

An eatinghouse-keeper does not care how large your stomach is.

開 飯 店 的 不 怕 你 肚 子 大
K'ai¹ fan⁴ tien⁴ ti¹ pu⁴ p'a⁴ ni³ tu³ tzü³ ta.⁴

331

Three raw hands are unequal to one good hand.

三 生 趕 不 倒 一 熟
San¹ shêng¹ kan³ pu⁴ tao³ yi¹ shou.²

332

Who keeps the hills, burns the wood ; who keeps the stream drinks the water.

管 山 的 燒 柴。 管 河 的 吃 水
Kuan³ shan¹ ti¹ shao¹ ch'ai²; kuan³ 'ho² ti¹ ch'ih¹ shui.³

333

Farmers naturally realize enjoyment.

田 家 自 有 樂
T'ien² chia¹ tzü⁴ yu³ lo.⁴

334

There is a senior wrangler in every calling.

行 行 出 狀 元
'Hang² 'hang² ch'u¹ chuang⁴ yüan.²

335

A man of many trades cannot rear a family.

藝 多 不 養 家
I⁴ to¹ pu⁴ yang³ chia.¹

SECTION. IV—ON DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

CHAPTER I

FOOD AND CLOTHING.

336

Sow-thistles bitter, or oil made hot,
T'is matter of taste to eat or not.

熱油苦菜。各隨人愛
Jê⁴ yu² k'u³ ts'ai⁴ ko⁴ sui² jên² ai⁴.

337

Omit to stretch yourself after each meal,
And lumps in your throat you'll certainly feel.

吃飯不撐腰。必定是喉包
Ch'ih¹ fan⁴ pu⁴ ch'êng¹ yao¹ pi⁴ ting⁴ shāh⁴ 'hou² pao¹.

338

The cocks the morning greet—

My stomach is replete :

The cocks sound forth the noon—

I must be eating soon.

鷄叫早。肚子飽
Chi¹ chiao⁴ tsao³ tu³ tzü³ pao³ :

鷄叫中。肚子空
Chi¹ chiao⁴ chung¹ tu³ tzü³ k'ung¹.

339

Of things to use and to refresh us,
Money and salt are the most precious.

吃盡天下鹽好
Ch'ih¹ chin⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ yen² hao³,

用盡天下錢好
yung⁴ chin⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ ch'ien² hao³.

340

Don't eat the liver or blood of swine ;
Shrimps and tortoises also decline.

猪 不 可 吃 肝 血
 Chu¹ pu⁴ k'o³ ch'ih¹ kan¹ hsieh³;
 魚 不 可 喫 蝦 鼈
 Yü² pu⁴ k'o³ ch'ih¹ hsia¹ pieh.¹

341

On a journey never mind what progress you are making;
 At a meal consider not how much food you are taking.

行 不 計 路。食 不 計 數
 Hsing² pu⁴ chi⁴ lu⁴; shih² pu⁴ chi⁴ shu.⁴

NOTE.—The meaning of this proverb is, that you should, in eating, only consider the satisfying of hunger; and that, in travelling, you should not annoy the skipper or diver with questions about the distances.

342

Three meals will save a man from want;
 Freedom from rags three suits will grant.

飯 有 三 餐 不 餓
 F'an⁴ yu³ san¹ ts'an¹ pu⁴ o⁴;
 衣 有 三 件 不 破
 I¹ yu³ san¹ chien⁴ pu⁴ p'o.⁴

343

He who cares for his belly much more than his back,
 To face friends in his rags is uncommonly slack.

顧 嘴 不 顧 身。衣 破 難 對 人
 Ku⁴ tsui³ pu⁴ ku⁴ shên,¹ i¹ p'o⁴ nan² tui⁴ jên.²

344

Clothes can't be made an inch too long;
 Boots must not be a fraction wrong.

衣 不 長 寸。鞋 不 差 分
 I¹ pu⁴ ch'ang² ts'un⁴; hsieh² pu⁴ ch'a¹ fên.¹

345

In dress and food do not break rules.

穿 衣 喫 飯 不 犯 條 律
 Ch'uan¹ i¹ ch'ih¹ fan⁴ pu⁴ fan⁴ t'iao² lü.⁴

346

Do not covet for the mouth and belly, and so slay
 beasts and birds without restraint.

勿 貪 口 腹 而 恣 殺 牲 禽
 Wu⁴ t'an¹ k'ou² fu² êrh² tzü⁴ sha¹ shêng¹ ch'in.²

347

First secure food; then secure clothing.

先顧食。後顧衣
Hsien¹ ku⁴ shih²; hou⁴ ku⁴ i¹

348

Though breakfast be good, dinner is better.

侵晨飯好。算不得午後飽
Ch'in¹ ch'en² fan⁴ hao,³ suan⁴ pu⁴ tē² wu³ 'hou⁴ pao.³

349

Only eat fresh fish and ripened rice.

魚喫新鮮。米喫熟
Yü² ch'ih¹ hsin¹ hsien,¹ mi³ ch'ih¹ shu.²

350

Viands have various flavours; what pleases the palate is good.

物無定味。適口者珍
Wu⁴ wu² ting⁴ wei,⁴ shih⁴ k'ou² chē² chēn.¹

351

When rice is not well cooked it is because the steam has been unequally distributed.

飯不熟氣不勻
Fan⁴ pu⁴ shu² ch'i⁴ pu⁴ yün.²

352

Rustics feast twice a year; after the new year's feast, they look for the harvest-home. *ting*

鄉裏人一年兩回暈
Hsiang¹ ni³ jēn² yi¹ nien² liang³ 'hui² yün¹;
喫了年飯望喫新
ch'ih¹ liao³ nien² fan⁴ wang⁴ ch'ih¹ hsin.¹

353

Our daily bread depends on Heaven.

喫飯靠天
Ch'ih¹ fan⁴ k'ao⁴ t'ien.¹

354

Clothes and food are daily mercies.

衣飯逐日生
I¹ fan⁴ sui² jih⁴ shēng.¹

355

A hungry man is glad to get boiled wheat.

肚 饑 好 喫 麥 米 飯

Tu³ chi¹ hao⁴ ch'ih¹ mai⁴ mi⁴ fan.⁴

356

Eyes must be closed to swallow maggots in one's food.

閉 眼 喫 毛 蟲

Pi⁴ yen³ ch'ih¹ mao² ch'ung.²

NOTE.—This is used to complain of the dirtiness of any sort of food.

357

Feed moderately on wholesome food; garden herbs surpass rich viands.

飲 食 約 而 糧。園 蔬 愈 珍 饈

[Yin³ shih² yo¹ êrh² ching¹; yian² su¹ yü⁴ chên¹ hsiu.¹

358

There is dew for every blade of grass.

一 根 草 有 一 根 草 的 露 水 養

Yi¹ kên¹ ts'ao³ yu³ yi¹ kên¹ ts'ao³ ti¹ lu⁴ shui³ yang.³

359

When the wild bird lacks food, all the earth is before him.

野 雀 無 糧 天 地 寬

Yeh³ ch'iao³ wu² liang² t'ien¹ ti⁴ k'uan.¹

NOTE.—This beautiful saying reminds one of the Psalmist's words—"He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry." Ps. 147: 9. It reminds one also of our Lord's words—"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them." Matt. 6: 26.

360

Fresh food is fragrant; stale food stinks.

新 是 香。陳 是 臭

Hsin¹ shih⁴ hsiang¹; ch'ên² shih⁴ ch'ou.⁴

361

The more you eat, the less flavour; the less you eat, the more flavour.

多 喫 少 滋 味。少 喫 多 滋 味

To¹ ch'ih¹ shao³ tzü¹ wei⁴; shao³ ch'ih¹ to¹ tzü¹, wei.⁴

362

Whatever will fill your belly is good food.

物 可 充 腸 皆 美 食

Wu⁴ k'o³ ch'ung¹ ch'ang² chieh¹ mei³ shih.²

363

We scheme for three meals per day, and for one sleep by night.

日 圖 三 餐 夜 圖 一 宿

Jih⁴ t'u² san¹ ts'an,¹ yeh⁴ t'u² yi¹ hsiu.³

364

The mouth is an unlimited measure.

口 是 無 量 斗

K'ou² shih⁴ wu² liang² tou.³

365

Dress makes the gentleman or lady.

有 衣 打 扮 便 成 人

Yu³ i¹ ta³ pan⁴ pien⁴ ch'êng² jên.²

366

To don the hat and sport the girdle is what everybody likes.

頂 冠 束 帶 世 人 愛

Ting³ kuan¹ su² tai⁴ shih⁴ jên² ai.⁴

367

Those who go swinging and strutting are only dressed out for show.

一 搖 三 擺 實 排 場

Yi¹ yao² san¹ pai³ shih² p'ai² ch'ang²

368

As a house needs man to set it off, so a man needs clothes.

屋 要 人 襯。人 要 衣 襯

Wu¹ yao⁴ jên² ch'ên,⁴ jên² yao⁴ i¹ ch'ên.⁴

CHAPTER II.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

369

To make a family prosper, is like digging with needles
in clay :

To bring a family to ruin, is like washing a sand-
bank away.

興 家 爲 如 針 挑 土
Hsing¹ chia¹ yu² ju² chên¹ t'iao¹ t'u³;
敗 家 猶 如 水 推 洲
Pai⁴ chia¹ yu² ju² shui³ t'ui¹ chou.¹

370

A grown tree spreads its branches wide ;

A grown-up household must divide.

人 大 分 家。樹 大 分 極
Jên² ta⁴ fên¹ chia¹; shu⁴ ta⁴ fên¹ ya.²

371

The hall which no ancient pictures grace,

Is not the home of an ancient race.

堂 前 無 古 畫。不 是 舊 人 家
T'ang² ch'ien² wu² ku³ hua,⁴ pu⁴ shih⁴ chiu⁴ jên² chia.¹

372

If you want to get along,

Let the old respect the young.

要 得 好。老 敬 小
Yao⁴ tê² hao,³ lao³ ching⁴ hsiao.³

373

Whene'er one family comes to grief,

A hundred families send relief.

一 家 不 穀。百 家 相 湊
Yi¹ chia¹ pu⁴ kou,⁴ pai³ chia¹ hsiang¹ ts'ou.⁴

374

By three days' early rising one day's work you gain ;
And from asking any favour you can well refrain.

早起三日當一工
Tsao³ ch'í³ san¹ jih⁴ tang⁴ yi¹ kung¹ ;
免得求人落下封
Mien³ tê² ch'iu² jên² lo⁴ hsia⁴ fêng.¹

375

Domestic foibles must not be spread abroad.

家醜不可外揚
Chia¹ ch'ou³ pu⁴ k'o³ wai⁴ yang.²

376

When families quarrel, outsiders deride.

家裡不和外人欺
Chia¹ li³ pu⁴ 'ho² wai⁴ jên² ch'i.¹

377

Better establish a branch, than cut off a line.

寧可成一房。不可敗一戶
Ning² k'o³ ch'êng² yi¹ fang.² pu⁴ k'o³ pai⁴ yi¹ 'hu.⁴

NOTE.—You must perpetuate yourself in some way or other, either through your own or an adopted child.

378

Perfect harmony in a family removes all restrictions
of speech.

一圖和氣。百無禁忌
Yi¹ t'uan² 'ho² ch'i.⁴ pai³ wu² chin⁴ chi.⁴

379

To bring disgrace and ruin on the door.

做得辱門敗戶
Tso⁴ tê² ju⁴ mên² pai⁴ 'hu.⁴

380

Every household knows when salt and rice are dear.

當家纔知鹽米貴
Tang¹ chia¹ ts'ai² chih¹ yen² mi³ kuei.⁴

381

Quarrelling for superiority will gradually destroy the
affairs of a family.

相論逞英豪。家計漸漸退。
Hsiang¹ lun⁴ ch'eng³ ying¹ 'hao,² chia¹ chi⁴ chien⁴ chien⁴ t'ui.⁴

382

Fair maids and lovely concubines endanger family happiness.

婢美妾嬌非閨房之福
Pi⁴ mei³ ch'ieh⁴ chiao¹ fei¹ kuei¹ fang² chih¹ fu.²

383

Who takes in his son-in-law brings trouble into his house. *Lit.*: He calls in his son-in-law to play the mountebank.

招女婿搬把戲
Chao¹ nü² hsi⁴ pan¹ pa³ hsi.⁴

NOTE.—The maiden ought, of course, to leave her father's house and go to that of her husband. The opposite course is sure to result in scenes.

384

When any one in a family breaks the law, the sin is laid to the blame of its head.

家人犯法。罪在家主
Chia¹ jên² fan⁴ fa,³ tsui⁴ tsai⁴ chia¹ chu.³

385

Family quarrels. *Lit.*: One domestic demon mocks another domestic sprite.

家鬼弄家神
Chia¹ kuei² nung⁴ chia¹ shên.²

386

One who can speak, speaks of markets; one who can't, speaks merely of household affairs.

會說說都市。不會說屋裡
'Hui⁴ shuo¹ shuo¹ tu¹ shih⁴; pu⁴ 'hui⁴ shuo¹ wu¹ li.³

387

It is easier to rule a kingdom than to regulate a family.

國易治。家難齊
Kuo² yi⁴ chih,³ chia¹ nan² ch'i.²

388

“The goodness of a house does not consist in its lofty halls, but in its excluding the weather; the fitness of clothes does not consist in their costliness, but in their make and warmth; the use of food does not consist in its rarity, but in its satisfying the appetite; the excellence of a wife consists not in her beauty, but in her virtue.”

房屋不在高堂。不漏便好。
 Fang² wu¹ pu⁴ tsai⁴ kao¹ t'ang² pu⁴ lou⁴ pien⁴ hao³:
 衣服不在綾羅。和煖便好。
 i¹ fu³ pu⁴ tsai⁴ ling² lo² ho² nuan³ pien⁴ hao³:
 飲食不在珍饈。一飽便好。
 yin³ shih³ pu⁴ tsai⁴ chen¹ hsin¹ yi¹ pao³ pien⁴ hao³:
 娶妻不在顏色。賢德便好。
 ch'u³ ch'i¹ pu⁴ tsai⁴ yen³ se⁴ hsien² tē² pien⁴ hao³.

389

Stupid wives and disobedient children no man can manage.

蠢妻逆子無法可治。
 Ch'un³ ch'i¹ ni⁴ tzu³ wu³ fa³ k'o³ chih³.

390

When a family is in a fix, out comes the cash.

錢出急家門。
 Ch'ien² ch'u¹ chi³ chia¹ mén.²

391

Everything prospers in a united family; though events do not happen according to men's calculations.

家和萬事興。事不由人算。
 Chia¹ ho² wan⁴ shih⁴ hsing¹ shih⁴ pu⁴ yu² jen³ suan⁴.

392

In a united family happiness springs up of itself.

家和福自主。
 Chia¹ ho² fu² tzu⁴ shêng.¹

393

The family regulations of a self-complacent lazy fellow must be very much out of order.

額 惰 自 甘 家 道 必 索
 T'ui¹ to⁴ tzu⁴ kan¹ chia¹ tao⁴ pi⁴ so.³

394

He gets little more time for sleep who refuses to rise with the dawn.

天 亮 不 起。睡 不 多 時
 T'ien¹ liang⁴ pu⁴ ch'i,³ shui⁴ pu⁴ to¹ shih.²

395

The loss of one night's sleep entails ten days of discomfort.

一 夜 不 眠。十 日 不 安
 Yi¹ yeh⁴ pu⁴ mien,² shih² jih⁴ pu⁴ an.¹

CHAPTER III.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS.

396

If you don't come it's no matter to me;
But if you do, serve obediently.

你不來我不怪
Ni³ pu⁴ lai² wo³ pu⁴ kuai⁴;
你要來受我戒
Ni³ yao⁴ lai² shou⁴ wo³ chieh⁴.

397

Your wood I've no desire to split;
My axe—I want to shelter it.

不願柴頭破。只願斧頭脫
Pu⁴ yüan⁴ ch'ai² t'ou² p'o⁴; chih³ yüan⁴ fu³ t'ou² t'o.¹

NOTE.—This is said by a servant desiring dismissal, as the preceding one is said by a master desiring to engage a servant.

398

When a servant conceives it hard to stay,
He becomes your foe if not sent away.

起心人難留。留下結冤仇
Ch'i³ hsin¹ jên² nan² liu,² liu² hsia⁴ chieh² yüan¹ ch'ou.²

399

To the man submit,
At whose board you sit.

捧他碗。服化管
P'eng³ t'a¹ wan,³ iu² 'hua⁴ kuan.³

400

Had I been of you afraid, had I with you a marriage made!

I have with you a marriage made, am I then of you afraid!

怕你不嫁你。嫁你不怕你
P'a⁴ ni³ pu⁴ chia⁴ ni³! chia⁴ ni³ pu⁴ p'a⁴ ni³!

NOTE.—Having engaged to serve in any way, he, or she, shrinks not from the responsibility.

401

A stick's a stick whether short or tall ;

A man's a man whether great or small.

長 短 是 棍 棍。 大 小 是 個 人
Ch'ang² tuan³ shih⁴ kên¹ kun⁴; ta⁴ hsiao³ shih⁴ ko⁴ jên²

NOTE.—This is the indignant complaint of a slighted employé.

402

He who to be obliging tries,

Is sure of work where'er he hies.

人 要 頑 得 活。 處 處 用 得 着
Jên² yao⁴ wan² tê² 'huo,² ch'u⁴ ch'u⁴ yung⁴ tê² cho.²

403

To his breast the man he wants he is ready to embrace :
He'd throw him he does not want down any dangerous place.

要 人 抱 在 懷 裏

Yao⁴ jên² pao⁴ tsai⁴ 'huai² li³ :

不 要 人 丟 在 崖 裏

Pu⁴ yao⁴ jên² tiu¹ tsai⁴ ai² li.³

404

Nourish a sick but never an idle servant.

養 病 不 養 閑

Yang³ ping⁴ pu⁴ yang³ hsien.²

405

Hurry men at work, not at meat.

催 工 莫 催 食

Ts'ui¹ kung¹ mo⁴ ts'ui¹ shih.²

406

In a family defend it ; in a country defend it.

在 家 衛 家。 在 國 衛 國

Tsai⁴ chia¹ wei⁴ chia¹; tsai⁴ kuo² wei⁴ kuo.²

407

To serve in a very attentive manner. *Lit.*: To prop the head and help the feet.

抽 頭 扶 腳

Ch'ou¹ t'ou² fu² chiao.³

408

I can find employment elsewhere. *Lit.*: There are temples elsewhere than on Mount Ni.

除了尼山別有廟
Ch'u² liao³ Ni² shan¹ pieh² yu³ miao⁴.

409

Do not employ handsome servants.

奴僕勿用俊秀
Nu³ pu² wu⁴ yung⁴ chün⁴ hsiu⁴.

410

Where no handsome servant is kept, the family must be virtuous.

堂中無俊僕。必是好人家
T'ang² chung¹ wu² chün⁴ pu,² pi⁴ shih⁴ hao³ jên² chia.¹

411

A wise man in a fool's service. *Lit.*: A clear pearl thrown into lacquer.

明珠投漆
Ming² chu¹ t'ou² ch'i.¹

412

Under the master's nose to idle away the time.

打照面過日子
Ta³ chao⁴ mien⁴ kuo⁴ jih⁴ tzü³.

413

Your pay is certain whether you work or play. *Lit.*: Whether you stand or sit you'll get three hundred taels.

站倒三百兩。坐倒三百兩
Chan⁴ tao³ san¹ pai³ liang³ tso⁴ tao³ san¹ pai³ liang.³

414

The dog presumes on his master's power.

狗仗人勢
Kou³ chang⁴ jên² shih.⁴

NOTE.—Said in reproof of saucy servants.

415

Able men are first employed. *Lit.*: Straight trees are first felled, and sweet wells first drained.

直木先伏。甘井先渴。
Chih² mu⁴ hsien¹ fa,² kan¹ ching³ hsien¹ k'o.³

416

If one won't employ me another will. *Lit.*: If there be no light in the east there will be in the west.

東方不亮。西方亮。
Tung¹ fang¹ pu⁴ liang,⁴ hsi¹ fang¹ liang.⁴

417

When the family becomes ruined the slave may despise his master.

家敗奴欺主。
Chia¹ pai⁴ nu³ ch'i¹ chu.³

418

You have turned round in a whirlpool.

在回流窩裏。打一個轉身的。
Tsai⁴ 'hui² liu² wo¹ li,³ ta³ yi¹ ko⁴ chuan³ shên¹ tí.¹

NOTE.—Said in censure of a servant whom one suspects, from his great haste, of having left his work undone.

419

Under a Premier's roof are seven ranks of officials.

宰相門下七品官。
Tsai⁴ hsiang¹ mên² hsia⁴ ch'i¹ p'in³ kuan.¹

420

If the magistrate be great, so will be his secretaries and underlings.

官大書差大。
Kuan¹ ta⁴ shu¹ ch'ai¹ ta.⁴

NOTE.—This and the preceding proverb are generally said with the intention of extolling the position of servants under noted or wealthy masters.

421

The fewer servants the better served. *Lit.*: One man will carry two buckets of water for his own use; two will carry one for their joint use; but three will carry none for anybody's use.

一人挑水吃。二人抬水吃；
Yi¹ jên² t'iao¹ shui³ ch'ih¹; êh⁴ jên² t'ai² shui³ ch'ih¹;
三人沒得水吃。
san¹ jên² mu² tê² shui³ ch'ih.¹

— 422 —

No man will serve for starvation.

餓 夫 不 能 當 差
O⁴ fu¹ pu⁴ neng² tang¹ ch'ai.¹

— 423 —

Though the senders be ten thousand times wrong, it is not the messenger's fault.

千 錯 萬 錯。來 人 不 錯
Ch'ien¹ ts'o⁴ wan⁴ ts'o⁴,⁴ lai² jên² pu⁴ ts'o.⁴

— 424 —

I'll come though you beat me, and though you curse me, but not if I am to lose any pay.

打 我 來。罵 我 來
Ta³ wo³ lai,² ma³ wo³ lai,²
要 我 吃 虧 就 不 來
yao⁴ wo³ ch'ih¹ ku'e¹ chiu⁴ pu⁴ lai.²

— 425 —

Cold tea and cold rice are bearable, but cold words and cold speeches are unendurable.

冷 茶 冷 飯 吃 得
Lêng³ ch'a² lêng³ fan⁴ ch'ih¹ tē,²
冷 言 冷 語 受 不 得
Lêng³ yen² lêng³ yü³ shou⁴ pu⁴ tē.²

— 426 —

A lean dog shames his master.

狗 瘦 主 人 羞
Kou³ shou⁴ chu³ jên² hsiu.¹

— 427 —

The nose is bigger than the face.

鼻 子 大 過 臉
Pi² tzu³ ta⁴ kuo⁴ lien.³

— 428 —

A *tou* of rice is not a *pao* of rice.

斗 米 不 成 包
Tou³ mi³ pu⁴ ch'êng² pao.¹

NOTE.—One *pao* contains five *tou*. This saying is used, for instance, by a servant, when suspected of bringing home less than he ought to do from the market.

— 429 —

Though the peony be beautiful, it must be supported by its green leaves.

牡丹雖好。必要綠葉扶持。
Mu³ tan¹ sui¹ 'hao,³ pi⁴ yao⁴ lu⁴ yeh⁴ fu² ch'ih.²

— 430 —

If he does not quarrel with his cook for his tea, he does for his rice.

茶裡不尋飯裡尋。
Ch'a² li³ pu⁴ hsin² fan⁴ li³ hsin.²

— 431 —

Whilst the workman may have $\frac{3}{7}$ ths of his own way, the master has $\frac{4}{7}$ ths of his.

三分匠人。七分主人。
San¹ fên¹ Chiang⁴ jên,² ch'i¹ fên¹ chu³ jên.²

— 432 —

Great trees are good to shelter under. (Patronage.)

大樹下好歇陰。
Ta⁴ shu⁴ hsia⁴ 'hao³ hsieh¹ yin.¹

— 433 —

Though a tiger may not devour men, his dreadful appearance frightens them.

老虎不吃人惡像難看。
Lao³ 'hu³ pu⁴ ch'ih¹ jên² o⁴ hsiang⁴ nan² k'an.⁴

NOTE.—This proverb illustrates the awe-inspiring influence of masters and superiors generally.

— 434 —

The affairs of a thousand men are under the control of one.

千人上路。主事一人。
Ch'ien¹ jên² shang⁴ lu,⁴ chu³ shih⁴ yi¹ jên.²

— 435 —

There is no master in the concern. *Lit.*: One state has three rulers.

一國三公。
Yi¹ kuo² san¹ kung.¹

436

To employ volunteers only. *Lit.*: Chiang T'ai Kung angling, catches only volunteers.

姜太公釣魚願者上鉤
Chiang¹ T'ai⁴ Kung¹ kou¹ yü² yüan⁴ ché² shang³ kou¹

NOTE.—Chiang T'ai Kung, or Chiang Tzū-ya (姜子牙), was a remarkable sage in the time of the celebrated Wên Wang (文王), who followed, in obscurity, his favourite pursuit of angling up to the age of eighty years. At that age he became counsellor to the kiog. One often sees the following sentence pasted over the lattice windows of Chinese dwellings: 姜太公在此諸神迴避 Chiang T'ai Kung is inside, keep off, all ye gods." Most of the gods are popularly supposed to owe their deification to this powerful individual, to be under his control, and to stand in considerable awe of him.

437

You can treat an inferior any way you please. *Lit.*:
Meat on a block can be chopped any way you like.

蒸板上塊肉
Chêng¹ pan³ shang⁴ yi¹ k'uai⁴ jou⁴
隨你橫砍直砍
sui² ni³ hêng⁴ k'ah³ chih² k'an³

438

Though I dismiss one butcher, think you I shall be forced to eat undressed pork?

舍了屠戶。難道連毛吃豬
Shé³ liao³ t'u² 'hu⁴ nan² tao⁴ lien² mao² ch'ih¹ chu¹

439

The master controls his slave as easily as one can feel the stocking in one's boot.

主子管奴才。靴子裏摸襪子
Chu³ tzū³ kuan³ nu³ ts'ai² hseh¹ tzū³ li³ mo¹ wa⁴ tzū³

440

If you suspect a man don't employ him; if you employ him don't suspect him.

疑人莫用人。用人莫疑人
I² jên² mo⁴ yung⁴ jên²; yung⁴ jên² mo⁴ i² jên²

CHAPTER IV.

NEIGHBOURS.

— 441 —

When relations and neighbours continue sincere,
Then relations and neighbours have nothing to fear.

親 願 親 好。鄰 愿 鄰 好
Ch'in¹ yüan⁴ ch'in¹ hao,³ lin² yüan⁴ lin² hao.³

— 442 —

Examine the neighbourhood before you choose your
dwelling.

徧 處 兒 擇 地 方 住
Pien⁴ ch'u⁴ êrh² tsê² ti¹ fang¹ chu.⁴

— 443 —

Dwell in harmony with all your neighbours.

居 街 坊 接 鄰 里
Chü¹ chieh¹ fang¹ chieh¹ lin² li.³

— 444 —

Mencius' mother selected her neighbourhood.

昔 孟 母 擇 鄰 處
Hsi² Mêng⁴ mu³ tsê² lin² ch'u.³

— 445 —

A good bird selects its tree.

良 禽 擇 木 而 棲
Liang² ch'in² tsê² mu⁴ êrh² ch'i.¹

— 446 —

Distant water will not quench a fire near ; distant re-
lations are not so good as near neighbours.

遠 水 難 救 近 火
Yüan³ shui³ nan² chiu⁴ chin⁴ 'huo³ ;
遠 親 不 如 近 鄰
yüan³ ch'in¹ pu⁴ ju² chin⁴ lin.²

NOTE.—“Better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.” Prov. xxvii : 10.

447

Three years after a family has been divided, its members become as neighbours.

分 家 三 年 成 鄰 舍
Fên¹ chia¹ san¹ nien² ch'êng² lin² shé.⁴

448

The bird chooses its tree, not the tree the bird.

鳥 則 擇 木。木 豈 能 擇 鳥
Niao³ tsé² tsé² mu,⁴ mu⁴ ch'í³ nêng² tsé² niao.³

449

Would you discover the real truth about a person, enquire only of his neighbours.

察 實 莫 過 鄰 里
Ch'a² shih² mo⁴ kuo⁴ lin² li.³

450

On a journey you must have good company; at home you must have good neighbours.

行 要 好 伴。住 要 好 鄰
Hsing² yao⁴ hao³ pan⁴; chu⁴ yao⁴ hao³ lin.²

451

Better good neighbours near, than relations far away.

得 好 鄉 鄰 勝 遠 親
Tê² hao³ hsiang¹ lin² shêng⁴ yüan³ ch'in.¹

452

The emperor has no waste lands: and there are virtuous men among your neighbours.

朝 廷 無 空 地。鄰 舍 有 賢 人
Ch'ao² t'in² wa² k'ung¹ ti⁴; lin² shé⁴ yu³ hsien² jên.²

453

Near neighbours are not equal to next-door neighbours, and they are not equal to neighbours across the road.

近 鄰 不 如 隔 壁
Chin⁴ lin² pu⁴ ju² ko² pi,³
隔 壁 不 如 對 門
ko² pi³ pu⁴ ju² tui⁴ mên.²

454

Near neighbours. *Lit.*: If we have not flowers and trees in common, we have the garden in common.

不 同 花 樹 同 花 園
Pu⁴ t'ung² 'hua¹ shu⁴ t'ung² 'hua¹ yüan.²

455

Fields are divided from each other; but dwellings are joined together.

田 土 相 界。屋 宇 相 連
T'ien² t'u³ hsiang¹ chieh⁴; wu¹ yü³ hsiang¹ lien.²

456

Possessed of a neighbour's knowledge. *Lit.*: I know all about the place's customs, soil, and men.

風 土 人 情 我 盡 知
Fêng¹ t'u³ jên² ch'ing² wo³ chin⁴ chih.¹

SECTION V.—ON EDUCATION.

CHAPTER I.

EDUCATION GENERALLY.

— 457 —

Wives' and children's education,
Won't admit procrastination.

訓子嬰孩。教婦初來
Hsün⁴ tzü³ ying¹ 'hai², chiao⁴ fu⁴ ch'u¹ lai.²

— 458 —

Than a lad without learning, you'd better rear an ass :
Better rear a pig than an uneducated lass.

養子不教如養驢
Yang³ tzi³ pu⁴ chiao⁴ ju² yang³ lü² :
養女不教如養豬
Yang³ nü² pu⁴ chiao⁴ ju² yang³ chu.¹

— 459 —

Fields left untilled—your gran'ries will all empty be :
Books left unread—you'll have a stupid progeny.

有田不耕倉廩虛
Yu³ t'ien² pu⁴ kêng¹ ts'ang¹ lin³ hsü¹ :
有書不讀子孫愚
Yu³ shu¹ pu⁴ tu² tzü³ sun¹ yü.²

— 460 —

As the twig is bent the mulberry grows.

桑條從小揉
Sang¹ t'iao² ts'ung² hsiao³ jou.²

— 461 —

Those who reject iron cannot make steel.

恨鐵不成鋼
'Hên⁴ t'ieh² pu⁴ ch'êng² kang.¹

NOTE.—The meaning of this is, that those who despise the effort to educate will not have educated children.

462

Instruction penetrates the hearts of the good, but
blows past the ears of the bad.

善 人 聽 說 心 中 刺
Shan⁴ jên² t'ing¹ shuo¹ hsin¹ chung¹ tz'ü,⁴
惡 人 聽 說 耳 邊 風
o⁴ jên² t'ing¹ shuo¹ erh³ pien¹ fêng.¹

463

Education requires a proper method.

教 子 要 有 義 方
Chiao⁴ tzü³ yao⁴ yu³ i⁴ fang.¹

464

Nothing can be done without instruction.

天 下 之 事 非 教 無 成
T'ien¹ hsia⁴ chih¹ shih⁴ fei¹ chiao⁴ wu² ch'êng.²

465

Teach your son in the hall, your wife on the pillow.

堂 前 教 子。枕 邊 教 妻
T'ang² ch'ien² chiao⁴ tzü,³ chên³ pien¹ chiao⁴ ch'i.¹

466

Though an affair be small, it must be attended to, else
it will never be done: though a son be talented,
without instruction he will still remain ignorant.

事 雖 小 不 作 不 成
Shih⁴ sui¹ hsiao³ pu⁴ tso⁴ pu⁴ ch'êng²:
子 雖 賢 不 教 不 明
tzü³ sui¹ hsien² pu⁴ chiao⁴ pu⁴ ming.²

467

Teach your descendants the two proper roads—litera-
ture and farming.

教 子 孫 兩 條 正 路。惟 讀 惟 耕
Chiao⁴ tzü³ sun¹ liang³ t'iao² chêng⁴ lu⁴-wei² tu² wei² kêng.¹

468

Teaching sons and grandsons, mind you teach them
a trade: plant the *sang* and the *che*, but not many
flowers.

教子教孫須教藝
 Chiao⁴ tzū³ chiao⁴ sun¹ shun⁴ chiao⁴ i²;
 栽桑栽柘少栽花
 tsai¹ sang¹ tsai¹ che⁴ shao³ tsai¹ 'hua.¹

NOTE.—The *sang* is the mulberry; and the *che*, according to Kanghi, a species of the same, the leaves of which are also used in feeding silk-worms.

469

Superior men are good without instruction; medium men are good with it; but low fellows are bad despite of it.

上等之人不教而善
 Shang⁴ têng² chih¹ jên² pu⁴ chiao⁴ êrh² shan⁴;
 中等之人一教而善
 chung¹ têng² chih¹ jên² yi¹ chiao⁴ êrh² shan⁴;
 下等之人教亦不善
 hsia⁴ têng² chih¹ jên² chiao⁴ i¹ pu⁴ shan.⁴

NOTE.—The first of these are called 聖, Sages of the highest order; the second 賢, Sages of the second order; and the third 愚, the stupid or worthless.

470

The youthful student must carve and grind; he must not complain at the amount of instruction his Teacher gives him: for nothing can be made of yellow gold until it is hammered; and the jewelled sword is useless until it is sharpened.

幼小讀書要琢磨
 Yu⁴ hsiao² tu² shu¹ yao⁴ cho² mo²;
 休恨嚴師教訓多
 hsiu¹ 'hên⁴ yen² shih¹ chiao⁴ hsün⁴ to¹;
 黃金不打難成器
 'huang² chin¹ pu⁴ ta³ nan² ch'êng² ch'i⁴;
 寶劍鈍時也要磨
 pao³ chien⁴ tun⁴ shih² yeh³ yao⁴ mo.²

C H A P T E R I I .

EXAMINATIONS.

— 471 —

The scholar who wishes his M. A. to gain,
From all tiger drawing must henceforth refrain.

讀書望中舉。不可畫老虎
Tu² shu¹ wang⁴ chung⁴ chü,³ pu⁴ k'o³ 'hua⁴ lao³ 'hu.³

NOTE.—That is, he must refrain from drawing up indictments, a practice by which many B.A.'s extort unlawful gains.

— 472 —

At each of the Chancellor's examinations, held twice
in three years,
Each literary, military, old, or young, candidate ap-
pears.

學憲三年兩考
Hsiao¹ hsien⁴ san¹ nien² liang³ k'ao,³
科歲文武大小
K'o¹ sui⁴ wên² wu³ ta⁴ bsiao.³

NOTE.—“At each,” i. e. at the 科考, k'o k'ao, or examination for confer-
ring the B.A. degree; and at the 歲考, sui k'ao, an intermediate examina-
tion, at which all B.A.'s are bound to appear. This examination bestows no
degrees, and is only held in order to keep an eye on the studies of the graduates.

— 473 —

Yearly examinations scare the B. A. :
Hay time scares the farmer in much the same way.

秀才怕歲考。耕田怕打草
Hsiu⁴ ts'ai² p'a⁴ sui⁴ k'ao³ : kêng¹ t'ien² p'a⁴ ta³ ts'ao.³

— 474 —

When a dull scholar obtains a B. A.,
We know it is not by a dull essay.

只進黑人。不進黑文
Chih³ chin⁴ 'hei¹ jên,² pu⁴ chin⁴ 'hei¹ wên.²

— 475 —

Any man who shows ability may leap the dragon gate.

各顯本勢跳龍門
Ko⁴ hsien³ pên³ shih⁴ t'iao⁴ lung² mên.²

NOTE.—“To leap the dragon gate” means, in prose, to obtain a degree.

476

Who fears that his essay will surpass all others, and not that the examiners will reject it?

那 怕 文 章 高 天 下
 Na³ p'a⁴ wên² chang¹ kao¹ t'ien¹ hsia.⁴
 試 官 不 中 也 枉 然
 shih⁴ kuan¹ pu⁴ chung¹ yeh³ wang³ jan.²

477

In three years a master of arts may degenerate into an ordinary plebeian.

舉 子 三 年 成 白 丁
 Chü³ tzü³ san¹ nien² ch'êng² pai² ting.¹

NOTE.—That is by neglecting to attend the proper examinations in Peking.

478

Come out first on the Dragon-Tiger list, and in ten years you will be at the Phoenix pool.

一 舉 首 登 龍 虎 榜
 Yi¹ chü³ shou³ têng¹ lung² 'hu³ pang.³
 十 年 身 到 鳳 凰 池
 shih² nien² shên¹ tao⁴ fêng⁴ 'huang² ch'ih.²

NOTE.—“The dragon-tiger list” is that published after the examinations for conferring the degree of Master of Arts. And “the phoenix pool” is the Imperial College at Peking.

479

To gain a degree. *Lit.*: The river fish *li* ascends the dragon gate.

河 鯉 登 龍 門
 'Ho² li³ têng¹ lung² mên.²

480

To stand alone on the sea-monster's head.

獨 占 鰲 頭
 Tu² chan¹ ao² t'ou.²

NOTE.—The apparently unenviable position here indicated, stands for the very enviable one of coming out senior wrangler in any examination.

481

The attainment of literary honours depends on Fate, Fortune, Geomantic influences, the laying up of secret merit, and on study.

一 命。二 運。三 風 水
 Yi¹ min,⁴ èrh⁴ yün,⁴ san¹ fêng¹ shui,³
 四 積 陰 功。五 讀 書
 ssü⁴ chi² yin¹ kung,¹ wu³ tu² shu.¹

— 482 —

Any essay is good which gives a man his M.A.

中 了 文 章 總 是 好 的
 Chung⁴ liao³ wên² chang¹ tsung³ sbih⁴ 'hao³ ti.¹

— 483 —

Fear the lack of excellence in your production, not the lack of competence in your examiner.

業 患 不 能 精
 Yeh⁴ 'huan⁴ pu⁴ lêng² ching,¹
 無 患 有 司 之 不 明
 wu² 'huan⁴ yu³ ssü¹ chih¹ pu⁴ ming.²

— 484 —

Fear the lack of perfectness in your conduct, not the lack of honesty in your examiner.

行 患 不 能 成
 Hsing² 'huan⁴ pu⁴ nêng² ch'êng,²
 無 患 有 司 之 不 公
 wu² 'huan⁴ yu³ ssü¹ chih¹ pu⁴ kung.¹

— 485 —

The candidate hopes to pass; the criminal fears the cell.

進 考 望 入 學。犯 罪 怕 坐 牢
 Chin⁴ k'ao³ wang⁴ ju⁴ hsiao²; fan⁴ tsui⁴ p'a⁴ tso⁴ lao.²

CHAPTER III.

LITERATI.

486

Studious men to growing corn a perfect likeness bear;
Unstudious men to jungle grass we may well compare.

學者如禾如稻
Hsiao² chē² ju² 'ho² ju² tao⁴;
不學者如蒿如草
Pu⁴ hsiao² chē² ju² 'hao¹ ju² ts'ao.³

487

A man chock full of learning up to his chin,
Needs stirring up to bring out that which is in.

文章脹齊頸。不提也不醒
Wên² chang¹ chang⁴ ch'i² ching³, pu⁴ t'i² yeh³ pu⁴ hsing.³

488

A pedant. *Lit.*: One whose mouth is full of particles.

滿嘴裏的之乎也者
Man³ tsui³ li³ ti¹ chih¹ 'hu¹ yeh³ chē.²

489

He is the true Bachelor of Arts who can clearly distinguish the uses of the seven particles.

之乎者也已焉哉
Chih¹ 'hu¹ chē² yeh³ i³ yen¹ tsai,¹
七字能分好秀才
ch'i¹ tzū⁴ nêng² fēn¹ 'hao³ hsiu⁴ ts'ai.²

490

Without leaving his study, a Bachelor of Arts may understand the affairs of the empire.

秀才不出屋。能知天下事
Hsiu⁴ ts'ai² pu⁴ ch'u¹ wu,¹ nêng² chih¹ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ shih.⁴

491

He who fails to become a perfect scholar, may still become a magistrate's clerk.

讀書不成方作吏
Tu² shu¹ pu⁴ ch'êng² fang¹ tso⁴ li.⁴

— 492 —

Though you cannot obtain office, you are still a Bachelor of Arts.

求 不 倒 官。有 秀 才 在
Ch'iu² pu⁴ tao³ kuan,¹ yu³ hsiu⁴ ts'ai² tsai.⁴

— 493 —

He bored through his wall to steal his neighbour's light.

鑿 壁 偷 光
Tso² pi³ t'ou¹ kuang.¹

NOTE.—This indicates a poor but indefatigable student, such as *K'uang Hên* (匡衡), who actually did this. He lived during the Han dynasty; and, though exceedingly poor, by his zeal and perseverance in study, he became a very learned man, and finally rose to the office of Prime Minister.

— 494 —

Scholars are their country's treasure, and the richest ornaments of a feast.

士 者 國 之 寶。儒 爲 席 上 珍
Shih⁴ ché² kno² chih¹ pao,³ ju² wei² hsi² shang⁴ chên.¹

— 495 —

A Bachelor of Arts' kindness is but half a sheet of paper.

秀 才 人 情 紙 半 張
Hsiu⁴ ts'ai² jên² ch'ing² chih³ pan⁴ chang.¹

— 496 —

Scholars discuss reason; workmen what they are to eat.

讀 書 人 講 理。做 工 人 講 嘴
Tu² shu¹ jên² Chiang³ li³; tso⁴ kung¹ jên² Chiang³ tsui.³

— 497 —

He whose learning is coarse and shallow, should not hang out the name of a scholar.

學 問 粗 疎。不 可 掛 讀 書 之 名
Hsiao² wên⁴ ts'u¹ su,² pu⁴ k'o³ kua⁴ tu² shu¹ chih¹ ming.²

— 498 —

A poor scholar accepts no pity.

寒 士 不 受 人 憐
Han² shih⁴ pu⁴ shou⁴ jên² lien.²

499

All look up to a famous scholar.

文 名 共 仰
Wên² ming² kung⁴ yang³

500

All scholars are brethren.

斯 文 同 骨 肉
Ssü¹ wên² t'ung² ku³ jou⁴

501

Bachelors of Art are not the sons of poverty; nor are Buddhist priests the sons of wealth.

秀 才 不 是 窮 家 子
Hsiu⁴ ts'ai² pu⁴ shih⁴ ch'ung² chia¹ tzü³;
和 尙 不 是 富 家 兒
'ho² shang⁴ pu⁴ shih⁴ fu⁴ chia¹ êrh²

502

If you are a student of Confucius, you are bound to observe the rules of *Chou-Kung*.

既 讀 孔 子 之 書
Chi³ tu² K'ung³ Tzū³ chih¹ shu,¹
必 達 周 公 之 禮
pi⁴ ta² Chou¹ Kung¹ chih¹ li.³

NOTE.—*Chou-Kung*, son of the famous *Wên Wang* (文王), and brother of the famous *Wu Wang* (武王), was himself famous for his wisdom and politics. Confucius longed to bring his principles and institutions into practice, and hence made them the subjects of his own teachings.

503

As a student—under one man: in office—over ten thousand.

學 在 一 人 之 下
Hsiao² tsai⁴ yī¹ jên² chih¹ hsia⁴:
用 在 萬 人 之 上
yung⁴ tsai⁴ wan⁴ jên² chih¹ shang⁴

504

A scholar will serve those who appreciate him; and a lady will dress for those who please her.

士 爲 知 己 用。女 爲 悅 己 容
Shih⁴ wei⁴ chih¹ chi³ yung⁴; nü² wei⁴ yüeh⁴ chi³ yung²

505

He who can handle a pen, will nowhere have need to beg.

手 拈 一 管 筆。到 處 不 求 人
 Shou³ nien¹ yi¹ kuan³ pi,³ tao⁴ ch'u⁴ pu⁴ ch'in² jên.²

506

When the mind is stored with learning, the bearing will be elegant.

腹 有 詩 書 氣 自 華
 Fu² yu³ shih¹ shu¹ ch'i⁴ tzü⁴ 'hua.²

CHAPTER IV.

LITERATURE.

507

Whoever has read the *Tsêng-kuang* is able to converse.

讀 了 增 廣 會 說 話
 Tu² liao⁴ Tsêng¹-kuang³ 'hui⁴ sbuo¹ 'hua.⁴

NOTE.—The *Tsêng-kuang* or *Chien-pên-hsien-wên* (監本賢文), is a very valuable little book of proverbs, the whole of which is incorporated in this collection.

508

He who has read the *Yu-hsiao* well knows how to curse.

讀 了 幼 學 好 設 罵
 Tu² liao³ Yu⁴-hsiao² 'hao³ shê⁴ ma.³

NOTE.—The *Yu-hsiao* is an encyclopedia, in four volumes, containing much useful and interesting matter. It begins with creation and astronomy, and runs through almost every imaginable subject, ending with a chapter on flowers and trees. There seems to be no justification whatever in the book itself for this proverb.

509

He who has read the *Ch'un-ch'iu* understands caution and gravity.

讀 春 秋 曉 得 謹 嚴
 Tu² Ch'un¹-ch'iu¹ hsiao³ tê² chin³ yen.²

NOTE.—This proverb is based on the general supposition that the *Ch'un-ch'iu*, or Spring and Autumn Annals, contains authoritative decisions on the conduct of men in high places; and it is taken for granted that the mere reading thereof, by official men, will produce in them a care to avoid such censure, and a desire to deserve such praise. Dr. Legge, however, denies that such decisions are to be found in the book, and says that it contains nothing but the most bare and brief statements of fact, without note or comment.

510

He who has read the *Tso-chuan* knows how to utter frivolous flatteries.

讀 左 傳 曉 得 浮 誇
 Tu² Tso³-chuan⁴ hsiao³ tê² fou² k'ua.¹

NOTE.—“*Tso-chuan*,” i. e. the Commentary on the *Ch'un-ch'iu* written by *Tso Ch'iu-ming* (左邱明). For a full and interesting account of him and his work, see Dr. Legge's Classics, Vol 5, part 1, prologomena. It is difficult to see how this proverb can be appropriately said in reference to his writings.

511

He who has seen the *San-kuo* will be able to use strategy.

看 三 國 會 用 計
K'an⁴ San¹ - kuo² hui⁴ yung⁴ chi.⁴

NOTE.—“The *San-kuo-chi* is a history of the period immediately after the After Han dynasty, when China was divided into the three Kingdoms of 魏 *Wei*, 蜀 *Shu*, and 吳 *Wu*.” As this history abounds in tales of strategy the reason for this saying is pretty plain.

512

He who has seen the *Sun-tzū* will understand military tactics.

看 孫 子 知 用 兵
K'an⁴ Sun¹ - tzū³ chih¹ yung⁴ ping.¹

NOTE.—*Sun-tzū* “is a treatise on military tactics in 13 sections, by *Sun Wu* (孫武), an officer in the service of the state *Wu*, during the 6th century B.C.” See Wylie's “Notes on Chinese Literature,” page 72.

513

He who has seen the Histories knows the affairs of the ancients.

看 綱 鑑 可 以 知 古 人 事 籍
K'an⁴ kang¹ chien⁴ k'o³ i³ chih¹ ku³ jên² shih⁴ chi.²

514

Books are alike the Empire over.

天 下 書 同 文
T'ien¹ hsia⁴ shu¹ t'ung² wên.²

515

Husbandry and letters are the two chief professions.

耕 讀 爲 本
Kêng¹ tu² wei² pên.³

516

The tongue weaves for clothes; the pen tills for food.

舌 織 而 衣。筆 耕 而 食
Shé² chih¹ êrh² i¹; pi³ kêng¹ êrh² shih.²

517

There are pictures in poems, and poems in pictures.

詩 中 有 畫。畫 中 有 詩
Shih¹ chung¹ yu³ 'hua,⁴ 'hua⁴ chung¹ yu³ shih.¹

518

In all famous sects there are fields of enjoyment.

名 教 中 自 有 樂 地
Ming² chiao⁴ chung¹ tzü⁴ yu³ lê⁴ yeh.³

NOTE.—This, though a general saying, is mostly used in reference to the enjoyments reaped in literary pursuits.

519

Poetry and letters do not neglect three generations.

詩 書 不 負 三 代
Shih¹ shu¹ pu⁴ fu⁴ san¹ tai.⁴

520

He who has read the works of *Sun* and *Wu*, can understand the art of war.

讀 孫 吳 之 書 可 以 知 戰
Tu² Sun¹ Wu² chih¹ shu¹ k'o³ i³ chih¹ chan.⁴

NOTE.—*Sun Pin* (孫臏), an officer in the state of *Ch'i* (齊) in the sixth century B.C. *Wu Ch'i* (吳起), an officer in the state of *Weï* (魏) in the fourth century B.C. He wrote a work on military affairs entitled *Wu-tzü* (吳子), in which he discourses on "National Resources, Estimate of the hostile force, Control of the military, Discussion regarding Military affairs, and Rousing the troops." See Wylie's "Notes on Chinese Literature," page 72. See also the *Yu-hsiao* (幼學), section *Wu-chih* (武職).

521

He who has seen maps knows the aspect of the empire.

看 地 理 便 知 天 下 形 勢
K'an⁴ ti⁴ li³ pien⁴ chih¹ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ hsing² shih.⁴

C H A P T E R V .

SCHOOLS.

———— 522 ————

Undignified teaching proves a lazy master.

教 不 嚴 師 之 惰
Chiao⁴ pu⁴ yen² shih¹ chih¹ to.⁴

———— 523 ————

If you are a miser do not educate your son ; and if you wish to hide his faults pay no heed to his teacher.

惜 錢 莫 教 子。護 短 莫 從 師
Hsi² ch'ien² mo⁴ chiao⁴ tzū³; 'hu⁴ tuan² mo⁴ ts'ung² shih.¹

———— 524 ————

When a teacher is dignified, teaching is respected.

師 嚴 則 道 尊
Shih¹ yen² tsê² tao⁴ tsun.¹

———— 525 ————

If there is no oil in the lamp the wick is wasted in vain.

燈 盞 無 油 枉 費 心
Têng¹ chan³ wu² yu² wang³ fei⁴ hsin.¹

NOTE.—The teacher wastes his strength when pupils will not try to learn.

———— 526 ————

When a rich man becomes poor he becomes a teacher.

財 主 敗 落 便 教 書
Ts'ai² chu³ pai⁴ lo⁴ pien⁴ chiao⁴ shu.¹

———— 527 ————

If he sets small tasks, his employers think him lazy ; if he gives much work, his scholars cannot get through it.

課 少 了 主 人 嫌 懶 惰
K'o⁴ shao³ liao³ chu³ jên² hsien² lan³ to⁴;
功 多 了 弟 子 道 難 爲
kung¹ to¹ liao³ ti⁴ tzū³ tao⁴ nan² wei.²

528

If you employ a teacher, employ one with a name.

請 師 當 請 名 人
Ch'ing³ shih¹ tang¹ ch'ing³ ming² jên.²

529

Who teaches me a day is my father for life.

一 日 之 師 終 身 爲 父
Yi¹ jih⁴ chih¹ shih¹ chung¹ shên¹ wei² fu.⁴

CHAPTER VI.

STUDY.

530

If he can study, the peasant's son may become a peer ;
And a nobleman's son who can't, must come down
from his sphere.

能 學 則 庶 民 之 子 爲 公 卿
Nêng² hsiao² tsê² shu⁴ min² chih¹ tzü³ wei² kung¹ ch'ing¹ ;
不 學 則 公 卿 之 子 爲 庶 民
Pu⁴ hsiao² tsê² kung¹ ch'ing¹ chih¹ tzü³ wei² shu⁴ min.²

531

Books of antiquity still a relish yield ;
And no year of famine knows the inkstone field.

自 古 書 有 味。硯 田 無 惡 歲
Tzū⁴ ku³ shu¹ yu³ wei⁴ ; yen⁴ tien² wu² o⁴ sui.⁴

532

Content in cotton, pleased with homely food,
You'll find the Odes and History always good.
布 衣 煖。菜 根 香。詩 書 滋 味 長
Pu⁴ i¹ nuan,³ ts'ai⁴ kên¹ hsiang,¹ shih¹ shu¹ tzü¹ wei⁴ ch'ang.²

533

Natural endowments are precious to a man ;
But, gain the prize without hard study, no one can.

天 資 高。學 力 到
T'ien¹ tzü¹ kao¹ ; hsiao² li⁴ tao.⁴

534

Where the sound of reading's heard, that house must
gain renown ;
Where there is but the sound of song, that house must
be o'erthrown.

家 有 書 聲 家 必 興
Chia¹ yu³ shu¹ shêng¹ chia¹ pi⁴ hsing¹ ;
家 有 歌 聲 家 必 傾
Chia¹ yu³ ko¹ shêng¹ chia¹ pi⁴ ch'ing.¹

535

If you only apply your mind to the task,
Why trouble about mastering it, I ask?

只 要 用 心 讀。何 愁 書 不 熟。
Chih³ yao⁴ yung⁴ hsin¹ tu², 'ho² ch'ou² shu¹ pu⁴ shou²?

536

However stupid sons and grandsons may be, they
must read the classics.

子 孫 雖 愚。經 書 不 可 不 讀。
Tzū³ sun¹ sui¹ yü², ching¹ shu¹ pu⁴ k'o³ pu⁴ tu².

537

Three years' reading is not so good as to hear the ex-
planation.

三 年 讀 書 不 如 聽 講。
San¹ nien² tu² shu¹ pu⁴ ju² t'ing¹ chiang³.

NOTE.—This refers to the ordinary native method of first committing the books to memory, and afterwards listening to the explanation of them.

538

Learning is far more precious than gold.

黃 金 有 價。書 無 價。
Huang² chin¹ yu³ chia², shu¹ wu² chia⁴.

539

They are only horses and cows in clothes who neglect
the study of the past and present.

人 不 學 古 今。馬 牛 面 襟 裙。
Jên² pu⁴ hsiao² ku³ chin¹, ma³ niu² mien⁴ chin¹ chü¹.

540

If study be neglected in youth, what will you do in
old age?

幼 不 學。老 何 爲。
Yu⁴ pu⁴ hsiao², lao³ 'ho² wei²?

541

He who neglects to study diligently in youth, will,
when white-headed, repent that he put it off until
too late.

少年不知勤學早
 Shao³ nien² pu⁴ chib¹ ch'in² hsiao² tsao,³
 白頭方悔讀書遲
 pai² t'ou² fang¹ hui³ tu² shu¹ ch'ih.²

542

Study which does not daily advance will daily retrograde.

功夫不日進則日退
 Kung¹ fu¹ pu⁴ jih⁴ chin⁴ tsê² jih⁴ t'ui.⁴

543

He who cannot understand the classics had better return to the plough.

學經不明不如歸耕
 Hsiao² ching¹ pu⁴ ming² pu⁴ ju² kuei¹ kêng.¹

544

Most things are easy to learn, but hard to master.

千般易學。一竅難得
 Ch'ien¹ pan¹ yi⁴ hsiao,² yi¹ ch'iao⁴ nan² t'ê.²

545

You cannot open a book without learning something.

開卷有益
 K'ai¹ chuan⁴ yu³ i.²

546

Very studious. *Lit.*: To rub away an iron ink-slab.

磨穿鐵硯
 Mo² ch'uan¹ t'ieh³ yen.⁴

547

It is essential to know the meaning of *real* words, and the use of particles.

實字求解。虛字求神
 Shih² tzü⁴ ch'iu² chieh¹, hsu¹ tzü⁴ ch'iu² shên.²

NOTE.—The “particles,” called *hsü-tsü* or “empty words,” are such as 之, sign of the genitive case; 乎, an exclamation; 也, a final; 者, a disjunctive; 已, also a final, denoting completion or conclusion; 焉, an initial; and 哉 also an exclamation. All others are *shih-tsü* or “real words.” This is the principal, if not the only grammatical distinction common amongst the Chinese. Grammar forms no part of a native scholar's education. And, though it may not be correct to say that there is no grammar of the Chinese language, it is certainly correct to say that the Chinese themselves have no grammar of it.

— 548 —

Every character must be chewed to get out its juice.

字 字 要 咬 出 汁 漿 來
Tzū⁴ tzū⁴ yao⁴ yao³ ch'u¹ chih¹ chiang¹ lai.²

— 549 —

Study thoroughly and think deeply.

熟 讀 深 思
Shou² tu² shên¹ ssü.¹

— 550 —

Learning cannot be gulped down. *Lit.*: You cannot swallow dates whole.

不 能 囫 圇 吞 棗
Pu⁴ nêng² 'hu² lün² t'un¹ tsao.³

— 551 —

The student must not listen to chatter under his window; he must with undivided attention study the Sages.

兩 耳 不 聽 窗 外 事
Liang³ êrh³ pu⁴ t'ing¹ ch'uang¹ wai⁴ shih⁴;
一 心 只 讀 案 前 書
yi¹ hsin¹ chih³ tu² an⁴ ch'ien² shu.¹

— 552 —

He who burns his lamp till three o'clock, and is up with the cocks at five, is a resolute student indeed.

三 更 燈 火 五 更 雞
San¹ kêng¹ têng¹ 'huo³ wu³ kêng¹ chi.¹
正 是 男 兒 立 志 時
chêng⁴ shih⁴ nan² êrh² li⁴ chih⁴ shih.²

— 553 —

Your study goes on like a flowing stream.

讀 書 如 流 水
Tu² shu¹ ju² liu² shui.³

— 554 —

Good students resemble workers in hard wood.

善 學 者 如 攻 堅 木
Shan⁴ bsiao² chê² ju² kung¹ chien¹ mu.⁴

— 555 —

Be diligent in study, for every character is worth thousands of gold.

讀書須用意。一字值千金。
Tu² shu¹ hsu¹ yung⁴ i⁴, yi¹ tzü⁴ chih² ch'ien¹ chin¹.

— 556 —

To amass gold by millions is not like a clear understanding of the classics.

積金千萬兩。不如明解經書。
Chi⁴ chin¹ ch'ien¹ wan⁴ liang³, pu⁴ ju² ming² chieh³ ching¹ shu¹.

— 557 —

Knowledge comes by study, ignorance follows its neglect.

人學始知道。不學亦枉然。
Jên² hsiao² shih³ chih¹ tao⁴, pu⁴ hsiao² i⁴ wang³ jan².

— 558 —

All pursuits are mean in comparison with that of learning.

世間萬般皆下品。
Shih⁴ chien¹ wan⁴ pan¹ chieh¹ hsia⁴ p'in³;
思量惟有讀書高。
ssü¹ liang² wei² yu³ tu² shu¹ kao¹.

— 559 —

Some study shows the need of more.

學然後知不足。
Hsiao² jan² 'hou⁴ chih¹ pu⁴ tsu².

— 560 —

Three day's neglect of study leaves one's conversation flavourless.

三日不讀書語言無味。
San¹ jih⁴ pu⁴ tu² shu¹ yü³ yen² wu² wei⁴.

— 561 —

By eating we overcome hunger; and by study ignorance.

以吃愈饑。以學愈愚。
I³ ch'ih¹ yü⁴ chi¹; i³ hsiao² yü⁴ yü².

562

In study—fix your mind on the Sages; in office—
on your prince and country.

讀書志在聖賢
 Tu² shu¹ chih⁴ tsai⁴ shêng⁴ hsien²;
 爲官心存君國
 wei² kuan¹ hsin¹ ts'un² chün¹ kuo.²

563

You may study to old age and yet have things to
learn.

做到老學不了
 Tso⁴ tao⁴ lao³ hsiao² pu⁴ liao.³

564

Read ancient essays and know how to compose modern
ones.

讀古文曉得做時文
 Tu² ku³ wên² hsiao³ tê² tso⁴ shih² wên.²

565

Learning dyes a man more than the colour vermilion
or black.

學之染人勝於丹青
 Hsiao² chih¹ jan³ jên² shêng⁴ yü² tan¹ ch'ing.¹

566

Learning is a treasure which follows its owner every-
where.

書乃隨身之寶
 Shu¹ nai³ sui² shên¹ chih¹ pao.³

567

In learning there is neither old nor young; the most
intelligent takes precedence.

學無老少。達者爲先
 Hsiao² wu² lao³ shao³; ta² ché² wei² hsien.¹

568

In learning length of study goes for nothing; the
most intelligent becomes master.

學無前後。達者爲師
 Hsiao² wu² ch'ien² 'hou²; ta² ché³ wei² shih.¹

569

Past and present times supply unlimited stores of knowledge, but a man's capacity is limited.

古 今 之 事 理 無 窮
 Ku³ chin¹ chih¹ shih⁴ li³ wu² ch'ung²;
 一 人 之 知 識 有 限
 yi¹ jên² chih¹ chih¹ shih⁴ yu³ hsien⁴.

570

Having a chance to use one's reading, we regret that it is so meagre; having accomplished a task, we begin to appreciate its difficulty.

書 到 用 時 方 恨 少
 Shu¹ tao⁴ yung⁴ shih² fang¹ hên⁴ shao³;
 事 從 經 過 始 知 難
 shih⁴ ts'ung² ching¹ kuo⁴ shih³ chih¹ nan².

571

No pleasure equals the pleasure of study.

最 樂 莫 如 讀 書 爲 善
 Tsui⁴ lê⁴ mo⁴ ju² tu² shu¹ wei² shan⁴.

572

Rich families have no necessity to buy fertile fields; and study will be sure to yield its thousand measures of rice.

富 家 不 用 買 良 田
 Fu⁴ chia¹ pu⁴ yung⁴ mai³ liang² t'ien²;
 書 中 自 有 千 鍾 粟
 shu¹ chung¹ tzū⁴ yu³ ch'ien¹ chung¹ su².

573

Who live in peace have no necessity to rear lofty halls; and study will be sure to yield its golden house.

安 居 不 用 架 高 堂
 An¹ chū¹ pu⁴ yung⁴ chia⁴ kao¹ t'ang²;
 書 中 自 有 黃 金 屋
 shu¹ chung¹ tzū⁴ yu³ huang² chin¹ wu¹.

574

Don't trouble yourself over the absence of a good go-between to negotiate a marriage for you, for study will provide you with a lady beautiful as jade.

娶妻莫恨無良媒
 Ch'ü³ ch'ü¹ mo⁴ 'hên⁴ wu² liang² mei,²
 書中有女顏如玉
 shu¹ chung¹ yu³ nü² yen² ju² yü.⁴

NOTE.—What more powerful inducements to study, than those mentioned in the three preceding proverbs, could be set before the mind of the youthful student

575

Extensive reading is a priceless treasure.

讀得書多無價寶
 Tu² tê² shu¹ to¹ wu² chia⁴ pao.³

576

Don't complain of the trouble of having to master so many classics and histories, but fear lest your leisure should be too limited.

莫厭經史煩。只恐工夫少
 Mo⁴ yen⁴ ching¹ shih³ fan,² chih³ k'ung³ kung¹ fu¹ shao.³

577

Would you know the affairs of the empire, read the works of the ancients.

欲知天下事。須讀古人書
 Yü⁴ chih¹ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ shih,⁴ hsu¹ tu² ku³ jên² shu.¹

SECTION VI.—FACETIÆ.

CHAPTER I.

RIDICULOUS CONDUCT.

— 578 —

He who acts *Chia Kuan* in a hulling-mortar hat,
Both pounds himself to death, and proves himself
a flat.

戴 確 臼 跳 加 官。搗 死 不 好 看
Tai⁴ tui⁴ chiu⁴ t'iao⁴ Chia¹ Kuan,¹ lei² ssū³ pu⁴ 'hao³ k'an.⁴

NOTE.—Theatrical performances are popularly supposed to have been originated by the second emperor of the *T'ang* Dynasty, *T'ai Tsung* (太宗), whose reign dates from A.D. 627. And *Chia Kuan*, the actor who opens the play by a majestic march across the stage, is supposed to represent *T'ai Tsung's* prime minister *Wei Chêng* (魏徵).

— 579 —

The pig for his blackness is mocked by the crow ;
Who of his own ugliness nothing doth know.

老 鴉 笑 猪 黑。自 醜 不 覺 得
Lao³ ya¹ hsiao⁴ chu¹ 'hé¹; tzū³ ch'ou³ pu⁴ chiao⁴ tê.²

— 580 —

Ridiculous ambition. *Lit.*: The sparrow flying after
the hawk.

麻 鶻 跟 倒 鷄 子 飛
Ma² ch'iao³ kên¹ tao³ yao⁴ tzū³ fei.¹

— 581 —

The sheep's tail is too small to cover its own rump.

羊 尾 巴 蓋 不 倒 羊 屁 股
Yang² wei³ pa¹ kai⁴ pu⁴ tao³ yang² p'i⁴ ku.³

NOTE.—And yet it would try to cover another's therewith!

— 582 —

He leaps over the fish basket to feed on bean curd.

跳 過 魚 籃 吃 豆 腐
T'iao⁴ kuo⁴ yü² lan² ch'ih¹ tou⁴ fu.³

583

To make ridiculous assumptions. *Lit.*: When the monkey puts on the devil's mask, what a big face he has!

猴子戴鬼臉。好大面孔
'Hou² tzu³ tai⁴ kuei³ lien,³ 'hao³ ta⁴ mien⁴ k'ung.³

584

Foolish presumption. *Lit.*: To wield the axe before Pan's door.

班門弄斧
Pan² mén² nung⁴ fu.³

NOTE.—Pan or Lu Pan (魯班), the present god of carpenters; anciently a very skilful carpenter in the state of Lu.

585

He who weeps at a play distresses himself for the ancients.

看戲的流眼淚。替古人耽憂
K'an⁴ hsi⁴ ti¹ liu² yen³ lei,⁴ t'i⁴ ku³ jên² tan¹ yu.¹

586

The fisherman in the water groping for fish, pities the fisherman in a boat fishing with a net.

躡腳抗的憐憫打絲網的
Ts'ai³ chiao³ k'êng¹ ti¹ lien² min³ ta³ ssü¹ wang³ ti.¹

587

To make a vain attempt. *Lit.*: To try to ring a wooden bell.

撞木鐘的
Chuang¹ mu⁴ chung¹ ti.¹

588

The elder brother should not laugh at the second.

大哥莫笑二哥
Ta⁴ ko¹ mo⁴ hsiao⁴ êrh⁴ ko.¹

589

To confound distinctions. *Lit.*: To comb the beard and hair together.

鬍子頭髮一把梳
'Hu² tzu³ t'ou² fa³ yi¹ pa³ shu.¹

590

To eat greedily. *Lit.*: To take off the top of the skull, and pour the food in there.

揭開頂瓜皮。把飯倒進去
Chieh¹ k'ai¹ ting³ kua¹ p'i,² pa³ fan⁴ tao³ chin⁴ ch'ü.⁴

591

To fix up ornamental wild beasts' heads on the roof of a thatched cottage.

茅屋安獸頭
Mao² wu¹ an¹ shou⁴ t'ou.²

592

She is a silly hen that sits on duck eggs: and she is a silly old grandmother that pets her daughter's child.

癡鷄母飽鴨娃
Ch'ih² chi¹ mu³ pao⁴ ya¹ wa¹;
癡家婆疼外孫
ch'ih² chia¹ p'o² t'eng² wai⁴ sun.⁴

593

Vain expectations. *Lit.*: He only hopes that his calabash will grow as large as heaven.

只望葫蘆天樣大
Chih³ wang⁴ hu² lu² t'ien¹ yang⁴ ta.⁴

594

To act the dog in the manger.

站住毛廝不阿屎
Chan⁴ chu⁴ mao² ssü¹ pu⁴ o¹ sui.¹

NOTE.—The literal meaning of this saying is rather too coarse for translation.

595

Though his boat is in the river he refuses to wash it.

落得河水不洗船
Lo⁴ tē² ho² shui³ pu⁴ hsi³ ch'uan.²

596

Absurdly lazy. *Lit.*: To use the rump to open the door.

用屁股打門
Yung⁴ p'i⁴ ku³ ta³ mên.²

597

To hold as virtues in one's self what we consider to be vices in others.

別人屁臭。自己屁香

Pieh² jên² p'í⁴ ch'ou⁴ tzü⁴ chi³ p'í⁴ hsiang.¹

NOTE.—This proverb, more expressive than elegant, strikingly resembles the Greek one, Βδέειν λιβάνωτον, given on page 159 of Bohn's "Hand-book of Proverbs."

598

He dare not swallow for fear of bone; and he dare not spit it out for fear there is flesh.

吞了怕是骨頭。吐了怕是肉

T'un¹ liao³ p'a⁴ shih⁴ ku³ t'ou²; t'u³ liao³ p'a⁴ shih⁴ jou.⁴

599

A blind man going up into a mountain to survey the scenery.

瞎子上山看景緻

Hsia² tzü³ shang⁴ shan¹ k'an⁴ ching³ chih.⁴

600

To dupe one's self. *Lit.*: In blowing the nose to blind the eyes.

捏著鼻子誑眼睛

Nieh¹ cho² pi² tzü³ k'uang² yen³ ching.¹

601

The carpenter makes a cangue, and cangues himself.

木匠做枷自枷自

Mu⁴ Chiang¹ tso⁴ chia¹ tzü⁴ chia¹ tzü.⁴

C H A P T E R II.

JOKES.

602

Fans were originally surnamed Shake ;
And Shake often tries his escape to make.

扇子本姓搖。搖起就跑
Shan⁴ tzū³ pên³ hsing⁴ Yao²; Yao² ch'i³ chiu⁴ p'ao.³

603

The Little-Drum star rises in the eastern, sets in the
western sky :

If you can recite this seven times over in one breath,
so can I.

鼓兒星東邊起西邊落
Ku³ êrh² hsing¹ tung¹ pien¹ ch'i³ hsi¹ pien¹ lo⁴;
你念七遍過。我念七遍過
Ni³ nien⁴ ch'i¹ pien⁴ kuo⁴ wo³ nien⁴ ch'i¹ pien⁴ kuo.⁴

NOTE.—Besides meaning "what you can do I can," this ditty is used playfully
as suggested in the second line, for a test of length of breath, and power of
utterance. f

604

When there's aught to do, the more the better ; not
so when there's aught to eat.

人多好做活。人少好吃喝
Jên² to¹ 'hao³ tso⁴ 'huo²; jên² shao³ hao³ ch'ih¹ 'ho.¹

605

When the cat's away, the rats come out to stretch
their loins.

貓兒去老鼠出來伸腰
Mao¹ êrh² ch'ü⁴ lao³ shu³ ch'u¹ lai² shên¹ yao.¹

606

As easy as for a scabbed-head to kill flies on his pate.

癩癩頭上打蒼蠅一打一個
La¹ li² t'ou² shang⁴ ta³ ts'ang¹ ying¹ yi¹ ta³ yi¹ ko.⁴

607

As easy as to catch a flea in the stern of a pair of trousers.

褲襠裏捉狗蚤一定有準
K'u⁴ tang¹ li³ cho¹ kou³ tsao³ yi¹ ting⁴ yu³ chun.³

608

We have eyed each other well; now, are we good-looking or not?

你看我我看你。好看不好看
Ni³ k'an⁴ wo³ wo³ k'an⁴ ni³; 'hao³ k'an⁴ pu⁴ 'hao³ k'an⁴?

609

Who can bet on the goodness of his own eyesight may eat the largest sugar plum.

賭眼色吃大糖
Tu³ yen³ sê⁴ ch'ih¹ ta⁴ t'ang.²

NOTE.—Said in joke when requesting one to make choice out of many things that are alike.

610

You can't catch wild beasts without a net.

無張打野
Wu² chang¹ ta³ yeh.¹

611

He is a fool who waits for a servant maid.

癡漢等丫頭
Ch'ih² han⁴ têng² ya¹ t'ou.²

NOTE.—She won't come, and so he will be made a fool of.

612

Lots of bustle for little profit. *Lit.*: A *Hsün Ssü* in official lodgings—a very bustling yamen!

巡司打公館熱鬧衙門
Hsün² ssü¹ ta³ kung¹ kuan³ jê² nao⁴ ya² mên.²

NOTE.—*Hsün ssü* or *Jên I ssü* (仁義司), a very small mandarin.

613

If one breaks wind every body starts.

各人打屁各人驚
Ko⁴ jên² ta³ p'i⁴ ko⁴ jên² ching.¹

614

To flit and forget to take one's wife.

徒宅忘妻

Hsi³ chai² wang⁴ ch'i.¹

615

Bundle, umbrella, and I.

包袱雨傘我

Pao¹ fu² yü³ san³ wo.³

NOTE.—The case here supposed is that of an absent minded-traveller who, setting out on his journey with three things, namely his hundle, his umbrella, and himself, gets confused, and thinks he has lost something. Says he "here's my bundle, and here's my umbrella, but where am I?" The use of this proverb is to banter men with bad memories.

616

To wear a summer hat when worshipping at the new year—very hot!

戴涼帽出天方。熱得狠

Tai⁴ liang² mao⁴ ch'u¹ t'ien¹ fang¹—jê⁴ tê² 'hên³!

NOTE.—*T'ien-fang* is that quarter of the heavens in which *hsi-shên* (喜神), a god of happiness, is supposed to reside for any current year. This locality is revealed yearly by the Imperial almanac. On the first day of the year the males, supposing that the *ien fang* he in the south, will go out to the south side of their dwelling, and facing the south perform their prostrations. At this time it is too cold, of course, to wear summer hats, and this proverb is used to laugh down any such foolish ardency.

617

To wear fur coats in summer.

六月天穿皮襖

Lu⁴ yüeh⁴ t'ien¹ ch'uan¹ p'i² ao.³

NOTE.—This is used in banter to one refusing to lend a helping hand on the plea of slight sickness and being so clothed. It also designates ignorance of what is proper.

CHAPTER III.

ABSURD MISTAKES.

— 618 —

Misunderstanding that which has been said,
He into mistaken curses is led.

聽 錯 話。嗜 錯 罵
T'ing¹ ts'o⁴ 'hua,⁴ shé¹ ts'o⁴ ma.⁴

— 619 —

To guess a superior man's mind by a mean man's
heart.

以 小 人 之 心。度 君 子 之 腹
I³ hsiao³ jên² chih¹ hsin,¹ tu⁴ chün¹ tzü³ chih¹ fu.²

— 620 —

To put any thing into *Li-mi's* hand.

投 到 李 密 手 裏 去 了
T'ou² tao⁴ Li⁴ Mi⁴ shou³ li³ ch'ü⁴ liao.⁴

NOTE.—*Li Mi*, a rebel leader at the commencement of the *T'ang* dynasty, noted as much for his abilities as feared for his rapacity. This proverb in its meaning and use almost corresponds to ours:—"It is hard to get butter out of a dog's throat."

— 621 —

To dam water with sand.

抓 沙 抵 水
Chua¹ sha¹ ti² shui.³

— 622 —

To feed on fancies. *Lit.*: To look up at plums to quench
one's thirst; to draw a loaf to satisfy one's hunger.

望 梅 止 渴。畫 餅 充 饑
Wang⁴ mei² chih³ k'o³; 'hua⁴ ping³ ch'ung¹ chi.¹

— 623 —

To add fuel to put out a fire.

抱 薪 救 火
Pao⁴ hsin¹ ch'iu⁴ 'huo.³

624

To fill up a well with snow.

挑 雪 填 井
T'iao¹ bsüeh³ t'ien² ching.³

625

Embracing the lamp-stand he dazzles himself with the light.

抱 着 燈 臺 鬪 住 亮
Pao⁴ cho² têng¹ t'ai² tou⁴ chu⁴ liang.⁴

626

To seek the ass you are riding on.

騎 驢 覓 驢
Ch'i² lü² mi⁴ lü.²

627

To catch a fish and forget to take away the basket.

得 魚 忘 筥
Té² yü² wang⁴ ch'ien.²

628

To open one's door and bow in a thief.

開 門 揖 盜
K'ai¹ mên² i¹ tao.⁴

629

To fell a tree to catch a blackbird.

砍 倒 樹 捉 八 哥
K'an³ tao³ shu⁴ cho¹ pa¹ ko.¹

630

To buy a dried fish in order to spare its life, is to know no difference between life and death.

買 乾 魚 放 生。不 知 死 活
Mai³ kan¹ yü² fang⁴ shêng.¹ pu⁴ chih¹ ssü³ 'huo.²

631

He who dresses in leaf-made clothes when going to put out a fire, provokes calamity on himself.

着 蓑 衣 救 火。惹 禍 上 身
Cho² so¹ i¹ ch'iu⁴ 'huo,³ jé³ 'huo⁴ shang³ shên.¹

632

To be idle at home, diligent abroad.

家 懶 外 勤
Chia¹ lan³ wai⁴ ch'in.²

633

To boil carrots and garlic together is a sad blunder in cooking.

紅 蘿 蔔 炒 大 蒜 亂 炒 菜
'Hung² lo² p'u² ch'ao³ ta⁴ shan⁴ lan⁴ ch'ao³ ts'ai.⁴

634

To offer the Filial Classic for sale at the door of Confucius.

孔 子 門 前 賣 孝 經
K'ung³ tzū³ mên² ch'ien² mai⁴ hsiao⁴ ching.¹

635

To rear a tortoise shut up in a jar.

關 得 鱸 子 裏 養 烏 龜
Kuan¹ tē² t'an² tzū³ li³ yang³ wu¹ kuei.¹

636

To ask a blind man the way.

問 道 於 盲
Wên⁴ tao⁴ yü¹ mang.²

637

To ask instruction of a fool.

求 教 於 愚 人
Ch'iu² chiao⁴ yü¹ yü² jên.²

638

To carry a guitar into a mill, and play to the oxen.

抱 琵琶 進 磨 坊 對 牛 彈 琴
Pao⁴ p'i² p'a¹ chin⁴ mo² fang,¹ tui⁴ niu² t'an² ch'in.²

639

To raise an army when the war is over, and regret one's lateness.

過 後 興 兵 悔 太 遲
Kuo⁴ hou⁴ hsing¹ ping,¹ hui³ t'ai⁴ ch'ih.²

640

To drag for the reflected moon in the water.

水裏撈明月
Shui³ li³ lao¹ ming³ yueh.⁴

641

To make a pickaxe in a silversmith's shop.

銀匠舖裏打鋤頭
Yin² chiang⁴ p'u⁴ li³ ta³ ch'u² t'ou.²

642

To make gold locks, in a blacksmith's shop.

鐵匠舖裏打金鎖
T'ieh³ chiang⁴ p'u⁴ li³ ta³ chin¹ so.³

643

To stir sesamum seeds and beans together.

麻子攪豆子
Ma² tzü³ chiao³ tou⁴ tzü.³

NOTE.—i. e. to mix up incongruous things.

644

To look for bones in an egg.

雞蛋裏頭挑骨頭
Chi¹ tan⁴ li³ t'ou² t'ao¹ ku³ t'ou.²

645

To drop into water to grasp the foam.

落水擒水泡
Lo⁴ shui³ ch'in² shui³ p'ao.⁴

646

To shoot a sparrow with a large cannon.

大礮打麻雀
Ta⁴ p'ao⁴ ta³ ma² ch'iao.³

647

To scratch one's calf through top boots.

隔靴子抓癢
Ko² hsieh¹ tzü³ chua¹ yang.³

648

To act in ignorance of the head and tail.

不曉得頭尾做事
Pu⁴ hsiao³ tê² t'ou² wei³ tso⁴ shih.⁴

649

To leave anything unfinished.

屙屎不揩屁股
O¹ shih³ pu⁴ k'ai¹ pi⁴ ku.³

NOTE.—This proverb is rather too coarse for a literal translation.

650

To buy a cat in a bag.

隔口袋買貓
Ko² k'ou³ tai⁴ mai³ mao.¹

651

To fight the wall after the thieves have gone.

強盜過後殺壁子
Ch'iang² tao⁴ kuo⁴ 'hou⁴ sha¹ pi³ tzü.³

SECTION VII.—ON FORTUNE.

CHAPTER I.

FATE.

652

Robberies and fires,
Come as fate requires.

賊 劫 火 燒。 命 裏 所 招
Tsei² chieh² 'huo³ shao,¹ ming⁴ li³ so³ chao.¹

653

Thunderbolts and fires,
Come as fate requires.

雷 打 火 燒。 命 裡 所 招
Lei² ta³ 'huo³ shao,¹ ming⁴ li³ so³ chao.¹

654

Falling walls and fires,
Come as fate requires.

牆 打 火 燒。 命 之 所 招
Ch'iang² ta³ 'huo³ shao,¹ ming⁴ chih¹ so³ chao.¹

655

Fated—you must each other greet ;
Not so—you won't each other meet.
有 緣 遇 着。 無 緣 錯 過
Yu³ yüan² yü⁴ cho¹; wu² yüan² ts'o⁴ kuo.⁴

656

If you're born lucky no scheming is needed ;
And if your heart's good leave fasting unheeded.

命 好 不 用 乖。 心 好 不 用 齋
Ming⁴ hao³ pu⁴ yung⁴ kuai¹; hsin¹ hao³ pu⁴ yung⁴ chai.¹

657

Happiness we'll together share ;
Misery we'll together bear.

有 福 同 享。 有 禍 同 當
Yu³ fu² t'ung² hsiang³; yu³ 'huo⁴ t'ung² tang.¹

658

Where'er six horoscopic harmonies you see,
That man will get on well wherever he may be.

命 裡 帶 六 合。 處 處 合 得 着
Ming⁴ li³ tai⁴ lu⁴ 'ho,² ch'u⁴ ch'u⁴ 'ho² tê² cho.¹

659

Both riches and honours are settled by fate;
Their time of arrival each man must await.

富 貴 命 裡 排。 各 自 等 時 來
Fu⁴ kuei⁴ ming⁴ li³ p'ai²; ko⁴ tzū⁴ têng² shih² lai.²

660

When both the heart and the fate are right,
He will to old age in wealth delight.
When the heart is right and the fate is wrong,
Shielding him must to the gods belong.
When fate is right and the heart is wrong,
He will fall in his road half way along.
When both the heart and the fate are wrong,
Penury's griefs he'll struggle among.

心 好 命 又 好。 富 貴 直 到 老
Hsin¹ hao³ ming⁴ yu⁴ hao,³ fu⁴ kuei⁴ chih² tao⁴ lao.³

心 好 命 不 好。 天 地 終 須 保
Hsin¹ hao³ ming⁴ pu⁴ hao,³ t'ien¹ ti⁴ chung¹ hsi¹ pao.³

命 好 心 不 好。 中 途 天 折 了
Ming⁴ hao³ hsin¹ pu⁴ hao,³ chung¹ t'u² yao¹ chê² liao.³

心 命 俱 不 好。 貧 賤 受 煩 惱
Hsin¹ ming⁴ chü⁴ pu⁴ hao,³ p'in³ chien⁴ shou⁴ fan² nao.³

NOTE.—“The gods,” *lit.*: “heaven and earth.” “He will fall” &c: the meaning is that he will be cut off in the midst of his days and so be unable to enjoy his good fortune.

661

Unjust gains cannot enrich those who are fated to be poor.

橫 財 不 富 命 窮 人
'Hêng⁴ ts'ai² pu⁴ fu⁴ ming⁴ ch'iung² jên.²

662

Disease may be cured, not fate.

醫得病。醫不得命
 I¹ tē² ping⁴ i¹ pu⁴ tē² ming⁴

663

Beautiful women are very ill-fated.

紅顏女子多薄命
 'Hung² yen² nü² tzū³ to¹ po² ming⁴

664

No distance can sever those whom fate unites; no nearness can join those whom fate severs.

有緣千里能相會
 Yu³ yüan² ch'ien¹ li³ nêng² hsiang¹ 'hui⁴;
 無緣對面不相逢
 wu² yüan² tui⁴ mien⁴ pu⁴ hsiang¹ fêng²

665

Happiness has its foundation, and misery its womb.

福生有基。禍生有胎
 Fu² shêng¹ yu³ chi¹ 'huo⁴ shêng¹ yu³ t'ai¹

666

If a man's fate is to have only eighth-tenths of a pint of rice, though he traverse the country over, he cannot get a full pint.

命裡只有八合米
 Ming⁴ li³ chih³ yu³ pa¹ 'ho² mi³
 走盡天下不滿升
 tsou³ chin⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ pu⁴ man³ shêng¹

667

Every event is settled beforehand; so it is vain to fret over this transitory life.

世事皆先定。浮生空自忙
 Shih⁴ shih⁴ chieh¹ hsien¹ ting⁴; fou² shêng¹ k'ung¹ tzū⁴ mang²

668

Everything is fated; and nothing depends on man.

萬般皆由命。半點不由人
 Wan⁴ pan¹ chieh¹ yu² ming⁴; pan⁴ tien³ pu⁴ yu² jên²

669

On a road dangers may be met with which can hardly be escaped: and affairs will happen beyond our own control.

路 逢 險 處 難 迴 避
 Lu⁴ fêng² hsien³ ch'u⁴ nan² 'hui² pi⁴:
 事 到 頭 來 不 自 由
 shih⁴ tao⁴ t'ou² lai² pu⁴ tzū⁴ yu.²

670

Nothing follows man's own calculations; his whole life is arranged by fate.

萬 事 不 由 人 計 較
 Wan⁴ shih⁴ pu⁴ yu² jên² chi⁴ chiao⁴;
 一 生 都 是 命 安 排
 yi¹ shêng¹ tu¹ shih⁴ ming⁴ an¹ p'ai.²

671

Our destiny is fixed, without the slightest reference to our own will.

大 家 都 是 命。半 點 不 由 人
 Ta⁴ chia¹ tu¹ shih⁴ ming⁴, pan⁴ tien³ pu⁴ yu² jên.²

672

His heart is loftier than his destiny.

心 高 命 不 高
 Hsin¹ kao¹ ming⁴ pu⁴ kao.¹

673

Plant flowers with care, and they may never grow: stick willows in carelessly, and they may yield a pleasant shade.

有 意 栽 花 花 不 發
 Yu³ i⁴ tsai¹ 'hua¹ 'hua¹ pu⁴ fa.¹
 無 心 插 柳 柳 成 陰
 wu² hsin¹ ch'a¹ liu³ liu³ ch'êng² yin.¹

674

The more I study, the more I miss the mark: what have I to do with fate? The more I miss the mark, the more I study: what has fate to do with me?

越 讀 越 不 中。 我 其 如 命 何
 Yueh⁴ tu² yueh⁴ pu⁴ chung⁴; wo³ ch'i² ju² ming⁴ 'ho²?
 越 不 中 越 要 讀。 命 其 如 我 何
 Yueh⁴ pu⁴ chung⁴ yueh⁴ yao⁴ tu²: ming⁴ ch'i² ju² wo³ 'ho²?

NOTE.—This saying of the ancients—in flat contradiction of many of the preceding proverbs—means “that the decree of fate does not violate the liberty of the human will, or impose a *necessity* on man to act either in one way or in another.” Milne. *Sacred Edict*, 2nd edition, page 125.

675

Men are good or bad according to their conduct; and their misery or happiness depends on themselves.

善 惡 隨 人 作。 禍 福 自 己 招
 Shan⁴ o⁴ sui² jên² tso⁴; 'huo⁴ fu² tzū⁴ chi³ chao.¹

NOTE.—This proverb, as well as the preceding one, shows that the Chinese are not, at all events, consistent necessitarians.

676

The man can, but his fate cannot.

人 能 命 不 能
 Jên² nêng² ming⁴ pu⁴ nêng.²

677

Fate. *Lit.*: The abacus in the temple of the city-god.

城 隍 廟 的 算 盤
 Ch'êng² 'huang² miao⁴ ti¹ suan⁴ p'an.²

678

“If it be my wealth it won't go; if he be my son he won't die.”

係 我 財 不 去。 係 我 子 不 死
 Hsi⁴ wo³ ts'ai² pu⁴ ch'ü⁴; hsi⁴ wo³ tzū³ pu⁴ szü.³

NOTE.—It is said of *Fan Wên Chêng Kung* 范文正公, that he did not believe in devils. One came to him and questioned him; but still he refused to believe. So this devil said he would kill his first-born son. “Well he might do.” After he had done so, as he thought, he came again to see if the gentleman believed; but still he did not. So the devil killed a second youth. Still no change appeared in the philosopher's incredulity, and he threatened to kill a third. The devil, however, now grew nervous, and did not or could not kill that one, who was the real son. Hence the saying “if he be my son he will not die.”

679

One's every glass of wine and every slice of meat, are predestined.

杯 酒 塊 肉 皆 前 定
 Pei¹ chiu³ k'uai⁴ jou⁴ chieh¹ ch'ien² ting.⁴

680

Wife, wealth, children, pay, are all predestined.

妻 財 子 祿 皆 前 定
Ch'i¹ ts'ai² tzū³ lu⁴ chieh¹ ch'ien² ting⁴

681

Virtuous children and official emolument who does not desire? Alas! these are not the theme of your luckless horoscope.

誰 人 不 愛 子 孫 賢
Shui² jên² pu⁴ ai⁴ tzū³ sun¹ hsien²?
誰 人 不 愛 千 鍾 粟
Shui² jên² pu⁴ ai⁴ ch'ien¹ chung¹ su²?
奈 五 行 不 是 這 般 題 目
nai⁴ wu³ hsing² pu⁴ shih⁴ ché⁴ pan¹ t'i² mu⁴

NOTE.—“Official emolument;” *Lit.*: “1000 *chung* of grain.” One *chung* is equal to four *tau*³ or pecks.

682

Don't say that *Wên Wang's* diagrams are powerless, but fear lest the fortune teller has told them wrong.

莫 道 文 王 卦 不 靈
Mo⁴ tao⁴ Wên² Wang² kua⁴ pu⁴ ling²
只 怕 先 生 斷 不 真
chih³ p'a⁴ hsien¹ shêng¹ tuan⁴ pu⁴ chên¹

C H A P T E R I I .

LUCK.

683

He hoards to-day, he hoards to-morrow (!), does nothing else but hoard ;
At length he has enough a new umbrella to afford ;
When all at once he is assailed, a wind arises quick ;—
And both his hands grasp nothing but a bare umbrella stick.

今天攢。明天攢
Chin¹ t'ien¹ ts'uan² ; ming² t'ien¹ ts'uan² ;
攢來攢去。買了一把傘
Ts'uan² lai² ts'uan² ch'ü⁴ ; mai³ liao³ yi¹ pa³ san.³
忽然一陣狂風起
'Hu¹ jan² yi¹ chên⁴ k'uang² fêng¹ ch'ü³ ;—
兩手抱住光竹桿
Liang³ shou³ pao⁴ chu⁴ kuang¹ chu² kan.²

684

If luck be low,
To Kiangsi go.

時運低。走江西
Shih⁴ yün⁴ ti,¹ tson⁴ Chiang¹ Hsi.¹

685

A lucky horoscope doth for a whole life prepare ;
And if it be not lucky what use is fervent prayer ?

命裡有時終須有
Ming⁴ li³ yu³ shih² chung¹ hsü¹ yu³ ;
命裡無時莫苦求
Ming⁴ li³ wu² shih² mo⁴ k'u³ ch'ü.²

686

The sturdiest army may be laid low :
The axe may sever the sturdiest bough.

兵強則滅。木強則折
Ping¹ ch'iang² tsê² mieh⁴ ; mu⁴ ch'iang² tsê² ché.²

687

If a man's in luck he always finds,
Where'er he goes to, favouring winds.

人在時中。行船遇順風
Jên² tsai⁴ shih² chung,¹ hsing² ch'uan² yü⁴ shun⁴ fêng.¹

688

In the morning only some farmhouse pride;
At night he stands by the Emperor's side.

朝爲田舍郎。暮登天子堂
Chao¹ wei¹ t'ien² shê⁴ lang²; mu⁴ têng¹ t'ien¹ tzü³ t'ang.²

689

A lucky man is stout and fair;
And men lend him twice as much as he wants.
A luckless man is burnt and spare;
And he asks for a loan which no one grants.

人在時中又胖又白
Jên² tsai⁴ shih² chung¹ yu⁴ p'ang⁴ yu⁴ pai²;

借錢五十答應一百
Chieh⁴ ch'ien² wu³ shih² ta¹ ying⁴ yi¹ pai.³

人不在時又瘦又黑
Jên² pu⁴ tsai⁴ shih² yu⁴ shou⁴ yu⁴ 'hê¹;

借錢五十答應沒得
Chieh⁴ ch'ien² wu³ shih² ta¹ ying⁴ mu² tê.²

690

Peaches blossom in the second month;
Chrysanthemums in the ninth are out;
Each must wait till its time comes about.

桃花二月開。菊花九月開
T'ao² 'hua¹ êrh⁴ yueh⁴ k'ai¹; chü² 'hua¹ chiu³ yueh⁴ k'ai¹;

各自等時來
Ko⁴ tzü⁴ têng³ shih² lai.²

691

Some like thunder rise in haste:
Some like ashes fall to waste.

一發如雷。一敗如灰
Yi¹ fa¹ ju² lei²; yi¹ pai⁴ ju² 'hui.¹

692

What the actors cannot do.
Gods and fairies carry through.

戲不穀。神仙湊

Hsi⁴ pu⁴ kou,⁴ shên² hsien¹ ts'ou.⁴

NOTE.—Said of any in straights who happen to meet with opportune help.

693

In the halls of magistrates long bodied men sit;
Through the streets in a hurry long legged men flit.

上身長坐官堂

Shang⁴ shên¹ ch'ang² tso⁴ kuan¹ t'ang²;

下身長走忙忙

Hsia⁴ shên¹ ch'ang² tsou⁴ mang² mang.²

NOTE.—This is said to be a saying of physiognomical fortune-tellers.

694

It you rattle your chopsticks and bason,
You will be poor to the last generation.

敲碗敲篲。窮死萬代

Ch'iao¹ wan³ ch'iao¹ k'uai,⁴ ch'ung² ssü³ wan⁴ tai.⁴

695

Quiver my eyelids, my heart throbs in my breast;
Neither sitting nor sleeping can I find rest.

眼跳心驚。坐臥不寧

Yen³ t'iao⁴ hsin¹ ching¹; tso⁴ wo⁴ pu⁴ ning.²

NOTE.—The state of affairs, supposed in this and the preceding proverb, is understood to be ominous of ill luck.

696

Don't boast of good fortune. *Lit.*: Don't let yourself
say too much about the fineness of Spring; but have
a fear of westerly winds and the recurrence of cold.

人情莫道春光好

Jên² ch'ing² mo⁴ tao⁴ ch'un¹ kuang¹ hao³;

只怕西風有冷時

chih³ p'a⁴ hsi¹ fêng¹ yu³ lêng³ shih.²

697

He goes out empty-handed; he returns a wealthy man.

空手出門。抱財歸家

K'ung¹ shou³ ch'u¹ mên²; pao⁴ ts'ai² kuei¹ chia.¹

698

One family builds a wall, and two families get the benefit of it.

一家打牆 兩家方便
Yi¹ chia¹ ta³ ch'iang,² liang³ chia¹ fang¹ pien.⁴

699

Having good luck he need only wound his purse; having it not he must himself be wounded.

有福傷財。無福傷己
Yu³ fu² shang¹ ts'ai²; wu² fu² shang¹ chi.³

NOTE.—The case here supposed is that of a man who has broken the law: if he can pay a fine he may escape corporeal punishment.

700

The poorer one is the more devils one meets.

越窮越見鬼
Yueh⁴ ch'uang² yueh⁴ chien⁴ kuei.³

701

If luck comes, who comes not? If luck comes not, who comes?

時來誰不來。時不來誰來
Shih² lai² shui³ pu⁴ lai²? shih² pu⁴ lai² shui³ lai²?

702

Good luck certain sometime. *Lit.*: A day must come for thrashing out the grain.

稻場打穀終有一日
Tao⁴ ch'ang² ta³ ku³ chung¹ yu³ yi¹ jih.⁴

703

A scabbed-head following the moon enjoys extra light.

癩癩跟着月亮走。沾光沾光
La¹ li² kên¹ cho¹ yueh⁴ liang⁴ tsou,⁴ chan¹ kuang¹ chan¹ kuang.¹

NOTE.—*La-li*,—two words not found in Kanghi, but common enough—signify one whose head is not only bald but covered with glistening and offensive scars. *La-li* are very numerous, and they are very commonly made the butts of ridicule.

When one is near, a bystander will exclaim 好大亮 'hao ta liang, "what a great light!" to the amusement of all around. They are also nicknamed 毛希 *mao hsi* or "scarce-hair," 葫蘆 'hu lu or pumpkin, &c. In this proverb also which expresses the good luck any one enjoys in following another, a shaft of ridicule is aimed at the unfortunate *La-li*.

704

When a dwarf ascends a staircase, he luckily gets higher every step.

矮子扒樓梯。一步高一歩
Ai³ tzü³ pa lou² t'i,¹ yi¹ pu⁴ kao¹ yi¹ pu.⁴

705

A dwarf cannot kick up his feet to any very great height.

矮子打二起。純高也總不高
Ai³ tzü³ ta³ êrh⁴ ch'i³, shun² kao¹ yeh³ tsung³ pu⁴ kao.¹

NOTE.—This cynical proverb formed an apt illustration in the fate of the Hankow dwarf who visited Europe some time ago with *Chang* the giant. The dwarf is said to have returned to Hankow with 300 taels in his pocket. That seemed like kicking to a great height. Before long, however, the friends of the unlucky wight managed to filch out all his money from him: so the proverb came true—he did not kick very high after all.

706

To enjoy good luck. *Lit.*: To hoist the sail before a fair wind.

扯起篷來走順風
Ch'e³ ch'i³ p'êng² lai² tsou⁴ shun⁴ fêng.¹

707

Who fears that your pen will pierce the sky?

那怕你一筆捅破天
Na³ p'a⁴ ni³ yi¹ pi³ hsi³ p'o⁴ t'ien.¹

708

Sudden return of luck. *Lit.*: The swept area produces a large melon.

掃場結大瓜
Sao³ ch'ang² chieh² ta⁴ kua.¹

709

Unluckily born. *Lit.*: You have slept in the wrong cradle, and issued from the wrong womb.

睡錯搖籬。脫錯了胎
Shui⁴ ts'o⁴ yao² lo,² t'o¹ ts'o⁴ liao³ t'ai.¹

710

Out of luck, gold becomes iron ; in luck iron resembles gold.

運去金成鐵。時來鐵似金。
Yün⁴ ch'ü⁴ chin¹ ch'êng² t'ieh³; shih² lai² t'ieh³ ssü⁴ chin¹.

711

Even the Yellow River has its clear days ; how can man be altogether without luck ?

黃河尙有澄清日
'Huang² 'ho² shang⁴ yu³ têng⁴ ch'ing¹ jih⁴;
豈有人無得運時
ch'ü³ yu³ jên² wu² tê² yün⁴ shih²?

NOTE.—Its clear days happen once or twice in a millenium. Encouraging !

712

The poor may have no wise friend to succour them ; but the sick generally have some noble friend to tell them of a remedy.

貧無達士持金贈
Pin³ wu² ta² shih¹ ch'ih² chin¹ tsêng⁴;
病有高人說藥方
ping⁴ yu³ kao¹ jên² shuo¹ yao⁴ fang¹.

713

The leaky house must encounter a succession of rainy nights ; and the sailing ship must beat against unfavourable winds.

屋漏更遭連夜雨
Wu¹ lou⁴ kêng¹ tsao¹ lien² yeh⁴ yü³;
行船却被打頭風
hsing² ch'uan² ch'üeh⁴ pei⁴ ta³ t'ou² fêng¹.

714

Under each man's name is his own fortune.

各人名下一重天
Ko⁴ jên² ming² hsia⁴ yi¹ ch'ung² t'ien¹.

715

Sour, sweet, bitter, pungent, all must be tasted.

酸甜苦辣都嘗過
Suan¹ t'ien² k'ü³ la⁴ tu¹ ch'ang² kuo⁴.

716

“The fortunes of men are as uncertain as the winds and clouds of Heaven.”

天 有 不 測 風 雲
T'ien¹ yu³ pu⁴ ts'è⁴ fêng¹ yün²;
人 有 旦 夕 禍 福
jên² yu³ tan⁴ hsi¹ 'huo⁴ fu.²

717

Good swimmers are sometimes drowned; and good riders are sometimes thrown.

善 游 者 溺。善 騎 者 墮
Shan⁴ yu² ché² ni⁴; shan⁴ ch'ü² ché² to.⁴

718

The lucky man meets a friend; the unlucky man a fair lady.

時 來 逢 好 友。運 去 遇 佳 人
Shih² lai² fêng² hao³ yu³; yün⁴ ch'ü⁴ yü⁴ chia¹ jên.²

719

When the floating clouds are dispersed we see a clear sky.

撥 開 浮 雲 見 青 天
Po¹ k'ai¹ fou² yün² chien⁴ ch'ing⁴ t'ien.¹

720

His horoscope is lucky. *Lit.*: The two stems don't disagree.

兩 干 不 雜
Liang³ kan¹ pu⁴ tsa.²

721

It is an unlucky sign when the eyelids quiver.

眼 睛 跳 晦 氣 到
Yen³ ching¹ t'iao⁴ 'hui⁴ ch'ü⁴ tao.⁴

722

A horse may have strength to run a thousand miles, but without a rider it knows not where to go: a man may have the ambition to scale the clouds, but without luck he cannot get on.

馬 有 千 里 之 能
 Ma³ yu³ ch'ien¹ li³ chih¹ nêng,²
 非 人 不 能 自 往
 fei¹ jên² pu⁴ nêng² tzŭ⁴ wang³ :
 人 有 凌 雲 之 志
 jên² yu³ ling² yün² chih¹ chih,⁴
 非 運 不 能 亨 通
 fei¹ yün⁴ pu⁴ nêng² hsiang³ t'ung¹.

723

A raging wind only strikes those who are in it.

狂 風 單 打 下 風 人
 K'uang² fêng¹ tan¹ ta³ hsia⁴ fêng¹ jên.²

724

Time will come when luck will change, when Heaven will send down wealth and honour.

有 遭 一 日 時 運 轉
 Yu³ tsao¹ yi¹ jih⁴ shih² yün⁴ chuan,³
 富 貴 榮 華 天 降 來
 fu⁴ kuei⁴ yung² 'hua² t'ien¹ Chiang⁴ lai.²

725

A poor fellow in luck's way. *Lit.*: A ragged sail in a fair wind.

破 帆 遇 順 風
 P'o⁴ fan¹ yü⁴ shün⁴ fêng.¹

726

Kan Lo enjoyed the favour of the state of *Ch'in* at the age of twelve; whilst *T'ai Kung* waited till he was eighty for the emoluments of *Tsou*.

甘 羅 十 二 受 秦 恩
 Kan¹ Lo² shih² erh⁴ shou² Ch'in² ên¹ ;
 太 公 八 十 食 周 祿
 T'ai⁴ Kung¹ pa¹ shih² shih² Chou¹ lu.⁴

NOTE.—The former of these worthies is said to have been made Prime minister at the early age of twelve; while the latter, the famous *Chiang T'ai Kung* (姜太公), did not reach that honour till he was an old man. All luck!

— 727 —

To kill two birds with one stone.

一舉兩得 or 一舉兩便
Yi¹ chü³ liang³ tê.² Yi¹ chü³ liang³ pien.⁴

— 728 —

To shoot two arrows at once.

一弓搭兩箭
Yi¹ kung¹ ta² liang³ chien.⁴

— 729 —

A pearl wrapped up in straw.

稻草包珍珠
Tao⁴ ts'ao³ pao¹ chên¹ chu.¹

NOTE.—Said of able or learned persons whose ill luck it is to live unnoticed and unknown.

— 730 —

A chance day is better than a chosen one.

選日不如撞日
Hsüan³ jih⁴ pu⁴ ju² chuang⁴ jih.⁴

— 731 —

Chance luck. *Lit.*: A blind cock chancing on grain.

瞎雞公撞米頭
Hsia² chi¹ kung¹ chuang⁴ mi³ t'ou.²

— 732 —

An auspicious plant growing up before one's private apartments, may prove to be a good omen one had better be without.

庭前生瑞草。好事不如無
T'ing² ch'ien² shêng¹ shiu⁴ ts'ao³, 'hao³ shih⁴ pu⁴ ju² wu.²

NOTE.—A somewhat interesting legend is told in connection with this proverb and in explanation of it, to the following effect. In former times a young merchant, a few months after his marriage, and just after his wife had communicated to him the fact that she was enceinte, was obliged to leave home on business likely to detain him for an indefinitely long time. Before taking his leave he deposited with her the half of a ring he had been in the habit of wearing, thinking that it might serve to facilitate recognition should the time of his absence prove very long, or anything untimely befall him. He went away and never returned. Whilst staying at an inn in a certain town, with a large sum of money in his possession, he was poisoned and robbed. But, before death transpired, he took an antidote which he had had the precaution always to carry about with him. This antidote did not save his life, but it preserved his body from decay. The mur-

derer secretly buried him in the courtyard of his house, and the dark deed was not discovered. The neighbours, however, marvelled much to see how suddenly the innkeeper's family had grown rich. And the wonderment did not end there, for, soon it became noised abroad that in the courtyard of this inn a prodigy might be daily witnessed in the shape of a beautiful flowering plant, which sprang up in the morning and faded at night. Crowds came to see the wondrous plant, and from them the lucky inn-keeper drew a considerable revenue.

This had been going on for a long time when the merchant's son, now grown up into a young man, in searching for his father came to the very town in which this prodigy was taking place. He visited the courtyard of the inn; and his curiosity led him to touch the marvellous plant, whereupon it instantly decayed. The inn-keeper, seeing that his hopes of gain were destroyed, in a rage took the young man before the magistrate. The magistrate determined if possible to unravel the double mystery by digging for the root of the plant. That led to the discovery of a corpse in perfect preservation, whose features resembled closely those of the youth, and of the half of a ring corresponding to that which he produced; it also led to the discovery of the murder, the punishment of the culprit, and overthrow of his family. And so it came true that the auspicious plant was unlucky after all.

CHAPTER II.

OPPORTUNITY.

733

It ought to be settled,—you settle it not ;
In consequence trouble will fall to your lot.

當 斷 不 斷。反 受 其 難
Tang¹ tuan⁴ pu⁴ tan⁴; fan³ shou⁴ chi² nan.³

734

Until times favour you, no luck can you enjoy :
And should you try to sail, head winds will you annoy.

時 不 至 來 運 不 通
Shih² pu⁴ chih⁴ lai² yün⁴ pu⁴ t'ung¹;
行 船 又 遇 擋 頭 風
Hsing² ch'uan² yn⁴ yü⁴ tang³ t'ou² feng.¹

735

Since the wind blows your fire,
No need yourself to tire.

因 風 吹 火。用 力 不 多
Yin¹ feng¹ ch'ui¹ 'huo,³ yung⁴ li⁴ pu⁴ to.¹

736

Those near a mandarin get honour ; those near a
kitchen food.

近 官 得 貴。近 厨 得 食
Chin⁴ kuan¹ tê² kuei⁴; chin⁴ ch'u² tê² shih.²

737

He who neglects a good opportunity, must not after-
wards complain.

當 取 不 取。過 後 莫 悔
Tang¹ ch'ü³ pu⁴ ch'ü,³ kuo⁴ hou⁴ mo⁴ 'hui.³

738

When your horse is on the brink of a precipice it is
too late to pull the reins ; when calamity is upon
you repentance is too late.

馬 到 臨 崖 收 韁 晚
Ma³ tao⁴ lin² ai² shou¹ chiang¹ wan³;
禍 至 頭 來 悔 不 及
'huo⁴ chih⁴ t'ou² lai² 'hui³ pu⁴ chi.²

739

Opportunity must sometime visit the meanest. *Lit.* :
There comes a day when the bits of reed in a ditch
turn over.

陽溝裡箴片也有翻身日
Yang² kou¹ li³ mieh⁴ p'ien⁴ yeh³ yu³ fan¹ shên¹ jih⁴

740

Pass no day idly, youth does not return.

白日莫閑過。青春不再來
Pai¹ jih⁴ mo⁴ hsiên² kuo⁴ ch'ing¹ ch'un¹ pu⁴ tsai⁴ lai²

741

A hero without the opportunity of displaying his
bravery.

英雄無用武之處
Ying¹ hsiung² wu² yung⁴ wu³ chih¹ ch'u⁴

742

Enjoying good opportunities. *Lit.* : A water-side
tower first catches the moon : trees and flowers in
the sun earliest meet the spring.

近水樓臺先得月
Chin⁴ shui³ lou² t'ai² hsiên¹ t'ê² yueh⁴ :
向陽花木早逢春
hsiang⁴ yang² hua¹ mu⁴ tsao³ fêng² ch'un¹

743

Neglected youth brings miserable age.

少壯不努力。老大徒傷悲
Shao³ chuang⁴ pu⁴ lu³ li⁴ lao³ ta⁴ t'u² shang¹ pei¹

744

A year's opportunities depend on Spring; a day's on the
dawn; a family's on harmony; and a life's on industry.

一年之計在於春
Yi¹ nien² chih¹ chi⁴ tsai⁴ yü¹ ch'un¹ ;
一日之計在於寅
yi¹ jih⁴ chih¹ chi⁴ tsai⁴ yü¹ yin² ;
一家之計在於和
yi¹ chia¹ chih¹ chi⁴ tsai⁴ yü¹ 'ho² ;
一生之計在於勤
yi¹ shêng¹ chih¹ chi⁴ tsai⁴ yü¹ ch'in²

745

If you have but a green willow you can tie your horse thereto: there are roads from everywhere to the capital.

但有綠楊堪繫馬
Tan⁴ yu³ lu⁴ yang² k'an¹ chi⁴ ma³:
處處有路透長安
Ch'u⁴ ch'u⁴ yu³ lu⁴ t'ou⁴ Chang³-An.¹

NOTE.—*Chang-an*, the capital of China during the *Ts'in*, *Han*, *Sui*, and *T'ang* dynasties: the old name of *Si-ngan-fu*.

746

Every high road leads to Peking.

條條大路通北京
T'iao² t'iao² ta⁴ lu⁴ t'ung¹ Pei³-ching.¹

747

When a vessel is in the middle of a river it is too late to stop the leak.

船到江心補漏遲
Ch'uan² tao⁴ Chiang¹ Hsin¹ pu³ lou⁴ ch'ih.²

748

A fair wind fans the flame; the boat glides with the stream.

順風吹火。下水行船
Shun⁴ fêng¹ ch'ui¹ 'huo³; hsia⁴ shui³ Hsing² ch'uan.²

749

If you do not kill a man outright he will live to be your enemy.

殺人不死反爲仇
Sha¹ jên² pu⁴ ssü³ fan³ wei² ch'ou.²

750

He borrows the wind to cross the river.

借風過河
Chieh⁴ fêng¹ kuo⁴ 'ho.²

751

To light a fire in a hot stove.

熱灶裡着把火
Jê⁴ tsao⁴ li³ cho² pa³ 'huo.³

752

Strike while the iron's hot.

打 鐵 趁 熱
Ta³ t'ieh³ kan² jê.⁴

753

When you see an opportunity, act.

見 幾 而 作
Chien⁴ chi³ êrh² tso.⁴

754

Meet an honourable man and you'll be satisfied with food; meet a premier and you'll be clothed in court dress.

遇 貴 人 吃 飽 飯
Yü⁴ kwei⁴ jên² ch'ih¹ pao³ fan⁴;
遇 宰 相 穿 朝 衣
yü⁴ tsai⁴ hsiang⁴ ch'uan¹ ch'ao² i¹

755

When the melon is ripe it will drop of itself.

瓜 熟 自 落
Kua¹ shu² tzü⁴ lo.⁴

756

One whom opportunity serves to please all parties.
Lit.: A sharp knife cuts bean curd leaving both sides smooth.快 刀 打 豆 腐 兩 面 光
K'uai⁴ tao¹ ta³ tou⁴ fu³ liang³ mien⁴ kuang.¹

757

When a time to drink wine comes, drink it; and when you are in a proper place sing aloud.

遇 飲 酒 時 須 飲 酒
Yü⁴ yin³ chiu³ shih² hsi¹ yin³ chiu³;
得 高 歌 處 且 高 歌
tê² kao¹ ko¹ ch'u⁴ ch'ieh³ kao¹ ko.¹

758

Neither leave a spot when there is fish, nor long for a place of shallow rapids.

休 別 有 魚 處。莫 戀 淺 灘 頭
Hsiu¹ pieh² yu³ yü² ch'u,⁴ mo⁴ lien⁴ ch'ien³ t'an¹ t'ou.²

SECTION VIII.—ON JOYS AND SORROWS.

CHAPTER I.

AMUSEMENTS.

— 759 —

Once in a while you may go to a play,
But they are not the things for every day.

逢場作戲。不可專意
F'eng² ch'ang² tso⁴ hsi⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ chuan¹ i.⁴

— 760 —

After dice throwing and card playing,
Disputes must arise about paying.

抹牌擲骰。必有下場白
Mo³ p'ai² chih⁴ shai,³ pi⁴ yu³ hsia⁴ ch'ang² pai.²

— 761 —

Losing comes of winning money.

輸錢只爲贏錢起
Shu¹ ch'ien² chih³ wei⁴ ying² ch'ien² ch'i.³

— 762 —

If you believe in gambling you will have to sell your house.

信了賭賣了屋
Hsin⁴ liao³ tu³ mai⁴ liao³ wu.¹

— 763 —

When four armed men ascend the arena, each tries to kill the other.

上場四把刀
Shang³ ch'ang² ssü pa³ tao,¹
你不殺我我殺你
ni³ pu⁴ sha¹ wo³ wo³ sha¹ ni.³

— 764 —

Money goes to the gambling house as criminals to execution.

錢 到 賭 場。 人 到 法 場
Ch'ien² tao⁴ tu³ ch'ang,² jên² tao⁴ fa³ ch'ang.²

— 765 —

When the gambler's wealth is spent, and his purse empty, he must stop.

賭 博 家 財 盡 囊 空 自 然 休
Tu³ po² chia¹ ts'ai² chin⁴ nang² k'ung¹ tzū⁴ jan² hsiu.¹

— 766 —

To persuade gentlemen not to gamble, is to win for them.

勸 君 莫 賭 是 贏 錢
Ch'uan⁴ chün¹ mo⁴ tu³ shih⁴ ying² ch'ien.²

— 767 —

Men in the game are blind to what men looking on see clearly.

當 局 者 迷 旁 觀 者 清
Tang⁴ chü² ché² mi² p'ang² kuan¹ ché² ch'ing.¹

CHAPTER II.

CALAMITY AND GRIEF.

768

'Tis not calamity in any shape,
From which it is possible to escape.

躲 脫 不 是 禍。 是 禍 躲 不 脫
To² t'o¹ pu⁴ shih⁴ 'huo,⁴ shih⁴ 'huo⁴ to² pu⁴ t'o.¹

769

To have iron made lips, and feet of beancurd made,
Is such a calamity as no one can evade.

鐵 嘴 豆 腐 腳。 是 禍 躲 不 脫
T'ieh³ tsui³ tou⁴ fu³ chio,³ shih⁴ 'huo⁴ to² pu⁴ t'o.¹

770

If the white tiger star faces your gate,
Some kind of misfortune must be your fate.

白 虎 當 門 坐。 無 災 必 有 禍
Pai² 'hu³ tang¹ mên² tso,⁴ wu² tsai¹ pi⁴ yu³ 'huo.⁴

771

If men eat flesh and do not flourish,
The reason is the grief they nourish.

吃 肉 不 長 肉。 只 爲 多 憂 愁
Ch'ih¹ jou⁴ pu⁴ chang³ jou,⁴ chih³ wei⁴ to¹ yu¹ ch'ou.²

772

Once in trouble it is hard to get out. *Lit.* :
To the claw of the heron the bloodsucker sticks,
And he can't shake him off though he lustily kicks.

螞 蝗 搭 倒 鷺 鷺 腳
Ma³ 'huang² ta² tao³ lu⁴ ssü¹ chio,³

要 脫 不 得 脫
Yao⁴ t'o¹ pu⁴ tê² t'o.¹

773

Severed living and parted dying,
No grief on earth can be so trying.

生 離 死 別。 悲 哀 最 切
Shêng¹ li² ssü³ pieh,² pei¹ ai¹ tsui⁴ ch'ieh.⁴

774

Full of trouble. *Lit.* :

An ox in a mill—a horse bearing mail—
Actors before the *Ch'eng-shou* turning pale.

牛 落 磨 坊 馬 疼 驛
Niu² lo⁴ mo² fang² ma³ lo⁴ yi⁴—
戲 子 怕 的 城 守 裡
Hsi¹ tsü³ p'a⁴ ti¹ ch'eng² shou³ li³

NOTE.—“*Ch'eng-shou*,” a small military officer, or commandant, in charge of a city; a sort of superintendent of police. He is dreaded by actors on account of his well known rapacity; he will force them to perform without remuneration.

775

Out of the mouth calamities fly :

In by the mouth all sicknesses hie.

禍 從 口 出。病 從 口 入
'Huo⁴ ts'ung² k'ou³ ch'u¹: ping⁴ ts'ung² k'ou³ ju.⁴

776

Whenever the raven flies over one's head,
There must be before us some trouble to dread.

烏 鴉 當 頭 過。無 災 必 有 禍
Wu¹ ya¹ tang¹ t'ou² kuo,⁴ wu² tsai¹ pi⁴ yu³ 'huo.⁴

777

Those who know me, can for me feel ;
Can those who don't pray for my weal ?

知 我 者 爲 我 心 憂
Chih¹ wo³ ché² wei⁴ wo³ bsin¹ yu¹;
不 知 我 者 爲 我 何 求
Pu⁴ chih¹ wo³ ché² wei⁴ wo³ 'ho² ch'iu²?

778

On Heaven and Earth he loudly cries ;
Both Heaven and Earth his prayer despise.

喊 天 天 不 應。叫 地 地 不 靈
'Han³ t'ien¹ t'ien¹ pu⁴ ying⁴; chiao⁴ ti⁴ ti⁴ pu⁴ ling.²

779

Men may despise me, but if Heaven does not,
Suffering is an agreeable lot.

人 欺 天 勿 欺。吃 虧 就 是 便 宜
Jên² ch'i¹ t'ien¹ wu⁴ ch'i,¹ ch'ih¹ k'uei¹ chiu⁴ shih⁴ pien⁴ i.²

780

“Prosperity and misfortune are common to all times and places.”

豐 熟 年 年 有。災 殃 各 地 方
Fêng¹ shu² nien² nien² yu³, tsai¹ yang¹ ko⁴ ti⁴ fang¹

781

Our pleasures are shallow, our troubles deep.

所 樂 者 淺。所 患 者 深
So³ lê⁴ ché² ch'ien,³ so³ 'huan⁴ ché² shên.¹

782

Grief knits the brows.

愁 鎖 眉 尖
Ch'ou² so³ mei² chien.¹

783

Full of grief. *Lit.*: Your thoughts are confused as uncarded hemp.

心 思 亂 如 麻
Hsin¹ ssü¹ lan⁴ ju² ma.²

784

A burnt tortoise keeps his pain inside.

火 燒 烏 龜 肉 裡 疼
'Huo³ shao¹ wu¹ kuei¹ nei⁴ li³ t'eng.²

NOTE.—“The heart knoweth his own bitterness”. Prov: xiv, 10.

785

In trouble think of your relations; in danger depend on old friends.

遇 急 思 親 戚。臨 危 托 故 人
Yu⁴ chi² ssü¹ ch'in¹ ch'i⁴; lin² wei² t'o¹ ku⁴ jên.²

786

Calamity and happiness come not of themselves, but only at the call of man.

禍 福 無 門。惟 人 所 招
'Huo⁴ fu² wu² mén,² wei² jên² so³ chao.¹

787

Though a dumb man has eaten gentian, he keeps his trouble to himself.

壓巴吃黃連。苦在心裡
 Ya³ pa¹ ch'ih¹ 'huang² lien,² k'u³ tsai⁴ hsin¹ li.³

788

Extreme danger. *Lit.*: A bridge of one pole is very bad to cross.

獨木搭橋真難得過
 Tu² mu⁴ ta² ch'iao² chên¹ nan² tê² kuo.⁴

789

What is the use of weeping over broken vessels?
 Spilt water cannot be gathered up again.

既墮釜甑反顧何益
 Chi³ to⁴ fu³ tsêng⁴ fan³ ku⁴ 'ho² i²?
 反覆之水收之實難
 Fan³ fu² chih¹ shui³ shou¹ chih¹ shih² nan.²

NOTE.—“For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again”. 2 Sam: xiv, 14.

790

Out of the wolf's nest into the tiger's mouth.

正離狼窩。反逢虎口
 Cheng⁴ li² lang² wo,¹ fan³ fêng² 'hu³ k'ou.³

791

Whilst keeping a tiger from the front door, a wolf enters by the back.

前門拒虎。後門進狼
 Ch'ien² nên² chü⁴ 'hu,³ 'hou⁴ mên² chin⁴ lang.²

792

When one leaf moves all the branches shake.

一葉既動百枝皆搖
 Yi¹ yeh⁴ chi³ tung⁴ pai³ chih¹ chieh¹ yao.²

793

Whilst men sit in their houses, Heaven sends calamity upon them.

人在家裡坐。禍從天上來
 Jên² tsai⁴ chai¹ li³ tso,⁴ 'huo⁴ ts'ung² t'ien¹ shang⁴ lai.²

794

The mischief will fall on your own pate. *Lit.*: When are trackers drowned by the upset of a vessel?

翻 船 的 幾 時 淹 死 了 扯 繆 的
Fan¹ ch'uan² ti¹ chi³ shih² yen¹ ssü³ liao³ ch'ê³ ch'ien¹ ti.¹

795

Calamities may come down from Heaven; but let us seek to be blameless.

禍 從 天 上 來。但 求 心 無 愧
'Huo⁴ ts'ung² t'ing¹ shang⁴ lai²; tan⁴ ch'iu² hsin¹ wu² k'uei.⁴

796

To extract sweetness from what is bitter.

從 苦 中 得 甘
Ts'ung² k'u³ chung¹ tê² kan.¹

797

Worse and worse. *Lit.*: "When a rat creeps up the horn of a cow the higher it mounts the narrower the space."

老 鼠 扒 牛 角 越 扒 越 尖 了
Lao³ shu³ pa¹ niu² chiao¹ yüeh⁴ pa¹ yüeh⁴ chien¹ liao.³

798

Grief is ten times bitterer than gentian.

苦 比 黃 連 勝 十 分
K'u³ pi³ huang² lien² shêng⁴ shih² fên.¹

799

Woe! and Alas! Death is hard to guess.

嗚 呼 哀 哉。人 死 難 猜
Wu¹ 'hu¹ ai¹ tsai!¹ jên² ssü³ nan² ts'ai.¹

NOTE.—This furnishes a specimen of the Innuendo; for several other examples, and notes thereon, see Index.

800

Calamity cannot raise its head.

苦 不 出 頭
K'u³ pu⁴ ch'ü¹ t'ou.²

801

Hoping to lift up his head, he lifts up his feet. *i. e.* dies.

望 到 伸 頭。便 要 伸 腳
Wang⁴ tao⁴ shên¹ t'ou,² pien⁴ yao⁴ shên¹ chiao.³

802

If the heart be not wounded the eyes will not weep.

人不傷心淚不流
Jên² pu⁴ shang¹ hsin¹ lei⁴ pu⁴ liu.²

803

The three misfortunes are,—in youth to lose one's father, in middle age to lose one's wife, and in old age to have no son.

三不幸。少年喪父
San¹ pu⁴ hsing,⁴—shao³ nien² sang¹ fu,⁴
中年死妻。老來無子
chung⁴ nien² ssü³ ch'i,¹ lao³ lai² wu² tzü.³

804

A blind man on a blind horse, coming at midnight upon a deep ditch.

盲人騎瞎馬。夜半臨深池
Mang² jên² ch'i² hsia² ma,³ yeh⁴ pan⁴ lin² shên¹ ch'ih.²

805

For bringing down calamity there is nothing worse than a bad temper; for warding off misfortune there is nothing better than patient concession.

招殃之端莫狠於氣性
Chao¹ yang¹ chih¹ tuan¹ mo⁴ 'hên³ yü² ch'i⁴ hsing⁴;
避禍之法莫過於忍讓
pi⁴ 'huo⁴ chih¹ fa³ mo⁴ kuo⁴ yü² jên³ jang.⁴

806

Don't raise waves in the world, and you'll keep ice and coal out of your bosom.

不作風波於世上
Pu⁴ tso⁴ fêng¹ po¹ yü² shih⁴ shang,⁴
自無冰炭到胸中
tzü⁴ wu² ping¹ t'an⁴ tao⁴ hsiung¹ chung.¹

807

No escape from trouble. *Lit.*: There is no road up to heaven, nor door into the earth.

上天無路。入地無門
Shang³ t'ien¹ wu² lu,⁴ ju⁴ ti⁴ wu² mên.²

808

Sympathy. *Lit.*: When your tooth aches you know how to pity another in the same fix.

齒 疼 方 知 齒 疼 人
Ch'ih³ t'êng² fang¹ chih¹ ch'ih³ t'êng² jên.²

809

The sheep drops into the tiger's jaws.

羊 落 虎 口
Yang² lo⁴ 'hu³ k'ou.³

810

Better a dog in time of peace, than a man in time of rebellion.

寧 作 太 平 犬。莫 作 逆 亂 人
Ning² tso⁴ t'ai⁴ p'ing² ch'üan,³ mo⁴ tso⁴ ni⁴ lan⁴ jên.²

811

Despite all his thousands and myriads of schemes, a gimlet strikes against his skull.

千 算 萬 算 當 頭 一 鑽
Ch'ien¹ suan⁴ wan⁴ suan⁴ tang¹ t'ou² yi¹ tsuan.¹

CHAPTER III.

HAPPINESS.

812

The happiness of good men may be looked on as reward:
The happiness of bad men as a snare we must regard.

差人得福爲之賞
Shan⁴ jên² tê² fu² wei² chih¹ shang³;
惡人得福爲之殃
O⁴ jên² tê² fu² wei² chih¹ yang¹.

NOTE.—“The prosperity of fools shall destroy them”. Prov: 1; 32.

813

The ox ploughs the field while the horse eats the grain;
One rears a son and another gets the gain.

牛耕田。馬喫穀
Niu² kêng¹ t'ien² ma³ ch'ih¹ ku³;
別人養兒。他享福
Pieh² jên² yang³ erh² t'a¹ hsiang³ fu².

814

The more mouths to eat,
So much the more meat.

添人進口。越喫越有
T'ien¹ jên² chin⁴ k'ou³ yüeh⁴ ch'ih¹ yüeh⁴ yu³.

815

Happiness he has but no powers of enjoyment,
Who, though his sails are set, must give his oars
employment.

有福不會享。扯起篷來盪槳
Yu³ fu² pu⁴ 'hui⁴ hsiang³ ch'é³ ch'i³ p'êng² lai² t'ang⁴ chiang³.

816

For neighbours to keep up a friendly tone,
Is equal to finding a precious stone.

和得鄉隣好。猶如檢得寶
'Ho² té² hsiang¹ lin² 'hao³ yu² ju² chien³ tê² pao³.

817

One man in a house, of joy possessed,
Passes it on to all the rest.

一人有福。拖帶滿屋
Yi¹ jên² yu³ fu,² t'o¹ tai⁴ man³ wu.¹

818

To assail a man with a whole day's cursing and strife,
Only adds to his happiness and lengthens his life.

一天一咒添福添壽
Yi¹ t'ien¹ yi¹ chou,⁴ t'ien¹ fu² t'ien¹ shou.⁴

819

The hair grows luxuriant when the mind is at rest ;
And when a man has nothing to do his nails grow best.

心閒蓄頭髮。身閒蓄指甲
Hsin¹ hsien² hsiu² t'ou² fa³; shên¹ hsien² hsiu² chih³ chia.³

820

In the hum of the market there is money ; but in
seclusion there is rest.

鬧裡有錢。靜處安身
Nao⁴ li³ yu² ch'ien²; ching⁴ ch'u⁴ an¹ shên.¹

821

The older you grow the more hale may you be !

越老越康健
Yüeh⁴ lao³ yüeh⁴ k'ang¹ chien.⁴

822

May you live long, your years be plenteous, and your
seasons felicitous !

人壽年豐節氣和
Jên² shou⁴ nien² fêng¹ chieh¹ ch'i⁴ 'ho.²

823

With a healthy body a thatched cottage in comfortable;
with a settled disposition even cabbage roots are
fragrant.

身安茅屋穩。性定菜根香
Shên¹ an¹ mao² wu¹ wên³; hsing⁴ ting⁴ ts'ai⁴ kên¹ hsiang.¹

824

If you long for pleasure, you must labour hard to get it.

欲 求 生 快 活。須 下 死 工 夫
Yü⁴ ch'ü² shêng¹ k'uai⁴ 'huo,² hsi¹ hsia⁴ ssü³ kung¹ fu.¹

825

Sorrow is born of excessive joy.

樂 極 生 悲
Lê⁴ chi² shêng¹ pei.¹

826

Unjustly gotten happiness must be followed by calamity.

無 端 獲 福。禍 必 隨 之
Wu² tuan¹ 'huo⁴ fu,² 'huo⁴ pi⁴ sui² chih.¹

827

Days of sorrow pass slowly; times of joy very quickly.

苦 日 難 熬。歡 時 易 過
K'u³ jih⁴ nan² ao²; 'huan¹ shih³ i⁴ kuo.⁴

828

Earth has no feasts which don't break up.

天 下 無 不 散 的 筵 席
T'ien¹ hsia⁴ wu² pu⁴ san⁴ ti¹ yen² hsi.²

829

Happinesses never come in pairs; calamities never come single.

福 不 雙 至。禍 不 單 行
Fu² pu⁴ shuang¹ chih⁴; 'huo⁴ pu⁴ tan¹ hsing.¹

830

Happiness is transient. *Lit.*: The bright moon is not round for long; the brilliant cloud is easily scattered.

明 月 不 常 圓。彩 雲 容 易 散
Ming² yueh⁴ pu⁴ ch'ang² yüan²; ts'ai³ yün² yung² i⁴ san.⁴

831

Happiness stands by the ugly.

福 在 醜 人 邊
Fu² tsai⁴ ch'ou³ jên² pien.¹

832

One generation plants the trees under whose cool shade another generation rests.

前人栽樹。後人歇涼
Ch'ien² jên² tsai¹ shu,⁴ 'hou⁴ jên² hsié¹ liang.²

833

One generation opens up the roads on which another generation travels.

前人開路。後人行
Ch'ien² jên² k'ai¹ lu,⁴ 'hou⁴ jên² hsing.²

834

There are only a few days in the year for eating flesh-meat. *Lit.*: for roasting the *Yamén* sacrifices.

燒衙祭的日子一年有幾回
Shao¹ ya² chi⁴ ti¹ jih⁴ tzü³ yi¹ nien² yu³ chi³ 'hui.²

835

Who do their duty are free from trouble all their lives.

但能依本分。終身無煩惱
Tan⁴ neng² i¹ pên³ fên,¹ chung¹ shên¹ wu² fan² nao.³

836

Peace and joy are more precious than yellow gold.

黃金未爲貴。安樂值錢多
'Huang² chin¹ wei⁴ wei² kuei,⁴ an¹ lé⁴ chih² ch'ien² to.¹

837

Of the five happinesses long life is the greatest.

五福之中壽爲先
Wu³ fu² chih¹ chung¹ shou⁴ wei² hsien.¹

NOTE.—It is remarkable that, though the Five Happinesses are spoken of everywhere, scarcely any one can tell you what they are. The orthodox five, however, must be those mentioned in the Book of History; viz, Long life 壽, Wealth 富, health 康寧, the cultivation of Virtue 修好德, and a natural death 考終命.

838

Happiness, long life, and health, are the common desire of all men.

福壽康寧。人所同欲
Fu² shou⁴ k'ang¹ ning,² jên² so⁴ t'ung² yü.⁴

839

In a country at peace great talent is honoured ; in a family grown wealthy children are proud.

國 清 大 才 貴。 家 富 小 兒 驕
Kuo² ch'ing¹ ta⁴ ts'ai² kuei⁴; chia¹ fu⁴ hsiao³ êrh² chiao.¹

840

To dwell in peace is happiness.

居 之 安 平 爲 福
Chü¹ chih¹ an¹ p'ing² wei² fu².

841

More comfortable than the gods!

比 神 仙 還 舒 服
Pi³ shên² hsien¹ 'huan² shu¹ fu.²

842

It is good to be neither too high nor too low.

高 不 得 低 不 得 就 好
Kao¹ pu⁴ tê² ti¹ pu⁴ te² chiu⁴ hao.³

843

Happiness is Heaven-sent.

福 自 天 來
Fu² tzü⁴ t'ien¹ lai.²

844

Possessed of happiness don't exhaust it.

有 福 不 可 享 盡
Yu³ fu² pu⁴ k'o³ hsiang³ chin.⁴

845

Without a *Wu-t'ung* tree you can't get the phoenix to visit you.

沒 有 梧 桐 樹。 叫 不 着 鳳 凰 來
Mu² yu³ wu² t'ung² shu,⁴ chia⁴ pu⁴ cho² fêng⁴ huang² lai.²

NOTE.—The meaning of this proverb is, that without some inducement certain benefits cannot be attained. The *Wu-t'ung* tree "is much admired by the Chinese, the popular idea being that its branches are the favourite resort of the phoenix". See Stent's *Vocabulary*, page 673.

846

Having harmony in the family, and being in harmony with all men, all your affairs will be harmonious.

家和人和萬事和
Chia¹ 'ho² jên² 'ho² wan⁴ shih⁴ 'ho²

— 847 —

The two words Peace and Rest are worth a thousand taels of gold.

平安兩字值千金
P'ing² an¹ liang³ tzū⁴ chih² ch'ien¹ chin¹

— 848 —

When all our affairs are in order great is our felicity and profit.

百事從順大吉大利
Pai³ shih⁴ ts'ung² shun⁴ ta⁴ chi² ta⁴ li⁴

— 849 —

When happiness comes the mind grows more intelligent.

福至心靈
Fu² chih⁴ hsing¹ ling²

— 850 —

“An immoderate use of dainties generally ends in disease; and pleasure when past is converted into pain.”

爽口食多偏作病
Shuang¹ k'ou³ shih² to¹ p'ien¹ tso⁴ ping⁴;
快心事過恐生殃
K'uai⁴ hsin¹ shih⁴ kuo⁴ k'ung³ shêng¹ yang¹

— 851 —

To the contented even poverty and obscurity bring happiness; to the discontented even riches and honours bring misery.

知足者貧賤亦樂
Chih⁴ tsu¹ ché² p'in² chien⁴ i⁴ lé⁴;
不知足者貴富亦憂
pu⁴ chih¹ tsu² ché² fu⁴ kuei⁴ i⁴ yu¹.

— 852 —

A happy condition. *Lit.*: No creditor at the door, and nobody sick in the house.

門前無債主。家中無病人。
Mên² ch'ien² wu² chai⁴ chu,³ chia¹ chung¹ wu² ping⁴ jên.²

853

The happy know not how time flies.

快活不知時日過
K'uai⁴ 'huo² pu⁴ chih¹ shih² jih⁴ kuo.⁴

854

The two words Pure and Leisure no money can buy.

清閒兩字錢難買
Ch'ing¹ hsien² liang² tzü⁴ ch'ien² nan² mai.³

855

Be very careful of happiness; and provoke not calamity.

多惜福少惹禍
To¹ hsi² fu² shao³ je³ 'huo.⁴

856

Since life has nothing in it like tranquility, can it be a thing obtained by chance!

人生無似清閒好
Jên² shêng¹ wu² ssü⁴ ch'ing¹ hsien² hao,³
得到清閒豈偶然
tê² tao⁴ ch'ing¹ hsien² ch'i³ ou³ jan.²

857

Whether rich or poor be pleased with your lot; for he is a fool who can't laugh (under all circumstances).

隨富隨貧且隨喜
Sui² fu⁴ sui² p'in³ ch'ieh³ sui² h'si³;
不開口笑是癡人
pu⁴ k'ai¹ k'ou³ hsiao⁴ shih⁴ ch'ih² jên.²

858

Three meals per day, one sleep per night.

日度三餐。夜眠一宿
Jih⁴ tu⁴ san¹ ts'an,¹ yeh⁴ mien² yi¹ su.²

859

You must have four ounces of happiness to get one ounce of gold.

壹兩黃金四兩福氣
 Yì¹ liang³ 'huang² chin¹ ssü⁴ liang³ fu² ch'í.⁴

860

Few desires—and buoyant spirits: many cares—and feeble health.

寡欲精神爽。思多血氣衰
 Kua³ yü⁴ ching¹ shên² shuang¹: ssü¹ to¹ hsieh³ ch'í⁴ shuai.¹

CHAPTER IV.

INJURIES: GIVEN AND SUSTAINED.

861

One stroke one kick,
Ends the thing quick.

一 鵠 一 脚。乾 淨 攀 脫
Yi' ch'ui² yi' chio,³ kan¹ ching⁴ p'ieh¹ t'o.¹

NOTE.—Said of injury done to anything in one's possession.

862

Shrimps are the victims of big fishes' foul play;
And shrimps in their turn too impose on the clay.

大 魚 欺 蝦。蝦 欺 泥 巴
Ta⁴ yü² ch'i¹ hsia¹; hsia¹ ch'i¹ ni² pa.¹

863

Though suffering wrong,
Keep working along.

吃 得 虧。在 一 堆
Ch'ih¹ tê² k'uei,¹ tsai⁴ yi' tui.¹

864

The moth which dashes into the flame
And burns itself, has itself to blame.

飛 蛾 撲 燈。自 燒 其 身
Fei¹ o² p'u¹ têng,¹ tzü⁴ shao¹ ch'i² shên.¹

865

Who'er provokes misfortune and distress,
Deserves to suffer for his foolishness.

惹 禍 招 災。問 罪 應 該
Jê³ hu⁴ chao¹ tsai,¹ wên⁴ tsui⁴ ying¹ kai.¹

866

In shallow water dragons become the joke of shrimps;
And tigers on the plains are the butt of canine imps.

龍 遊 淺 水 遭 蝦 戲
Lung² yu² ch'ien³ shui³ tsao¹ hsia¹ hsi⁴;
虎 落 平 洋 被 犬 欺
Hu³ lo⁴ p'ing² yang² pei⁴ ch'üan³ ch'i.¹

867

He who spurts blood at another, first defiles his own mouth.

含 血 噴 人。先 汙 自 己
 'Han² hsieh³ fèn⁴ jèn,² hsien¹ wu¹ tzū⁴ chi.³

868

To injure others you must injure yourself.

害 人 終 害 己
 'Hai⁴ jèn² chung¹ 'hai⁴ chi.³

869

To come into unpleasant contact with hard men.

Lit.: To run against a nail.

碰 倒 釘 子
 P'êng⁴ tao³ ting¹ tsū.³

870

At the first stroke of an egg against a stone, the yolk runs out.

鷄 蛋 撞 石 頭。一 撞 就 流 黃
 Chi¹ tan⁴ chuang⁴ shih² t'ou,² yi¹ chuang⁴ chiu⁴ liu² 'huang.²

871

It is easy to avoid an arrow shot in one's sight; but hard to escape one aimed in secret.

明 箭 容 易 躲。暗 箭 最 難 防
 Ming² chien⁴ yung² i¹ to²; an⁴ chien⁴ tsui⁴ nan² fang.²

872

To injure secretly. *Lit.:* To hide mailed soldiers.

暗 藏 甲 兵
 An⁴ ts'ang² chia³ ping.¹

873

The same. *Lit.:* To conceal a dagger in one's sleeve.

袖 裏 藏 刀
 Hsiu⁴ li³ ts'ang² tao.¹

874

To murder by means of another's sword.

借 刀 殺 人
 Chieh⁴ tao¹ sha¹ jèn.²

875

To murder without a sword.

殺人不用刀
Sha¹ jèn² pu⁴ yung⁴ tao.¹

876

Injury is infectious. *Lit.*: When a city gate is burning, the fishes suffer in the moat.

城門失火。殃及池魚
Ch'êng² mên² shih¹ 'huo,³ yang¹ chi² ch'ih² yü.²

877

A wise man will sometimes overlook injuries done to his face.

好漢不吃眼前虧
'Hao³ 'han⁴ pu⁴ ch'ih¹ yen³ ch'ien² k'uei.¹

878

To injure by means of some great person. *Lit.*: To bring a great hat to oppress one.

拿得大帽子來壓
Na² tê² ta⁴ mao⁴ tzü³ lai² ya.¹

879

Never presume on authority or power to injure orphans or widows.

勿恃勢力而凌逼孤寡
Wu⁴ shih⁴ shih⁴ li⁴ erh² ling² pi¹ ku¹ kua.³

880

As the pig's-blood-seller said to the robber—sup my broth but spare my life.

強盜打死賣豬血的
Ch'iang³ tao⁴ ta³ ssü³ mai⁴ chu¹ hsieh³ ti¹—

饒命喝湯
Jao² ming⁴ 'ho¹ t'ang.¹

881

The locust chases the cicada, ignorant that the yellow bird is after it.

螳螂捕蟬。豈知黃雀在後
T'ang¹ lang² pu³ ch'an,² ch'i³ chih¹ 'huang² ch'iao³ tsai⁴ 'hou.⁴

882

If you miss the tiger, he won't miss you.

打虎不着。反被虎傷
Ta³ 'hu³ pu⁴ cho,² fan³ pei⁴ 'hu³ shang.¹

883

Summer mosquitoes provoke raps with the fan.

六月蚊蟲招扇打
Lu⁴ yüeh⁴ wên² ch'ung² chao¹ shan⁴ ta.³

884

When a man takes fire into his bosom, he provokes his own calamity.

解衣抱火。自惹其災
Chieh³ i¹ pao⁴ 'huo,³ tzü⁴ jê³ ch'i² tsai.¹

885

To drop the bricks one is carrying, on one's own foot.

自己搬磚打自己的腳
Tzü⁴ chi³ pan¹ chuan¹ ta³ tzü⁴ chi³ ti¹ chio.³

886

The load a beggar cannot carry he has begged himself.

告化子背不起自討的
Kao⁴ 'hua⁴ tzü³ pei⁴ pu⁴ ch'i³ tzü⁴ t'ao³ ti.¹

887

Paper and pen may take a man's life without the use of a sword.

紙筆殺人不用刀
Chih³ pi³ sha¹ jên² pu⁴ yung⁴ tao.¹

888

It is the beautiful bird which gets encaged.

嬌鳥被籠
Chiao¹ niao³ pei⁴ lung.²

889

One man may obstruct many. *Lit.:* One dragon may obstruct a thousand rivers.

一龍阻住千江水
Yi¹ lung² ts'u¹ chu⁴ ch'ien¹ Chiang¹ shui.³

890

When one horse will not go, a hundred are thrown into trouble.

一馬不行百馬憂
Yi¹ ma³ pu⁴ hsing² pai³ ma³ yu.¹

891

Cold water entering the mouth drops into the heart.

冷水入口點點在心
Lêng² shui³ ju⁴ k'ou³ tien³ tien³ tsai⁴ hsin.¹

NOTE.—Said of slights or injuries, which are not soon forgotten.

892

To draw the big net out of a water-butt.

水缸裏搬罾冤網
Shui³ kang¹ li³ pan¹ tsêng¹ yüan¹ wang.³

NOTE.—This is another specimen of the innuendo, so frequent in Chinese proverbs. The meaning is all in the last two words, which, in sound, exactly resemble 冤枉, to ill-use, to accuse falsely; and this is the meaning of the proverb.

893

Through life do nothing to make men knit their brows, then the world should not contain a man to grind his teeth at you.

平生莫作皺眉事
P'ing² shêng¹ mo⁴ tso⁴ chou⁴ mei² shih,⁴
世上應無切齒人
shih⁴ shang⁴ ying¹ wu² ch'ieh⁴ ch'ih³ jên.²

894

To entice a sheep into a drove of tigers.

牽羊入虎群
Ch'ien¹ yang² ju⁴ 'hu³ ch'un.²

895

Strike a man dead and you must forfeit life; not so if you can deceive him to his death.

打死人要填命
Ta³ ssü³ jên² yao⁴ t'ien² ming⁴;
哄死人不填命
'Hung³ ssü³ jên² pu⁴ t'ien² ming.⁴

896

To mislead. *Lit.*: To give one a chimney to climb.

把烟筒我鑽
Pa³ yen¹ t'ung³ wo³ tsuan.¹

897

A blind man with inflamed eyes, suffers more and more grievous injury.

瞎子害火眼。又狠又利害
Hsia² tzū³ 'hai⁴ 'huo³ yen,³ yu⁴ 'hên³ yu⁴ li⁴ 'hai.⁴

898

Chase a dog down a passage, and he will turn again and bite you.

直巷趕狗。回頭一口
Chih² hsiang⁴ kan² kou,³ 'hui² t'ou² yī¹ k'ou.³

899

To throw stones on a man in a well.

落井下石
Lo⁴ ching³ hsia⁴ shih.²

900

To help the tyrant *Chieh* to tyrannize.

助桀爲虐
Chu⁴ Chieh² wei² nio.⁴

901

To injure men is misery; to pity men is happiness.

虧人是禍。饒人是福
K'wei¹ jên² shih⁴ 'huo⁴; jao² jên² shih⁴ fu.²

902

Man cannot injure man as Heaven can.

人害人 不死
Jên² 'hai⁴ jên² pu⁴ ssü³;
天害人 纔害死了
t'ien¹ 'hai⁴ jên² ts'ai² 'hai⁴ ssü³ liao.³

CHAPTER V.

LIFE AND DEATH.

903

Any kind of life above the sod,
Surpasses burial under the clod.

寧 在 世 上 挨 不 願 土 裡 埋
Ning² tsai⁴ shih⁴ shang⁴ ai,² pu⁴ yüan⁴ t'u³ li³ mai.²

904

When we take off our boots and stockings to-day,
That we shall wear them to-morrow, who can say?

今 日 脫 了 鞋 合 襪
Chin¹ jih⁴ t'o¹ liao³ hsieh² 'ho² wa,⁴
不 知 明 日 靸 不 靸
Pu⁴ chih¹ ming³ jih⁴ sa¹ pu⁴ sa.¹

905

The man lives, but wit lives not; wit lives and the
man grows old.

Life and wit both live; but e'er a man knows it his
days are told.

人 生 智 未 生。 智 生 人 易 老
Jên² shêng¹ chih⁴ wei⁴ shêng¹; chih⁴ shêng¹ jên² i⁴ lao³.
生 智 一 切 生。 不 覺 無 常 到
Shêng¹ chih⁴ yi¹ ch'ieh⁴ shêng¹; pu⁴ chia⁴ wu² ch'ang² tao.⁴

906

The roots of an old tree in the earth you may find;
But a dead man is fully cut off from his kind.

樹 老 根 還 在。 人 死 兩 丟 開
Shu⁴ lao³ kên¹ 'huan² tsai⁴; jên² ssü³ liang³ tiu¹ k'ai.¹

907

On the road to hades (or the Yellow spring) no
account is taken of old and young.

黃 泉 路 上 無 老 少
'Huang² ch'ien² lu⁴ shang⁴ wu² lao³ shao.³

908

Insects of every kind covet life and fear death.

蟲 蟻 也 貪 生 怕 死
Ch'ung² i³ yeh⁴ t'an¹ shêng¹ p'a⁴ ssü³.

909

Man's life is like a candle in the wind, or hoar-frost on the tiles.

人 生 在 世 如 風 前 燭
Jên² shêng¹ tsai⁴ shih,⁴ ju² fêng¹ ch'ien² chu,²
如 瓦 上 霜
ju² wa¹ shang⁴ shuang.¹

910

Man's life on earth resembles a spring dream; when once the soul has fled, all is over.

人 生 在 世 如 春 夢
Jên² shêng¹ tsai⁴ shih⁴ ju² ch'un¹ mêng⁴;
靈 魂 一 走 萬 事 休
ling² 'hun² yi¹ tsou⁴ wan⁴ shih⁴ hsiu.¹

911

Though a man live a hundred years still he must die; and the sooner we die the sooner we have done with the body.

人 活 百 歲 也 是 死
Jên² 'huo² pai³ sui⁴ yeh³ shih⁴ ssü³;
早 死 早 些 脫 了 身
tsao³ ssü³ tsao³ hsieh¹ t'o¹ liao³ shên.¹

912

Man's days are numbered.

人 之 修 短 有 數
Jên² chih¹ hsiu¹ tuan³ yu³ shu.⁴

913

Few have ever attained the age of threescore years and ten.

人 生 七 十 古 來 稀
Jên² shêng¹ ch'i¹ shih² ku³ lai² hsi.¹

914

The fish which sports in the pan has but a short time to live.

魚遊釜中雖生不久
Yü² yu² fu³ chung¹ sui¹ shêng¹ pu⁴ chiu³.

915

Man's life is truly a performance.

人生在世無非是戲
Jên² shêng¹ tsai¹ shih⁴ wu² fei¹ shih⁴ hsi⁴.

NOTE.—“All the world's a stage.”

916

Before a man knows it he has grown white-headed.

不覺又是白頭翁
Pu⁴ chiao⁴ yu⁴ shih⁴ pai² t'ou² wêng¹.

917

In the Great River, preceding waves are swallowed up by those which follow; so in the world, new men take the old men's places.

長江後浪催前浪
Ch'ang² Chiang¹ hou⁴ lang⁴ ts'ui¹ cü'ien² lang⁴;
世上新人換舊人
shih⁴ shang⁴ hsin¹ jên² 'huau⁴ chiu⁴ jên².

918

The ancients see not the modern moon; but the modern moon shone on the ancients.

古人不見今時月
Ku³ jên² pu⁴ chien⁴ chin¹ shih² yüeh⁴;
今月曾經照古人
chin¹ yüeh⁴ ts'êng² chin¹ chao⁴ ku³ jên².

919

There are trees on the mountains a thousand years old; but a centenarian amongst men it is hard to find.

山中也有千年樹
Shan¹ chung¹ yeh³ yu³ ch'ien¹ nien² shu⁴;
世上難逢百歲人
shih⁴ shang⁴ nan² fêng² pai³ sui⁴ jên².

920

Some hate to see a hoary head, I view one with
delight; for many young men die, attaining not
an old man's death.

人 見 白 頭 嗔。我 見 白 頭 喜。
Jên² chien⁴ pai² t'ou² ch'ên¹; wo³ chien⁴ pai² t'ou² 'hsi³:
多 少 少 年 亡。不 見 白 頭 死。
to¹ shao³ shao³ nien² wang² pu⁴ chien⁴ pai² t'ou² ssü.³

921

Man lives a generation as plants a spring.

人 生 一 世。草 生 一 春。
Jên² shêng¹ yi¹ shih,⁴ ts'ao³ shêng¹ yi¹ ch'un.¹

922

After full moon the light diminishes; after middle
age man's affairs begin to lessen.

月 過 十 五 光 明 少
Yueh⁴ kuo⁴ shih² wu³ kuang¹ ming² shao³;
人 到 中 年 萬 事 休
jên² tao⁴ chung¹ nien² wan⁴ shih⁴ hsiu.¹

923

Though life cannot reach a hundred years, men
cherish the troubles of a thousand.

人 生 不 滿 百。常 懷 千 歲 憂
Jên² shêng¹ pu⁴ man³ pai,³ ch'ang² 'huai² ch'ien¹ sui⁴ yu.¹

924

Men live like birds in a wood together; but when
the set time comes each takes his flight.

人 生 似 鳥 同 林 宿
Jên² shêng¹ shih⁴ niao³ t'ung² lin² su²;
大 限 來 時 各 自 飛
ta⁴ hsien⁴ lai² shih² ko⁴ tzü⁴ fei.¹

925

Whom *Yen wang* dooms to die in the third watch,
can never live on to the fifth.

閻 王 註 定 三 更 死
Yen² wang² chu⁴ ting⁴ san¹ kêng¹ ssü,³

並不留人到五更
ping⁴ pu⁴ liu² jên² tao⁴ wu³ kêng.¹

NOTE.—*Yen wang* is popularly regarded as one person, a sort of Hades or Pluto; really, however, this designation is applicable to the Ten Kings of Hell, who are supposed to have rule over the life and death of men.

926

Sick folks dread a devil's call (*i.e.* to die).

患病的怕鬼叫
'Huan⁴ ping⁴ ti¹ p'a⁴ kuei³ chiao.⁴

927

Death has reached the points of his eyebrows.

死在眉毛尖上來了
Ssü³ tsai⁴ mei² mao² chien¹ shang⁴ lai² liao.³

NOTE.—This means that a man is on the point of death.

928

When the oil is exhausted the lamp dies out.

油乾燈息
Yu² kan¹ têng¹ hsi.²

929

He does not close his eyes in dying.

他死不閉眼
T'a¹ ssü³ pu⁴ pi⁴ yen.³

NOTE.—That is because he has some trouble on his mind;—some anxiety for the welfare of his survivors.

930

Who knows whether the bonze or his wooden fish will last the longer?

曉得是和尙長木魚長
Hsiao³ té² shih⁴ 'ho² shang⁴ ch'ang² mu⁴ yü² ch'ang.²

931

Get the coffin ready and the man won't die.

辦到棺材人不死
Pan⁴ tao⁴ kuan¹ ts'ai² jên² pu⁴ ssü.³

932

Fitful life is but a dream.

浮生若夢
Fou² shêng¹ jo⁴ mêng⁴

933

Flowers bloom and wither year by year; but how can an old man grow young again?

花 開 花 謝 年 年 有
 'Hua¹ k'ai¹ 'hua¹ hsieh⁴ nien² nien² yu³;
 人 老 何 曾 轉 少 年
 jên² lao³ 'ho² 'hui⁴ chuan³ shao³ nien.²

934

There is a day to be born, and a time to die.

生 有 日 死 有 時
 Shêng¹ yu³ jih⁴ ssü³ yu³ shih.²

NOTE.—“A time to be born, and a time to die.” Eccles. 3. 2.

935

No medicine can secure long life, even to a minister of state; no money can buy for any man a virtuous posterity.

無 藥 可 延 卿 相 壽
 Wu² yao⁴ k'o³ yen² ch'ing¹ hsiang¹ shou⁴;
 有 錢 難 買 子 孫 賢
 yu³ ch'ien² nan² mai³ tzü³ sun¹ hsien.²

936

The great wall of a myriad miles still remains, but *Chin Shih Huang*, who built it, is gone.

長 城 萬 里 今 猶 在
 Ch'ang² ch'êng² wan⁴ li³ chin¹ yu² tsai,⁴
 不 見 當 年 秦 始 皇
 pu⁴ chien⁴ tang¹ nien² Ch'in² Shih³ 'Huang.²

937

What centenarian has 36,000 days of pleasure?

人 生 百 歲
 Jên² shêng¹ pai³ sui,⁴
 那 有 三 萬 六 千 日 之 樂
 na³ yu³ san¹ wan⁴ lu⁴ ch'ien¹ jih⁴ chih¹ lé⁴?

938

Our whitened bones must needs lie buried under the green sod; and yellow gold will hardly buy back the raven locks of youth.

終 須 白 骨 埋 青 塚^{*}
 Chung¹ hsi¹ pai² ku³ mai² ch'ing¹ chung³;
 難 把 黃 金 買 黑 頭
 nan² pa³ 'huang² chin¹ mai³ 'hei¹ t'ou.²

939

The Emperor with all his wealth cannot buy myriads of years.

皇 帝 有 錢 難 買 萬 萬 歲
 'Huang² Ti⁴ yu³ ch'ien² nan² mai³ wan⁴ wan⁴ sui.⁴

940

A beggar will not cross a rotten bridge.

吃 丐 不 過 朽 木 橋
 Ch'ih¹ kai⁴ pu⁴ kuo⁴ hsiu³ mu⁴ ch'iao.²

941

To-day secures not to-morrow's affairs.

今 朝 不 保 明 朝 事
 Chin¹ chao¹ pu⁴ pao³ ming² chao¹ shih.⁴

942

We can't secure on going to bed that we shall get up again.

上 床 難 保 下 床 來
 Shang³ ch'uang² nan² pao³ hsia⁴ ch'uang² lai.²

943

When a man will risk his life, ten thousand cannot stop him.

一 人 拚 命。萬 夫 難 擋
 Yi¹ jên² p'an¹ ming⁴ wan⁴ fu¹ nan² tang.³

944

If you envy a man's wealth, do not envy his food; if you are dissatisfied with life, do not be so with death.

妒 財 莫 妒 食。怨 生 莫 怨 死
 Tu⁴ ts'ai² mo⁴ tu⁴ shih²; yüan⁴ shêng¹ mo⁴ yüan⁴ ssü.³

945

A generation is like a swift horse passing a crevice.

一 世 如 駒 過 隙
 Yi¹ shih⁴ ju² chü¹ kuo⁴ hsi.²

CHAPTER VI.

MOURNING AND BURIAL.

— 946 —

Any soil will do to bury in.

處 處 黃 土 好 埋 人
Ch'u⁴ ch'u⁴ 'huang² t'u³ 'hao³ mai² jên.²

— 947 —

A son's mourning for his mother startles Heaven and moves Earth.

兒 子 哭 娘 驚 天 動 地
Erh² tzü³ k'u¹ niang² ching¹ t'ien¹ tung⁴ ti.⁴

— 948 —

A daughter's mourning for her mother is true and sincere.

女 兒 哭 娘 真 心 實 意
Nü² êrh² k'u¹ niang² chên¹ hsin¹ shih² i.⁴

— 949 —

A daughter-in-law's mourning for her mother-in-law is purely hypocritical.

媳 婦 哭 婆 婆 假 情 假 意
Hsi² fu⁴ k'u¹ p'o² p'o² chia³ ch'ing² chia³ i.⁴

— 950 —

A son-in-law's mourning for his mother-in-law is short and fitful.

女 婿 哭 丈 母 驢 子 放 屁
Nü² hsi⁴ k'u¹ chang⁴ mu³ lü² tzü³ fang⁴ p'i.⁴

NOTE.—The latter part of this proverb I have preferred to translate freely, since it contains an illustration less beautiful than striking.

— 951 —

The hare dies and the fox mourns.

兔 死 狐 悲
T'u¹ ssü³ 'hu² pei.¹

952

When puss mourns for the rat it is all sham pity.

貓 兒 哭 老 鼠 假 慈 悲
Mao¹ êrh² k'u¹ lao³ shu³ chia³ tz'ü² pei¹.

953

When his lady dies, hundreds of visitors haste to condole; but when the general himself dies, not a single soldier appears.

夫 人 死 百 客 臨 門
Fu¹ jên² ssü³ pai³ k'o⁴ lin² mên²;
將 軍 亡 一 卒 不 至
Chiang¹ chün¹ wang² yi¹ tsu² pu⁴ chih⁴.

954

Over a husband's death a wife will truly mourn three years; over a wife's such favour is not shown for more than a hundred days.

夫 死 三 年 妻 大 孝
Fu¹ ssü³ san¹ nien² ch'i¹ ta⁴ hsiao⁴;
妻 死 無 過 百 日 思
ch'i¹ ssü³ wu² kuo⁴ pai³ jih⁴ ssü¹.

955

Vain is the sacrifice of an unfilial son.

在 生 不 孝。死 祭 無 益
Tsai⁴ shêng¹ pu⁴ hsiao⁴ ssü³ chi⁴ wu² i².

956

Why should he, who does not honour his parents when living, mourn for them when dead?

在 生 不 把 父 母 敬
Tsai⁴ shêng¹ pu⁴ pa³ fu⁴ mu³ ching⁴;
死 後 何 必 哭 靈 魂
ssü³ 'hou⁴ 'ho² pi⁴ k'u¹ ling² 'hun².

957

To offer a bullock at one's parents' grave, is not equal to presenting them while living with fowls or sucking-pigs.

與 其 椎 牛 而 祭 墓
Yü³ ch'i² ch'ui² niu² êrh² chi⁴ mu⁴,

不 如 雞 豚 之 遺 存
 pu⁴ ju² chi¹ t'un² chih¹ tai⁴ ts'un.²

— 958 —

Men mourn for those who leave fortunes behind them.

牀 頭 一 倉 穀。死 了 有 人 哭
 Ch'uang² t'on² yi¹ ts'ang¹ ku,³ ssü³ liao³ yu³ jên² k'u.¹

— 959 —

Don't distress yourself for the dead. *Lit.*: Let the dead care for the dead, and the living for the living.

死 的 顧 死 的。活 的 顧 活 的
 Ssü³ ti¹ ku⁴ ssü³ ti¹, 'huo² ti¹ ku⁴ 'huo² ti.¹

— 960 —

If a mourner, you cannot sing; if you can sing, you cannot mourn.

哭 則 不 歌。歌 則 不 哭
 K'u¹ tsé² pu⁴ ko¹; ko¹ tsé² pu⁴ k'u.¹

CHAPTER VII.

REPUTATION.

961

Fragrant perfumes will exhale wherever musk is found :

And wind will not be needed to spread the scent around.

有麝自然香。莫在當風颺
Yu³ shê⁴ tzü⁴ jan² hsiang¹: mo⁴ tsai⁴ tang¹ fêng¹ yang.²

962

Wealth among men is like dew among plants ;
Foam on the waves is the fame which earth grants.

人閒富貴花閒露
Jên² hsiên² fu⁴ kuei⁴ hua¹ hsiên² lou⁴:
世上功名水上漚
Shih⁴ shang⁴ kung¹ ming² shui³ shang⁴ ou.⁴

963

Wealth is but dung ; a face is worth thousands of gold.

錢財如糞土。臉面值千金
Ch'ien² ts'ai² ju² fên⁴ t'u³; lien³ mien⁴ chih² ch'ien¹ chin.¹

964

A dying leopard leaves his skin ; a dying man his name.

豹死留皮。人死留名
Pao⁴ ssü³ liu² p'i²; jên² ssü³ liu² ming.²

965

As the scream of the eagle is heard when she has passed over ; so a man's name remains after his death.

鴈過留聲。人去留名
Ying¹ kuo⁴ liu² shêng¹: jên² ch'ü⁴ liu² ming.²

966

His fame is great, like thunder in one's ear.

聲名大如雷貫耳
Shêng¹ ming² ta⁴ ju² lei² kuan⁴ êh.³

967

Merit and fame never crown the lazy.

功名不上懶人頭

Kung¹ ming² pu⁴ shang³ lan³ jèn² t'ou.²

968

The sound of drumming on a lofty hill is heard far and wide.

高山打鼓。聲名在外

Kao¹ shan¹ ta³ ku,³ shēng¹ ming² tsai⁴ wai.⁴

969

Whoever gains fame dignifies his parents.

揚名顯親

Yang² ming² hsien³ ch'ín.¹

970

Wide-spread his fame, who comes with waving flags and roaring cannon.

扯旗放砲。聲名浩蕩

Ch'ê³ ch'í² fang⁴ p'ao⁴, shēng¹ ming² hao⁴ tang.⁴

971

The tiger is terrible even when dead.

虎死雄心在

'Hu³ ssū³ hsiung² hsin¹ tsai.⁴

972

A great man who fails to leave a good name for a hundred generations, will leave a bad one for a myriad years.

大丈夫既不能流芳百世

T'a⁴ chang⁴ fu¹ chi³ pu⁴ nēng² liu² fang¹ pai³ shih,⁴

便遺臭萬年

pien⁴ i² ch'ou⁴ wan⁴ nien²

973

To sweep clean at a stroke.

一茗帚掃得乾淨

Yi¹ t'iao² chou³ sao³ tē² kan¹ ching.⁴

NOTE.—This is said of a reputation suddenly forfeited from any cause.

974

One's good deeds are known only at home ; one's bad deeds far away.

好事不出門。惡事傳千里
 'Hao³ shih⁴ pu⁴ ch'ui¹ mên²; o¹ shih⁴ chuan⁴ ch'ien¹ li.³

NOTE.—“The evil which men do, lives after them ;
 The good is oft interred with their bones.”

975

In your ten years secluded study no one will know you ; but once take your M. A. degree, and your fame will be known through the empire.

十年窓下無人問
 Shih² nien² ch'uang¹ hsia⁴ wu² jên² wên⁴;
 一舉成名天下知
 yi¹ chü³ ch'eng² ming² t'ien¹ hsia⁴ chih¹.

976

When the dragon has returned to his sea caves, the clouds retain their moisture : after the musk-deer has crossed the green hills, the grass and trees retain its perfume.

龍遊海洞雲猶濕
 Lung² yu² 'hai³ tung⁴ yün² yu² shih¹:
 麝過青山草木香
 shé⁴ kno⁴ ch'ing¹ shan¹ ts'ao³ mu⁴ hsiang¹.

977

One thunder-clap resounds through the empire.

一下雷哄天下響
 Yi¹ hsia⁴ lei² 'hung³ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ hsiang.³

NOTE.—This refers to any act or event by which a man acquires sudden notoriety.

978

Once scale the dragon gate, and your fame is tenfold multiplied.

一登龍門。聲價十倍
 Yi¹ têng¹ lung² mên,² shêng¹ chia⁴ shü² pei.⁴

NOTE.—To 'scale the dragon gate' is to take the B. A. degree.

979

When the tiger dies he does not lose his dignity.

虎 死 不 倒 威
 'Hu³ ssü³ pu⁴ tao³ wei.¹

980

At court men contend for fame; in the market for profit.

爭 名 入 朝。 爭 利 入 市
 Chêng¹ ming² ju⁴ ch'ao³; chêng¹ li⁴ ju⁴ shih.⁴

981

Vicious conduct will cause a man's name to stink for ten thousand years.

爲 惡 則 遺 臭 萬 年
 Wei² o⁴ tsé² i² ch'ou⁴ wan⁴ nien.²

982

The reputation of a thousand years may depend on the character of a single day.

得 失 一 朝。 榮 辱 千 載
 Tê² shih¹ yi¹ chao,¹ jung² ju⁴ ch'ien¹ tsai.³

983

If one man praises you, a thousand will repeat the praise.

一 人 道 好。 千 人 傳 實
 Yi¹ jên² tao⁴ hao,³ ch'ien¹ jên² chuan⁴ shih.²

CHAPTER VIII.

THE PLEASURES, ETC. OF WINE.

984

Old monarch in the eating line;
He will not touch a drop of wine.

點酒不嘗。吃菜老王
Tien³ chiu³ pu⁴ ch'ang²—ch'ih¹ ts'ai⁴ lao³ wang.²

985

In every morning's stroll for him the wine doth
flow;

Returning home at eve fair garlands crown his brow.

朝朝出去酒隨後
Chao¹ chao¹ ch'u¹ ch'u⁴ chiu³ sui² 'hou⁴;

夜夜歸來花滿頭
Yeh⁴ yeh⁴ kuei¹ lai² 'hua¹ man³ t'ou.²

986

When flowers are blooming then pour out the wine;
But don't ascend the tower when there's no bright
moon-shine.

有花方酌酒。無月不登樓
Yu³ 'hua¹ fang¹ cho² chiu³; wu² yueh⁴ pu⁴ têng¹ lou.²

987

As limpid streams within earthen banks are bound,
So midst wine's victims are hosts of scholars found.

清清之水爲土所防
Ch'ing¹ ch'ing¹ chih¹ shui³ wei² t'u³ so⁴ fang.²

濟濟之士爲酒所傷
Chi⁴ chi¹ chih¹ shih⁴ wei² chiu³ so⁴ shang.¹

988

Don't begin to drink with day's returning light;
Or you'll be very drunk till six o'clock at night.

莫吃卯時酒。昏昏醉到酉
Mo⁴ ch'ih¹ mao³ shih² chiu,³ 'hun¹ 'hun¹ tsui⁴ tao⁴ yu.³

989

Let those who desire to break off drinking habits,
when sober, observe a drunken man.

若要斷酒法。醒眼看醉人。
Jo⁴ yao⁴ tuan⁴ chiu³ fa,³ hsing³ yen³ k'an⁴ tsui⁴ jên.²

990

A drop to a thirsty man is like refreshing dew ; a
cup to one already drunk is worse than none at all.

渴時一滴如甘露。
K'o³ shih² yi¹ ti¹ ju² kan¹ lu,⁴
醉後添杯不如無。
tsui⁴ 'hou⁴ t'ien¹ pei¹ pu⁴ ju² wu.²

991

Medicine may heal imagined sickness, but wine can
never dispel real sorrow.

藥能醫假病。酒不解真愁。
Yao⁴ néng² i¹ chia³ ping,⁴ chiu³ pu⁴ chieh¹ chên¹ ch'ou.²

992

Three glasses help one to understand great doctrines ;
perfect intoxication scatters a thousand troubles.

三杯通大道。一醉解千愁。
San¹ pei¹ t'ung¹ ta⁴ tao⁴; yi¹ tsui⁴ chieh¹ ch'ien¹ ch'ou.²

993

He got into debt for wine wherever he could.

酒債尋常行處有。
Chiu³ chai⁴ hsin² ch'ang² hsing² ch'u⁴ yu.³

NOTE.—This is said of *Li T'ai-pai* (李太白) an epicurean L.L. D. of
the *T'ang* dynasty ; who, because he saw that life was short, determined to
enjoy in it as much pleasure as possible.

994

To the drunken man heaven and earth are great ; to
the man of leisure days and months are long.

醉後乾坤大。閑中日月長。
Tsui⁴ 'hou⁴ ch'ien² k'un¹ ta⁴; hsien² chung¹ jih⁴ yueh⁴ ch'ang.²

995

Good wine reddens the face ; riches excite the mind.

好酒紅人面。財帛動人心。
'Hao³ chiu³ 'hung² jên² mien⁴; ts'ai² pai² tung⁴ jên² hsin.¹

996

With a well-known friend, a thousand cups of wine are few; when opinions disagree, even half a sentence is too much.

酒逢知己千杯少
Chiu³ fêng² chih¹ chi³ ch'ien¹ pei¹ shao³:
話不投機半句多
hua⁴ pu⁴ t'ou² chi¹ pan¹ chü⁴ to.¹

997

Three glasses of wine can set everything to rights.

三杯和萬事
San¹ pu⁴ 'ho² wan⁴ shih.⁴

998

Wine can both help and hinder business.

酒能成事。酒能敗事
Chiu³ nêng² ch'êng² shih,⁴ chiu³ nêng² pai⁴ shih.⁴

999

Wine is a discoverer of secrets.

酒發心腹之言
Chiu³ fa¹ hsin¹ fu² chih¹ yen.²

1000

Wine is a poison which perforates the bowels; lechery is a sharp knife which scrapes the bones.

酒是穿腸毒藥
Chiu³ shih⁴ ch'uan¹ ch'ang² tu² yao⁴;
色乃刮骨剛刀
sê⁴ nai³ kua³ ku³ kang¹ tao.¹

1001

Wine is a proper drink for men, as grains a proper food for pigs.

酒是人喝的。糟是猪喫的
Chiu³ shih⁴ jên² 'ho¹ ti,¹ tsao¹ shih⁴ chu¹ ch'ih¹ ti.¹

NOTE.—This is said to deter men from drinking too much.

1002

To be mad with wine.

發酒瘋
Fa¹ chiu³ fêng.¹

1003

Your whole face is reddened with the spring wind.

滿 面 春 風
Man³ mien⁴ ch'un¹ feng.¹

1004

Do not drink more wine than you are able to carry.

莫 飲 過 量 之 酒
Mo⁴ yin³ kuo⁴ liang² chih¹ chiu.³

1005

Intoxication is not the wine's fault, but the man's.

酒 不 醉 人。人 自 醉
Chiu³ pu⁴ tsui⁴ jên,² jên² tzū⁴ tsui.⁴

1006

Drunk but still intelligent.

酒 醉 心 明 白
Chiu³ tsui⁴ hsin¹ ming² pai.²

1007

Whether the affair be settled or not, we must have our eighteen bottles of wine.

成 不 成 十 八 瓶
Ch'eng² pu⁴ ch'eng² shih² pa¹ p'ing.²

1008

When drinking wine remember the poverty of your family.

吃 酒 念 家 貧
Ch'ih¹ chiu³ nien⁴ chia¹ p'in.³

1009

No wine, no company; no wine, no conversation.

無 酒 不 會。無 酒 不 議
Wu² chiu³ pu⁴ hui⁴; wu² chiu³ pu⁴ i.⁴

1010

Over the wine cup conversation is light.

酒 杯 說 話 輕
Chiu³ pei¹ shuo¹ hua⁴ ch'ing.¹

1011

Rich or not it is my country's wine.

美 不 美 鄉 中 酒

Mei³ pu⁴ mei³ hsiang¹ chung¹ chiu.³

1012

Excessive joy breeds sorrow; excess of wine disorder

樂 極 則 悲。 酒 極 則 亂

Lê⁴ chi² tsê² pei¹; chiu³ chi² tsê² lan.⁴

SECTION IX.—ON LANGUAGE.

CHAPTER I.

CONVERSATION.

1013

With *Wên wang* your manners and music display;
With *Pa wang* let arms be the talk of the day.

遇 文 王 施 禮 樂
Yü⁴ Wên² wang² shih¹ li³ yo⁴;
會 霸 王 動 干 戈
'Hui⁴ Pa⁴ wang² tung⁴ kan¹ ko.¹

NOTE.—*Wên wang*. The King Alfred of Chinese history, who reigned about 1150 years B. C., and forms the link between the *Shang* and the *Chou* dynasties. *Pa wang*. There were five chiefs or Kings thus designated; the most powerful of them was *Huan wang* or '*Huan kung* (桓公), whose reign dates from 717 B. C.

1014

If you deal in tittle-tattle,
In your ears will curses rattle.

傳 言 過 話。多 討 人 罵
Chuan⁴ yen² kuo⁴ 'hua,⁴ to¹ t'ao³ jên² ma.⁴

1015

The talk of a person can never be true,
Who has pointed lips and a very long queue.

嘴 尖 毛 長。說 話 荒 唐
Tsui³ chien¹ mao² ch'ang,² shuo¹ 'hua⁴ 'huang¹ t'ang.²

1016

Suit your talk to your man:
Suit your lot to your plan.

看 人 說 話。看 事 打 卦
K'an⁴ jên² shuo¹ 'hua⁴: k'an⁴ shih⁴ ta³ kua.⁴

1017

If one word misses its aim,
A myriad will do the same.

一言不中。萬言無用
Yi¹ yen² pu⁴ chung,⁴ wan⁴ yen² wu² yung.²

1018

Say what will please; straight-forward words provoke dislike.

順情說好話。幹直惹人嫌
Shun⁴ ch'ing² shuo¹ hao³ hua⁴; kan⁴ chih² jê³ jên² hsien.²

1019

Many men, many tongues.

人多舌頭多
Jên² to¹ shê² t'ou² to.¹

1020

Who know, don't talk; who talk, don't know.

知者不言。言者不知
Chih¹ ché² pu⁴ yen²; yen² ché² pu⁴ chih.¹

1021

Sitting alone meditate on your own faults; in conversation talk not of other men's.

靜坐常思己過
Ching⁴ tso⁴ ch'ang² ssü¹ chi³ kuo⁴;
閒談莫論人非
hsien² t'an² mo⁴ lun⁴ jên² fei.¹

1022

On weddings and burials it is hard to answer clearly.

紅白喜事難答白
'Hung² pai² hsi³ shih⁴ nan² ta¹ pai.²

NOTE.—This proverb (another specimen of the innuendo) is commonly used in the sense of—Mind your own business; and frequently only the last three characters are spoken, the others being understood.

1023

There are *Chiang-nan* men sitting by, be careful what you say.

座上有江南
Tso⁴ shang⁴ yu³ chiang¹ nan.¹

NOTE.—In the *Yu-shih* (幼學), section *Jên shih* (人事), where this proverb occurs, we read that there exists a song called "The Song of the Part-ridge" (鷓鴣曲), which when heard by a man from the provinces of *Chiang-nan*, causes him earnestly to desire to return. So when sitting with such guests, it is good manners not to sing that song.

1024

A jar's mouth may be stopped; a man's cannot.

罈口封得住。人口封不住
T'an² k'ou³ fêng¹ tē² chu⁴; jên² k'ou³ fêng¹ pu⁴ chu⁴

1025

It is a waste of words to repeat a thing three times over.

話說三遍是閑言
'Hua⁴ shuo¹ san¹ pien⁴ sbih⁴ hsien² yen.²

1026

Do not talk to a man about what he cannot understand.

不是知音不與談
Pu⁴ shih⁴ chih¹ yin¹ pu⁴ yü³ t'an.²

1027

Never mention *Han Liu*.

不提漢劉二字
Pu⁴ t'i² 'Han⁴ Liu² êrh⁴ tzü.⁴

NOTE.—'Han Liu Hsiu (漢劉秀) or, according to his reigning title, 'Han Kuang Wu (漢光武), was the enemy of the usurper Wang Mang (王莽). Some one happening to mention 'Han Liu in his presence, Wang Mang uttered this trivial remark, which from that circumstance has become proverbial in the sense of—Never mention a man's enemy before his face.

1028

A troublesomely great talker is sure to make mistakes.

說話囉唆。難免無錯
Shuo¹ 'hua⁴ lo² so,¹ nan² mien³ wu² ts'o.⁴

1029

Never joke in the presence of a Prince.

君前無戲言
Chün¹ ch'ien² wu² hsi⁴ yen.²

1030

Neither let tongue nor pen wag as they list.

言不亂發。筆不妄動
Yen² pu⁴ lan⁴ fa,¹ pi³ pu⁴ wang⁴ tung.⁴

1031

The lion opens his mouth; the elephant shuts his; shut yours.

開口獅子。閉口象。不可亂言
K'ai¹ k'ou³ shih¹ tzü³; pi⁴ k'ou³ hsiang⁴; pu⁴ k'o³ lan⁴ yen.²

1032

If one compliments everybody, who will be one's enemy?

逢人說好話。那有不對
Fêng² jên² shuo¹ 'hao³ 'hua,⁴ na³ yu³ pu⁴ tui⁴?

1033

You chatter like magpies over a broken egg.

鴉鵲打破蛋
Ya¹ ch'iao³ ta³ p'o⁴ tan.⁴

1034

Speak carefully and be slow to speak.

謹開口。慢開言
Chin³ k'ai¹ k'ou,³ man⁴ k'ai⁴ yen.²

NOTE.—“Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak.” James 1. 19.

1035

Double-tongued. *Lit.*: To beat a gourd in the east, a ladle in the west.

東打葫蘆。西打瓢
Tung¹ ta³ 'hu² lu,² hsi¹ ta³ p'iao.²

1036

No discussion no rousing.

不提不醒
Pu⁴ t'i² pu⁴ hsin.³

1037

A good questioner is like one beating a bell.

善問者如撞鐘
Shan⁴ wên⁴ ché² ju² chuang⁴ chung.¹

1038

Meeting a man speak of 'Hang.

逢人說項
Fêng² jên² shuo¹ 'Hang.⁴

NOTE.—That is, speak of some one well known. *Hang Ssü* (項斯) was a famous scholar and poet, at the beginning of the *T'ang* Dynasty. See *Yu-hsioh* (幼學), section *Jen-shih* (人事).

———— 1039 ————

Meeting any one say but few words; don't set out all that is in your heart.

逢 人 且 說 三 分 話
Fêng² jên² ch'ieh³ shuo¹ san¹ fên¹ 'hua⁴;
未 可 全 拋 一 片 心
wei⁴ k'o³ ch'ien² p'ao¹ yi¹ p'ien⁴ hsin¹.

———— 1040 ————

Beware of being overheard. *Lit.*: Partitions have chinks, and walls have ears.

牆 有 縫。壁 有 耳
Ch'iang² yu³ fêng,³ pi³ yu³ êrh.³

———— 1041 ————

A stammerer of few words need not be a fool; a glib-tongued man need not be wise.

訥 訥 寡 言 者 未 必 愚
La³ la³ kua³ yen² chê² wei⁴ pi⁴ yü²;
喋 喋 利 口 者 未 必 智
tieh² tieh² li⁴ k'ou³ chê² wei⁴ pi⁴ chih.⁴

———— 1042 ————

The head may be cut off, but the tongue cannot be restrained.

頭 可 斬。舌 不 可 禁
T'ou² k'o³ chan,³ shê² pu⁴ k'o³ chin.⁴

———— 1043 ————

He who talks much must err; he excels who says nothing.

言 多 必 失。不 言 爲 高
Yen² to¹ pi⁴ shih¹; pu⁴ yen² wei² kao.¹

———— 1044 ————

If you converse by the way, remember there may be men in the grass.

路 上 說 話。草 裡 有 人
Lu⁴ shang⁴ shuo¹ 'hua,⁴ ts'ao³ li³ yu³ jên.²

———— 1045 ————

Meeting men or devils, talk as they do.

遇人說人話。遇鬼說鬼話
Yü⁴ jên² shuo¹ jên² 'hua,⁴ yü⁴ kwei³ shou¹ kwei³ 'hua.⁴

———— 1046 ————

A man may say what he has seen.

見得到說得出
Chien⁴ tê² tao⁴ shuo¹ tê² ch'u.¹

———— 1047 ————

One may discourse with a wise man ; it is hard to converse with a fool.

可爲知者道。難與俗人言
K'o³ wei² chih¹ ché² tao⁴; nan² yü³ su² jên² yen.²

———— 1048 ————

Be careful what you say. *Lit.* : That which goes out of your mouth, goes into other people's ears.

出在你口。入在人耳
Ch'u¹ tsai⁴ ne³ k'ou,³ ju⁴ tsai⁴ jên² êrh.²

———— 1049 ————

Never converse on the faults of others ; nor presume to speak of your own virtues.

罔談彼短。靡恃己長
Wang³ t'an³ pi³ tuan³; mi² shih⁴ chi³ ch'ang.²

———— 1050 ————

It is not so safe to open the mouth, as it is to keep it shut.

開口不如緘口穩
K'ai¹ k'ou³ pu⁴ ju² hsien² k'ou³ wên.³

———— 1051 ————

In conversation you must exercise control over the feelings.

說話要留情
Shuo¹ 'hua⁴ yao⁴ liu² ch'ing.²

CHAPTER II.

SIMILES.

———— 1052 ————

Pompous. *Lit.*: Like an Imperial Preceptor.

像 一 個 太 師 皇

Hsiang⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ tai⁴ shih¹ 'huang.²

———— 1053 ————

Stupid. *Lit.*: Like a wooden image.

像 一 個 木 偶 人

Hsiang⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ mu⁴ ou³ jen.²

———— 1054 ————

Very lazy. *Lit.*: Like one who has drawn out his muscles.

像 抽 了 一 副 筋

Hsiang⁴ ch'ou¹ liao² yi¹ fu⁴ chin.¹

———— 1055 ————

Containing stores of ill-arranged information. *Lit.*: Like a waste-paper basket.

像 一 個 字 紙 籃

Hsiang⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ tzu⁴ chih⁴ lou.³

———— 1056 ————

Depraved. *Lit.*: Like a door all awry.

像 一 個 歪 門 斜 勢

Hsiang⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ wai¹ mén² hsieh² shih.⁴

———— 1057 ————

Useless. *Lit.*: Like a funeral paper god.

像 一 個 顯 道 神

Hsiang⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ hsien³ tao⁴ shên.²

NOTE.—The *hsien tao shên* are huge, light, paper-covered images, carried at the head of an officer's funeral. Doolittle gives a good description of them in his "Social Life," Vol. i, page 203.

———— 1058 ————

Very ugly. *Lit.*: Like *Yang Fan* of *Ts'ou*.

像 楚 國 楊 樊

Hsiang⁴ Ts'ou² kuo² Yang² fan.²

1059

Poor. *Lit.*: Like anything washed by many waters.

像大水洗了

Hsiang⁴ ta⁴ shui³ hsi³ liao³

1060

Like a beaten dog.

像打殃的狗子

Hsiang⁴ ta³ yang¹ ti¹ kou³ tzü.³

1061

Wise. *Lit.*: Like an efficacious tortoise.

像一個靈龜

Hsiang⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ ling² kuei.¹

1062

Like a sister-in-law of *Su Ch'in*.

像一個蘇秦的嫂子

Hsiang⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ Su¹ ch'in² ti¹ sao³ tzü.³

NOTE.—That is, to cringe and bow to one in prosperity, whom in adversity you have slighted. See note under proverb 2629.

1063

To come Suddenly and go gradually. *Lit.*: As wind and rain it comes, as small dust it goes.

來如風雨。去似微塵

Lai² ju² feng¹ yü.³ ch'ü⁴ ssü⁴ wei¹ ch'ên.²

1064

Uncared for. *Lit.*: Like a dog whose master is dead.

如喪家的狗

Ju² sang¹ chia¹ ti¹ kou.³

1065

Gradually. *Lit.*: As water soaks into wood.

如水浸木

Ju² shui³ tsin⁴ mu.⁴

1066

Without sustenance. *Lit.*: As a fish out of water.

如魚失水

Ju² yü² shih¹ shui.³

———— 1067 ————

As hard as a stone.

跟 石 頭 這 麼 硬
Kên¹ shih² t'ou² ché⁴ mo³ ying⁴

———— 1068 ————

As intimate as brothers.

親 如 同 胞
Ch'in¹ ju² t'ung⁴ pao.¹

———— 1069 ————

As like as two claps of thunder.

雷 同
Lei² t'ung.²

———— 1070 ————

As far as heaven from earth.

天 壤 之 分
T'ien¹ jang² chih¹ fên.¹

———— 1071 ————

As far as heaven from the abyss of the ocean.

相 去 天 淵
Hsiang¹ ch'ü⁴ t'ien¹ yüan.¹

———— 1072 ————

As thin as a rail.

骨 瘦 如 柴
Ku³ shou⁴ ju² ch'ai.²

———— 1073 ————

As weak as cotton.

軟 如 綿
Juan³ ju² mien.²

———— 1074 ————

As hard as iron.

硬 似 鐵
Ying⁴ ssü⁴ t'ieh.³

———— 1075 ————

As clear as the pebbles at the bottom of a brook.

水 底 沙 明
Shui³ ti³ sha¹ ming.²

— 1076 —

Gradually. *Lit.*: As the silkworm eats its way.

蠶食而進
Ts'an² shih² êr² chin.⁴

— 1077 —

As stupid as black lacquer.

糊塗像漆
Hu² t'u² hsiang⁴ ch'i.¹

— 1078 —

As orderly as printing-blocks.

印板層次
Yin⁴ pan³ ts'êng² tz'ü.⁴

— 1079 —

Glib-tongued. *Lit.*: Lips sharp as a knife.

嘴似刀
Tsui³ ssü⁴ tao.¹

— 1080 —

Smooth-tongued. *Lit.*: A pair of oily lips.

一張油嘴
Yi¹ chang¹ yu² tsui.³

— 1081 —

Sudden. *Lit.*: Like a clap of thunder in the sky.

好比半天雲裡一雷
Hao³ pi³ pan⁴ t'ien¹ yün² li³ yi¹ lei.²

— 1082 —

Quickly. *Lit.*: As ice melts and hoarfrost evaporates

如水消霧散一般
Ju² ping¹ hsiao¹ wu³ san⁴ yi¹ pan.¹

— 1083 —

Pure as water, clear as a mirror.

清如水。明如鏡
Ch'ing¹ ju² shui,³ ming² ju² ching.⁴

— 1084 —

Useless. *Lit.*: As the chaff of fine rice.

如 細 米 外 的 糠 皮
 Ju² hsi⁴ mi³ wai⁴ ti¹ k'ang¹ p'i.²

— 1085 —

As easy as to take anything out of a purse.

探 囊 取 物
 T'an¹ nang² ch'ü³ wu.⁴

CHAPTER III.

WORDS.

— 1086 —

If you always remember the words you have spoken,
Then your peace to the end will continue unbroken.

記得從前話。到老不嗜罵。
Chi⁴ tē² ts'ung² ch'ien² 'hua,⁴ tao⁴ lao³ pu⁴ shē¹ ma.³

— 1087 —

Faithful words do conduct good while they the ear
displease;

And good drugs, bitter in the mouth, may cure the
disease.

忠言逆耳利於行
Chung¹ yen² ni⁴ êrh³ li⁴ yü¹ hsing²;
良藥苦口利於病
Liang² yao⁴ k'u³ k'ou³ li⁴ yü¹ ping⁴

— 1088 —

All the words which sages said,
Gods respect and devils dread.

聖賢言語。神欽鬼伏
Shéng⁴ hsien² yen² yü,³ shên² ch'in¹ kwei³ fu.²

— 1089 —

Whilst our words resemble wind.

Writing leaves a trace behind.

口是風。筆是踪
K'ou³ shih⁴ fêng,¹ pi³ shih⁴ tsung.¹

— 1090 —

If your words are not pleasing, hold in half of them.

話不投機留半句
'Hua⁴ pu⁴ t'ou² chi¹ liu² pan⁴ chü.⁴

— 1091 —

Words whispered in the ear may be heard for a
thousand miles.

附耳之言聞於千里
F'u⁴ êrh³ chih¹ yen² wên² yü¹ ch'ien¹ li.³

— 1092 —

Beat your drum inside your house, and outsiders will not hear.

鼓 在 內 打。聲 不 見 外 响
Ku³ tsai⁴ nei⁴ ta,³ shêng¹ pu⁴ chien⁴ wai⁴ hsiang.³

— 1093 —

Fine words are incredible; credible words are not fine.

美 言 不 信。信 言 不 美
Mei³ yen² pu⁴ hsin⁴; hsin⁴ yen² pu⁴ mei,³

— 1094 —

A man of few words escapes slander, of few desires preserves his health.

寡 言 省 謗。寡 慾 保 身
Kua³ yen² shêng³ pang,⁴ kua³ yü⁴ pao³ shên.¹

— 1095 —

A wise man will learn something even from the words of a fool.

狂 夫 之 言 聖 人 擇 焉
K'uang² fu¹ chih¹ yen² shêng⁴ jên² tsé² yen.¹

— 1096 —

One good word can warm three winter months; one bad one can stir up anger.

好 話 一 句 三 冬 煖
'Hao³ 'hua⁴ yi¹ chü⁴ san¹ t'ung¹ nuan³;
惡 話 一 句 惱 人 心
O⁴ 'hua⁴ yi¹ chü⁴ nao³ jên² hsin.¹

NOTE.—In that part of the *Yu hsiao* (幼學) called *Sui shih* (歲時), a story is told of one *Ko Hsien* (葛仙), a wonderful individual, who performed a feat similar to that referred to in the first line of this proverb. During the cold winter weather he invited some guests to his dwelling; and, on their arrival, he emitted such a fire from his mouth (吐火) as made the house warm as in spring time, so that his guests were obliged to put off some of their clothing. The second line of this proverb bears a strong resemblance to Proverbs 15: 1.—“Grievous words stir up anger.”

— 1097 —

One word of his settles the matter. *Lit.*: By one stroke of the saw he severs the gourd into a couple of ladles.

一 鏟 兩 把 瓢
Yi¹ chü⁴ liang² pa³ p'iao.²

———— 1098 ————

One word may be better than hundreds or thousands.

一 言 勝 千 百
Yi¹ yen² shêng⁴ ch'ien¹ pai.³

———— 1099 ————

One word may be worth a thousand *taels* of gold.

一 諾 千 金
Yi¹ no⁴ ch'ien¹ chin.¹

———— 1100 ————

Listen to a man's words if you wish to know his mind.

欲 知 心 腹 事。單 聽 口 中 言
Yü⁴ chih¹ hsin¹ fu² shih,⁴ tan¹ t'ing¹ k'ou³ chung¹ yen.²

———— 1101 ————

A man's meaning becomes visible when he opens his mouth.

開 口 見 人 肺 腑
K'ai¹ k'ou³ chien⁴ jên² fei⁴ fu.³

———— 1102 ————

When a man opens his mind his real meaning becomes evident.

開 心 見 誠
K'ai¹ hsin¹ chien⁴ ch'êng.²

———— 1103 ————

What you do not understand, say nothing about.

摸 不 清 白。不 要 亂 答 白
Mo¹ pu⁴ ch'ing¹ pai,² pu⁴ yao⁴ lan⁴ ta¹ pai.²

———— 1104 ————

Stop up your mouth like a bottle neck; guard your thoughts like a city.

守 口 如 瓶。防 意 如 城
Shou³ k'ou³ ju² p'ing¹; fang² i⁴ ju² ch'êng.²

1105

Do not talk about a thing when it is done; spilt water cannot be gathered up again.

成事莫說。覆水難收
Ch'èng² shih⁴ mo⁴ shuo¹; fu² shui³ nan² shou.¹

1106

Praise is hard to get; but censure is easy to give.

好言難得。惡語易施
'Hao³ yen² nan² tê²; o⁴ yü³ i⁴ shih.¹

1107

When a man is calm he says nothing; when water is level it flows not.

人平不語。水平不流
Jên² p'ing² pu⁴ yü³; shui³ p'ing² pu⁴ liu.²

1108

No single word can be recalled. *Lit.*: One word let out, a swift horse cannot overtake it.

一言既出。駟馬難追
Yi¹ yen² chi³ ch'u,¹ shih⁴ ma³ nan² chui.¹

1109

One hurtful word wounds like a sharp sword.

傷人一語。利如刀割
Shang¹ jên² yi¹ yü,³ li⁴ ju² tao¹ ko.¹

1110

What one says may be false; what a hundred say must be true.

一人傳虛。百人傳實
Yi¹ jên² chuan⁴ hsu¹; pai³ jên² chuan⁴ shih.²

1111

The wound of a sharp knife will close up; but the hate provoked by evil words will never die.

利刀割體瘡猶合
Li⁴ tao¹ ko¹ t'ü³ ch'uang¹ yu² 'ho²;
言語傷人恨不消
Yen² yü³ shang¹ jên² 'hên³ pu⁴ hsiao.¹

1112

Books do not exhaust words, nor words thoughts.

書 不 盡 言。 言 不 盡 意
Shu¹ pu⁴ chin⁴ yen² yen² pu⁴ chin⁴ i⁴

1113

Always beware of many words; when words are many there must be error.

處 世 戒 多 言。 言 多 必 失
Ch'ü⁴ shih⁴ chieh⁴ to¹ yen²; yen² to¹ pi⁴ shih¹

1114

Neither drum nor bell can sound unstruck; and words unspoken cannot be understood.

鼓 不 打 不 响。 鐘 不 撞 不 鳴
Ku³ pu⁴ ta³ pu⁴ hsiang³; chung¹ pu⁴ chuang⁴ pu⁴ ming²;
話 不 說 不 明
hua⁴ pu⁴ shuo¹ pu⁴ ming²

1115

When good words fill the empire, no one's mouth offends.

言 滿 天 下 無 口 過
Yen² man³ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ wu² k'ou³ kuo⁴

1116

Three boors cannot carry the word Reason.

三 個 蠻 人 擡 不 起 一 個 理 字
San¹ ko⁴ man³ jên² t'ai² pu⁴ chi³ yi¹ ko⁴ li³ tsü⁴

1117

Bitter words are medicine; sweet words an epidemic.

苦 言 藥 也 甘 言 疾 也
K'u³ yen² yao⁴ yeh³; kan¹ yen² chi² yeh³

1118

Sages have written thousands and myriads of words to rouse up dreaming men.

聖 賢 千 萬 語 提 醒 夢 中 人
Shêng⁴ hsien² ch'ien¹ wan⁴ yü³ t'ü² hsing³ mêng⁴ chung¹ jên²

1119

Having something to say speak plainly, and never conceal it.

有話明說不必隱瞞
Yu³ 'hua⁴ ming² shuo,¹ pu⁴ pi⁴ yin³ man.³

1120

Good words are like a string of pearls.

好語似珠串一一
'Hao³ yü³ ssü⁴ chu¹ ch'uan⁴ yi¹ yi¹

1121

“Petty distinctions are injurious to rectitude; quibbling words violate right reason.”

小辯害義。小言破道
Hsiao³ pien⁴ 'hai⁴ i⁴; hsiao³ yen² p'o⁴ tao.⁴

1122

Tall talk is followed by no true action.

高談闊論。沒有一點實行
Kao¹ t'an² huo⁴ lun,⁴ mu² yu³ yi¹ tien³ shih² hsing.²

1123

“As the light of a single star tinges the mountains of many regions; so a single unguarded expression injures the virtue of a whole life.”

一星之火能燒萬頃之山
Yi¹ hsing¹ chih¹ 'huo³ nêng² shao¹ wan⁴ ch'ing³ chih¹ shan¹;
半句非言誤損平生之德
pan⁴ chü⁴ fei¹ yen² wu⁴ sun³ p'ing² shêng¹ chih¹ tê.²

1124

Plausible talk is not equal to honest speech; and a clever man needs but few words.

巧言不如直道
Ch'iao³ yen² pu⁴ ju² chih² tao⁴;
明人不用細說
Ming² jên² pu⁴ yung⁴ hsi⁴ shuo.¹

1125

Words may not be foolishly spoken; what you say must accord with reason.

言不妄發發必當理
Yen² pu⁴ wang⁴ fa¹; fa¹ pi⁴ tang⁴ li.³

1126

Who makes his strength cheap obtains men's respect;
 who makes his mouth cheap obtains their dislike.

力賤得人敬。口賤得人憎
 Li⁴ chien⁴ tē² jèn² ching⁴; k'ou³ chien⁴ tē² jèn² tseng.¹

1127

When you have anything to say, first think and then say it.

有所言必議之而後言
 Yu³ so³ yen² pi⁴ i⁴ chih¹ erh² 'hou⁴ yen.²

1128

He who seldom opens his mouth, often shuts his eyes.

少開口。多閉目
 Shao³ k'ai¹ k'ou,³ to¹ pi⁴ mu.⁴

NOTE.—“Shuts his eyes”; i. e. meditatively, thinking well before he speaks

1129

When troubles are few dreams are few; when words are scarce faults are scarce.

慮少夢自少。言稀過亦稀
 Lü⁴ shao³ mêng⁴ tzū⁴ shao³; yen² hsi¹ kuo⁴ i⁴ hsi.¹

1130

The pen can convey one's meaning for a thousand miles.

筆情達千里
 Pi³ ch'ing² ta² ch'ien¹ li.³

1131

The mouth which boasts of the sea, utters big words.

誇海口說大話
 K'ua¹ 'hai³ k'ou³ shuo¹ ta⁴ 'hua.⁴

SECTION X.—ON LAW AND GOVERNMENT.

CHAPTER I.

LAWS AND PENALTIES.

1132

Never beat if you must fine ;
If you do, all fines decline.

罰 就 不 打。打 就 不 罰
Fa² chiu⁴ pu⁴ ta³; ta³ chiu⁴ pu⁴ fa.²

1133

Try you to defraud in customs and revenue ;
The mandarins soon will try to be having you.

瞞 關 漏 稅。拿 着 問 罪
man³ kuan¹ lou⁴ shui⁴; na² cho² wên⁴ tsui.⁴

1134

Whether you punish or reward,
To friend or foe show no regard.

賞 不 論 冤 仇。罰 不 論 骨 肉
Shang³ pu⁴ lun⁴ yüan¹ ch'ou,² fa² pu⁴ lun⁴ ku³ jou.⁴

1135

Decapitation, strangling, banishment, exile, and transportation, are regulations which may not be broken.

斬 絞 軍 流 徒 法 不 可 犯
Chan³ chiao³ chün¹ liu² t'u,² fa³ pu⁴ k'o³ fan.⁴

1136

He who fears the laws will not break them ; he who dreads punishment will escape it.

懼 法 自 不 犯 法
Chü⁴ fa³ tzü⁴ pu⁴ fan⁴ fa³;
畏 刑 自 可 免 刑
wei⁴ hsing² tzü⁴ k'o³ mien³ hsing.²

1137

In making laws, severity is indispensable; in administering them, clemency.

立 法 不 可 不 嚴
Li⁴ fa³ pu⁴ k'o³ pu⁴ yen²;
行 法 不 可 不 恕
hsing² fa³ pu⁴ k'o³ pu⁴ shu.⁴

1138

One word settles life or death; so the pen may not carelessly move.

一 字 定 生 死。筆 莫 亂 動
Yi¹ tzü⁴ ting⁴ shêng¹ ssu³; pi³ mo⁴ lan⁴ tung⁴

1139

One word from a magistrate's pen may decide for life or death.

黑 筆 寫 白 紙。一 字 定 生 死
'Hei¹ pi³ hsieh³ pai² chih,³ yi¹ tzü⁴ ting⁴ shêng¹ ssü.³

1140

He drew a line on the ground for a prison.

畫 地 爲 獄
'Hua⁴ ti⁴ wei² yü.⁴

NOTE.—This proverbial saying, referring to the obedient people of *Wên wang*, is now used as the equivalent of *pu kan tung* (不敢動) 'I dare not move.'

1141

Though the sword of justice be sharp, it will not slay the innocent.

鋼 刀 雖 快。不 斬 無 罪 之 人
Kang¹ tao¹ sui¹ k'uai,⁴ pu⁴ chan³ wu² tsui⁴ chih¹ jên.²

1142

If gentle means fail, harsh means will not.

善 化 不 足。惡 化 有 餘
Shan⁴ 'hua⁴ pu⁴ tsu,² o⁴ 'hua⁴ yu³ yü.²

1143

No punishment on the Bench, no law below it.

案 上 無 刑。案 下 無 法
An⁴ shang⁴ wu² hsing,² an⁴ hsia⁴ wu² fa.³

CHAPTER II.

LITIGATION.

1144

Happy is the man who himself alone arraigns ;
With others go to law, you've trouble for your pains.

認心者祥。訟人者殃
Sung⁴ hsin¹ ché² hsiang² ; sung⁴ jên² ché² yang¹.

1145

With only right to back you,
Be sure the yamens lack you.

八字衙門朝南開
Pa¹ tzü⁴ ya² mên² ch'ao² nan² k'ai¹
有理無錢莫進來
yu³ li³ wu² ch'ien² mo⁴ chin⁴ lai².

1146

If the warrant omits your name,
Take you no notice of the same.

榜上無名，叫不應
Pang³ shang⁴ wu² ming² chiao⁴ pu⁴ ying⁴.

1147

If one family has a lawsuit, ten families are involved
in calamity.

一家有事，連累十家
Yi¹ chia¹ yu³ shih⁴ lien² lei³ shih² chia¹.

1148

The bite of a thief goes three inches into the bone.

賊咬一口入骨三分
Tsei² yao³ yi¹ k'ou³ ju⁴ ku³ san¹ fên¹.

NOTE.—This proverb refers to the false statements sometimes made by prisoners at the bar, charging others with complicity in their offences.

1149

Inform against a man once, and three of his generations will become your enemies.

告 人 一 狀 三 世 冤
Kao⁴ jên² yi¹ chuang⁴ san¹ sbih⁴ yüan.¹

1150

An indictment cannot be got up without lies.

無 誑 不 成 詞
Wu² 'huang³ pu⁴ ch'êng² ssü.²

1151

If but one word of information against a man get into the court, nine bullocks cannot drag it out again.

一 字 入 公 門。九 牛 拖 不 出
Yi¹ tzü⁴ ju⁴ Kung¹ mén,² chiu³ niu² t'o¹ pu⁴ ch'u.¹

1152

Let householders avoid litigation; for once go to law and there is nothing but trouble.

居 家 戒 爭 訟。訟 則 終 凶
Chü¹ chia¹ chieh⁴ chêng¹ sung⁴; sung⁴ tsé² chung¹ hsiung.¹

1153

Win your lawsuit and lose your money.

贏 了 官 事 輸 了 錢
Ying² liao³ kuan¹ shih⁴ shu¹ liao³ ch'ien.²

1154

Winning a cat you lose a cow.

贏 了 貓 兒 輸 了 牛
Ying² liao³ mao¹ erh² shu¹ liao³ niu.²

1155

"Nine lawsuits out of ten are settled by arbitration."

十 場 官 事 九 場 和
Shih² ch'ang² kuan¹ shih⁴ chiu³ ch'ang² 'ho.²

1156

The plaintiff's charge makes the defendant seem worthy of death; but the defendant's answer shows there is reason on both sides.

原告一張紙。被告就要死
 Yüan² kao⁴ yi¹ chang¹ chih,³ pei⁴ kao⁴ chiu⁴ yao⁴ ssü³;
 被告一張紙。兩下都有理
 pei⁴ kao⁴ yi¹ chang¹ chih,³ liang² hsia⁴ tu¹ yu³ li.³

1157

His pen is as sharp as a sword.

筆如刀利
 Pi³ 'ho² tao¹ li.⁴

NOTE.—Said of one who writes indictments.

1158

To retain some feeling in writing an indictment.

筆下留情
 Pi³ hsia⁴ liu² ch'ing.²

1159

Wishing to criminate, no difficulty will be met in finding a pretext.

欲加之罪。何患無詞
 Yü⁴ chia¹ chih¹ tsui,⁴ 'ho² 'huan⁴ wu² ssü.²

1160

In life beware of yamens; in death beware of hell.

生不入官門。死不入地獄
 Shêng¹ pu⁴ ju⁴ kuan¹ mên²; ssü³ pu⁴ ju⁴ ti⁴ yü.⁴

1161

On the magistrate's table a sheet of paper; at his feet a pair of lips.

堂上一張紙。堂下一張嘴
 T'ang² shang⁴ yi¹ chang¹ chih³; t'ang² hsia⁴ yi¹ chang¹ tsui.³

1162

Before you arrest a magistrate, arrest his domestic.

拿官先拿家丁
 Na² kuan¹ hsien¹ na² chia¹ ting¹.

1163

Three or six hundred cash; two or four hundred cash; cash for runners, and cash for clerks.

三六。百。二四。百。差費房禮
 San¹ lu⁴ pai³; êrh⁴ ssü⁴ pai³; ch'ai¹ fei¹ fang² li.³

NOTE.—“Hundred” in this connection is said always to mean “thousand!”

— 1164 —

Though nine times you present an accusation, the last must agree with the first.

九 狀 不 離 原 詞
Chiu³ chuang⁴ pu⁴ li² yüan² ssü.²

— 1165 —

He who can get up a lawsuit will have calls on his cash.

會 打 官 司 也 要 錢
Hui⁴ ta³ kuan¹ ssü¹ yeh³ yao⁴ ch'ien.²

— 1166 —

You cannot get at the Emperor, to tell him your wrongs.

不 能 見 天 子 言 情
Pu⁴ nêng² chien⁴ tien¹ tzü³ yen² ch'ing.²

— 1167 —

Of ten reasons by which a magistrate may decide a case, nine are unknown to the public.

官 斷 十 條 理 九 條 人 不 知
Kuan¹ tuan⁴ shih² t'iao² li³ chiu³ t'iao² jên² pu⁴ chih.¹

CHAPTER III.

CIVIL OFFICERS.

— 1168 —

Whenever a neighbour office takes,
The event a gen'ral gladness makes.

鄰舍做官。大家喜歡
Lin² shé⁴ tso⁴ kuan,¹ ta⁴ chia¹ hsi³ 'huan.¹

— 1169 —

One dash of a civil magistrate's pen,
Makes the martial magistrate jump again.

文官點一筆。武官扒不急
Wên² kuan¹ tien³ yí¹ pi,³ wu³ kuan¹ pa¹ pu⁴ chi.²

— 1170 —

The magistrate sitting to judge in court,
Is helped by underlings of every sort.

官府坐堂書差衙役幫忙
Kuan¹ fu³ tso⁴ t'ang,² shu¹ ch'ai¹ ya² yi⁴ pang¹ mang.²

— 1171 —

Do you wish to enjoy a peaceful state—
First settle all claims of the magistrate.

若要安。先完官
Jo⁴ yao⁴ an,¹ hsien¹ wan² kuan.¹

— 1172 —

Civil and martial mandarins must,
One to his seal, one to his flag, trust.

文憑印信。武憑號令
Wên² p'ing² yin⁴ hsin,⁴ wu³ p'ing² 'hao⁴ ling.⁴

— 1173 —

The two Commissioners of salt and grain,
Keep, each of them, to his own domain.

鹽糧兩道各管一號
Yen² liang² liang² tao,⁴ ko⁴ kuan³ yi¹ hao.⁴

— 1174 —

With friends at court, it is easy to get into office.

朝中有人好爲官
Ch'ao² chung¹ yu³ jên² hao³ wei² kuan.¹

— 1175 —

Deceive but don't insult a mandarin.

瞞官莫欺官
Man³ kuan¹ mo⁴ ch'i¹ kuan.¹

— 1176 —

An officer's door is like a market-place; his heart is like pure water.

臣門如市。臣心似水。
Ch'en mên² ju² shih,⁴ ch'en² hsin¹ ssü⁴ shui.³

— 1177 —

High office is necessarily dangerous.

官高必險
Kuan¹ kao¹ pi⁴ hsien.³

— 1178 —

An honest magistrate cannot get on.

清官不到頭
Ch'ing¹ kuan¹ pu⁴ tao⁴ t'ou.²

— 1179 —

The civil magistrate takes his pen and pacifies the empire.

文官把筆安天下
Wên² kuan¹ pa³ pi³ an¹ t'ien¹ hsia.⁴

— 1180 —

The dignity of high office is widely known.

官高爵顯
Kuan¹ kao¹ chüeh² hsien.³

— 1181 —

A magistrate will not consider your poverty, nor the devil your leanness.

官不怕你窮。鬼不怕你瘦。

Kuan¹ pu⁴ p'a⁴ ni³ ch'iung,² kuei³ pu⁴ p'a⁴ ni³ shou.⁴

NOTE.—The meaning of this caustic saying is, that the one will have your money and the other your life.

———— 1182 ————

An honest magistrate can hardly escape dishonest clerks.

清官難逃滑吏手

Ch'ing¹ kuan¹ nan² t'ao² 'hua² li⁴ shou.³

———— 1183 ————

Men's hearts are like iron, and the rule of mandarins like a furnace.

人心似鐵。官法如爐

Jen² hsin¹ ssü⁴ t'ieh³; kuan¹ fa³ ju² lu.²

———— 1184 ————

If the homes of the people are without learned sons, where are the magistrates to come from?

家無讀書子。官從何處來

Chia¹ wu² tu² shu¹ tzü,³ kuan¹ ts'ung² 'ho², ch'u⁴ lai²?

———— 1185 ————

A mandarin must aim at being Premier, and so must begin early to contend for the first rank.

爲官須作相。及第早爭先

Wei² kuan¹ hsü¹ tso⁴ hsiang,¹ chi² ti⁴ tsao³ ch'eng¹ hsien.¹

———— 1186 ————

The magistrate has his proper laws; and the people their private agreements.

官有正條。民有私約

Kuan¹ yu³ ch'eng⁴ t'iao²; min² yu³ ssü¹ yo.¹

———— 1187 ————

A magistrate who is not a lord among his people, has received the Emperor's high distinction and pay in vain.

爲官不與民作主

Wei² kuan¹ pu⁴ yü³ min² tso⁴ chu,³

枉受朝廷爵祿高

Wang³ shou⁴ ch'ao² t'ing² chüeh² lu⁴ kao.¹

1188

A wise man before a magistrate will be mute for a little while.

好漢見官三聲啞
Hao³ han⁴ chien⁴ kuan¹ san¹ shêng¹ ya.³

1189

A poor mandarin equals a rich merchant.

窮官當富客
Ch'iung² kuan¹ tang⁴ fu⁴ k'o.⁴

1190

He who takes office far from home only does so for a living.

千里做官只爲嘴
Ch'ien¹ li³ tso⁴ kuan¹ chih³ wei² tsui.³

1191

He who in high station is without pride, is exalted without danger.

在上不驕。高而不危
Tsay¹ shang⁴ pu⁴ chiao,¹ kao¹ êrh² pu⁴ wei.²

1192

A man may display great ability in any office high or low; a man without ability receives high rank and pay in vain.

有才不在官大小
Yu³ ts'ai² pu⁴ tsai⁴ kuan¹ ta⁴ hsiao³;
無才枉受爵祿高
wu² ts'ai² wang³ shou⁴ chüeh² lu⁴ kao.¹

1193

The *Chih-fu* can exterminate families; the *Chih-hsien* can confiscate goods.

滅門知府。抄家知縣
Mieh⁴ mên² chih¹ fu³; ch'ao¹ chia¹ chih¹ hsien.⁴

1194

Even an honest *Chih-fu* may, during a three years term of office, save ten myriad snow-white taels of silver.

一任清知府十萬雪花銀
Yi¹ jên⁴ ch'ing¹ Chih¹ fu³ shih² wan⁴ hsüeh³ 'hua¹ yin.²

———— 1195 ————

Before he comes into office he reproves a thousand faults; after he comes into office he commits the same himself.

未做官說千般
Wei⁴ tso⁴ kuan¹ shuo¹ ch'ien¹ pan¹;
做了官是一般
tso⁴ liao³ kuan¹ shih⁴ yi¹ pan.¹

———— 1196 ————

There are three rules for men in office: be upright, be cautious, be diligent.

當官有三事。曰清。曰慎。曰勤
Tang¹ kuan¹ yu³ san¹ shih⁴: yüeh¹ ch'ing,¹ yüeh¹ shên,⁴ yüeh¹ ch'in.²

———— 1197 ————

Among magistrates there are distinctions of rank; among their assistants, none.

官有大小。吏無尊卑
Kuan¹ yu³ ta⁴ hsiao³; li² wu² tsun¹ pei.¹

———— 1198 ————

Better awe-inspiring police than awe-inspiring mandarins; for if the police be not so, the mandarins will be lightly esteemed.

官威不如衙役威
Kuan¹ wei¹ pu⁴ ju² ya² yi⁴ wei¹;
衙役不威官就低
ya² yi⁴ pu⁴ wei¹ kuan¹ chiu⁴ ti.¹

———— 1199 ————

Magistrates innumerable beget sons to die of want; whilst many unofficial men bear sons who turn out courtiers.

無限朱門生殍餓
Wu² hsien⁴ chu¹ mên² shêng¹ o⁴ p'iao³;
幾多白屋出朝郎
chi³ to¹ pai² wu¹ ch'u¹ ch'ao² lang.²

1200

Neither dogs nor mandarins injure those who give them anything.

狗 不 咬 屙 屎 的
 Kou³ pu⁴ yao³ o¹ sui¹ ti¹;
 官 不 打 送 禮 的
 kuan¹ pu⁴ ta³ sung⁴ li³ ti¹

NOTE.—This common and very suggestive proverb, is too coarse for any more literal translation than the one given above.

CHAPTER IV.

MILITARY OFFICERS.

1201

When against rebels a general does an army bring,
His first endeavour ought to be to seize the rebel king.

將 軍 上 戰 場。 擒 賊 先 擒 王。

Chiang¹ chün¹ shang³ chan⁴ ch'ang² ch'in² tsei² hsien¹ ch'in² wang.²

1202

Nailmakers don't good iron use ;

Nor good men to be soldiers choose.

好 鐵 不 打 釘。 好 人 不 當 兵

'Hao³ t'ieh³ pu⁴ ta³ ting¹; 'hao³ jèn² pu⁴ tang¹ ping¹

1203

Under a powerful general there are no feeble soldiers.

強 將 手 下 無 弱 兵

Ch'iang² chiang¹ shou³ hsia⁴ wu² jo⁴ ping¹

1204

The rank of general is open to the meanest born.

將 軍 不 怕 出 身 低

Chiang¹ chün¹ pu⁴ p'a⁴ ch'u¹ shên¹ tî¹

1205

Though you kill ten thousand, you will have three
thousand killed.

殺 人 一 萬。 自 損 三 千

Sha¹ jèn² yi¹ wan,⁴ tzū⁴ sun³ san¹ ch'ien.¹

1206

Armies are kept a thousand days to be used on one.

養 軍 千 日 用 在 一 朝

Yang³ chün¹ ch'ien¹ jih⁴ yung⁴ tsai⁴ yi¹ chao.¹

1207

To rush on the foe at the point of the spear, is the
mark of a truly brave man ; and the scholar who
can move heaven and earth is wonderfully
talented.

衝 鋒 破 敵 真 個 大 膽
 Ch'ung¹ fêng¹ p'o⁴ ti² chên¹ ko⁴ ta⁴ tan.³
 掀 天 揭 地 方 是 奇 才
 hsien¹ t'ien¹ chieh¹ ti⁴ fang¹ shih⁴ chi¹ ts'ai.²

— 1208 —

A great general is honoured everywhere.

大 將 軍 八 面 威 風
 Ta⁴ chiang¹ chün¹ pa¹ mien⁴ wei¹ fêng.¹

— 1209 —

A (defeated) general never dismounts, so each soldier may flee where he pleases.

將 軍 不 下 馬。各 自 奔 前 程
 Chiang¹ chün¹ pu⁴ hsia⁴ ma,³ ko⁴ tzü⁴ pên¹ ch'ien² ch'êng.²

— 1210 —

A thousand soldiers are easily obtained; one general is hard to find.

千 兵 易 得 一 將 難 求
 Ch'ien¹ ping¹ i⁴ té²; yí¹ chiang¹ nan² ch'iu.²

— 1211 —

The martial magistrate draws his sword and puts down all rebellion.

武 官 提 刀 定 干 戈
 Wu³ kuan¹ t'í² tao¹ ting⁴ kan¹ ko.¹

CHAPTER V.

YAMENS AND YAMEN-RUNNERS.

— 1212 —

As sheep drop into a tiger's jaw,
Cash drops into an underling's paw.

錢落差手。羊落虎口
Ch'ien² lo⁴ ch'ai¹ shou,³ yang² lo⁴ 'hu³ k'ou.³

— 1213 —

A police-runner's actions are subject to fate.
Does he fear lest a shower should sprinkle his pate?

官差不自由。那怕雨淋頭
Kuan¹ ch'ai¹ pu⁴ tzü⁴ yu,² na³ p'a⁴ yü³ lin⁴ t'ou.²

— 1214 —

Though the yamen be small the law is the same.

衙門雖小法度一例
Ya² mén² sui¹ hsiao³ fa³ tu⁴ yi¹ li.⁴

— 1215 —

Yamens are deep as the sea, and their corruptions
lofty as heaven.

衙門深似海。弊病大如天
Ya² mén² shên¹ ssü⁴ 'hai,³ pi⁴ ping⁴ ta⁴ ju² t'ien.¹

— 1216 —

Official underlings see money as a fly sees blood.

公人見錢如蒼蠅見血
Kung¹ jên² chien⁴ ch'ien² ju² ts'ang¹ ying¹ chien⁴ hsieh.³

— 1217 —

Yamen-runners must be very brave who can deceive,
frighten, defraud, and extort.

哄嚇騙詐差膽大
Hung³ hsia⁴ p'ien⁴ cha⁴ ch'ai¹ tan³ ta.⁴

NOTE.—See next proverb and note.

— 1218 —

What paddy-fields and corn-fields belong to the
yamen?

有麼衙門田。有麼衙門地
 Yu³ mo¹ ya² mên² t'ien,² yu³ mo¹ ya² mên² ti⁴?

NOTE.—This is the yamên-runner's reply to the charge conveyed in the preceding proverb.

———— 1219 ————

However wrong the magistrate and his assistants may be, their messenger is not to be blamed.

官差吏差來人不差
 Kuan¹ ch'a¹ li⁴ ch'a¹ lai² jên² pu⁴ ch'a.¹

———— 1220 ————

Those who follow mandarins eat mandarins' rice.

跟官人吃官人
 Kên¹ kuan¹ jên² ch'ih¹ kuan¹ jên.²

———— 1221 ————

Quickly pay your taxes, even should that empty your purse; then you will be most happy.

國課早完。卽囊橐無餘
 Kuo² k'o⁴ tsao³ wan,² chi² nang² t'o⁴ wu² yü,²
 自得至樂
 tzü⁴ tē² chih⁴ lê.⁴

———— 1222 ————

An inmate of a yamen may easily acquire merit.

公門中好修行
 Kung¹ mên² chung¹ 'hao³ hsiu¹ hsing.²



SECTION XI.—ON MAN.

CHAPTER I.

MANKIND.

1223

Take a hundred men, and you
Will find all sorts and every hue.
人生一百。種種色色
Jên² shêng¹ yì¹ pai,³ chung⁴ chung⁴ sê⁴ sê.⁴

1224

Man resembles the stump of a tree ;—
Completely dependent on clothing is he.
人是樹樁。全靠衣裳
Jên² shih⁴ shu⁴ chuang,¹ ch'ien² k'ao⁴ i¹ shang.¹

NOTE.—Here is an idea worthy of the author of *Sartor Resartus*.

1225

Men are one in heart, and their hearts one in principle.

人同此心。心同此理
Jên² t'ung² tz'ü³ hsin,¹ hsin¹ t'ung² tz'ü³ li.³

1226

Who but the sages are free from faults?

人非聖賢孰能無過
Jên² fei¹ shêng¹ hsien² shu² nêng² wu² kuo⁴?

1227

Of men there are good and bad, as of goods there
are valuable and worthless.

人有好歹。貨有高底
Jên² yu³ 'hao³ tai,³ 'huo⁴ yu³ kao¹ ti.¹

— 1228 —

Man is the most intelligent of all creatures.

人 爲 萬 物 之 靈
Jên² wei² wan⁴ wu⁴ chih¹ ling²

— 1229 —

So long as no favour is sought, all men are equal;
as the place is level where water flows not.

人 不 求 人 一 般 大
Jên³ pu⁴ ch'iu² jên² yi¹ pan¹ ta⁴;
水 不 流 來 一 般 平
Shui³ pu⁴ liu² lai² yi¹ pan¹ p'ing²

— 1230 —

He who sits in, and they who carry, the sedan, are
alike men.

坐 轎 子 也 是 人
Tso⁴ chiao⁴ tzū³ yeh³ shih⁴ jên²;
擡 轎 子 也 是 人
t'ai² chiao⁴ tzū³ yeh³ shih⁴ jên²

— 1231 —

All men have faces, as all trees have bark.

人 人 有 臉。樹 樹 有 皮
Jên² jên² yu³ lien,³ shu⁴ shu⁴ yu³ p'i.²

— 1232 —

Man is heaven and earth in miniature.

人 身 一 小 天 地
Jên² shên¹ yi¹ hsiao³ t'ien¹ ti.⁴

— 1233 —

When in their lives are men satisfied? The aged may
steal a little leisure.

人 生 知 足 何 時 足
Jên² shêng¹ chih¹ tsu² 'ho² shih² tsu.²
人 老 偷 閑 且 自 閑
Jên² lao³ t'ou¹ hsien² ch'ieh³ shih⁴ hsien.²

CHAPTER II.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF MEN.

(1) AGED MEN,

1234

An aged man will always be,
The jewel his his family.

家有老是個寶
Chia¹ yu³ lao³ shih⁴ ko⁴ pao.³

1235

Old trees become half empty at the core :
Old men see all things clearer than before.

樹老半心空人老事事通
Shu⁴ lao³ pan⁴ hsin¹ k'ung¹ : jên² lao³ shih⁴ shih⁴ t'ung.¹

1236

See the old man of eighty cutting dried reeds :
For each day he does not die, fuel he needs.

八十歲老砍黃蒿
Pa¹ shih² sui⁴ lao³ p'o⁴ 'huang² 'hao.¹
一日不死要柴燒
Yi¹ jih⁴ pu⁴ ssü³ yao⁴ ch'ai² shao.¹

1237

There is nothing like newness in clothes ; nothing
like age in man.

衣莫若新。人莫若故
I¹ mo⁴ jo⁴ hsin¹ ; jên² mo⁴ jo⁴ ku.⁴

1238

Age lacks kindness, as dry weather dew.

人老無人情。天乾無露水
Jên² lao³ wu² jên² ch'ing.² t'ien¹ kan¹ wu² lu⁴ shui.³

1239

Aged men are virtuous.

年 高 有 德
Nien¹ kao¹ yu³ tē.²

1240

Better die ten years sooner, than live those years in poverty.

願 短 十 年 壽。不 可 老 來 貧
Yüan⁴ tuan³ shih² nien² shou,⁴ pu⁴ k'o² lao³ lai² p'ing.³

1241

An old man ready to depart. *Lit.*: The sun descending the mountain sides.

下 山 坡 日 頭
Hsia⁴ shan¹ p'o¹ jih⁴ t'ou.²

1242

White hairs don't all disappear with the old men, for we see them again on young men's heads.

白 髮 不 隨 老 人 去
Pai² fa³ pu⁴ sui² lao³ jên² ch'ü,⁴
看 看 又 上 少 年 頭
k'an⁴ k'an⁴ yu⁴ shang³ shao³ nien² t'ou.²

1243

I won't laugh at another for having grown old; for that will assuredly happen to me.

莫 笑 他 人 老。終 須 還 到 我
Mo⁴ hsiao⁴ t'a¹ jên² lao³; chung¹ hsi¹ huan² tao⁴ wo.³

1244

We remember riding on bamboos as boys, and lo! we are white with age.

記 得 少 年 騎 竹 馬
Chi⁴ tē² shao³ nien² ch'ü² chu² ma,³
看 看 又 是 白 頭 翁
k'an⁴ k'an⁴ yu⁴ shih⁴ pai² t'ou² weng.¹

1245

On earth impartial justice is with the aged; they will not show mercy to noble offenders.

公道世間惟白髮
 Kung¹ tao⁴ shih⁴ chien¹ wei² pai² fa³;
 貴人頭上不會饒
 kuei⁴ jên² t'on² shang⁴ pu⁴ tsêng² jao.²

1246

The older ginger and cinnamon are, the more pungent their flavour.

薑桂之性愈老愈辣
 Chiang¹ kuei¹ chih¹ hsing⁴ yü⁴ lao³ yü⁴ la.⁴

1247

If deferential to experienced old men, in perplexity you can rely on them.

屈志老成急則可相倚
 Ch'ü¹ chih⁴ lao³ ch'êng,² chi² tsê² k'o³ hsiang¹ i.³

1248

At seventy a man is a candle in the wind.

七十風前燭
 Ch'í¹ shih² fêng¹ ch'ien² chu.²

1249

At eighty a man is hoar-frost on the tiles.

八十瓦上霜
 Pa¹ shih² wa¹ shang⁴ shuang.¹

1250

He who won't take an old man's advice, will one day become a beggar.

不信老人言。乞兒有得做
 Pu⁴ bsin⁴ lao³ jên² yen,² ch'i³ ér² yu³ tê² tso.⁴

1251

He must err grievously, who won't listen to aged men.

不聽老人言。必做心慌事
 Pu⁴ t'in¹ lao³ jên² yen,² pi⁴ tso⁴ bsin¹ huang³ shih.⁴

(2) BAD MEN.

— 1252 —

A hook attached to a ring :
To him let nobody cling.

鈎打連環。沒得人纏
Kou¹ ta³ lien² 'huan²: mu² te² jen² ch'an.²

NOTE.—This is a specimen also of the innuendo, or as the Chinese call it 歇後語 *hsieh 'hou yü*. Only the first four words are ever spoken; the last four being always understood. The sense of this proverb is—Let nobody be deceived by him; he is one of the lot.

— 1253 —

He who dare risk being made a mangled corpse,
May drag an emperor down from his horse.

捨得一身副
Shé³ tē² yī¹ shēn¹ kua,³
皇帝老子挪下馬
'Huang² ti⁴ lao³ tzū³ lo² hsia⁴ ma.³

— 1254 —

His conduct is cruel, and he fights;
In cursing and swearing he delights.

行凶打架。開口就罵
Hsing² hsiung¹ ta³ chia⁴ k'ai¹ k'ou³ chiu⁴ ma.⁴

— 1255 —

A barefaced wight, thinks everything right.

臉兒一皮。百事大吉
Lien³ erh² yi¹ p'i,² pai³ shih⁴ ta⁴ chi.²

— 1256 —

Whose teeth are white and visage yellow,
Is an opium-smoking fellow.

面黃牙齒白。必定鴉片客
Mien⁴ 'huang² ya² ch'ih³ po,² pi⁴ ting⁴ ya¹ p'ien⁴ k'o.⁴

— 1257 —

Where he has trodden no grass will grow.

走了路不生草
Tsou⁴ liao³ lu⁴ pu⁴ shêng¹ ts'ao.³

1258

A rogue is soft as cotton; a fool hard as iron.

光棍軟如綿癡漢硬似鐵
Kuang¹ kun⁴ yuan³ ju² mien²; ch'ih² 'han⁴ ying⁴ ssü⁴ t'ieh.³

1259

A rogue fears a simpleton; and a simpleton fears importunity.

光棍怕眼子眼子怕綿纏
Kuang¹ kun⁴ p'a⁴ yen³ tzü³; yen³ tzü³ p'a⁴ mien² ch'an.²

NOTE.—The simpleton may spoil a rogue's plan; and importunity is sure to result in the simpleton's being taken in.

1260

One rat may spoil the nest.

一個老鼠打壞一窠洞
Yi¹ ko⁴ lao³ shu³ ta³ 'huai⁴ yi¹ ch'ao² tung.⁴

1261

His heart is not upright whose eye looks askance.

眼斜心不正
Yen³ hsieh² hsin¹ pu⁴ chêng⁴

1262

Amongst bullies there is always one more overbearing than the rest; and bad men must be by bad men ground down.

強中更有強中手
Ch'iang² chung¹ kên¹ yu³ ch'iang² chung¹ shou³;
惡人須用惡人磨
O⁴ jên² hsü¹ yung⁴ o⁴ jên² mo.²

1263

A tribe of foxes and dogs.

狐羣狗黨
'Hu² ch'un² kou³ tang.³

1264

A vicious blackguard. *Lit.*: One with a black heart and a rotten liver.

黑 · 心 爛 肝
 'Hei¹ hsin¹ lan⁴ kan.¹

1265

A shameless man is ready for anything.

人 無 廉 恥。百 事 可 爲
 Jên² wu² lien² ch'ih,³ pai³ shih⁴ k'o³ wei.²

1266

A lazy good-for-nothing. *Lit.* : One who goes slipshod in old shoes.

鞞 半 頭 鞋
 Sa¹ pan⁴ t'ou² hsih.²

1267

Bad men are hated by all. *Lit.* : When a rat crosses the street, every one cries "Hit him."

過 街 老 鼠 齊 叫 打
 Kuo⁴ chieh¹ lao³ shu³ ch'i² chiao⁴ ta.³

1268

An untruthful man is iron without steel ; an untruthful woman is rotten grass and tangled hemp.

男 兒 無 信 鈍 鐵 無 鋼
 Nan² êrh² wu² hsin⁴ tun⁴ t'ieh³ wu² kang¹:
 女 兒 無 信 爛 草 麻 薹
 nü² êrh² wu² hsin⁴ lan⁴ ts'ao³ ma² jang.²

1269

A lying machine.

扯 謊 架 子
 Ch'é³ 'huang³ chia⁴ tzū.³

1270

A lying machine cannot enter a city gate.

扯 謊 架 子 進 不 得 城 門
 Ch'é³ 'huang³ chia⁴ tzū³ chin⁴ pu⁴ tê² ch'êng² mên.²

1271

The skin of his face is as thick as a city wall.

臉 有 城 牆 厚
 Lien³ yu³ ch'êng⁴ ch'iang² 'hou.⁴

————— 1272 —————

A bad man will not confront a good man.

邪 不 敵 正

Hsieh² pu⁴ ti² chêng.⁴

Union of bad men. *Lit.* : Dry fuel rears a blazing fire.

乾 柴 傍 烈 火

Kan¹ ch'ai² p'ang² lieh⁴ 'huo.³

————— 1273 —————

The disobedient provoke many stripes.

降 人 多 討 打

Chiang⁴ jên² to¹ t'ao³ ta.³

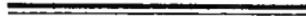
————— 1274 —————

You've put your bowels out of shape by swallowing a carrying-pole.

吃 了 匾 担 橫 了 腸 子

Ch'ih¹ liao³ pien³ tan¹ 'hêng⁴ liao³ ch'ang² tzū.³

NOTE.—This is said to one who has degenerated into a violent and cruel character.



(3) CLEVER MEN.

— 1275 —

Wiser than the emperor none can ever be ;
Shrewder than the premier you can never be.

聽 明 莫 過 於 帝 王
Ts'ung¹ ming² mo⁴ kuo⁴ yü¹ ti⁴ wang² :
伶 俐 莫 過 於 宰 相
Ling² li⁴ mo⁴ kuo⁴ yü¹ tsai⁴ hsiang¹.

— 1276 —

In the wise and strong,
There is nothing wrong.

精 明 強 幹 絲 毫 不 亂
Ching¹ ming² ch'iang² kan,² ssü¹ hao² pu⁴ lan.⁴

— 1277 —

Half your talents are natural ; the other half acquired.

生 成 一 半。學 成 一 半
Shêng¹ ch'êng² yì¹ pan⁴ ; hsiao³ ch'êng² yì¹ pan.⁴

— 1278 —

A word is enough to a clever man.

是 明 白 人 說 得 就 知
Shih⁴ ming² pai² jên² shuo¹ tê² chin⁴ chih.¹

— 1279 —

Clever men are often the servants of fools.

聰 明 人 是 糊 塗 人 的 用 人
Ts'ung¹ ming² jên² shih⁴ hu² t'u² jên² ti¹ yung⁴ jên.²

— 1280 —

A clever man needs few words ; as a drum but to be
lightly beaten.

明 人 不 用 細 講
Ming² jên² pu⁴ yung⁴ hsi⁴ chiang.³
響 鼓 不 用 重 搥
hsiang³ ku³ pu⁴ yung⁴ chung⁴ ch'iu.²

1281

Three fools equal one clever man ; three clever men equal one District magistrate.

三個愚人當個明人
San¹ ko⁴ yü² jên² tang¹ ko⁴ ming² jên²;
三個明人當個知縣
san¹ ko⁴ ming² jên² tang¹ ko⁴ chih¹ hsien⁴.

1282

Clever for a lifetime ; foolish for a moment.

聰明一生。糊塗一時
Ts'ung¹ ming² yi¹ shêng¹; hu² t'u² yi¹ shih.²

1283

A wise man can fill a thousand mouths ; a fool can only protect himself.

有智養千口。無智保一人
Yu³ chih⁴ yang³ ch'ien¹ k'ou³; wu² chih⁴ pao³ yi¹ jên².

1284

The wise are minished by half ; and self-scrutinizing men are all gone.

知者減半。省者全無
Chih¹ ché² chien³ pan⁴; hsing³ ché² ch'ien² wu.²

1285

The clever have more, the stupid less, than enough.

巧者有餘。拙者不足
Ch'iao³ ché² yu³ yü,⁴ chuch² ché² pu⁴ tsu.²

1286

A wise man needs three assistants.

好漢要三個帮手
'Hao³ han⁴ yao⁴ san¹ ko⁴ pang¹ shou.³

1287

The clever man sees, at a nod of the head.

明人點頭就知
Ming² jên² tien³ t'ou² chiu⁴ chih.¹

1288

Clever men are sometimes the dupes of their own cleverness.

聰 明 反 被 聰 明 悞
 Ts'ung¹ ming² fan³ pei⁴ ts'ung¹ ming² wu.⁴

1290

Dust never stains a highly-polished mirror; nor do licentious vices generate in a mind enlightened with wisdom.

鏡 明 則 塵 埃 不 染
 Ching⁴ ming² tsé² ch'ên² ai² pu⁴ jan³;
 智 明 則 邪 惡 不 生
 chih⁴ ming² tsé² hsieh² o⁴ pu⁴ shêng.¹

1291

Let him do a thing once, and he will surpass all others.

凡 事 閱 歷 過 一 回
 Fan² shih⁴ yüeh⁴ li⁴ kuo⁴ yi¹ 'hui,²
 見 識 總 不 同 人
 chien⁴ shih⁴ tsung³ pu⁴ t'ung² jên.²

1292

Enlightened men do no dark deeds.

明 人 不 作 暗 事
 Ming² jên² pu⁴ tso⁴ an⁴ shih.⁴

1293

A very eunning man. *Lit.*: A murex wearing a pagoda has one point above another.

螺 螭 頂 寶 塔 尖 過 頂
 Lo² shih¹ ting³ pao³ t'a³ chien¹ kuo⁴ ting.³

1294

A good drum does not require hard striking.

好 鼓 不 用 勤 搥 打
 Hao³ ku³ pu⁴ yung⁴ ch'in² ch'ui² ta.³

1295

He has met with his match. *Lit.*: The chess-player has met with a sturdy opponent; the general has encountered a worthy foe.

碁逢敵手。將遇良材。
Ch'i² fêng² ti² shou³; chiang¹ yü⁴ liang² ts'ai.²

1296

Clever men pronounce sentence on themselves.

明人自斷
Ming² jên² tzü⁴ tuan.⁴

(4) CONCEITED MEN,

1297

He is little like men, and less like devils.

三分不像人。七分不像鬼。
San¹ fên¹ pu⁴ hsiang⁴ jên,² ch'i¹ fên¹ pu⁴ hsiang⁴ kuei.³

NOTE.—Said in contempt of a proud pretentious knave.

1298

A self-conceited bad man must have many errors.

乖僻自是。悔悞必多。
Kuai¹ pi¹ tzü⁴ shih,⁴ 'hui³ wu⁴ pi⁴ to.¹

1299

His eye beholds an empty world; within its range no man appears.

目空一世。眼內無人。
Mu⁴ k'ung¹ yi¹ shih⁴; yen³ nei⁴ wu² jên.²

1300

He looks on others as nonentities.

旁若無人
P'ang² jo⁴ wu² jên.²

1301

Very fond of bragging.

好耍牌子
'Hao⁴ shua² p'ai² tzü.³

1302

Its a bragging rat that climbs the steelyards.

老鼠扒秤鈎自稱自
Lao³ shu³ pa¹ ch'êng³ kou¹ tzū⁴ ch'êng¹ tzū.⁴

1303

One fond of wearing a lofty hat.

愛戴高帽子
Ai⁴ tai⁴ kao¹ mao⁴ tzū.³

1304

The self-conceited come to grief; the boastful are but fools.

自滿者敗。自矜者愚
Tzū⁴ man³ ché² pai⁴; tzū⁴ ching¹ ché² yü.²

1305

A boastful fellow. *Lit.*: One fond of wearing an eel basket.

愛戴鱧魚簍子
Ai⁴ tai⁴ shan⁴ yü² lou³ tzū.³

1306

In his eye he has no superiors.

目無長上
Mu⁴ wu² chang³ shang.⁴

1307

Proud talk. *Lit.*: When a toad gapes, what a mouth! and what breath!

癩蝦蟆打呵欠大口大氣
Lai⁴ hsia¹ ma¹ ta³ o¹ ch'ien⁴ ta⁴ k'ou³ ta⁴ ch'i⁴!

1308

The humble receive advantage; the self-sufficient provoke loss.

謙受益。滿招損
Ch'ien¹ shou⁴ i²; man³ chao¹ sun.³

1309

Heaven, Earth, Men and Spirits, all love the humble, not the proud; to the humble is given happiness, to the proud calamity.

天 地 人 神 俱 喜 謙 不 喜 盈
 T'ien¹ ti⁴ jên² shên² chü⁴ hsi³ ch'ien¹ pu⁴ hsi³ ying²;
 謙 者 賜 之 福 盈 者 賜 之 禍
 ch'ien¹ ché² tz'ü⁴ chih¹ fu,² ying² ché² tz'ü⁴ chih¹ 'huo.⁴

NOTE.—“Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.” Ps. 138: 6.

— 1310 —

Proud men are disgusting. *Lit.*: The characters for 'self' and 'great' compose the character for 'stinking'.

自 大 是 個 臭 字
 Tzū⁴ ta⁴ shih⁴ ko⁴ ch'ou⁴ tzū.⁴

— 1311 —

A lofty lamp-post lights what is distant, not what is near.

一 丈 八 尺 高 的 燈 臺
 Yì¹ chang⁴ pa¹ ch'ih³ kao¹ ti¹ têng¹ t'ai,²
 照 遠 不 照 近
 chao⁴ yuan³ pu⁴ chao⁴ chin.⁴

NOTE.—This is said of one blind to his own, but not to the faults of other people.

— 1312 —

The humble reap advantage; the haughty meet misfortune.

自 損 者 益。 自 益 者 殃
 Tzū⁴ sun³ ché² i²; tzū⁴ i² ché² yang.¹

(5) DEFORMED MEN.

1313

From a dwarfish dwarf you'll hear,
Nothing but the strange and queer.

矮子矮。一肚怪
Ai³ tzū³ ai³ yi¹ tu³ kuai.⁴

1314

To pry into what's said the deaf are too prone;
The dumb cannot bear to let talking alone.

聾子愛打刺。啞叭愛說話
Lung² tzū³ ai⁴ ta³ ch'a⁴; ya³ pa¹ ai⁴ shuo¹ 'hua.⁴

1315

The thoughts of the blind are like a knife.

瞎子心思像一把刀
Hsia² tzū³ hsin¹ ssū¹ hsiang⁴ yi¹ pa³ tao.¹

1316

The blind get led, and the lame supported.

瞎子有人牽。跛子有人扶
Hsia² tzū³ yu³ jên² ch'ien,¹ p'o³ tzū³ yu³ jên² fu.²

1317

When one blind man leads several blind men, before
long all will fall into a fire pit.

一盲引衆盲。相將入火坑
Yi¹ mang² yin³ chung⁴ mang,² hsiang¹ ch'iang¹ ju⁴ 'huo³ k'êng.¹

1318

When the blind lead the blind, they will certainly
fall into a ditch.

瞎子攙扶瞎子
Hsia² tzū³ ch'an¹ fu² hsia² tzū,³
未必不掉下坑處
wei⁴ pi⁴ pu⁴ tiao⁴ hsia⁴ k'êng¹ ch'u.⁴

NOTE.—“If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Matt. 15: 14.

———— 1319 ————

The blind are quick at hearing, the deaf are quick at sight.

瞽者善聽。聾者善視
Ku³ chē² shan⁴ t'ing,¹ lung² chē² shan⁴ shih.⁴

———— 1320 ————

Dumb men are fond of making signs.

啞叭好做顧點
Ya³ pa¹ 'hao⁴ tso⁴ ku⁴ tien.³

———— 1321 ————

When a dumb man sees his mother, he wants to speak but can't.

啞叭見娘有話說不出
Ya³ pa¹ chien⁴ niang² yu³ 'hua⁴ shuo¹ pu⁴ ch'u.¹

———— 1322 ————

Couldn't *Wu Ta Lang*, get a living?

武大郎不過日子
Wu³ Ta⁴ Lang² pu⁴ kuo⁴ jih⁴ tzū³?

NOTE.—*Wu Ta-lang*, a notorious dwarf of the *Sung* dynasty, was less than the least of dwarfs, yet seems to have made his way in the world. Hence this proverb, used by dwarfs when repelling banter.

(6) EXCITABLE AND ANXIOUS MEN.

— 1323 —

Men in a flurry from morning to night,
Seldom are seen to continue all right.

朝也忙暮也忙
Chao¹ yeh³ mang² mu⁴ yeh³ mang²
那見忙人得久長
Na³ chien⁴ mang² jên² tê² chiu³ ch'ang.²

— 1324 —

An excitable, restless man. *Lit.*: One for whom no *ti-ch'i* was burnt in his ante-natal life.

前世未燒地契
Ch'ien² shih⁴ wei⁴ shao¹ ti⁴ ch'i.⁴

NOTE.—The *ti-ch'i* is the deed of purchase of the grave written for the dead, and burnt at his funeral by a son or relative. It is supposed that one of the three souls (魂) of the departed takes this document to *Yen Wang* (閻王), or Pluto, for his seal; thereupon the grave is secured against violation, and the soul (魂) which is supposed to reside therein, secured in peaceful possession. That such a paper should not have been burnt at the close of a former life, is thought sufficient to account for any amount of giddiness and restlessness, any person so neglected may display in this.

— 1325 —

Flurried men lack wisdom.

忙人無智
Mang² jên² wu² chih.⁴

— 1326 —

He has the head of a cat, the eyes of a rat.

貓頭鼠眼
Mao¹ t'ou² shu³ yen.³

— 1327 —

An unsettled person. *Lit.*: One who now wishes to be off to Nankin to buy horses, and anon to Peking to buy office.

想到南京買馬
Hsiang³ tao⁴ Nan² ching¹ mai³ ma,³
又想北京買官
yu⁴ hsiang³ Pei³ ching¹ mai³ kuan.¹

1328

He cannot wait till his cake gets heated.

火裡燒粿等不得熱
 'Huo³ li³ shao¹ pa¹ têng³ pu⁴ tê² sbu.²

1329

He may sit in a tub of cold water, and it will emit no steam.

坐在冷水盆裡不起氣
 Tso⁴ tsai⁴ lêng³ sbui⁴ p'ên² li³ pu⁴ ch'i³ ch'i.⁴

NOTE.—Said of a sluggish individual ; one *not* excitable.

1330

Anxious as the men of *Ch'i* who feared the heavens might fall.

心多過慮。如杞人憂天
 Hsin¹ to¹ kuo⁴ lü,⁴ ju² Ch'i³ jên² yu¹ t'ien.¹

1331

An anxious individual. *Lit.*: One who is afraid that his bones should decay before he is dead.

人還未有死。怕爛了骨頭
 Jên² 'huan² wei⁴ yu³ ssü,³ p'a⁴ lan⁴ liao³ ku³ t'ou.²

1332

The same. *Lit.*: One who is afraid that his eyes should decay before he is dead.

人未死。怕先爛眼睛
 Jên² wei⁴ ssü,³ p'a⁴ hsien¹ lan⁴ yen³ ching.¹

1333

One who fears the falling leaves will break his head.

樹葉掉了怕打破頭
 Shu⁴ yeh⁴ tiao⁴ liao³ p'a⁴ ta¹ p'o⁴ t'ou.²

1334

One who fears the falling dust will crack his skull.

揚塵弔下來。怕打破腦殼
 Yang² ch'ên² tiao⁴ hsia⁴ lai,² p'a⁴ ta¹ p'o⁴ nao³ k'o.¹

1335

Early risers are in jolly spirits; anxious thinkers have enfeebled health.

早起精神爽。思多血氣衰
Tsao³ ch'i³ ching¹ shên² shuang¹; ssü¹ to¹ hsieh³ ch'i⁴ shuai¹

(7) GOOD MEN.

1336

One good man represses a hundred bad ones.

一正壓百邪
Yi¹ chêng⁴ ya¹ pai³ hsieh²

1337

Good men suffer much.

好人多磨難
'Hao³ jên² to¹ mo² nan²

1338

Virtuous men are a kingdom's treasure.

賢爲國家之寶
Hsien² wei² kuo² chia¹ chih¹ pao³

1339

There are straight trees on the mountains, but no straight men in the world.

山中有直樹。世上無直人
Shan¹ chung¹ yu³ chih² shu⁴ shih⁴ shang⁴ wu² chih² jên²

1340

Good men get cheated; as good horses get ridden.

人善被人欺。馬善被人騎
Jên² shan⁴ pei⁴ jên² ch'i¹ ma³ shan⁴ pei⁴ jên² ch'i²

1341

Pretty things and good men are difficult to make.

好看難做。好漢難做
'Hao³ k'an⁴ nan² tso⁴, 'hao³ 'han⁴ nan² tso⁴

— 1342 —

Men join themselves to the good, but separate from the bad.

好人相逢。惡人相離
Hao³ jên² hsiang¹ fêng² o⁴ jên² hsiang¹ li.²

— 1343 —

He is a good fellow who can endure wrong.

吃得虧是好漢
Ch'ih¹ té² k'uei¹ shih⁴ hao³ han.⁴

— 1344 —

A good fellow will stick to his bargain.

好漢做事好漢當
'Hao³ han⁴ tso⁴ shih⁴ hao³ han⁴ tang.¹

— 1345 —

True gold fears no fire.

真金不怕火
Chên¹ chin¹ pu⁴ p'a⁴ huo.³

— 1346 —

An honest man. *Lit.*: One who tells true fortunes.

算老實命的人
Suan⁴ lao³ shih² ming⁴ ti¹ jên.²

— 1347 —

The same. *Lit.*: An uncoloured man.

本色人
Pên³ sé⁴ jên.²

— 1348 —

Good men are one in a hundred.

世上好人百中選一
Shih⁴ shang⁴ hao³ jên² pai³ chung¹ hsiên³ yi.¹

— 1349 —

There are two good men—one dead, the other unborn.

有兩好人。一个死了一个未生
Yu³ liang² hao³ jên.²—yi¹ ko⁴ ssü³ liao,³ yi¹ ko⁴ wei⁴ shêng.¹

1350

An innocent man fears nothing. *Lit.*: He who is free from fever fears not to eat water-melons.

心裡無冷病。那怕吃西瓜
Hsin¹ ni³ wu² lêng³ ping⁴ na³ p'a⁴ ch'ih¹ hsi¹ kua.¹

1351

His goodness will appear by and by. *Lit.*: As the water recedes the stones appear.

水退石出
Shui³ t'ui⁴ shih² ch'u.¹

1352

Filial, disinterested, and upright men, are honored by all.

孝廉方正。人人奉敬
Hsiao⁴ lien² fang¹ chêng⁴ jên² jên² fêng⁴ ching.⁴

1353

He is one who pursues a pig in a passage, going and coming in a straight course.

巷裡趕豬。直來直去
Hsiang⁴ li³ kan² chu,¹ chih² lai² chih² ch'u.⁴

1354

His words command general assent whose conduct is upright and unwavering.

行得正。坐得穩。出言人皆準
Hsing² tê² chêng⁴ tso⁴ tê² wên,³ ch'u¹ yen² jên² chieh¹ chun³.

1355

Good men are not to be found amongst bad ones. *Lit.*: Out of an indigo vat you can't draw white calico.

靛缸裡拉不出白布來
Tien⁴ kang¹ li³ la¹ pu⁴ ch'u¹ pai² pu⁴ lai.²

(8) HYPOCRITES.

—— 1356 ——

The man who pretends to be deaf and dumb,
May have no truth, but of lies will have some.

裝聾作啞。無真有假
Chuang¹ lung² tso⁴ ya,³ wu² chên¹ yu³ chia.³

—— 1357 ——

When a beggar is out o' nights, it is all a pretence of
being busy.

告花子走夜路。都是假忙
Kao⁴ hua¹ tzū³ tsou⁴ yeh⁴ lu,⁴ tu¹ shih⁴ chia³ mang.²

—— 1358 ——

He is a mock sportsman who slings a dead rat in his
girdle.

腰裡撒一個死老鼠假充打獵的
Yao¹ li³ p'ieh¹ yi¹ ko⁴ ssū³ lao³ shu,³ chia³ ch'ung¹ ta³ lieh⁴ ti.¹

—— 1359 ——

His mouth is sweet as honey ; his posteriors biting as
ginger.

嘴裡甜如蜜。屁股辣似薑
Tsu¹ li³ t'ien² ju² mi¹; p'i¹ ku³ la⁴ ssū⁴ chiang.¹

—— 1360 ——

In the East he eats dog's head, in the West sheep's
head.

東邊吃狗頭。西邊吃羊頭
Tung¹ pien¹ ch'ih¹ kou³ t'ou,² hsi¹ pien¹ ch'ih¹ yang² t'ou.²

—— 1361 ——

Superior man before folk ; mean man in secret.

明爲君子。暗爲小人
Ming² wei² chün¹ tzū,³ an⁴ wei² hsiao³ jên.²

— 1362 —

Saint outside, devil inside. *Lit.*: To have the mouth full of Benevolence, Righteousness, Reason, and Virtue; but to be in heart thief or whore.

一口仁義道德
Yi¹ k'ou³ jên² i¹ tao⁴ té²;
肚裡男盜女娼
tu³ li³ nan² tao⁴ nü² ch'ang.¹

— 1363 —

When you see a cold-eyed man laugh all over his face, he is secretly hiding a murderous sword in his heart.

見人冷眼笑一面
Chien⁴ jên² lêng³ yen³ hsiao⁴ yi¹ mien⁴
心中暗藏殺人刀
hsin¹ chung¹ an⁴ ts'ang² sha¹ jên² tao.¹

— 1364 —

A laughing *Ts'ao-Ts'ao*.

笑面孔曹操
Hsiao⁴ mien⁴ k'ung³ Ts'ao² Ts'ao.¹

NOTE.—A pleasant but crafty fellow, like *Ts'ao Ts'ao* of *San-kuo* notoriety.

— 1365 —

A false superior man; but a true mean man.

偽君子真小人
Wei⁴ chün¹ tzü³ chên¹ hsiao³ jên.²

— 1366 —

Outside he wears a sheep's skin, inside he hides a wolf's heart.

外披羊皮。內藏狼心
Wai⁴ p'i¹ yang² p'i,² nei⁴ ts'ang² laug² hsin.¹

NOTE.—“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” *Matt.* 7: 15.

— 1367 —

His mouth is sweet as honey; his heart as venomous as a snake.

口裏甜如蜜。心裏毒似蛇
K'ou³ li³ t'ien² ju² mi⁴; hsin¹ li³ tu² ssü⁴ shé.²

1368

One mouth with two tongues.

一 嘴 兩 舌 頭

Yi¹ tsui³ liang³ shê² t'ou.²

1369

A fox assuming a tiger's terror.

狐 假 虎 威

'Hu² chia³ 'hu³ wei.¹

1670

Sweet-melon lipped ; bitter-melon hearted.

甜 瓜 兒 嘴。 苦 瓜 兒 心

T'ien² kua¹ êrh² tsui³; k'u³ kua¹ êrh² hsin.¹

1371

He has the mouth of a Buddha, the heart of a snake.

佛 口 蛇 心

Fu² k'ou³ shê² hsin.¹

1372

Like a lamp-stand, he lights others but not himself.

屬 燈 臺 的。 照 別 人。 不 照 自 己

Shu³ têng¹ t'ai² ti,¹ chao⁴ pieh² jên,² pu⁴ chao⁴ tzū⁴ chi.³

(9) RICH AND POOR MEN. (SEE SECTION ON WEALTH.)

(10) STUPID MEN.

1373

Whilst the dolt is allowed to dine,

The cunning knave is left to pine.

癡 癡 呆 呆 討 個 飽

Ch'ih² ch'ih² tai¹ tai¹ t'ao³ ko⁴ pao,³

刁 刁 掘 掘 餓 得 好

Tiao¹ tiao¹ chüeh² chüeh² o⁺ tê² hao.³

1374

He, like a camel in his might,
Prefers the heavy to the light.

他是個駱駝形

T'a¹ shih⁴ ko⁴ lo⁴ t'o² hsing²

托重不托輕

t'o¹ chung⁴ pu⁴ t'o¹ ch'ing¹

1375

Of wit and wisdom entirely free,
Dog to another man he must be.

才智無有。爲人走狗

Ts'ai¹ chih⁴ wu² yu³ wei² jên² tsou⁴ kou³

1376

Stupid fool! he lets one of his water-buckets fall,
And rushes on as if nothing had happened at all.

懵裏懵懂挑擔水桶

Mêng¹ li³ mêng¹ tung³ t'iao¹ tan¹ shui³ t'ung³

落了一隻又往前踵

Lo⁴ liao³ yi¹ chih¹ yu⁴ wang³ ch'ien² chung³

1377

You're thick enough for a porridge.

糊塗成羹

Hu² t'u² ch'êng² kêng¹

1378

An ignoramus. *Lit.*: You cannot blow up a fire
through a solid stick.

桿麪棍吹火一竅不通

Kan² mien⁴ kun⁴ ch'ui¹ 'huo³ yi¹ ch'iao⁴ pu⁴ t'ung¹

1379

Bore as one will, the pricker will not enter.

使鑽子鑽不動

Shih³ tsuan¹ tzu³ tsuan¹ pu⁴ tung⁴

NOTE.—This is said to one intensely stupid. Nothing can be got into him.

1380

A stupid bundle of dregs.

糊塗一包渣

Hu² tu² yi¹ pao¹ cha¹

1381

An ox-leather lantern.

牛皮的燈籠
Niu² p'i² ti¹ têng¹ lung.²

1382

A wooden man.

木頭人
Mu⁴ t'ou² jên.²

1383

A fool. *Lit.*: One hundred, sixty, and ninety.百六九
Pai³ lu⁴ chiu.³

1384

The same. *Lit.*: Three eighty-threes.三个八十三
San¹ ko⁴ pa¹ shih² san.¹

1385

The same. *Lit.*: Two hundred and fifty.二百五
Erh⁴ pai³ wu.³

1386

The same. *Lit.*: The fourth of a thousand cash.一申錢四開
Yi¹ ch'uan⁴ ch'ien² ssü⁴ k'ai.¹

1387

Black as pitch and ink.

烏漆墨黑
Wu¹ ch'i¹ mo⁴ 'hei.¹

NOTE.—This is said as well of a dark night, as of a dark mind.

1388

Having eyes he yet cannot recognize gold inlaid with jewels.

有眼不識金鑲玉
Yu³ yen³ pu⁴ shih⁴ chin¹ bsiang¹ yü.⁴

1389

One who has not yet opened his eyes.

沒有開過眼空來的
Mu² yu³ k'ai¹ kuo⁴ yen³ k'ung³ lai² ti.¹

NOTE.—Said of a stupid, raw fellow, who wonders at every thing he sees.

1390

One who looks brighter than he is. *Lit.*: A bright-eyed blind man.

光眼瞎子
Kuang¹ yen³ hsia² tzü.³

1391

One who mistakes a teapot for a chamber-pot.

把茶壺當夜壺
Pa³ ch'a² 'hu² tang⁴ yeh⁴ 'hu.²

1392

Who sits in a well to observe the sky does not see very much.

坐井觀天所見不大
Tso⁴ ching³ kuan¹ tien¹ so³ chien⁴ pu⁴ ta.⁴

NOTE.—Said of an illiterate ignorant man, whose sphere of observation is naturally limited.

1393

He won't buy soy with money for vinegar.

打醋的錢不買醬油
Ta³ ts'u⁴ ti¹ ch'ien² pu⁴ mai³ chiang⁴ yu.²

NOTE.—Said of one who is so stupid as not to see that it does not matter with which particular money he buys anything, so long as he buys it at all.

1394

Fools are unequal to great undertakings. *Lit.*: You cannot serve dog's flesh at a banquet.

狗肉上不得正席
Kou³ jou⁴ shang³ pu⁴ tê² chêng⁴ hsi.²

1395

A good-for-nothing. *Lit.*: He can make nothing out, either in literature or soldiery.

習文不成。習武不就
Hsi² wên² pu⁴ ch'êng.² hsi² wu³ pu⁴ chiu.⁴

1396

The more stupid the more happy.

越 不 聰 明 反 快 活

Yüeh⁴ pu⁴ ts'ung¹ ming² fan³ k'uai⁴ 'huo.²

1397

If water be too clear it will contain no fish; and if a man be too parsimonious he will not be wise.

水 太 清 則 無 魚

Shui³ t'ai⁴ ch'ing¹ tsé² wu² yü.²

人 太 緊 則 無 智

jên² t'ai⁴ chin³ tsé² wu² chih.⁴

1398

A goose. *Lit.*: One who meeting a bonze cries out 'Brother-in-law.'

逢 到 和 尙 喊 姊 夫

Fêng² tao⁴ 'ho² shang⁴ 'han³ chieh³ fu.¹

1399

A merciful man is not stupid; a stupid man cannot show mercy.

饒 人 不 是 癡 漢

Jao² jên² pu⁴ shih⁴ ch'ih² 'han⁴;

癡 漢 不 會 饒 人

ch'ih² 'han⁴ pu⁴ 'hui⁴ jao² jên.²

1400

One unable to distinguish between right and wrong.

Lit.: A fleshy, pupil-less eye.

肉 眼 無 珠

Jou⁴ yen³ wu² chu.¹

(11) SUPERIOR AND MEAN MEN.

—— 1401 ——

The friendship of superior men is like water thin and pure ;

Without constant interchange of feasts mean men's friendship can't endure.

君子之交淡如水
Chün¹ tzü³ chih¹ chiao¹ tan⁴ ju² shui³;
小人之交嘴換嘴
Hsiao³ jên² chih¹ chiao¹ tsui³ 'huan⁴ tsui³.

—— 1402 ——

Honour maketh more humble superior men ;
But avoidance the mean man resenteth again.

君子敬之則不勝
Chün¹ tzü³ ching⁴ chih¹ tsé² pu⁴ shêng⁴;
小人遠之則怨
Hsiao³ jên² yüan³ chih¹ tsé² yüan⁴.

—— 1403 ——

The superior man but one word needs ;
One lash is enough for fiery steeds.

君子一言。快馬一鞭
Chün¹ tzü³ yi¹ yen²; k'uai⁴ ma³ yi¹ pien¹.

—— 1404 ——

The superior man contents himself in poverty's estate;
The intelligent man submits himself to all that is his fate.

君子安貧。達人知命
Chün¹ tzü³ an¹ p'in³; ta² jên² chih¹ ming⁴.

—— 1405 ——

There are plenty of men, but few superior men.

人多君子稀
Jên² to¹ chün¹ tzü³ hsi¹.

—— 1406 ——

Though poor the superior man is not fearful.

君子雖寒而不顫
Chün¹ tzü³ sui¹ 'han² êrh² pu⁴ ch'an.⁴

———— 1407 ————

One evening's conversation with a superior man, is better than ten years of study.

共君一夜話。勝讀十年書
Kung⁴ chün¹ yi¹ yeh⁴ 'hua,⁴ shêng⁴ tu² shih² nien² shu.¹

———— 1408 ————

The superior man speaks beforehand, not when all is over.

君子言前不言後
Chün¹ tzü³ yen² ch'ien² pu⁴ yen² 'hou.⁴

———— 1409 ————

The superior man's life is at the service of Heaven.

大丈夫性命交於天
Ta⁴ chang⁴ fu¹ hsing⁴ ming⁴ chiao¹ yü² t'ien.¹

———— 1410 ————

An equal combination of elegance and plainness is the fashion of the superior man.

文質彬彬君子樣
Wên² chih² pin¹ pin¹ chün¹ tzü³ yang.⁴

———— 1411 ————

A superior man breaks off a friendship without any unpleasant words.

君子絕交不出惡言
Chün¹ tzü³ chüeh⁴ chiao¹ pu⁴ ch'u¹ o⁴ yen.²

———— 1412 ————

The superior man avoids intoxicated people.

君子避酒客
Chün¹ tzü³ pi⁴ chiu³ k'o.⁴

———— 1413 ————

If the superior man desires wealth, he gets it in a proper fashion.

君子愛財取之有道
Chün¹ tzü³ ai⁴ ts'ai² ch'u³ chih¹ yu³ tao.⁴

— 1414 —

In the wide world men are numberless ; but where is the superior man ?

茫 茫 四 海 人 無 數
Mang² mang² ssū⁴ 'hai³ jèn² wu² shu⁴ ;
那 個 男 兒 是 丈 夫
na³ ko⁴ nan² êrh² shih⁴ chang⁴ fu¹ ?

— 1415 —

In liquor yet not loquacious, marks a true superior man ; just, in respect of wealth, proves one of superior virtue.

酒 中 不 語 真 君 子
Chiu³ chung¹ pu⁴ yü³ chên¹ chün¹ tzü³ :
財 上 分 明 大 丈 夫
ts'ai² shang⁴ fên¹ ming² ta⁴ chang⁴ fu¹.

— 1416 —

When a matter is over, men recognise the superior man.

過 後 思 君 子
Kuo⁴ 'hou⁴ ssü¹ chün¹ tzü³.

— 1417 —

Right moves the superior man, profit the mean man.

義 動 君 子。利 動 小 人
I⁴ tung⁴ chün¹ tzü³, li⁴ tung⁴ hsiao³ jên².

— 1418 —

The superior man's friendship is thin as water ; the mean man's sweet as honey.

君 子 之 交 淡 如 水
Chün¹ tzü³ chih¹ chiao¹ tan⁴ ju² shui³ ;
小 人 之 交 甜 如 蜜
hsiao³ jên² chih¹ chiao¹ t'ien² ju² mi⁴.

— 1419 —

He is a true superior man who gives coals in snowy weather : he is a mean man who adds flowers to embroidery.

雪 裡 送 炭 真 君 子
Hsüeh³ li³ sung⁴ t'an⁴ chên¹ chün¹ tzü³ :
錦 上 添 花 是 小 人
chin³ shang⁴ t'ien¹ 'hua¹ shih⁴ hsiao³ jên².

— 1420 —

The superior man is happy in being such ; the mean man is mean to no purpose.

君子樂得做君子
Chün¹ tzū³ lè⁴ tē² tso⁴ chün¹ tzū³;
小人枉自做小人
hsiao³ jèn² wang³ tzū⁴ tso⁴ hsiao⁴ jèn².

— 1421 —

A man with a big head is a superior man ; one with big feet is a mean man.

頭大是君子。脚大是小人
T'ou² ta⁴ shih⁴ chün¹ tzū³ ; chiao³ ta⁴ shih⁴ hsiao³ jèn².

— 1422 —

The superior man is able to bear with others ; the mean man cherishes an envious spirit.

君子有容人之量
Chün¹ tzū³ yu³ yung² jèn² chih¹ liang² ;
小人存忌妒之心
hsiao³ jèn² ts'un² chi⁴ kou⁴ chih¹ hsin¹.

— 1423 —

The superior man eats for the taste ; the mean man gorges himself to death and is not satisfied.

君子吃滋味。小人脹死不足
Chün¹ tzū³ chih¹ tzū¹ wei¹ ; hsiao³ jèn² chang⁴ ssü³ pu⁴ tsu².

— 1424 —

Propriety rules the superior man ; law rules the mean man.

禮治君子。法治小人
Li³ chih³ chün¹ tzū³ ; fa³ chih³ hsiao³ jèn².

— 1425 —

He whose virtues exceed his talents is the superior man ; he whose talents exceed his virtues is the mean man.

德勝才爲君子
Tē² shêng⁴ ts'ai² wei² chün¹ tzū³ ;
才勝德爲小人
ts'ai² shêng⁴ tē² wei² hsiao³ jèn².

— 1426 —

The superior man's heart is liberal and indulgent ;
the mean man's heart is selfish and mean.

君子之心公而恕
Chün¹ tzü³ chih¹ hsin¹ kung¹ erh² shu⁴;
小人之心私而刻
hsiao³ jên² chih¹ hsin¹ ssü¹ erh² k'o.⁴

— 1427 —

A thief is a mean man ; a wise man surpasses the
superior man.

賊是小人。知過君子
Tsei² shih⁴ hsiao³ jên²; chih¹ kuo⁴ chün¹ tzü.³

— 1428 —

A mountain stream is easily swollen and easily ex-
hausted ; a mean man's heart is easily moved to
and fro.

易長易退山溪水
I⁴ chang³ i⁴ t'ui⁴ shan¹ ch'i¹ shui³;
易反易覆小人心
i⁴ fan³ i⁴ fu² hsiao³ jên² hsin.¹

(12) YOUNG MEN.

— 1429 —

Who has no hair upon his lips,
In business will have many slips.

嘴裡無毛。做事不牢
Tsuì³ li³ wu² mao,² tso⁴ shih⁴ pu⁴ lao.²

— 1430 —

In all sorts of affairs, youths are without experience.

年紀幼嫩。事事未經閱歷
Nien² chi³ yu⁴ nèn,⁴ shih⁴ shih⁴ wei⁴ ching¹ yüeh⁴ li.⁴

1431

Inferior in youth, useless in old age.

少 壯 尙 不 如 人
Shao³ chuang⁴ shang⁴ pu⁴ ju² jên.²
老 來 更 多 無 用
lao³ lai² kên¹ to¹ wu² yung.⁴

1432

The mark must be made in youth.

必 定 少 年 高 發
Pi⁴ ting⁴ shao³ nien² kao¹ fa.¹

1433

Withered trees, in Spring burst forth afresh; but men cannot twice be young.

枯 木 逢 春 猶 再 發
K'u¹ mu⁴ fêng² ch'un¹ yu² tsai⁴ fa.¹;
人 無 兩 度 再 少 年
jên² wu² liang² tu⁴ tsai⁴ shao³ nien.²

1434

The boy is father to the man. *Lit.*: You may see the man in the boy.

從 小 看 大
Ts'ung² hsiao³ k'an⁴ ta.⁴

1435

In judging of what a boy will be, notice what he is in infancy.

細 娃 看 小 時
Hsi⁴ wa¹ k'an⁴ hsiao³ shih.²

1436

He who enters an asylum for the aged at twenty, enjoys that happiness too soon.

二 十 歲 入 孤 老 院。 享 福 太 早
Erh⁴ shih² sui⁴ ju⁴ ku¹ lao³ yüan,⁴ hsiang³ fu² t'ai⁴ tsao.³

1437

When *Pai Chu-i* was seven months old, he knew the two characters *chih* and *wu*.

白 居 易 生 七 月 便 識 之 無 二 字
Pai² chü¹ i⁴, shêng¹ ch'i¹ yüeh,⁴ pien⁴ shih⁴ chih¹ wu² erh⁴ tzü.⁴

1438

When *Li 'Huo* of the *T'ang* dynasty was just seven years old, he composed his poem *Kao-hsüan-kuo*.

唐李賀纔七歲
T'ang² Li⁴ 'Huo⁴ ts'ai² ch'i¹ sui,⁴
作高軒過一篇
tso⁴ kao¹ hsüan¹ kuo⁴ yi¹ p'ien.¹

NOTE.—For brief accounts of these two celebrities see the *Yu-hsiao* (幼學) section *wên-tsz'* (文字).

(19) WOMEN.

1439

Mandarins, customers, and widow folk,
You must be careful not to provoke.

一等官。二等客
Yi¹ têng³ kuan,¹ êrh⁴ têng³ k'o,⁴
三等寡婦。惹不得
San¹ têng³ kua³ fu,⁴ jê³ pu⁴ tê.²

1440

Nine women in ten are jealous.

十个婦人九个妒
Shih² ko⁴ fu⁴ jên² chiu³ ko⁴ tu.⁴

1441

A maid marries to please her parents; a widow to please herself.

幼嫁從親。再嫁由身
Yu⁴ chia⁴ ts'ung² ch'in¹; tsai⁴ chia⁴ yu² shên.¹

1442

Even *Mo's* mother had some beauty, and *Hsi-shih*, some defect.

嫖母有所美。西施有所醜
Mo² mu³ yu³ so³ mei,³ Hsi¹ shih¹ yu³ so³ ch'ou.³

NOTE.—*Mo* or *Wang Mo* (王嫖), a scholar of the *Han* dynasty, whose mother, though remarkably ugly, had some redeeming feature. *Hsi-shih*, the beautiful concubine of the King of *Wu* (吳). See note under proverb number 1460.

1443

An ugly Mary an ugly Miss.

醜了梅香醜小姐
Ch'ou³ liao³ Mei² hsiang¹ ch'ou³ hsiao³ Chieh.³

1444

If heaven wants to rain, or your mother to marry again, nothing can prevent them.

天要下。娘要嫁。無法可制
T'ien¹ yao⁴ hsia,⁴ niang² yao⁴ chia,⁴ wu² fa³ k'o³ chih.⁴

1445

Lazy women will try to carry everything at once.

懶婆娘做事一担挑
Lan³ p'o² niang² tso⁴ shih⁴ yi¹ tan¹ t'iao.¹

1446

Unmarried, a woman obeys her father; married, her husband.

在家由父出嫁從夫
Tsai⁴ chia¹ yu² fu⁴; ch'u¹ chia⁴ ts'ung² fu.¹

1447

I guess that a good-looking woman needs no rouge to make her pretty.

大抵還他肌骨好
Ta⁴ ti² 'huan³ t'a¹ chi¹ ku³ hao,²
不搽紅粉也風流
pu⁴ ts'a¹ 'hung² fên³ yeh³ fêng¹ liu.²

1448

When a chaste lady desires pleasure she gets it properly.

貞婦愛色。納之以禮
Chên¹ fu⁴ ai⁴ sê,⁴ na⁴ chih¹ i³ li.³

1449

Fair maidens are very unlucky, and clever young men have little beauty.

紅顏女子多薄命
'Hung² yen² nü² tzü³ to¹ po² ming,⁴
聰明子弟少容顏
ts'ung¹ ming² tzü³ ti⁴ shao³ yung² yen.²

— 1450 —

A maid's virtue is unlimited; a wife's resentment without end.

女德無極。婦怨無終。
Nü² tê² wu² chi²; fu⁴ yüan⁴ wu² chung¹

— 1451 —

There is no such poison in the green snake's mouth or the hornet's sting, as in a woman's heart.

青竹蛇兒口。黃蜂尾上針。
Ch'ing¹ chu² shé² êrh² k'ou,³ huang² fêng¹ wei³ shang⁴ chên.¹
兩般不算毒。最毒婦人心。
liang³ pan¹ pu⁴ suan⁴ tu,² tsui⁴ tu² fu⁴ jên² hsin.¹

— 1452 —

The three kinds of nuns, and the six kinds of dames, are the go-betweens of adultery and robbery.

三姑六婆實淫盜之媒。
San¹ ku¹ lu⁴ p'o² shih² yin² tao⁴ chih¹ mei.²

NOTE.—The three kinds of nuns here referred to are the Buddhist nun (尼姑), the Taoist nun (道姑), and the Sorceress (覡姑). The six kinds of dames are the go-between (媒婆), the seller of flowers (賣花婆), the midwife (收生婆), the singing girl or prostitute (優婆), the sorceress or spiritual medium (師婆), and the doctress (醫藥婆). See Doolittle's Vocabulary and Handbook. Vol. 2, page 596, 599.

— 1453 —

The lover's eye sees a *Hsi-shih* in his mistress.

情人眼內出西施。
Ch'ing² jên² yen³ nei⁴ ch'u¹ Hsi¹ shih.¹

NOTE.—See notes under proverbs, nos. 1442, 1460.

— 1454 —

A smile of her's was worth a thousand taels of gold.

一笑值千金。
Yi¹ hsiao⁴ chih² ch'ien¹ chin.¹

NOTE.—*Yu wang* (幽王) of the *Chou* (周) dynasty had a concubine called *Pao-sü* (褒姒), a great beauty, but very sedate. To make her laugh it is said the emperor resorted to very ridiculous expedients. This proverb, however, is applicable to men as well as women.

1455

The rouged beauty repudiates age; the jolly profligate never speaks of poverty.

紅粉佳人休便老
'Hung² fên³ chia¹ jên² hsiu¹ pien⁴ lao³;
風流浪子莫教貧
fêng¹ liu² lang² tzü³ mò⁴ chiao⁴ p'in.³

1456

The rouged beauty cannot come up to the bloom of youth

紅粉佳人不及當初
'Hung² fên³ chia¹ jên² pu⁴ chi² tang¹ ch'ou.¹

1457

A good-looking woman in a house, is the foe of all the plain ones.

好女子室。醜女之仇
'Hao³ nü² yü² shih,⁴ ch'ou³ nü² chih¹ ch'ou.²

1458

Young she's a *Kuan-yin*; old she's a monkey.

少是觀音。老是猴
Shao³ shih⁴ Kuan¹ Yin,¹ lao³ sbih⁴ 'hou.²

1459

A woman's virtues need not be of the famous or uncommon kind; her face need not be very beautiful; her conversation need not be very eloquent; and her work need not be very exquisite or surpassing.

婦德者不必才名絕異
Fu⁴ tê² ché² pu⁴ pi⁴ ts'ai² ming² chüeh² i⁴;
婦容者不必顏色美麗
fu⁴ yung² ché² pu⁴ pi⁴ yen² sê⁴ mei³ li⁴;
婦言者不必利口辨詞
fu⁴ yen² ché² pu⁴ pi⁴ li⁴ k'ou³ pien⁴ tz'ü²;
婦工者不必技巧過人
fu⁴ kung¹ ché² pu⁴ pi⁴ chi⁴ ch'iao³ kuo⁴ jên.²

1460

With one smile she overthrows a city; with another, a kingdom.

一笑傾人城。再笑傾人國。
Yi¹ hsiao⁴ ch'un¹ jên² ch'êng²; tsai⁴ hsiao⁴ ch'un¹ jên² kuo.²

NOTE.—The lady to whom this refers is *Hsi-shih* (西施) the concubine of *Fu-ch'a* (夫差), King of the ancient state of *Wu* (吳). She was eminently beautiful, and her beauty so captivated her lord that, for her sake, he neglected the affairs of his kingdom, which thereupon fell into disorder and ruin. Now, the proverb serves to warn against the seductive smiles of beauty.

1461

Three-tenths of her good looks are due to nature,
seven-tenths to dress.

三分人才。七分打扮。
San¹ fên¹ jên² ts'ai,² ch'i¹ fên¹ ta³ pan.⁴

(14) MISCELLANEOUS.

1462

Who rub off corners and round curves wind,
Will everywhere peace and concord find.

轉彎摸角。處處合得着。
Chuan³ wan¹ mo³ chiao,¹ ch'u⁴ ch'u⁴ 'ho² té² cho.²

1463.

A greedy fellow. *Lit.*: One whose eyes are bigger
than his belly.

眼大肚皮小
Yen³ ta⁴ tu³ p'i² hsiao.³

1464

Fellow-countrymen. *Lit.*: We are all of the same
country and of one common well.

都是同鄉共井的人
Tu¹ shih⁴ t'ung² hsiang¹ kung⁴ ching³ ti¹ jên.²

1465

No matter whether relation or not, he is my fellow-
countryman.

親不親故鄉人
Ch'in¹ pu⁴ ch'in¹ ku⁴ hsiang¹ jên.²

— 1466 —

A meddlesome person. *Lit.*: An enthroned monkey with hairy hands and feet.

猴子坐天下毛脚毛手
 'Hou² tzū³ tso⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ mao² chiao³ mao² shou.³

— 1467 —

A useless fellow. *Lit.*: A clothes frame: a rice bag.

穿衣服的架子。吃飯的袋子
 Ch'uan¹ i¹ fu² ti¹ chia⁴ tzū³: ch'ih¹ fan⁴ tai¹ tai⁴ tzū.³

— 1468 —

The same. *Lit.*: Literary men can't scribble men's fortunes; military men can't carry water.

文不能測字。武不能挑水
 Wên² pu⁴ nêng² ts'ê⁴ tzū⁴; wu³ pu⁴ nêng² t'iao¹ shui.³

— 1469 —

One brave as Heaven.

胆大如天
 Tan³ ta⁴ ju² t'ien.¹

— 1470 —

An ugly fellow. *Lit.*: The *Ho-shou-wu* changed into human shape.

何首烏變成入形
 'Ho⁴ shou³ wu¹ pien⁴ ch'êng² jên² hsing.²

NOTE.—*Ho-shou-wu*; a kind of herb, bearing some resemblance to a child.

— 1471 —

A miser. *Lit.*: One very clear in his accounts.

好清白算盤呢
 'Hao³ ch'ing¹ pai² suan⁴ p'an² ni.¹

— 1472 —

An inhospitable man. *Lit.*: One whose door opens on the top of his house.

屋山頭開門
 Wu¹ shan¹ t'ou² k'ai¹ mên.²

— 1473 —

An inexperienced man. *Lit.*: One who has not seen the face of the world.

沒有見世面的人

Mu² yu³ chien⁴ shih⁴ mien⁴ ti¹ jên.²

— 1474 —

The same. *Lit.*: One who has not tasted of the sour and the sweet, the bitter and the pungent.

沒有受過酸甜苦辣

Mu² yu³ shou⁴ kuo⁴ suan¹ t'ien² k'u³ la.⁴

— 1475 —

The amiable get on smoothly. *Lit.*: Fair winds raise no waves.

順風不起浪

Shun⁴ fêng¹ pu⁴ ch'i³ lang.⁴

— 1476 —

There is nothing mean in a generous man.

為人渾厚自無刻薄

Wei² jên² 'hun⁴ 'hou⁴ tzū⁴ wu² k'o¹ po.²

CHAPTER III.

HUMAN NATURE.

1477

Just so long as you ask nothing, man's nature is bland ;
For wine, abstainers care little what price you demand.

無 求 到 處 人 情 好
Wu² ch'iu² tao⁴ ch'u⁴ jên² ch'ing² hao³ :
不 飲 任 他 酒 價 高
Pu⁴ yin³ jên⁴ t'a¹ chiu³ chia⁴ kao¹

1478

To judge man from his face is as hard a feat,
As it would be the ocean in pecks to-mete.

凡 人 不 可 貌 相
Fan² jên² pu⁴ k'o³ mao⁴ hsiang⁴
海 水 不 可 斗 量
Hai³ shui³ pu⁴ k'o³ tou³ liang²

1479

Man by right ascends ;
Water downward tends.

人 望 高 處 走。水 望 低 處 流
Jên² wang⁴ kao¹ ch'u⁴ tsou⁴ ; shui³ wang⁴ ti¹ ch'u⁴ liu²

1480

The measure of heaven and earth you may find ;
You'll never be able to, that of the mind.

天 可 度 地 可 量
T'ien¹ k'o³ tu⁴ ti⁴ k'o³ liang²
惟 有 人 心 不 可 防
Wei² yu³ jên² hsin¹ pu⁴ k'o³ fang²

1481

Man's heart can ne'er contented grow ;
Possessed of *Lung*, he longs for *Shu*.

人 心 不 足。得 隴 望 蜀
Jên² hsin¹ pu⁴ tsu² ; t'ê² Lung³ wang⁴ Shu³

1482

Woe, and alas! the heart of man is like a poisonous snake ;

Unknown, like wheels, the eyes of heaven their revolutions make.

堪 嘆 人 心 毒 似 蛇
K'an¹ t'an⁴ jên² bsin¹ tu² ssü⁴ sbê,²
誰 知 天 眼 轉 如 車
Shui² chih¹ t'ien¹ yen³ chuan³ ju² ch'ê.¹

1483

Though the heavens be high and lofty, man's desires yet higher rise ;

And though his well yields wine to sell, for the missing grain he cries.

天 高 不 見 高 人 心 第 一 高
T'ien¹ kao¹ pu⁴ chien⁴ kao¹ jên² bsin¹ ti⁴ yi¹ kao¹ ;
井 水 做 酒 賣 還 說 豬 無 糟
Ching³ shui³ tso⁴ chiu³ mai⁴ huan² shuo¹ chu¹ wu² tsao.¹

1484

Nobody on earth is difficult to manage ; all that is necessary is three times to examine one's self.

天 下 無 難 處 之 人
T'ien¹ hsia⁴ wu² nan² ch'u⁴ chih¹ jên² ;
只 須 三 个 必 自 反
chih³ hsi¹ san¹ ko⁴ pi⁴ tzü⁴ fan.³

NOTE.—The phrase "Tzü-fan" is taken from Mencius. See Legge, vol ii, page 209.

1485

Instinct naturally inhabits man's heart.

公 道 自 在 人 心
Kung¹ tao⁴ tzü⁴ tsai⁴ jên² bsin.¹

1486

A man cannot become perfect in a hundred years ; he may become corrupt in less than a day.

百 年 成 之 不 足
Pai³ nien² ch'êng² chih¹ pu⁴ tsu² ;
一 旦 壞 之 有 餘
yi¹ tan⁴ huai⁴ chih¹ yu³ yü.²

1487

In learning what is good, a thousand days are insufficient; in learning what is bad, an hour is too much.

學好千日不足
Hsiao² 'hao³ ch'ien¹ jih⁴ pu⁴ tsu²;
學歹一時有餘
hsiao² tai³ yi¹ shih² yu³ yü.²

1488

Man's heart secret. *Lit.*: Know I what foetus is in your womb?

我曉得你肚子裡懷的什麼胎
Wo³ hsiao³ tê² ni³ tu³ tzü³ li³ 'huai² ti¹ shih² mo¹ t'ai¹?

1489

The same. *Lit.*: I know not what sort of medicine he has in his calabash.

不曉得他葫蘆裡裝什麼藥
Pu⁴ hsiao³ tê² t'a¹ 'hu² lu² li³ chuang¹ shih² mo¹ yao.⁴

1490

What the eye sees not, the heart does not vex itself over

眼不見心不怒
Yen³ pu⁴ chien⁴ hsin¹ pu⁴ yüan.⁴

1491

Water can both sustain and upset a ship.

水能載舟亦能覆舟
Shui³ nêng² tsai⁴ chou¹ i⁴ nêng² fu² chou.¹

NOTE.—This proverb points to the power men have either for good or evil.

1492

It is harder to change a man's natural disposition, than to change rivers and mountains.

江山易改。本性難移
Chiang¹ shan¹ i⁴ kai³ pên³ hsing⁴ nan² i.²

1493

Man's heart is lofty as heaven; his fate is thin as paper.

心有天高。命如紙薄
Hsin¹ yu³ t'ien¹ kao¹; ming⁴ ju² chih³ po.²

1494

Man's heart is never satisfied; the snake would swallow the elephant.

人心不足蛇吞象
Jên² hsin¹ pu⁴ tsu² shê² t'un¹ hsiang.⁴

1495

Man's heart is hidden in his belly, as the *ch'ui-pi* is in a rice boiler.

人心隔肚皮。飯甑隔炊箆
Jên² hsin¹ ko² tu³ p'í,² fan⁴ tséng⁴ ko² ch'ui¹ pi.⁴

NOTE.—*Chui-pi* is a small conical plate of wicker work.

1496

It is easier to fill up the bed of a mountain torrent than to satisfy the heart of man.

谿壑易填。人心難滿
Ch'í¹ 'ho⁴ í⁴ t'ien,² jên² hsin¹ nan² man.³

1497

The body may be healed, not the mind.

醫得身。醫不得心
Í¹ tē² shēn,¹ í¹ pu⁴ tē² hsin.¹

1498

All men love wealth, wine, and women.

酒色人人愛。財帛動人心
Chiu³ sē⁴ jên² jên² ai,⁴ ts'ai² pai² tung⁴ jên² hsin.¹

1499

In difficulties men are easily tested, and easily saved.

難中好試人。難中好救人
Nan² chung¹ 'hao³ shih⁴ jên,² nan² chung¹ 'hao³ chiu⁴ jên.²

1500

Distance tests a horse's strength; long service reveals a man's character.

路遙知馬力。事久見人心
Lu⁴ yao² chih¹ ma³ lí⁴; shih⁴ chiu³ chien⁴ jên² hsin.¹

NOTE.—For a long and interesting account of the origin of this proverb, see "Notes and Queries on China and Japan," vol iii, page 181.

1501

The human heart is bad to fathom.

人心難測

Jên² hsin¹ nan² ts'ê.⁴

NOTE.—“Who can know it?” Jeremiah 17: 9.

1502

You may draw a tiger's skin, you cannot draw his bones; you may know a man's face, you cannot know his heart.

畫虎畫皮難畫骨
 'Hua⁴ 'hu³ 'hua⁴ p'i² nan² 'hua⁴ ku³;
 知人知面不知心
 chih¹ jên² chih¹ mien⁴ pu⁴ chih¹ hsin¹.

1503

Man's nature is as thin as sheets of tissue paper; the world is like a game of chess, varying at every move.

人情似紙張張薄
 Jên² ch'ing² ssü⁴ chih³ chang¹ chang¹ po²;
 世事如棋局局新
 shih⁴ shih⁴ ju² ch'i² chü² chü² hsin¹.

1504

Man naturally, like water, distinguishes between the high and the low; the world is ever changing, like a cloud.

人情似水分高下
 Jên² ch'ing² ssü⁴ shui³ fên¹ kao¹ hsia⁴;
 世事如雲任捲舒
 Shih⁴ shih⁴ ju² yün² jên⁴ chüan³ shu¹.

1505

Living, man knows not his soul; dead, he knows not his corpse.

生不認魂。死不認屍
 Shêng¹ pu⁴ jên⁴ 'hun²; ssü³ pu⁴ jên⁴ shih¹.

1506

Rather fear the man whose disposition is a two-edged sword, than the savage tiger of the mountains.

入山不怕傷人虎
 Ju⁴ shan¹ pu⁴ p'a⁴ shang¹ jên² 'hu,³

只怕人情兩面刀
 chih³ p'a⁴ jên² ch'ing² liang² mien⁴ tao.¹

1507

One is anxious when another is not; one may seem to be at leisure when his heart is not so.

你急他未急。人閒心未閒
 Ni³ chi² t'a¹ wei⁴ chi²; jên² hsien² hsin¹ wei⁴ hsien.²

1508

An old man may have a youthful heart; and a poor man may have a noble inclination.

人老心未老。人窮志不窮
 Jen² lao³ hsin¹ wei⁴ lao³; jên² ch'ing² chih⁴ pu⁴ ch'ing.²

1509

No flower can retain its bloom for a hundred, no man his virtue for a thousand, days.

人無千日好。花無百日紅
 Jên² wu² ch'ien¹ jih⁴ hao,³ 'hua¹ wu² pai³ jih⁴ 'hung.²

1510

Each man has his own mind, and each mind its peculiar intelligence.

人各有心。心各有見
 Jên² ko⁴ yu³ hsin,¹ hsin¹ ko⁴ yu³ chien.⁴

1511

A mind enlightened is like heaven; a mind in darkness is like hell.

心裏光明是天堂
 Hsin¹ li³ kuang¹ ming² shih⁴ t'ien¹ t'ang²;
 心裏黑暗是地獄
 hsin¹ li³ 'hei¹ an⁴ shih⁴ ti⁴ yü.⁴

NOTE.—Over this proverb, Sir John Davis wrote the beautiful lines:—
 “The mind is its own place, and in itself
 Can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.”

1512

Amongst men who is faultless?

爲人誰無個錯處
 Wei² jên² shui³ wu² ko⁴ ts'o⁴ ch'u⁴?

NOTE.—There is none righteous, no, not one.” Rom. 3: 10.

1513

What man is not guilty of one error and half a mistake?

一 差 半 錯。那 個 沒 有
Yi¹ ch'a¹ pan⁴ ts'o,⁴ na³ ko⁴ mu² yu³?

1514

Man errs as the horse stumbles.

人 有 失 錯。馬 有 漏 蹄
Jên² yu³ shih¹ ts'o,⁴ ma³ yu³ lou⁴ t'i.²

1515

Though a snake get into a bamboo tube it is hard to change its wriggling disposition.

蛇 入 竹 筒 曲 性 難 改
Shê² ju⁴ chu² t'ung³ ch'u¹ hsing⁴ nan² kai.³

1516

Though stones should be transformed to gold, men would not be satisfied.

點 石 化 爲 金。人 心 猶 未 足
Tien³ shih² hua⁴ wei² chin,¹ jên² hsin¹ yu² wei⁴ tsu.²

1517

Fire should be hollow hearted; man true hearted.

火 要 空 心。人 要 實 心
Huo³ yao⁴ k'ung¹ hsin,¹ jên² yao⁴ shih² hsin.¹

1518

The mind is the lord of the man.

心 爲 一 身 之 主
Hsin¹ wei² yi¹ shên¹ chih¹ chu.³

1519

Men love gentleness; dogs love food.

人 憐 溫 存。狗 憐 食
Jên² lien² wên¹ ts'un²; kou³ lien² shih.²

1520

When you see into man's disposition, you perceive that all is false.

看 透 人 情 總 是 空
K'an⁴ t'ou⁴ jên² ch'ing² tsung³ shih⁴ k'ung.¹

NOTE.—“The heart is deceitful above all things.” Jeremiah 17 : 9.

1521

A man's face is the reflex of his states of mind.

相 隨 心 生。 相 隨 心 滅
Hsiang⁴ sui² hsin¹ shêng¹; hsiang⁴ sui² hsin¹ mieh.⁴

1522

However stupid a man may be, he grows clever enough when blaming others: however wise, he becomes a dolt when blaming himself.

人 雖 至 愚 責 人 則 明
Jên² sui¹ chih⁴ yü² tsé² jên² tsé² ming²:
人 雖 至 明 責 己 則 昏
jên² sui¹ chih⁴ ming² tsé² chi³ tsé² 'hun.¹

1523

Men know not their own faults, as oxen know not the greatness of their strength.

人 不 知 己 過。 牛 不 知 力 大
Jên² pu⁴ chih¹ chi³ kuo,⁴ niu² pu⁴ chih¹ li⁴ ta.⁴

1524

It is easier to seize the tiger in the hills than to appeal to man for support.

入 山 擒 虎 易。 開 口 告 人 難
Ju⁴ shan¹ ch'in² 'hu³ i⁴; k'ai¹ k'on³ kao⁴ jên² nan.²

1525

Who knows himself knows others; for heart can be compared with heart.

知 己 知 彼。 將 心 比 心
Chih¹ chi³ chih¹ pi³; Chiang⁴ hsin¹ pi³ hsin.¹

SECTION XII.—ON MANNERS.

CHAPTER I.

BEARING AND POLITENESS.

1526

A man without politeness must perversely talk:
A weak ox in the harrows falters in his walk.

人 無 禮 說 橫 話
Jen² wu² li³ shuo¹ 'hêng⁴ 'hua⁴;
牛 無 力 拉 橫 耙
Niu² wu² li⁴ la¹ 'hêng⁴ p'a.²

1527

The politeness of rustics is notably great;
After cursing each other, comes friendly debate.

鄉 裡 人 禮 行 大
Hsiang¹ li³ jên² li³ hsing² ta⁴;
先 罵 人 後 說 話
Hsien¹ ma⁴ jên² 'hou⁴ shuo¹ 'hua.⁴

1528

Encountering a soldier, it is plain,
The graduate is polite in vain.

秀 才 遇 刀 兵。有 禮 講 不 清
Hsiu⁴ ts'ai² yü⁴ tao⁴ ping,¹ yu³ li³ chiang³ pu⁴ ch'ing.¹

1529

When persons meet they greet;
And cows low when they meet.

人 見 人 說 話。牛 見 牛 哞 呀
Jen² chien⁴ jen² shuo¹ 'hua,⁴ niu² chien⁴ niu² i¹ ya.¹

1530

On a damsel's boudoir, or teacher's school,
(To intrude one's-self is against all rule.)

先 生 學 堂。女 子 繡 房
Hsien¹ shêng¹ hsiao³ t'ang,² nü² tzü³ hsiu⁴ fang.²

— 1531 —

For the father to sit, and the son to stand,
Is the proper politeness through all the land.

父坐子立。禮貌整齊
Fu⁴ tso⁴ tzū³ li⁴ li³ mao² chêng³ ch'í.²

— 1532 —

Much politeness offends no one.

禮多人不怪
Li³ to¹ jên² pu⁴ kuai.⁴

— 1533 —

Excessive politeness must cover deceit.

禮多人必詐
Li³ to¹ jên² pi⁴ cha.⁴

— 1534 —

Politeness wins the confidence of princes.

有禮服得君王道
Yu³ li³ fu² tê² chün¹ wang² tao.⁴

— 1535 —

Keep your offence in your bosom, and you may meet
as before.

怪人心在肚。相見又何妨
Kuai⁴ jên² hsin¹ tsai⁴ tu,³ hsiang¹ chien⁴ yu⁴ 'ho² fang.¹

— 1536 —

He who confounds morals, must confound manners.

不知好歹。豈識高低
Pu⁴ chih¹ hao⁴ tai,³ ch'í³ shih⁴ kao¹ ti.¹

— 1537 —

For pleasing superior officers and governing the people,
there is nothing so good as politeness.

安上治民。莫善於禮
An¹ shang⁴ chih³ min,² mo⁴ shan⁴ yü² li.³

— 1538 —

Nobody stands on ceremony in hot weather. *Lit.*: In
hot weather there is no superior man.

暑天無君子
Shu³ t'ien¹ wu² chün¹ tzü.³

— 1539 —

Familiar friends may waive etiquette; but with a rich man you must be very polite.

熟不拘禮。富而多文
Shu² pu⁴ chü¹ li³; fu⁴ êrh² to¹ wên.²

— 1540 —

Ill-timed politeness. *Lit.*: He makes his bow behind the rider's back.

馬屁股背後打一恭
Ma³ p'i⁴ ku³ pei⁴ 'hou⁴ ta³ yi¹ kung.¹

— 1541 —

The same. *Lit.*: To make one's bow in the dark.

黑地下作揖
'Hei¹ ti⁴ hsia⁴ tso⁴ i.¹

— 1542 —

For every foot of honour shown me, I show ten.

人敬我一尺。我敬人一丈
Jên² ching⁴ wo³ yi¹ ch'ih,³ wo³ ching⁴ jên² yi¹ ch'ang.⁴

— 1543 —

No medicine can cure a vulgar man.

蠻人無藥醫
Man² jên² wu² yao⁴ i.¹

— 1544 —

Old and young, men and women, ought to be in manners respectful, in conversation dignified.

長幼內外。宜法肅詞嚴
Chang³ yu⁴ nei⁴ wai,⁴ i² fa³ su⁴ tz'ü² yen.²

— 1545 —

Every officer has his etiquette.

做此官行此禮
Tso⁴ tz'ü³ kuan¹ hsing² tz'ü³ li.³

— 1546 —

Before fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, itch as you may, you may not dare to scratch.

在父母舅姑之所。癢不敢搔
Tsai⁴ fu⁴ mu³ chiu⁴ ku¹ chih¹ so,³ yang³ pu⁴ kan² chua.¹

— 1547 —

Obedience is better than politeness.

恭 敬 不 如 從 命
Kung¹ ching⁴ pu⁴ ju² ts'ung² ming⁴

— 1548 —

The man may be bad whilst his manners are not.

人 惡 禮 不 惡
Jên² o⁴ li³ pu⁴ o.⁴

— 1549 —

He who acts for the emperor is emperor; who acts for the viceroy is viceroy.

奉 天 子 卽 天 子
Fêng⁴ t'ien¹ tzū³ chi² t'ien¹ tzū³;
奉 諸 侯 卽 諸 侯
fêng⁴ chu¹ 'hou² chi² chu¹ 'hou.²

— 1550 —

I am unworthy this favour. *Lit.*: The sweetmeat-seller having lost his gong-stick dare not strike his gong.

賣 糖 的 掉 鑼 槌 不 敢 當
Mai⁴ t'ang² ti¹ tiao⁴ lo² ch'ui² pu⁴ kan² tang.¹

CHAPTER II.

COMPLIMENTS.

— 1551 —

Offering congratulations, allow me to pray,
That your wealth may increase in a wonderful way!

恭 喜 賀 喜 元 寶 LO 起
Kung¹ hsi³ 'ho⁴ hsi,³ yüan² pao³ lo⁴ chi.³

— 1552 —

May he easily grow up, and easily make a man of himself!

易 長 易 成

I⁴ chang³ i⁴ ch'êng.²

— 1553 —

You certainly will outstrip the common herd!

定 出 人 群

Ting⁴ ch'u¹ jên² ch'ün.²

— 1554 —

May you beat all others!

出 人 頭 地

Ch'u¹ jen² t'ou² ti.⁴

— 1555 —

You are the son of a noble sire!

將 門 之 子

Chiang¹ mên² chih¹ tsü.³

— 1556 —

May all your descendants be famous! *Lit.*: May the epidendrum and the cassia put forth extraordinary fragrance!

蘭 桂 騰 芳

Lan² kuei⁴ t'êng² fang.¹

— 1557 —

May your brothers together grow famous!

兄 弟 聯 芳

Hsiung¹ ti⁴ lien² fang.¹

 1558

The scholar has beaten his master. *Lit.*: The black dye succeeds the blue and is superior to it.

青 出 於 藍。而 勝 於 藍
 Ch'ing¹ ch'u¹ yü² lan,² êrh² shêng⁴ yü² lan.²

 1559

Yours is the pen of a ready writer!

一 揮 而 就
 Yi¹ 'hui¹ êrh² chiu.⁴

 1560

A wonderful child! *Lit.*: A swift colt!

千 里 駒
 Ch'ien¹ li³ chü.¹

CHAPTER III.

PRESENTS.

— 1561 —

Do not take anything easily obtained, and forthwith make it out to be unimportant.

莫將容易得。便作等閑看
Mo⁴ Chiang¹ yung² i⁴ tê,² pien⁴ tso⁴ têng³ hsien² k'an.⁴

— 1562 —

When the bearer of a trifling present to one at a distance, be sure you do not lose it.

千里送毫毛。寄物不寄失
Ch'ien¹ li³ sung⁴ 'hao² mao,² chi⁴ wu⁴ pu⁴ chi⁴ shih.¹

— 1563 —

Suit presents to receivers. *Lit.*: Present a jewelled sword to a warrior, a box of rouge to a pretty woman.

寶劍贈於烈士
Pao³ chien⁴ tsêng⁴ yü² lieh⁴ shih,⁴
紅粉贈於佳人
'hung² fên³ tsêng⁴ yü² chia¹ jên.²

— 1564 —

Though he has to bolt his door against creditors, he will borrow money to make a present.

關門躲債主。借債感人情
Kuan¹ mén² to² chai⁴ chu,³ chieh⁴ chai⁴ kan² jen² ch'ing.²

— 1565 —

To carry an offering of a pig's head in one's hand, and be unable to find a temple.

耽得豬頭。找不到廟門
Tan¹ tê² chu¹ t'ou,² chao³ pu⁴ tao³ miao⁴ môn.²

— 1566 —

To get a gift,—make a proper return,—and still feel dissatisfied.

得禮還禮。總不過意
Te² li³ 'huan² li,³ tsung³ pu⁴ kuo⁴ i.⁴

— 1567 —

When a trifling present is sent a long way, the gift
may be light but the intention is weighty.

千里寄毫毛。禮輕人意重
Ch'ien¹ li³ chi⁴ 'hao² mao,² li³ ch'ing¹ jên² i⁴ chung.⁴

— 1568 —

To a teacher present minced meat, fish, and shrimps.

供先生肉鮓魚蝦
Kung¹ 'hsien¹ shêng¹ jou⁴ cha³ yü² hsia.¹

— 1569 —

Return gift for gift.

以情還情
I³ ch'ing² 'huan² ch'ing.²

CHAPTER IV.

ETIQUETTE OF VISITING.

———— 1570 ————

Better add a peck of rice to our lot,
Than another mouth to eat what we've got.

寧添一斗莫添一口
Ning² t'ien¹ yi¹ tou,³ mo⁴ t'ien¹ yi¹ k'ou.³

———— 1571 ————

When magpies chatter before your hall,
You will soon from guests receive a call.

鴉鵲堂前叫。不久有客到
Ya¹ ch'iao³ t'ang² ch'ien² chiao,⁴ pu⁴ chiu³ yu³ k'o⁴ tao.⁴

———— 1572 ————

Of ladies beware in making a feast,
Since fifty may mean a hundred, at least.

請客莫請女客。五十當一百
Ch'ing³ k'o⁴ mo⁴ ch'ing³ nü² k'o,⁴ wu³ shih² tang⁴ yi¹ po.²

NOTE.—Each one may bring a child.

———— 1573 ————

Do not be afraid of too many guests,
One goose will satisfy all their requests.

請客不怕多。共吃一隻鵝
Ch'ing³ k'o⁴ pu⁴ p'a⁴ to,¹ kung⁴ ch'ih¹ yi¹ chih¹ o.²

———— 1574 ————

Better slight a guest than starve him.

寧可慢客。不可餓客
Ning² k'o³ man⁴ k'o,⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ o⁴ k'o.⁴

———— 1575 ————

If you do not press an invited guest you will offend
him.

請客不催客反以得罪客
Ch'ing³ k'o⁴ pu⁴ ts'ui¹ k'o,¹ fan³ i³ tê² tsui⁴ k'o.⁴

— 1576 —

Wherever you call, give thanks for tobacco and tea.

走人家多謝煙茶
Tsou⁴ jên² chia¹ to¹ hsieh⁴ yen¹ ch'a.²

— 1577 —

It is easy to treat a guest well on his first arrival; but if he stays too long it is hard.

相見易得好。久住難爲人
Hsiang¹ chien⁴ i⁴ tê² 'hao³; chiu³ chu⁴ nan² wei² jên².

— 1578 —

He who cannot in his own house entertain a worthy guest, when abroad will find few to entertain him.

在家不會迎賓客
Tsai⁴ chia¹ pu⁴ 'hui⁴ ying² ping¹ k'o,⁴
出外方知少主人
ch'u¹ wai⁴ fang¹ chih¹ shao³ chu³ jên.²

— 1579 —

He who lacks hospitality to guests, must be a fool.

客來主不願。應恐是癡人
K'o⁴ lai² chu³ pu⁴ ku,⁴ ying⁴ k'ung³ shih⁴ ch'ih² jên.²

— 1580 —

He who is not hospitable to an excellent guest will have none.

良賓主不願。自是無良賓
Liang² pin¹ chu³ pu⁴ ku,⁴ tzü⁴ shih⁴ wu² liang² pin.¹

— 1581 —

Long visits make hosts uncivil; when a poor man visits his relations they are cool.

久住令人賤。貧來親也疎
Chiu³ chu⁴ ling⁴ jên² chien⁴; p'in³ lai² ch'in¹ yeh³ su.²

— 1582 —

Having fermented your white wine, you can feast a worthy guest; having spent your gold, you can enjoy the odes and histories.

白酒釀成筵好客
Pai² chiu³ niang⁴ ch'êng² yen² 'hao³ k'o,⁴
黃金散盡爲詩書
'huang² chin¹ san⁴ chin⁴ wei² shih¹ shu.¹

— 1583 —

Taoist monasteries entertain the genii; schools hide future premiers and scholars.

道院迎仙客。書堂隱相儒。
Tao⁴ yüan⁴ ying² hsien¹ k'o,⁴ shu¹ t'ang² yin³ hsiang⁴ ju.²

— 1584 —

Though we escort a guest a thousand miles, still we must part.

送君千里。終須一別。
Sung⁴ chün¹ ch'ien¹ li,³ chung¹ hsi¹ yi¹ pieh.²

— 1585 —

Entertain guests but do not detain them.

宴客切勿留連。
Yen⁴ k'o⁴ ch'ieh⁴ wu⁴ liu² lien.²

— 1586 —

His house is constantly full of guests; and the wine cup is never empty.

座上客常滿。杯中酒不空。
Tso⁴ shang⁴ k'o⁴ ch'ang² man³; pei¹ chung¹ chiu³ pu⁴ k'ung.¹

— 1587 —

What wind blew you here?

甚麼風吹了你來。
Shén⁴ mo¹ fêng¹ ch'ui¹ liao³ ni³ lai²?

NOTE.—This is said to an infrequent guest.

— 1588 —

In ordinary life you must not be otherwise than economical; when inviting a guest not otherwise than lavish.

居家不可不儉。
Chü¹ chia¹ pu⁴ k'o³ pu⁴ chien³;
請客不可不豐。
Ch'ing³ k'o⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ pu⁴ fêng.¹

— 1589 —

Receive all guests that come, making no difference between relations and others.

客無親疎來者當受。
K'o⁴ wu⁴ ch'in¹ su² lai² ché² tang¹ shou.⁴

1590

I called at the temple but saw not *T'u Ti*.

上廟勿見土地
Shang³ miao⁴ wu⁴ chien⁴ T'u³ Ti⁴

NOTE.—The *T'u Ti*, *T'u-shên* (土神), or *shê* (社), are a pair of idols supposed to have all the cultivated land under their joint protection. They are spoken of as 'husband and wife,' and are represented by male and female figures. Their shrines, often situated most picturesquely, stud the country over. Two festivals during the year, are celebrated in their honour; the first occurs on the fiftieth day after the commencement of Spring (about the middle of March), and the second on the fiftieth day after the commencement of Autumn (about the middle of September). See the *Yu-hsiao* (幼學), section *sui-shih* (歲時). Now this proverb is used when one calls upon a person without being able to see him.

1591

Keep back before a mandarin, but not before a host.

見官莫向前。做客莫在後
Chien⁴ kuan¹ mo⁴ hsiang⁴ ch'ien,² tso⁴ k'o⁴ mo⁴ tsai⁴ 'hou.⁴

1592

As you treat guests at home you will be treated abroad. *Lit.*: At home do not beat men, then abroad men will not beat you.

在家不打人。出外無人打
Tsai⁴ chia¹ pu⁴ ta³ jên,² ch'u¹ wai⁴ wu² jên² ta.³

1593

Relations must be seldom visited; kitchen gardens often.

親戚要走得稀菜園要去得勤
Ch'in¹ ch'i⁴ yao⁴ tsou⁴ tê² hsi¹; ts'ai⁴ yüan² yao⁴ ch'ü⁴ tê² ch'in.²

1594

I sting your lips with your own bread.

仰你的饅頭蠢你的嘴
Yang³ ni³ ti¹ man³ t'ou² ch'ai³ ni³ ti¹ tsui.³

NOTE.—This is said, in apology, by a poor host who is obliged to serve up the gift just received for his guest to eat.

1595

Too much politeness. *Lit.*: No sooner are the tables cleared than he invites me to a return feast.

拭棹還席
Shih⁴ cho¹ huan² hsi.²

1596

One guest does not trouble two hosts.

一 客 不 擾 二 主
Yi¹ k'o⁴ pu⁴ jao³ êrh⁴ chu.³

1597

Singing clearly to each other on the border, still the ferry boat will not tarry; I also cannot tarry; go, yea, go I must; after repeated hesitation, delay I cannot.

唱 徹 陽 關 上。 小 舟 也 難 留
Ch'ang⁴ chê⁴ yang² kuan¹ shang,⁴ hsiao³ chou¹ yeh³ nan² liu.²
我 也 難 留。 去 也 終 須 去
wo³ yeh³ nan² liu.² ch'ü⁴ yeh⁴ chung¹ hsü¹ ch'ü⁴;
再 三 留 不 住
tsai⁴ san¹ liu² pu⁴ chu.⁴

NOTE.—This shapeless proverb is confessedly difficult to understand. Probably the clear singing referred to, indicates some ancient method of taking farewell, or of bewailing the departure of a guest.

SECTION XIII.—ON MEDICINE.

CHAPTER I.

DISEASE.

1598

Still by a lotus fibre the big salt-junk is bound ;
And having reached their climax, diseases must turn
round.

藕絲繫得鹽船住
Ou³ ssü¹ chi⁴ tê² yen² ch'uan² chu⁴;

災殃已滿病自愈
Tsai¹ yang¹ i³ man³ ping⁴ tzü⁴ yü⁴.

NOTE.—This proverb indicates a slight possibility of recovery. There is just a chance.

1599

A little food taken again and again,
Will enable the sick new health to attain.

少喫多餐。病好自安
Shao³ ch'ih¹ to¹ ts'an,² ping⁴ hao³ tzü⁴ an.¹

1600

Phlegm, waste, wind, worms, and stoppage, sure
Nor gods nor fairies e'er can cure.

痰癆氣壅隔。神仙醫不得
T'an,² lao,² ch'i,⁴ ku³ ko,¹ shên² bsien¹ i¹ pu⁴ tê.²

1601

Medicine for healing, soup for nourishment.

服藥因療病。煎湯爲保身
Fu² yao⁴ yin¹ liao³ ping,⁴ chien¹ t'ang¹ wei⁴ pao³ shên.¹

1602

Your medicines are as effective as divine assistance.

服藥有靈。其效如神
Fu² yao⁴ yu³ ling²; ch'i² hsiao⁴ ju² shên.²

— 1603 —

The prescription was good, but the medicine bad.

說 的 是 真 方。 賣 的 是 假 藥
Shuo¹ ti¹ shih⁴ chên¹ fang,¹ mai⁴ ti¹ shih⁴ chia³ yao.⁴

— 1604 —

Though you drink a bellyful of medicine, avoid the taste in swallowing it.

藥 灌 滿 腸 口 吞 莫 嘗
Yao⁴ kuan⁴ man³ ch'ang² k'ou³ t'un¹ mo⁴ ch'ang.²

— 1605 —

When medicine cures, the patient is under providential care.

藥 醫 有 緣 人
Yao⁴ i¹ yu³ yüan² jên.²

— 1606 —

When a disease returns, no medicine can cure it.

反 病 無 藥 醫
Fan³ ping⁴ wu² yao⁴ i.¹

— 1607 —

There is no such thing as spurious gold, or genuine *o-wei*.

黃 金 無 假。 阿 魏 無 真
Huang² chin¹ wu² chia,³ o¹ wei⁴ wu² chên.¹

NOTE.—*O-wei*, "assafoetida." For some interesting remarks on this medicine, its use etc., by the Chinese, see Dr. Porter Smith's *Contributions towards the Materia Medica and Natural History of China*, page 27.

— 1608 —

Give a man a golden pill, and the devil of his disease will depart in a trice.

投 以 金 丹 病 魔 立 退
T'ou² i³ chin¹ tan¹ ping⁴ mo² li⁴ t'ui.⁴

— 1609 —

Men's constitutions differ in different localities.

土 性 不 同
T'u³ hsing⁴ pu⁴ t'ung.²

1610

When disease enters the region of the heart, no medicine can effect a cure.

病入膏肓。不可救藥
Ping⁴ ju⁴ kao¹ mang,² pu⁴ k'o³ chiu⁴ yao.⁴

1611

Your ears won't go deaf if you don't have them examined; your eyes won't go blind if you refuse to use washes.

耳不看。不聾。眼不洗。不瞎
Erh³ pu⁴ k'an⁴ pu⁴ lung²; yen³ pu⁴ hsi³ pu⁴ hsia.²

1612

The most wonderful medicine must fail to cure a sickness caused by resentment.

妙藥難醫冤孽病
Miao⁴ yao⁴ nan² i¹ yüan¹ yeh⁴ ping.⁴

NOTE.—If one man oppresses another to death, the ghost of the murdered man is supposed to haunt and afflict the oppressor with a sickness no medicine can cure.

1613

It is a disease which neither needle nor medicine can reach.

攻之不可。達之不能
Kung¹ chih¹ pu⁴ k'o³; tê² chih¹ pu⁴ nêng.²

1614

A willow planted before a cook-house door will die, not live.

竈門栽楊柳。有死無生
Tsao⁴ mên² ts'ai¹ yang² liu,³ yu³ ssü³ wu² shêng.¹

1615

'Tis easy to get a thousand prescriptions, but hard to obtain one good result.

千方易得。一效難求
Ch'ien¹ fang¹ i⁴ tê,² yi¹ hsiao⁴ nan² ch'ui.²

C H A P T E R I I.

DOCTORS.

— 1616 —

After diagnosis, we proceed to treat
All sorts of diseases, in the way most meet.

問 症 發 藥。與 病 相 合
Wên⁴ chêng⁴ fa¹ yao,⁴ yü³ ping⁴ hsiang¹ 'ho.²

— 1617 —

Chair-riding doctors don't call at the door
Of any patient unluckily poor.

醫 生 坐 轎。窮 家 不 到
I¹ shêng¹ tso⁴ chiao,⁴ ch'üung² chia¹ pu⁴ tao.⁴

— 1618 —

When the doctor's fame is made,
More folks come than he can aid.

醫 生 出 名。家 家 接 不 贏
I¹ shêng¹ ch'u¹ ming,² chia¹ chia¹ chieh¹ pu⁴ ying.²

— 1619 —

He boasts that his merits match those of *Pien Ch'io*;
Yet he's *Yen's* fatal net, for ought that we know.

道 他 功 高 扁 鵲
Tao⁴ t'a¹ kung¹ kao¹ Pien³ Ch'io³;
誰 知 他 催 命 閻 羅
Shui³ chih¹ t'a¹ ts'ui¹ ming⁴ Yen² lo.²

NOTE.—*Pien Ch'io* was an ancient doctor spoken of in the *Historical Record*. He was surnamed *Chin* (秦), named *Huan* (緩), and bore the polite designation of *Yueh Jen* (越人). On one occasion he met *Ch'ang Sang-chün* (長喪君) a geni (?), and received from him medicine and a medical book. He was also instructed to drink the dew from bamboo trees for thirty days, that at the end of that period his knowledge of diseases might become perfect. And so it happened. See the *Yu-hsiao* (幼學), Book 4, section *chi-i* (技藝).

— 1620 —

All diseases incident to cold weather and hot,
There must be no question if the doctor knows or not.

風 寒 暑 熱。醫 要 曉 得
Fêng¹ 'han² shu³ jê,⁴ i¹ yao⁴ hsiiao³ tê.²

1621

He'll warrant a cure when his fee is provided;
Men doubt it, however, and are undecided.

包好受謝。人疑莫決
Pao¹ hao³ shou⁴ hsieh⁴; jen² i² mo⁴ chieh.²

1622

The profoundest study of *Wang Shu-'ho*,
Compared with great practice is mere so so.

熟讀王叔和。不如看症多
Shu² tu² Wang² Shu² 'Ho,² pu⁴ ju² k'an⁴ cheng⁴ to.¹

NOTE.—*Wang Shu-'ho*, court physician during the Western *Tsin* dynasty, and author of a celebrated treatise on the pulse. See Wylie's *Notes on Chinese Literature*, page 78.

1623

In a dangerous illness call in three doctors.

急病請三師
Chi² ping⁴ ch'ing³ san¹ shih.¹

1624

A clever doctor cannot cure himself.

良醫不自醫
Liang² i¹ pu⁴ tzü⁴ i.¹

1625

A teacher will not speak against a teacher, nor a doctor
against a doctor.

師不談師。醫不談醫
Shih¹ pu⁴ t'an² shih,¹ i¹ pu⁴ t'an² i.¹

1626

If you do not remunerate a doctor for curing you once,
you will get no one to do so a second time.

病好不謝醫。下次無人醫
Ping⁴ hao³ pu⁴ hsieh⁴ i,¹ hsia⁴ tz'ü⁴ wu² jen² i.¹

1627

Only avail yourself of my ten years' luck, and your
complaint will soon be better.

趁我十年運。有病早來醫
Ch'en⁴ wo³ shih² nien² yün,⁴ yu³ ping⁴ tsao³ lai² i.¹

— 1628 —

A doctor has the heart to cut flesh off his thigh to give to his patient, but never the mind to deceive him.

醫有割股之心
I¹ yu³ ko¹ ku³ chih¹ hsin,¹
並無虛假之意
ping⁴ wu² hsü¹ chia³ chih¹ i.⁴

— 1629 —

Quacks puncture and plaster, but only use spurious drugs.

打針貼膏藥。賣藥的用假藥
Ta³ chên¹ t'ieh¹ kao¹ yao,⁴ mai⁴ yao⁴ ti¹ yung⁴ chia³ yao.⁴

— 1630 —

An unskilful doctor kills men with a secret dagger.

學醫不明。暗刀殺人
Hsiao² i¹ pu⁴ ming,² an⁴ tao¹ sha¹ jên.²

— 1631 —

The unlucky doctor cures the head of a disease; the lucky doctor its tail.

運去先生醫病頭
Yün⁴ ch'ü⁴ hsien¹ shêng¹ i¹ ping⁴ t'ou²;
時來先生醫病尾
shih² lai² hsien¹ shêng¹ i¹ ping⁴ wei.³

— 1632 —

Doctors have a run of ten years' luck.

行醫有十年大運
Hsing² i¹ yu³ shih² nien² ta⁴ yün.⁴

— 1633 —

Doctors knock at no doors; they only come when invited.

醫不叩門有請纔行
I¹ pu⁴ k'ou⁴ mên² yu³ ch'ing³ ts'ai² hsing.²

— 1634 —

A stupid doctor murders without a sword.

庸醫殺人不用刀
Yung² i¹ sha¹ jên² pu⁴ yung⁴ tao.¹

1635

You are both laying up secret merit, and taking care of yourself.

半 積 陰 功。 半 藏 身
Pan⁴ chi² yin¹ kung¹ pan⁴ ts'ang² shên¹

1636

Many children of clever sorcerers are killed by devils; and many children of clever doctors die of disease.

良 巫 之 子 多 死 於 鬼
Liang² wu¹ chih¹ tzü³ to¹ ssü³ yü² kuei³;
良 醫 之 子 多 死 於 病
liang² i¹ chih¹ tzü³ to¹ ssü³ yü² ping⁴

1637

To take no medicine is as good as a middling doctor.

不 吃 藥 當 中 醫
Pu⁴ ch'ih¹ yao⁴ tang¹ chung¹ i¹

1638

When medicine restores a man to health, the doctor truly has the ability of *Ch'i* and *Huang*.

藥 到 回 春。 先 生 真 岐 黃 手 段
Yao⁴ tao⁴ 'hui² ch'un¹ hsien¹ shêng¹ chên¹ Ch'i² 'Huang² shou³ tan⁴

NOTE.—*Ch'i Pai* (岐伯) was a minister and also Medical instructor of *Huang Ti* (黃帝), B. C. 2697. See *Yu-hsiao* (幼學), Book 4, section *Ch'i-yi* (技藝).

1639

He who with three fingers on the pulse can restore a man to health, may not be an able minister, but he is an able physician.

三 指 活 人 性 命
San¹ chih³ 'hua⁴ jên² hsing⁴ ming⁴
不 爲 良 相 便 爲 良 醫
Pu⁴ wei² liang² hsiang⁴ pien⁴ wei² liang² i¹

SECTION XIV.—ON MORALS.

CHAPTER I.

CONSCIENCE.

— 1640 —

Men who never violate their consciences, are not afraid of a knock at their door at midnight.

爲 人 不 做 虧 心 事
Wei² jên² pu⁴ tso⁴ k'uei¹ hsin¹ shih.⁴
半 夜 敲 門 心 不 驚
pan⁴ yeh⁴ ch'iao¹ mên² hsin¹ pu⁴ ching.¹

— 1641 —

A good conscience pays badly.

良 心 不 中 吃 喝 的
Liang² hsin¹ pu⁴ chung⁴ ch'ih¹ 'ho¹ ti.¹

— 1642 —

The same. *Lit.*: Talk of conscience and you will have nothing to eat.

講 良 心 沒 飯 吃
Chiang³ liang² hsin¹ mu² fan⁴ ch'ih.¹

— 1643 —

Do not violate conscience.

莫 虧 良 心
Mo⁴ k'uei¹ liang² hsin.¹

— 1644 —

Of all important things, the first is not to cheat the conscience.

再 三 須 重 事。第 一 莫 欺 心
Tsai⁴ san¹ hsti¹ chung⁴ shih,⁴ ti⁴ yi¹ mo⁴ ch'i¹ hsin.¹

— 1645 —

Don't put your conscience on your back.

莫 把 良 心 放 在 背 上
Mo⁴ pa³ liang² hsin¹ fang⁴ tsai⁴ pei¹ shang.⁴

— 1646 —

Since one cannot please others in everything, let us only seek not to shame one's own conscience.

豈能盡如人意
Ch'i³ nêng² chin⁴ ju² jên² i,⁴
但求無愧我心
tan⁴ ch'iu² wu² k'uei⁴ wo³ hsin.¹

— 1647 —

Never do what your conscience cannot endure; never desire what is improper to be done.

莫作心上過不去之事
Mo⁴ tso⁴ hsin¹ shang⁴ kuo⁴ pu⁴ ch'ü⁴ chih¹ shih⁴;
莫起事上行不去之心
mo⁴ ch'i³ shih⁴ shang⁴ hsing² pu⁴ ch'ü⁴ chih¹ hsin.¹

NOTE.—There is here, in the original, a beautiful antithetical collocation of words, which one attempts in vain to copy in the English.

— 1648 —

If you would train your disposition you must cultivate virtue; if you cheat your conscience don't assume to be an ascetic.

養性須修善。欺心莫吃齋
Yang³ hsing⁴ hsi¹ hsin¹ shan⁴; ch'i¹ hsin¹ mo⁴ ch'ih¹ chai.¹

— 1649 —

Cheat your conscience and a whole life's happiness is destroyed; let your conduct be faulty and Heaven will send you a life of poverty.

欺心折盡平生福
Ch'i¹ hsin¹ ché² chin⁴ p'ing² shêng¹ fu²;
行短天教一世貧
hsing² tuan³ t'ien¹ chiao⁴ yi¹ shih⁴ p'in.³

— 1650 —

To destroy one's good conscience by doing some evil deed. *Lit.*: To distend one's bowels by swallowing a carrying-pole.

吃了匾担橫了腸子
 Ch'ih¹ liao³ pien³ tan¹ 'hêng⁴ liao³ ch'ang² tzŭ.³

— 1651 —

To corrupt the conscience by unfair dealings. *Lit.:*
 To eat a coal and blacken the heart.

吃了煤炭黑了心
 Ch'ih¹ liao³ mei² t'an⁴ 'hei¹ liao³ hsin.¹

CHAPTER II.

GOOD WORKS.

— 1652 —

To light up a pagoda from top to base,
Is unequal to lighting up a dark place.

點塔七層。不如暗處一燈。
Tien³ t'a³ ch'i¹ tsêng² pu⁴ ju² an⁴ ch'u⁴ yì¹ têng¹.

— 1653 —

The odour of virtuous conduct will last for a hundred generations.

爲善則流芳百世。
Wei² shan⁴ tsè² liu² fang¹ pai³ shih⁴.

— 1654 —

Good deeds may fill the empire without provoking any one's dislike.

行滿天下無怨惡。
Hsing² man³ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ wu² yüan wu⁴.

— 1655 —

Do good regardless of consequences.
But do good things. Do not ask for reward.

但行好事。莫問前程。
Tan⁴ hsing² hao³ shih⁴, mo⁴ wên⁴ ch'ien² ch'eng².

— 1656 —

Good deeds may be done; bad deeds may not.

善事可作。惡事莫爲。
Shan⁴ shih⁴ k'o³ tso⁴; o⁴ shih⁴ mo⁴ wei².

— 1657 —

Do not consider any vice trivial, and so practise it; do not consider any virtue trivial, and so neglect it.

勿以惡小而爲之。
Wu⁴ i³ o⁴ hsiao³ êrh² wei² chih¹;
勿以善小而不爲。
wu⁴ i³ shan⁴ hsiao³ êrh² pu⁴ wei².

— 1658 —

Do good, and devils and gods will do you honour; do evil, and suffer the chastisement of Heaven.

爲善鬼神欽。作惡被天鑑
Wei² shan⁴ kuei³ shên² ch'in¹; tso⁴ o⁴ pei⁴ t'ien¹ chien⁴.

— 1659 —

One good deed atones for a thousand bad ones.

一善改千惡
Yi¹ shan⁴ kai³ ch'ien¹ o.⁴

— 1660 —

It is difficult to know how to give alms. *Lit.*: The good door is hard to open.

善門難開
Shan⁴ mên² nan² k'ai¹.

— 1661 —

Religious books and preachers, influence but do not injure men.

勸世文勸世人
Ch'üan⁴ shih⁴ wên² ch'üan⁴ shih⁴ jên²,
勸動人心不害人
ch'üan⁴ tung⁴ jên² hsin¹ pu⁴ 'hai⁴ jên².

— 1662 —

Cultivating right reason, though unseen of men, if persevered in, will be seen of Heaven.

修道雖無人見
Hsin¹ tao⁴ sui¹ wu² jên² chien⁴,
存心自有天知
ts'un² hsin¹ tzü⁴ yu³ t'ien¹ chih¹.

— 1663 —

Exhort men not to commit the smallest sin; but the smallest virtue is advantageous to men.

一毫之惡勸人莫作
Yi¹ 'hao² chih¹. o⁴ ch'üan⁴ jên² mo⁴ tso⁴:
一毫之善與人方便
yi¹. 'hao² chih¹ shan⁴ yu³ jên² fang¹ pien⁴.

1664

Each has his own good deeds to do; the gentleman his, the lady hers.

公 修 公 德。 婆 修 婆 德。
Kung¹ hsiu¹ kung¹ tê²; p'o² hsiu¹ p'o² tê²,
各 修 各 德
ko⁴ hsiu¹ ko⁴ tê².

1665

To say you have done good is not goodness; but to do good is.

說 好 不 爲 好。 做 好 方 爲 好
Shuo¹ hao³ pu⁴ wei² hao³; tso⁴ hao³ fang¹ wei² hao³.

1666

To do good secretly is optional. *Lit.*: Bowing in the dark is according to every man's own fancy.

黑 處 作 揖。 各 人 憑 心
'Hei¹ ch'u⁴ tso⁴ i,¹ ko⁴ jên² p'ing² hsin¹.

1667

Never go out on the hills to net birds; nor down to the waters to poison fishes and shrimps.

勿 登 山 而 網 禽 鳥
Wu⁴ têng¹ shan¹ êrh² wang³ ch'in² niao³;
勿 臨 水 而 毒 魚 鰕
wu⁴ lin² shui³ êrh² tu² yü² hsia¹.

NOTE.—This does not mean that you may *shoot* the birds, as Sir Jno. F. Davis suggests, but that their lives should be spared.

1668

Never kill the draught ox; nor throw away written paper.

勿 宰 耕 牛。 勿 棄 字 紙。
Wu⁴ tsai⁴ kêng¹ niu²; wu⁴ ch'i⁴ tzü⁴ chih³.

1669

In the family leave the family; in the world separate from the world.

在 家 出 家。 在 世 出 世
Tsai⁴ chia¹ ch'u¹ chia¹; tsai⁴ shih⁴ ch'u¹ shih⁴.

NOTE.—“I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.” Jno. 17: 15.

“We need not bid, for cloister'd cell,
Our neighbour and our work farewell;
Nor strive to wind ourselves too high
For sinful man beneath the sky.”

1670

He does nothing that cannot be told to others.

無事不可對人言
Wu² sbih⁴ pn⁴ k'o³ tui⁴ jèn² yen.²

NOTE.—*Ssü-ma Wên Kung* (司馬溫公) said of himself that, “All his life long he had done nothing that he could not tell to others.”

1671

It is easier to run down a hill than up one.

下坡容易。上坡難
Hsia⁴ p'o¹ yung² i,⁴ shang³ p'o¹ nan.²

1672

Surely those who have in ten lives cultivated virtue, may cross in the same boat; as those who have in a hundred, may sleep in the same bed.

十世修來同船渡
Shih² sbih⁴ hsiu¹ lai² t'ung² ch'uan² tu⁴;
百世修來共枕眠
pai³ sbih⁴ hsiu¹ lai² kung⁴ chên³ mien.²

1673

Men will no more be virtuous without exhortation, than a bell will sound without being struck.

人不勸不善。鐘不打不鳴
Jên² pu⁴ ch'üan⁴ pu⁴ shan⁴; chung¹ pu⁴ ta³ pu⁴ ming.²

1674

It is not hard to talk about good works, but to do them.

言善非難。行善爲難
Yen² shan⁴ fei¹ nan,² hsing² shan⁴ wei² nan.²

1675

To save one man's life is better than to build a seven-storied pagoda.

救人一命。勝造七級浮屠
Chiu⁴ jên² yi¹ ming,⁴ shêng⁴ tsao⁴ ch'i¹ chi² fou² t'u.²

 1676

His conduct is naturally exalted who will not condescend to beg.

人 到 無 求 品 自 高
 Jên² tao⁴ wu² ch'iu² p'in³ tzū⁴ kao.¹

 1677

To neglect to save life is one of the greatest of crimes.

見 死 不 救。一 行 大 罪
 Chien⁴ ssū³ pu⁴ chiu,⁴ yi¹ hang² ta⁴ tsui.⁴

CHAPTER III.

REPROOF AND GOOD COUNSEL.

1678

If to be right is your desire,
Then of three aged men enquire.

要得好。問三老
Yao⁴ tē² 'hao,³ wēn⁴ san¹ lao.³

1679

If to have all things right be your desire,
Then of three aged men you must enquire.

凡事要好。須問三老
Fan² shih⁴ yao⁴ 'hao,³ hsi¹ wēn⁴ san¹ lao.³

1680

Although you may never have tasted of bacon,
You have seen pigs pass and should not be mistaken.

沒有吃肉。也看見豬走
Mu² yu³ ch'ih¹ jou,⁴ yeh³ k'an⁴ chien⁴ chu¹ tsou.⁴

NOTE.—Used by a superior to an inferior, this conveys rebuke. Used by one of one's-self, or by one equal to another, it means that, though lacking actual experience, we have a knowledge of whatever is referred to.

1681

To reprove one for another's warning. *Lit.*: To beat the grass to frighten the snake.

打草驚蛇
Ta³ ts'ao³ ching¹ shē.²

1682

The same. *Lit.*: To kill the fowl to frighten the monkey.

殺雞嚇猴
Sha¹ chi¹ hsia⁴ 'hou.²

1683

The same. *Lit.*: He points at *Chang Liang* and curses 'Han Hsin; who does he mean?

指 張 良 罵 韓 信。 爲 着 誰 來
Chih³ Chang¹ Liang² ma⁴ 'Han² Hsin,⁴ wei⁴ cho² shui³ lai²?

NOTE.—*Chang Liang* and *'Han Hsin*, two ministers of *Liu Pang* (劉邦) or *Kao Ti* (高帝); first of the *'Han* emperors, whose reign dates from 206 B. C.

———— 1684 ————

The same. *Lit.*: He points at the great melon and curses the gourd.

指 冬 瓜 罵 葫 蘆
'Chih³ tung¹ kua¹ ma⁴ hu² lu.²

———— 1685 ————

The same. *Lit.*: He points at the mulberry and curses the ash.

指 桑 罵 槐
Chih³ sang¹ ma⁴ 'huai.²

———— 1686 ————

A wise man will not reprove a fool,

賢 不 責 愚
Hsien² pu⁴ tsê² yü.²

———— 1687 ————

Faults must be corrected by competent persons. *Lit.*: Crooked trees must come under the straightening hand of the carpenter.

彎 木 頭 自 必 有 直 木 匠
Wan¹ mu⁴ t'ou² tzū⁴ pi⁴ yu³ chih² mu⁴ chiang.⁴

———— 1688 ————

You have done it badly *Lit.*: Your work is like a rat trap.

做 得 像 打 老 鼠 的 架 子
Tso⁴ tê² hsiang⁴ ta³ lao³ shu³ ti¹ chia⁴ tzū.³

———— 1689 ————

Buy a fan to cover your face.

買 把 扇 子 遮 臉
Mai³ pa³ shan⁴ tzū³ ché¹ lien.³

NOTE.—Said to another this conveys reproof; said of one's-self, apology.

1690

Your rump is hung with keys, but what gate do you keep?

屁股掛鑰匙。鎖管那一門
P'í⁴ ku³ kua⁴ yao⁴ ch'ih,² so³ kuan³ na³ yi¹ mèn?²

NOTE.—This is used to convey reproof of neglect of duty.

1691

Princes have censors,—fathers, sons that reprove them.

君有臣諫。父有子諫
Chün¹ yu³ ch'ên² chien,⁴ fu⁴ yu³ tzü³ chien.⁴

1692

It takes little time to reprove a man; but it takes a long time to forget reproof.

說話時短。記話時長
Shuo¹ 'hua⁴ shih² tuan³; chi⁴ 'hua⁴ shih² ch'ang.²

1693

Flattery is sickness; reproof is medicine.

甘言疾也。苦言藥也
Kan¹ yen² chi² yeh³; k'u³ yen² yao⁴ yeh.³

1694

A bitter mouth is good physic.

苦口是良藥
K'u³ k'ou³ shih⁴ liang²-yao.⁴

1695

Reprove yourself as though seeking for something to blame; reprove your friends as though seeking to excuse their faults.

責己者於無過中求有過
Tsé² chi³ ché² yü² wu² kuo⁴ chung¹ ch'iu² yu³ kuo.⁴
責友者於有過中求無過
Tsé² yu³ ché² yü² yu³ kuo⁴ chung¹ ch'iu² wu² kuo.⁴

1696

Stop your mouth, and talk not of the faults and shortcomings of others: and why should you speak of yours to them?

守口莫談人過短
 Shou³ k'ou³ mo⁴ t'an² jên² kuo⁴ tuan³;
 自短何曾說與人
 tzū⁴ tuan³ 'ho² ts'eng² shuo¹ yü³ jên².

1697

Before you blame others, submit yourself to blame.

莫說他人。先輸了自己
 Mo⁴ shuo¹ t'a¹ jên² hsien¹ shu¹ liao³ tzū⁴ chi³.

1698

Be vexed with yourself that you have neither branch nor leaf; do not accuse the sun of partiality.

自恨無枝葉。莫怨太陽偏
 Tzū⁴ 'hên⁴ wu² chih¹ yeh⁴; mo⁴ yüan⁴ t'ai⁴ yang² p'ien¹.

1699

Blame yourself as you would blame others; excuse others as you would yourself.

責人之心責己
 Tsé² jên² chih¹ hsin¹ tsé² chi³;
 恕己之心恕人
 yüan⁴ chi³ chih¹ hsin¹ yüan⁴ jên².

1700

Why do not those who are continually judging of other men's faults, turn about and judge themselves?

平生只會量人短
 P'ing² shêng¹ chih³ 'hui⁴ liang² jên² tuan³;
 何不回頭把自量
 'ho² pu⁴ 'hui² t'ou² pa³ tzū⁴ liang².

NOTE.—“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Matt. 7 : 3.

1701

First put yourself right, then others.

先正自己。後正他人
 Hsien¹ chêng⁴ tzū⁴ chi³ 'hou⁴ chêng⁴ t'a¹ jên².

1702

He who flatters me is my enemy,—who reproves me is my teacher.

道 吾 好 者 是 吾 賊
Tao⁴ wu² hao³ ché² shih⁴ wu² tsei²;

道 吾 惡 者 是 吾 師
Tao⁴ wu² o⁴ ché² shih⁴ wu² shih.¹

— 1703 —

To butt against the nose in washing the face.

洗 臉 碍 住 鼻 子
Hsi³ lien³ ai⁴ chu⁴ pi² tzū.³

NOTE.—The meaning here is of encountering unpleasantness or danger in doing what one ought: for instance, of encountering the dislike of any person of whose conduct we have felt bound to make complaint.

— 1704 —

He won't listen to my advice. *Lit.*: He won't obey my helm.

不 應 我 的 舵
Pu⁴ ying⁴ wo³ ti¹ to.⁴

CHAPTER IV.

VICES.—(1) FLATTERY.

———— 1705 ————

Only inferiors flatter superiors. *Lit.*: As to flattery, it is only given by such as captains of thousands, of hundreds, or of fifties.

論把結不過是千百把總
Lün² pa¹ chieh² pu⁴ kuo⁴ shih⁴ ch'ien¹ pai³ pa³ tsung.³

———— 1706 ————

On the departure of a high official, to fire a salute of *four* guns, is flattery that will not go.

大老爺出門放四炮
Ta⁴ lao³ yeh² ch'u¹ mên² fang⁴ ssü⁴ p'ao,⁴
奉承不到家
fêng⁴ chêng² pu⁴ tao⁴ chia.¹

———— 1707 ————

Only to flatter the rich. *Lit.*: Only to add fuel to a hot stove.

只在熱竈裡着把火
Chih³ tsai⁴ jê⁴ tsao⁴ li³ cho² pa³ 'huo.³

———— 1708 ————

To try importunately to flatter. *Lit.*: His flattery fails, so he adds more salt and pours on more vinegar.

呵哄不穀添鹽酌醋
O¹ 'hung³ pu⁴ kou⁴ t'ien¹ yen² cho² ts'u.⁴

(2) HYPOCRISY AND DECEIT.

———— 1709 ————

He something out of nothing makes ;
And painteth feet upon his snakes.

無中生有。畫蛇添足
Wu² chung¹ shêng¹ yu³ ; 'hua⁴ shé² t'ien¹ tsu.²

1710

If you deceive the aged, do not deceive the young ;
the deceitful heart is not bright and clear.

欺老莫欺幼。欺人心不明
Ch'i¹ lao³ mo⁴ ch'i¹ yu⁴: ch'i¹ jên² hsin¹ pu⁴ ming²

1711

To lacerate one's skull in order to deceive.

搯破腦殼騙人
T'ao¹ p'o⁴ nao³ ch'io⁴ p'ien⁴ jên²

NOTE.—This is sometimes done by knavish beggars in order to extort money.

1712

To point a stag out as a horse.

指鹿爲馬
Chih³ lu⁴ wei² ma.³

NOTE.—This was done by 'Chao Kao (趙高), a powerful but traitorous minister of the Ch'in (秦) dynasty, to his master the emperor Erh shih (二世). Now the saying simply means to deceive.

1713

Sun Wu-k'ung can't turn his summersets in Bud-
dha's palm.

孫悟空跟兜
Sun¹ Wu⁴ K'ung¹ kên¹ tou,¹
打不過佛爺巴掌心
ta³ pu⁴ kuo⁴ Fu² Yeh² pa¹ chang³ hsin.¹

NOTE.—Sun Wu-k'ung, a deified or canonized monkey, whose summersets are said to extend over 108,000 li. His exploits are related in the Hsi-yu-chi (西遊記). This proverb is said to mean—you cannot delude me.

1714

It will not do to say yes before a man's face, and no
behind his back.

不可面是背非
Pu⁴ k'o³ mien⁴ shih⁴ pei⁴ fei.¹

1715

It will not do to say one thing and mean another.

不可口是心非
Pu⁴ k'o³ k'ou³ shih⁴ hsin¹ fei.¹

— 1716 —

Never burn false incense before a true god.

真菩薩面前莫燒假香
Chên¹ p'u² sa¹ mien⁴ ch'ien² mo⁴ shao¹ chia³ hsiang¹

— 1717 —

To deceive the good and fear the bad.

欺善怕惡
Ch'i¹ shan⁴ p'a⁴ o.⁴

— 1718 —

Delude superiors; it is not worth while to delude inferiors.

瞞上不瞞下
Man² shang⁴ pu⁴ man² hsia.⁴

— 1719 —

It is not beauty that beguiles men; men beguile themselves.

色不迷人自迷
Sé⁴ pu⁴ mi² jên² jên² tzü⁴ mi.²

(3) INGRATITUDE.

— 1720 —

He freezes my warm blood into an icy cold.

一腔熱血化爲冰炭
Yi¹ ch'iang¹ jé⁴ hsieh⁴ 'hua⁴ wei² ping¹ t'an.⁴

NOTE.—This proverb refers to unappreciated service or kindness.

— 1721 —

If he had not had a fisherman to lead him on, how could he ever have seen the waves?

不因漁父引。怎得見波濤
Pu⁴ yin¹ yü² fu⁴ yin,³ tsên³ té² chien⁴ po¹ t'ao.²

NOTE.—These are said to be the words of *Tung Kao Kung* (東臯公), who thus complains of the ingratitude of *Wu Tzū-hü* (伍子胥), a high officer in the State of *Ts'ou* (楚), to whom he had rendered signal service, but by whom his service had been forgotten.

1722

To feed and clothe one's-self without ever recognising the trouble our food has cost the ox,—our clothes the weaver.

吃 飯 不 知 牛 辛 苦
Ch'ih¹ fan⁴ pu⁴ chih¹ niu² hsin¹ k'ü³;
穿 衣 不 知 紡 綿 人
ch'üan¹ i¹ pu⁴ chih¹ fang³ mien² jên.²

1723

To return one's friendship with enmity.
不 以 我 爲 德。反 以 我 爲 仇
Pu⁴ i³ wo³ wei² tē² fan³ i³ wo³ wei² ch'ou.²

(4) MEANNESS.

1724

He wants his donkey to travel away,
But is not willing to give him his hay.

又 要 驢 子 走 得 好
Yu⁴ yao⁴ lü² tzü³ tsou⁴ tē² 'hao,³
又 要 驢 子 不 吃 草
yu⁴ yao⁴ lü² tzü³ pu⁴ ch'ih¹ ts'ao.³

1725

You cannot endure the great melon, and so you would grind down the small long one.

無 奈 冬 瓜。何 捉 得 瓠 子 磨
Wu² nai⁴ tung¹ kua,¹ 'ho² cho¹ tē² 'hu⁴ tzü³ mo.²

1726

To promise much and give little.

說 大 話 用 小 錢
Shuo¹ ta⁴ 'hua⁴ yung⁴ hsiao³ ch'ien.²

1727

To show off by making presents with another's property. *Lit.*: To seize another's cap and throw it on the stage.

抓別人帽子去打彩
 Chua¹ pieh² jên² mao⁴ tzū³ ch'ü⁴ ta³ ts'ai.³

———— 1728 ————

To be generous with other people's things, and grasping with what is one's own.

用別人的大方用自己的手緊
 Yung⁴ pieh² jên² ti¹ ta⁴ fang¹; yung⁴ tzū⁴ chi³ ti¹ shou³ chin.³

———— 1729 ————

To toady. *Lit.*: To place one's warm cheek along side another's cold one.

熱臉挨冷臉
 Jê⁴ lien³ ai² lêng³ lien.³

———— 1730 ————

Unable either to use or part with. *Lit.*: The monkey seizes a piece of ginger,—fears to eat it, because it is bitter, throw it away,—and yet cannot part with it.

猴子檢到一塊薑
 'Hou² tzū³ chien³ tao³ yi¹ k'uai⁴ chiang¹;
 吃了怕辣丟了又捨不得
 ch'ih¹ liao³ p'a⁴ la⁴ tiu¹ liao³ yu⁴ shé³ pu⁴ tē.²

———— 1731 ————

To slight. *Lit.*: To throw into a tub of cold water.

丟在冷水盆裡去了
 Tiu¹ tsai⁴ lêng³ shui³ p'ên² li³ ch'ü⁴ liao.³

(5) QUARRELLING AND VIOLENCE.

———— 1732 ————

Cat's paw. *Lit.*: Borrowing Ch'in soldiers with Ts'ou's to fight,

He scatters his bitter resentment outright.

借秦伐楚。悶氣出透
 Chieh⁴ Ch'in² fa¹ Ts'ou,³ mên⁴ ch'ü⁴ ch'ü¹ t'ou.⁴

1733

With monkeyish excitement, like a leopard leaping,
He demands with blows to have all that's in our
keeping.

猴急豹跳。強打惡耍
'Hou² chi² pao⁴ t'iao,⁴ ch'iang² ta³ o⁴ yao.⁴

1734

"Man alive's a trifle,—like a blade of grass;
Kill him though, and then see what will come to pass."

在生是一根草
Tsai⁴ shêng¹ shih⁴ yi¹ kên¹ ts'ao³;
死了是一個寶
ssü³ liao³ shih⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ pao.³

1735

When against any your anger glows,
Be sure you never do come to blows.

與人發怒。切莫爭鬪
Yü³ jên² fa¹ nu,⁴ ch'ieh⁴ mo⁴ chêng¹ tou.⁴

1736

One thread of the feeling of kindness retain,
And more pleasant will be your meeting again.

人情留一線。久後好相見
Jên² ch'ing² liu² yi¹ hsien,⁴ chiu³ 'hou⁴ 'hao³ hsiang¹ chien.⁴

1737

To excite a quarrel. *Lit.*: To set on a dog to worry a pig.

唆狗咬豬
So¹ kou³ yao³ chu.¹

1738

They are not good fists which fight, nor good words
which curse.

相打無好拳。相罵無好言
Hsiang¹ ta³ wu² 'hao³ ch'üan,¹ hsiang¹ ma⁴ wu² 'hao³ yen.²

1739

A hopeless quarrel. *Lit.*: A cock fighting a rock.

雞子與石子鬪
Chi¹ tzü³ yü³ shih² tzü³ tou.⁴

— 1740 —

When the heron and oyster quarrelled, the fisherman got the benefit.

鷺 蚌 相 持 漁 人 得 利
Yü² pang⁴ hsiang¹ ch'ih² yü² jên² tè² li⁴

— 1741 —

When a road is uneven, those who live on each side level it.

路 道 不 平 旁 人 鐘 修
Lu⁴ tao⁴ pu⁴ p'ing² p'ang² jên² ch'an³ hsiu¹

NOTE.—This is said when bystanders take up an ill-used man's quarrel, and punish for him his oppressor.

— 1742 —

Never quarrel with a woman.

男 不 可 與 女 鬪
Nan² pu⁴ k'o³ yü³ nü² tou⁴

— 1743 —

Never fight a knife with an axe.

刀 不 可 以 斧 鬪
Tao¹ pu⁴ k'o³ i³ fu³ tou⁴

— 1744 —

Intimate with few affairs, you will have but few troubles; acquainted with many men, you will have many quarrels.

知 事 少 事 煩 惱 少
Chih¹ shih⁴ shao³ shih² fan² nao³ shao³:
識 人 多 處 是 非 多
shih⁴ jên² to¹ ch'u⁴ shih⁴ fei¹ to¹

— 1745 —

A quarrelsome family neighbours despise; quarrelsome neighbours slander each other.

家 中 不 和 鄰 里 欺
Chia¹ chung¹ pu⁴ ho² lin² li³ ch'i¹;
鄰 里 不 和 說 是 非
lin² li³ pu⁴ ho² shuo¹ shih⁴ fei¹

1746

Convert great quarrels into small ones, and small ones into nothing.

大事化小。小事化無
Ta⁴ shih⁴ 'hua⁴ hsiao³, hsiao³ shih⁴ 'hua⁴ wu.²

1747

A fiddling business!

扯胡琴的事
Ch'e³ 'hu⁴ ch'in² ti¹ shih.⁴

NOTE.—I don't wonder that this illustration is used to express a vexatious quarrel; for fiddling in China is worse than organ-grinding at home.

1748

One may reconcile enmities, but not produce them.

冤仇可解不可結
Yüan¹ ch'ou² k'o³ chieh,³ pu⁴ k'o³ chieh.²

1749

Whoever curses a *Kiangsi* man, insults the public generally.

罵一聲江西老表。大家有分
Ma⁴ yi¹ shêng¹ Chiang¹ Hsi¹ lao³ piao³ ta⁴ chia¹ yu³ fên.¹

NOTE.—This is essentially a *Hupei* proverb. About the beginning of the present dynasty, two rebels, *Li Chih-ch'êng* (李至誠) and *Chang Hsien-chung* (張先忠), devastated this province, and left so few of the inhabitants alive that it had to be repopulated with *Kiangsi* men. So that for a *Hupei* man to curse a *Kiangsi* man, is to curse an old relation, and to offend the public.

1750

To anchor in order to quarrel.

灣倒船嗜罵
Wan¹ tao³ ch'uan² shê² ma.⁴

1751

Each half of the riven bamboo smokes.

劈破竹總夾烟
P'i¹ p'o⁴ chu² tsung³ chia¹ yen.¹

NOTE.—Said of men who, when a quarrel is over, retain some remains of caloric.

1752

Draw your bow but do not discharge the arrow; for it is not so effective to strike as to frighten a man.

開弓莫放箭

K'ai¹ kung¹ mo⁴ fang⁴ chien⁴,

打人不 如嚇人強

ta³ jên² pu⁴ ju² hsia⁴ jên² ch'iang.²

1753

Quarrels cannot escape the verdict of public opinion.

是非難逃衆口

Shih⁴ fei¹ nan² t'ao² chung² k'ou.³

1754

Neither beat a man on a wound, nor curse him about a disgrace.

打莫打 人痛處

Ta³ mo⁴ ta³ jên² t'ung⁴ ch'u⁴;

罵莫罵 人羞處

ma⁴ mo⁴ ma⁴ jên² hsiu¹ ch'u.⁴

1755

The old man claims to be right, and the old woman to be more so.

公說公有理。婆說理更長

Kung¹ shuo¹ kung¹ yu³ li,³ p'o² shuo¹ li³ keng¹ ch'ang.²

1756

Lips wound the heart, as when a mosquito provokes a rap from a fan.

蚊蟲遭扇打。嘴傷人心

Wên² ch'ung² tsao¹ shan⁴ ta,³ tsui³ shang¹ jên² hsin.¹

1757

Indiscriminate cursing. *Lit.*: One bamboo pole beats a whole boat-load of people.

一竹篙子打一船人

Yi¹ chu² 'hao¹ tzū³ ta³ yi¹ ch'uan² jên.²

1758

If you are offended with a person, you must tell him what for.

怪人須要俾人知

Kuai⁴ jên² hsiu¹ yao⁴ pei³ jên² chih.¹

1759

Two scholars fighting for a pencil.

兩個學生打架爲筆

Liang³ ko⁴ hsiao² shêng¹ ta³ chia⁴ wei¹ pi³.

NOTE.—This is another and very well known specimen of the innuendo. The two last words, identical in sound with 未必 'it is impossible,' are used to convey that meaning; the rest of the proverb need not be spoken.

1760

When men come face to face, their differences vanish.

事怕當面

Shih⁴ p'a⁴ tang¹ mien.⁴

(6) SELFISHNESS.

1761

Each for himself doth his hunger satisfy;
Each for himself is obliged to live and die.

各人吃飯各人飽

Ko⁴ jên² ch'ih¹ fan⁴ ko⁴ jên² pao³:

各人生死各人了

Ko⁴ jên² shêng¹ ssü³ ko⁴ jên² liao.³

1762

Coveting another's measure of rice, you lose full six months' keep;

Whilst wrangling over a quarter of pig, you lose a flock of sheep.

貪他一斗米失却半年糧

T'an¹ t'a¹ yi¹ tou³ mî³ shih¹ ch'üeh⁴ pan⁴ nien² liang²;

爭他一脚豚反失一羣羊

Chêng¹ t'a¹ yi¹ chiao³ t'un² fan³ shih¹ yi¹ ch'un² yang.²

1763

Fields are vain and lands are vain,

Men so briefly them retain.

Gold is vain, silver is vain,

Dead, you cannot them regain.

Wives are vain, and children vain,

In Hades they ne'er meet again.

田也空地也空
 T'ien² yeh³ k'ung¹ ti¹ yeh³ k'ung¹
 換了多少主人翁
 'Huan⁴ liao³ to¹ shao³ chu³ jên² wêng¹
 金也空銀也空
 Chin¹ yeh³ k'ung¹ yin² yeh³ k'ung¹
 死後何曾在手中
 Ssü³ 'hou¹ 'ho² ts'êng² tsai⁴ shou³ chung¹
 妻也空子也空
 Chi¹ yeh³ k'ung¹ tzü³ yeh³ k'ung¹
 黃泉路上不相逢
 'Huang² ch'ien² lu⁴ shang⁴ pu⁴ hsiang¹ fêng²

1764

Its every man for himself,
 In the common struggle for pelf.
 各是各。你願你。我願我
 Ko⁴ shih⁴ ko,⁴ ni³ ku⁴ ni,³ wo³ ku⁴ wo.³

1765

Go you along your great highway, and I'll get across
 my one-pole bridge.

你走你的陽關大路
 Ni³ tsou⁴ ni³ ti¹ yang² kuan¹ ta⁴ lu,⁴
 我過我的獨木橋
 wo³ kuo⁴ wo³ ti¹ tu² mu⁴ ch'iao.²

1766

Other men's glaring eyes do not affect your eyes; other
 men's stupidity does not affect your family.

他人眼眼不涉你目
 T'a¹ jên² hsien⁴ hsien⁴ pu⁴ shê⁴ ni³ mu⁴:
 他事碌碌不及你屋
 t'a¹ shih⁴ lu⁴ lu⁴ pu⁴ shê⁴ ni³ wu.¹

1767

"Do not neglect your own, in order to weed another's
 field."

勿舍己而芸人之田
 Wu⁴ shê⁴ chi³ êrh² yün² jên² chih¹ t'ien.²

1768

Every fisherman with the great net has his own spot.

搬 罾 的 守 埠 頭

Pan¹ chêng¹ ti¹ shou³ fou⁴ t'ou.²

1769

To act selfishly. *Lit.*: Both feet and hands bend towards the bosom.

脚 彎 手 彎 往 懷 裡 彎

Chiao³ wan¹ shou³ wan¹ wang³ 'huai² li³ wan.¹

1770

The stag-hunter will not look at the hare.

逐 鹿 者 不 顧 兔

Chu² lu⁴ ché² pu⁴ ku⁴ t'u.⁴

1771

To grasp at gain regardless of suffering inflicted on others. *Lit.*: To gouge out another's eye fearless of blinding him.

剮 眼 睛 不 怕 瞎

Kua³ yen³ ching¹ pu⁴ p'a⁴ hsia.²

1772

When there is important business to be transacted, he spares himself the trouble; but let him hear of a little profit, and he will risk his life to get it.

幹 大 事 惜 身 而 避

Kan² ta⁴ shih⁴ hsi² shên¹ êrh² pi⁴;

聞 小 利 亡 命 而 來

wên² hsiao³ li⁴ wang² ming⁴ êrh² lai.²

1773

He who covets small gain, well hardly be able to accomplish great transactions.

貪 圖 小 利。大 事 難 成

T'an¹ t'u² hsiao³ li⁴ ta⁴ shih⁴ nan² ch'êng.²

1774

He only throws that die which brings in the wealth.

打 進 財 卦

Ta³ chin⁴ ts'ai² kua.⁴

1775

Since men live not a hundred years, it is vain to scheme for a thousand.

人無百歲壽。枉作千年計
Jên² wu² pai³ sui⁴ shou,⁴ wang³ tso⁴ ch'ien¹ nien² chi.⁴

1776

Naked we come, and naked we go.

赤身而來。赤身而去
Ch'ih⁴ shên¹ êrh² lai,² ch'ih⁴ shên¹ êrh² ch'ü.⁴

NOTE.—This sentiment, exactly like that expressed by Job (1 : 21.), is intended to act as a check on covetousness.

1777

Man goes empty-handed when his work on earth is done.

世界做完空手去
Shih⁴ chieh⁴ tso⁴ wan² k'ung¹ shou³ ch'ü.⁴

1778

He who fills his boxes and trunks with clothes, only lays them up for others; for how can he live to wear each one of them out?

盈箱滿籠替人藏
Ying² hsiang¹ man³ lung² t'ü⁴ jên² ts'ang²;
何曾件件穿到老
'ho² ts'êng² chien⁴ chien⁴ ch'uan¹ tao⁴ lao.³

1779

Of all the noble houses of the past, one half in ruins lie, overgrown with grass.

從來多少好樓臺
Ts'ung² lai² to¹ shao³ 'hao³ lou² t'ai,²
半成瓦礫生青草
pan⁴ ch'êng² wa¹ li¹ shêng¹ ch'ing¹ ts'ao.³

1780

There is more money on earth than you can gain; and more offices in the palace than you can fill.

世上錢多賺不盡
Shih⁴ shang⁴ ch'ien² to¹ chuan¹ pu⁴ chin⁴;
朝裡官多做不了
ch'ao² li³ kuan¹ to¹ tso⁴ pu⁴ liao.³

— 1781 —

There is no one to sweep a common hall.

公 衆 堂 屋 無 人 掃
Kung¹ chung⁴ t'ang² wu¹ wu² jên² sao.³

— 1782 —

First yourself, afterwards others.

先 有 自 己。後 有 他 人
Hsien¹ yu³ tzū⁴ chi,³ 'hou⁴ yu³ t'a¹ jên.²

— 1783 —

Don't boast of being first, for others indeed are before you.

莫 道 君 行 早。更 有 早 行 人
Mo⁴ tao⁴ chün¹ hsing² tsao,³ kêng¹ yu³ tsao³ hsing² jên.²

(7) SLANDER.

— 1784 —

Slander rises from nothing but a great deal of chatter;
As offence comes from meddling with another man's
matter.

是 非 只 爲 多 開 口
Shih⁴ fei¹ chih³ wei⁴ to¹ k'ai¹ k'ou³;
煩 惱 皆 因 強 出 頭
Fan² nao³ chieh¹ yin¹ ch'iang² ch'u¹ t'ou.²

— 1785 —

His winds and waves may rise, I shall still sit secure
in my fishing terrace.

任 他 風 浪 起。穩 坐 釣 魚 臺
Jên⁴ t'a¹ fêng¹ lang⁴ ch'i,³ wên³ tso⁴ tiao⁴ yü² t'ai.²

NOTE.—Said by one conscious of innocence amidst slander.

— 1786 —

Slander slits pantaloons.

挑 是 剝 非 撕 褲 子
T'iao¹ shih⁴ po¹ fei¹ ssü¹ k'u⁴ tzü.³

———— 1787 ————

How can be I guilty of crime, since I never stirred out of my house?

坐在屋裡犯夜
Tso⁴ tsai⁴ wu¹ li³ fan⁴ yeh.⁴

NOTE.—Said in contradiction of slander.

———— 1788 ————

Slander spreads like fire. *Lit.*: Light a fire in seven places, and eight will burn to smoke.

七處放火八處燒烟
Ch'i¹ ch'u⁴ fang⁴ 'huo³ pa¹ ch'u⁴ shao¹ yen.¹

———— 1789 ————

Baseless slander. *Lit.*: To have waves three feet high without wind, and thunder in a level plain.

無風三尺浪。平地一聲雷
Wu² feng¹ san¹ ch'ih³ lang,⁴ p'ing² ti² yi¹ shêng¹ lei.²

———— 1790 ————

Slander may injure any cause.

事怕一句言
Shih⁴ p'a⁴ yi¹ chü⁴ yen.²

———— 1791 ————

What man, behind his back, is not spoken against?
And who, before others, does not speak against men?

誰人背後無人說
Shui³ jên² pei⁴ 'hou⁴ wu² jên² shuo¹?
那個人前不說人
na³ ko⁴ jên² ch'ien² pu⁴ shuo¹ jên²?

———— 1792 ————

Those who slander, are slanderers.

來說是非者。便是是非人
Lai² shuo¹ shih⁴ fei¹ chê,² pien⁴ shih⁴ shih⁴ fei¹ jên.²

———— 1793 ————

Slander is of daily occurrence, but if nobody would listen to it, it would soon cease.

是非終日有。不聽自然無
Shih⁴ fei¹ chung¹ jih⁴ yu,³ pu⁴ t'ing¹ tzü⁴ jan² wu.²

———— 1794 ————

Don't wait for slander to enter your ears, lest it turn former love into hatred.

莫 待 是 非 來 入 耳
 Mo⁴ tai⁴ shih⁴ fei¹ lai² ju⁴ êrh,³
 從 前 恩 愛 反 爲 仇
 ts'ung² ch'ien² ên¹ ai¹ fau³ wei² ch'ou.²

———— 1795 ————

One may leap into the Yellow River, and yet not be washed clean.

跳 得 黃 河 洗 不 清
 T'iao⁴ tê³ 'Huang² 'ho² hsi³ pu⁴ ch'ing.¹

NOTE.—The meaning is that one cannot clear one's-self of slander.

———— 1796 ————

Idle rumours are rife amongst the men of *Ts'ou*.

楚 人 多 謠
 Ts'ou³ jên² to¹ yao.²

NOTE.—This saying is not so complimentary to the *Hupei* and *Hunan* men as another, written over the entry to the *Wu-chang* examination Hall; namely 維楚有材 'only the men of *Ts'ou* possess talent.'

———— 1797 ————

What is said to a man's face is not slander.

當 面 說 話 不 成 是 非
 Tang¹ mien⁴ shuo¹ 'hua⁴ pu⁴ ch'êng² shih⁴ fei.¹

———— 1798 ————

Slander may spring up without a cause.

平 白 地 造 謠 言
 P'ing² pai² ti¹ tsao⁴ yao² yen.²

———— 1799 ————

Idle slanders do not affect wise men.

謠 言 不 動 智 者
 Yao² yen² pu⁴ tung⁴ chih⁴ chê.²

———— 1800 ————

To be fond of talking of female scandals, wounds Heaven and injures Reason in the first degree.

第一傷天害理
 Ti¹ yi¹ shang¹ t'ien¹ 'hai⁴ li,³
 好講閩門是非
 'hao⁴ chiang³ kuei¹ mên² shih⁴ fei.¹

— 1801 —

The tawny cur barks behind one's back.

黃犬背後吠
 'Huang² ch'üan³ pei⁴ 'hou⁴ fei.⁴

— 1802 —

When the ear will not listen, the heart escapes sorrow.

耳不聽肚不煩
 Erh³ pu⁴ t'ing¹ tu³ pu⁴ fan.²

— 1803 —

Unheeded slander. *Lit.*: When the root is deep, winds rage unheeded; can slanting moonbeams trouble an upright tree?

根深不怕風搖動
 Kên¹ shên¹ pu⁴ p'a³ fêng¹ yao² tung⁴:
 樹正何愁月影斜
 shu⁴ chêng⁴ 'ho² ch'ou² yüeh⁴ ying³ hsieh²?

— 1804 —

To throw the blame of one's faults on others. *Lit.*: To drag *Chang* and pull *Li*.

扯張拉李
 Ch'e³ Chang¹ la¹ Li.⁴

— 1805 —

Don't blame others for your own faults.

自己有錯休怪別人
 Tzū⁴ chi³ yu³ ts'o⁴ hsiu¹ kuai⁴ pieh² jên.²

(8) STEALING.

—— 1806 ——

To break through brass and iron walls,
Only for more exertion calls.

銅 牆 鐵 壁。只 要 費 點 力
T'ung² ch'iang² t'ieh³ pi,³ chih³ yao⁴ fei⁴ tien³ li.⁴

—— 1807 ——

Some duck-egg shells have been scattered by the wind;
You've lost a little property, but never mind.

風 吹 鴨 蛋 殼。財 去 人 安 樂
Fêng¹ ch'ui¹ ya¹ tan⁴ k'o¹; ts'ai² ch'ü⁴ jên² an¹ lo.⁴

—— 1808 ——

With a thief arrest his stolen store;
With a whore arrest her paramour.

拏 賊 要 拏 賊。拏 姦 要 拏 雙
Na² tsei² yao⁴ na² tsang¹; na² chien¹ yao⁴ na² shuang.¹

—— 1809 ——

Thieves steal in the rain, but not when it snows;
Not in the moonlight, but when the wind blows.

偷 雨 不 偷 雪。偷 風 不 偷 月
T'ou¹ yü³ pu⁴ t'ou¹ hsüeh³; t'ou¹ fêng¹ pu⁴ t'ou¹ yüeh.⁴

—— 1810 ——

Having lost anything do not suspect men of stealing it.

失 物 難 疑 人
Shih¹ wu⁴ nan² i² jên.²

—— 1811 ——

Everybody has a black pig.

黑 毛 豬 兒 家 家 有
'Hei¹ mac² chu¹ erh² chia¹ chia¹ yu.³

NOTE.—This is used to repel a charge of theft.

—— 1812 ——

All the clothes in the box are counted.

箱子裡衣裳有件數

Hsiang¹ tzū³ li³ i¹ shang¹ yu³ chien⁴ shu.⁴

NOTE.—This is a caution against priggling.

———— 1813 ————

He who steals fowls and dogs, will never change his disposition.

偷雞摸狗。總不改性

T'ou¹ chi¹ mo¹ kou,³ tsung³ pu⁴ kai³ hsing.⁴

———— 1814 ————

Nothing in the end is got by thieving.

偷得利而後有害

T'ou¹ tê² li⁴ êrh² 'hou⁴ yu³ 'hai.⁴

———— 1815 ————

Robbers get plundered by thieves.

強盜遇着賊打劫

Ch'iang³ tao⁴ yü⁴ cho² tsei² ta³ chieh.²

———— 1816 ————

A thief who is a stranger, must employ an accomplice who is not one.

遠賊必要近脚

Yüan³ tsei² pi⁴ yao⁴ chin⁴ chiao.³

———— 1817 ————

Though thieves infest the streets, if they have no stolen goods, not one of them can be convicted.

強盜沿街走。無賊不定罪

Ch'iang² tao⁴ yen² chieh¹ tsou,⁴ wu² tsang¹ pu⁴ ting⁴ tsui.⁴

———— 1818 ————

Gambling is the source of robbery.

賭者盜之源

Tu³ chē² tao⁴ chih¹ yüan.²

(9) VARIOUS.

———— 1819 ————

Sweet as a biscuit is a damsel of sixteen ;
 But her loins are girded with a death-dealing blade.
 Notwithstanding we see not men's heads dropping off,
 Yet, darkly, in the marrow, her havoc is made.

二 八 佳 人 體 似 酥
 Erh⁴ pa¹ chia¹ jên² t'í³ ssü⁴ su¹ ;
 腰 間 仗 劍 斬 凡 夫
 Yao¹ chien¹ chang⁴ chien⁴ chan³ fan² fu.¹
 雖 然 不 見 人 頭 落
 Sui¹ jan² pu⁴ chien⁴ jên² t'ou² lo,⁴
 暗 裡 催 人 骨 髓 枯
 An⁴ li³ ts'ui¹ jên² ku³ sui³ k'u.¹

NOTE.—I have purposely given a free translation of this proverb ; the moral of it is good ; even the original is not plainer than many of the proverbs of Solomon, and it closely resembles that one found in Proverbs, 7 : 26.

———— 1820 ————

Only dispense with your face,
 You'll do all evil with grace.

把 臉 一 劈。百 事 大 吉
 Pa³ lien³ yi¹ p'i,¹ pai³ shih⁴ ta⁴ chi.²

———— 1821 ————

He who whores and gambles till he wastes his fortune,
 When his purse is empty must come to a stop.

嫖 賭 家 財 盡。囊 空 自 然 休
 P'iao² tu³ chia¹ ts'ai² chin,⁴ nang² k'ung¹ tzü⁴ jan² hsiu.¹

———— 1822 ————

Leisure breeds lasciviousness.

逸 則 思 淫
 I² tsê² ssü¹ yin.²

— 1823 —

Water once spilt cannot be gathered up again; passions once indulged cannot be restrained.

水一傾則不可覆
Shui³ yi¹ ch'ing¹ tsê² pu⁴ k'o³ fu²;
性一縱則不可反
hsing⁴ yi¹ tsung⁴ tsê² pu⁴ k'o³ fan.³

— 1824 —

Vice cannot be concealed. *Lit.*: An ugly daughter-in-law cannot conceal that fact from her mother-in-law.

醜媳婦難免不見公婆的面
Ch'ou³ hsi² fu⁴ nan² mien³ pu⁴ chien⁴ kung¹ p'o² ti¹ mien.⁴

— 1825 —

I look indifferently at you, as at a crab, wondering how long you will be able to carry on your perverse practices.

但將冷眼觀螃蟹
Tan⁴ Chiang¹ lêng³ yen³ kuan¹ p'ang² hai,³
看你橫行到幾時
k'an⁴ ni³ 'hêng⁴ hsing² tao⁴ chi³ shih.²

— 1826 —

Depraved conduct. *Lit.*: A wry-mouthed man blows a trumpet with deflected breath.

歪嘴吹喇叭斜氣
Wai¹ tsui³ ch'ui¹ la³ pa¹ hsieh² ch'i.⁴

— 1827 —

Accidental transgression is called error; wilful transgression, sin.

偶然犯事叫做過
Ou³ jan² fan⁴ shih⁴ chiao⁴ tso⁴ kuo⁴;
立心犯法叫做惡
li⁴ hsin¹ fan⁴ fa³ chiao⁴ tso⁴ o.⁴

— 1828 —

What is done ignorantly is not sin.

不知者不爲罪
Pu⁴ chih¹ ché² pu⁴ wei² tsui.⁴

———— 1829 ————

Men may not be one day without employment.

人 不 可 一 日 無 業
Jên² pu⁴ k'o³ yi¹ jih⁴ wu² yeh.⁴

———— 1830 ————

He who will not work shall not eat.

停 手 就 停 口
T'ing² shou³ chiu⁴ t'ing² k'ou.³

NOTE.—“This we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” 1 Thess. 3: 10.

CHAPTER V.

VIRTUE AND VICE.

— 1831 —

Mercy is the root and core ;

Opportunity the door.

慈 悲 爲 本。 方 便 爲 門
Tz'ū² pei¹ wei² pên³; fang¹ pien⁴ wei² mên.²

— 1832 —

To act upright is the *rôle*,

Of every god, and human soul.

正 直 爲 人。 正 直 爲 神
Chêng⁴ chih² wei² jên,² chêng⁴ chih² wei² shên.²

— 1833 —

They prosper who on virtue's aid depend ;

Who trust in vice reach an untimely end.

恃 德 者 昌。 恃 逆 者 亡
Ssū⁴ tê² ché² ch'ang¹; ssū⁴ ni⁴ ché² wang.²

— 1834 —

Following virtue is an ascent steep ;

Following vice a precipitous leap.

從 善 如 登。 從 惡 如 崩
Ts'ung¹ shan⁴ ju² têng¹; ts'ung¹ o⁴ ju² pêng.¹

— 1835 —

It is a little thing to starve to death ; it is a serious matter to lose one's virtue.

餓 死 的 事 小。 失 節 的 事 大
O⁴ ssū³ ti¹ shih⁴ hsiao³; shih¹ chieh². ti¹ shih⁴ ta.⁴

— 1836 —

Hold benevolence and righteousness important, and death, in comparison, light.

重 仁 義。 輕 死 亡
Chung⁴ jên², i,⁴ ch'ing¹-ssū³ wang.²

1837

Better die than turn your back on Reason.

寧死不可背理
Ning² ssü³ pu⁴ k'o³ pei⁴ li.³

1838

Benevolence, Righteousness, Propriety, Wisdom, and Fidelity, are the principles which ought to be followed.

仁義禮智信理所當遵
Jên² i⁴ li³ chih⁴ hsin⁴ li³ so³ tang¹ tsun.¹

1839

Let there be plenty of food and clothing, and propriety and righteousness will flourish.

衣食足而後禮義興
I¹ shih² tsu² êrh² 'hou⁴ li³ i⁴ hsing.¹

1840

Accept your destiny ; do your duty ; be satisfied with your position ; and obey the voice of Heaven.

守命安分順時聽天
Shou³ ming⁴; an¹ fên¹; shun⁴ shih⁴; t'ing¹ t'ien.¹

1841

Men must set their minds on being honest and straightforward.

居身務期質樸
Chu¹ shên¹ wu⁴ ch'í¹ chih² p'u.¹

1842

Fear not when men speak evil of you ; fear lest you should do evil.

不怕說壞了。就怕做壞了
Pu⁴ p'a⁴ shuo¹ 'huai⁴ liao³; chiu⁴ p'a⁴ tso⁴ 'huai⁴ liao.³

1843

In our actions we should accord with the will of Heaven ; in our words we should consult the feelings of men.

作事須循天理
Tso⁴ shih⁴ hsü¹ hsün² t'ien¹ li³;
出言要順人心
ch'u¹ yen² yao⁴ shun⁴ jên² hsin¹

———— 1844 ————

Truth must always be true, and falsehood false.

真的假不得。假的真不得
Chên¹ ti¹ chia³ pu⁴ tê,² chia³ ti¹ chên¹ pu⁴ tê.²

———— 1845 ————

Virtue practised to be seen is not real virtue; vice which fears to be seen is real vice.

善欲人見不是真善
Shan⁴ yü⁴ jên² chien⁴ pu⁴ shih⁴ chên¹ shan⁴;
惡恐人知便是大惡
O⁴ k'ung³ jên² chih¹ pien⁴ shih⁴ ta⁴ o.⁴

———— 1846 ————

Better be upright and want, than wicked and have superabundance.

寧可正而不足不可邪而有餘
Ning² k'o³ chêng⁴ êh² pu⁴ tsu,² pu⁴ k'o³ hsieh² êh² yu³ yü.²

———— 1847 ————

Never lose virtue, nor promote vice.

善不可失。惡不可長
Shan⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ shih¹, o⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ chang.³

———— 1848 ————

All vice avoid, all virtue follow.

諸惡莫作。衆善奉行
Chu¹ o⁴ mo⁴ tso,⁴ chung⁴ shan⁴ fêng⁴ hsing.²

———— 1849 ————

Virtue is the foundation of happiness, vice the presage of misery.

善乃福之基。惡乃禍之兆
Shan⁴ nai³ fu² chih¹ chi¹; o⁴ nai³ 'huo⁴ chih¹ chao.⁴

CHAPTER VI.

VIRTUES.—(1) CONCESSION AND FORBEARANCE.

— 1850 —

Forbearance is a noble word!
Above its head behold a sword.
Who'er in this is like *Chang Kung*
Must happy be and never bored.

忍 字 高 忍 字 高

Jên³ tzū⁴ kao¹ jên³ tzū⁴ kao¹!

忍 字 頭 上 一 把 刀

Jên³ tzū⁴ t'ou² shang⁴ yi¹ pa³ tao¹.

爲 人 能 效 張 公 忍

Wei² jên² néng² hsiao⁴ Chang¹ Kung¹ jên³,

自 然 快 活 無 煩 惱

Tzū⁴ jan² k'uai⁴ 'huo² wu² fan² nao³.

NOTE.—*Chang Kung* was a certain superior man noted for writing out one hundred instances of the application of the word "Forbearance," as well as for his own exemplification of its meaning.

— 1851 —

Forbear! a snow mountain though ten thousand
chang high,
Melts into a river soon as the sun's in the sky.

任 他 雪 山 高 萬 丈

Jên⁴ t'a¹ hsüeh³ shan¹ kao¹ wan⁴ chang⁴,

太 陽 一 出 化 長 江

T'ai⁴ yang² yi¹ ch'u¹ 'hua⁴ ch'ang² Chiang¹.

NOTE.—One *Chang* is equal to 10 Chinese feet, or to 11 feet 9 inches English. *Kao wan chang*, however, is a general term for any lofty height. An inscription at the front of the principal peak of the *Wu-tang shan* informs the visitor that it is *Wan chang kao*.

— 1852 —

Imitate *Chang Kung*, who wrote so much on Forbearance.

效 張 公 多 書 忍 字

Hsiao⁴ Chang¹ Kung¹ to¹ shu¹ jên³ tzū⁴.

— 1853 —

Forbearance under a slight provocation, may save one a hundred days' trouble.

忍 得 一 時 之 氣
 Jên³ tê² yi¹ shih² chih¹ ch'i,⁴
 免 得 百 日 之 憂
 mien³ tê² pai³ jih⁴ chih¹ yu.¹

— 1854 —

A moment's want of forbearance may prove a life-long regret.

少 間 弗 忍 終 身 之 羞
 Shao³ chien¹ fu² jên³ chung¹ shên¹ chih¹ hsiu.¹

— 1855 —

Endure provocation, repress wrath, forgive an offence, and yield a point.

忍 一 句。 息 一 怒
 Jên³ yi¹ chü,⁴ hsi² yi¹ nu,⁴
 饒 一 着 退 一 步
 jao² yi¹ cho,² t'ui⁴ yi¹ pu.⁴

— 1856 —

When it is proper to forbear, forbear.

得 忍 且 忍。 得 耐 且 耐
 Tê² jên³ ch'ieh³ jên,³ tê² nai⁴ ch'ieh³ nai.⁴

— 1857 —

Want of forbearance causes small offences to become great.

不 忍 不 耐。 小 事 成 大
 Pu⁴ jên³ pu⁴ nai,⁴ hsiao³ shih⁴ ch'êng² ta.⁴

— 1858 —

The very word "Forbearance" is precious in a house.

忍 字 家 中 寶
 Jên³ tzü⁴ chia¹ chung¹ pao.³

— 1859 —

Without forbearance you will be in trouble at once; think twice and you will have nought to fear for a hundred years.

不 忍 一 時 有 禍 三 思 百 歲 無 妨
 Pu⁴ jên³ yi¹ shih² yu³ 'huo⁴; san¹ ssü¹ pai³ sui⁴ wu² fang¹

1860

Throw off restraint, indulge fits of passion,—and suffer loss; have a forbearing thoughtful mind,—and avoid sorrow.

恣 意 發 狂 有 失 有 心 忍 耐 無 憂
 Tzu¹ i⁴ fa¹ k'uang² yu³ shih¹: yu³ hsin¹ jên³ nai⁴ wu² yu¹

1861

Whoever is willing to suffer, covets not another's advantage.

吃 虧 是 不 佔 便 宜
 Ch'ih¹ k'uei¹ shih⁴ pu⁴ chan⁴ pien⁴ i.²

1862

To show mercy is reckoned man's duty; to win is reckoned man's ingenuity.

饒 人 算 人 之 本
 Jao² jên² suan⁴ jên² chih¹ pên³;
 輸 人 算 人 之 機
 Shu¹ jên² suan⁴ jên² chih¹ chi.¹

1863

Lifelong concession of road and dyke; neither loses a hundred paces, nor a single plot.

終 身 讓 路 不 枉 百 步
 Chung¹ shên¹ jang⁴ lu⁴ pu⁴ wang³ pai³ pu⁴;
 終 身 讓 畔 不 失 一 段
 chung¹ shên¹ jang⁴ pan⁴ pu⁴ shih¹ yi¹ tuan.⁴

1864

He will neither concede on the road nor at a feast.

行 不 讓 路 坐 不 讓 席
 Hsing² pu⁴ jang⁴ lu⁴ tso⁴ pu⁴ jang⁴ hsi.²

1865

You may walk your horse over a general's or a premier's neck; and pole your boat in the belly of a duke or marquis.

將 相 項 頭 堪 走 馬
 Chiang¹ hsiang⁴ hsiang⁴ t'ou² k'an¹ tson⁴ ma³;
 公 侯 肚 裡 好 撐 船
 Kung¹ 'hou² tu³ li³ 'hao³ chang⁴ ch'uan.²

NOTE.—This strange proverb is intended to express the boundless generosity and forbearance of the gentlemen mentioned.

———— 1866 ————

Affect a little indistinctness, rather than insist upon absolute correctness.

放 模 糊 些 不 可 頂 真
 Fang⁴ mo¹ 'hu² hsieh,¹ pu⁴ ko³ ting³ chen.¹

———— 1867 ————

Here on earth it is noble to yield even one step; and it is happiness to treat men with even a little generosity.

處 世 讓 一 步 爲 高
 Ch'u³ shih⁴ jang⁴ yi¹ pu⁴ wei² kao¹;
 待 人 寬 一 分 是 福
 tai⁴ jên² k'uan¹ yi¹ fên¹ shih⁴ fu.²

———— 1868 ————

One may give way to another, and bear with his bluster; not from weakness but for self-control.

讓 人 非 我 弱。守 己 任 他 強
 Jang⁴ jên² fei¹ wo³ jo,⁴ shou³ chi³ jên⁴ t'a¹ ch'iang.²

———— 1869 ————

I yield not for fear, but because I'm not fool enough to risk imprisonment.

饒 人 非 我 弱。癡 漢 入 牢 門
 Jao² jên² fei¹ wo³ jo,⁴ ch'ih² 'han⁴ ju⁴ lao² mên.²

(2) CONTENTMENT.

1870

With enough to eat three times a day you must always be content ;
And down with your sail when a steady wind has long time kept it bent.

飽 餐 三 飯 常 知 足
Pao³ ts'an¹ san¹ fan⁴ ch'ang² chih¹ tsou² ;
得 一 帆 風 便 可 收
Tê² yî¹ fan¹ fêng¹ pien⁴ k'o³ shou.¹

1871

A constantly contented mind
Free from disgrace you'll always find.

知 足 常 足 終 身 不 辱
Chih¹ tsu² ch'ang² tsu,² chung¹ shên¹ pu⁴ ju.⁴

1872

Having obtained your wish be content.

得 意 不 可 再 往
Tê² i⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ tsai⁴ wang.³

8873

Be content with what is sufficient to pass over the present time.

人 生 得 過 隨 時 過
Jên² shêng¹ tê² kuo⁴ sui² shih² kuo.⁴

1874

Compared with superiors I have less, but compared with inferiors I have more.

比 上 不 足。比 下 有 餘
Pi³ shang⁴ pu⁴ tsu,² pi³ hsia⁴ yu³ yü.²

1875

Be content with whatever you have.

得 過 且 過
Tê² kuo⁴ ch'ieh³ kuo.⁴

(3) FILIAL PIETY.

1876

First of virtues, as all books confess,
Filial piety and righteousness.

千經萬典。孝義爲先
Ch'ien¹ chin¹ wan⁴ tien,³ hsiao⁴ i⁴ wei² hsien.¹

1877

Of a myriad virtues filial piety is the first.

萬善孝爲先
Wan⁴ shan⁴ hsiao⁴ wei² hsien.¹

1878

Of a myriad vices fornication is the chief; of a hundred virtues, filial piety is the first.

萬惡淫爲首。百行孝爲先
Wan⁴ o⁴ yin² wei² shou³; pai³ hsing² hsiao⁴ wei² hsien.¹

1879

Filial piety moves heaven and earth.

孝心感動天合地
Hsiao⁴ hsin¹ kan² tung⁴ t'ien¹ ho² ti⁴.

1880

A filial son is the joy of his father.

子孝父心寬
Tzū³ hsiao⁴ fu⁴ hsin¹ kuan.¹

1881

One unfilial son involves nine others in ruin.

一子不孝九子皆滅
Yi¹ tzū³ pu⁴ hsiao⁴ chiu³ tzū³ chieh¹ mieh.⁴

1882

When the son lacks dutifulness, the daughter-in-law lacks filial piety.

兒不賢媳不孝
Erh² pu⁴ hsien² hsi² pu⁴ hsiao.⁴

(4) GENEROSITY AND KINDNESS.

— 1883 —

Who constantly gives, does always possess ;
His riches and honours never grow less.

常 捨 常 有 富 貴 長 久

Ch'ang² shé³ ch'ang² yu³; fu⁴ kuei⁴ ch'ang² chiu³

NOTE.—“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth.” Prov. 11 : 24.

— 1884 —

Instruction impart, men's vices to correct :
And give of your money, their good to effect.

垂 訓 以 格 人 非

Ch'ui² hsün⁴ i³ ko² jên² fei¹;

捐 資 以 成 人 美

Sun³ tzū¹ i³ ch'êng² jên² mei³.

— 1885 —

Always leave some way of escape to the erring.

萬 事 留 一 線 之 路

Wan⁴ shih⁴ liu² yi¹ hsien⁴ chih¹ lu⁴

— 1886 —

To call up a breeze that all may be cooled.

喚 起 風 來 大 家 涼

Huan⁴ ch'i³ fêng¹ lai² ta⁴ chia¹ liang².

— 1887 —

For one good deed to forget a hundred bad ones.

見 人 一 善。 忘 其 百 非

Chien⁴ jên² yi¹ shan⁴ wang⁴ ch'i² pai³ fei¹.

— 1888 —

To conduct a blind man over a bridge.

牽 瞎 子 過 橋

Ch'ien¹ hsia² tzū³ kuo⁴ ch'iao².

— 1889 —

To stint one's-self and treat others generously.

刻 苦 自 己。 厚 待 別 人

K'o¹ k'u³ tzū⁴ chi³ 'hou⁴ tai⁴ pieh² jên².

1890

A star, however willing, cannot help the moon.

有星不能照月
Yu³ hsing¹ pu⁴ nêng² chao⁴ yueh.⁴

NOTE.—In this proverb there is a play on the word 星 *hsing*, 'star,' which is almost identical in sound with 心 *hsin*, 'heart.'

1891

To light one's lantern for another man.

打燈籠照別人
Ta³ têng¹ lung² chao⁴ pieh² jên.²

1892

Look not on the gilt face, but on Buddha's face.

不看金面看佛面
Pu⁴ k'an⁴ chin¹ mien⁴ k'an⁴ Fu² mien.⁴

NOTE.—Here the "gilt face" represents any offender, "Buddha's face" any intercessor; and the request is that for the intercessor's sake the offender may be forgiven.

1893

"Help men in their necessities, and rescue them from danger."

濟人之急救人之危
Chi⁴ jên² chih¹ chi,² chiu⁴ jên² chih¹ wei.²

1894

It is only kindness, and not severity, which can impress at the distance of a thousand miles.

只有千里人情
Chih³ yu³ ch'ien¹ li³ jên² ch'ing,²
沒有千里威風
mu² yu³ ch'ien¹ li³ wei¹ fêng.¹

1895

Better not do kindnesses at all, than do them in the hope of recompense.

施恩莫望報。望報莫施恩
Shih¹ ên¹ mo⁴ wang⁴ pao,⁴ wang⁴ pao⁴ mo⁴ shih¹ ên.¹

1896

Do continually acts of kindness; perform every sort of secret virtue.

行 時 時 之 方 便
 Hsing² shih² shih² chih¹ fang¹ pien⁴;
 作 種 種 之 陰 功
 tso⁴ chung⁴ chung⁴ chih¹ yin¹ kung¹

— 1897 —

To row with the stream in doing a favour.

順 水 推 舟 做 人 情
 Shun⁴ shui³ t'ui¹ chou¹ tso⁴ jên² ch'ing²

NOTE.—For instance,—to give wine to one who is fond of it, or books to one fond of study.

— 1898 —

Kindness is greater than law.

人 情 大 過 王 法
 Jên² ch'ing² ta⁴ kuo⁴ wang² fa.³

— 1899 —

Men must be treated with great generosity.

待 人 須 當 量 大
 Tai⁴ jên² hsü¹ tang¹ liang² ta.⁴

(5) GRATITUDE.

— 1900 —

Fed on the king's soil, recompense the king's favour.

吃 王 水 土 報 王 恩
 Ch'ih¹ wang² shui³ t'u³ pao⁴ wang² ên.¹

— 1901 —

Enjoying the king's dignities and emoluments, recompense the king's favour.

食 王 爵 祿 報 王 恩
 Shih² wang² chüeh² lu⁴ pao⁴ wang² ên.¹

— 1902 —

He who is grateful has nothing to blush for.

心 不 負 人 面 無 慚 色
 Hsin¹ pu⁴ fu⁴ jên² mien⁴ wu² ts'an² sê.⁴

1903

Thankful for small mercies. *Lit.*: For the favour of a drop of water, pay back a gushing fountain.

得人點冰之恩
Tê² jên² tien³ shui³ chih¹ ên¹
須當湧泉之報
hsü¹ tang¹ yung³ ch'ien² chih¹ pao.⁴

1904

If you share a man's wealth, try to lessen his misfortunes.

得人錢財。與人消災
Tê² jên² ch'ien² ts'ai,² yü³ jên² hsiao¹ tsai.¹

1905

Better that others be ungrateful to me, than that I should be so to others.

寧可負我。切莫負人
Ning² k'o³ fu⁴ wo,³ ch'ieh⁴ mo⁴ fu⁴ jên.²

1906

Lambs have the grace to suck kneeling; and young crows return part of their food to their parents.

羊有跪乳之恩
Yang² yu³ kuei⁴ ju³ chih¹ ên¹;
鴉有反哺之義
ya¹ yu³ fan³ fu¹ chih¹ i.⁴

1907

As your duty is, when the cultivated fields have yielded their increase, and you are fed and warmed, give thanks to Heaven.

隨分耕鋤收地利
Sui² fên¹ kêng¹ ch'u² shou¹ ti⁴ li,⁴
他時飽煖謝蒼天
t'a¹ shih² pao³ nuan³ hsieh⁴ ts'ang¹ t'ien.¹

1908

Be forgetful of favours given; be mindful of blessings received.

施惠勿念。受恩莫忘
Shih¹ 'hui⁴ wu⁴ nien⁴; shou³ ên¹ mo⁴ wang.⁴

1909

It is unmanly to be ungrateful for favours received.

知 恩 不 報。非 爲 人 也
Chih¹ ên¹ pu⁴ pao⁴ fei¹ wei² jên² yeh.³

1610

He is a brute who forgets favours received, and turns his back on righteousness.

忘 恩 背 義。禽 獸 之 徒
Wang⁴ ên¹ pei⁴ i,⁴ ch'in² shou⁴ chih¹ t'u.²

1911

He who eats another's food, and receives another's favour, is tender in speaking of and dealing with him.

吃 人 的 口 軟。得 人 的 手 軟
Ch'ih¹ jên² ti¹ k'ou³ juan,³ tē² jên² ti¹ shou³ juan.³

1912

To return hate for kindness.

恩 將 仇 報
En¹ chiang¹ ch'ou² pao.⁴

1913

Over a bowl of congee or rice, one should remember the trouble it has cost to supply it.

一 粥 一 飯 當 思 來 處 不 易
Yi¹ chou¹ yi¹ fan⁴ tang¹ ssū¹ lai² ch'u⁴ pu⁴ i.⁴

1914

He who is ungrateful for favours received is no superior man.

受 恩 不 報 非 君 子
Shou⁴ ên¹ pu⁴ pao⁴ fei¹ chün¹ tzū.³

1915

When you put on your clothes, remember the weaver's labour;

When you take your daily food, remember the husbandman's trouble.

身 披 一 縷 常 思 織 女 之 勞
Shên¹ p'ei¹ yi¹ lü⁴ ch'ang² ssū¹ chih¹ nü² chih¹ lao²;
日 食 三 餐 每 念 農 夫 之 苦
jih⁴ shih² san¹ ts'an¹ mei³ nien⁴ nung² fu¹ chih¹ k'u.³

1916

He who is grateful for favours received, will be filial as a son and loyal as a minister.

受 人 恩 而 不 忍 負 者
 Shou⁴ jên² ên¹ êrh² pu⁴ jên³ fu⁴ chê.²
 爲 子 必 孝。 爲 臣 必 忠
 wei² tzü³ pi⁴ hsiao⁴ wei² ch'ên² pi⁴ chung.¹

1917

When you drink from the stream, remember the spring.

飲 水 思 源
 Yin³ shui³ ssü¹ yüan.²

1918

Eating bamboo-sprouts, remember the planter of the bamboos.

食 筍 須 記 栽 竹 人
 Shih² sun³ hsü¹ chi⁴ tsai¹ chu² jên.²

SECTION XV.—ON PRUDENCE.

CHAPTER I.

CAUTION.

1919

Who turns him round to reinspect,
Shall nothing lose through his neglect.

回頭再看。不得失散
'Hui² t'ou² tsai⁴ k'an,⁴ pu⁴ tê² shih¹ san.⁴

1920

Each must take care of his coat and hat ;
Caution is needful, be sure of that.

各照衣帽。小心爲要
Ko⁴ chao⁴ i¹ mao⁴: hsiao³ hsin¹ wei² yao.⁴

1921

Who carefully looks both behind and before,
Of food and of clothes will have always good store.

照前照後。衣食常穀
Chao⁴ ch'ien² chao⁴ 'hou,⁴ i¹ shih² ch'ang² kou.⁴

1922

You must be clever in mind, and clownish outside ;
Make too much of your wisdom, woes will you betide.

內要伶俐外要癡呆
Nei⁴ yao⁴ ling² li⁴ wai⁴ yao⁴ ch'ih² tai¹;
聰明逞盡惹禍招災
Ts'ung¹ ming² ch'êng³ chin⁴ jê³ 'huo⁴ chao¹ tsai.¹

1923

For one bad move, if you're to blame,
Be sure that you will lose the game.

下錯一步。滿盤都輸
Hsia⁴ ts'o⁴ yi¹ pu,⁴ man⁴ p'an² tu¹ shu.¹

— 1924 —

Neither take poison, nor break law.

毒 人 的 莫 吃。 犯 法 的 莫 做
Tu² jên² ti¹ mo⁴ ch'ih,¹ fan⁴ fa³ ti¹ mo⁴ tso.⁴

— 1925 —

Never do what you don't want to be known.

若 要 人 不 知。 除 非 己 莫 爲
Jo⁴ yao⁴ jên² pu⁴ chih,¹ ch'u² fei¹ chi³ mo⁴ wei.²

— 1926 —

State all conditions first.

醜 話 說 在 先
Ch'ou³ 'hua⁴ shuo¹ tsai⁴ hsien.¹

— 1927 —

Beware of winds and waves by day, of thieves by night.

日 防 風 浪 之 險
Jih⁴ fang² fêng¹ lang⁴ chih¹ hsien,³
夜 防 盜 賊 之 憂
yeh⁴ fang² tao⁴ tsei² chih¹ yu.¹

— 1928 —

Avoid suspicion. *Lit.*: Do not lace your boots in a melon field, nor adjust your hat under a plum tree.瓜 田 不 納 履。 李 下 不 整 冠
Kua¹ t'ien² pu⁴ na⁴ li,³ li⁴ hsia⁴ pu⁴ chêng³ kuan.¹

— 1929 —

The same. *Lit.*: In a melon field and under a plum tree avoid suspicion.瓜 田 李 下。 各 避 嫌 疑
Kua¹ t'ien² li⁴ hsia⁴ ko⁴ pi⁴ hsien² i.²

— 1930 —

Be as careful as if you were entering a battle, or crossing a bridge.

念 念 有 如 臨 敵 日
Nien⁴ nien⁴ yu³ ju² lin² ti² jih,⁴
心 心 常 似 過 橋 時
hsin¹ hsin¹ ch'ang² ssü⁴ kuo⁴ ch'iao² shih,²

— 1931 —

When you know there are tigers on the hills, don't go there.

明知山有虎。莫向虎山行。
Ming² chih¹ shan¹ yu³ 'hu,³ mo⁴ hsiang⁴ 'hu³ shan¹ hsing.²

— 1932 —

In a narrow passage be prepared for danger:

路逢狹處須防劍。
Lu⁴ fêng² hsia² ch'u⁴ hsi¹ fang² chien.⁴

— 1933 —

Always be provided against danger and rebellion.

安不可忘危。治不可忘亂。
An¹ pu⁴ k'o³ wang⁴ wei,² chih³ pu⁴ k'o³ wang⁴ lan.⁴

— 1934 —

In eating, avoid choking; in walking, avoid stumbling.

吃飯防噎。行路防跌。
Ch'ih¹ fan⁴ fang² kêng,³ hsing² lu⁴ fang² tieh.²

— 1935 —

Proceed cautiously. *Lit.*: Take a step, drive a pile.

走一步打个樁。
T'sou⁴ yi¹ pu,⁴ ta³ ko⁴ chuang.¹

— 1936 —

Look not on temptation, and your mind will be at rest.

不見所欲使心不亂。
Pu⁴ chien⁴ so³ yü⁴ shih⁴ hsin¹ pu⁴ lan.⁴

— 1937 —

One who acts cautiously may go anywhere; one who does not, will always be suffering.

小心天下去得。
Hsiao³ hsin¹ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ ch'u⁴ té²;
大意百事吃虧。
ta⁴ i⁴ pai³ shih⁴ ch'ih¹ k'uei.¹

— 1938 —

To act the part of one deaf and dumb.

裝聾作啞。
Chuang¹ lung² tso⁴ ya.³

NOTE.—That is for fear of becoming involved in danger or crime.

— 1939 —

Over cautious. *Lit.*: To wear strings on a felt hat.

戴 毡 帽 安 繩
Tai⁴ chan¹ mao⁴ an¹ shêng.²

— 1940 —

If you use a walking stick you will not fall; if you take counsel you will not err.

有 拐 棍 兒 不 跌 倒
Yu³ kuai³ kun⁴ êrh² pu⁴ tieh² tao³;
有 商 量 兒 不 失 錯
yu³ shang¹ liang² êrh² pu⁴ shih¹ ts'o.⁴

— 1941 —

A fall hurts not those who fly low.

飛 不 高 跌 不 傷
Fei¹ pu⁴ kao¹ tieh² pu⁴ shang.¹

— 1942 —

Partition walls have ears; and there are listeners under the window.

隔 牆 須 有 耳。 窻 外 豈 無 人
Ko² ch'iang² hsi¹ yü³ êrh³; ch'uang¹ wai⁴ ch'i³ wu² jên.²

— 1943 —

When free from trouble be on your guard; when trouble comes don't get excited.

無 事 時 要 提 防
Wu² shih⁴ shih² yao⁴ t'i² fang²;
有 事 時 要 鎮 定
yu³ shih⁴ shih² yao⁴ chên⁴ ting.⁴

— 1944 —

Diligence is an inestimable treasure, and prudence a defensive charm.

勤 爲 無 價 之 寶
Ch'in² wei² wu² chia⁴ chih¹ pao,³
慎 是 護 身 之 符
shên⁴ shih⁴ hu⁴ shên¹ chih¹ fu.²

1945

If there is no one at home, don't leave clothes before the fire to dry; and drying clothes be careful lest a sash may catch the flame.

房裡無人莫烘衣
Fang² li³ wu² jên² mo⁴ 'hung¹ i¹;
烘衣猶恐帶頭垂
'hung¹ i¹ yu² k'ung³ tai⁴ t'ou² ch'ui.²

1946

Don't carry a candle near inflammable things; and when you've blown a lamp out, watch the flying sparks.

執燭過防光燥物
Chih² chu² kuo⁴ fang² kuang¹ tsao⁴ wu⁴;
吹燈要看火星飛
ch'ui¹ têng¹ yao⁴ k'an⁴ 'huo³ hsing¹ fei.¹

1947

Though a thousand things may claim attention in your household, never go to bed without a look at the kitchen.

家中縱有千般事
Chia¹ chung¹ tsung⁴ yu³ ch'ien¹ pan¹ shih⁴;
臨睡廚房走一回
lin² shui⁴ ch'u² fang² tson⁴ yi¹ 'hui.²

1948

He comes publicly, and goes openly.

來得明。去得白
Lai² tê² ming² ch'ü⁴ tê² pai.²

1949

When you travel by boat, be prepared for a duck.

行船辦落水之計
Hsing² ch'uan² pan⁴ lo⁴ shui³ chih¹ chi.⁴

1950

One wrong thought may cause a life-long regret.

一念之差。終身之悔
Yi¹ nien⁴ chih¹ ch'a,¹ chung¹ shên¹ chih¹ 'hui.³

———— 1951 ————

Deviate an inch, and lose a thousand miles.

差之毫釐失之千里
Ch'a¹ chih¹ hao² li,² shih¹ chih¹ ch'ien¹ li.³

———— 1952 ————

Though the wind has fallen the waves have not yet settled.

風平浪未靜
Fèng¹ p'ing² lang⁴ wei⁴ ching⁴

———— 1953 ————

“A good memory is not equal to bad ink.”

廣記不如淡墨
Kuang³ chi⁴ pu⁴ ju² tan⁴ mo⁴;

———— 1954 ————

Men fear a slip of their pens, women a slip of their morals.

男怕輸筆。女怕輸身
Nan² p'a⁴ shu¹ pi,³ nü² p'a⁴ shu¹ shên.¹

———— 1955 ————

Rather fear that you should not prove an adept, than that you should lack employment.

不怕人不請。就怕藝不真
Pu⁴ p'a⁴ jên² pu⁴ ch'ing,³ chiu⁴ p'a⁴ i⁴ pu⁴ chên.¹

CHAPTER II.

DISCRETION.

— 1956 —

No sailor by trade,—
Be of boat-hooks afraid.

不是撐船手。休拏竹篙頭。
Pu⁴ shih⁴ chang⁴ ch'uan² shou,³ hsiu¹ na² chu² kao¹ t'ou.²

— 1957 —

Be only to superior men your wants confessed ;
And if you succour, succour only the distressed.

求人須求大丈夫
Ch'iu² jên² hsi¹ ch'iu² ta⁴ chang⁴ fu¹;
濟人須濟急時無
Chi⁴ jên² hsi¹ chi⁴ chi³ shih² wu.²

— 1958 —

Hope little from the yet to you unseen ;
Care little for what has already been.

未來休指望。過去莫思量。
Wei⁴ lai² hsiu¹ chih³ wang⁴ ; kuo⁴ ch'ü⁴ mo⁴ ssü¹ liang.²

— 1959 —

Never ask a family whether things are gay or sad ;
For all such information from their faces may be had.

入門休問榮枯事
Ju⁴ mén² hsiu¹ wên⁴ yung² k'u¹ shih⁴ ;
觀見容顏便得知
Kuan¹ chien⁴ yung² yen² pien⁴ tê² chih.¹

— 1960 —

Never open your lips when to speak is in vain ;
Nor let other folk's business embarrass your brain.

無益語言休着口
Wu² i² yü³ yen² hsiu¹ cho² k'ou³ ;
不干己事少當頭
Pu⁴ kan¹ chi³ shih⁴ shao³ tang¹ t'ou.²

1961

Talk to those who can understand, and give to those who need.

說 話 說 與 知 音。送 飯 送 與 飢 人
Shuo¹ 'hua⁴ shuo¹ yü³ chih¹ yin,¹ sung⁴ fan⁴ sung⁴ yü³ chi¹ jên.²

1962

Suit self to circumstances.

見 景 生 情
Chien⁴ ching³ shêng¹ ch'ing²

1963

If your strength be small, don't carry heavy burdens ;
if your words be worthless, don't give advice.

力 微 休 負 重。言 輕 莫 勸 人
Li⁴ wei¹ hsiu¹ fu⁴ chung⁴; yen² ch'ing¹ mo⁴ ch'üan⁴ jên.²

1964

If you are poor, keep out of the crowd ; if unfortunate,
don't seek a relation.

無 錢 休 入 衆。遭 難 莫 尋 親
Wu² ch'ien² hsiu¹ ju⁴ chung⁴; tsao¹ nan² mo⁴ hsin² ch'in.¹

1965

Avoid fierce men, and strong wine.

人 狠 不 攙。酒 狠 不 吃
Jên² 'hên³ pu⁴ ch'an,¹ chiu³ 'hên³ pu⁴ ch'ih.¹

1966

Do not trust in an excessive show of honesty ; and
beware of an excessive show of kindness.

莫 信 直 中 直。須 防 仁 不 仁
Mo⁴ hsin⁴ chih² chung¹ chih²; hsi¹ fang² jên² pu⁴ jên.²

1967

Do not say what you see ; do not know what you are
asked ; do not meddle with other folk's business ;
and if you have nothing to do, quickly return home.

見 事 莫 說。問 事 不 知
Chien⁴ shih⁴ mo⁴ shuo¹; wên⁴ shih⁴ pu⁴ chih¹;
閒 事 莫 管。無 事 早 歸
hsien² shih⁴ mo⁴ kuan³; wu² shih⁴ tsao³ kuei.¹

1968

Do not present your verses to any but a clever man.

不是才人莫獻詩
 Pu⁴ shih⁴ ts'ai² jên² mo⁴ hsien⁴ shih.⁴

1969

Wherever you go, talk as the people of the place talk.

到那裡說那裡話
 Tao⁴ na⁴ li³ shuo¹ na⁴ li³ 'hua.⁴

1970

Neither indulge a slave, nor deceive a child.

奴才不可逞。小孩不可哄
 Nu³ ts'ai² pu⁴ k'o³ ch'êng,³ hsiao³ 'hai² pu⁴ k'o³ 'hung.³

1971

You had better retire when in greatest favour; and break off friendship when it is closest.

受恩深處宜先退
 Shou⁴ ên¹ shên¹ ch'ü⁴ i² hsien¹ t'ui⁴;
 得意濃時便好休
 Tê² i⁴ nung² shih² pien⁴ 'hao³ hsiu.¹

1972

When the country is in confusion, look out for a good general; when the family is poor, for a virtuous wife.

國亂思良將。家貧思賢妻
 Kuo² lan² ssü¹ liang² Chiang¹; chia¹ p'in³ ssü¹ hsien² ch'i.¹

1973

Yield to circumstances. *Lit.*: If the wind be strong, yield to the wind; if rain be heavy, yield to rain.

風大隨風。雨大隨雨
 Fêng¹ ta⁴ sui² fêng¹; yü³ ta⁴ sui² yü.³

1974

If you lost your needle in the grass, go and seek it there.

草裡失針。草裡尋
 Ts'ao³ li³ shih¹ chên,¹ ts'ao³ li³ hsin.²

— 1975 —

Let every one sweep away the snow from before his own door, and not meddle with the hoar-frost on his neighbour's tiles.

各 人 自 掃 門 前 雪
 Ko⁴ jên² tzū⁴ sao³ mên² chien² hstieh,³
 休 管 他 人 瓦 上 霜
 hsiu¹ kuan³ t'a¹ jên² wa¹ shang⁴ shuang.¹

— 1976 —

If you want to be quiet, do not meddle with other people's business.

要 得 無 事。 少 管 閑 事
 Yao⁴ tē² wu² shih,⁴ shao³ kuan³ hsien² shih.⁴

— 1977 —

Only govern your own door, and don't talk about other men's daughters and wives.

只 管 自 己 門 戶
 Chih³ kuan³ tzū⁴ chi³ mên² 'hu,⁴
 休 說 別 人 女 妻
 hsiu¹ shuo¹ pieh² jên² nü² chi.¹

— 1978 —

Neither spend foolishly, nor work fruitlessly.

錢 不 錯 用。 工 無 枉 使
 Ch'ien² pu⁴ ts'o⁴ yung,⁴ kung¹ wu² wang³ shih.³

— 1979 —

In the transaction of business, in the use of power, in the use of speech, and in the enjoyment of happiness, don't carry the thing too far.

事 不 可 做 盡。 勢 不 可 倚 盡
 Shih⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ tso⁴ chin,⁴ shih⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ i³ chin,⁴
 言 不 可 道 盡。 福 不 可 享 盡
 yen² pu⁴ k'o³ tao⁴ chin,⁴ fu² pu⁴ k'o³ hsiang³ chin.⁴

— 1980 —

Try to oblige others, and you will be obliged yourself.

與 人 方 便。 與 己 方 便
 Yü³ jên² fang¹ pien,⁴ yü³ chi³ fang¹ pien.⁴

1981

If you know where to stop and always stop there, you will never be in disgrace.

知止常止。終身不恥
Chih¹ chih³ ch'ang² chih,³ chung¹ shên¹ pu⁴ ch'ih.³

1982

All that accords with Reason may be done ; but never quarrel over petty profits.

合理可作。小利莫爭
'Ho² li³ k'o³ tso⁴: lsiao³ li⁴ mo⁴ chêng.¹

1983

Better straightforwardly seize a thing, than beg it in an underhand way.

寧向直中取。不可曲中求
Ning² hsiang⁴ chih² chung¹ ch'ü,³ pu⁴ k'o³ ch'ü¹ chung¹ ch'iu.²

1984

Dread law, and daily live in comfort ; scorn justice, and daily live in trouble.

懼法朝朝樂。欺公日日憂
Chü⁴ fa³ chao¹ chao¹ lê⁴; ch'i¹ kung¹ jih⁴ jih⁴ yu.¹

1985

Men of a certain height must wear clothes of a certain length.

幾長人穿幾長衣服
Chi³ ch'ang² jên² ch'uan¹ chi³ ch'ang² i¹ fu.²

1986

Whether victorious or beaten never regret.

輸贏無悔
Shu¹ ying² wu² 'hui.³

1987

Treat a prodigy as though it were none, and it will die out of itself.

見怪不怪。其怪自滅
Chien⁴ kuai⁴ pu⁴ kuai,⁴ ch'i² kuai⁴ tzü⁴ mieh.⁴

 1988

Better go yourself than send; better do it yourself than ask any one to do it for you.

使口不如自走
 Shih³ k'ou³ pu⁴ ju² tzū⁴ tsou⁴;
 求人不如求己
 ch'iu² jên² pu⁴ ju² ch'iu² chi.³

 1989

If you would control self you must rebuke self; if you would have faith in men do not suspect them.

守己須責己。信人不疑人
 Shou³ chi³ hsi¹ tsé² chi³; hsin⁴ jên² pu⁴ i² jên.²

 1990

Temperance in drinking, saves the mind from confusion; restraint of passion, preserves fortunes unimpaired.

少飲不亂性。惜氣免傷財
 Shao³ yin³ pu⁴ lan⁴ hsing⁴; hsi² ch'i⁴ mien³ shang¹ ts'ai.²

CHAPTER III.

ECONOMY.

1991

Though you be a millionaire,
Mend one half the clothes you wear.

家有一萬。繚補一半
Chia¹ yu³ yi¹ wan,⁴ liao² pu³ yi¹ pan.⁴

1992

If you have only ten *taels* don't hanker for dress:
Never seek, on a hundred, a wife to possess.

拾兩銀子莫置衣
Shih² liang³ yin² tzü³ mo⁴ chih⁴ i¹:
百兩銀子莫娶妻
Pai³ liang³ yin² tzü³ mo⁴ ch'ü³ ch'i.¹

1993

Cold water and hot, you must learn to waste not;
For both by man's labour alone have been got.

冷水要人挑。熱水要人燒
Lêng³ shui³ yao⁴ jên² t'iao¹; jê⁴ shui³ yao⁴ jên² shao.¹

1994

It will cost you, to flit from upstairs to down,
Three piculs of the finest rice that is grown.

上屋搬下屋。要得三担糯穀
Shang⁴ wu¹ pan¹ hsia⁴ wu,¹ yao⁴ tê² san¹ tan¹ no⁴ ku.³

1995

Have every thing you use substantial and clean:
Earthenware is better than gold and jade.

器具質而潔。瓦缶勝金玉
Ch'ü⁴ chü⁴ chih² êrh² chieh²; wa¹ fou⁴ shêng⁴ chin¹ yü.⁴

1996

Neither build fine houses, nor covet rich fields.

勿營華屋。勿謀良田
Wu⁴ ying² 'hua² wu,¹ wu⁴ mou² liang² t'ien.²

— 1997 —

Never spend a farthing uselessly.

一文錢不落虛空

Yi¹ wên² ch'ien² pu⁴ lo⁴ hsi¹ k'ung¹

— 1998 —

Though living near water do not waste it.

近水不可多用冰

Chin⁴ shui³ pu⁴ k'o³ to¹ yung⁴ shui³

— 1999 —

Though living near mountains do not waste firewood.

近山不可枉燒柴

Chin⁴ shan¹ pu⁴ k'o³ wang³ shao¹ ch'ai²

— 2000 —

Be careful of clothes and always have them ;—of food and always have it.

惜衣得衣。惜食得食

Hsi² i¹ tê² i¹ hsi² shih² tê² shih²

— 2001 —

By all means avoid extravagance.

切勿奢侈過度

Ch'ieh⁴ wu⁴ shê¹ ch'ih³ kuo⁴ tu⁴

— 2002 —

Don't fail to make ends meet.

莫令接不到頭

Mo⁴ ling⁴ chieh¹ pu⁴ tao⁴ t'ou²

— 2003 —

The moon may be saved with a broken drum.

破破鼓救救月

P'o⁴ p'o⁴ ku³ chiu⁴ chiu⁴ yüeh⁴

— 2004 —

It is wanton waste to feed a tortoise with barley.

烏龜吃大麥糟蹋糧食

Wu¹ kuei¹ ch'ih¹ ta⁴ mai⁴ tsao¹ t'a¹ liang² shih²

— 2005 —

Avoid breaking into a string of cash.

一吊錢開不得串

Yi¹ tiao⁴ ch'ien² k'ai¹ pu⁴ tê² ch'uan⁴

2006

The trappings cost more than the horse.

買馬的錢沒得製鞍的多
Mai³ ma³ ti¹ ch'ien² mu² tē² chih⁴ an¹ ti¹ to.¹

2007

Cheapness may not be economy. *Lit.*: If you buy cheap firewood, you burn the bottom of your copper.

得了便宜柴。燒了夾底鍋
Tē² liao³ p'ien² i² ch'ai,² shao¹ liao³ chia¹ ti¹ kuo.¹

2008

To leave economy for extravagance is easy; to leave extravagance for economy difficult.

從儉入奢易。從奢入儉難
Ts'ung² chien³ ju⁴ shē¹ i¹; ts'ung² shē¹ ju⁴ chien³ nan.²

2009

Economy makes men independent.

減用免求人
Chien³ yung⁴ mien³ ch'iu² jēn.²

2010

Cut your cloth according to your measure.

量體裁衣
Liang² t'i³ ts'ai² i.¹

2011

Let every farthing go to its legitimate use. *Lit.*: One nail goes for one piece of sugar-stick.

一個釘子打一塊糖
Yi¹ ko¹ ting¹ tzū³ ta³ yi¹ k'uai¹ t'ang.²

2012

In providing for self, practise rigid economy.

自奉必須儉約
Tzū⁴ fēng⁴ pi¹ hsi¹ chien³ yo.¹

2013

Taxes are fixed, but expenses are not.

錢糧有數。時用無數
Ch'ien¹ liang². yu³ shu,⁴ shih² yung⁴ wu² shu.⁴

— 2014 —

An openwork basket cannot for long dam a stream.

花籃提水難存留
 'Hua¹ lan² ti² shui³ nan² ts'un² liu.²

— 2015 —

Make every cash serve two purposes.

一個錢把做兩個用
 Yi¹ ko⁴ ch'ien² pa³ tso⁴ liang³ ko⁴ yung.⁴

— 2016 —

The peony, though large, is a useless thing; while the date blossom, though small, yields fruit.

牡丹花大空入目
 Mu³ tan¹ 'hua¹ ta⁴ k'ung¹ ju⁴ mu⁴;
 棗花雖小結實成
 tsao³ 'hua¹ sui¹ hsiao³ chieh² shih² ch'êng.²

— 2017 —

Reduction of expenditure brings freedom of action.
Lit.: Remove the turnips and you'll have plenty of room.

去 了 蘿 蔔 地 土 寬
 Ch'ü⁴ liao³ lo² p'u² ti⁴ t'u³ kuan.¹

— 2018 —

Who spare men will always have men to use; who spare their clothes will always have clothes to wear.

惜人得人用。惜衣得衣穿
 Hsi² jên² tê² jên² yung⁴; hsi² i¹ tê² i¹ ch'uan.¹

— 2019 —

It is easy to spend, but hard to make money.

用錢容易賺錢難
 Yung⁴ ch'ien² yung³ i⁴ chuan⁴ ch'ien² nan.²

CHAPTER IV.

EXPERIENCE.

———— 2020 ————

They know the nature of fishes who near to water dwell;
And those who live near hills know the song of each
bird full well.

近水知魚性。近山識鳥音
Chin⁴ shui³ chih¹ yü² hsing⁴; chin⁴ shan¹ shih⁴ niao³ yin.¹

———— 2021 ————

Once bitten by a snake in passing by,
A second time he will of grass be shy.
一回着蛇咬。二回不撻草
Yi¹ 'hui² cho² shê² yao,³ êrh⁴ 'hui² pu⁴ tsan³ ts'ao.³

———— 2022 ————

He learns less who looks on, than he does who makes;
Less by mere doing, than by many mistakes.

見過不如做過
Chien⁴ kuo⁴ pu⁴ ju² tso⁴ kuo⁴;
做過不如錯過多
Tso⁴ kuo⁴ pu⁴ ju² ts'o⁴ kuo⁴ to.¹

———— 2023 ————

Till some one a fool of you has made,
You can't be up to the tricks of trade.

不上當。不成內行
Pu⁴ shang⁴ tang,⁴ pu⁴ ch'êng² nei⁴ 'hang.²

———— 2024 ————

They know what wind is who dwell in nests,—what
rain is who dwell in caves.

巢居知風。穴居知雨
Ch'ao² chü¹ chih¹ fêng,¹ hsieh⁴ chü¹ chih¹ yü.³

———— 2025 ————

He who eats bread for the first time feels strange over
the first three mouthfuls.

初吃饅頭三口生
Ch'u¹ ch'ih¹ man³ t'ou³ san¹ k'ou³ shêng.¹

— 2026 —

If you have not lived in the country, you do not know what hardship means.

不住鄉 不知艱難辛苦
Pu⁴ chu⁴ hsiang¹ pu⁴ chih¹ chien¹ nan² hsin¹ k'u.³

— 2027 —

If you have not lived in town, you do not know what is polite and proper.

不住城 不知禮義
Pu⁴ chu⁴ ch'eng² pu⁴ chih¹ li³ i.⁴

— 2028 —

Suppose no one ever ascended the mountain to see, who would believe that the water flowed down eastward from a height as great as the depth of the sea?

當時若不登高望
Tang¹ shih² jo⁴ pu⁴ t'eng² kao¹ wang,⁴
誰信東流海樣深
shui³ hsin⁴ tung¹ liu³ 'hai³ yang⁴ shên¹?

— 2029 —

If you drink the water you'll know the fountain.

飲水知源
Yin³ shui³ chih¹ yüan.²

— 2030 —

He has tasted both the sweet and the bitter.

甘苦備嘗
Kan¹ k'u³ pei⁴ ch'ang.²

— 2031 —

What the ear hears is not like what the eye sees.

耳聞不如眼見
Erh³ wên² pu⁴ ju² yen³ chien.⁴

— 2032 —

What one hears is doubtful; what ones sees is certain.

耳聽是虛。眼見是實
Erh³ t'ing¹ shih⁴ hsi¹; yen³ chien⁴ shih⁴ shih.²

2033

No words equal personal observation.

口說不如身逢
K'ou³ shuo¹ pu⁴ ju² shên¹ fêng²

2034

Every one knows his own affairs best. *Lit.:* Rats know the ways of rats.

耗子纔知耗子路
Hao⁴ tzū³ ts'ai² chih¹ hao⁴ tzū³ lu⁴

2035

The hole of a serpent, a serpent knows.

蛇的洞蛇曉得
Shê² tsan¹ ti¹ tung⁴ shê² hsiao³ tê²

2336

No one knows how difficult anything is until he has tried to do it.

事非經過不知難
Shih⁴ fei¹ ching¹ kuo⁴ pu⁴ chih¹ nan²

2037

Though blind the road is familiar to him.

眼瞎路熟
Yen³ hsia² lu⁴ shu²

2038

Until you go to the Yellow River you will not be satisfied.

不到黃河心不死
Pu⁴ tao⁴ Huang² ho² hsin¹ pu⁴ ssü³

CHAPTER V.

FORETHOUGHT.

— 2039 —

Grass not dug up by the roots,
Will again send forth its shoots.

草不除根。終當復生
Ts'ao³ pu⁴ ch'u² kên,¹ chung¹ tang¹ fu² shêng.¹

— 2040 —

Possessing a great tree, why be anxious about fuel?

有得大樹何愁柴燒
Yu³ tê² ta⁴ shu⁴ 'ho² ch'ou² ch'ai² shao¹?

— 2041 —

Treat men from all parts well, and wherever you go you will be well treated. *Lit.*: Make sure of a clear moon in all the five lakes, and you will not suffer the lack of an angling place.

留得五湖明月在
Liu² tê² wu³ 'hu² ming² yüeh⁴ tsai,⁴
不愁無處下金鉤
pu⁴ ch'ou² wu² ch'u⁴ hsia⁴ chin¹ kou.¹

— 2042 —

Yearly guard against famine; nightly guard against thieves.

年年防飢。夜夜防盜
Nien² nien² fang² chi¹; yeh⁴ yeh⁴ fang² tao.⁴

— 2043 —

Living securely, remember danger.

居安思危
Chü¹ an¹ ssü¹ wei.²

— 2044 —

In plenty think of want; in want do not presume on plenty.

常 將 有 日 思 無 日
 Ch'ang² chiang¹ yu³ jih⁴ ssü¹ wu² jih⁴;
 莫 把 無 時 作 有 時
 Mo⁴ pa³ wu² shih² tso⁴ yu³ shih.²

2045

Keep your ponds full of water, and you will be prepared against drought; cultivate thoroughly your soil, and it will yield enough to support a family.

池 塘 積 水 須 防 旱
 Ch'ih² t'ang² chi² shui³ hsiü¹ fang² 'han⁴;
 田 土 深 耕 足 養 家
 t'ien² t'u³ shên¹ kêng¹ tsu² yang³ chia.¹

2046

Plant bamboos before your hall, and the phoenix may come and lodge thereon; rear fish in your ponds, for they may become dragons.

庭 栽 樓 鳳 竹。池 養 化 龍 魚
 T'ing² tsai¹ ch'ü¹ fêng⁴ chu²; ch'ih² yang³ 'hua⁴ lung² yü.²

2047

Rear sons for old age, and lay up grain against famine.

養 兒 防 老。積 穀 防 飢
 Yang³ êrh² fang² lao³; chi² ku³ fang² chi.¹

2048

Though the weather be fine take your umbrella; though you are not hungry take some provisions.

晴 帶 雨 傘。飽 帶 飢 糧
 Ch'ing² tai⁴ yü³ san⁴; pao³ tai⁴ chi¹ liang.²

2349

Thatch your roof before rainy weather; and dig your well before you become parched with thirst.

宜 未 雨 而 綢 繆
 I² wei⁴ yü³ êrh² ch'ou² mu⁴;
 勿 臨 渴 而 掘 井
 wu⁴ lin² k'o³ êrh² chüeh² ching.³

2050

Better be too credulous than too sceptical.

寧 可 信 其 有。不 可 信 其 無
 Ning² k'o³ hsin⁴ ch'i² yu,³ pu⁴ k'o³ hsin⁴ ch'i² wu.²

2051

Those who prepare for, will escape trouble.

有 備 無 患
 Yu³ pei⁴ wu² huan.⁴

NOTE.—There is a well-guarded street in Hankow bearing this inscription.

2052

It is better to ward off than to cure disease.

與 其 病 後 能 求 藥
 Yü³ ch'i² ping⁴ hou⁴ neng² ch'iu² yao,⁴
 不 如 病 前 能 自 防
 pu⁴ ju² ping⁴ ch'ien² neng² tzü⁴ fang.²

2053

Better prevent than cure disease; better diminish than add to trouble.

禦 病 不 如 却 病
 Yü⁴ ping⁴ pu⁴ ju² ch'ieh⁴ ping⁴;
 多 事 不 如 省 事
 To¹ shih⁴ pu⁴ ju² shêng³ shih.⁴

2054

He who neither hoards up wealth, nor makes an enemy, may sleep in peace and travel in safety.

一 不 積 財。一 不 結 怨
 Yi¹ pu⁴ chi² ts'ai,⁴ yi¹ pu⁴ chieh² yüan,⁴
 睡 也 安 寧。走 也 方 便
 shui⁴ yeh³ an¹ ning,² tsou⁴ yeh³ fang¹ pien.⁴

2055

Let the past be past; and for the future by no means trouble.

過 去 事 已 過 去 了
 Kuo⁴ ch'ü⁴ shih⁴ i³ kuo⁴ ch'ü⁴ liao³;
 未 來 不 必 預 思 量
 wei⁴ lai² pu⁴ pi⁴ yü⁴ ssü¹ liang.²

2056

If you wish to know the road before you, ask of those who have travelled it.

欲 知 前 頭 路。須 問 過 來 人
 Yü⁴ chih¹ ch'ien² t'ou² lu,⁴ hsi¹ wên⁴ kuo⁴ lai² jên.²

2057

Equal to all emergencies. *Lit.*: If water comes, soil can dam it; if rebels come, a general can stop them.

水 來 土 掩。兵 來 將 當
 Shui³ lai² t'u³ yen³; ping¹ lai² chiang¹ tang.¹

2058

Forethought is easy, repentance hard,

思 前 容 易 悔 後 難
 Ssü¹ ch'ien² yung² i⁴ 'hui³ 'hou⁴ nan.²

C H A P T E R V I .

IMPRUDENCE.

— 2059 —

When your money is spent you cut off wine; when growing old you turn to the sacred books.

無 錢 方 斷 酒。臨 老 始 看 經。
Wu² chien² fang¹ tuan⁴ chiu³; lin² lao³ shih³ k'an⁴ ching.¹

— 2060 —

You think only of advance, and never of retreat.

只 顧 前 走。不 顧 後 退。
Chih³ ku⁴ chien² tsou,⁴ pu⁴ ku⁴ 'hou⁴ t'ui.⁴

— 2261 —

Do nothing to discredit yourself. *Lit.*: Do not thrust your fingers through your own paper lantern.

紙 糊 燈 籠 指 穿 不 得。
Chih³ 'hu² têng¹ lung² ts'u² ch'uan¹ pu⁴ tã.²

— 2062 —

To pretend to be very clever and show one's self to be a fool.

弄 巧 反 拙
Nung⁴ ch'iao³ fan³ cho.¹

— 2063 —

To overlade a rickety ship.

破 船 多 攬 載
P'o⁴ ch'uan² to¹ lan³ tsai.³

— 2064 —

To pour oil on the flames.

火 上 添 油
'Huo³ shang⁴ t'ien¹ yu.²

— 2065 —

Through credulity to be deceived into selling one's sitting-hens.

信 人 哄 賣 了 雞 婆 種
Hsin⁴ jên² 'hung³ mai⁴ liao³ chi¹ p'o² chung.⁴

2066

If you plant a grove to rear tigers in, when grown the tigers will injure men.

栽林養虎。虎大傷人
Tsai lin² yang³ 'hu,³ 'bu³ ta⁴ shang¹ jên.¹

2067

To pine one's belly, to spare one's face.

惜了臉皮悞了肚皮
Hsi² liao³ lien³ pi² wu⁴ liao³ tu³ pi.²

2068

To be careless for the present and scheming for the future.

舍近而圖遠
Shé⁴ chin⁴ êrh² t'u² yüan.³

2069

To sail any way with wind and tide.

隨風倒舵。順水推船
Sui² fêng¹ tao⁴ to,⁴ shun⁴ shui³ t'ui¹ ch'uan.²

2070

He who rouses a sleeping tiger, exposes himself to harm.

把臥着的老虎哄起來了
Pa³ wo⁴ cho² ti¹ lao³ 'hu³ 'hung³ ch'i³ lai² liao,³
自找吃虧
tzü⁴ chao³ ch'ih¹ k'uei.¹

2071

To lose the great for the small.

因小失大
Yin¹ hsiao³ shih¹, ta.⁴

2072

To be careless in great matters and careful in small ones.

大處不算。小處算
Ta⁴ ch'u⁴ pu⁴ suan,⁴ hsiao³ ch'u⁴ suan.⁴

2073

To hide the head and leave the rump exposed.

鑽進頭不顧屁股
Tsüan¹ chin⁴ t'ou² pu⁴ ku⁴ pi⁴ ku.³

2074

To pare off flesh in one place to mend a sore in another.

剮肉補瘡

Kua³ jou⁴ pu³ ch'uang.¹

2075

To present one's head to a shower of stones.

送腦磕接石頭

Sung⁴ nao³ k'o¹ chieh¹ shih² t'ou.²

2076

To spare a swelling till it becomes ulcerous.

護疤成膿

Hu⁴ p'ao² ch'eng² nung.²

2077

He won't go in fair weather, but waits till rain soaks his pate.

晴乾不肯去。直待雨淋頭

Ch'ing² kan¹ pu⁴ k'en³ ch'ü,⁴ chih² tai⁴ yü³ lin⁴ t'ou.²

2078

The swallow which builds its nest on a bamboo door screen, will find it difficult to rest.

燕巢幕上棲身難安

Yen⁴ ch'ao² mu⁴ shang⁴ ch'i¹ shên¹ nan² an.¹

2079

Build a cottage by the roadside, and you will not get it finished in three years.

作舍道傍三年不成

Tso⁴ shé⁴ tao⁴ p'ang² san¹ nien² pu⁴ ch'eng.²

2080

To allow anything to go in at one ear and out of the other.

這隻耳躲進。那隻耳躲出

Ché⁴ chih¹ erh³ to² chiu,⁴ na⁴ chih¹ erh³ to² ch'u.¹

2081

To divulge a secret. *Lit.*: To disclose the horse's foot.

露出馬腳來

Lou⁴ ch'u¹ ma³ chiao³ lai.²

———— 2082 ————

He who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount.

騎 虎 難 下 背

Ch'i² hu³ nan⁴ hsia⁴ pei⁴

———— 2083 ————

Though under the flag-staff, he misses his drill.

旗 桿 碰 下 倒 悞 了 操

Ch'i² kan² têng¹ hsia⁴ tao⁴ wu⁴ liao³ ts'ao¹

———— 2084 ————

To try to stand on two boats at once.

脚 踏 兩 邊 船

Chiao³ ta⁴ liang³ pien¹ ch'uan²



SECTION XVI.—ON THE FIVE RELATIONS.

CHAPTER I.

PRINCE AND MINISTER.

2085

A cup is the Prince that o'er us reigns ;
We are the water that cup contains ;
Round or square as the cup may be,
Just the same shape you'll the water see.

君 猶 盃 也。 民 猶 水 也
Chün¹ yü² pei¹ yeh,³ min² yu² shui³ yeh,³
盃 方 水 方。 盃 圓 水 圓
Pei¹ fang¹ shui³ fang,¹ pei¹ yüan² shui³ yüan.²

2086

In the Emperor's presence to abide,
Is just like sleeping by a tiger's side.

身 在 皇 帝 邊。 猶 如 共 虎 眠
Shên¹ tsai⁴ 'huang² ti⁴ pien,¹ yu² ju² kung⁴ 'hu³ mien.²

2087

The minister remonstrates with the Prince, not the
Prince with the minister.

只 有 臣 諫 君
Chih³ yu³ ch'ên² chien⁴ chün,¹
沒 有 君 諫 臣 之 禮
mu² tê² chün¹ chien⁴ ch'ên² chih¹ li.³

2088

When the Prince is not upright, ministers escape to
foreign countries.

君 不 正 臣 逃 外 國
Chün¹ pu⁴ chêng⁴ ch'ên² t'ao² wai⁴ kuo.²

2089

All the stars of heaven salute the north ; every stream
flows towards the east.

天 上 衆 星 皆 拱 北
 T'ien¹ shang⁴ chung⁴ hsing¹ chieh¹ kung³ pei³;
 世 間 無 水 不 朝 東
 shih⁴ chien¹ wu² shui³ pu⁴ ch'ao² tung¹

NOTE.—Thus, according to the high-flown notions of the Chinese, do all officers and people combine to magnify the Son of Heaven.

———— 2090 ————

Each dynasty has its Sons of Heaven, and its ministers.

一 朝 天 子 一 朝 臣
 Yi¹ ch'ao² t'ien¹ tzü³ yi¹ ch'ao² ch'ên²

———— 2091 ————

When the Prince wants a minister to die, he dies.

君 要 臣 死 臣 就 死
 Chün¹ yao⁴ ch'ên² ssü³ ch'ên² chiu⁴ ssü³

———— 2092 ————

The Emperor cannot make men be his magistrates.

朝 廷 無 強 官 之 法
 Ch'ao² t'ing² wu² ch'iang² kuan¹ chih¹ fa³

———— 2093 ————

The light of all the stars is not equal to that of the moon.

衆 星 朗 朗 不 如 孤 月 獨 明
 Chung⁴ hsing¹ lang³ lang³ pu⁴ ju² ku¹ yueh⁴ tu² ming²

———— 2094 ————

An upright royal family is prospered by Heaven; and under pure magistrates the people enjoy peace.

國 正 天 心 順。官 清 民 自 安
 Kuo² chêng⁴ t'ien¹ hsin¹ shun⁴; kuan¹ ch'ing¹ min² tzü⁴ an¹

———— 2095 ————

All kinds of divine influence will combine to support a sage Son of Heaven.

聖 天 子 百 靈 相 助
 Shêng⁴ t'ien¹ tzü³ pai³ ling² hsiang¹ chu⁴

———— 2096 ————

If the Son of Heaven breaks the laws, he is guilty like one of the people.

天子犯法與民同罪
T'ien¹ tzü³ fan⁴ fa³ yü³ min² t'ung² tsui.⁴

2097

A faithful minister views death unappalled; a virtuous woman faces danger with a smile.

忠臣視死無難色
Chung¹ ch'ên² shih⁴ ssü³ wu² nan² sê⁴;
烈婦臨危有笑容
lieh⁴ fu⁴ lin² wei² yu³ hsiao⁴ yung.²

2098

A loyal minister is not afraid of death; he who is, is not a loyal minister.

忠臣不怕死。怕死不忠臣
Chung¹ ch'ên² pu⁴ p'a⁴ ssü²; p'a⁴ ssü³ pu⁴ chung¹ ch'ên.²

2099

One attends a Prince as a sheep a tiger; the slightest shortcoming is punished.

伴君如同羊伴虎
Pan⁴ chün¹ ju² t'ung² yang² pan⁴ hu³;
一點不到有損傷
yi⁴ tien³ pu⁴ tao⁴ yu³ sun³ shang.¹

2100

A selfish minister is not loyal; a loyal minister is not selfish.

私臣不忠。忠臣不私
Ssü¹ ch'ên² pu⁴ chung¹; chung¹ ch'ên² pu⁴ ssü.¹

2101

You must look for loyal ministers amongst filial sons.

求忠臣必入孝子之門
Ch'iu² chung¹ ch'ên² pi⁴ ju⁴ hsiao⁴ tzü³ chih¹ mên.²

CHAPTER II.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

2102

As the dragon and the phoenix propagate their kind ;
The young rat will be able to bore a hole you'll find.

龍 生 龍 鳳 生 鳳
Lung² shêng² lung² fêng⁴ shêng¹ fêng⁴ ;
老 鼠 生 兒 會 打 洞
Lao³ shu³ shêng¹ êrh² 'hui⁴ ta³ tung⁴.

2103

The faults of children are to parents all unknown ;
And farmers never know how rich their crops have
grown.

人 莫 知 其 子 之 惡
Jên² mo⁴ chih¹ ch'í² tzū³ chih¹ o⁴ ;
農 莫 知 其 苗 之 碩
Nung² mo⁴ chih¹ ch'í² miao² chih¹ so².

2104

Would you see your little ones growing up strong,
They must not clothe heavily, nor eat too long.

要 得 小 兒 安
Yao⁴ te² hsiao³ êrh² an¹
須 帶 三 分 飢 餓 寒
Hsü¹ tai⁴ san¹ fcn¹ chi¹ o⁴ 'han².

2105

As your fields must be by your own hands sown,
Sons are no use unless they're your own.

田 要 親 耕。子 要 親 生
T'ien² yao⁴ ch'in¹ kêng¹ tzū³ yao⁴ ch'in¹ shêng¹.

2106

He kept my early years from care ;
I'll keep and comfort his grey hair.

他 養 我 小。我 養 他 老
T'a¹ yang³ wo³ hsiao³ ; wo³ yang³ t'a¹ lao³.

2107

One's own parents may be thrown aside neglected ;
While foster parents are as Heaven respected.

生 身 父 母 在 一 邊
Shêng¹ shên¹ fu⁴ mu³ tsai⁴ yi¹ pien,¹
養 身 父 母 大 如 天
Yang³ shên¹ fu⁴ mu³ ta⁴ ju² t'ien.¹

2108

Not to sow parental lands, good sons will take care ;
Good daughters will not always their wedding dresses
wear.

好 兒 不 種 爺 田 地
'Hao³ êrh² pu⁴ chung⁴ yeh² t'ien² ti⁴ ;
好 女 不 穿 嫁 時 衣
'Hao³ nü² pu⁴ ch'uan¹ chia⁴ shih² i.¹

2109

Near the ancestral home the eldest must reside ;
Near to his mother's room the youngest must abide.

長 子 不 離 宗 堂
Chang³ tzū³ pu⁴ li² tsung¹ t'ang² ;
么 兒 不 離 娘 房
Yao¹ êrh² pu⁴ li² niang² fang.²

2110

As seed-corn is from former years reserved,
So children are in former lives deserved.

種 子 隔 年 留 女 兒 前 世 修
Chung⁴ tzū³ ko² nien² liu,² nü² êrh² ch'ien² shih⁴ hsiu.¹

2111

One may see what a son will be,
From what he is in infancy.

看 兒 歹 好。須 從 幼 小
K'an⁴ êrh² tai³ 'hao,³ hsi¹ ts'ung² yu⁴ hsiao.²

2112

Wise statesmen are the produce of prosperous dy-
nasties ;
And children's children bless the home wherever
virtue is.

國朝盛出賢臣
Kuo³ ch'ao² shêng⁴ ch'u¹ hsien² ch'ên²;
家道興看子孫
Chia¹ tao⁴ hsing¹ k'an⁴ tzū³ sun.¹

2113

The fruit of one tree may be sour and sweet;
The sons of one mother dull and discreet.

一樹之果有酸有甜
Yi¹ shu⁴ chih¹ kuo³ yu³ suan¹ yu³ t'ien²;
一母之子有愚有賢
Yi¹ mu³ chih¹ tzū³ yu³ yü² yu³ hsien.²

2114

When descendants are in an unhappy condition,
It's the grave, or the house, has a luckless position!

子孫無福。賴墳賴屋
Tzū³ sun¹ wu² fu,² lai⁴ fên² lai⁴ wu.¹

2115

Spoilt children are unfilial sinners.
Spoilt dogs will steal their masters' dinners.

嬌兒不孝。嬌狗上竈
Chiao¹ êrh² pu⁴ hsiao⁴; chiao¹ kou³ shang⁴ tsao.⁴

2116

When fathers are unmerciful, sons fly to distant localities.

父不仁子奔他鄉
Fu⁴ pu⁴ jên² tzū³ pên¹ t'a¹ hsiang.¹

2117

Kind father—dutiful son; dutiful son—virtuous daughter-in-law.

父慈子孝。子孝媳賢
Fu⁴ tz'ü² tzū³ hsiao⁴; tzū³ hsiao⁴ hsi² hsien.²

2118

The child knows not what trouble it has given its mother.

養兒不知娘辛苦
Yang³ êrh² pu⁴ chih¹ niang² hsin¹ k'u.³

— 2119 —

Like father like son. *Lit.*: Dragons give birth to dragons, and phoenixes hatch phoenixes.

龍 生 龍 子。鳳 生 鳳 兒
Lung² shêng¹ lung² tzü,³ fêng⁴ shêng¹ fêng⁴ êrh.²

— 2120 —

The same. *Lit.*: Water always drops from the eaves into the same old holes.

屋 簷 溝 裡 水
Wu¹ yen² kou¹ li³ shui³
點 點 滴 在 舊 窩 裡
tien³ tien³ ti¹ tsai⁴ chiu⁴ wo¹ li.³

— 2121 —

He is unfilial who loves wife more than mother; she is unwise who hates for him her son's wife.

寵 妻 別 母 子 不 孝
Ch'ung³ ch'í¹ pieh² mu³ tzü³ pu⁴ hsiao⁴;
替 兒 嫌 妻 母 不 賢
t'í⁴ êrh² hsien² ch'í¹ mu³ pu⁴ hsien.²

— 2122 —

He is the son who buries his parents; and worn out silks and satins are dress.

送 老 歸 山 纔 是 兒
Sung⁴ lao³ kuei¹ shan¹ ts'ai² shih⁴ êrh²;
穿 破 綾 羅 纔 是 衣
ch'uan¹ p'o⁴ ling² lo² ts'ai² shih⁴ i.¹

— 2123 —

At the bedside in cases of chronic sickness, there are no filial children.

久 病 牀 前 無 孝 子
Chiu³ ping⁴ ch'uang² chien² wu³ hsiao⁴ tzü.³

— 2124 —

When parents die old, dutiful children may be merry.

父 母 老 死。風 流 孝 子
Fu⁴ mu³ lao³ ssü,³ fêng¹ liu² hsiao⁴ tzü.³

2125

Strict fathers have filial sons.

嚴父出孝子
Yen² fu⁴ ch'ü¹ hsiao⁴ tzü.³

2126

When father and son agree, the family will not fail;
when brothers agree, the family will not separate.

父子而家不退
Fu⁴ tzü³ 'ho² êrh² chia¹ pu⁴ t'ui⁴;
兄弟而家不分
hsiang¹ ti⁴ 'ho² êrh² chia¹ pu⁴ fên.¹

2127

In a gambling-house—no father and son.

賭錢場上無父子
Tu³ ch'ien² ch'ang² shang⁴ wu² fu⁴ tzü.³

2128

Bad descendants involve ancestors in disgrace.

後人不好連累上人
'Hou⁴ jên² pu⁴ 'hao,³ lien² lei³ shang⁴ jên².

NOTE.—This is a purely Chinese notion, according to which the sins of descendants are charged upon ancestors; they must have committed some enormous crime to cause their descendants thus to sin.

2129

The parents' pet is the obedient child.

爹娘痛的順心兒
Tieh¹ niang² t'ung⁴ ti¹ shun⁴ hsin¹ êrh.²

2130

Parents can hardly secure that their descendants will
be wise and good.

父母難保子孫賢
Fu⁴ mu³ nan² pao³ tzü³ sun¹ hsien.²

2131

When a father wants his son to die, he dies.

父要子亡子不留
Fu⁴ yao⁴ tzü³ wang² tzü³ pu⁴ liu.²

2132

Whilst the father lives the son dare not put himself forward.

父在子不敢自專
Fu⁴ tsai⁴ tzū³ pu⁴ kau² tzū⁴ chuan.¹

2133

The rod produces obedient, petting and spoiling disobedient children.

棍棒頭上出好子
Kun⁴ pang⁴ t'ou² shang⁴ ch'ü¹ 'hao³ tzū,³
嬌疼嬌養忤逆兒
chiao¹ t'eng² chiao¹ yang³ wu³ ni⁴ êrh.²

2134

Good parents,—jolly marriages; good children,—decent funerals.

好爹媽好親事
'Hao³ tieh¹ ma¹ 'hao³ ch'in¹ shih⁴;
好兒女好葬事
'hao³ êrh² nü² 'hao³ tsang⁴ shih.⁴

2135

“When a tiger has three whelps at a birth, one of them will be a leopard; when a man has three boys at a birth one of them will be noble.”

虎生三子必有一豹
'Hu³ sh'ng¹ san¹ tzū³ pi⁴ yu³ yi¹ pao⁴;
人生三子必有一貴
Jên² sh'ng¹ san¹ tzū³ pi⁴ yu³ yi¹ kuei.⁴

NOTE.—Curiously enough, it is said that when a man's wife bears him three sons, he is summoned to the *yamen* to receive a congratulatory present from the magistrate. In one instance, known to my informant, the lucky father received a present of Ten Taels. This will remind the reader of the Queen's bounty on the occasion of triple births.

2136

When selling a son don't stroke his head; if you stroke his head your tears will flow.

賣子莫摩頭。摩頭眼淚流
Mai⁴ tzū³ mo⁴ mo¹ t'ou²; mo¹ t'ou² yen³ lei⁴ liu.²

2137

Dutiful sires beget dutiful sons; undutiful sires beget undutiful children.

孝 順 還 生 孝 順 子
 Hsiao⁴ shun⁴ 'huan² shêng¹ hsiao⁴ shun⁴ tzü³;
 忤 逆 還 生 忤 逆 兒
 wu³ ni⁴ 'huan² shêng¹ wu³ ni⁴ êrh.²

2138

You must rear children to know parental goodness.

養 兒 方 知 父 母 恩
 Yang³ êrh² fang¹ chih¹ fu⁴ mu³ ên.¹

2139

He who has a son must depend on him; he who has not, must depend on his son-in-law.

有 兒 靠 兒。無 兒 靠 婿
 Yu³ êrh² k'ao⁴ êrh²; wu² êrh² k'ao⁴ hsü.⁴

2140

If my descendants surpass me, why should I covet money?

If they be inferior to me, still why should I do so?

子 孫 勝 似 我 要 錢 做 甚 麼
 Tsü³ sun¹ shêng⁴ ssü⁴ wo³ yao⁴ ch'ien² tso⁴ shên⁴ mo¹?
 子 孫 不 如 我 要 錢 做 甚 麼
 Tzü³ sun¹ pu⁴ ju² wo³ yao⁴ ch'ien² tso⁴ shên⁴ mo¹?

2141

Do not spend your honest wit in fruitless scheming; your descendants must get their share of happiness.

莫 把 真 心 空 計 較
 Mo⁴ pa³ chên¹ hsin¹ k'ung¹ chi⁴ chiao⁴;
 兒 孫 自 有 兒 孫 福
 êrh² sun¹ tzü⁴ yn³ êrh² sun¹ fu.²

2142

Reserve the square-inch plot for your descendants to till.

但 存 方 寸 地 留 與 子 孫 耕
 Tan⁴ ts'un² fang¹ ts'un⁴ ti⁴ liu² yü³ tzü³ sun¹ kêng.¹

NOTE.—The "square-inch plot" is the heart; and the meaning is that parents must leave a good example to be followed by their children.

— 2143 —

Would you love your child, then teach him industry and temperance.

若要愛子教他勤儉
Jo⁴ yao¹ ai⁴ tzu³ chiao⁴ t'a¹ ch'in² chien.³

— 2144 —

When the father pursues the son with the rod, he must not follow him for a hundred paces.

老子趕兒不上百步
Lao³ tzū³ kan² êrh² pu⁴ shang² pai³ pu.⁴

— 2145 —

The broken furnace may turn out good tiles.

破窰出好瓦
P'o⁴ yao² ch'u¹ hao³ wa.¹

— 2146 —

If you love your child don't spare the rod; if you hate your child give him plenty of dainties.

憐兒多與棒。憎兒多與食
Lien² êrh² to¹ yü³ pang⁴; tsêng¹ êrh² to¹ yü³ shih.²

NOTE.—“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” Prov. 13: 24.

— 2147 —

The pestle produces white rice; and the rod good children.

杵頭出白米。棒頭出好子
Ch'u³ t'ou² ch'u¹ pai² mi³; pang⁴ t'ou² ch'u¹ hao³ tzū.²

— 2148 —

Let parents say what they will, children must curb their tempers and hold their tongues.

父母言語。忍氣吞聲
Fu⁴ mu³ yen² yü.³ jên³ ch'i⁴ t'un¹ shêng.¹

— 2149 —

Grown up sons must separate from their mothers; and grown up daughters from their fathers.

男大避母。女大避父
Na² ta⁴ pi⁴ mu³; nü² ta⁴ pi⁴ fu.⁴

2150

We dare not injure the bodies received from our parents.

身體髮膚受之父母不敢毀傷
Shên¹ t'í³ fa³ fu¹ shou⁴ chih¹ fu⁴ mu,³ pu⁴ kan² 'hui¹ shang¹.

2151

Whomsoever his parents love, the son loves.

父母愛一人焉。子愛一人焉
Fu⁴ mu³ ai⁴ yi¹ jên² yen,¹ tzū¹ ai⁴ yi¹ jên² yen.¹

2152

Sons and grandsons have their destined pleasures ; do not treat them as horses and cows.

兒孫自有兒孫福
Erh³ sun¹ tzū⁴ yu³ erh² sun¹ fu²;
莫把兒孫作馬牛
Mo⁴ pa³ erh² sun¹ tso⁴ ma³ niu.²

2153

With right on his side even a son may correct a father.

有理打得爺
Yu³ li³ ta³ tē² tieh¹.

2154

If you honour your parents at home, why go afar to burn incense ?

在家敬父母。何必遠燒香
Tsai⁴ chia¹ ching⁴ fu⁴ mu,³ 'ho³ pi⁴ yüan³ sbao¹ hsiang¹?

2155

Every man loves his own flesh and blood.

各人皮肉各人疼
ko⁴ jên² p'í² jou⁴ ko⁴ jên² t'eng².

2156

Whether a man strike his father and curse his mother or not, depends on his natural disposition.

打爺罵娘。出自本心
'ta⁴ tieh⁴ ma⁴ niang,² ch'ü¹ tzü¹ pên¹ hsin.¹

— 2157 —

A prodigal's repentance is a priceless treasure.

浪子回頭。無價之寶
Lang¹ tzū³ 'hui² t'ou,² wu² chia⁴ chih¹ pao.³

— 2158 —

A stupid son is better than a crafty daughter.

癡男勝過巧女
Ch'ih² nan² shêng¹ kuo⁴ ch'iao³ nü.²

— 2159 —

Full-grown fledged birds fly away.

長大老乾各自飛
Chang³ ta⁴ lao³ ch'ien² ko⁴ tzū⁴ fei.¹

— 2160 —

If sons are filial you don't want many.

好子不要多
'Hao³ tzū³ pu⁴ yao⁴ to.¹

— 2161 —

A daughter-in-law is very diligent on her first arrival.

新娶媳婦初來勤
Hsin¹ ch'ü³ hsi² fu⁴ ch'u¹ lai² ch'in.²

— 2162 —

A child does not dislike a plain mother; a dog does not despise a poor master.

子不嫌母醜。狗不厭家貧
Tzū³ pu⁴ hsiên² mu³ ch'ou³; kou³ pu⁴ yen⁴ chia¹ p'in.³

— 2163 —

He is no man who thinks much of his wealth, and little of his parents.

重貨財。薄父母。不成人子
Chung⁴ 'huo⁴ ts'ai,² po² fu⁴ mu,³ pu⁴ ch'êng² jên² tzū.³

— 2164 —

Imbecile sons boast of their ancestors.

無志男兒把祖宗誇
Wu² chih⁴ nan² êrh² pa¹ tsu³ tsung¹ k'ua.¹

— 2165 —

Wealth excites men; children awaken their affections.

財帛動人心。兒女痛人心。
Ts'ai² pai² tung⁴ jên² hsin¹; êrh² nü² t'ung⁴ jên² hsin¹.

2166

He who has sons cannot long remain poor; he who has none cannot long remain rich.

有兒貧不久。無子富不長。
Yu³ êrh² p'in³ pu⁴ chiu³; wu² tzü³ fu⁴ pu⁴ ch'ang².

2167

Empty granaries bring months and years of want; stupid posterity, laxity in manners and uprightness.

倉廩虛兮歲月乏。
Ts'ang¹ lin³ bsü¹ hsi¹ sui⁴ yüeh⁴ fa²;
子孫愚兮禮義疎。
tzü³ sun¹ yü² lsi¹ li¹ i¹ su².

2168

Better rear a playful than a stupid child.

寧可養頑子。不可養癡子。
Ning² k'o² yang³ wan² tzü³, pu⁴ k'o³ yang³ ch'ih² tzü³.

2169

Children whom the mother nourished three years at the breast, leave her of their own accord when grown to man's estate.

三年乳哺長懷抱。
San¹ nien² ju¹ pu³ ch'ang² 'huai³ pao⁴,
長大成人各自開。
chang³ ta⁴ ch'êng² jên² ko⁴ tzü⁴ k'ai¹.

2170

It is a miserable family where there are boys and girls: it is geni family where there are none.

有兒有女是冤家。
Yu³ êrh² yn³ nü² shih⁴ yüan¹ chia¹;
無兒無女是仙家。
wu² êrh² wu² nü² shih⁴ hsien¹ chia¹.

NOTE.—This may be said in jocular reply to congratulations, by the father of a large family.

— 2171 —

If we have none to foul the bed, we shall have none to burn paper at our graves.

牀 上 沒 有 屙 屎 的
 Ch'uang² shang⁴ mu² yu³ o¹ sui¹ ti,¹
 墳 前 沒 有 燒 紙 的
 fen² ch'ien² mu² yu³ shao¹ chih³ ti.¹

— 2172 —

Don't fear that your father won't love you; for when children are wise and good, parents are naturally glad.

不 患 父 不 慈。子 賢 親 自 樂
 Pu⁴ 'huan⁴ fu⁴ pu⁴ tz'ü²; tzü³ hsien² ch'in¹ tzü⁴ lê.⁴

— 2173 —

If you would pray for dutiful children, first show filial piety to your father and mother.

要 求 順 子。先 孝 爹 娘
 Yao⁴ ch'iu² shun⁴ tzü,³ hsien¹ hsiao⁴ tieh¹ niang.²

CHAPTER III.

HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

— 2174 —

For wives your sons are longing, your maids for husbands call ;

This is the one arena in which strive one and all.

兒 討 媳 婦 女 招 郎
Erh² t'ao³ hsi² fu⁴ nü² chao¹ lang² ;
人 在 世 間 鬧 一 場
Jên² tsai⁴ shih⁴ chien¹ nao⁴ yi¹ ch'ang²

— 2175 —

Marriages when properly negotiated,
Cause neither family to be aggravated.

結 親 如 結 義。兩 家 莫 生 氣。
Chieh² ch'in² ju² chieh² i⁴ liang³ chia¹ mo⁴ shêng¹ ch'i.⁴

— 2176 —

When doorways match and houses pair,
A marriage may be settled there.

門 當 戶 對。兩 下 成 婚 配。
Mên² tang¹ 'hu⁴ tui⁴ liang³ hsia⁴ ch'êng² hun¹ p'ei.⁴

— 2177 —

In betrothing a daughter to any young man,
Very careful enquiry's the only safe plan.

女 兒 說 人 家。過 細 訪 查。
Nü² erh² shuo¹ jên² chia,¹ kuo¹ hsi¹ fang³ ch'a.²

— 2178 —

Where true love exists between husbands and wives,
They're happily joined to the end of their lives.

夫 妻 愛 好。同 偕 到 老。
Fu¹ ch'i¹ ai⁴ 'hao,³ t'ung² chieh² tao⁴ lao.³

— 2179 —

In the great majority of cases,
Wives have fair, and husbands ugly faces ;
Yet there are many, on the other side,
Where the man is bound to an ugly bride.

好 妻 無 好 漢。天 下 一 大 半
 'Hao³ ch'i¹ wu² 'hao³ 'han,⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ yi¹ ta⁴ pan⁴;
 好 漢 無 好 妻。天 下 一 大 堆
 'Hao³ 'han⁴ wu² 'hao³ ch'i¹, t'ien¹ hsia⁴ yi¹ ta⁴ tui.¹

2180

Nought must divide the married pair;
 Its weight the steelyard cannot spare.

公 不 離 婆。秤 不 離 鈞
 Kung¹ pu⁴ li² p'o²; ch'eng³ pu⁴ li² t'o.⁴

2181

People married early, see in plainness nothing wrong;
 And clothes, though made of coarsest cloth, are often
 very strong.

結 髮 夫 妻 醜 也 好
 Chieh² fa³ fu¹ ch'i¹ ch'ou³ yeh³ 'hao³;
 粗 布 縫 衣 衣 也 牢
 Ts'u¹ pu⁴ feng³ i¹ i¹ yeh³ lao.²

NOTE.—“Early”; *chieh² fa³*, the knotting up of the hair, at the age of one and a half or two years.

2182

The bride that is linked to a worthless groom,
 Is like a man buried in a luckless tomb.

嫁 壞 人。葬 壞 墳
 Chia⁴ 'huai⁴ jèn,² tsang 'huai⁴ fèn.²

2183

Widow marriage must always be,
 Consummated immediately.

過 婚 嫂。連 夜 討
 Kuo⁴ hun¹ sao³ lien² yeh⁴ t'ao.³

NOTE.—Else the widow will demand a higher price, or accept some one else's higher bid.

2184

Having lost her first husband, again she's a bride;
 And so she gets higher at every stride.

死 了 前 夫 嫁 後 夫 一 步 高 一 步
 Ssü³ liao³ ch'ien² fu¹ chia⁴ 'hou⁴ fu¹; Yi¹ pu⁴ kao¹ yi¹ pu.⁴

2185

For virtue a woman our wife we make ;
For her beauty we a concubine take.

娶妻娶德。娶妾娶色
Ch'ü³ ch'í¹ ch'ü³ tē²; ch'ü³ ch'ieh⁴ ch'ü³ sē⁴

2186

Long not for the goddess' beauty divine ;
Long that the star of your husband may shine.

不要觀音面。只要夫星現
Pu⁴ yao⁴ Kuan¹ Yin¹ mien⁴; chih³ yao⁴ fu¹ hsing¹ hsien⁴

NOTE.—“Goddess,” 觀音. *Kuan Yin*, the well-known goddess of mercy. For an interesting and learned account of this divinity, see Eitel's “Handbook of Chinese Buddhism,” page 18.

2187

The dislike of her husband's parents she need not mind ;
But from her husband's dislike what escape can she find ?

公婆嫌還猶可
Kung¹ p'ò² hsien² huan² yu² k'ò³
丈夫嫌無處躲
Chang⁴ fu¹ hsien² wu² ch'ü⁴ to²

2188

The well-to-do maiden is not married into a poverty-stricken family.

有福之女不落無福之家
Yu³ fu² chih¹ nü², pu⁴ lo⁴ wu² fu² chih¹ chia¹.

2189

Early marriage is the duty of adults of both sexes.

男大須婚。女大須嫁
Nan² ta⁴ hsü¹ hun¹; nü² ta⁴ hsü¹ chia⁴.

2190

A clever match-maker can scold both sides ; while a stupid match-maker gets scolded by both.

會做媒的罵兩頭
'Hui⁴ tso⁴ mei² ti¹ ma⁴ liang³ t'ou²;
不會做媒的兩頭罵
pu⁴ 'hui⁴ tso⁴ mei² ti¹ liang³ t'ou² ma⁴.

2191

Those who rear daughters hope for great suitors.

養女望高門
Yang³ nü² wang⁴ kao¹ mên.²

2192

The upper classes endow their daughters on marriage; the middle classes do nothing but rear and marry them; and the lower classes make money by marrying them.

上等之人陪錢嫁女
Shang⁴ têng³ chih¹ jên² p'ei² ch'ien² chia⁴ nü²;
中等之人養女嫁女
chung¹ têng³ chih¹ jên² yang³ nü² chia⁴ nü²;
下等之人賺錢嫁女
hsia⁴ têng³ chih¹ jên² chuan⁴ ch'ien² chia⁴ nü.²

2193

Without clouds in the sky it cannot rain; so without go-betweens a match can never be made.

天上無雲不下雨
T'ien¹ shang⁴ wu² yün² pu⁴ hsia⁴ yü³;
地下無媒不成親
ti⁴ hsia⁴ wu² mei² pu⁴ ch'êng² ch'in.¹

2194

When one family rears a daughter, a hundred families ask her in marriage:

一家養女百家求
Yi¹ chia¹ yang³ nü² pai³ chia¹ ch'iu.²

2195

In marrying a daughter select an excellent son-in-law; and do not extort costly wedding presents.

嫁女擇佳婿。勿索重聘
Chia⁴ nü² tse² chia¹ hsi⁴, wu⁴ so³ chung⁴ p'in.⁴

2196

In marrying a son seek a virtuous maiden, and scheme not for a rich dowry.

娶媳求淑女。勿計厚奩
Ch'ü³ hsi² ch'iu² shü² nü,² wu⁴ chi⁴ 'hou⁴ lien.²

2197

Negligent farming may induce temporary poverty ;
but a mistake in marrying blights a whole life.

種 田 不 好 一 時 窮
Chung⁴ t'ien² pu⁴ 'hao³ yi¹ shih² ch'iung² ;
討 壞 老 婆 一 生 窮
t'ao³ 'huai⁴ 'ao³ p'o² yi¹ sheng¹ ch'iung²

2198

Nine out of ten go-betweens are liars.

十 媒 九 誑
Shih² mei² chiu³ 'huang³

2199

You expect condiments with vegetables ; a pretty face
with a concubine.

吃 菜 吃 油 鹽。 娶 妾 娶 容 顏
Ch'ih¹ ts'ai⁴ ch'ih¹ yu² yen² ; ch'ü³ ch'ieh⁴ ch'ü³ yung² yen²

2200

You may exhume a coffin ; you may not reject a
betrothed son-in-law.

葬 墳 還 可 取。 擇 婿 不 可 悔
Tsang⁴ fên² 'huan² k'o³ ch'ü³ ; tsé² hsü⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ 'hui³

2201

Matrimony, exhort men to complete ; strifes, exhort
men to put away.

婚 姻 勸 攏。 禍 患 勸 開
'Hun¹ yin¹ ch'üan⁴ lung³ ; kuo⁴ 'huan⁴ ch'üan⁴ k'ai¹

2202

There are Five Relations, but that of husband and
wife stands first ; there are three thousand great
Rites, but that of marriage is most important.

人 倫 有 五 夫 婦 爲 先
Jên² lün² yu³ wu³ fu¹ fu⁴ wei² hsien¹ ;
大 禮 三 千 婚 姻 最 重
ta⁴ li³ san¹ ch'ien¹ 'hun¹ yin¹ tsui⁴ chung⁴

NOTE.—According to the present custom of speaking of the Five Relations, they occur in the following order : Prince and Minister ; Parents and children ; Husbands and wives ; Elder and younger Brothers ; and Friends. But in the *Yi-Ching* the relation of Husband and wife stands first ; hence this saying.

2203

Marriage results from ante-natal causes.

前 世 有 緣 今 世 結
Ch'ien² shih⁴ yu³ yüan² chin¹ shih⁴ chieh.²

2204

In the husband fidelity is the thing that's good ; in the wife obedience is the thing that's proper.

夫 以 義 爲 良。 婦 以 順 爲 正
Fu¹ i³ i⁴ wei² liang²; fu⁴ i¹ shun⁴ wei² chêng.⁴

2205

Husband and wife are indeed birds of one grove, but at the bourn of death each takes his separate flight.

夫 妻 本 是 同 林 鳥
Fu¹ ch'i¹ pên³ sbih⁴ t'ung² lin² niao,³
大 限 到 來 各 時 飛
ta⁴ hsien⁴ tao⁴ lai² ko⁴ tzu⁴ fei.¹

2206

Ugly men marry pretty wives. *Lit.*: Scabbed-heads get flowery boughs.

癩 癩 討 花 枝
La¹ li² t'ao³ 'hua¹ chih.¹

2207

If they match by nature, marry them.

生 成 一 對。 紐 成 一 雙
Shêng¹ ch'êng² yi¹ tui,⁴ niu³ ch'êng² yi¹ shuang.¹

2208

Husband and wife in perfect concord, are like the music of the harp and lute.

夫 妻 相 好 合。 琴 瑟 與 笙 簧
Fu¹ ch'i¹ hsiang¹ 'hao³ 'ho,² ch'in² sê² yü² shêng wang.

2209

Conjugal felicity. *Lit.*: The husband sings and the wife accompanies.

夫 唱 婦 隨
Fu¹ ch'ang⁴ fu⁴ sui.²

2210

Horses will not re-mate ; but men and women will re-marry.

馬 無 再 配。 人 有 重 婚
Ma³ wu² tsai⁴ p'ei⁴; jên² yu³ ch'ung² 'hun.¹

2211

When a man's vessel is upset and its masts broken, he is poor for a time ; but when a man marries a bad wife he is poor for life.

翻 船 折 桅 一 時 窮
Fan¹ ch'uan² ché² wei² yi¹ shih² ch'ung²;
討 壞 老 婆 一 生 窮
t'ao³ 'huai⁴ lao³ p'o² yi¹ shêng¹ ch'ung.²

2212

The fool fears his old woman ; but the virtuous wife reverences her husband.

癡 漢 怕 老 婆。 賢 女 敬 丈 夫
Ch'ih² 'han⁴ p'a⁴ lao³ p'o²; bsien² nü² ching⁴ chang⁴ fu.¹

2213

A talented bridegroom is sometimes matched with a worthless bride ; and a clever woman is sometimes married to a dolt.

清 秀 才 郎 到 配 不 良 之 婦
Ch'ing¹ hsiu⁴ ts'ai² lang² tao⁴ p'ei⁴ pu⁴ liang² chih¹ fu⁴;
乖 巧 女 子 反 招 愚 拙 之 夫
kuai¹ ch'iao³ nü² tzü³ fan³ chao¹ yü² chüeh² chih¹ fu.¹

2214

When the two have been united they may not be separated.

伴 人 合 不 可 伴 人 開
Pan⁴ jên² 'ho² pu⁴ k'o³ pan⁴ jên² k'ai.¹

2215

Loving husbands and wives, enjoy the enduring affection of their sons and daughters.

夫 妻 恩 厚。 兒 女 情 長
Fu¹ ch'i¹ ên¹ 'hou,⁴ êrh² nü² ch'ing² ch'ang.²

2216

A man may be ten years older than his wife ; she must not be one year older than he.

只許男大一層
Chih³ hsi³ nan² ta⁴ yi¹ ts'eng²
不可女長一歲
pu⁴ k'o³ nü² ch'ang⁴ yi¹ sui⁴

2217

A man without a wife has a home without a mistress ; a woman without a husband is an unprotected being.

男無妻家無主
Nan² wu² ch'i¹ chia¹ wu² chu³ ;
女無夫身無主
nü² wu² fu¹ shên¹ wu² chu³

2218

When husband and wife disagree, they become the dupes of their own female slaves.

夫婦不和奴婢欺
Fu¹ fu⁴ pu⁴ 'ho² nu³ pi⁴ ch'i¹

2219

In bed,—husband and wife ; out of bed,—guests.

上牀夫婦下牀客
Shang⁴ ch'uang² fu¹ fu⁴ hsia⁴ ch'uang² k'o⁴

2220

Husbands are as Heaven to their wives ; wives are the slaves of their husbands.

夫乃婦之天。妻乃夫之奴
Fu¹ nai³ fu⁴ chih¹ t'ien¹ ; ch'i¹ nai³ fu¹ chih¹ nu³

2221

Husband and wife have no enmities which can survive a night.

夫妻無隔夜之仇
Fu¹ ch'i¹ wu² ko² yeh⁴ chih¹ ch'ou²

2222

If I keep to my wife, others will keep to theirs.

我不淫人婦。人不淫我妻
Wo³ pu⁴ yin² jên² fu⁴ jên² pu⁴ yin² wo³ ch'i¹

2223

A good man will not beat his wife; a good dog will not worry a fowl.

好漢不打妻。好狗不咬雞
'Hao³ 'han⁴ pu⁴ ta³ ch'i¹; 'hao³ kou³ pu⁴ yao³ chi¹.

2224

Is he a superior man who listens to his wife, and turns against his brother?

聽婦言乖骨肉。豈是丈夫
T'ing¹ fu⁴ yen² kuai¹ ku³ jou,⁴ ch'i³ shih⁴ chang⁴ fu¹?

2225

Do not curse your wife in the evening, or you will have to sleep alone.

莫罵酉時妻。一夜受孤悽
Mo⁴ ma⁴ yu³ shih² ch'i,¹ yi¹ yeh⁴ shou⁴ ku¹ ch'i.¹

2226

If your wife is against it, do not get a concubine.

吃醋不討小
Ch'ih¹ ts'u⁴ pu⁴ t'ao³ hsiao.³

2227

He detests his own wife, but loves other men's. *Lit.*:
He lightly esteems the domestic fowl, but loves the wild pheasant.

輕家雞愛野雉
Ch'ing¹ chia¹ chi¹ ai⁴ yeh³ ch'ih.⁴

2228

Fine houses are man-measuring skeps; and fair wives are ferry boats.

華屋量人斗。嬌妻渡客船
'Hua² wu¹ liang³ jên² tou³; chiao¹ ch'i¹ tu⁴ k'o⁴ ch'uan.²

NOTE.—The moral of this proverb is—Neither covet fine houses nor pretty wives; for, out of the one you will be turned by death, and, after your death, the other will marry again.

2229

Take no notice of what you hear said on the pillow.

枕邊之言莫聽
Chên³ pien¹ chih¹ yen³ mo⁴ t'ing.¹

2230

A virtuous wife causes her husband to be honoured ;
a bad one brings him to shame.

賢婦令夫貴。惡婦令夫賤

Hsien² fu⁴ ling⁴ fu¹ kuei,⁴ o⁴ fu⁴ ling⁴ fu¹ chien.⁴

NOTE.—“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.” Prov. 12; 4.

2231

Ugly wives and stupid maids are priceless treasures.

醜婦拙奴無價之寶

Ch'ou³ ch'i¹ chüeh² nu³ wu² chia⁴ chih¹ pao.³

2232

Do not marry wives or concubines who are gorgeously
fine.

妻妾切忌豔妝

Ch'i¹ ch'ieh⁴ ch'ieh⁴ chi⁴ yen⁴ chuang.¹

2233

A virtuous wife saves her husband from evil ways.

家有賢妻。男人不遭橫事

Chia¹ yu³ hsien² ch'i,¹ nan² jên² pu⁴ tsao¹ hun⁴ shih.⁴

2234

Nothing will frighten a wilful wife but a beating.

強婆娘只怕打

Chiang⁴ p'o² niang² chih³ p'a⁴ ta.³

2235

She who is wife to one man cannot eat the rice of two.

一家女兒吃不得兩家飯

Yi¹ chia¹ nü² êrh² ch'ih¹ pu⁴ tê² liang³ chia¹ fan.⁴

2236

Slanders cluster round a widow's door.

寡婦門前多是非

Kua³ fu⁴ nên² ch'ien² to¹ shih⁴ fei.¹

2237

Dress to meet your parents, undress to meet your
husband.

穿衣見父母。脫衣見丈夫

Ch'uan¹ i¹ chien⁴ fu⁴ mu,³ t'o¹ i¹ chien⁴ chang⁴ fu.¹

2238

If she rises early she offends her husband ; if late, his father and mother.

起 早 了 得 罪 丈 夫

Ch'i³ tsao³ liao³ tē² tsui⁴ chang⁴ fu¹;

起 晏 了 得 罪 公 婆

ch'i³ yen⁴ liao³ tē² tsui⁴ kung¹ p'o.²

2239

Happy the wife who dies before her husband ; unhappy she who dies after him.

有 福 死 夫 前。無 福 死 夫 後

Yu³ fu² ssü³ fu¹ ch'ien²; wu² fu² szü³ fu¹ 'hou.⁴

2240

Good tempered and careful—she's a good wife indeed.

下 氣 小 心。纔 是 婦 女

Hsia⁴ ch'i⁴ hsiao³ hsin¹ ts'ai² shih⁴ fu⁴ nü.²

2241

A good horse will not turn back to eat grass ; and a good wife will not marry a second husband.

好 馬 不 吃 回 頭 草

'Hao³ ma³ pu⁴ ch'ih¹ 'hui² t'ou² ts'ao³;

好 妻 不 嫁 二 丈 夫

'hao³ ch'i¹ pu⁴ chia⁴ êrh⁴ chang⁴ fu.¹

2242

A loyal minister will serve but one Prince ; a virtuous woman but one husband.

忠 臣 不 事 二 君

Chung¹ ch'ên² pu⁴ shih⁴ êrh⁴ chün¹;

貞 婦 不 事 二 夫

chên¹ fu⁴ pu⁴ shih⁴ êrh⁴ fu.¹

2243

A widow. *Lit.*: A rudderless boat.

無 舵 之 舟

Wu² to⁴ chih¹ chou.¹

CHAPTER IV.

ELDER AND YOUNGER BROTHERS.

2244

“In childhood who as brothers are,
When grown up oft are severed far.”

小時是兄弟。長大各鄉里。
Hsiao³ shih² shih⁴ hsiung¹ ti,⁴ ch'ang⁴ ta⁴ ko⁴ hsiang¹ li.³

2245

Brothers resemble hands and feet.

兄弟如手足
Hsiung¹ ti⁴ ju² shou³ tsu.²

NOTE.—This is the stereotyped illustration which meets one everywhere in Chinese books.

2246

Though the left hand conquer the right, no advantage is gained.

左拳打右手。雖勝不如無。
Tso³ ch'üan² ta³ yu⁴ shou,³ sui¹ shêng⁴ pu⁴ ju² wu.²

2247

Torn clothes may be mended; but a hand or foot cannot be stuck on again.

衣裳破尙可補
I¹ shang¹ p'o⁴ shang⁴ k'o³ pu³;
手足斷難得連
shou³ tsu² tuan⁴ nan² tê² lien.²

2248

When brothers disagree they are imposed on by others.

兄弟不和旁人欺
Hsiung¹ ti⁴ pu⁴ 'ho² p'ang² jên² ch'i.¹

2249

A brother is harder to get than lands.

難得者兄弟。易得者田地
Nan² tê² ché² hsiung¹ ti⁴; i⁴ tê² ché² t'ien² ti.⁴

2250

A brother's injuries are soon healed.

兄弟殺一刀貫一个疤
Hsiung¹ ti⁴ sha¹ yi¹ tao¹ kuan⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ pa.¹

2251

Though brothers are so closely akin, it is each for himself in money matters.

兄弟雖親財利各別
Hsiung¹ ti⁴ sui¹ ch'in¹ ts'ai² li⁴ ko⁴ pieh.²

2252

Though a brother commit murder, it does not involve his brethren.

弟兄殺人各分手足
Ti⁴ hsiung¹ sha¹ jên² ko⁴ fên¹ shou³ tsu.²

2253

Brothers sometimes disagree. *Lit.*: Top and bottom teeth sometimes come into awkward collision.

齒牙也有相撞日子
Ch'ih³ ya² yeh³ yu³ hsiang¹ chuang⁴ jih⁴ tzü.³

2254

The same. *Lit.*: Dishes and basins will sometimes get smashed together.

碟碗也有相撞的日子
Tieh² wan³ yeh³ yu³ hsiang¹ chuang⁴ ti¹ jih⁴ tzü.³

2255

The most difficult thing on earth to get is a brother.

天下最難得者兄弟
T'ien¹ hsia⁴ tsui⁴ nan² tê² ché² hsiung¹ ti.⁴

2256

Kind friends are better than unkind brothers.

兄弟相害不如友生
Hsiung¹ ti⁴ hsiang¹ hai⁴ pu⁴ ju² yu³ shêng.¹

2257

Be he never so good he still is a stranger; be he never so bad he still is part of myself.

好煞了是他人
 'Hao³ sha¹ liao³ shih⁴ t'a¹ jèn²;
 壞煞了是自己
 'huai⁴ sha¹ liao³ shih⁴ tzū⁴ chi³

— 2258 —

Never allow the slightest consideration of profit, to injure the affection proper between those who are of the same bone and flesh.

勿以絲毫利。便傷骨肉情
 Wu⁴ i³ ssū¹ 'hao² li,⁴ pien⁴ shang¹ ku³ jou⁴ ch'ing²

CHAPTER V.

FRIENDS.

2259

Unless you will give him some trifling sum,
You can't get rid of a destitute chum.

說得脫。得八合。
Shuo¹ tē² t'o,¹ tē² pa¹ 'ho.²

NOTE.—The above is the commonest application to which this proverb is put; it can also be applied to any importunate creditor.

2260

Friendship existence to attain,
Must rest on goodness not on gain.

交義不交財。交財兩不來。
Chiao¹ i⁴ pu⁴ chiao¹ ts'ai²; chiao¹ ts'ai² liang³ pu⁴ lai.²

2261

Mix with mandarins and grow poor;
With merchants and increase your store;
With Bonzes and you soon will find,
Subscription lists not far behind.

交官窮。交客富。
Chiao¹ kuan¹ ch'ung²; chiao¹ k'o⁴ fu⁴;

交和尙。得緣簿。
Chiao¹ 'ho² shang⁴ tē² yüan² pu.⁴

2262

With every friend and fellow you meet,
You can do nothing but drink and eat:

三朋四友。碗酒筷肉。
San¹ p'êng² ssü⁴ yu,³ wan³ chiu³ k'nai⁴ jou.⁴

2263

Friends are at fault when a man is allowed to wear
his dress awry.

衣冠不正朋友之過。
I¹ kuan¹ pu⁴ chêng⁴ p'êng² yu³ chih¹ kuo.⁴

2264

Friends in the morning foes at night.

朝 兄 弟 暮 仇 敵

Chao¹ hsiung¹ ti⁴ mu⁴ ch'ou² ti.²

2265

Never make friends of ungenial men.

人 到 無 情 切 莫 相 交

Jên² tao⁴ wu² ch'ing² ch'ieh⁴ mu⁴ hsiang¹ chiao.¹

2266

A well-known friend is a treasure.

人 熟 是 寶

Jên² shu² shih⁴ pao.³

2267

Men are friends the world over.

五 湖 四 海 都 是 朋 友

Wu³ 'hu² ssü⁴ 'hai³ tu¹ shih⁴ p'eng² yu.³

2268

Lingering friendship. *Lit.:* The lotus root may be broken and its silken fibres remain united.

藕 斷 絲 不 斷

Ou³ tuan⁴ ssü¹ pu⁴ tuan.⁴

2269

When friendship is real men can talk without reserve.

得 意 忘 言 無 所 不 談

Té² i⁴ wang⁴ yen² wu² so³ pu⁴ t'an.²

2270

A miserable friendship. *Lit.:* An opium-smoker's probe scraped by a bit of pot.

鴉 片 烟 籤 子 遇 着 瓷 瓦 刮

Ya¹ p'ien⁴ yen¹ ch'ien¹ tzü,³ yü⁴ cho² tz'ü² wa¹ kua.¹

2271

Impossible alliance. *Lit.:* Friendship between ice and coal.

冰 炭 之 交 or 冰 炭 相 投

Ping¹ t'an⁴ chih¹ chiao.¹ or, Ping¹ t'an⁴ hsiang¹ t'ou.²

2272

Who are firmly joined can be hardly severed.

固 結 不 可 解

Ku⁴ chieh² pu⁴. k'o³ chieh.³

2273

Drink only with familiar friends; and recite poetry only with a poet.

酒 逢 知 己 飲。詩 向 會 人 吟

Chiu³ fêng² chih¹ chi³ yin³; shih¹ bsiang⁴ 'hui⁴ jên² yin.²

2274

One's acquaintances must fill the empire; but one's familiar friends must be few.

相 識 滿 天 下。知 心 能 幾 人

Hsiang¹ shih⁴ man³ t'ien¹ hsia⁴; chih¹ hsin¹ nêng² chi³ jên.²

2275

Let the politeness of first acquaintances characterize all after intercourse, and in the longest friendship nothing disagreeable will arise.

相 逢 好 似 初 相 識

Hsiang¹ fêng² 'hao³ ssü⁴ ch'u¹ bsiang¹ shih,⁴

到 老 終 無 怨 恨 心

tao⁴ lao³ chung¹ wu² yuan¹ 'hên³ hsin.¹

2276

If friends meet and part empty, the blooming peach blossom round the grotto will deride them.

相 逢 不 飲 空 歸 去

Hsiang¹ fêng² pu⁴ yin³ k'ung² kuei¹ ch'ü,⁴

洞 口 桃 花 也 笑 人

tung⁴ k'ou³ t'ao² 'hua¹ yeh³ hsiao⁴ jên.²

2277

Having money and wine your friends will be many; but who will visit you when in distress?

有 錢 有 酒 多 兄 弟

Yu³ ch'ien² yu³ chiu³ to¹ hsiung¹ ti⁴;

急 難 何 曾 見 一 人

chi² nan² 'ho² ts'êng² chien⁴ yi¹ jên?²

NOTE.—The poor is hated even of his own neighbour; but the rich hath many friends. Prov. 14; 20.

2278

Unless your friend be your superior, you had better have none; and for a few days observe whether his subsequent greetings equal his first.

結 交 須 勝 己。似 我 不 如 無
Chieh² chiao¹ hsi¹ sheng⁴ chi,³ ssü⁴ wo³ pu⁴ ju³ wu²;
但 看 三 五 日。相 見 不 如 初
tan⁴ k'an⁴ san¹ wu³ jih,⁴ hsiang¹ chien⁴ pu⁴ ju² ch'u.¹

2279

No joy equals that of making a new friend; no sorrow that of being separated from friends.

樂 莫 樂 兮 新 相 知
Lê⁴ mo⁴ lê⁴ hsi¹ hsin¹ hsiang¹ chih¹;
悲 莫 悲 兮 生 別 離
pei¹ mo⁴ pei¹ hsi¹ shêng¹ pieh² li.²

2280

Tigers and deer do not stroll together.

虎 鹿 不 同 遊
'Hu³ lu⁴ pu⁴ t'ung² yu.²

2281

The crow does not roost with the phoenix.

烏 鴉 不 與 鳳 凰 棲
Wu¹ ya¹ pu⁴ yü³ fêng⁴ 'huang² ch'i.¹

2282

Though conversing face to face, their hearts have a thousand hills between them.

對 面 與 語。心 隔 千 山
Tui⁴ mien⁴ yü³ yü,³ hsin¹ ko² ch'ien¹ shan.¹

2283

He who has friends in every place finds every place delicious.

四 海 交 遊。都 成 蘭 味
Ssü⁴ 'hai³ chiao¹ yu,² .tu¹ ch'êng² lan² wei.⁴

2284

Of all acquaintanceship, that in which each knows the other's heart, is best.

人之相知。貴相知心
Jên² chih¹ hsiang¹ chih,¹ kuei⁴ hsiang¹ chih¹ hsin.¹

— 2285 —

When men are friendly even water is sweet.

人要好水也甜
Jên² yao⁴ 'hao³ shui³ yeh⁴ tien.²

— 2286 —

You can hardly make a friend in a year ; but you can easily offend one in an hour.

一年難相與一個人
Yi¹ nien² nan² hsiang¹ yü³ yi¹ ko⁴ jên²;
一時便得罪一個人
Yi¹ shih² pien⁴ tê² tsui⁴ yi¹ ko⁴ jên.²

— 2287 —

Better associate with one well known than with a stranger.

伴生不如伴熟
Pan⁴ shêng¹ pu⁴ ju² pan⁴ shu.²

— 2288 —

Having wine and good feeding you'll have plenty of friends ; but in the day of adversity—none.

有酒有肉多朋友
Yu³ chiu³ yu³ jou⁴ to¹ p'êng² yu³;
患難之時一個無
'huan⁴ nan² chih¹ shih² yi¹ ko⁴ wu.²

— 2289 —

When purposes agree the most hostile grow friendly ; when they disagree near relatives become enemies.

意合則吳越相親
I⁴ 'ho² tsé² Wu² Yüeh⁴ hsiang¹ ch'in¹;
意不合則骨肉爲仇敵
i⁴ pu⁴ 'ho² tsé² ku³ jou⁴ wei² ch'ou² ti.²

NOTE.—“The most hostile,” *lit.*: “Wu and Yüeh”; two ancient States that were often at enmity with each other. The Yüeh was finally destroyed by the Wu. See Dr. Legge's *Ch'un ch'iu*, pages 759, 831.

2290

Without a good mirror no lady can know her true appearance;

Without a true friend no scholar can know his own errors of conduct.

女 無 明 鏡 不 知 面 上 精 粗
Nü² wu² ming² ching⁴ pu⁴ chih¹ mien⁴ shang⁴ ching¹ ts'u¹;

士 無 良 友 不 知 行 步 虧 踰
shih⁴ wu² liang² yu³ pu⁴ chih¹ hsing² pu⁴ k'uei¹ yü.⁴

2291

Two are better than one. *Lit.*: One man's plan is short; the plan of two is long.

一 人 計 短。二 人 計 長
Yi¹ jên² chi⁴ tuan³; erh⁴ jên² chi⁴ ch'ang.²

2292

When the world's affairs are calm we can judge of them; when affection is moderate it will endure.

世 事 靜 方 見。人 情 淡 始 長
Shih⁴ shih⁴ ching⁴ fang⁴ chien⁴; jên⁴ ch'ing² tan⁴ shih³ ch'ang.²

CHAPTER VI.

VARIOUS.

2293

Those who violate the Five Relations and the Five Constant Virtues will quickly perish.

倫常乖舛。立見消亡。
Lün² ch'ang² kuai¹ ch'uan,³ li⁴ chien⁴ hsiao¹ wang²

2294

Relatives are bound to stand by one another.

兄弟叔姪。須分多潤寡。
Hsiung¹ ti⁴ shu² chih² hsi¹ fên¹ to¹ jun⁴ kua.³

2295

Friends while good dinners last; husband and wife while fuel and food remain.

酒肉朋友。柴米夫妻。
Chiu³ jou⁴ p'êng² yu³; ch'ai² mi³ fu¹ ch'i.¹

2296

Go into partnership with a brother; and into battle with father and son.

打夥還是親兄弟。
Ta³ 'huo³ 'huan² shih⁴ ch'in¹ hsiung¹ ti⁴;
上陣定要父子兵。
shang⁴ chên⁴ ting⁴ yao⁴ fu⁴ tzū³ ping.¹

2297

Sons receive their fathers' fortune; and wives share their husbands' lot.

子登父業。妻受夫分。
Tzū³ têng¹ fu⁴ yeh⁴; ch'i¹ shou⁴ fu¹ fên.¹

2298

Parents notwithstanding their deep love must be parted from their children; husband and wife though most faithful, must also separate.

父母恩深終有別。
Fu⁴ mu³ ên¹ shên¹ chung¹ yu³ pieh²;
夫妻義重也分離。
fu¹ ch'i¹ i⁴ chung⁴ yeh⁴ fên¹ li.²

— 2299 —

One, though related, is no relation ; another, though not related, is a relation.

是親不是親。非親却是親
Shih⁴ ch'in¹ pu⁴ shih⁴ ch'in¹; fei¹ ch'in¹ ch'üeh⁴ shih⁴ ch'in¹.

— 2300 —

His griefs are few whose wife is virtuous ; his heart is enlarged whose sons are dutiful.

妻賢夫禍少。子孝父心寬
Ch'i¹ hsien² fu⁴ 'buo⁴ shao³; tzü³ hsiao⁴ fu⁴ hsien¹ k'uan¹.

— 2301 —

Princes know their Ministers, Fathers their Children, Elder Brothers their Younger Brothers, and Teachers their Scholars, better than any one else.

知臣莫如君。知子莫如父
Chih¹ ch'ên² mo⁴ ju² chün,¹ chih¹ tzü³ mo⁴ ju² fu,⁴
知弟莫如兄。知弟莫如師
Chih¹ ti⁴ mo⁴ ju² hsiung,¹ chih¹ ti⁴ mo⁴ ju² shih¹.

— 2302 —

Would you know the character of a Prince, then first observe his Ministers ; would you become acquainted with a man, first look at his Friends ; would you know a Father, first consider his Son.

欲知其君。先視其臣
Yü⁴ chih¹ ch'ü² chün,¹ hsien¹ shih⁴ ch'ü² ch'ên²;
欲識其人。先視其友
Yü⁴ shih⁴ ch'ü² jên,² hsien¹ shih⁴ ch'ü² yü³;
欲知其父。先視其子
Yü⁴ chih¹ ch'ü² fu,⁴ hsien¹ shih⁴ ch'ü² tzü.³

— 2303 —

If we were not an injured family, we should have neither sons nor daughters ; if we were not at enmity we should never have been husband and wife.

不是冤家不成兒女
 Pu⁴ shih⁴ yüan¹ chia¹ pu⁴ ch'êng² êrh² nü²;
 不是對頭不成夫婦
 Pu⁴ shih⁴ tui⁴ t'ou² pu⁴ ch'êng² fu¹ fu⁴.

NOTE.—This is used in reply to congratulation, in a jocular and self-deprecatory sense.

2304

Poverty in a family brings out the dutiful Son; and confusion in the state reveals the loyal Minister.

家貧見孝子。國亂顯忠臣。
 Chia¹ p'in³ chien⁴ hsiao⁴ tzü³; kuo² lan⁴ hsien³ chung¹ ch'en².

2305

Who honours his Prince, will think lightly of rank and emolument; who honours his Parents, will honour his wife and child less; who honours his Brothers, will think lightly of money and heritage.

視朝廷重則爵祿輕
 Shih⁴ ch'ao² t'ing² chung⁴ tzé² chüeh² lu⁴ ch'ing¹;

視父母重則妻子輕
 Shih⁴ fu⁴ mu³ chung⁴ tsé² ch'i¹ tzü³ ch'ing¹;

視兄弟重則財產輕
 Shih⁴ hsiung¹ ti⁴ chung⁴ tsé² ts'ai² ch'an⁴ ch'ing¹.

2306

Those who at home are not given up to their wives and children, will serve their Parents filially; those who abroad do not deceive their Friends, will serve their Prince with loyalty.

內不溺於妻子者。事親必孝
 Nei⁴ pu⁴ ni⁴ yü² ch'i¹ tzü³ chê² shih⁴ ch'in¹ pi⁴ hsiao⁴;
 外不欺於朋友者。事君必忠
 Wai⁴ pu⁴ ch'i¹ yü² p'êng² yu³ chê² shih⁴ chün¹ pi⁴ chung¹.

2307

The thing important to the Five Relations is Respectfulness; the perfect embodiment of the Ten Virtues is Sincerity.

五 倫 之 要 在 敬
 Wu³ lun² chih¹ yao⁴ tsai⁴ ching⁴;
 十 義 之 全 惟 誠
 Shih² i⁴ chih¹ ch'ien² wei² ch'êng.²

NOTE.—The Ten Virtues are those which belong to the Ten members of the Five relations.

— 2308 —

He has perfect tranquility whose wife is virtuous and sons obedient; and all things are satisfactory when rains are reasonable and winds moderate.

妻 賢 子 孝 一 身 閒
 Ch'i¹ hsien² tzü³ hsiao⁴ yi¹ shên¹ hsien²;
 雨 順 風 調 萬 事 足
 Yü³ shun⁴ fêng¹ tia⁴ wan⁴ shih⁴ tsu²;

— 2309 —

If sincerity be wanting between Prince and Minister the nation will have no peace; if between Parents and Children, the family will have no concord; if between Brothers, their affections will be loosened; if between Friends, their intercourse will be distant.

君 臣 不 信 國 不 安
 Chün¹ ch'ên² pu⁴ hsin⁴ kuo² pu⁴ an¹;
 父 子 不 信 家 不 睦
 fu⁴ tzü³ pu⁴ hsin⁴ chia¹ pu⁴ mu⁴;
 兄 弟 不 信 情 不 親
 hsiung¹ ti⁴ pu⁴ hsin⁴ ch'ing² pu⁴ ch'in¹;
 朋 友 不 信 交 易 疏
 p'êng² yu³ pu⁴ hsin⁴ chiao¹ i¹ su.²

— 2310 —

The honest truth must not be told between Husband and Wife; and lies must not be told between Friend and Friend.

夫 妻 面 前 莫 說 真
 Fu¹ ch'i¹ mien⁴ ch'ien² mo⁴ shuo¹ chên¹;
 朋 友 面 前 莫 說 假
 p'êng² yu³ mien⁴ ch'ien² mo⁴ shuo¹ chia.³

NOTE.—This proverb supposes that the truth between husband and wife could not bear to be told, both being immoral.

SECTION XVII.—ON RELIGION.

CHAPTER I.

HEAVEN OR GOD.

— 2311 —

Heaven rules o'er all things, don't fret yourself to pray ;
Trouble spent in making plans, is but thrown away.

萬事由天莫強求
Wan⁴ shih⁴ yu² t'ien¹ mo⁴ ch'iang² ch'iu² :
何須苦苦用機謀
'Ho² hsū¹ k'u³ k'u³ yung⁴ chi¹ mou.²

— 2312 —

Imperial Heaven will never slight men of sorrow.

皇天不負苦心人
'Huang² t'ien¹ pu⁴ fu⁴ k'u³ hsin¹ jên.²

— 2313 —

Man would have things so and so, but Heaven negatives his plans.

人便如此如此
Jên² pien⁴ ju² tz'ü³ ju² tz'ü,³
天理未然未然
t'ien¹ li³ wei⁴ jan² wei⁴ jan.²

— 2314 —

It is man's to scheme ; it is Heaven's to accomplish.

謀事在人。成事在天
Mou² shih⁴ tsai⁴ jên² ; ch'êng² shih⁴ tsai⁴ t'ien.¹

— 2315 —

Heaven responds to man as quickly as shadow to form or echo to voice.

天之應人敏如影響
T'ien¹ chih¹ ying⁴ jên² min³ ju² ying³ hsiang.³

— 2316 —

Heaven never sends a man without providing for him clothes and income.

天生一人。必有衣祿
T'ien¹ shêng¹ yi¹ jên,² pi⁴ yu³ i¹ lu.⁴

— 2317 —

What man sees not and knows not, Heaven sees and knows.

人眼不見天眼見
Jên² yen³ pu⁴ chien⁴ t'ien¹ yen³ chien⁴;
人不知道天知道
jên² pu⁴ chih¹ tao⁴ t'ien¹ chih¹ tao.⁴

— 2318 —

Man can be bound, but Heaven cannot.

紐得過人來。紐不過天
Niu³ tê² kuo⁴ jên² lai,² niu³ pu⁴ kuo⁴ t'ien.¹

— 2319 —

Heaven sent never the man but Earth provided a grave for him.

天生一人。地生一穴
T'ien¹ shêng¹ yi¹ jên,² ti⁴ shêng⁴ yi¹ hsüeh.⁴

— 2320 —

Our daily bread depends on Heaven.

吃飯靠天
Ch'ih¹ fan⁴ k'ao⁴ t'ien.¹

— 2321 —

Heaven knows how each man gets his living.

吃飯不瞞天
Ch'ih¹ fan⁴ pu⁴ man² t'ien.¹

— 2322 —

Men deceive good men, Heaven does not; men fear bad men, Heaven does not.

人善人欺天不欺
Jên² shan⁴ jên² ch'i¹ t'ien¹ pu⁴ ch'i¹;
人惡人怕天不怕
jên² o⁴ jên² p'a⁴ t'ien¹ pu⁴ p'a.⁴

2323

When men have good desires Heaven must further them.

人 有 善 願 天 必 從 之
Jên² yu³ shan⁴ yüan⁴ t'ien¹ pi⁴ ts'ung² chih.¹

2324

Nothing can escape the eye of Heaven.

天 眼 恢 恢。疎 而 不 漏
T'ien¹ yen³ 'hui¹ 'hui,¹ su² êrh² pu⁴ lou.⁴

2325

Heaven sees clearly, and rewards quickly.

天 眼 昭 昭。報 應 甚 速
T'ien¹ yen³ chao¹ chao,¹ pao⁴ ying⁴ shêng⁴ su.²

2326

Our whispers thunder in the ear of Heaven ; our secret evil deeds flash into the eyes of the gods.

人 間 私 語。天 聞 若 雷
Jên² hsien² ssü¹ yü¹ t'ien¹ wên² jo⁴ lei² ;
暗 室 虧 心。神 目 如 電
an⁴ wu¹ k'uei¹ hsin¹ shên² mu⁴ ju² tien.⁴

2327

Heaven stands by the good man.

吉 人 天 相
Chi³ jên² t'ien¹ hsiang.¹

2328

A thousand human schemes may be thwarted by one scheme of Heaven.

人 有 千 算 不 如 天 一 算
Jên² yu³ ch'ien¹ suan⁴ pu⁴ ju² t'ien¹ yi¹ suan.⁴

2329

Thunder strikes and Heaven repairs.

雷 打 天 補
Lei² ta³ t'ien¹ pu.³

2330

Man only sees the present, Heaven sees into the future.

人 見 自 前。天 見 久 遠
Jên² chien⁴ mu⁴ ch'ien,² t'ien¹ chien⁴ chiu³ yüan.³

2331

Man depends on Heaven, as a ship on her pilot.

人 靠 天 工。 船 靠 舵 公
Jên² k'ao⁴ t'ien¹ kung¹ ch'uan² k'ao⁴ to⁴ kung¹

2332

Neither repine against Heaven, nor blame men.

不 怨 天。 不 尤 人
Pu⁴ yüan⁴ t'ien¹, pu⁴ yü² jên²

2333

To enjoy the favour of Heaven.

托 天 之 福
T'o¹ t'ien¹ chih¹ fu²

2334

It is Heaven's to destine, but it is man's to shorten or prolong his days.

命 在 於 天。 數 在 於 人
Ming⁴ tsai⁴ yü² t'ien¹, shu⁴ tsai⁴ yü² jên²

2335

The heart of the people is the heart of Heaven.

民 心 卽 天 心
Min² hsin¹ chi² t'ien¹ hsin¹

2336

It is for me to put forth the utmost effort, it rests with Heaven to succeed my plan.

盡 其 在 我。 聽 其 在 天
Chin⁴ ch'i² tsai⁴ wo³; t'ing¹ ch'i² tsai⁴ t'ien¹

2337

When you have fully done your duty, abide the will of Heaven.

盡 人 事 而 聽 天 命
Chin⁴ jên² shih⁴ erh² t'ing¹ t'ien¹ ming⁴

2338

Would that Heaven would always produce good men ; and that men would always do good !

愿 天 常 生 好 人
 Yüan⁴ t'ien¹ ch'ang² sbêng¹ 'hao³ jên²;
 愿 人 常 行 好 事
 yüan⁴ jên² ch'ang² hsing² 'hao³ shih.⁴

2339

There is nothing partial in the ways of Heaven.

天 道 無 私
 T'ien¹ tao⁴ wu² ssü.¹

2340

Man may not, but Heaven knows.

人 不 知 天 知
 Jen² pu⁴ chih¹ t'ien¹ chih.¹

2341

When Heaven rears a man he grows very fat; when men rear one he is nought but skin and bone.

天 養 人 胖 脂 脂
 T'ien¹ yang³ jên² p'ang⁴ su⁴ su,⁴
 人 養 人 皮 包 骨
 jên² yang³ jên² pi² pao¹ ku.³

2342

You may deceive men; you can't deceive Heaven.

瞞 得 過 人 來。瞞 不 過 天
 Man² tê² kuo⁴ jên² lai²; man² pu⁴ kuo⁴ t'ien.¹

2343

Heaven and Earth are great; father and mother are honourable.

天 地 爲 大。父 母 爲 尊
 T'ien¹ ti⁴ wei² ta⁴; fu⁴ mu³ wei² tsun.¹

2344

Heaven knows, Earth knows, you know, and I know.

天 知 地 知 你 知 我 知
 T'ien¹ chih,¹ ti⁴ chih,¹ ni³ chih,¹ wo³ chih.¹

NOTE.—This was the noble saying of a virtuous mandarin of the 'Han dynasty, whose name was Yang Tsen (楊震) when some one brought him a bribe in the night.

———— 2345 ————

Death and life have their determined appointment ;
riches and honours depend upon Heaven.

死 生 有 命。富 貴 在 天
Ssü³ shêng¹ yu³ ming⁴; fu⁴ kuei⁴ tsai⁴ t'ien.¹

———— 2346 ————

Heaven complies with the wishes of good men ; joy
springs spontaneous in harmonious homes.

人 善 天 從 願 家 和 福 自 生
Jên² shan⁴ t'ien¹ ts'ung² yüan⁴; chia¹ 'ho² fu² tzü⁴ shêng.¹



CHAPTER II.

IDOLS AND IDOLATRY.

2347

When troubled with sickness, and very bad,
Petition the gods that health may be had.

患病不好。求神上表
'Huan⁴ ping⁴ pu⁴ 'hao,³ ch'iu² shên² shang⁴ piao.³

NOTE.—“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.” James 5: 13.

2348

You may deceive a man ;
Deceive a God, who can ?

瞞得過人。瞞不過神
Man² tê³ kuo⁴ jên,² man³ pu⁴ kuo⁴ shên.²

2349

Soon as the cymbals clang,
Three taels go with a bang.

鏡錢一響。紋銀三兩
Nao² po² yi¹ hsiang,³ wên² yin² san¹ liang.³

NOTE.—This proverb illustrates the expensiveness of idol worship. One tael is worth about six shillings.

2350

Men without gods can never proceed ;
Gods without men are useless indeed.

人無神不行。神無人不靈
Jên² wu² shên² pu⁴ hsing²; shên² wu² jên² pu⁴ ling.²

2351

Light your stick of incense at the break of every day ;
To Heaven, Earth, Sun, Moon, and Stars, devout
thanksgiving pay.

Pray that in every place crops may ripen in the Sun ;
Wish for every man a long career of life to run.

每日清晨一炷香
 Mei³ jih⁴ ch'ing¹ ch'en² yi¹ chu⁴ hsiang¹;
 謝天謝地謝三光
 Hsieh⁴ t'ien¹ hsieh⁴ ti⁴ hsieh⁴ san¹ kuang¹;
 所求處處田禾熟
 So¹ ch'in² ch'u⁴ ch'u⁴ t'ien² 'ho² shu²;
 惟願人人壽命長
 Wei² yüan⁴ jên² jên² shou⁴ ming⁴ ch'ang².

2352

To cheat their ancestors men constantly pay,
 For sham silver nuggets, good money away.

假銀子肚裡空
 Chia³ ying² tzu³ tu³ li³ k'ung¹
 銅錢買哄祖宗
 T'ung² ch'ien² mai³ 'hung⁴ tsu³ tsung¹.

2353

Man without divine assistance,
 Cannot move an inch of distance.

人無神靈。寸步難行
 Jên² wu² shên² ling², ts'un⁴ pu⁴ nan⁴ hsiung².

2354

Whatever be the affair, exhort men to avoid deceit;
 for only three feet above our heads the gods are
 watching.

萬事勸人休瞞昧
 Wan⁴ shih⁴ ch'üan⁴ jên² hsiu¹ man² mei⁴;
 舉頭三尺有神明
 chü³ t'ou² san¹ ch'ih³ yu³ shên² ming².

2355

You may carry deception into the *yamên*, you cannot
 carry it into the temple.

橫心進得衙門
 'Hêng⁴ hsin¹ chin⁴ tê² ya³ mên²,
 橫心進不得廟門
 'hêng⁴ hsin¹ chin⁴ pu⁴ tê² miao⁴ mên².

2356

Kneel once, bow your head thrice, and offer incense
 morning and evening.

一 跪 三 叩 首。 早 晚 一 爐 香
Yi¹ kuei⁴ san¹ k'ou⁴ shou,³ tsao³ wan³ yi¹ lu² hsiang.¹

— 2357 —

Praying for blessings to reward one's parents, we go up the hill to burn incense.

祈 恩 報 本。 朝 山 進 香
Ch'i² ên¹ pao⁴ pên,³ ch'ao² shan¹ chin⁴ hsiang.¹

— 2358 —

He who removes an idol to bathe it, puts the god to needless inconvenience.

搬 菩 薩 洗 澡 枉 勞 神
Pan¹ p'u² sa¹ hsi³ tsao³ wang³ lao² shên.¹

— 2359 —

Three strokes of the axe are enough to complete an image of the idol *Yang-ssü*.

三 斧 頭 砍 定 楊 泗 菩 薩 的 像
San¹ fu³ t'ou² k'an³ ting⁴ Yang² ssü⁴ p'u² sa¹ ti² hsiang.⁴

NOTE.—*Yang-ssü*: the god of sailors, a beardless divinity, with a somewhat rudely carved triangular head.

— 2360 —

A beard should not be put on his Worship the God of sailors.

楊 泗 老 爺 鬚 子。 安 不 上
Yang² ssü⁴ lao³ yeh² 'hu² tzü,³ an¹ pu⁴ shang.⁴

NOTE.—The meaning of this proverb lies in the last three words, and it is used to condemn any impropriety.

— 2361 —

If you pray to a Buddha, pray to one only.

求 佛 求 一 尊
Ch'iu² fu² ch'iu² yi¹ tsun.¹

— 2362 —

When the poor are sick they use charms and invoke idols.

窮 人 害 病。 求 符 扛 神
Ch'iang² jên² 'hai⁴ ping⁴ ch'iu² fu² kang¹ shên.²

NOTE.—This invocation is through a medium: and it cannot be said that the practice referred to is confined to the poor.

2363

Though you neglect to offer incense when all is well, you will have to fall at Buddha's feet in time of sorrow.

閒時不燒香。急時抱佛腳
Hsien² shih² pu⁴ shao¹ hsiang,¹ chi³ shih⁴ pao⁴ fu² chiao.³

2364

Ancestors however remote must be sincerely sacrificed to.

祖宗雖遠。祭祀不可不誠
Tsu³ tsung¹ sui¹ yüan,³ chi⁴ ssü⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ pu⁴ ch'êng.²

2365

You honour idols but not your parents. *Lit.:* The living Buddhas you do not honour; but you honour dead Buddhas.

活佛不敬。敬死佛
'Huo² fu² pu⁴ ching⁴; ching⁴ ssü³ fu.²

2366

All idolatrous superstitions are man's invention.

世上無神鬼。百般人做起
Shih⁴ shang⁴ wu² shên² kuei,³ pai³ pan¹ jên² uso⁴ ch'i.³

2367

All the thousands and myriads of gods are but one God.

千神萬神都是一神
Ch'ien¹ shên² wan⁴ shên² tu¹ shih¹ yi¹ shên.²

2368

The god on *Wu-tang-shan* hears the prayers of men from a distance, not of men who live near.

武當山菩薩應遠不應近
Wu³ tang⁴ shan¹ p'u² sa¹ ying⁴ yüan³ pu⁴ ying⁴ chin.⁴

NOTE.—The *Wu-tang-shan* is a very famous mountain situated in the north-west of *Hupei*, a day's journey from the city of *Chün-chou* (均州). It is a noted retreat of Taoists, and is full of their temples and monasteries. The mountain, with its surrounding scenery, is exceedingly beautiful; and it is the favourite resort of pilgrims from far and near. Their ascent is greatly facilitated by means of a fine stone staircase, with heavy ornamented balustrades on each side; and also, in the steepest parts, by massive iron chains suspended from the balustrades.

There are temples and refreshment rooms at various stages of the ascent, and quite a village near the summit of the peak. The very highest point of what is called, "The peak of the heavenly pillar," is crowned by what is generally believed to be a Golden Temple. This is a very small but unique structure, built throughout of brass, and floored with marble. It contains one principal idol called *Tsu shih* (祖師), and this is the gentleman referred to in this proverb. He is said to have been a prince, the son of *Fan Wang* (梵王) a king of some western state tributary to China in the days of the *T'ang* dynasty.

2369

Unless you have business never go up to the temple of the Three Precious Ones.

無事不登三寶殿
Wu² shih⁴ pu⁴ têng¹ san¹ pao³ tien.⁴

2370

The gods of the door are one good and one bad.

門神菩薩一善一惡
Mên² shên² p'u² sa¹ yi¹ shan⁴ yi¹ o.⁴

2371

Though you don't believe in other gods, you'll believe in the God of Thunder; though you don't believe in medicine generally, you'll believe in purgatives.

不信神信雷神
Pu⁴ hsin⁴ shên² hsin⁴ lei² shên²;
不信藥信下藥
pu⁴ hsin⁴ yao⁴ hsin⁴ hsia⁴ yao.⁴

2372

Better do a kindness near home, than go far away to burn incense.

遠處燒香不如近地作福
Yüan³ ch'u⁴ shao¹ hsiang¹ pu⁴ ju² chin⁴ ti⁴ tso⁴ fu.²

2373

You have exposed yourself. *Lit.*: You have burst open the temple door and let the idols see your deed.

推開廟門把菩薩看一看
T'ui¹ k'ai¹ miao⁴ mên² pa³ p'u² sa¹ k'an⁴ yi¹ k'an.⁴

2374

An honest magistrate has lean clerks; a powerful god has fat priests.

官清司吏瘦。神靈廟祝肥
 Kuan¹ ch'ing¹ ssü¹ li⁴ shou⁴; shên² ling² miao⁴ chu⁴ fei.²

— 2375 —

Age robs men of strength, and gods of virtue.

人老無能。神老無靈
 Jên² lao³ wu² nêng,² shên² lao³ wu² ling.²

— 2376 —

The stinking pig's-head meets the smell-less idol.

臭豬頭撞倒髒鼻子菩薩
 Ch'ou⁴ chu¹ t'ou² chuang⁴ tao³ nung⁴ pi² tzü³ p'u² sa.¹

— 2377 —

He knows a fierce-eyed *Lohan*, but not the kind-eyed *Kuan-yin*.

只認得怒眼羅漢
 Chih³ jên⁴ té² nu⁴ yen³ lo² 'han,⁴
 不認得低眉觀音
 pu⁴ jên⁴ té² ti¹ mei² kuan¹ ying.¹

NOTE.—“Kind-eyed:” *lit*: ‘*Kuan-yin* of the bending eyebrows.’

CHAPTER III.

PRIESTS AND NUNS.

2378

As a Bonze about to marry,
So your promises miscarry.

和 尙 娶 親 說 過 光 陰
'Ho² shang⁴ ch'ü³ ch'in,¹ shuo¹ kuo⁴ kuang¹ yin.¹

2379

He takes the prayer-book in his hands,
And reads, but no one understands.

檢 倒 一 本 經。 念 也 念 不 清
Chien³ tao³ yi¹ pên³ ching,¹ nien⁴ yeh³ nien⁴ pu⁴ ch'ing.¹

2380

When the drum sounds before the dead man's shrine,
Each day you have to pay a three-tael fine.

靈 前 鼓 响。 一 日 三 兩
Ling² chien² ku³ hsiang,³ yi¹ jih⁴ san¹ liang.³

2381

If you entrust a great recitation to a wry-mouthed
priest, he will spoil it.

一 藏 好 經
Yi¹ ts'ang² 'hao³ ching.¹
把 得 歪 嘴 和 尙 念 壞 了
pa³ té² wai¹ tsui³ 'ho² shang⁴ nien⁴ 'huai² liao.³

2382

A magistrate is never at leisure; a Bonze always is.

居 官 不 自 在。 爲 僧 多 清 閑
Chü¹ kuan¹ pu⁴ tzü⁴ tsai⁴; wei² sêng¹ to¹ ch'ing¹ hsien.²

2383

The monastery faces the nunnery; there's nothing in
that—yet there may be.

男 僧 寺 對 着 女 僧 寺
Nan² sêng¹ ssü⁴ tui⁴ cho² nü² sêng¹ ssü⁴;
沒 事 也 有 事
mu² shih⁴ yeh³ yu³ shih.⁴

2384

The priest's door faces the nun's: nothing wrong?
there is!

僧 門 對 尼 門。無 情 却 有 憾
Sêng¹ mêng² tui⁴ ni² mên.² wu² ch'ing²? ch'üeh⁴ yu³ pi⁴

2385

He has not yet cast off the world.

未 脫 紅 塵
Wei⁴ t'o⁴ 'hung² ching.¹

2386

To recite the breviary carelessly.

念 混 搪 經
Nien⁴ 'hun⁴ t'ang² ching.¹

2387

One poor Bonze is known to a thousand donors.

一 千 個 施 主
Yi¹ ch'ien¹ ko⁴ shih¹ chu³
認 得 我 一 個 小 和 尙
jên⁴ tê² wo³ yì¹ ko⁴ hsiao³ 'ho² shang.⁴

2388

Keep up to the end your first priestly ardour, and it
will be more than enough to make you a Buddha.

出 家 如 初。成 佛 有 餘
Ch'u¹ chia¹ ju² ch'u,¹ ch'êng² fu² yu³ yü.²

2389

Pleasanter the cottage with its bamboo hedge, than
the monasteries of Taoist or Bonze.

竹 籬 茅 舍 風 光 好
Chu² li⁴ mao² shé⁴ fêng¹ kuang¹ 'hao,³
道 院 僧 房 總 不 如
tao⁴ yüan⁴ sêng¹ fang² tsung³ pu⁴ ju.²

2390

Books exhaustively contain the world's good words;
and Bonzes have invaded every noted mountain.

世 間 好 語 書 說 盡
Shih⁴ chien¹ 'hao³ yü³ shu¹ shuo¹ chin⁴;
天 下 名 山 僧 占 多
t'ien¹ hsia⁴ ming² shan¹ sêng¹ chan⁴ to.¹

2391

Destroy all passion while you light Buddha's lamp.

滅却心頭火。剔起佛前燈
Mieh⁴ ch'üeh⁴ hsin¹ t'ou² 'huo,³ t'i¹ ch'i³ fu² ch'ien² têng.¹

2392

If you are a Bonze for a day, ring his bell for a day.

做一日和尚。撞一日鐘
Tsou⁴ yi¹ jih⁴ 'ho² shang,⁴ chuang⁴ yi¹ jih⁴ chung.¹

2393

The sun is high in the sky, but the Bonze has not risen; mark how fame and profit are not equal to leisure.

日高三丈僧未醒
Jih⁴ kao⁴ san¹ chang⁴ sêng¹ wei⁴ hsing³;
看來名利不如閑
K'an⁴ lai² ming² li⁴ pu⁴ ju² hsien.²

2394

For one son who becomes a priest, nine generations get to heaven.

一子出家。九族昇天
Yi¹ tzü³ ch'ü¹ chia,¹ chiu³ tsu² shêng¹ t'ien.¹

2395

A virtuous woman may meet a Bonze without fear.

裙帶緊褲帶緊
Ch'ün² tai⁴ chin³ k'ü⁴ tai⁴ chin,³
和尚身上打得滾
'ho² shang⁴ shên¹ shang⁴ ta³ t'ê² kun.³

2396

Buddha's precepts are unbounded, open wide his church's door.

佛法無邊。大開法門
F'u² fa³ wu² pien,¹ ta⁴ k'ai¹ fa³ mên.²

2397

The Bonze is queue-less all his life.

和尚一生無辮子
'Ho² shang⁴ yi¹ shêng¹ wu² pien⁴ tzü.³

NOTE.—This joke on the shaven pate of the Buddhist priest, is used in advising a person to take things quietly.

2398

Those who become priests no longer acknowledge their relations.

出家不認家
Ch'u¹ chia¹ pu⁴ jên⁴ chia.¹

2399

"If a man be not enlightened within, what lamp shall he light? If his intentions are not upright, what prayers shall he repeat?"

心不光明點甚燈
Hsin¹ pu⁴ kuang¹ ming² tien³ shên⁴ têng¹?
意不公平誦甚經
I⁴ pu⁴ kung¹ p'ing² sung⁴ shên⁴ ching¹?

2400

Bald-heads are (ready-made) Buddhist priests.

禿子爲和尚
T'u¹ tzü³ wei² 'ho² shang.⁴

2401

Only those become Bonzes who can't get a living.

無結梢做和尚
Wu chieh shao tso 'ho shang.

2402

If you wish Buddhism to flourish, then let Bonze praise Bonze.

若要佛法興。還是僧讚僧
Jo⁴ yao⁴ fu² fa³ hsing¹ 'huan² shih⁴ sêng¹ tsan⁴ sêng.¹

CHAPTER IV.

REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS.

— 2403 —

Who, out of season, laugh and cry,
Must meet misfortune by and by.

哀樂失時。殃咎必至
Ai¹ lê⁴ shih¹ shih,² yang¹ chiu¹ pi⁴ chih.⁴

— 2404 —

Those who care but for the joys of to-day,
Fling all thoughts of future mis'ry away.

只圖眼前快活
Chih³ t'u² yen³ ch'ien² k'uai⁴ 'huo,²
不管死後罪惡
Pu⁴ kuan³ ssü³ 'hou⁴ tsui⁴ o.⁴

— 2405 —

Who lay up goodness have gladness ;
Who lay up evil have sadness.

善積者昌。惡積者喪
Shan⁴ chi² ché² ch'ang¹; o⁴ chi² ché² sang.¹

— 2406 —

In curing men of evil ways,
Cangue, and expose to public gaze.

懲治兇惡。枷責發落
Ch'êng³ chih³ hsiuhg¹ o,⁴ chia¹ tsé² fa¹ lo.⁴

— 2407 —

Who'er an idle life will lead,
Must take starvation as his meed.

一生懶惰。忍飢受餓
Yi¹ shêng¹ lan³ to,⁴ jên³ chi¹ shou⁴ o.⁴

— 2408 —

On account of abounding ancestral merit,
Some miss the destruction they ought to inherit :
Others lose the promotion their virtues might claim,
Through the crimes which adhere to their ancestral
name.

爲惡不滅。祖有餘德
Wei⁴ o⁴ pu⁴ mieh,⁴ tsu³ yn³ yü² tē²;
爲善不昌。祖有餘殃
Wei⁴ shan⁴ pu⁴ ch'ang,¹ tsu³ yn³ yü² yang.¹

2409

Do not mistake, though punishment tarry,
When the day comes it cannot miscarry.

不是不報。日子未到
Pu⁴ shih⁴ pu⁴ pao,⁴ jih⁴ tzü³ wei⁴ tao.⁴

NOTE.—“Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished.”
Prov. 11: 21.

2410

Distant punishment falls on a man's descendants;
immediate punishment on the man himself.

遠報則在兒孫
Yüan³ pao⁴ tsé² tsai⁴ êrh² sun¹;
近報就在自己
chin⁴ pao⁴ chiu⁴ tsai⁴ tzü⁴ chi.³

2411

Punishment is certain sooner or later; say not there is
no such thing.

莫說眼前無報應
Mo⁴ shuo¹ yen³ ch'ien² wu² pao⁴ ying⁴;
或是來早與來遲
huo⁴ shih⁴ lai¹ tsao³ yü³ lai² ch'ih.²

2412

Do good now and be rewarded hereafter.

今生作福。來生消受
Chin¹ shêng¹ tso⁴ fu,² lai² shêng¹ hsiao¹ shou.⁴

2413

He who spares himself no pains shall have a place
above others.

吃得苦中苦。做得人上人
Ch'ih¹ tē² k'u³ chung¹ k'u,³ tso⁴ tē² jên² shang⁴ jên.²

2414

We only see the living punished; who ever saw a
ghost wearing a cangue?

只見活人受罪
 Chih³ chien⁴ 'huo⁰ jên⁰ shou⁴ tsui⁴;
 那見死鬼帶枷
 na³ chien⁴ ssü³ kuei³ tai⁴ chia.¹

— 2415 —

The tablet before *Yen Wang* contains the words 'not according to man's reckoning.'

閻王面前一塊牌
 Yen² wang² mien⁴ ch'ien² yi¹ k'uai⁴ p'ai,²
 總不由人算
 tsung³ pu⁴ yu² jên² suan.⁴

— 2416 —

To be thunderstruck is visible punishment.

雷打眼前報
 Lei² ta³ yen³ ch'ien² pao.⁴

— 2417 —

Our good or evil must have its reward; the only question is—shall it come sooner or later?

善惡到頭終有報
 Shan⁴ o⁴ tao⁴ t'ou² chung¹ yu³ pao⁴;
 只爭來早與來遲
 chih³ chêng¹ lai² tsao³ yü³ lai² ch'ih.²

— 2418 —

He shall reap hemp who sows hemp, and beans who sows beans.

種麻得麻。種豆得豆
 Chung⁴ ma² tê² ma,² chung⁴ tou⁴ tê² tou.⁴

NOTE.—“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal. 6: 7.

— 2419 —

Every man gets what he cultivates.

各人修。各人得
 Ko⁴ jên² hsiu,¹ ko⁴ jên² tê.²

— 2420 —

Good has its own reward, evil its own punishment.

善有善報。惡有惡報
 Shan⁴ yu³ shan⁴ pao,⁴ o⁴ yu³ o⁴ pao.⁴

— 2421 —

Those who do good are very happy ; those who do evil cannot escape.

爲善最樂。爲惡難逃
Wei² shan⁴ tsui⁴ lê⁴; wei² o⁴ nan² t'ao.²

— 2422 —

To excuse a murderer is abhorrent to reason.

殺人可恕。情理難容
Sha¹ jên² k'o³ shu,⁴ ch'ing² li³ nan² yung.²

— 2423 —

The good live long, the bad die early.

善必壽老。惡必早亡
Shan⁴ pi⁴ shou⁴ lao,³ o⁴ pi⁴ tsao³ wang.³

— 2424 —

He is certain of a rich reward who escapes in a hazardous enterprise.

大難不死。必有厚祿
Ta⁴ nan² pu⁴ ssü,³ pi⁴ yu³ 'hou⁴ lu.⁴

— 2425 —

Rewards are used to stimulate goodness ; punishment to repress evil.

賞以勸善。罰以懲惡
Shang³ i³ ch'üan⁴ shan⁴; fa² i³ ch'êng² o.⁴

— 2426 —

He who from secret malice shoots an arrow at another in the dark, brings calamity on his descendants.

匿怨而用暗箭。禍延子孫
Ni⁴ yüan⁴ êrh² yung⁴ an⁴ chieu,⁴ 'huo⁴ yen² tzü³ sun.¹

— 2427 —

Good or evil deeds are sure to be discovered. *Lit.* One buried in the snow must after a while be discovered.

雪裡埋人。久後自明
Hsüeb³ li³ mai² jên,² chiu³ 'hou⁴ tzü⁴ ming.²

— 2428 —

Grievous wrong necessitates signal redress. *Lit.* A great bend must have a great straightening.

大 屈 必 有 大 伸
Ta⁴ ch'ü¹ pi⁴ yu³ ta⁴ shên.¹

— 2429 —

There must come a day when the tumour will be punctured.

總 有 一 天 穿 疱 的 日 子
Tsung³ yu³ yi¹ t'ien¹ ch'uan¹ pao¹ ti¹ jih⁴ tzü.³

— 2430 —

If you look on beauty till your heart is filled with lust, you will suffer for it in your wife and daughters.

見 色 而 起 淫 心。報 在 妻 女
Chien⁴ sé⁴ erh² ch'ü³ ying² hsin,¹ pao⁴ tsai⁴ ch'ü¹ nü.²

— 2431 —

The upright in heart fear no thunderbolts.

心 正 不 怕 雷 打
Hsin¹ chêng⁴ pu⁴ p'a⁴ lei² ta.³

— 2432 —

Embrace every chance of laying up merit, and your daily wants will be regularly supplied.

功 德 隨 時 積。衣 飯 遂 日 生
Kung¹ té² sui² shih² chi,² i¹ fan⁴ sui² jih⁴ shêng.¹

— 2433 —

There is happiness in doing good, and secret merit in virtuous deeds.

積 福 有 福 在。行 善 有 陰 功
Chi¹ fu² yu² fu² tsai,² hsing¹ shan⁴ yu² yin⁴ kung.¹

— 2434 —

Would you know what you were, see what you are;
Would you know what you will be, see what you do.

要 知 前 世 因。今 生 受 者 是
Yao⁴ chih¹ ch'ien² shih⁴ yin,¹ chin¹ shêng¹ shou⁴ ché² shih⁴;

要 知 來 世 因。今 生 作 者 是
yao⁴ chih¹ lai² shih⁴ yin,¹ chin¹ shêng¹ tso⁴ ché² shih.⁴

2435

Cultivate virtue in this world, and you'll be happy
in the next.

今 世 便 修 來 世 福
Cbih¹ shih⁴ pien⁴ hsiu¹ lai² shih⁴ fu.²

2436

A human body is hard to beg.

難 得 討 人 身 的
Nan² tê² t'ao³ jên² shên¹ ti¹

NOTE.—This is said in warning to wicked men. The idea is that it will be impossible for a bad man to obtain a *human* body in the future life; he will have to put up with the body of some reptile, bird, or beast.

SECTION XVIII.—ON TIMES.

CHAPTER I.

SEASONS.

2437

When spinach is for sale on the eighth of the fourth moon,
Then planting out their crops all the farmers will be soon.

四月八莧菜插
Ssü⁴ yüeh⁴ pa¹ hsien⁴ ts'ai⁴ ch'ia,¹
四鄉人家把秧插
Ssü⁴ bsiang¹ jên² chia¹ pa³ bsiang¹ ch'a.¹

2438

On the twenty-eighth of the third month year by year,
Sugar-cane is eaten in every household here.

年年三月二十八
Nien² nien² san¹ yüeh⁴ êrh⁴ shih² pa,¹
家家戶戶吃甘蔗
Chia¹ chia¹ 'hu⁴ 'hu⁴ ch'ih¹ kan¹ cha.⁴

NOTE.—The reference is to a custom, principally if not entirely confined to the city of *Wu-chang* (武昌), of keeping a feast on the above date, in honour of *Tung yo* (東嶽) a Taoist deity, whose birthday it is.

2439

As days lengthen more work may be done. *Lit*: After the winter solstice, days lengthen and a thread may be added.

冬至日長添線、
Tung¹ chih⁴ jih⁴ ch'ang² t'ien¹ hsien.⁴

— 2440 —

Spring is sooner recognized by plants than men.

人 不 知 春 草 知 春
Jên² pu⁴ chih¹ ch'un¹ ts'ao³ chih¹ ch'un¹

— 2441 —

It is spring when the gayest colours abound.

萬 紫 千 紅 總 是 春
Wan⁴ tzū³ ch'ien¹ 'hung² tsung³ shih⁴ ch'un¹

— 2442 —

When Autumn comes the hills are covered with beauty ; when spring comes every spot is perfumed with flowers.

秋 至 滿 山 多 秀 色
Ch'iu¹ chih⁴ man³ shan¹ to¹ hsiu⁴ sé⁴
春 來 無 處 不 花 香
ch'un¹ lai² wu² ch'u⁴ pu⁴ 'hua¹ hsiang¹

— 2443 —

Nightingales and flowers fear the passing away of Spring ; how then can you teach men to spend it carelessly !

鶯 花 猶 怕 春 光 老
Ying¹ 'hua¹ yu² p'a⁴ ch'un¹ kuang¹ lao³ ;
豈 可 教 人 枉 度 春
ch'i³ k'o³ chiao⁴ jên² wang³ tu⁴ ch'un¹

— 2444 —

Everything in season. *Lit.*: The mandarin orange is over by the feast of lanterns ; and turnips by the coming of spring.

柑 子 看 不 得 燈
Kan¹ tzū³ k'an⁴ pu⁴ tē² tēng¹ ;
蘿 蔔 打 不 得 春
lo² p'u² ta³ pu⁴ tē² ch'un¹

2445

When a leaf of the *wu-t'ung* falls, every one knows it is Autumn.

梧桐一葉落。天下盡知秋
 Wu² t'ung² yi¹ yeh⁴ lo,⁴ t'ien¹ hsia⁴ chin⁴ chih¹ ch'iu,¹

2446

The year fears mid-autumn, as the month the full moon.

年怕中秋月怕半
 Nien² p'a⁴ chung¹ ch'iu,¹ yüeh⁴ p'a⁴ pan.⁴

NOTE.—Because after these times both year and month seem to hasten to their close.

CHAPTER II.

TIME.

— 2447 —

As in a looking-glass one's likeness may be shown,
So in the ages past the present may be known.

明 鏡 可 以 察 形
Ming² ching⁴ k'o³ i³ ch'a² hsing,²
往 古 可 以 知 今
Wang³ ku³ k'o³ yi³ chih¹ chin,¹

— 2448 —

An inch of time is like an inch of gold ;
But time can never be at that price sold.
A lost inch of gold may be sought somewhere ;
Where time may be sought for cannot be told.

一 寸 光 陰 一 寸 金
Yi¹ ts'un⁴ kuang¹ ying¹ yi¹ ts'un⁴ chin¹ ;
寸 金 難 買 寸 光 陰
Ts'un⁴ chin¹ nan² mai³ ts'un⁴ kuang¹ yin,¹
失 去 寸 金 有 尋 處
Shih¹ ch'ü⁴ ts'un⁴ chin¹ yu³ hsin² ch'u⁴ ;
失 去 光 陰 無 處 尋
Shih¹ ch'ü⁴ kuang¹ yin¹ wu² ch'u⁴ hsin.²

— 2449 —

Time flies like an arrow ; days and months like a shuttle.

光 陰 似 箭。日 月 如 梭
Kuang¹ yin¹ ssü⁴ chien⁴ ; jih⁴ yüeh⁴ ju² so,¹

NOTE. — "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." Job, 7: 6.

— 2450 —

Past events are clear as a mirror ; future events are as dark as lacquer.

過 去 事 明 如 鏡
Kuo⁴ ch'ü⁴ shih⁴ ming² ju² ching⁴ ;
未 來 事 暗 如 漆
wei⁴ lai² shih⁴ an⁴ ju² ch'i.¹

2451

Observe the present, but reflect the past ; without the past there had been no present.

觀 今 宜 鑑 古。無 古 不 成 今
Kuan¹ chin¹ i² chien⁴ ku³; wu² ku³ pu⁴ ch'êng² chin¹

2452

Time passes easily to those fully employed.

工 夫 容 易 過
Kung¹ fu¹ yung² i⁴ kuo⁴

2453

From the past you may forecast the future.

驗 其 前 便 知 其 後
Yen⁴ ch'i² ch'ien² pien⁴ chih¹ ch'i² 'hou⁴

2454

To one full of expectation a moment seems a year.

相 思 之 甚。寸 陰 若 歲
Hsiang¹ ssü¹ chih¹ shên⁴, ts'un⁴ yin¹ jo⁴ sui⁴

2455

Idly spent years or months hinder a man for life.

虛 度 歲 月。耽 擱 一 生
Hsü¹ tu⁴ sui⁴ yüeh⁴ tan¹ ko¹ yi¹ shêng¹

2456

This morning knows not this evening's affairs.

今 朝 不 知 今 晚 事
Chin¹ chao¹ pu⁴ chih¹ chin¹ wan³ shih⁴

2457

One quarter of an hour is worth a thousand *taels* of gold.

一 刻 千 金
Yi¹ k'o⁴ ch'ien¹ chin¹

2458

Procrastination is the thief of time.

需 者 事 之 賊
Hsü¹ ché² shih⁴ chih¹ tsei²

2459

In calmness heaven and earth seem greater ; in leisure days and months seem longer.

靜 裡 乾 坤 大。 開 中 日 月 長
 Ching⁴ li³ ch'ien² k'un¹ ta⁴; hsien² chung¹ jih⁴ yueh⁴ ch'ang²

— 2460 —

Rosy-faced ladies resemble trees in Spring: the following years are but a throw of the shuttle.

紅 顏 比 春 樹。 流 年 一 擲 梭
 'Hung³ yen² pi³ ch'un¹ shu⁴; liu² nien³ yi¹ chih⁴ so.¹

— 2461 —

Never waste time.

光 陰 不 可 錯 過
 Kang¹ yin¹ pu⁴ k'o³ ts'o⁴ kuo.⁴

— 2462 —

We work with the rising, rest with the setting sun.

日 出 而 作。 日 入 而 息
 Jih⁴ ch'u¹ erh² tso,⁴ jih⁴ ju⁴ erh² hsi.²

CHAPTER III.

WEATHER.

2463

When it rains about the break of day,
The traveller's sorrows pass away.

雨灑五更頭。行人永無憂
Yü³ sa³ wu³ kêng¹ t'ou,² hsing² jên² yung³ wu² yu.¹

2464

With lightning in the East, the sun will be red ;
With lightning in the West, showers you may dread ;
With lightning in the South, it will rain more and more ;
With lightning in the North, the southern gale will roar.

東閃日頭紅。西閃雨重重
Tung¹ shan³ jih⁴ t'ou² hung³; 'hsi¹ shan³ jü⁴ ch'ung² ch'ung² :
南閃長流水。北閃猛南風
Nan² shan³ ch'ang² liu² shui³; pei³ shan³ mêng³ nan² fêng.¹

2465

Our yesterday's plans have all been put to flight,
For an old north wind has risen in the night.

昨日商量大不同
Tso² jih⁴ shang¹ liang² ta⁴ pu⁴ t'ung²
半夜起了老北風
Pan⁴ yeh⁴ ch'ü³ liao³ lao³ pei³ fêng.¹

2466

In the seventh month vertical, in the eighth oblique ;
In the ninth and tenth it is far to seek.

七月中八月偏
Ch'ü¹ yüeh⁴ chung¹ pa¹ yüeh⁴ pien¹ ;
九月十月看不見
Chiu³ yüeh⁴ shih³ yüeh⁴ k'an⁴ pu⁴ chien.⁴

NOTE.—This is said of the 七姊妹星, the Seven star, or Charles' Wain.

2467

The seven cornered constellation—Charles's wain,
Rises in the East, in the West descends again.

七 姑 星 七 支 角
 Ch'i¹ ku¹ hsing¹ ch'i¹ chih¹ chio,²
 東 邊 起 西 邊 落
 Tung¹ pien¹ ch'i³ hsi¹ pien¹ lo.⁴

2468

When the weather is hot and hard to bear,
 We pursue the breeze for a little fresh air.

天 熱 難 當。趕 風 乘 涼
 T'ien¹ jê⁴ nan² tang,¹ kan³ fêng¹ ch'êng⁴ liang.²

2469

Dread the fifth month's rattling rains ;
 Dread not the height the water gains.

不 怕 五 月 長。只 怕 五 月 响
 Pu⁴ p'a⁴ wu³ yueh⁴ chang³; chih³ p'a⁴ wu³ yueh⁴ hsiang.³

2470

On the third of the third month travellers may
 Don their thin clothes, and put their thick ones away.

三 月 三。路 上 行 人 脫 衣 單
 San¹ yueh⁴ san,¹ lu⁴ shang⁴ hsiang² jên² t'o¹ i¹ tan.¹

2471

On the ninth of the ninth month, Traveller beware
 Of the lakes! (for there will be storms in the air).

九 月 九。行 人 莫 向 湖 邊 走
 Chiu³ yueh⁴ chiu,³ hsiang² jên² mo⁴ hsiang⁴ 'hu² pien¹ tsou.⁴

2472

When *ch'ing-ming* falls in the second month, don't be
 in a flurry :

When *ch'ing-ming* falls in the third, plant your rice
 in a hurry.

二 月 清 明 不 要 忙
 Erh⁴ yueh⁴ ch'ing¹ ming² pu⁴ yao⁴ mang²:

三 月 清 明 早 下 秧
 San¹ yueh⁴ ch'ing¹ ming² tsao³ hsia⁴ yang.¹

NOTE.—*Ch'ing-ming*, rendered "Pure Brightness," is one of the twenty-four terms into which the Chinese year is divided. It falls about the 5th of April, and is mild and genial.

2473

On the ninth month's *ch'ung-yang* all desire,
To gather around the household fire.

九月重陽。抱火進房。
Chiu³ yüeh⁴ ch'ung² yang,² pao⁴ 'huo³ chin⁴ fang.²

NOTE.—1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, are numbers belonging to *Yang*. The 9th of the 9th month is a Double *Yang* number, hence *Ch'ung-yang*, the name of the feast then celebrated.

2474

If it rises at night,
T'will fall at daylight.

關門起。開門息。
Kuan¹ mên² ch'í,³ k'ai¹ mên² hsi.²

2475

In the sixth month continuous rain,
Covers all the soil with golden grain.

六月下連陰。徧地是黃金。
Lu⁴ yüeh⁴ hsia⁴ lien² yiu,² pien⁴ ti⁴ shih⁴ 'huang² chin.⁴

2476

When half the seventh month is passed,
With iron *Lohans* men may be classed.

過了七月半。方是鐵羅漢。
Kuo⁴ liao³ ch'í¹ yüeh⁴ pan,⁴ fang¹ shih⁴ t'ieh³ lo² 'han.⁴

NOTE.—By "iron *Lohans*" is meant the cast-iron images of the 500, and of the 18 disciples of S'akyamuni, common in Buddhist temples. At the time mentioned in this proverb, the festival of burning paper etc. to the dead occurs; and, according to my informant, it is believed that the Gates of Hades are opened for half a month, and ghosts allowed to wander back to their former abodes. It is the supposed presence of these infernal visitors which makes the people afraid, at this particular period, of sickness or death. If they escape unhurt, afterwards they are as sturdy as "iron *Lohans*."

2477

If there be one fine day at the coming in of Spring,
the farmer need not labour hard at ploughing.

但得立春晴一日。
Tan⁴ tê² li⁴ ch'un¹ ch'ing² yi¹ jih,⁴
農夫不用力耕田。
nung² fu¹ pu⁴ yung⁴ li⁴ kêng¹ 'tien.²

2478

The farmer hopes for rain, the traveller for fine weather.

耕田望落雨。做客望天晴
Kēng¹ t'ien² wang⁴ lo⁴ yü³; tso⁴ k'o⁴ wang⁴ t'ien⁴ ch'ing.²

2479

Though it rain ever so hard on the first of the month, it will not last more than a day.

落雨向初一。落雨莫過日
Lo⁴ yü³ hsiang³ ch'u¹ yi,¹ lo⁴ yü³ mo⁴ kuo⁴ jih.⁴

2480

In the morning look toward the South-east; in the evening toward the North-west.

朝看東南。晚看西北
Chao¹ k'an⁴ tung¹ nan²; wan³ k'an⁴ hsi¹ pei.³

NOTE.—If the eastern sky be bright in the morning, the day will be fine; if the western sky be bright in the evening, the next day will be fine.

2481

A halo round the moon is a sign of wind.

月暈而風
Yüeh⁴ yün¹ êrh² fêng.¹

2482

If it rain on the winter St. Swithin's, cattle and sheep will die of cold;—on the summer St. Swithin's, you may row to market in a boat;—on the autumn St. Swithin's, rice will produce two ears (both useless);—on the spring St. Swithin's, the earth will be red (with drought) for a thousand miles.

冬甲子雨牛羊凍死
Tung¹ chia³ tzü³ yü³ niu² yang² tung⁴ ssü³;
夏甲子雨撐船就市
hsia⁴ chia³ tzü³ yü³ chang⁴ ch'uan² chiu⁴ shih⁴;
秋甲子雨禾生兩耳
ch'iu¹ chia³ tzü³ yü³ 'ho² shêng¹ liang³ êrh²;
春甲子雨赤地千里
ch'un¹ chia³ tzü³ yü³ ch'ih⁴ ti⁴ ch'ien¹ li.³

NOTE.—“St. Swithin's,” *lit.*: *chia-tzu*. This is a term of sixty days; and there are six such terms in a year. They do not, however, correspond exactly with the year. The superstition is that if it rain on the first day of any of these terms, it will be unusually wet for sixty days.

2483

The east wind breaks up the frost.

東風解凍
T'ung¹ f'eng¹ chieh³ tung⁴

2484

Old dame *Han* has crossed the river; and *Ma* the Buddhist priest is gathering sticks.

韓婆婆過江。馬和尚撿柴
'Han² p'o² p'o² kuo⁴ chiang¹; ma³ 'ho² shang⁴ chien³ ch'ai.²

NOTE.—This local proverb is much used by the people of Hankow and Wu-chang on the 20th of the 9th month. If that day be fine they use this saying as it stands, and conclude that the coming winter will be severe. If the day be wet and windy, the saying is reversed, and a mild winter is expected.

2485

It is so calm and smooth one might write on the water.

平風息浪。水裏寫得字
P'ing² f'eng¹ hsi² lang⁴, shui³ li³ hsieh³ té² tzü.⁴

2486

A rainbow in the east will be followed by a fine day; in the west by a rainy day.

東虹日頭。西虹雨
Tung¹ 'hung⁴ jih⁴ t'ou²; hsi¹ 'hung⁴ yü.³

2487

On the 8th, 18th, and 28th, of the fifth month it should rain; if it rains not on the 8th, on the 18th it will not; if it rains not on the 28th, sow your green-coloured beans.

五月三八都要雨
Wu³ yüeh⁴ san¹ pa¹ tu¹ yao⁴ yü³;
頭八無雨二八休
t'ou² pa¹ wu² yü³ erh⁴ pa¹ hsiu¹;
三八無雨種菜豆
San¹ pa¹ wu² yü³ chung⁴ lu⁴ tou.⁴

NOTE.—Beans are to be sown because the season will prove too dry for corn,

2488

Great heat brings wind.

熱極生風
Jé⁴ chi² shéng¹ f'eng¹.

2489

When it snows in six-leaved flakes it is a good omen of a prosperous year.

雪花飛六出先兆豐年
Hsüeh³ 'hua¹ fei¹ lu⁴ ch'u¹ hsien¹ chao⁴ fêng¹ nien.²

2490

Fair weather offends nobody; incessant rains make men gloomy.

天晴無人怨。久雨令人愁
T'ien¹ ch'ing² wu² jên² yüan⁴; chiu³ yü³ ling⁴ jên² ch'ou.²

2491

Five days' rain, ten days' wind, are both good omens.

五風十雨皆爲瑞
Wu³ fêng¹ shih² yü³ chieh¹ wei² jui.⁴

2492

Like a fruitful shower after a long drought is the meeting of an old acquaintance in a strange land.

久旱逢甘雨。他鄉遇故知
Ch'iu³ 'han⁴ fêng² kan¹ yü,³ t'a¹ bsiang¹ yü⁴ ku⁴ chih.¹

2493

Weather varies every hundred miles.

百里不同天
Pai³ li³ pu⁴ t'ung² t'ien.¹

2494

How to keep cool. *Lit.*: If the mind be calm the body will keep cool.

心定自然涼
Hsin¹ ting⁴ tzü⁴ jan² liang.²

2495

Nobody complains over a hundred fine days in winter.

冬晴百日無怨
Tung¹ ch'ing² pai³ jih⁴ wu² yüan.⁴

2496

When the mid-autumn moon is beclouded, there will be rain on the next Feast of Lanterns.

雲掩中秋月。雨灑上元燈。
Yun² yen³ chung¹ ch'iu¹ yueh⁴ yü³ sa³ shang⁴ yüan² têng¹.

———— 2497 ————

When it is bright all round it will not rain : when it is bright only over-head it will.

無雨四下亮。有雨頂上光。
Wu² yü³ ssü⁴ bsia⁴ liang⁴; yu³ yü³ ting³ shang⁴ kuang¹.

———— 2498 ————

The moon of mid-autumn is exceedingly bright.

月到中秋分外明。
Yueh⁴ tao⁴ chung¹ ch'iu¹ fên¹ wai⁴ ming².

———— 2499 ————

From the summer solstice days begin to shorten ; from the winter solstice they begin to lengthen.

夏至一陰生。冬至一陽生。
Hsia⁴ chih⁴ yi¹ yin¹ shêng¹; tung¹ chih⁴ yi¹ yang² shêng¹.

———— 2500 ————

When the plinths of the pillars are damp there will be rain.

礎潤而雨。
Sang³ jun⁴ êrh² yü.³

———— 2501 ————

When it rains in the morning, it will be fine at night.

開門雨。關門晴。
K'ai¹ mên² yü,³ kuan¹ mên² ch'ing².

———— 2502 ————

Cold sends us to the fire ; heat sends us into the shade.

因寒向火。怕熱乘涼。
Yin¹ han² hsiang⁴ huo³; p'a⁴ jê⁴ ch'ing⁴ liang².

SECTION XIX.—ON TRAVEL.

CHAPTER I.

SCENERY.

2503

Exactly what heaven must be on high,
Are *Suchow* and *Hangchow* below the sky.

上說天堂。下說蘇杭
Shang¹ shuo¹ t'ien¹ t'ang,² hsia⁴ shuo¹ Su¹ Hang.²

NOTE.—This well-known saying is referred to by Marco Polo, in his description “of the noble and magnificent city of *Kinsai*.” Bohu's Edition, page 313.

2504

The rapid rushes down without design ; and the white
cloud rises from the mountain gorge without any
will of its own.

流水下灘非有意
Liu² shui³ hsia⁴ t'an¹ fei¹ yu³ i⁴;
白雲出岫本無心
pai² yün² ch'u¹ hsiu⁴ pên³ wu² hsin¹.

2505

The deep mountain gorges must hide the fierce tigers ;
as the great sea must receive every small river.

深山畢竟藏猛虎
Shên¹ shan¹ pi⁴ ching⁴ ts'ang² mêng³ 'hu³;
大海終須納細流
ta⁴ 'hai³ chung¹ hsi¹ na⁴ si⁴ liu²

2506

The sea is boundless ; the river bottomless.

海無邊。江無底
'Hai³ wu² pien¹ ; Chiang¹ wu² ti¹

2507

All the rivers flow into the sea, and yet it is not full.

萬川歸海。而海不盈
Wan⁴ ch'uan¹ kuei¹ 'hai³ êrh² 'hai³ pu⁴ ying.²

NOTE.—“All the rivers run into the sea ; yet the sea is not full.” Eccles. 1 : 7.

———— 2508 ————

Where hills are lofty rivers are deep.

山高水也高
San¹ kao¹ shui³ yeh³ kao.¹

———— 2509 ————

Of noted rivers there are three hundred ; of branch streams three thousand.

名川三百。支川三千
Ming² ch'uan¹ san¹ pai¹; chih¹ ch'uan¹ san¹ ch'ien.¹

———— 2510 ————

The *Yangtze* and the *Huai*, every flower and every tree, each has its own peculiar name.

江淮草木。亦知爾名
Chiang¹ Huai² ts'ao³ mu,⁴ i⁴ chih¹ êrh³ ming.²

———— 2511 ————

“The distant grove you see is sure to enclose either a house or a grave.”

遠望一叢林。不是屋就是墳
Yüan³ wang⁴ yi¹ ch'ung² lin,² pu⁴ shih⁴ wu¹ chiu⁴ shih⁴ fên.²

C H A P T E R I I.

TRAVELLING.

— 2512 —

A thousand strokes, ten thousand shoves, do less avail,
Than the bending loins of a ragged sail.

千 槳 萬 篙。 比 不 得 破 篷 撐 腰。
Ch'ien¹ Chiang³ wan⁴ kao,¹ pi³ pu⁴ tê² p'o⁴ p'êng² chang⁴ yao.¹

— 2513 —

Walk along slowly—perhaps you will,
That I fear not, but lest you stand still.

不 怕 走 得 慢。 只 怕 路 上 站。
Pu⁴ p'a⁴ tsou⁴ tê² man,⁴ chih⁴ p'a⁴ lu⁴ shang⁴ chan.⁴

— 2514 —

Ah me! this travelling, who can bear it!
One's suit gets torn and who's to repair it?

出 門 十 分 苦。 衣 破 無 人 補。
Ch'u¹ mên² shih² fên¹ k'u³! i¹ p'o⁴ wu² jên² pu.³

— 2515 —

He who does not covet, and is from every falsehood
clear,

May travel anywhere he likes without the slightest
fear.

手 穩 嘴 穩。 到 處 好 安 身。
Shou³ wên³ tsui³ wen,³ tao⁴ ch'u⁴ hao³ an¹ shên.¹

— 2516 —

You go to the end of a stage, on land;
By boat, you stop when the jetty's at hand.

路 行 站 口。 船 灣 碼 頭。
Lu¹ hsing² chan⁴ k'ou³; ch'uan² wan¹ ma³ t'ou.²

— 2517 —

Rap on a vessel, and have three days' delay:
Rattle your chopsticks, and pine through the third day.

敲 船 三 日 坐。敲 碗 三 日 餓
 Ch'iao¹ ch'uan² san¹ jih⁴ tso⁴; ch'iao¹ wan³ san¹ jih⁴ o.⁴

2518

Of three men on a road, the youngest has to suffer.

三 人 上 路 小 的 吃 虧
 San¹ jên² shang⁴ lu,⁴ hsiao³ ti¹ ch'ih¹ k'uei.¹

2519

Put up before it is dark; and when the cock crows take a look at the weather.

未 晚 先 投 宿。鷄 鳴 早 看 天
 Wei⁴ wan³ hsien¹ t'ou² su²; chi¹ ming² tsao³ k'an⁴ t'ien.¹

2520

May the star of happiness shine on all your journey!

一 路 福 星
 Yi¹ lu⁴ fu² hsing¹!

2521

May all your journey be in peace!

一 路 平 安。or 一 路 安 穩
 Yi¹ lu⁴ p'ing² an¹! or yi¹ lu⁴ an¹ wên¹!

2522

May you have fair wind all the way!

一 路 順 風
 Yi¹ lu⁴ shun⁴ fêng¹!

2523

May fair winds attend you!

順 風 相 送
 shun³ fêng¹ hsiang¹ sung⁴!

2524

To leave home is easier than to return.

別 時 容 易 見 時 難
 Pieh² shih² yung² i⁴ chien⁴ shih² nan.²

2525

He who can use his tongue, can find out any road.

路 在 口 裡。一 問 就 知
 Lu⁴ tsai⁴ k'ou³ li,³ yi¹ wên⁴ chiu⁴ chih.¹

2526

Better at home than a mile from it.

離 家 一 里 不 如 屋 裡
Li² chia¹ yi¹ li³ pu⁴ ju² wu¹ li³

2527

A thousand days at home, are better than the shortest time abroad.

在 家 千 日 好。出 外 一 時 難
Tsai⁴ chia¹ ch'ien¹ jih⁴ 'hao,² ch'u¹ wai⁴ yi¹ shih² nan.²

2528

After three years of drought, all who go out for a day hope for fair weather.

天 乾 三 年。出 門 一 日。都 望 晴
T'ien¹ kan¹ san¹ nien,² ch'u¹.mên² yi¹ jih,⁴ tu¹ wang⁴ ch'ing.²

2259

If a man makes himself friendly wherever he goes, where can he go and not find a friend?

男 兒 五 湖 四 海 爲 朋 友
Nan² erh² wu³ 'hu² ssü⁴ 'hai³ wei² p'êng² yü,³
人 到 何 處 不 相 逢
jên² tao⁴ 'ho² ch'u⁴ pu⁴ hsiang¹ fêng.²

2530

Mountains do not hinder a journey so much as rivers.

隔 山 容 易 走。隔 水 最 難 行
Ko² shan¹ yung² i⁴ tsou,⁴ ko² shui³ tsui⁴ nan² hsing.²

2531

On shipboard everything is in the captain's care.

一 擔 金 和 寶。交 與 老 艙 公
Yi¹ tan¹ chin¹ 'ho² pao,³ chiao¹ yü³ lao³ shao³ kung.¹

2532

On a journey each pursues his way without alighting to greet every one he meets.

相 逢 不 下 馬。各 自 奔 前 程
Hsiang¹ fêng² pu⁴ hsia⁴ ma,³ ko⁴ tzü⁴ pên¹ ch'ien² ch'êng.³

———— 2533 ————

There is some cause of anxiety, whether one travel by boat or on horseback.

行 船 跑 馬 三 分 憂
Hsing² ch'uan² p'ao³ ma³ san¹ fên¹ yu.¹

———— 2534 ————

Fellow-travellers must not desert each other.

同 路 無 梭 伴
T'ung² lu⁴ wu² so¹ pan.⁴

———— 2535 ————

A youthful son or brother grows old by travel.

少 年 子 弟 江 湖 老
Shao³ nien² tzü³ ti⁴ chiang¹ hu² lao.³

———— 2536 ————

Whether you hurry on or take it easy, the road before you has only a certain length.

急 行 慢 行。 前 程 只 有 許 多 路
Chi² hsing² man⁴ hsing² ch'ien² ch'êng² chih³ yu³ hsi³ to¹ lu.⁴

———— 2537 ————

When the vehicle in front upsets, the vehicle following takes more heed.

前 車 覆 後 車 戒
Ch'ien² ch'ê¹ fu² 'hou⁴ ch'ê¹ chieh.⁴

———— 2538 ————

There is no place like home. *Lit.*: Ch'ang-an may be a fine city, but it won't do for a permanent home.

長 安 雖 好。 不 是 久 留 之 家
Ch'ang³ an¹ sui¹ 'hao,³ pu⁴ shih⁴ chiu³ liu² chih¹ chia.¹

NOTE. — "Ch'ang-an, the name of the old capital of Shensi province, also the capital of China in the Ts'in, Han, Sui, and T'ung periods." See Dr. Porter Smith's. "Vocabulary of Chinese Proper Names," page 3.

———— 2539 ————

The same. *Lit.*: Though Lo-yang be pleasant, it is not like home.

洛陽雖好不如家
Lo⁴ Yang² sui¹ hao³ pu⁴ ju² chia.¹

NOTE.—*Lo-yang*, the capital of China under the Eastern *Han* dynasty, A. D. 25; now a district city in the prefecture of *Honan*.

———— 2540 ————

Remove but an inch, and you must pay portorage;
ship goods for a thousand miles, and you must pay
freight.

寸步脚錢。千里船錢
Ts'un⁴ pu⁴ chiao³ ch'ien²; ch'ien¹ li³ ch'uan² ch'ien.²

———— 2541 ————

If you can get by land do not go by water.

有路莫登舟
Yu³ lu⁴ mo⁴ têng¹ chou.¹

———— 2542 ————

The rider on horseback knows nothing of the toil of
those who travel on foot.

騎馬的不知步行的苦
Ch'i² ma³ ti¹ pu⁴ chih¹ pu⁴ hsing² ti¹ k'u.³

———— 2543 ————

When on travel provoke not these three—the old, the
young, the blind.

出門不惹三子
Ch'u¹ men² pu⁴ jê³ san¹ tzū³—
老子小子瞎子
lao³ tzū³ hsiao³ tzū³ hsia² tzū.³

———— 2544 ————

You may become a master of Arts in the space of
three years; you cannot in ten become an accom-
plished traveller.

三年造出一個舉子
San¹ nien² tsao⁴ ch'u¹ yi¹ ko⁴ chū³ tzū³;
十年學不倒一個江湖
Shih² nien² hsiao² pu⁴ tao³ yi¹ ko⁴ chiang¹ hu.²

———— 2545 ————

Sitting in a boat, or galloping a horse over a track,
you never ask about the road.

坐 船 跑 馬 不 問 路
Tso⁴ ch'uan² p'ao³ ma³ pu⁴ wên⁴ lu⁴

———— 2546 ————

Get off your horse to cross a bridge ; and never wrangle
at a ferry.

逢 橋 須 下 馬。 過 渡 勿 爭 船
Fêng² ch'iao² hsi¹ hsia⁴ ma³; kuo¹ tu⁴ wu⁴ chêng¹ ch'uan.²



SECTION XX.—ON WEALTH AND POVERTY.

CHAPTER I.

POVERTY.

2547

Of eating fond, at working slow,
You'll short of food and clothing grow.

好吃懶做。衣食不穀
'Hào⁴ ch'ih¹ lan³ tsou,⁴ i¹ shih² pn⁴ kou.⁴

2548

The man's poor indeed whose clothing is torn;
Yet rags not patches encounter man's scorn.

衣破真是苦。笑破莫笑補
I¹ p'o⁴ chên¹ shih⁴ ku³; hsiao⁴ p'o⁴ mo⁴ hsiao⁴ pu.³

2549

In great distress, and penniless.

熬苦受難。無錢措辦
Ao¹ k'u³ shou⁴ nan,² wu² ch'ien² ts'u⁴ pan.⁴

2550

My name is Joy; But never a cash have I to employ.

小名叫喜
Hsiao³ ming² chiao⁴ Hsi³;
腰裡沒得一個銅皮
yao¹ li³ mu² tê² yi¹ ko⁴ t'ung² p'i.²

2551

Just one mealtime without food,
Scattereth all the household brood.

一餐無飯妻離子散
Yi¹ ts'an¹ wu² fan,⁴ chi¹ li² tzu³ san.⁴

2552

The craftier you may be the poorer you will grow;
For craftiness is that which Heaven never will allow.

越 奸 越 狡 越 貧 窮
 Yüeh⁴ chien¹ yüeh⁴ chiao³ yüeh⁴ p'in³ ch'üing²;
 奸 狡 原 來 天 不 容
 Chien¹ chiao³ yüan² lai² t'ien¹ pu⁴ yung.²

2553

Let the bells on the necks of your horses be broken,
 All relations by marriage will flee at that token.

馬 上 銅 鈴 破。親 戚 無 半 個
 Ma³ shang⁴ t'ung² ling² p'o,⁴ ch'in¹ ch'i⁴ wu⁴ pan⁴ ko.⁴

NOTE.—The second line is literally—"Not the half of a relation by marriage will be left."

2554

If you don't spend money wherever you stay,
 You'll provoke dislike stay wherever you may.

到 處 不 用 錢。到 處 惹 人 嫌
 Tao⁴ ch'u⁴ pu⁴ yung⁴ ch'ien,² tao⁴ ch'u⁴ jê³ jên² hsien.²

2555

To be poor in old age men cannot abide ;
 And the growing corn dreads a wind at noon-tide.

人 怕 老 來 窮。穀 怕 午 時 風
 Jên² p'a⁴ lao³ lai² ch'üing²; kn³ p'a⁴ wu³ shih⁴ fêng.¹

2556

Thirsty yet having nothing to drink ; hungry yet
 having nothing to eat.

渴 無 所 飲。餓 無 所 食
 K'o³ wu² so³ yün³; o⁴ wu² so³ shih.²

2557

He can't buy enough rice to fill his belly, or enough
 wine to make him drunk.

買 飯 不 飽。買 酒 不 醉
 Mai³ fan⁴ pu⁴ pao,³ mai³ chiu³ pu⁴ tsui.⁴

2558

A brave fellow may be harassed by the want of one
 cash.

一 文 錢 逼 倒 英 雄 漢
 Yi¹ wên² ch'ien² pi⁴ tao³ ying¹ hsiung² 'han.⁴

2559

Poverty forces men to commit crime. *Lit.*: One may know the king's law well enough, but starvation is hard to bear.

明 知 王 法。 飢 餓 難 當
Ming² chih¹ wang² fa,³ chi¹ o⁴ nan² tang.¹

2560

Poverty cannot change the virtues of the benevolent and disinterested.

仁 人 廉 士 窮 不 改 節
Jên² jên² lien² shih⁴ ch'ung² pu⁴ kai³ chieh.²

2561

In abject poverty. *Lit.*: His lice are too many to itch; his debts too many to trouble him.

虱 多 不 癢。 債 多 不 愁
Shih¹ to¹ pu⁴ yang¹; chai⁴ to¹ pu⁴ ch'ou.²

2562

The same. *Lit.*: Without as much rice as a fowl could eat in a day, or a rat in a night.

日 無 鷄 抓 之 米
Jih⁴ wu² chi¹ chia¹ chih¹ mi,³
夜 無 鼠 耗 之 糧
yeh⁴ wu² shü³ hao⁴ chih¹ liang.²

2563

The same. *Lit.*: Rats run away out of his rice boiler.

飯 甑 裡 跑 出 老 鼠 來
Fan⁴ tsêng⁴ li³ p'ao³ ch'u¹ lao³ shü³ lai.²

2564

The same. *Lit.*: Just able to save the eyebrows from being burnt.

可 救 燃 眉
K'o³ chiu⁴ jan² mei.²

2565

Often when want is extremest supplies come.

絕 處 逢 生
Chüeh² ch'u⁴ fêng² shêng.¹

2566

Tis hard to have to tell one's wants.

開口告人難
K'ai¹ k'ou³ kao⁴ jèn² nan.²

2567

There is poverty for all kinds of rogues.

百般奸狡百般窮
Pai³ pan¹ chien¹ chiao³ pai³ pan¹ ch'iung.²

2568

Reduced circumstances must be submitted to humbly.

Lit.: Under another's eaves one must bow the head.

打得廊簷下。誰敢不低頭
Ta³ té² lang² yen² hsia,⁴ shui³ kan² pu⁴ ti¹ t'ou.²

2569

Nothing but thinness makes horses go feebly; Only poverty keeps men from being merry.

馬行無力皆因瘦
Ma³ hsing² wu² li⁴ chieh¹ yin¹ shou⁴;
人不風流只爲貧
jèn² pu⁴ feng¹ liu² chih³ wei⁴ p'in.³

2570

Hunger and cold make men glad of any kind of food and clothes.

飢不擇食。寒不擇衣
Chi¹ pu⁴ tsé² shih,² han² pu⁴ tsé² i.¹

2571

In great straights. *Lit.:* When the fire singes one's eyebrows, all one can do is to provide for the present.

火燒眉毛只顧眼前
Huo³ shao¹ mei² mao² chih³ ku⁴ yen³ ch'ien.²

2572

At one's wits' end—no road up to the sky, no door into the ground.

無 法 可 制。 上 天 無 路
 Wu² fa³ k'o³ chih⁴; —shang⁴ t'ien¹. wu² lu⁴
 下 地 無 門
 hsia⁴ ti⁴ wu² men²

— 2573 —

Penniless. *Lit.*: Naked-handed and empty-fisted.

赤 手 空 拳
 Ch'ih⁴ shou³ k'ung¹ ch'üan²

— 2574 —

When poor a man's resolution fails; when lean a horse's hair grows shaggy.

人 貧 志 短。 馬 瘦 毛 長
 Jên² p'in³ chih⁴ tuan³; ma³ shou⁴ mao² ch'ang²

— 2575 —

A man is not beggared by eating or dressing, but by the failure of his plans.

吃 不 窮 穿 不 窮
 Ch'ih¹ pu⁴ ch'üung⁰ ch'üan¹ pu⁴ ch'üung⁰
 算 計 不 到 一 時 窮
 suan⁴ chi⁴ pu⁴ tao⁴ yi¹ shih² ch'üung²

— 2576 —

In poverty be patient.

無 錢 且 耐 煩
 Wu² ch'ien² ch'ieh³ nai⁴ fan²

— 2577 —

Do not plead poverty when you ought to spend.

錢 當 用 不 辭 貧
 Ch'ien² tang¹ yung⁴ pu⁴ tz'ü² p'in³

— 2578 —

A good Chinese is not afraid to confess the poverty from which he rose.

好 漢 不 怕 出 身 低
 'Hao³ 'han⁴ pu⁴ p'a⁴ ch'u¹ shên¹ ti¹

— 2579 —

Without oil a lamp can give no light; without money a man can hardly exist.

燈 臺 無 油 點 不 光
 Têng¹ t'ai² wu² yu² tien³ pu⁴ kuang¹;
 世 上 無 錢 難 爲 人
 sbih⁴ shang⁴ wu² ch'ien² nan² wei² jên.²

— 2580 —

When man becomes poor he calls to mind ancient debts due to him.

人 窮 思 古 債
 Jên² ch'ung² ssü¹ ku³ chai.⁴

CHAPTER II.

POOR MEN.

2581

Destitute knaves, The public saves.

光棍光棍。大家幫趁
Kuang¹ kun⁴ kuang¹ kun⁴, ta⁴ chia¹ pang¹ ts'un.⁴

2582

A cold stove has no smoke;
No money have poor folk.

冷灶無烟。人窮無錢
Lêng³ tsao⁴ wu² yen⁴; jên² ch'üung² wü² ch'ien.²

2583

One so poor that he is glad to get before a chaff fire.

窮得向粗糠火
Ch'üung² tê² hsiang⁴ ts'u¹ k'ang¹ 'huo.³

2584

Rice straw gives out much smoke; poor men give out much wrath.

稻草煙多。窮人氣多
Tao⁴ ts'ao³ yen¹ to¹; ch'üung² jên² ch'i¹ to.¹

2585

There is many a good under a shabby hat.

破帽底下有人
P'o⁴ mao⁴ ti¹ hsia⁴ yu³ jên.²

2586

A frog in a well can hardly get out.

井裡蛙躄總難翻身
Ching³ li³ hsia¹ ma³ tsung³ nan² fan¹ shên¹

2587

Meeting poverty-stricken relatives and neighbours, be very genial and kind.

見貧苦親隣須多溫恤
Chien⁴ p'in³ k'u³ ch'in¹ lin² hsi¹ to¹ wên¹ hsi¹.

2588

Scornfully to treat the poor is most dishonourable.

遇貧窮而作驕態者賤莫甚

Yü⁴ p'in³ ch'ung² êrh² tso⁴ chiao¹ t'ai⁴ ché² chien⁴ mo⁴ shên.⁴

2589

He who has no store at home, must gallop about for a living.

家無積攢爲口奔馳

Chia¹ wu² chi² tsan³ wei⁴ k'ou³ pên¹ ch'ih.²

CHAPTER III.

RICH MEN.

2590

Washing his face he wets his paws ;

Eating his rice he wets his jaws.

洗臉打濕手。吃飯打濕口

Hsi³ lien³ ta³ shih¹ shou³; ch'ih¹ fan⁴ ta³ shih¹ k'ou.³

NOTE.—All that a rich man does or needs to do.

2591

He can never want a friend,

On whom wealth and wine attend.

有錢有酒。必有朋友

Yu³ ch'ien² yu³ chiu,³ pi⁴ yu³ p'êng² yu.³

2592

When a big vessel comes to pieces, there still remain
three piculs of nails.

大船破了還有三担釘

Ta⁴ ch'uan² p'o⁴ liao³ 'huan² yu³ san¹ tan¹ ting.¹

2593

The rich are treated with the respect due to those
thirty years older than themselves.

有錢長人三十歲

Yu³ ch'ien² chang⁴ jên² san¹ shih² sui.⁴

2594

Heroes walk a dangerous path; the rich are like
flowering branches.

英雄行險道。富貴似花枝

Ying¹ hsiung² hsing² hsien³ tao⁴; fu⁴ kuei⁴ ssü⁴ 'hua¹ chih.¹

2595

If a man has money every place is *Yang-chou* to him.

有錢到處是揚州

Yu³ ch'ien⁴ tao⁴ ch'u⁴ shih⁴ yang⁴ chou.¹

2596

A real rich man is careless of his dress.

眞財主不穿衣
Chên¹ ts'ai² chu³ pu⁴ ch'uan¹ i.¹

2597

Though you have money, you cannot buy what is not to sell.

有錢難買不賣貨
Yu³ ch'ien² nan² mai³ pu⁴ mai⁴ 'huo.⁴

2598

There is never a poor man under a gauze hat.

紗帽底下無窮人
Sha¹ mao⁴ ti¹ hsia⁴ wu² ch'üung² jên.²

NOTE.—The gauze hat namely of the *Ming* mandarins.

2599

His person loses dignity who has no servants under him.

手下無人身不貴
Shou³ hsia⁴ wu² jên² shên¹ pu⁴ kuei.⁴

2600

However rich you may be, never slight the literati, nor be rude to artisans.

家有萬貫不可輕師慢匠
Chia¹ yu³ wan⁴ kuan⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ ch'ing¹ shih¹ man⁴ chiang.⁴

2601

A great tree attracts the wind.

樹大招風
Shu⁴ ta⁴ chao¹ fêng.¹

NOTE.—A rich man is likely to tempt the squeezers.

CHAPTER IV.

RICH AND POOR MEN.

— 2602 —

The wealthy can no more the village clubs suppress,
Than mountains can the plains of sunshine dispossess.

富貴壓不倒鄉黨
Fu⁴ kuei⁴ ya¹ pu⁴ tao³ hsiang¹ tang³
山高遮不住太陽
Shan¹ kao¹ ché¹ pu⁴ chu⁴ t'ai⁴ yang²

— 2603 —

The rich man anticipates years in advance ;
The poor can but think of what's under his glance.

富人思來年。窮人思眼前
Fu⁴ jên² ssü¹ lai² nien² ; ch'üung² jên² ssü¹ yen³ ch'ien²

— 2604 —

Better mend old garments as a poor man's wife,
Than as a rich man's concubine pass your life.

寧可與窮人補破衣
Ning² k'o³ yü³ ch'üung² jên² pu³ p'o⁴ i¹
不可與富人當妾妻
Pu⁴ k'o³ yü³ fu⁴ jên² tang⁴ ch'ieh⁴ chi¹

— 2605 —

Let not the poor man murmur, nor the rich man boast
in pride,
For with whom are either wealth or want certain to
abide ?

貧不怨來富不誇
P'in³ pu⁴ yüan⁴ lai² fu⁴ pu⁴ k'ua¹
那有久富長貧家
Na³ yu³ chiu³ fu⁴ ch'ang² p'in³ chia¹ ?

— 2606 —

Men honour those of wealth possessed ;
Dogs worry those who are ill-dressed.

人敬有的。狗咬醜的
Jên² ching⁴ yu³ ti¹ : kou³ yao³ ch'ou³ ti¹

— 2607 —

A man is a dragon, with money in store :
He's an insect without it, and nothing more.

有錢一條龍。無錢一條蟲
Yu³ ch'ien² yi¹ t'iao² lung²; wu² ch'ien² yi¹ t'iao² ch'ung²

— 2608 —

He who has wealth has cause to weep ;
He who has none may soundly sleep.

有銀着銀累。無銀得覺睡
Yu³ yin² cho¹ yin² lei³; wu² yin² tê² chiao⁴ shui⁴

— 2609 —

Rich men spend their time on books ;
After pigs a poor man looks.

富人讀書。窮漢餵豬
Fu⁴ jên² tu¹ shu¹; ch'ung² han⁴ wei⁴ chu¹

— 2610 —

The fragrant epidendrum may beneath the jungle hide ;
The future duke or monarch may beneath thatched
roofs abide.

蒿草之下或有蘭香
'Hao¹ ts'ao³ chih¹ hsia⁴ 'huo⁴ yu³ lan² hsiang¹;
茅茨之屋或有公王
Mao² tz'ü² chih¹ wu¹ 'huo⁴ yu³ kung¹ wang²

— 2611 —

The poor enjoy the grace of the rich ; the rich the
grace of Heaven.

窮沾富恩。富沾天恩
Ch'ung² chan¹ fu⁴ ên¹; fu⁴ chau¹ tien¹ ên¹

— 2612 —

A poor man associating with a rich man, will soon be
too poor to buy even a pair of breeches.

窮的伴富的。伴的沒褲子
Ch'ung² ti¹ pan⁴ fu⁴ ti¹ pan⁴ ti¹ mu² k'u⁴ tzü³

— 2613 —

If poor don't lose your self-reliance ; if rich don't act
like a fool.

窮莫失志。富莫顛狂
Ch'ung² mo⁴ shih¹ chih⁴; fu⁴ mo⁴ tien¹ k'uang.²

2614

If poor don't cheat; if rich don't presume.

貧不可欺。富不可恃
P'in³ pu⁴ k'o³ ch'i¹; fu⁴ pu⁴ k'o³ shih.⁴

2615

The rich have many learned friends; the poor have none at all.

富貴多士。貧賤寡交
Fu⁴ kuei⁴ to¹ shih⁴; p'in³ chien⁴ kua³ chiao.¹

2616

The well-fed know nothing of hunger; the rich nothing of the hardships of the poor.

飽人不知餓人飢
Pao³ jên² pu⁴ chih¹ o⁴ jên² chi¹;
富人不知窮寒苦
fu⁴ jên² pu⁴ chih¹ ch'ung² han² k'u.³

2617

A poor man easily turns flatterer; a rich man soon grows very proud.

貧則易諂。富而多驕
P'in³ tsé² i⁴ ch'an³; fu⁴ ér² to¹ chiao.¹

2618

Nobody calls on the poor man though he dwell in the market place; but distant relations visit the rich man in his retired mountain home.

貧居鬧市無人問
P'in³ chu¹ nao⁴ shih⁴ wu² jên² wén⁴;
富在深山有遠親
fu⁴ tsai⁴ shên¹ shan¹ yu³ yüan³ ch'in.¹

2619

The poor cling to the rich, not the rich to the poor.

Lit.: It is the crust which sticks to the rice, not the rice which sticks to it.

只有巴巴粘飯
 Chih³ yu³ pa¹ pa¹ chan¹ fan⁴
 沒有飯粘巴巴
 Mu² yu³ fan⁴ chan¹ pa¹ pa¹

— 2620 —

If you have money your words are taken for truth ;
 if not, they are taken for lies ; you doubt it? see
 the wine at a feast,—cup after cup is first pressed
 on the rich.

有錢道真語。無錢語不真
 Yu³ ch'ien² tao⁴ chên¹ yü³; wu² ch'ien² yü³ pu⁴ chên¹:
 不信但看筵中酒
 pu⁴ shih⁴? tan⁴ k'an⁴ yen² chung¹ chiu³—
 杯杯先勸有錢人
 pei¹ pei¹ hsien¹ ch'üan⁴ yu³ ch'ien² jên²

— 2621 —

The poor have peace ; the rich many troubles.

貧窮自在。富貴多憂
 P'in³ ch'üang² tzü⁴ tsai²; fu⁴ kuei⁴ to¹ yu¹

— 2622 —

The rich must adhere to duty ; the poor must not
 indulge vain thoughts.

富貴定要依本分
 Fu⁴ kuei⁴ ting⁴ yao⁴ i¹ pên³ fên¹;
 貧窮不必枉思量
 p'in³ ch'üang² pu⁴ pi⁴ wang³ ssü¹ liang²

— 2623 —

The rich feed on flesh ; the poor on herbs.

富貴肉食。貧賤藿食
 Fu⁴ kuei⁴ jou⁴ shih²; p'in³ chien⁴ ho⁴ shih²

— 2624 —

A man's wealth exalts him three degrees ; and a man's
 poverty degrades him three degrees.

有錢高三輩。無錢低三輩
 Yu³ ch'ien² kao¹ san¹ pei⁴; wu² ch'ien² ti¹ san¹ pei⁴

— 2625 —

The poor man must not murmur; and the rich man must not boast.

貧寒休要怨。富貴不須驕。
P'in³ han² hsiu¹ yao⁴ yüan⁴; fu⁴ kuei⁴ pu⁴ hsi¹ chiao.¹

— 2626 —

The well-fed and well-warmed indulge lustful thoughts; the pined and starved encourage thoughts of stealing.

飽煖思淫慾。飢寒起盜心。
Pao³ nuan³ ssü¹ yin² yü⁴; chi¹ han² ch'ü³ tao⁴ hsin.¹

— 2627 —

Those who have money can appear in public; those who have no clothes cannot leave their own doors.

有錢堪出衆。無衣懶出門。
Yu³ ch'ien² k'an¹ ch'u¹ chung⁴; wu² i¹ lan³ ch'u¹ mên.²

— 2628 —

Even the Son of Heaven has his poor relations.

天子腳下有貧親。
T'ien² tzü³ chiao³ hsia³ yu³ p'in² ch'in.¹

— 2629 —

Even the Emperor has straw-sandalled relations.

皇帝亦有草鞋親。
Huang² ti⁴ i⁴ yu³ ts'ao³ hsieh² ch'in.¹

— 2630 —

When one is poor, his parents disown him; but when rich, relations revere him.

貧窮則父母不子。
富貴則親戚畏懼。
P'in³ ch'üung² tsé² fu⁴ mu³ pu⁴ tzü³;
fu⁴ kuei⁴ tsé² ch'in¹ ch'ü⁴ wei⁴ chü.⁴

NOTE.—This is the saying of an ancient worthy named *Su Ch'in* (蘇秦), who flourished as Prime Minister of the Six States of *Ch'i* (齊), *Ts'ou* (楚), *Yen* (燕), *Tsao* (趙), *Wei* (魏) and *Han* (韓), contemporary with the reign of *Shih 'Huang Ti* (始皇帝) of the *Ch'in* (秦), B. C. 246. He found it true in his own experience. Having tried in vain to find employment in the service of *Shih 'Huang Ti*, he returned crest-fallen to his native state of *Tsao*, only to be ill-received by his parents, wife, and all. After this he gave himself

most earnestly to study, often piercing his thigh to keep himself awake. By and by he induced the six small States to make a defensive alliance against the *Ch'in* (秦). His success in this diplomacy gained for him very high rank and widely extended fame. On this, returning to his native place, he was met 30 *li* away from the house by parents, wife, relatives, and friends: hence his famous saying. See the *Chien t'ao* (鑑畧), *Chan kuo chi* (戰國記).

2631

The poor man's rage, and the rich man's eyes, are great.

窮 人 的 氣 大。 富 人 的 眼 大
Ch'ung² jên² ti¹ ch'i⁴ ta⁴; fu⁴ jên² ti¹ yen³ ta.⁴

2632

Though you have money you cannot buy a son; though you have none you may beg a wife with some.

有 錢 難 買 親 生 子
Yu³ ch'ien² nan² mai³ ch'in¹ shêng¹ tzu³;
無 錢 可 討 有 錢 妻
.wu² ch'ien² k'o³ t'ao³ yu³ ch'ien² ch'i.¹

2633

The rich man expends money; the poor man strength.

富 人 捨 錢。 窮 人 捨 力
Fu⁴ jên² shé³ ch'ien²; ch'ung² jên² shé³ li.⁴

2634

The poor must not quarrel with the rich; nor the rich with magistrates.

窮 莫 與 富 鬪。 富 莫 與 官 鬪
Ch'ung² mo⁴ yü³ fu⁴ tou⁴; fu⁴ mo⁴ yü³ kuan¹ tou.⁴

CHAPTER V.

RICHES.

— 2635 —

Great possessions depend on fate;
On diligence small possessions wait.

大富由命。小富由勤
Ta⁴ fu⁴ yu² ming⁴; hsiao³ fu⁴ yu² ch'in.²

— 2636 —

That man is well-to-do in whose house we see,
Fuel, rice, oil, salt, sauce, vinegar, and tea.

柴米油鹽醬醋茶
Ch'ai² mi³ yu² yen² chiang⁴ ts'u⁴ ch'a,²
七字安排好人家
Ch'i¹ tzü⁴ an¹ p'ai² hao³ jên² chia.¹

— 2637 —

When rats run off with gourds we find,
The thick end always comes behind.

老鼠拖葫蘆。大頭在後頭
Lao³ shu³ t'o¹ hu² lu,² ta⁴ t'ou² tsai⁴ hou⁴ t'ou.²

NOTE.—This proverb is applicable in the case of gradual acquisition of wealth.

— 2638 —

Covet wealth,—and want it:

Don't,—and luck will grant it.

貪財不得財。不貪財自來
T'an¹ ts'ai² pu⁴ tê² ts'ai²; pu⁴ t'an¹ ts'ai² tzü⁴ lai.²

— 2639 —

Sweetness followeth bitter fears,
And leaves us rich for a myriad years.

先苦後甜。富貴萬年
Hsien¹ k'u³ hou⁴ t'ien,² fu⁴ kuei⁴ wan⁴ nien.²

— 2640 —

Consult a fortune-teller would you a fortune make;
His answer will direct you without the least mistake.

求財點卦。分毫不差
Ch'iu² ts'ai² tien³ kua⁴; fên¹ 'hao² pu⁴ ch'a.¹

2641

When the bells on one's horses resound,
All one's relations gather around.

馬上銅鈴响。親戚都來往
Ma³ shang⁴ t'ung² ling² hsiang³ ch'in¹ ch'i⁴ tu¹ lai² wang.³

2642

A glimpse of money makes the blind man see;
Makes the Bonze dispose of his breviary.

瞎子見錢眼也開
Hsia² tzū³ chien⁴ ch'ien² yen³ yeh³ k'ai¹;
和尙見錢經也賣
'Ho² shang⁴ chien⁴ ch'ien² ching¹ yeh³ mai.⁴

2643

A pig's head grows tender before the fire;
So before money all quarrels expire.

火到猪頭爛。錢到公事辦
'Huo³ tao⁴ chu¹ t'ou² lan⁴; ch'ien² tao⁴ kung¹ shih⁴ pan.⁴

2644

Estates must descend from heir to heir;
Who has one now will have it to spare.

前人田地後人收
Ch'ien² jên² t'ien² ti⁴ 'hou⁴ jên² shou¹;
還有收人在後頭
'Huan² yu³ shou¹ jên² tsai⁴ 'hou⁴ t'ou.²

2645

Wealth serves for heroism; wine for bravery.

財是英雄。酒是胆
Ts'ai² shih⁴ ying¹ hsiung²; chiu³ shih⁴ tan.³

2646

Great wealth troubles its owner; too much food
breeds discomfort.

財多累己。食飽傷心
Ts'ai² to¹ lei³ chi³; shih² pao³ shang¹ hsin.¹

2647

Who make a fortune meanly will not enjoy it long.

刻薄成家。理無久享。
K'o⁴ po² ch'êng² chia,¹ li³ wu² chiu³ hsiang.³

2648

Warn men against keen coveting of wealth, for wealth thus coveted provokes the wrath of Heaven.

勸人不必苦貪財。
Ch'üan⁴ jên² pu⁴ pi⁴ k'u³ t'an¹ ts'ai²;
貪得財來天降災。
t'an¹ tê² ts'ai² lai² t'ien¹ chiang⁴ tsai.¹

2649

Honour springs from diligence, and riches from economy.

貴自勤中得。富自儉裡來。
Kuei⁴ tzü⁴ ch'in² chung¹ tê² fu⁴ tzü⁴ chien³ li³ lai.²

2650

Wealth and honour have their root, and cleverness its seed.

富貴有根。聰明有種。
Fu⁴ kuei⁴ yu³ kên,¹ tsung¹ ming² yu³ chung.⁴

2651

When any family has gold, outsiders have money-scales.

家有黃金。外有戥秤。
Chia¹ yu³ 'huang² chin,¹ wai⁴ yu³ têng³ ch'êng³

2652

Who does not desire riches? *Lit.*: What cat will not worry rats?

那個貓兒不吃老鼠。
Na³ ko⁴ mao¹ êrh² pu⁴ ch'ih¹ lao³ shü.³

2653

Shên Wan san killing a man.

沈萬三打死人。
Shên³ Wan⁴ san¹ ta³ ssü³ jên.²

NOTE.—*Shên Wan san* of Nankin was a sort of Chinese Rothschild. If he happened to kill a man, what matter? he had plenty of money to satisfy the relatives and so escape punishment.

2654

Yellow gold is not grown from seed, but only springs up in diligent and economical families.

黃金無種。獨生勤儉人家。
'Huang² chin¹ wu² chung⁴ tu² shêng¹ ch'in² chien³ jên² chia.¹

2655

Wealth is but dung; Benevolence and Righteousness are worth thousands of gold.

錢財如糞土。仁義值千金。
Ch'ien² ts'ai² ju² fên⁴ t'u³; jên² i⁴ chih² ch'ien¹ chin.¹

2656

If you long for wealth and honour, you must work yourself to death for it.

欲求生富貴。須下死工夫。
Yü⁴ ch'iu² shêng¹ fu⁴ kuei,⁴ hsu¹ hsia⁴ ssü³ kung¹ fu.¹

2657

Men grind a knife because they dislike it blunt; but when they have sharpened it it cuts their fingers; men pray for wealth because they dislike small incomes; but when they get much it is a personal injury to them.

磨刀恨不利。刀利傷人指。
Mo² tao¹ 'hen⁴ pu⁴ li⁴; tao¹ li⁴ shang¹ jên² chih.³
求財恨不多。財多害人己。
ch'iu² ts'ai² 'hen⁴ pu⁴ to¹; ts'ai² to¹ 'hai⁴ jên² chi.³

2658

A man seldom gets rich without ill-gotten gain; as a horse does not fatten without feeding in the night.

人無混財不富。
Jên² wu² 'hun⁴ ts'ai² pu⁴ fu⁴;
馬無夜草不肥。
ma³ wu² yeh⁴ ts'ao³ pu⁴ fei.²

2659

Pray not for gold, jade, and all sorts of expensive things; but desire that each of your descendants may be virtuous.

不 求 金 玉 重 重 貴
 Pu⁴ ch'iu² chin¹ yü⁴ ch'ung² ch'ung³ kuei⁴;
 但 願 兒 孫 個 個 賢
 tan⁴ yüan⁴ êrh² sun¹ ko⁴ ko⁴ hsien.²

2660

Men will die for wealth, as birds for food.

人 爲 財 死。鳥 爲 食 亡
 Jên² wei⁴ ts'ai² ssü³ niao³ wei⁴ shih⁴ wang.²

2661

Though your fields yield bushels of rice, you can eat but a pint per day; though your house be never so large, you sleep on but eight feet by night.

良 田 萬 頃 日 食 一 升
 Liang² t'ien² wan⁴ ch'ing³ jih⁴ shih² yi¹ shêng¹;
 大 廈 千 間 夜 眠 八 尺
 ta⁴ hsia⁴ ch'ien¹ chien¹ yeh⁴ mien² pa¹ ch'ih.³

2662

Much money moves the gods.

廣 錢 通 神
 Kuang³ ch'ien² t'ung¹ shên.²

2663

Money hides many offences.

有 錢 蓋 百 醜
 Yu³ ch'ien² kai⁴ pai³ ch'ou.³

2664

Money can buy living beings for the vilest of purposes.

有 錢 買 得 活 人 倒 地
 Yu³ ch'ien² mai³ tê² 'huo² jên² tao³ ti.⁴

2665

Wealth infatuates as well as beauty.

不 但 色 迷 人。財 也 能 迷 人
 Pu⁴ tan⁴ sê⁴ mi² jên,² ts'ai² yeh³ nêng² mi² jên.²

2666

Ability to command does not lie in being very rich; elegance and grace do not depend on multitudes of dresses.

會使不在家豪富
 'Hui⁴ shih³ pu⁴ tsai⁴ chia¹ 'hao² fu⁴;
 風流不用着衣多
 fêng¹ liu² pu⁴ yung⁴ cho² i¹ to.¹

2667

Getting gain is like digging with a needle; spending it like water soaking into sand.

利錢猶如針挑土
 Li⁴ ch'ien² yu² ju² chên¹ t'iao¹ t'u³;
 用錢猶如冰冲沙
 yung⁴ ch'ien² yu² ju² shui³ ch'ung¹ sha.¹

2668

Wit protects one man, wealth and honour protect a whole family.

聰明保一人，富貴保一家
 'Tsung¹ ming² pao³ yi¹ jên,² fu⁴ kwei⁴ pao³ yi¹ chia.¹

2669

The five grains are more precious than pearls and jade.

珠玉非寶。五穀爲寶
 Chū¹ yū⁴ fei¹ pao,³ wu³ ku³ wei² pao.³

2670

Amiability begets riches.

和氣生財
 'Ho² ch'i⁴ shêng¹ ts'ai.²

2671

Obstinate men waste wealth, as obstinate oxen strength.

人拘損財。牛拘損力
 Jên² yao³ sun³ ts'ai,² niu² yao³ sun³ li.⁴

2672

“If riches can be acquired with propriety, then acquire them; but let not unjust wealth be sought for with violence.”

有道之錢方可取
 Yu³ tao⁴ chih¹ ch'ien² fang¹ k'o³ ch'ü³;
 無道之財莫強求
 wu² tao⁴ chih¹ ts'ai² mo⁴ ch'iang² lai.²

— 2673 —

He who gets a large sum by chance, will either be made very happy, or very miserable by it.

無 故 而 得 千 金
 Wu² ku⁴ êrh² tē² ch'ien¹ chin,¹
 不 有 大 福 必 有 大 禍
 pu⁴ yu³ ta⁴ fu² pi⁴ yu³ ta⁴ 'huo.⁴

— 2674 —

When a virtuous man has much wealth, it diminishes his knowledge; when a worthless man has much wealth, it increases his faults.

賢 人 多 財 則 損 其 志
 Hsien² jên² to¹ ts'ai² tsé² sun³ ch'i² chih⁴ :
 小 人 多 財 則 益 其 過
 hsiao³ jên² to¹ ts'ai² tsé² i² ch'i² kuo.⁴

— 2675 —

Unjustly-gotten wealth is but snow sprinkled with hot water; lands improperly obtained are but sand-banks in a stream.

無 義 錢 財 湯 潑 雪
 Wu² i⁴ ch'ien² ts'ai² t'ang¹ p'o¹ hsüeh³ ;
 儻 來 田 地 水 推 沙
 t'ang³ lai² t'ien² ti⁴ shui³ t'ui¹ sha.¹

— 2676 —

Never desire unjustly-gotten wealth; nor undertake affairs which don't belong to you.

無 義 錢 財 休 着 想
 Wu² i⁴ ch'ien² ts'ai² hsiu¹ cho² hsiang³ ;
 不 干 己 事 莫 當 頭
 pu⁴ kan¹ chi³ shih⁴ mo⁴ tang¹ t'ou.²

— 2677 —

Unjustly-gotten wealth will go unjustly.

冤 枉 財 來 冤 枉 去
 Yuan¹ wang³ ts'ai² lai² yuan¹ wang³ ch'ü.⁴

2678

The fields of the *Changs*, and the houses of the *Lis*, to-day belong to the *Ch'iens*, and to-morrow to the *Lus*.

張 門 田 李 門 屋
Chang¹ mèn² t'ien² Li⁴ mèn² wu.¹
今 日 錢 家 明 日 陸
chin¹ jih⁴ Ch'ien² chia¹ ming² jih⁴ Lu.⁴

2679

One family with plenty to eat and wear is the envy of a thousand other families; and half a life-time's fame provokes the resentment of a hundred generations.

一 家 飽 煖 千 家 怨
Yi¹ chia¹ pao³ nuan³ ch'ien¹ chia¹ yüan⁴;
半 世 功 名 百 世 冤
pan⁴ shih⁴ kung¹ ming² pai³ shih⁴ yüan.¹

2680

Do not covet wealth on which you have no claim.

勿 貪 意 外 之 財
Wu⁴ t'an¹ i⁴ wai⁴ chih¹ ts'ai.²

2681

To grow rich by one's own sole endeavours.

白 手 成 家
Pai² shou³ ch'êng² chia.¹

2682

Whoever can foresee the affairs of three days, will be rich for several thousand years.

能 知 三 日 事。富 貴 幾 千 年
Nêng² chih¹ san¹ jih⁴ shih,⁴ fu⁴ kuei⁴ chi³ ch'ien¹ mien.²

2683

Come easy, go easy.

易 得 來。易 得 去
I⁴ tê² lai,² i⁴ tê² ch'ü.⁴

NOTE.—Generally said of wealth.

CHAPTER VI.

RICHES AND POVERTY.

— 2684 —

“With money you're a brave son of 'Han ;
Without it you cannot play the man.”

有錢男兒漢。無錢漢兒難
Yu³ ch'ien² nan² êrh² 'han⁴; wu² ch'ien² 'han⁴ êrh³ nan.²

— 2685 —

Riches spring from small beginnings ; poverty is the result of non-calculation.

富從升合起。貧因不算來
Fu⁴ ts'ung² shêng¹ 'ho² chi³; p'in³ yin¹ pu⁴ suan⁴ lai.²

— 2686 —

Politeness and Righteousness are the children of wealth and contentment : Robbery and Rebellion are the offspring of poverty.

禮義生於富足
Li³ i⁴ shêng¹ yü² fu⁴ tsu²;
盜賊出於貧窮
tao⁴ tsei² ch'u¹ yü² p'in³ ch'iung.²

— 2687 —

With money one may command devils ; without it one cannot summon a man.

有錢使得鬼動
Yu³ ch'ien² shih³ té² kuei³ t'ung²;
無錢喚不得人來
wu² ch'ien² 'huan⁴ pu⁴ té² jên² lai.²

— 2688 —

Riches and honours are altogether the results of diligence and economy ; poverty is altogether occasioned by a slack hand.

富貴皆因勤儉起
Fu⁴ kuei⁴ chieh¹ yin¹ ch'in² chien³ ch'i³;
貧窮都爲手頭鬆
p'in³ ch'iung² tu¹ wei⁴ shou³ t'ou² sung.¹

2689

Diligence and economy are the root of wealth and honour; whilst idleness is the shoot of poverty and disgrace.

勤 儉 富 貴 之 本
 Ch'in² chien³ fu⁴ kuei⁴ chih¹ pên³;
 懶 惰 貧 賤 之 苗
 lan³ to⁴ p'in³ chien⁴ chih¹ miao.²

2690

He who is patient in poverty, may become rich.

耐 得 貧。 守 得 富
 Nai⁴ tê² p'in³ shou³ tê² fu⁴

2691

A gay life melts away fortune.

頑 得 化 冰 無 形
 Wan² tê² 'hua⁴ shui³ wu² hsing.²

2692

A poverty-stricken family is, as it were, washed clean; a well-to-do family puts on the appearance of youth.

家 貧 如 冰 洗。 家 寬 出 少 年
 Chia¹ p'in³ ju² shui³ hsi³; chia¹ k'uan¹ ch'u¹ shao³ nien.²

MISCELLANEOUS.

2693

In the mock-waves of painted water, no fishes dwell ;
In your embroidered flowers though fine, there is no
smell.

畫水無魚空作浪
'Hua⁴ shui³ wu² yü² k'ung¹ tso⁴ lang⁴;
繡花雖好不聞香
Hsiu⁴ 'hua¹ sui⁴ 'hao³ pu⁴ wên² hsiang¹

2694

Get up by yourself should you happen to fall ;
And do not depend on another at all,

自己跌倒自己扒
Tzū⁴ chi³ tieh² tao³ tzū⁴ chi³ pa¹;
不要靠着別人家
Pu⁴ yao⁴ k'ao⁴ cho² pieh² jên² chia¹.

2695

A great tree affords a pleasant shade.

大樹好遮陰
Ta⁴ shu⁴ 'hao³ ché¹ yin¹.

2696

I only heard a noise upstairs, but saw no one descend.

只聽樓板响。不見人下樓
Chih³ t'ing¹ lou² pan³ hsiang³ pu⁴ chien⁴ jên² hsia⁴ lou².

2697

Whilst fire remains in your cooking-stove, guests will
never cease to arrive.

竈裡不熄火。路上不斷人
Tsao⁴ li³ pu⁴ hsi² 'huo³ lu⁴ shang⁴ pu⁴ tuan⁴ jên².

2698

Necessity of assistance. *Lit.*: However high a city
wall may be, it must have guards stationed inside
and outside.

城 墻 高 萬 丈。內 外 要 人 輔
Ch'eng² ch'iang² kao¹ wan⁴ chang⁴ nei⁴ wai⁴ yao⁴ jên² fu.¹

— 2699 —

One grain of rats dung will spoil a whole pan of rice.

一 粒 老 鼠 屎 打 壞 一 鍋 飯
Yi¹ li⁴ lao³ shu³ shib³ ta³ 'huai⁴ yi¹ kuo¹ fan.⁴

— 2700 —

He who fishes in muddy water cannot distinguish the great from the small.

混 水 捉 魚。大 小 難 分
'Hun⁴ shui³ cho¹ yü.² ta⁴ hsiao³ nan² fen.¹

— 2701 —

Cabinet ministers, head clerks, and beggars, have got as far as they can go.

官 到 尙 書 吏 到 都
Kuan¹ tao⁴ shang⁴ shu¹ li⁴ tao⁴ tu.¹
人 到 討 飯 盡 了 頭
jên² tao⁴ t'ao³ fan⁴ chin⁴ liao³ t'ou.²

— 2702 —

A clay drumstick makes but one sound.

黃 泥 巴 敲 搥 一 下 響
'Huang² ni² pa¹ ku³ ch'ui² yi¹ hsia⁴ hsiang.³

NOTE.—This may be said either of men lacking perseverance, or of things lacking durability.

— 2703 —

Scraping iron from a needle's point.

針 杪 上 削 鐵
Chên¹ miao³ shang⁴ hsiao¹ t'ieh.³

NOTE.—The opposite of a lucrative employment.

— 2704 —

One horse one saddle.

一 馬 一 鞍
Yi¹ ma³ yi¹ an.¹

— 2705 —

It is easier to build up a fortune than to retain one.

創業易。守業難
Ch'uang⁴ yeh⁴ i⁴ shou³ yeh⁴ nan.²

— 2706 —

It is easier to gain than to secure the advantages of victory.

戰勝易。守勝難
Chan⁴ shêng⁴ i⁴ shou³ shêng⁴ nan.²

— 2707 —

The well frog is best in the well.

井裡蛙最井裡好
Ching³ li³ hsia¹ ma¹ ching³ li³ 'hao.³

— 2708 —

Ghosts fear men much more than men fear them.

人有三分怕鬼
Jên² yu³ san¹ fên¹ p'a⁴ kwei³;
鬼有七分怕人
Kwei³ yu³ ch'i¹ fên¹ p'a⁴ jên.²

— 2709 —

First come first served. *Lit.*: Who comes first shall be prince; the next shall be minister.

先到爲君。後到爲臣
Hsien¹ tao⁴ wei² chün¹; 'hou⁴ tao⁴ wei² ch'ên.²

— 2710 —

Customs vary in every place.

百里不同風。千里不同俗
Pai³ li³ pu⁴ t'ung² fêng¹ ch'ien¹ li³ pu⁴ t'ung² su.²

— 2711 —

Pretence may become reality.

弄假成真
Nung⁴ chia³ ch'êng² chên.¹

— 2712 —

Six of one and half a dozen of the other. *Lit.*: Half a catty and eight ounces.

半斤八兩
Pan⁴ chin¹ pa¹ liang.³

— 2713 —

Planting rice and cutting wheat—busy on all hands,

栽秧割麥兩頭忙
T'ai¹ yang¹ ko¹ mai⁴ liang³ t'ou² mang.²

— 2714 —

Too busy for pleasure. *Lit.*: I have both to beat the drum and row the boat.

獨打鼓獨划船
Tu² ta³ ku³ tu² hua² ch'uan.²

— 2715 —

Everything has its special use,

一物服一行
Yi¹ wu⁴ fu² yi¹ 'hang.²

— 2716 —

A cup in the hand is worth all besides.

萬事不如杯在手
Wan⁴ shih⁴ pu⁴ ju² pei¹ tsai⁴ shou.³

— 2717 —

Self-respect. *Lit.*: He will be honoured who respects himself; but he who holds himself cheap will be lightly esteemed.

自尊自貴。自輕自賤
Tzū⁴ tsun¹ tzū⁴ kuei⁴; tzū⁴ ch'ing¹ tzū⁴ chien.⁴

— 2718 —

If a countryman of mine gets beaten I am thereby weakened.

輸了鄉親弱了己
Shu¹ liao³ hsiang¹ ch'in¹ jo⁴ liao³ chi.³

— 2719 —

However much you have promised never fail to give it.

許人一物千金不移
Hsi³ jên² yi¹ wu⁴ ch'ien¹ chin¹ pu⁴ i.²

2720

An able man loves to diminish work ; and when diminished it proves him able ; one lacking ability, loves to get up an affair ; and when got up, it proves him unable.

有本事好省事
 Yu³ pên³ shih⁴ 'hao⁴ shêng³ shih⁴ ;
 省得事來有本事
 Shêng³ tê² shih⁴ lai² yu³ pên³ shih⁴ :
 沒本事好生事
 mu² pên³ shih⁴ 'hao⁴ shêng¹ shih⁴ ;
 生得事來沒本事
 shêng¹ tê² shih⁴ lai² mu² pên³ shih⁴ .

NOTE.—This is designed to admonish imbecile people not to meddle with things too great for them. It furnishes also a very good example of play upon words.

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" xvi	" "2457, 2485, 2715"	" "2458, 2486, 2716."
" xx	" "2716, 2450"	" "2717, 2451."
" xxiv	" "2363"	" "2364."
" xxix	line 8. Before "sufficient"	read { "but those already quoted are."
" xxxi	add one to all the references.	
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" " 68	" "overs"	" "covers."
" " 105	" "instalements"	" "instalments."
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" " 278	" "生"	" "聲."
" " 314	" "Hiang ² "	" "Hsiang. ¹ "
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”	437	”	“蒸” ^{chêng¹} ”	”	“沾” ^{chên.1} ”
”	452	”	“Wa ² ”	”	“Wu. ² ”
”	472	”	“Hsiao ¹ ”	”	“Hsiao. ² ”
”	510	”	“proligomena”	”	“prolegomena.”
”	513	”	“籍”	”	“蹟”
”	518	”	“yeh ³ ”	”	“ti. ⁴ ”
”	578	”	“確”	”	“確.”
”	594	”	“毛”	”	“茅.”
”	601	”	“chiang ¹ ”	”	“chiang. ⁴ ”
”	644	”	“t'ao ¹ ”	”	“t'iao. ¹ ”
”	688	”	“wei ¹ ”	”	“wei. ² ”
”	793	”	“chai ¹ ”	”	“chia. ¹ ”
”	795	”	“t'ing ¹ ”	”	“t'ien. ¹ ”
”	812	”	“差”	”	“善.”
”	857	”	“h'si ³ ”	”	“hsi. ³ ”
”	886	”	“告”	”	“叫.”
”	904	”	“ming ³ ”	”	“ming. ² ”
”	928	”	“息”	”	“熄.”
”	940	”	“吃”	”	“乞.”
”	962	”	“閒” ^{hsien²} ”	”	“間” ^{chien.¹} ”
”	973	”	“茗”	”	“茗.”
”	977	”	“哄” ^{hung³} ”	”	“轟” ^{hung.¹} ”
”	997	”	“pu ⁴ ”	”	“pei. ¹ ”
”	1017	”	“yung ² ”	”	“yung. ⁴ ”
”	1023	”	“nan ¹ ”	”	“nan. ² ”
”	1034	”	“K'ai ⁴ ”	”	“K'ai. ¹ ”
”	1039	”	“set”	”	“let.”
”	1104	”	“p'ing ¹ ”	”	“p'ing. ² ”
”	1153 } 1155 }	”	“事” ^{shih⁴} ”	”	“司” ^{ssü.¹} ”
”	1157	”	“ho ² ”	”	“ju. ² ”
”	1199	”	“殍” ^餓 ”	”	“餓” ^{殍.} ”
”	1226	”	“shêng ¹ ”	”	“sheng. ⁴ ”
”	1234	”	“his”	”	“of.”
”	1272	”	“rears”	”	“near.”
”	1357	”	“告花” ^{Kao⁴ hua¹} ”	”	{ “叫 化 chiao ⁴ hua. ⁴ ”

Pages 231, 233	for	{ "Rich and Poor Men,"	read	"Stupid Men."
Proverb No. 1374	"	"托 t'o ¹ "	"	"馱 to. ⁴ "
" " 1389	"	"空"	"	"孔."
" " 1427	"	"知 chih ¹ "	"	"智 chih. ⁴ "
" " 1491	"	"載 tsai ⁴ "	"	"戴 tai. ⁴ "
" " 1613	"	"tê ² "	"	"ta. ² "
" " 1619	"	"gen ^r "	"	"genius."
" " 1682	"	"雞"	"	"雞."
" " 1699	"	"yuan ⁴ "	"	"shn. ⁴ "
" " 1763	"	"chi ¹ "	"	"ch'i. ¹ "

Page 339 for "Gratitude," read "Economy."

Proverb No. 2007 for "p'ien,²" read "pien.⁴"

Page 355 for "Discretion," read "Prince and Minister."

Proverb No. 2123	for	"chien ² "	read	"ch'ien. ² "
" " 2149	"	"na ² "	"	"nan. ² "
" " 2351	"	"so ¹ "	"	"so. ³ "
" " 2385	"	"ching ¹ "	"	"ch'ên. ² "
" " 2433	"	"tsai ² "	"	"tsai. ⁴ "
" "	"	"hsing ¹ "	"	"hsing. ² "
" "	"	"yin ⁴ "	"	"yin. ¹ "
" " 2435	"	"chih ¹ "	"	"chin. ¹ "
" " 2437	"	"hsiang ¹ "	"	"yang. ¹ "
" " 2460	"	"following"	"	"flowing."
" " 2486	"	"hung ⁴ "	"	"hung. ² "*
" " 2585	after	"good"	read	"man."
" " 2628	"	"T'ien ² "	read	"T'ien. ¹ "
" " 2674	"	"志"	"	"智"
" " 2687	"	"t'ung ² "	"	"tung. ⁴ "

Errors in punctuation, and mere misprints, are not corrected.

* N. B. This character is read "kang.⁴" at Hankow, as in Peking.

