

# CHINESE URBANITY.

## CIRCUMLOCUTION THEY DISPLAY IN LETTER WRITING.

The Educated Chinaman Can Give the American Points on Politeness and Refinements in the Conduct of Epistolary Correspondence.

It has probably fallen to the lot of most of us to have met people who, without the excuse of an unconscious habit, have the knack of asserting unpleasant truths, and who value the ungracious practice as a sign of honesty. There are others, such as the Quakers of bygone days, who regard every expression which may not be in strict accordance with absolute truth as a sin against their consciences. To such people the idea of subscribing themselves "Yours truly," or of beginning a letter to a casual acquaintance, "Dear So and So," is abhorrent. But public opinion has been too strong for them, and we continue, and shall continue so long as society holds together, to address one another in terms of endearment and respect which are not required to correspond with our sentiments.

Orientalists have surpassed us in this regard as much as the brilliant sunshine to which they are accustomed excels the murky atmosphere of Europe. The descriptions of ourselves and of our correspondents pale before the glowing expressions of objective admiration and subjective self-abasement which adorn eastern epistles. We are content to confine our wishes and compliments to the present life; but such a limit is far too narrow for an Asiatic, who delights in wishing that his friends may live forever and ever, and that the ancestors of his enemies may be condemned to everlasting disgrace.

We are satisfied to speak of "I" and "You," but an oriental loves to heap adjectives of contempt upon himself and of glorification upon his correspondents.

**ELEVATING AND DEMEANING SIMILES.**  
In all cases he avoids the use of the personal pronouns. By a system of circumlocution necessitated by this omission, he describes himself as "Your younger brother," the character representing his expression being written small, and partly at the side of the columns of words, and he designates himself and others conjointly as "We ants."

But the person he is addressing figures as "Your excellency," "My benevolent elder brother," or "Your honor," literally, "You who are at the steps of the council chamber." His own house is "a mean dwelling," or, as the parts of the character signify, "a stricken and broken dwelling," but he is unable to think of his correspondent's habitation as anything but "an honorable," literally "basket-of-pearls palace."

In the same spirit of self-abasement he feels obliged to wind up his epistle with the phrase, "Your stupid younger brother, So-and-So, bows his head to the ground." The character for "stupid" is drawn for us by two hieroglyphics, meaning "monkey hearted." To bow to his friends is also pictorially expressed by a collocation of "a head" and "turf," suggesting the act of bowing the head to the earth.

If his correspondent proposes to call upon him he hastens to assure him that "at the appointed hour, with bowing hands, he will await the time when his excellency shall abase himself by driving his chariot to his office." His friend's letter is "the revelation of his hand," and he takes pains to make him aware that holding it "with washed hands he had chanted" its contents.

On expressions of thanks particular emphasis is laid by the Chinese, and with true Oriental instinct, in their effort after hyperbole, they are accustomed to give a physical interpretation to their mental feelings.

### POWERFUL HYPERBOLE.

For instance, a correspondent who wishes to say that he is profoundly grateful, writes, "Your kindness is very deeply engraved and enveined in my heart." If he hears of the illness of a friend "he cannot help being hung up in suspense," and the symbol he uses shows to the eyes the heart of the writer tied up, while at the same time he urges him "to take care of his person as a pearl." And on the receipt of better news he breaks out, "How shall I bear the joy and pleasure!" Having finished expressing the object of his letter, he winds up by "availing himself of the opportunity to wish his correspondent all the blessings of the season, and," if he is on the road to honor, "all the promotion he deserves."

But, if not ferocious, a sufficient latitude still remains to a Chinaman for the development of much plain speaking. It is as possible to "sit the thin spin life" with a stiletto as with a broadsword, and in the most finished periods a Chinaman finds himself quite able to express either withering contempt or remorseless hate. But he has other ways also of giving vent to his ill humors. The very punctilious rules of letter writing enable him to convey his dislike by omission as well as by commission.

Chinese is, it may be explained, written in vertical columns, beginning on the top right hand corner of the page. In ordinary circumstances each column is completed to the bottom of the page; but long usage has established the custom that, if the name or attributes of the person addressed occurs, the column is cut short, and the characters representing these subjects of honor begin the next column at an elevation of the space of one or two characters, as the case may be, above the general level of the text. It will now be seen what a ready weapon lies to the hand of a Chinese letter writer. To write "Your Excellency" or the name of the correspondent's country or sovereign in the body of the column is to inflict a dire insult upon him, and is equivalent to the expression of the bitterest contempt in European epistolary style.—London Saturday Review.

**He Is Dead.**  
Mrs. Scriblets—I see that the Aristotle manuscript has been published.  
Mr. Scriblets—I fear that the payment for it will be too late to do Mr. Aristotle any good.—Puck.

### A Grand Attraction.

Lovers of spectacle will have no reason to complain if the "second edition" of William J. Gilmore's magnificent spectacle, "The Twelve Temptations," does not more than please. At an expense of over \$20,000 Mr. Gilmore has re-embellished his great spectacle in costumes and scenery alone, besides importing some of the greatest specialty, pantomimic and terpsichorean artists ever brought from the other side of the Atlantic. "The Twelve Temptations" has been re-written and arranged by Charles H. Yale; and the show was intended by its organizer to be the greatest spectacular drama ever produced on the American stage. It was mounted and costumed, it is stated, at a cost of \$35,000, and it is declared by those who have seen it to fill the bill mapped out by the proprietor, Mr. William J. Gilmore. "The Twelve Temptations" presents a mythical story of ice and sun. Mr. Yale has fashioned a tale that introduces gnomes, sprites and queens of ice and sun, the scene laid alternately in a climate cold and hot. The characters skipping from the council chamber of old Boreas, passed village and sea, through caverns of the Green Dragon, over golden and jeweled terraces to the palace of "Solaris," Queen of the Sun. The drama is gorgeously mounted, and the sittings are said to be remarkable fine work of art. The company numbered sixty-eight people, including a ballet of twenty dancers, the latter introducing several novelties. The costumes alone cost \$12,000, and are said to be the handsomest used in any spectacle now on the stage. The entire company, comprising a train of five cars, will arrive in this city from Omaha Thursday morning, May 28.

**Notice to Contractors.**  
Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Omaha Southern Ry in this city until the 21st inst. for furnishing materials for building three (3) depots. One at Murray, one at Plattsmouth, one at La Platte. The company reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

D. M. LEWIS,  
Chief Engineer.

The M. P. water tank is being erected at La Platte a few rods north of the B. & M. depot. They will use city water here, hence no tank or well will be necessary.

Wm. Kell residing north of Weeping Water brought in six wolf scalps today and Mr. Jamison living down towards Avoca brought in 23 he brought in 15 last year. At \$3 apiece, raising wolves beats raising corn, as neither drouth, chintz bugs or hail affects them.

The Sheedy trial assumed a sensational aspect yesterday when the polished skull of John Sheedy was brought into court and shown to the jury. No one knew whose skull it was until after the witness had testified, when the defense were paralyzed by the boldness of the prosecution's methods. Physicians continue to testify that the blow received would not necessarily have proven fatal, and that the symptoms indicated very clearly the effect of morphia poisoning. The prosecution is still bringing in evidence, and the outlook for the treacherous woman grows darker every day.

### Where Gold Comes From.

The gold taken from the river bars was mostly in the form of scales resembling cucumber seeds, and of varying size. It was most plentiful on the bed rock and in a few inches of soil above it, though sometimes three or four feet of earth would pay to wash. Where the bed rock was hard the miner cleaned it, for a shovelful of dirt might contain a few dollars in small particles. Where the bed rock was soft shale or slate on edge the miner picked away an inch or so and washed it, as frequently the scales were found to be driven quite thickly into the crevices. When the ground was very rich the rocker was cleaned of gold every hour or so.—E. J. Waite in Century.

### We've All Been There.

"No," said Fogg, "it's no use for me to go to concerts. I went once, and liked it well enough too; but great guns! when I took up next morning's paper I was flabbergasted. It told of rambles in bosky dells, slumbrons musings over the dimpled waters of the gurgling brook, the songling of summer breezes, the roar and rush of the winter's storm, the merry singing of birds, the frolickings of lambs, the daisy piled fields, the lovers' soft glances, and—in fact half a hundred other things that I didn't see or hear when that fellow was fiddling at the concert. It made me so ashamed of myself that all these things were going on right in front of me and I not know it that I just made up my mind that concerts weren't in my line."—Boston Transcript.

Miss Louise Imogene Guiney, daughter of the late General P. R. Guiney, has been invited to read an original poem at the Sherman memorial meeting in Boston, June 4. General Hawley will deliver the oration.

The Esquimau dog will eat almost any of the dried fruits. The sour or acid fruits, as the orange, lemon, lime, shaddock, etc., as well as the sour plums and the bitter olives, are rarely eaten.

### New Millinery Store.

Mrs. C. M. Graves, dressmaking and millinery. New goods, new prices, latest styles. Store No. 110 South 3rd St. Plattsmouth, Neb. dlm

Dr. E. L. Siggena has returned and may be found hereafter at his office over Gering's drugstore. tf

Take your prescriptions to Brown & Barrett, they dispense pure medicines. tf

### Panics.

Yes! In bloom of the most gorgeous colors. They will continue to bloom all summer, too, and can be selected at Moore's Green House for from 40 to 50 cents per dozen. dtf

A restore, stricken, and give you a luxuriant growth of hair, to keep its color natural as in youth, and to remove dandruff, use only Hall's

Hair chains, rings, crosses and hair work of all kinds, to order. Mrs. A. KNEE. 1726 Locust St. tf

Brown & Barrett have the largest and finest stock of wall paper and borders in Plattsmouth. wti

Will you suffer with Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint? Shiloh's Vitalizer is guaranteed to cure you. 2

Brown & Barrett carry the largest line of druggists' sundries in the city. tf

If you want any dolls J. P. Youngs is the place as he will close out his stock of dolls regardless of cost and quit handling that line of goods. This is your chance—25c dolls for 10c.

I am now prepared to deliver ice to any part of the city. Telephone 72. H. C. McMAKEN. tf

The fragrant Heliotrope in bloom wonderfully cheap at Moore's Green House. dtf

### Buckien's Arnica Salve.

THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chlborrhoea, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by P. G. Fricke & Co.

Needles, oils and parts for all kinds of machines can be found at the Singer office, corner of Main and Sixth streets, with H. Beck. tf

Phil Young will shortly have a complete line of stationery and will continue in business—remember this fact when in need of any writing materials. Phil will adopt the cash system and sell goods very cheap.

The largest line of patent medicines will be found at Brown & Barrett's. tf

**Baby is Sick.**—The woeful expression of Des Moines' teamster's countenance showed his deep anxiety was not entirely without cause, when he inquired of a druggist of the same city what was the best to give to a baby for a cold? It was not necessary for him to say more, his countenance showed that the pet of the family, if not the idol of his life was in distress. "We give our baby Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," was the druggist's answer. "I don't like to give the baby such strong medicine," said the teamster. "You know John Oleson, of the Waters-Talbot Printing Co. don't you? Inquired the druggist. His baby, when eighteen months old, got hold of a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and drank the whole of it. Of course the baby vomited very freely but did not hurt it the least, and what is more it cured the baby's cold. The teamster already knew the value of the Remedy, having used it himself, and was now satisfied that there was no danger in giving it even to a baby. For Sale by F. G. Fricke & Co. Druggists.

**Electric Bitters.**  
This remedy is becoming so well and so popular as to need no special mention. All who have used Electric Bitters sing the same song of praise. A purer medicine does not exist and it is guaranteed to do all that is claimed. Electric Bitters will cure all diseases of the liver and kidneys, will remove pimples, boils, salt rheum and other affections caused by impure blood. Will drive malaria from the system and prevent as well as cure all malarial fevers. For cure of headache, constipation and indigestion try Electric Bitters. Entire satisfaction guaranteed, or money refunded. Price 50c and \$1 per bottle at F. G. Fricke & Co's drugstore. 5

### Our Clubbing List.

- Globe-Democrat and Herald.....\$2.25
- Harper's Magazine " ".....4.00
- Harper's Bazar " ".....4.80
- Demorest's Magazine " ".....3.10
- Omaha Bee " ".....2.40
- oleo Blade " ".....2.45
- Lincoln Call " ".....2.15
- National Tribune " ".....2.45
- The Forum " ".....3.55
- Inter Ocean " ".....2.25
- Lincoln Journal " ".....2.30
- The Home Magazine " ".....1.85

### Will be Given Away.

Our enterprising druggists, F. G. Fricke & Co. who carry the finest stock of drugs, perfumery, toilet articles, brushes, sponges, etc., are giving away a large number of trial bottles of Dr. Miles' celebrated Restorative Nervine. They guarantee it to cure headache, dizziness, nervous prostration, sleeplessness, the ill effects of spirits, tobacco, coffee, etc. Druggists say it is the greatest seller they ever knew, and is universally satisfactory. They also guarantee Dr. Miles' New Heart Cure in all cases of nervous or organic heart disease, palpitation, pain in side, smothering, etc. Fine book on "Nervous and Heart Diseases," free. 4

**SAVE MONEY**  
AND BUY OF  
**JOK,**  
PLATTSMOUTH

THE LEADING ONE-PRICE CLOTHIER  
Opera House Corner

### SWEET SCENTED FLOWERS.

Llewellyn Moore's the Recognized Headquarters for the Artistic and the Beautiful.

**Aquilegia chrysantha, coreopsis lanceolata, chrysanthemum maxima** antirrhinum, platycodens and Clematis make up a partial list of Mr. Moore's grand plants, that are perfectly hardy and are not injured by a Nebraska winter. Mr. Moore has a fine stock of geraniums, coleus and some of those richly colored French cannas, also a fine line of bedding plants. In roses he makes a specialty of the following hardy varieties: General Jacquemont, Md. Planter, Perle, Niphios, together with the old standard La France and that Queen of the rose family, the American Beauty, which under favorable circumstances has produced roses 8 inches across, bright red and of a most delicious fragrance. No collection of flowers is complete without some of these hardy roses. Mr. Moore has the reputation of being the best rose grower west of Chicago; he never forces his plants, thus making them tender but gives them every requisite to make them hardy and strong. This spring is an unusually good one for setting out plants and should be improved by our people. Remember the place where plants and prices will suit the most exacting is at Llewellyn Moore's on West Locust street, and call at once. tf

### Notice of Probate of Will.

In the matter of the last will and testament of Elisha Stradley, deceased, in county court Case county, Nebraska.  
Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of June A. D. 1891, at the county judge's office in Plattsmouth, Cass county, Nebraska, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, the following matter will be heard and considered at the application of Samuel Stradley to admit to probate the last will and testament of Elisha Stradley late of Greenwood precinct, in said county, deceased, and for letters of administration with the will annexed to Aaron C. L. Lee.  
Dated May 18th, 1891. By order of the court, B. S. RAMSEY, County Judge.

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Capital paid up.....\$50,000.00  
Surplus.....10,000.00

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Carry a full stock of general merchandise which they sell very close. Highest price paid for all kinds of farm produce. Gen erous treatment and fair dealing is the secret of our success.

### CHAS L ROOT, Notary Public

Murray Neb.

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We pay no rent and sell for CASH. You don't pay any bills for dead beats when you buy of this firm.

The best SOFT COAL always on hand.

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AT THE

5 CORNERS 5

### Time Table

GOING WEST	GOING EAST
No 1.....3:30 a. m.	No 2.....5:35 p. m.
" 3.....5:45 p. m.	" 4.....10:30 a. m.
" 5.....9:25 a. m.	" 8.....7:44 p. m.
" 7.....7:15 a. m.	" 10.....9:45 a. m.
" 9.....6:25 p. m.	" 12.....10:14 a. m.
" 11.....5:25 p. m.	" 20.....8:30 a. m.
" 19.....11:35 a. m.	

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