

CHINESE URBANITY.

CIRCUMLOCUTION THEY DISPLAY IN LETTER WRITING.

The Educated Chinaman Can Give the American Points on Politeness and Refinement 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.

Oriental have surpassed us in this regard as much as the brilliant sunshine to which they are accustomed exceeds the murky atmosphere of Europe.

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

ELLEVATING AND DIMEANING 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."

Full board present, when the following bills were done, to-wit: Board proceeded to examine a bridge on county line, between Cass and Oloo counties, and adjourned to meet to-morrow.

May 7, 1891. Full board present, when the following was done, to-wit: Business of a general nature was entered into in regard to the work on the court house and board adjourned to meet to-morrow.

May 8, 1891. Full board present, when the following bills were done, to-wit: The certificate of election and official bond of H. P. Swanback, constable of Salt Creek precinct, was revoked.

The following bills were then allowed: T. J. Hicks, keeper pauper, \$ 6 00 J. H. Hines, mds to poor, 10 00 C. C. Hayes, surveying road at Cedar Creek, 10 00 Wm. Wettenkamp, rent county offices, 105 09

Board adjourned till June 2, 1891. Democratic Opinions. Since Thayer has been duly installed as governor, the faithful followers of the Boyd banners are full of opinions not flattering to the acumen of the old soldier and statesman that now occupies the chair of state.

On expressions of thanks particular emphasis is laid by the Chinese, and with true Oriental distinctness, 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 carved in my heart."

But, if not ferocious, a sufficient latitude still remains to a Chinaman for the development of much plain speaking. It is as possible to "slit 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.

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.

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.

Commissioners' Proceedings May 5, 1891.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Full board and county clerk present when the following was done, to-wit:

The board this day appointed the Hon. Sam M. Chapman as a representative to the Trans-Mississippi congress which meets at Denver, May 19.

The claim of the B. & M. for refunding taxes paid under protest was refused.

Upon petition of J. H. Hennings and others the road beginning at the northwest corner of the northeast 1/4 of section 6-12-12, running thence south 1/2 mile to the center of said section 6, was declared vacated.

Official bond of B. H. Dimmitt, overseer of district 30 was approved. Official bond of R. E. Farmer, justice of peace in Salt Creek approved.

The following bills were allowed on the general fund: Coroner's request of Mary Raines, deceased, dist. 30, 10 00 Coroner's request of U. V. Matthews, deceased, 10 00 Jacob C. Cook, salary and expense, 73 00 A. F. L. salary and expense, 65 20 A. H. Todd, salary and expense, 45 00 M. H. Murray, mds to poor, 60 00 E. W. Cook, physician's salary, 46 25 Nebraska Telephone Co, rent of telephone, 29 85 Jas. J. Lantry, juror's fees, 6 00 C. W. Sherman, printing, 13 00 E. K. Farnelle, team, 22 00 M. H. Murray, lumber to poor house, 52 85 Geo. H. Johnson, keeping poor, 15 00 Wm. Light, guarding and boarding prisoners, 145 00 A. Bach, mds to poor, 10 00 S. Palmer, mds to poor, 8 00 T. E. Reynolds, physician's salary, 8 75 Stand. R. B. mds to poor, 40 85 W. J. White, rent of court room, 109 16 Henry Beck, mds to poor, 25 82 E. W. Sobie, salary county superintendent, 104 68 Bill Critchfield, salary and expense, 43 20 Omaha Republican, stationery, 20 25 S. E. May, mds to poor, 24 40 Girard & Hummel, mds to poor, 21 00 Mrs. Black, rent of judge's office, 30 00 A. L. Smith, tax and board of pauper, 19 85 M. L. Thomas, Phys. attendance to pauper, 3 00 World Publishing Co, notice to contractor, 12 00 Fred Gosse, boarding poor, 1 50 J. C. Elkamony, keeping poorhouse, 143 73 As & Electric Light Co, light, 5 00 A. B. Knott, mds to poor, 2 00

BILLS ALLOWED ON ROAD FUND: Pat Hayes, balance on road work, district No. 24, 98 00 J. B. Melsing, damage on road, 25 00

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J. L. Minor, the wide-awake Fifth ward councilman, thinks it a burning shame that so wise and truly great a man as Boyd should be supplanted by a man like Thayer, and he heaved a deep sigh that told without further words that he was from Missouri.

Ed Kuffner thinks Boyd was elected governor, but since the judges had disagreed he had no criticisms to offer. He believes grandma would be left in an election now.

D. S. Draper says: "It suits me because it gives Plattsmouth the governor. I am first, last and all the time for Plattsmouth. I don't care so much for politics as I used to."

Field Marshal Fred Krähler thinks that "if Boyd was good enough for the supreme court three months ago he ought to have been good enough for them now. Maxwell is my kind of people."

County Court. McReynolds—Brown—At the office of the county judge's office, on May 8, 1891, at 4 o'clock p. m.; Mr. Charles A. McReynolds married to Miss Lena T. Brown, Judge Ramsey officiating.

Birmingham—Terry—At the office of the county judge, May 9, 1891, at 12:45; Mr. John Birmingham and Miss Terry were united in marriage, Judge Ramsey officiating.

The United States Government has four men-of-war after the fugitive Itata, the Chilean man-of-war that left San Diego without orders, after being put under arrest, and as the Itata is well supplied with arms, it is more than probable our new navy will have to show what it can do in retaking her.

Harry Race of the Weeping Water Eagle must have indulged too much in temperance drinks last week over the Boyd contest, as he announces in this week's Eagle that the May term of the district court will begin on the 21th. That day is Sunday and the district court never convenes on the Sabbath. It will begin on Monday, May 23.

The Masons and Knights of Pythias received their albums to-day for their lodges. The emblems of the orders are embossed on the top of the covers, and the names of the lodges are placed on the back in gilt letters. Each album holds eighty pictures which are to be taken by Mr. Leonard, and when filled these albums will be a treasured ornament in the lodge rooms in times to come.

Last night Albert Zabel shut up the store as usual and proceeded home, when he found his spacious residence crowded with people, who had assembled to celebrate his 31st birthday, the evening was spent in conversation, and at about 12 o'clock an elegant supper was served to which all did justice. This will be an event to be remembered by Mr. Zabel. The gifts will be announced next week.—Wabash News.

The Duty of the Church to the Poor. I do not hesitate to say that the development of the power of self help, self respect and self dependence can be and should be the work of the Christian church in all her branches. If Christianity cannot, to this extent, lighten the masses of the wage workers, it has failed, and, at least temporarily, must continue to fail. The wild ruin resulting from that failure may recall the church of Christ to a field that her faithless disobedience has led her for a time to abandon.

She believes in the value of man, for in him, he never so fallen, she sees a spark of everlastingness. She professes to accept her Master's commands as divine laws binding on herself. His words and acts are perfectly plain; he never contemplated the abolition of all poverty, but he did distinctly command that men should, as they valued his gospel or professed obedience to himself, draw near to each other, forgetting and ignoring those things that for a short time made them differ.

He declared that the innermost and eternal verities of our nature all men have in common, and that his followers were to make much of these, while they were to make less of their differences of possession and attainment. Weakness, failure, poverty were to draw us to our brother, not drive us from him, for in the prevalence of these drawing, uniting, loving forces over the sundering and dismissing forces lay the hope of our race—he called it the coming of the kingdom of the Son of Man.—Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford in Forum.

Trivialities. It is not always easy in any sphere to discriminate between the trifling and the momentous. It is often a matter of comparison, and judgment and experience are needed in the selection. Trifles are not to be confounded with details, which are often most important. Neither are things necessarily trifling because they are small. A kind look, a gentle warning, a cordial greeting, a slight service are sometimes despised as trifles, when in truth they are signs of a generous and kindly nature, and carry untold blessings to their recipients.

Many little things are far more important than what we miscall great ones; they may indeed be the true realities, while the others may be insignificant. If each one will faithfully examine the meanings and purposes of the various spheres in which he moves, and endeavor conscientiously to make them first in his heart and life, the trifles will sink into their proper and subordinate place.—New York Ledger.

A modification of what is known as the Australian ballot plan is in force in England in the election of members of the house of commons. This regulation, however, is not permanent there, as it is here in the states employing this system. An act of parliament is passed annually to provide for the method of voting.

WEeping WATER ITEMS.

FROM THE EAGLE. Manley is a great corn market. Over 200 loads of that cereal was unloaded there one day last week.

The Third ward appears to be the favored locality for parties in search of signatures for saloon licenses. No other ward in the city has got three women in it that will put their names to such a paper.

The little son of Charlie Hay while playing in the yard Monday, fell some way and cut a hole through his tongue. The doctors sewed it up and will try to restore the little fellow's lapper to its original condition.

If a saloon goes in on block third in the Third ward, it will be a wise move for the council to order the sidewalk repaved at once. His condition now is unsafe for sober people to walk on, let alone those who have a few schooners of beer aboard.

The residence of W. H. Gates got a warning one day last week, caused by an accidental connection between a guy speck of flame and the contents of a gasoline can. Mr. Gates was filling the tank of his gasoline stove, supposing that he had entirely extinguished the flame before doing so, when he stood a moment later in the midst of a burning flame he discovered his error. He got out of the room as rapidly as possible, gave the alarm of fire and then got his children out of bed to a place of safety. By this time several persons arrived on the ground and by hard work for a short time succeeded in mastering the situation. The loss will amount to about \$75, one-third of the amount being for repairs on the house. The insurance company will have a chance to pay the bills. It was a close call for all concerned. Our fire department was ready for duty but it is doubtful if the apparatus would be effective should it be called into use.

Bank of Cass County. Cor. Main and Fifth streets. Paid up capital \$50,000. Surplus \$25,000. OFFICERS: J. H. Farnelle, President; J. M. Patterson, Vice President; T. M. Patterson, Cashier; J. M. Patterson, Asst. Cashier.

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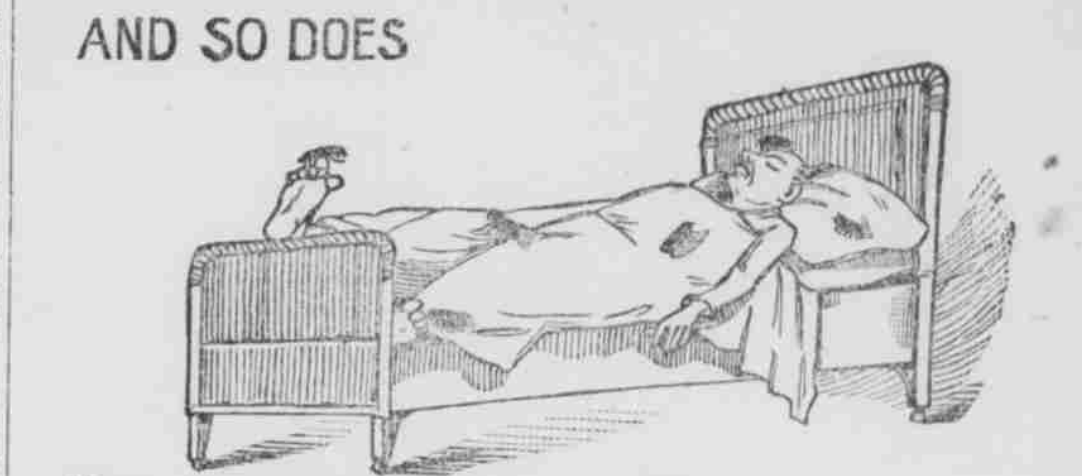
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MR. GORDER. Handles the finest Buggies, Phaetons, Carts, Spring Wagons, and Carriages and other vehicles that are manufactured. The largest line in Cass County, of double and single harness at prices so low that it will pay you to come 20 miles and inspect stock before purchasing elsewhere. DAVID MILLER an experienced workman has charge of our harness shop.

Fred Gorder, Plattsmouth and Weeping Water.

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