

A brief account of an ophthalmic institution [Colledge's Ophthalmic Hospital], during the years 1827, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 1832. : At Macao / By a philanthropist [i.e. Anders Ljungstedt].

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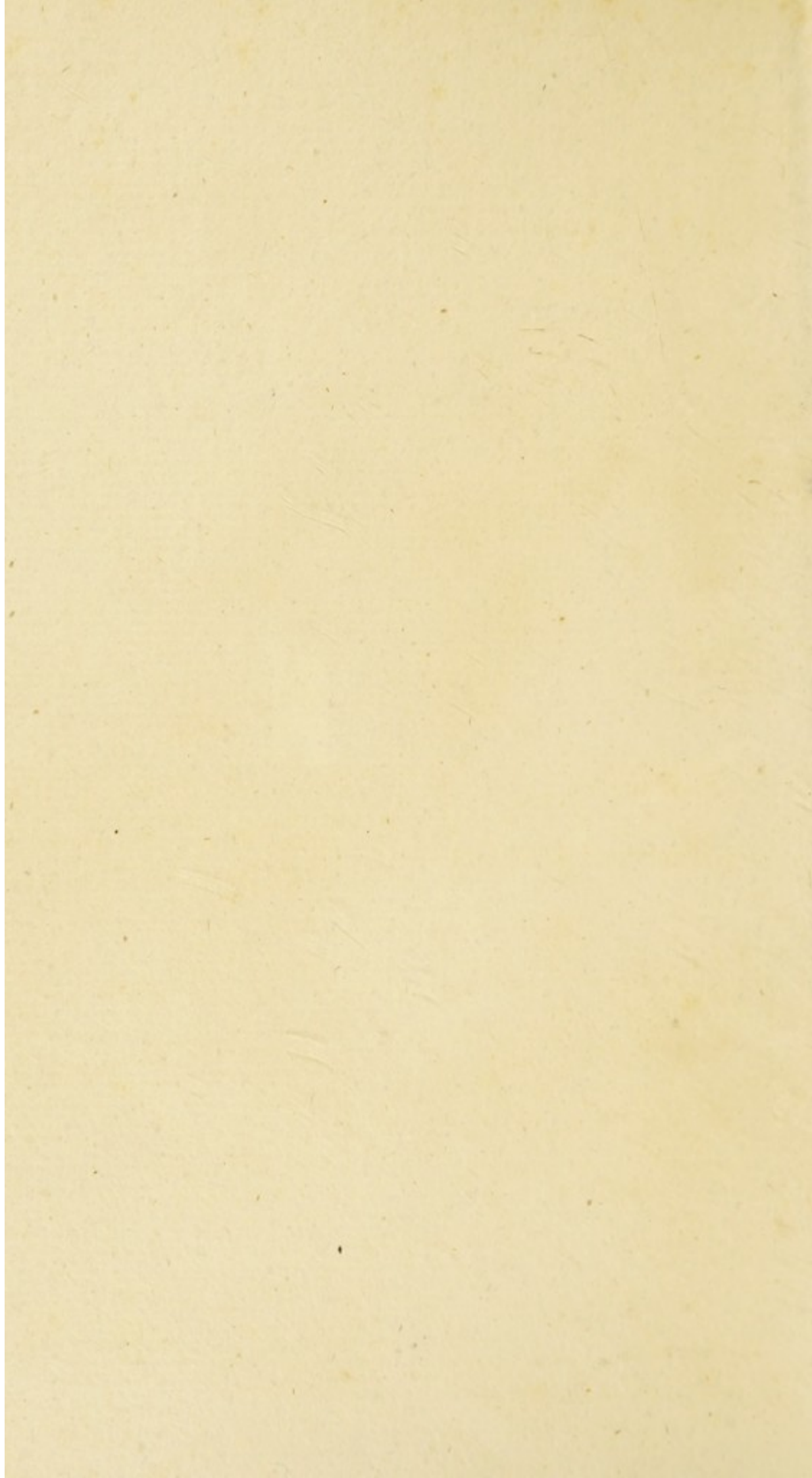


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BRIEF ACCOUNT OF AN
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL
AT MACAO.

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER
ALBANY

A
BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF AN
OPHTHALMIC INSTITUTION,
DURING THE YEARS
1827, ,28 ,29 ,30 ,31 AND 1832.
AT MACAO.

BY A PHILANTHROPIST.

“What nothing earthly gives, or can destroy,
The soul's calm sunshine, and the heartfelt joy,
Is virtue's prize.”

CANTON—CHINA:


.....
1834.

314446



NOTE.

APPENDED to the account of the Hospital, the reader will find a valuable document, containing some suggestions as to the manner in which the services of medical gentlemen may be advantageously employed in China.



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A BRIEF ACCOUNT
OF THE
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

DURING a residence of nearly thirty-six years in China, I have mingled with the best foreign society both in Macao and Canton; which circumstance has enabled me to become acquainted with many acts of humanity, exercised by distinguished individuals, towards objects worthy of commiseration. It was, however, reserved for me to witness at this advanced period of my life, the beneficial effects arising from an Ophthalmic Institution. Though not sufficiently versed in the idiom of the language, in which I write, to express myself fully with regard to what I conceive to be the merits of this praiseworthy undertaking, yet I cannot refrain from expressing my own individual satisfaction at the good which has resulted from it,—hoping that at a future time some other person, possessing more extensive knowledge of the subject and of the English language, may render full justice to its unparalleled utility and importance. As records and memoranda relative to the establishment are in the possession of its founder,

Mr. Colledge, there will be no difficulty at any time in obtaining a knowledge of all the facts and circumstances connected with it.

Among the virtues attendant on civilization, the most useful and amiable is benevolence; for within its influence it embraces the whole human species: whether the sufferer of our race be white or black, a free man or a slave, a Jew or a Mohammedan, a Christian or a savage, it is ever ready to administer the relief that may be within its reach. No class of individuals has so many opportunities of doing good as that of the medical profession. A skillful and experienced surgeon or physician is everywhere hailed and welcomed by suffering humanity as the harbinger of hope and comfort. As a philanthropist, he respects the peculiar opinions of all parties, and therefore is at peace with all. His whole time, attention, and talents are devoted to the service of such of his fellow-creatures as are laboring under any of the many "ills that flesh is heir to." In his success he rejoices, and finds within his own breast the sure reward of having done good for the sake of good alone. Such has been the character of the medical gentlemen with whom I have been acquainted belonging to the British Factory in China.

And here I should do violence to my feelings did I omit to mention the name of Alexander Pearson Esq., who will ever live in the memories of the foreign residents in China, as an attentive and sympathising friend, as well as a skillful physician; and to whom the natives of this country are indebted for introducing and establishing vaccination among them. As has been justly remarked by a former writer upon this subject: "He (Mr. Pearson) sought not the applause of men, satisfied

with the silent approbation of his own conscience; nor do I find that the success of his benevolent undertaking, which has been the means of greatly mitigating, in this the most populous empire upon earth, the severest disease to which the infancy of man is liable, has been proclaimed in self-approving publications." And further from the same writer: "To an old and simple minded man like myself, much reflecting upon these things, how much more satisfactory it is to see means, such as these, employed to carry conviction to the Chinese mind, of the high state of improvement of English arts and sciences, than to listen to those frothy declamations in which our countrymen are too apt to indulge upon our national superiority. I would rather be that man, who, influenced alone by the principle of benevolence, has, by the introduction of vaccination into China, communicated that invaluable blessing to so large a portion of mankind, than most of those whose names have filled the trumpet of fame and been puffed and blown about the world."

But to return to the account of the ophthalmic institution. Its founder, T. R. Colledge Esq., was appointed surgeon to the British Factory in China in 1826, and the succeeding year commenced administering to the infirmities of such indigent natives as sought his assistance. All sorts of distempers now came under his investigation. But soon discovering that no native practitioner could treat diseases of the eyes, which prevail to so great an extent among the laboring classes of Chinese, he determined to devote his skill more particularly to this branch of his profession. In the year 1828, he rented apartments at Macao for the reception of such patients as required operations for the recovery

of their sight. This institution became the topic of conversation throughout the province, and praises and thanks were heaped upon its proprietor by the friends and families of those who had received benefit, as well as by the individuals themselves who had felt his "healing hand," as may be seen by the translation of a *few* of the many Chinese letters expressive of gratitude, which were addressed to Mr. C., and which are annexed to this work.

One of those letters I will here particularly notice ; I allude to that from Tsae Yě, expressing his gratitude for curing his broken arm ; and would state that the accident was caused by a horse rode by a captain of the Honorable Company's service, which was somewhat uncontrollable : the Chinese was met in a narrow path near Macao, and the horse rushed upon him, and tumbled him over, and unfortunately broke his arm ere there was time to retreat, or stop the horse. Mr. Colledge happening to arrive at the spot soon after the accident occurred, was recognised by the crowd of Chinese that had assembled around the unfortunate man, and kindly taking him under his charge restored his arm to health. Had this not been done, there is no doubt the Chinese officers, as is their usual practice, would have given the captain much trouble and put him to considerable expense ; and could they have seized his person, would have brought him to trial ; but all trouble was prevented by thus taking charge of the man.

I have selected this one, from many similar cases, to evidence how much good has been done, and may yet be done, in this quarter, by humane practice and benevolent conduct. Undeniable and repeated exhibitions of his zeal and ability in doing good to sufferers,

soon attracted the attention of the foreign community, and many individuals generously came forward, and voluntarily contributed to promote his object, and become partakers of those gratifying sensations which flow from the exercise of benevolence to suffering fellow-beings; and thus by increasing his means, enabled the founder of the institution to extend greatly its usefulness. It appears to me due to those benefactors to place their names before the world; and there seems to be no better means of doing this than by giving publicity to the 'account of the institution' they so liberally patronized. Moreover, the knowledge of their charity may stimulate others to "go and do likewise," and reap the same consolatory and lasting reward, an approving conscience and the world's applause. I therefore subjoin, at the end of this work, a list of the names of the donors to the institution, and the amount of their gifts, together with a statement of all the receipts and expenditures thereof.

I cannot do better in furtherance of my views to make known to the world the practice of so much useful benevolence, as has been exhibited by the founder of the ophthalmic institution, than to introduce into these pages some extracts from a paper contained in that valuable and interesting periodical, the Chinese Repository, showing the origin and progress of the institution, the opinion entertained of its usefulness, and the philanthropy of its founder. Most of the extracts which I cite are from the pens of the late worthy chief of the British Factory in China, and of the erudite and pious editor of the Repository.

"Several months ago (vol. 1st, p. 334), we alluded to the existence of this institution, and expressed a hope

that we might ere long lay before our readers some account of its operations : but at that time we were not aware of its extensive usefulness, nor of the confidence in the skill of its founder, which its success had secured among the native inhabitants. The Chinese need *ocular* demonstration of the intelligence, practical skill, and kind feelings of those who come to their shores from afar. They have had proof enough of their enterprise and bold daring, and not a little too of their shrewdness and foresight ; but very rarely have they had opportunity to witness deeds of charity, and acts of benevolence. Were the records that are on high let down before our eyes, what dark scenes would they disclose ! Many of the adventurers, who first penetrated to this farther east, two centuries ago, were as reckless and cruel, as they were bold and intrepid. An honorable commerce, and the exercise of Christian charity, would never, we apprehend, have closed against foreigners the northern ports of China or those of Japan. We allude to these things as the scenes of other times, and with the most confident expectation that they are not to be reacted. In this opinion we are confirmed by facts, some of which are already on record, and by the existence of such institutions as that which we now have the pleasure of noticing.

“ We would remark here, that it was in answer to our own earnest solicitation that the following documents were put into our hands. We made the request for them in the full belief that the publication of such facts will do good, by inciting others to go, and do likewise. We query whether the modern teachers of Christianity, who have gone forth to the desolate places of the earth, have not overlooked too much the bodily

infirmities of those whom they would benefit. The conduct, as well as the precept, of our divine Lord is very full on this point: he not only taught from place to place, but “he went about *doing* good;” he not only healed the sick and cured the lame, but “*unto many that were blind he gave sight* ;” numerous instances are specified in the brief memoirs which we have of his public ministry. There is a luxury in doing good; there is an unspeakable pleasure in relieving our fellow-men, who are in poverty and distress. The founder of the ophthalmic hospital has commenced a noble work; and while we thank him for kindly furnishing us with the papers which we subjoin, we congratulate him on account of the success which has crowned his benevolent efforts. The paper which we here introduce will explain the origin and object of the hospital. It was written about a year ago, and in consequence of a benefaction, which was at once most commendable on the part of the donors and compatible with the design of the institution in behalf of which it was granted. The paper is as follows:

“ ‘ Having during the last three years received from Mr. Vachell, chaplain to the British factory in China, the amount of offerings at the communion table, it seems somewhat incumbent on me to state the origin and nature of the institution to which this money has been applied; and the claim it has on the good-will and assistance of all persons anxious to alleviate the pressure of bodily infirmity, to which we are liable, more especially in a country possessing few, if any, of those charitable institutions which grace so much our own more civilized and Christian land.

“ ‘ In the year 1827, I determined to devote a large

portion of my time, and such medical skill as education and much attention to the duties of my profession had made my own, to the cure of so many poor Chinese sufferers of Macao and its vicinity as came in my way. My intention was to receive patients laboring under every species of sickness, but principally those afflicted with diseases of the eyes; diseases most distressing to the laboring classes, amongst whom they are very prevalent; and from which the utter incapacity of native practitioners denies to them all other hope of relief.

“ ‘ During that year my own funds supplied the necessary outlay. Throughout I have received little or no professional assistance. In 1828, many friends who had witnessed the success of my exertions in the preceding year, and had become aware of the expenses I had incurred, came forward to aid in the support of a more regular infirmary, which I proposed to establish, and put me in possession of means to provide for the maintenance of such patients as I found it necessary to keep for some time under my care; but who, depending for their livelihood on daily labor, could not otherwise have reaped the benefits held out to them.

“ ‘ Thus the hospital grew up upon my hands; confidence was established amongst a people who had been accustomed to consider foreigners as barbarians, incapable of virtuous, almost of human feelings; and the number of my inmates was regulated only by the limits of my accommodations. Two small houses have been rented at Macao, capable of receiving about forty patients: there are many more of the nature of out-patients, such only being housed, as, coming from a distance, have no friends with whom they can reside.

“ ‘ The best proof which can be offered of the entire

confidence of the people and the benefits which have been conferred on them, is that since the commencement of this undertaking, on a small scale in 1827, to the present time, about 4000 indigent Chinese have been relieved from various maladies : many have been restored to sight : more, saved from impending blindness, resumed their usual occupations, and have supported, in lieu of remaining a burthen on, their families.

“ ‘The more opulent and respectable classes of Chinese, have in the last three years, added their names to the list of subscribers ; and have, by giving the hospital the sanction of their support, much enlarged the circle of its usefulness. The E. I. Company has written of it in terms of approbation, and when applied to, has liberally supplied it with medicines.

“ ‘Independently of the practical benefits conferred on suffering humanity, it is most desirable that the enlightened nation to which I belong should be known in this country as possessing other characteristics than those attaching to us solely as merchants and adventurers. As charitably anxious to relieve the distresses of our fellow-creatures, we may be remembered when the record of our other connections with China has passed away.

“ ‘In the above statement nothing is farther from my wish than to bring forward, and dwell with complacency on my own exertions and success. No more I trust has been said than was necessary to exhibit the nature and origin of the hospital which I have established, and its claim to the aid which I thankfully acknowledge.

(Signed) T. R. C.

“ ‘Macao, October 1832.’

“ ‘Most desirable it is, we would loudly reiterate, that enlightened Britain, and the no less aspiring nation,

which glories in the relationship of having the same blood and the same speech with Britain, *should be known in this country as possessing other characteristics than those attaching to us solely as merchants and adventurers.* In commerce there may be rival interests, but not so in the works of that charity which seeketh not her own. Every one who has witnessed the success of the infirmary at Macao will concur, we think, in the following testimony, will give the enterprise his approbation, and endeavor, so far as there may be opportunity, to enlarge and extend its operations. We are allowed to quote the following letter with its signature :

“ ‘I have this day visited Mr. Colledge’s ophthalmic infirmary, and having witnessed the origin of the undertaking, I am happy to bear testimony to the complete success which has attended the zealous exertions of this gentleman in behalf of the suffering poor in China.

“ ‘The number of native patients, amounting to about four thousand, who during the last five years have sought aid from this institution, and among whom many have been restored to sight, and others relieved from most hopeless blindness, is an honorable proof of the professional skill of its founder, and of the confidence which he has inspired into all classes of the Chinese. To Mr. Colledge, therefore, belongs the merit of having established, by aid of voluntary donations, the first institution in this country for the relief of the indigent natives.

“ ‘I cannot close these observations without alluding to the honorable testimony that has been, at various times, recorded of Mr. Colledge’s professional skill and abilities by the select committee in their dispatches to the honorable the Court of Directors of the East India

Company, both at the period when he was first selected to fill the station of surgeon to their establishment in China, and also, subsequently, when the great benefit derived by the Chinese suffering poor from this gentleman's professional talent and benevolent disposition, has been officially brought to their notice. As an individual, who has witnessed the beneficial effects of Mr. Colledge's medical ability, I feel the greatest gratification in thus bearing testimony to his merits, both as a surgeon and a philanthropist.

(Signed) W. H. C. PLOWDEN.

Chief for all affairs of the British nation in China.

“ ‘Macao, September 26th, 1834.’ ”

Thus it will be seen that, up to October 1832, more than four thousand indigent and diseased Chinese had been relieved from various maladies, and many restored to sight by Mr. C.'s benevolent exertions, many of whom would never have been relieved but for his kindness. The influence of such services upon the minds of those relieved, their friends, and all who obtain knowledge of the facts, may be better imagined than I can describe. All persons will agree with me, that it will elicit the best and most pleasing feelings of which a human heart is susceptible, and tend to remove the prejudices the Chinese generally entertain against foreigners, and produce feelings of respect and confidence in them, that may eventually lead to a satisfactory and amicable intercourse,—an event that will be hailed with joy by philanthropists and statesmen.

In further proof of what has been done in advancing this desirable object, I will relate the particulars of a case that occurred in the institution.

The vigilance and steadiness of the proprietor in enforcing the rules he had laid down for the institution, and keeping subordination among the inmates, together with his scientific and professional attentions to the sick, had for a long period saved the infirmary from any event of an alarming nature. Yet in course of time, an aged Chinese who had been admitted, while conversing with Mr. Colledge, suddenly fell and expired. This circumstance was most unexpected and alarming, owing to the prejudices of the Chinese and the severity of their laws. However, Mr. Colledge, with great presence of mind immediately locked the door of the room where the deceased lay, and taking the key with him, sent and informed the tsotang (a Chinese magistrate,) of the circumstance: this officer received the information with good feeling, and having satisfied himself concerning the circumstances of the death, evinced no desire either to extort money or make difficulties.

It is likewise worthy of remark, that none of the patients left the infirmary in consequence of this event, although they were apprized of Mr. Colledge having invited the tsotang to take cognizance of it; on the contrary, every inmate, and the hospital was then full, volunteered to give evidence of the good treatment the deceased had received. And two of the convalescent patients accompanied the corpse to its native village, and returned after the interment.

I have selected the above anecdote to exhibit the influence the founder of the infirmary had obtained over the mind of the Chinese, who had come to a knowledge of his benevolent exertions, softening and in fact almost subduing their spirit of revenge towards foreigners.

The foregoing facts speak volumes in evidence of

the confidence that may be produced in the minds of Chinese, in the upright intentions of individuals practicing charity, and in favor of the proprietor's course, proving how much may be effected by perseverance in active humanity, in overcoming the strong prejudices of this peculiar people. We hope this is but the beginning of a great work, that may eventually remove from the Chinese nation all those unfounded prejudices that at present prevent general intercourse, and lead this people to call those their happy and enlightened benefactors, whom they now term barbarians.

I cannot introduce in a more fit place than this, in my humble offering at the shrine of benevolence, some notice of the poor and unfortunate, but the heroic Hoo Loo, whose story is probably known to many of my readers. Hoo Loo, hearing of Mr. Colledge's skill, came and entreated admission into his infirmary, and there, after witnessing many operations, was seized with a desire to be himself relieved by surgical aid, and oftentimes requested Mr. C. to perform an operation upon him. Mr. C., ever anxious to add new laurels to the profession, but not liking the direct responsibility of so important a case, recommended him to proceed to England, and took measures to place him under the direction of England's greatest surgeon; as will be seen by an extract I have been favored with, from Mr. Colledge's public letter to William Baynes Esq. president of the Select Committee, under date of November 13th, 1830, on the subject of Hoo Loo's passage. The following is the extract:

"The nature of the tumor is such as to bid defiance to all remedies, either external or constitutional, but I am of opinion the part may be removed by an opera-

tion; and as the case is extremely rare, and likely to prove interesting to our profession, I have to request your Committee will grant me leave to send Hoo Loo to England for the purpose of being placed under the care of sir Astley Cooper Bart."

Mr. Colledge's anxiety for the successful issue of this case was increased tenfold, from his knowledge of the effect which so wonderful a cure would have upon the minds of the Chinese, in increasing their confidence in, and admiration of, European skill in surgery: he had moreover, at the same time, another man under his charge, who only waited to learn that the event was favorable, in order to be determined to go to England to have a similar operation performed on his own person. Hoo Loo's principal motive for going to England was the hope that his disease being there removed, he might prove a comfort and support to his aged mother, instead of being, as he was, a burden to her: the poor old woman since his death has subsisted upon a pittance, the interest derived from a small sum which was appropriated to her use by Mr. Colledge, out of money given by a few charitable individuals who took an interest in the poor man's welfare.

The following was written and published in the Canton Miscellany, No. 4. of 1831.

"Of patient endurance under bodily suffering, the Chinese have their full proportion. For much better authority than mine, on such a subject, I would refer you, Mr. Editor, to a professional gentleman of this place, who has devoted much of his time and talents to the cure of diseases of the eye so prevalent in this country. If you have the good fortune to be acquainted with him, you might be told that in a Chinese pa-

tient there is no want of fortitude under pain; and to operations they submit with resignation and composure. You might at the same time learn with satisfaction, to how many hundreds of human beings suffering from blindness, perhaps the severest affliction with which it has pleased Providence to visit our imperfect nature, the blessed light of heaven had been restored, the darkness of a long and gloomy night dispelled, and the road to happiness and useful industry once more before their reopened eyes. It is the same result as that of the miracle in Scripture without the inspiration; the triumph of human science over affliction and disease. Was there any want of fortitude in that extraordinary case of recent occurrence, where a Chinese, suffering under a disorder of an aggravated and peculiar kind, resolved to leave his country and friends, and undertake a voyage to England, to undergo an operation, which he was informed might possibly be successful, but would probably terminate his life? I do not see in the printed narrative of his last moments, that when he entered the crowded theatre, (in my humble opinion, an unwise place for such an experiment,) where were assembled the most highly talented men of the surgical profession, there was any shrinking from the sufferings that awaited him, or any other, than patient and manly endurance of the severities of the operation, until nature gave way and death relieved him."

I quote the expressions of an English surgeon who has published an account of this case.

"The fortitude with which this great operation was approached, and throughout undergone by Hoo Loo was, if not unexampled, at all events never exceeded,

in the annals of surgery. A groan now and then escaped him, and now and then a slight exclamation, and we thought we could trace in the tones a plaintive acknowledgement of the hopelessness of his case. Expressions of regret, too, that he had not rather borne with his affliction than suffered the operation, seemed softly but rapidly to vibrate from his lips as he closed his eyes, firmly set his teeth, and resignedly strung every nerve in obedience to the determination with which he had first submitted to the knife." See *Lancet*, Vol. 2d, No. 398, for 1831.

I must be permitted here to allude to the liberality of provision and allowance made by the Honorable East India Company for all classes of their servants; for from that generous system sprung the institution of which I treat, and also the introduction of vaccination, inasmuch as they allowed to their medical servants salaries so ample, that they were satisfied, and "went about doing good;" and would receive no other reward than the sensations of benevolent minds flowing from administering unostentatious charity. Liberal presents have been proffered by those to whom they have administered aid, but such presents were declined. Yet those benevolent men were never called upon in vain to attend the sick of whatever nation or rank; they felt no distinction; all was merged in *benevolence* to mankind, as thousands, who have experienced the kind ministrations of the East India Company's late and present surgeons on the Chinese station, have testified, and in the abundance of their gratitude, ever will testify.

They were not the mere formal practitioners of their profession; they entered into the chambers of the sick, carrying healing and balm to the mind as

well as body; they were patient hearers of the often told and long details of enervated, distressed and melancholic minds; and would soothe and cheer the afflicted by expressions and acts of sympathy. Strangers at once found their physician a friend, in whom they could confide and unburthen their minds, and receive consolation. Who is there that has been sick, away from home and friends, in the midst of strangers, that has not felt a deep and desolate despondency of heart, worse than death, for want of one sympathizing being to commune with, and administer at his bedside. Those who have been thus placed may imagine the relief given by the benevolent visits to the sick by the philanthropists alluded to. I have seen and felt, and the impression is fresh in my memory, and will continue while I live to excite my gratitude.

In the author's opinion, and in accordance with his hopes as a philanthropist, he sees in anticipation, the introduction of vaccination into China by Dr. Pearson, and in the operations at the ophthalmic institution, the fountain from whence will spring the peaceable, gentle, and humane influence, that will open the Chinese empire to free and friendly intercourse with Europeans. When this *prophecy* becomes a *truth*, and that truth is recorded upon the pages of history, with what feelings of satisfaction and noble exultation will the detail of the events be perused by the descendants of the late, present, and future members of the East India Company's government at home, and in India, and by every Briton and philanthropist throughout the world. What an event, and produced by the gentlest means! A new era! The *conquest* of nations by the *hand of humanity*.

Much praise is due to the Select Committee, and other members of the factory in China, during the period I refer to, for the encouragement they ever readily gave to the surgeons to yield their professional aid to any and all persons requiring it so far as was practicable. Such and similar traits tend to exalt human nature.

The ensuing year, during the residence of the British factory in Canton, Mr. Colledge, assisted by Dr. J. H. Bradford, the American physician residing there, laid the foundation of a long needed dispensary; an establishment, which from its usefulness to all classes of foreigners, as well as natives, cannot be passed over without notice. From that, to the present time, great numbers of poor Chinese have repaired to it, and medical aid has been administered to them gratuitously by the present charitable proprietors, Drs. Bradford and Cox.

“At an early hour in the morning, one may daily witness the sick, the blind, and the lame, of all ages and both sexes, crowding around the doors of the dispensary. We have seen helpless children brought there in the arms of their parents, or more commonly lashed, according to the custom of the country, upon the back of a young servant. We have seen old, blind, decrepit men, with staff in hand, led thither by their little grandchildren; while others, who were in better circumstances, were brought in their sedans.

“No native patients, we believe, have ever been lodged in the rooms connected with the dispensary. This has doubtless in some degree diminished their number, and prevented the advantage that might otherwise have been received; but, under existing circumstances, this

inconvenience could not possibly be avoided. Nevertheless, the number of those who have come for aid has been very great: many have been relieved, and the cures not a few.

“Among the applicants for aid there have been several with broken and dislocated limbs; these as well as those with diseased eyes, have usually found speedy relief, which they never could have obtained from native practitioners. There have been cases still more difficult and dangerous, one of which we will notice. This was a young man, a tailor by trade. He had fallen into bad company, and become enamored of a wretched being, whose charms his father most peremptorily and justly forbade him to enjoy. This was more than his passions could brook, and in a fit of vexation and rage, he swallowed a drachm’s weight of the strongest opium, which he could procure. As soon as this was discovered by his friends, aid was sought from the gentlemen at the dispensary, and by the immediate application of the stomach pump they succeeded in extracting the poison so completely, that in a few hours he enjoyed his usual health.”

Now, gentle reader, as I am near the end of this my humble tribute to active, useful, and practical virtues of the highest order; and as I am also near the end of my days, and fast approaching my grave, permit me to digress a little, and delay you a moment longer with the remarks and reflections of an old man.

It appears to me the East India Company have done high honor to themselves and to Britain by the footing upon which they have placed their medical servants in this quarter, which has enabled them to do so much good;

also, by the choice of such men as I have noticed in these pages; men with so much goodness of heart, and high skill in their profession.

It appears to me, also, that if ever a lever is to be placed to overcome the existing hatred and prejudices of the Chinese with regard to Europeans, and remove the fears and suspicions which shut them out of the interior of the empire, the fulcrum for that lever must be such men as those above alluded to; such could, and would win their way over the frontiers of this close and benighted nation; and pass into its centre, into the very court of the palace at Peking, by their Samaritan practice, patience, gentleness, and above all, their usefulness; while diplomatists and merchants would be repelled from the borders of the country.

If I had the means, I would send a host, an army of philanthropic surgeons into this empire; feeling entire confidence in their success, I should go down to the grave with bright and consoling hopes, that within a quarter of a century my expectations would be realized; and that the great barriers, ignorance and prejudice, which now exist, would be swept away, and not a vestige remain. Europeans and Chinese throughout the empire would be seen interchanging mutual confidence and respect: the Chinese wondering, that such as the present prejudices could ever have existed, and almost doubting they ever did exist; and in a century, the historical accounts of them would be looked upon as fabulous, or as the flowings of romance.

If the persons above alluded to, have done so extensive and inestimable good with pecuniary means so limited, what unbounded benefit would a thousand, or even a hundred persons of similar characters and

acquirements bestow on the inhabitants of the Chinese empire, were they furnished with every needed aid and support?

England in her glorious munificence sends forth millions of wealth for religious and other charities; where, and in what manner, could a moiety of her benevolence be so well, so usefully, and profitably bestowed in national and philanthropic points of view, as upon this portion of the human race by medical men? They would shortly clear the way for religion, the arts and sciences, and their attendant train of blessings.

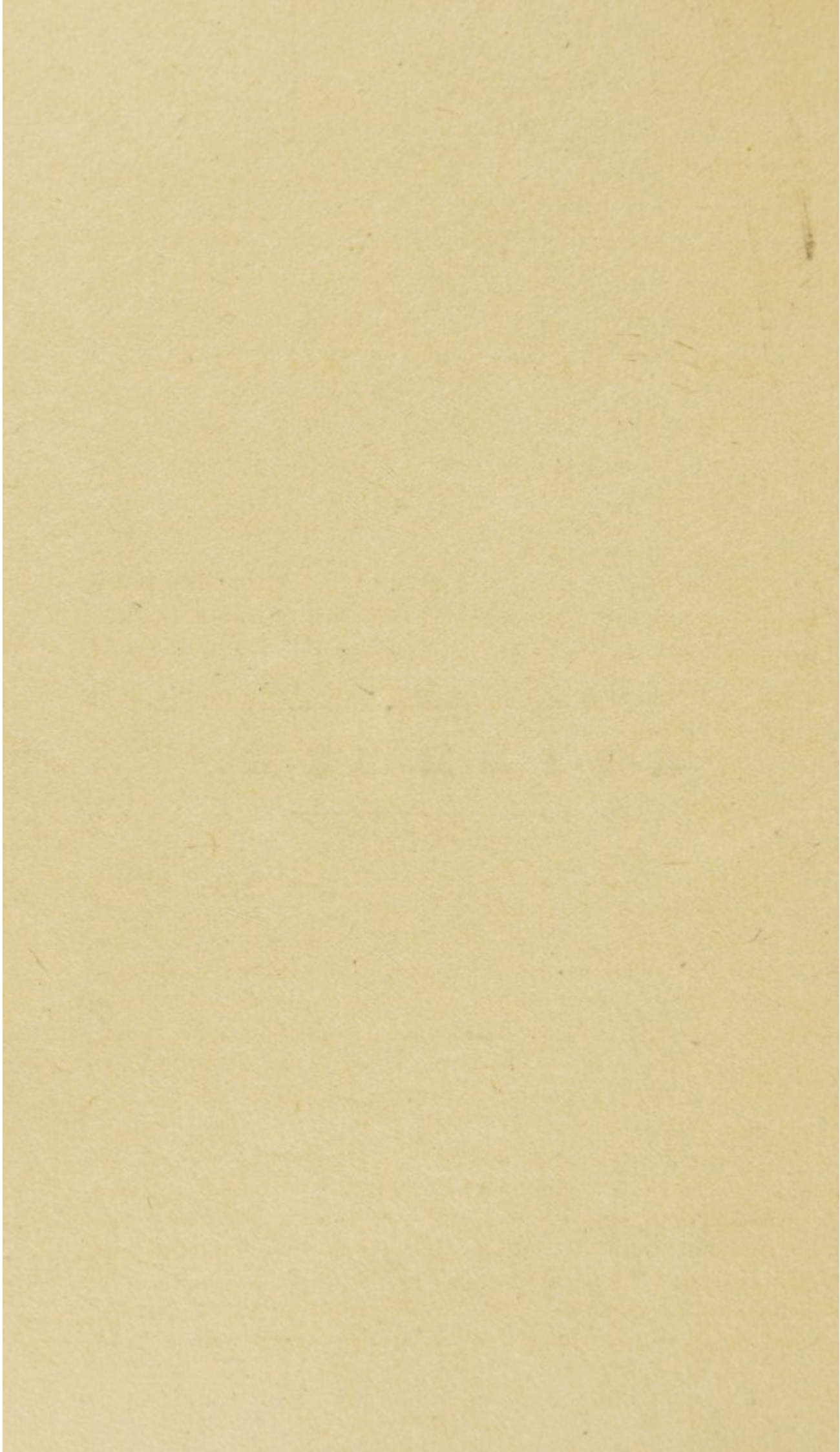
A well known English artist, George Chinnery esq. residing at Macao, obtained the consent of Mr. Colledge to make an act of his practical humanity, the subject of a picture, which would at once combine portrait with history. The circumstances that suggested the idea to the artist were the following: An elderly Chinese woman, blind with cataract, was led by her son, a boy about fourteen years old, to Mr. C. for his aid. The operation was performed with thorough advantage, and the patient being convalescent, was about to leave Macao. The picture represents Mr. C. as turning from his final examination of the woman's eyes, with his hand still resting on her forehead, towards an old servant, who acted as interpreter, in order to direct him to instruct her as to the care and means to be used for the preservation of her restored sight. The son, having prepared a chop, or Chinese letter, expressive of his gratitude and thanks to Mr. C., is represented in the act of delivering it. In the back ground, upon the floor, is seated a man with his eyes bandaged, who had also been operated upon for a cataract, waiting his turn for Mr. C.'s attention. In the apartment where the

scene is laid, is a view of Mr. Colledge's ophthalmic hospital, &c. &c.

William Daniell esq. R. A. has this picture in hand, and I trust when the engravings from it are completed, that they will be deemed worthy of a conspicuous place in the palaces of the great, and the dwellings of the humbler classes; as the representation of an act of virtuous compassion, cannot fail to leave on the mind an agreeable and lasting impression.

In this empire, the field and harvest are indeed immense—three hundred and sixty millions of souls! Where are the benevolent and zealous in this *first*, this *great*, and this *good cause* of promoting the happiness of mankind, present and future? I cast my hopes on Britain, and her descendants in the “far west,” with confidence that they will perfect the great work—both nations preëminent for their active and extensive philanthropy and resources. The manner of accomplishing this glorious aim is no longer an experiment or doubtful; it is discovered and proved that a better knowledge of our arts and sciences, will do much to open and establish a friendly intercourse with this *peculiar people*.

A P P E N D I X .



LETTERS OF THANKS.

Translation from the Chinese of a few of the many letters of thanks addressed to the proprietor of the infirmary by patients or their connections. The *style* of some of these expressions of gratitude, I anticipate, will excite a smile.

LETTER I.

Note of thanks from Le Kwangche, Seay Jaihheung, and Tso Amow, belonging to the district of Sinning.

We have for the greater part of our lives remained at home, unable to distinguish night from day, or to discriminate between the sweet or bitter of the five tastes. Having for a long period suffered blindness, we unexpectedly heard that the eminent and skillful English doctor, in the exercise of benevolence and charity, extends his favors all around to a very numerous collection of persons afflicted with diseases of the eyes.

We came to his hospital, to place ourselves under his healing care, and before the expiration of a few months we were completely cured, having regained our sight as perfectly as at first. We have placed reliance on the meritorious performances of this benevolent man, and have each of us had favors heaped upon us unbounded as the heavens and the earth. We now reverently pray that blessings and wealth, and honors, and happiness, may be his portion for ten thousand generations.

We are now returning home full of gratitude, and thankfulness ; but when can we hope to be able to recompense such goodness ? We can only, in the next state of existence, toil and labor like horses or dogs to serve our benefactor. All our families are moved to gratitude, and we ourselves present this note, leaping about with joy. Every village spreads abroad and declares his fame.

We approach the bar of the benevolent and skillful doctor with gratitude.

Taoukwang, 11th year, 5th moon, 6th day.

LETTER II.

Your disciple, Tan Sheling of the district of Haeping in Shaoukingfoo, deeply sensible of your favor and about to return home, bows and takes leave.

It seems to me that of all men in the world, they are the most happy who have all their senses perfect, and they the most unfortunate who have both eyes blind. What infelicitous fate it was that caused such a calamity to befall me, alas, I know not. But fortunately, Sir, I heard that you, a most excellent physician, having arrived in the province of Canton and taken up your residence in Macao, compassionated those who have diseased eyes, gave them medicines, and expended your property for their support ; and that by the exertion of your great abilities, with a hand skillful as that of *Sun* or *Hwa*, you drew together hundreds of those who were dim-sighted, furnished them with houses, took care of them, and supplied them with daily provisions.

While thus extending wide your benevolence, your fame spread over the four seas. I heard thereof and came, and was happily taken under your care ; and not many months passed ere my eyes became bright as the moon and stars when the clouds are rolled away. All this is because your great nation, cultivating virtue and practicing benevolence, extends its favors to the children of neighboring countries.

Now, completely cured and about to return home, I know not when I shall be able to require your favors and kindness. But, Sir, it is the desire of my heart, that you may enjoy nobility and emoluments of office, with honors and glory ; happiness and felicity that shall daily increase ; riches that shall multiply and flourish like the shoots of the bamboo in spring time ; and life that shall be prolonged to ten thousand years. Deeply sensible of your acts of kindness, I have written a few rustic lines, which I present to you with profound respect.

England's kind-hearted prince and minister,
 Have shed their favors on the sons of Han:
 Like one divine, disordered eyes you heal,
 Kindness so great, I never can forget.

Heaven caused me to find the good physician,
 Who, with unearthly skill, to cure my eyes,
 Cut off the film, and the "green" lymph removed:—
 Such, Sir, were rarely found in ancient times.

Honorable Sir, thou great arm of the nation, condescend to look
 upon your disciple, TAN SHELING,
 Who bows his head a hundred times and pays his respects.

LETTER III.

Note of thanks from Lew Ake, Lew Ahaou, and Kan Awang
 belonging to the district of Sinhway.

We were suffering from total blindness, and could not distinguish
 day from night, when unexpectedly we heard of the benevolence
 and charity of the skillful English doctor, whose benefits pervade
 the world, who liberally dispenses medicines, and supplies board,
 lodging, and every thing complete. We came on purpose to be
 near his healing art, and happily in a few months our sight has been
 restored to us, as perfect as at first. We are deeply impressed with
 gratitude for the doctor's liberal favors; we are now returning home,
 and prostrate make our acknowledgements. We do not know when
 we shall be able to offer a recompense. The recollection of his
 kindness will be engraved on our livers and galls for ten thousand
 generations. We can only express our hopes that the doctor may
 enjoy happiness, wealth and honors.

Presented at the bar of the English nation's eminent doctor.

LETTER IV.

The person who announces his farewell, and humbly renders
 thanks, Tsang Ale, knocks head and twice bows before the presence
 of the great physician, teacher, and magnate.

I, in youth, had an affliction of my eyes and both were short of
 light: fortunately it occurred that you, Sir, reached this land, where
 you have disclosed the able devices of your mind, and used your
 skillful hand. You cut off a bit of filmy skin, removed the blood-

shot root, pierced the reflecting pupil, and extracted the green fluid; you swept aside the clouds, and the moon was seen as a gem without flaw. You spared no labor nor trouble; made no account of the expense of the medicines; both kept me in your lodging-house, and gave me rice and tea; truly it is what neither in ancient nor modern times has ever been.

Now my eyes are gradually brightening: ten thousand times have I to bow for your favors, and to wish, Sir, that heaven may send down on you a hundred things felicitous, bestow a thousand things fortunate, and give longevity and riches with splendor and affluence. Respectfully is this raised upwards!

LETTER V.

My daughter was this year afflicted with a disease of the eyes, by which they were imminently endangered; many means were resorted to for a cure; but none were efficacious.

I afterwards heard that the English nation's great physician, who has deeply investigated the medical art, from feelings of benevolence and compassion, gratuitously supplied medicines, and that all his operations had been attended with happy effects. Immediately I brought my daughter to be examined, and am grateful for the medicines which were bestowed.

In a few days her eyes were again as they had formerly been. I humbly reflect that my daughter's regaining her sight proceeds from the vast benevolence of the great physician, and the divine merit of his wonderful medicine.

I feel deeply indebted for her perfect recovery; but being very poor, I have no means of offering a recompense. I have merely prepared some variegated crackers to manifest my respect. In speaking of his meritorious virtue, I feel endless gratitude.

Awan respectfully bows (and presents this note).

LETTER VI.

I, Kwō Tingchang, a man of Heōshan district, constantly remained seated in my house, unable to distinguish between day and night, or to perceive the sweetness or bitterness of the five tastes, because of the severity and long-standing of a disease of my eyes. Suddenly I heard, great physician, and venerable Sir, that you manifested

benevolence, so that your fame has spread extensively over the four seas, and that many men with diseased eyes assembled at your abode, where you dressed and operated on them, until in a few months they were quite cured, and as clear-sighted as at first. It is owing, benevolent Sir, to your virtue, which is as illimitable as that of heaven and earth. Respectfully we wish you honor and felicity of happiness and emolument during ten thousand years.

I, Kwō Tingchang, with a thankful heart return to my village; when can I make a poor return for your goodness? My whole family is grateful for your favors; while with leaping and joy I present these expressions thereof. In all the village your fame shall spread. With gratitude this is presented before the presence of the great physician and venerable gentleman to glance at.

Kwō Tingchang of Heōshan district knocks head, bows and gives thanks.

Taoukwang, 11th year, 5th moon, 2d day.

LETTER VII.

Reverently to take leave, and give thanks for your great favors. You, venerable Sir, received me into your house, and attended to my cure; you also gave me food and provision, and made me dwell in the forest of medicines. You put in order the great principles of benefiting the world, and displayed the skillful hand of Sun and Hwa; like as when clouds are swept aside, the sun is seen clear and pure as an autumn spring of water.

I am now about to return. Your grace and virtue I am quite unable to repay; but I wish, Sir, that heaven may send down to you a hundred sources of emolument, with sons and heirs numerous as the fruitful locusts,* and that your happiness may equal the eastern sea, and your longevity compare with the southern mountains.

It is delivered upwards before the presence of the English venerable gentleman.

The favored disciple Lew King, of the district of Hwuyyeh bends his head and bows.

LETTER VIII.

Respectfully to take leave, and bowing to the ground, return thanks to the medical officer and teacher.

* A kind of locust said to produce *ninety-nine young ones at a time* !!

We *ants*,* having been long abroad, wish now to return to our families. We are grateful, medical officer, for the grace you have displayed in giving us benefits, perfectly curing the diseases of our eyes, and granting us food and provisions, without our spending a particle of money. It is indeed what may be called expansive benevolence. Your fame will spread over the four seas to men of all ages. We have now no ability to repay you with favors; but can merely express our good wishes in vulgar language. May your happiness, medical officer and teacher, be as the eastern sea, the waves overtopping each other, in a thousand steps; and may your longevity compare with the southern mountains, and be perpetual as the sun and moon.

To the medical officer and teacher. May he gradually rise upwards to the first rank, and continue long as heaven and earth.

HWANG TSEWLE and HWANG ASZE,
people of Kweishen district bend their heads and bow a hundred times.

LETTER IX.

"Where'er he passes, flowers spring up; where'er he stops, all is divine;" just as when clouds open, the moon is seen. He preserves light, and diffuses clearness, even as when water is clear, every ripple is perceived. I myself saw his wonderful art, and his skillful hand, and his medicinal preparations. Both the prince and his ministers† were skillful and expert; and their dispositions towards their patients, the same as those of parents towards children.

I am ashamed that I have not rare and valuable gems to recompense you with. I am only able to prepare a few expressions on a card. I now present a coarse fan to show slightly my sincerity, and as a token of gratitude for your deep and unfathomable favors. Looking upwards I pray you to cast a luminous glance at the respect and reverence, which I can no longer support in silence.

Your junior, Ho Kungleën bends his head and bows.

LETTER X.

We, inhabitants of the towns and villages in several districts, have

* This is in accordance with the Chinese custom of designating one's self by some humble term.

† That is, the physician and his assistant.

relied on the English nation's surgeon, Colledge, for the relief and cure of diseases of the eyes. Those who have been completely cured, both formerly and at the present time, who possess feelings of gratitude, have offered presents and a recompense of money; but he would not receive a *candarin* or a *cash*.

We have no means of offering a recompense; but have united in presenting bundles of crackers, and in playing on instruments of music, in the front of his house to return thanks for his vast benevolence. May ten thousand blessings be with him.

We respectfully write this that he may be previously informed.

LETTER XI.

Knocks head and thanks the great English doctor. Venerable gentleman! May your groves of almond trees be abundant in spring, and the orange trees make the water of your well fragrant; as heretofore may you be made manifest to the world, as illustrious and brilliant, and as a most profound and skillful doctor. I myself arrived at Macao last year, blind in both eyes; I have to thank you, venerable Sir, for having by your excellent methods, cured me perfectly. Your goodness is lofty as a hill, your virtue deep as the sea; therefore all my family will express their gratitude for your new creating goodness. Now I am desirous of returning home; your profound kindness it is impossible for me to requite; I feel extremely ashamed of myself for it. Again I trust that you, venerable Sir, will kindly feel compassion for me. Moreover, morning and evening you supplied me with firewood and water. This adds to the shame I feel. I am grateful for your favors and shall think of them without ceasing. Moreover, I am certain that since you have been a benefactor to the world, and your good government is spread abroad, heaven must surely grant you a long life, and you will enjoy every happiness. I return to my mean province. Your illustrious name, venerable Sir, shall extend to all time; during a thousand ages it shall not decay. I return thanks for your great kindness; inexhaustible are my words to sound your fame, and to express my thanks. I wish you everlasting tranquillity.

Presented to the great English doctor, and noble gentleman; in the 11th year of Taoukwang; by Ho Shuh, of the district of Chaougan, in the department of Changchoo in Fuhkeën; who knocks head and presents thanks.

LETTER XII.

To the English *great nation's hand** (Colledge), elder benefactor of the world, skillful medical practitioner; by whom hundreds have been cured, as if by supernatural means. Sight has been restored to my eyes, which had lost it for more than ten years. The great nation's hand admitted me into his hospital and attended me, (verily he possesses supernatural power,) and effected the wonderful work of letting me behold the light of the sun.

May happiness rest in his house for having daily given me food to eat. Returning thanks, I go to my native place. Ten thousand generations of my family shall be moved with gratitude towards him. May heaven protect him! May he enjoy felicity great as the unbounded existence of the eastern sea, and as the southern hill, for his benevolence. Given in his presence.

LIN TINGMING, pays respects.

Taoukwang, 12th year, 3d moon, 29th day.

LETTER XIII.

I was long afflicted with a disease of the eyes; year after year, I requested eminent doctors to cure me; but their medicines were not at all efficacious. Suddenly it happened that a friend, a neighbor of mine came to my house to inquire after me, who asked me, as I had this disease of the eyes, which I had so often endeavored to cure without success, why I did not go to Macao, and myself, entreat the English nation's doctor to cure me; and he told me that I should then be sure of success; that this doctor was the first of doctors, and more clever than all other men; that he was expressly sent to benefit the world, and bestow favors and kindness; that his name had spread into the four quarters of the globe; that far and near men hear of and know him; and that those afflicted with diseases of the eyes, who have taken his wonderful medicines, and felt their divine efficacy are thousands and thousands. I, on hearing this, "did not regard the distance of 1000 *le*"† and can now see distinctly with both eyes, and by your happy influence am again enabled to behold the light of heaven, and can even observe the "autumnal fibres." I am ashamed that

* A phrase used to denote a surgeon.

† A quotation from the Four Books. The district from which he came is not above 100 miles or about 300 *le* from Macao.

I can offer you no recompense; I rely upon this proof of my gratitude as a recompense for your profound kindness.

Presented at the board of the English great and eminent doctor, by the grateful Leäng Shayyung of Shuntih district; who bows and worships.

LETTER XIV.

Note of thanks from Tsae Yě for the cure of his arm, to the English nation's surgeon, Colledge.

I, Tsae Yě of Monghia (village) on the 7th of the 9th moon, when going to the village, met on the way a ship captain, riding about for amusement. We encountered each other in a narrow part of the road, where there was no room to turn off, and avoid one another. Hence I was kicked and trodden down by the horse, and my arm broken. Deeply grateful am I to the English nation's great doctor for taking me home to his worthy abode, and applying cures; so that in about a month I was perfectly healed. Yě is indeed deeply imbued with your profound benevolence. In truth it is as though we had unexpectedly found a divine spirit, giving life to the world. On earth there is none to match you. Yě sleeping and waking thinks of you. In this life, in the present world, he has no power to recompense you; but in the coming life he will serve you as a horse or a dog. To the English nation's great doctor.

TSAE YE,

with his whole family imbued by your favor, bows his head, and pays respects.

LETTER XV.

King Wan, of the the district of Kaeping is grateful to the doctor. Eminent man! Whose medicines effect cures comparable to a deity; and who, moreover, supplied me with food and lodging abundant, thus evincing virtue nearly allied to heaven, and superior to the benevolence of relations. I, King Wan was afflicted with an ailment of the eyes for seven years, during which period, I sat as it were in a dark chamber: when having come purposely to try your wonderful medicines, the bright day returned as before. Thus truly must your illustrious name be spread through the central and flowery country; and heaven must add happiness and long life. Now with head to

the ground I return thanks, and flee away to my village as a bird released, not knowing when I can adequately recompense your benevolence.

LETTER XVI.

This I address to the English physician: condescend, Sir, to look upon it.

Diseased in my eyes, I had almost lost my sight, when happily, Sir, I met with you;—you gave me medicine; you applied the knife; and, as when the clouds are swept away, now again I behold the azure heavens. My joy knows no bounds. As a faint token of my feelings I have composed a stanza in pentameter, which, with a few trifling presents, I beg you will be pleased to accept. Then happy, happy shall I be!

*Tse jin pe'n puh — gae kin yin,
Ho hwan le'ng e — ke tsze Tsin;
Ling yo tun lae — pin chung hang;
Shin chin tsze keu — e hwuy chun.
Jo fei Tung-tsze — sang tsze she,
Ting she Soo-keun — he'en tsze shin.
Fung she yang fan — kwei kwo how,
Kow pei chang leih — shwuy che pin.*

He lavishes his blessings,—but he seeks for no return,
Such medicine, such physician,—since Tsin were never known:
The medicine — how many kinds most excellent has he;
The surgeon's knife—it pierced the eye, and spring once more I see.
If Tung has not been born again, to bless the present age,
Then sure, 't is Soo reanimate, again upon the stage:
Whenever called away from far, to see your native land,
A living monument I'll wait, upon the ocean's strand.

* * * * pays his respects, and bows a hundred times.

ACCOUNT
OF THE YEARLY EXPENSES OF THE
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL;
WITH A LIST OF THE DONORS.

*Dr.**Cash*

1828	To Amount of subscriptions from the under-mentioned persons for this year :	\$370 02
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	Grant, Alexander Esq. The Honorable East India Company. Inglis, Robert Esq. Jackson, John Esq. Morrison, Rev. Dr. Matheson, James Esq. Millett, Charles Esq. McKay, William Esq. Robinson, G. B. Esq. now Sir G. B. Bart. Vachell, Rev. G. H. (Sacramental collections.) Y. Z.	
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	\$370 02
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Account.

Cr.

1828 By Expenses of the infirmary, maintenance of
out patients, medicines, instruments, specta-
cles, eye shades, &c. &c.
,, Balance carried to next year's account.

\$343 57
26 45

£

308128

F

\$370 02

Dr.

Cash

1829	To Balance from last year's account.	\$26 45
	„ Amount of subscriptions from the under-mentioned for this year:	1187 50
	Astell, J. H. Esq.	
	Beale, Thomas Esq.	
	Bannerman, James Esq.	
	Baynes, William Esq.	
	Clarke, H. M. Esq.	
	Dent, Thomas Esq.	
	Dent, Lancelot Esq.	
	Gover, John Esq.	
	Grant, Alexander Esq.	
	Hudleston, R. B. Esq.	
	Inglis, Robert Esq.	
	Jardine, William Esq.	
	Lindsay, H. H. Esq.	
	Millett, Charles Esq.	
	Morrison, Rev. Dr.	
	Morris, F. J. Esq.	
	McKay, William Esq.	
	N.	
	Plowden, W. H. C. Esq.	
	Parkyns, Capt. G. ship Merope.	
	Reeves, John Esq.	
	Reeves, John R. Esq.	
	Robinson, G. B. Esq. now Sir G. B. Bart.	
	—— Master George.	
	—— Master Douglas.	
	—— Master Charles.	
	Sturgis, James P. Esq.	
	Smith, T. C. Esq.	
	Turner, Richard Esq.	
	White, William Esq.	
	Wilkinson, Robert Esq.	
	Vachell, Rev. G. H. (sacramental collections.)	
		\$1213 95

*Account.**Cr.*

1829	By Expenses of the infirmary, maintenance of	
	out patients, medicines, leeches, instruments, spectacles, eye shades, &c. &c.	\$1177 56
	,, Balance carried to next year's account.	36 39

\$1213 95

*Dr.**Cash*

1830	To Balance from last year's account.	\$36	39
	„ Amount of subscriptions from the under-mentioned for this year:	2065	75
	Gowqua, Hong Merchant.		
	The Honorable East India Company.		
	Howqua, Hong Merchant.		
	Hartt, Jno. Esq.		
	Kingqua, Hong Merchant.		
	Mowqua, „ „		
	Punkequa, „ „		
	Yachell, Rev. G. H. (sacramental collections.)		
		\$2102	14

*Account.**Cr.*

1830	By Expenses of the infirmary, maintenance of out patients, medicines, leeches, instruments, spectacles, eye shades, &c. &c.	\$1838 00
	" Balance carried to next year's account.	264 14

 82102 14

*Dr.**Cash*

1831	To Balance from last year's account.	\$264 14
	„ Amount of subscriptions from the under-mentioned for this year:	1349 50
	Bhecajee Nesserwanjee Esq.	
	Burjorjee Rustomjee Esq.	
	Cushing, J. P. Esq.	
	Cawasjee Pestonjee Esq.	
	Cawasjee Sorabjee Esq.	
	Cooworjee Sorabjee Esq.	
	Cursetjee Jehangeer Esq.	
	Dadabhoy Ruttonjee Esq.	
	Howqua, Hong Merchant.	
	Hormojee Mervanjee Esq.	
	Jamsetjee Dosabhoy Esq.	
	Manackjee Burjorjee Esq.	
	Nesserwanjee Jamoojee Esq.	
	Pestonjee Framjee Esq.	
	Russell, Samuel Esq.	
	Rustomjee Tamooljee Esq.	
	Sturgis, J. P. Esq.	
	Tamooljee Sorabjee Esq.	
	Vachell, Rev. G. H. (sacramental collections.)	
	Y. Z.	
		\$1613 64

*Dr.**Cash*

1832	To Balance from last year's account.	\$22 46
	„ Amount of subscriptions from the under-mentioned for this year:	1877 75
	Dent, Lancelot Esq.	
	Forbes, R. B. Esq.	
	Gordon, O. H. Esq.	
	Grant, Alexander Esq.	
	The Honorable East India Company.	
	Howqua, Hong Merchant.	
	Hudleston, R. B. Esq.	
	Inglis, Robert Esq.	
	Jardine, William Esq.	
	Latimer, J. R. Esq.	
	Matheson, James Esq.	
	Millett, Charles Esq.	
	Sturgis, J. P. Esq.	
	Talbot, C. N. Esq.	
	Vachell, Rev. G. H. (sacramental collections.)	
	W. X. by Messrs. Whiteman & Co.	
	Y. Z.	
		\$1900 21

Account.

Cr.

1832	By Expenses of the infirmary, maintenance of out patients, medicines, leeches, instruments, spectacles, eye shades, &c. &c.	\$1753 47
	,, Balance carried to next year's account.	146 74

\$1900 21

*Dr.**Cash*

1833	To Balance from last year's account.	\$146 74
7183718 27011	Framjee Pestonjee Esq.	100 00
<p>N. B. Framjee Pestonjee Esq. sent the above sum as his subscription for this year, provided the infirmary was continued; and with a request that if it was not, Mr. Colledge would dispense it as occasion might require, among such persons as poverty and sickness rendered in need of pecuniary aid; Mr. C. retained the money in compliance with this request.</p> <p>I will here remark that Mr. Colledge closed this eminently useful establishment, from a feeling that he could not do full justice to it from the circumstance of increased medical duties having devolved on him, in consequence of the retirement from China of his friend and colleague, Dr. Pearson,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PHILANTHROPIST.</p>		
1500018		\$246 74

*Account.**Cr.*

1833	<i>Account.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
	By maintenance of out patients, &c.	\$244 67
	„ Balance.	2 07
		<hr/>
		\$246 74

20

1871

1871

LETTER TO LORD NAPIER.

The following letter, addressed to the Right Honorable Lord Napier, having met with his Lordship's approval, was transmitted to his majesty's ministers; and I have obtained the writer's permission to add it to these pages.

PHILANTHROPIST.

To the Right Honorable Lord Napier,
Chief Superintendent of British Trade in China.

My Lord,

In obedience to a wish expressed by your lordship, to receive some suggestion as to the manner in which the services of the medical officers of your lordship's establishment may be made most advantageously available to British subjects in China, I have the honor to lay before your lordship the following ideas which have presented themselves to me on the subject.

Your lordship having already been pleased to express your acquiescence in the necessity of stationing one of your medical officers at Whampoa, and the laws of the Chinese empire not permitting the residence of any foreigner on shore there, I would respectfully suggest to your lordship the great importance of combining with such residence, (which must necessarily be afloat,) a floating hospital, the advantages of which I will endeavor to explain.

The prevalent diseases of Whampoa Reach arise principally from malaria, to which all ships resorting thither are unavoidably exposed. Complaints arising from this cause are frequently of a malignant character, and often of fatal occurrence, even under the closest attention. Every medical person acquainted with the varied character of bilious, bilious remittent, remittent, and intermittent cases, besides bowel complaints and dysentery, which occur during the season, (say from the month of July to the ensuing March,) must acknowledge that almost constant watching is required in certain stages of these diseases. This would be impossible if the medical attendant were not resident on the spot.

On board the Company's ships, (I can state from personal experience,) the sick were regularly visited twice and thrice daily: and although each Company's ship carried two medical officers, making an aggregate of from thirty to forty medical men at Whampoa and Canton in the height of the season, they had always calls from ships not carrying surgeons and looking to them exclusively for medical aid. The opening of the trade will, however, entirely change the system. For while it is reasonable to suppose that an equal amount of tonnage and number of seamen will resort to China, it will be in vessels principally of that class which, from their size and complement of men, will not be obliged by act of parliament to carry a surgeon. None will carry more than one medical officer: and although I should be doing injustice to my professional brethren, if I thought there were one amongst us who would hesitate to afford assistance in case of emergency, still the assistance thus derived would be too uncertain for the calls of a numerous fleet: and, even with every disposition to afford it when called on, I can state from my own experience, that it would be an instance of good fortune rarely occurring, when one surgeon would not find his time and attention too fully occupied with his own ship's company to be able to afford assistance to other vessels.

Independently of the cases I have already enumerated, accidents unavoidably occur on shipboard, of compound fractures of limbs, injuries of the head, &c. &c., when constant attendance and quiet, mostly unattainable in small vessels, are indispensable to the cure. Nor should I omit to mention that in many cases much depends on the promptitude with which medical aid can be administered; as well as the danger and often the impossibility of removing patients to Canton, were there no medical establishment at Whampoa.

It is to your lordship's medical officer, therefore, that the British ships at Whampoa will look for assistance: and it is with a view of pointing out to your lordship the manner, in which his services may be rendered most efficient, that I have ventured to suggest the idea of a floating hospital, which I consider it my duty to recommend to your lordship's particular consideration.

The melancholy loss of life frequently occurring at Whampoa by drowning, points at once to the necessity of procuring apparatus for the recovery of persons apparently drowned. This, I take the liberty to suggest to your lordship, should also be found on board the floating residence; whence it could be sent to any ship requiring it, by some established signal being made, without loss of time: as I am of opinion that, in my time, many lives have been lost at Whampoa which might have been preserved, had the requisite means for restoration been procurable.

The necessity for a medical establishment at Lintin or Macao, is already apparent to your lordship. Even since your lordship's arrival here, applications for medical aid have been made to Macao by ships coming in from sea in a sickly condition. Cases of this nature are frequent; the sick have been landed at Macao, and have hitherto received assistance from the Company's medical resident there. I would also call your lordship's attention to the British population at Macao; as well as the sick who resort thither from Canton for the recovery of their health. Of Lintin I would merely remark, that a number of most valuable British ships are constantly stationed there; all of them without surgeons, and hitherto looking exclusively to Macao for medical aid. Having for some years conducted a hospital at Macao on my own responsibility, I can state with satisfaction, that I never experienced any interference either from the Chinese, or Portuguese governments. Though originally intended principally for the relief of poor Chinese, still I occasionally admitted cases of professional interest occurring among the lower orders of foreigners resorting to this country: and being fully impressed with the great advantages to be derived from an establishment of this kind for British seamen, at Lintin or Macao, I most respectfully submit the opinion to your lordship's consideration and approval; and, should the suggestion be deemed worthy of adoption, a scale of charges to shipmasters for the maintenance of the establishment can be submitted to your lordship.

The plan I have endeavored to embody in the foregoing sketch, embraces the services of both medical officers at present attached to your lordship's establishment, and would leave his majesty's superintendents without any personal medical attendant in Canton. This will, of course, be a matter for your lordship's consideration.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your lordship's most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) T. R. COLLEDGE,

Surgeon to H. M. Superintendents.

Canton, August 8th, 1834.





