and, having travelled 20 days, found an oäsis at 虎思斡耳朵 [Khuz urda] where he established a capital called 虎思.

The abdicated Emperor Hwei Tsung, as well as the Emperor K'in Tsung, together with Empresses, concubines, relatives, &c., to the number of 3,000, were now delivered up and carried north. A bastard named 張邦昌 (who had with the Prince been a hostage) was set up by the Nuchêns as Emperor of 大楚, but soon resigned in favour of the 'Southern Sung' Emperor Kao Tsung, who had meanwhile also returned from his unpleasant position as hostage. The Nuchên dominions now included the greater part of modern Shan Si, and part of Ho Nan, as well as almost the whole of Chih Li. A 'western man' [西人] named 傅亮 is described as having introduced a new military system into China, consisting of squads [伍], sections [甲], companies [隊], battalions [部], and buzudes [軍]. The Nuchên general Watriput [? Orbu] died this year, and Chanmuhot [? Jamugho], the uncompromising enemy of China, wielded absolute power over the feeble Emperor Gukimai. It seems that certain chariots or military engines [戰車] were used in China at this time, and were considered as much superior to cavalry as cavalry to infantry. A plan was formed in China for the rescue of the Emperors from Peking by sea, but collapsed. [As one of the Kin or Nuchên generals captured by the Chinese was surnamed 拓跋, it would appear probable that the Sienpi, Tobas, Nuchên, and Manchus are simply one and the same race under different political arrangements]. The captive Emperors were removed towards the close of the year to 霫, which is described as being the ancient 奚 country, 1,000 *li* north of Peking.

忽兒珊 was routed and camped at 壽思干 for 90 days, and then went west to K'irman.' 'Outside the third gate there was the *coorto* [evidently *urda*] of the Heir Apparent.' It is important to remember that the ancient 肅愼 and modern 女眞 are the *same sound* [轉音].

E. H. Parker.

N.B.—Since writing the above, I see from the clear account given in the 武聖記 that the Kitans and Nuchên are now both amalgamated in the Manchu organization. The Solon and Orunchon are less civilized but of the same stock.

HEROES AND VILLAINS IN CHINESE FICTION.

AN FPISODE FROM THE 粉粧樓.

The way to the gardens was covered with a multitude of people wending their way thither in numbers. They appeared from a distance like a swarm of ants. Here were scions of noble families, there wealthy merchants; on the road were seen carriages and horses brilliant in silver trappings; on the canal the water was hidden by the endless succession of boats; in a word, the whole city appeared to be gathering in the gardens for the enjoyment of the summer's day.

Three gentlemen, the Lords Lo, Tsan and Lo Hun, with their friend Hu Kuai, gazed delightedly on the scene, and, eager to reach the far-famed parks drawing so many visitors, whipped their horses and quickly neared the principal entrance. As they approached, Hu Kuai, looking up, beheld a scene of wondrous beauty. Hills and dales seemed to rest on broad sheets of water, while myriads of combinations of purple and green formed lines of brilliance which defy words to depict. The gardens were indeed worthy of their fame.

As they ambled toward the gate, Lo Hun remarked, 'Brother Hu, you have not seen all: in this garden there are 13 lofty pavilions and 42 pleasure houses, a view sweep-

ing over nine bow-shots of summer landscape ; one day is insufficient for the exploration of its beauties.' 'Then let us dismount and leave our horses with the servants here under the trees,' replied Hu Kuai. This was done and passing through the gate they walked towards the middle of the garden. An attendant, seeing by their style that the three belonged to one of the noble families of Chang-an, called up his best smile and meekly asked if the gentlemen only came to stroll through the grounds, or if they intended also to partake of refreshments, humbly informing them that their tickets were sufficient for the former, but in the latter case a fixed sum had to be deposited before they could be served ; this was a rule and prevented confusion or repudiation, explained the servant. The interpellation roused the ire of Lo Hun and in a voice of thunder he exclaimed, 'You blind dog of a slave, who are you ? Are we among your debtors ?' At this moment the proprietor of a restaurant recognised Lord Lo and hastened to apologise for the servant's ignorance of who the three gentlemen were, and hoped Lord Lo would excuse him. The gentlemen thereupon proceeded on their way, but remarked, loud enough to be heard some distance, that 'the fellow had the look of one fit for a felon's cell,' on overhearing which, other servants trembled and hurriedly retired into the recesses of their booths.

Readers will ask why were the servants so afraid of Lord Lo ? Because the Lo family were noted for their dare-devil spirits, and were notoriously apt to mix themselves up in reckless riots. When any of them struck a blow, it was a heavy one, and usually meant death to an opponent. Besides this they were related by marriage with royalty ; of course the Emperor would not screen them for such a crime as murder, yet in lesser misdemeanours aggrieved ones had little chance of redress. Hence in Chang-an the Lo family were feared by all. This however in passing.

The three gentlemen, as they strolled among the pavilions, could hear in the West the people piping and singing, while from the East came the cheering sound of the drums. Looking around they noticed a small pavilion in which the tables were laid for serving wine ; so, sauntering in with a haughty air, they seated themselves. A waiter approached and enquired, if they desired refreshments, and what they would like to eat. 'We do not care for any particular dish,' said Lord Lo, 'but if you have a really good brand of wine, and any new and palatable tit-bits, you may serve us.' The servant at once covered the table with wine and various delicacies, and the three were about to help themselves, when two new-comers appeared. The foremost wore a head-dress clasped with jade, and was clothed in embroidered work of royal red, girded with a silken sash ; his feet were encased in vermilion shoes. The second had a marone-coloured head-dress and wore an azure-tinted gown. As they entered, those seated at the tables arose and begged them to be seated also. With a wave of the hand the two sat down at a large table near the door. Now who were these two gentlemen? The first clothed in royal red was a son of the Chancellor Sien's, named Sien Yen-fang, the second dressed in blue was a hanger-on of the Sien family named Chang Shang-tien. The two were habitués of the gardens, well known, much feared, and accustomed to having their own way in most things.

The Lo gentlemen did not view their advent with much pleasure, but the customary salutes were passed, for Lord Sien knew that airs would not be tolerated by the Los. Neither side, however, attempted any approach to familiar intercourse.

* * * *

Mrs. Chang Erh-niang, with her lodger Mr. Kuo Tsu-tang and his daughter Miss Kuo Chiao-yun, having burnt their incense paper at the temple, were returning in their small boat. As they neared the summer gardens, Mrs. Chang remarked, 'We might

take Miss Kuo into the garden and have a look at the flowers.'

'I am afraid it would not be safe to take so timid a girl among the multitude of grown-up people assembled there,' observed Mr. Kuo. 'Dogged as usual,' retorted Mrs. Chang, 'since your wife's death you have mewed yourself and the child indoors, to-day we have gone to burn incense and the place lies in our way, what harm can attend taking the child in to see the beauties of the grounds? Let her enjoy her day's outing.'

As Mr. Kuo had no valid reason to offer why he should not, he told the boatman to wait for them, and the three landed, and entered the garden. In their rambles they passed by the pavilion where Lord Sien and the Los were seated. The former, who could scent a beauty as a fly scents smells, observed them; rising up he went out and leaned over the balustrade. 'It is that family,' he said to himself, 'but I can do nothing bare-faced in this crowded place, I must use artifice.' The toady Chang Shang-tien had also noticed the girl and seeing Lord Sien's state of abstraction guessed the cause, so he said: 'Does my master wish to transplant a flower?' Lord Sien laughed as he replied, 'I am afraid we would fail.' 'There need not be any difficulty; the woman keeps a cookshop outside the north gate, the old man is, I expect, some poor dependent of her's, so the girl must be of a poor family, and there is the power of your name; if you are desirous, I will act as go-between, and guarantee that in the time it takes to bend a bow the girl will be yours.'

'If you manage this affair successfully,' cried Lord Sien gleefully, 'you may depend on my persuading my father to appoint you to some fat berth.'

Chang Shang-tien in delight hastened out of the pavilion, and overtaking Mr. Kuo, tapped him on the shoulder, saying, 'Old friend, excuse me.' The old man turning round saw a scholarly-looking gentleman, and replied, 'Honoured Sir, I beg you.' Thereupon the two exchanged names and Chang laughingly asked, 'What relation is the young lady, who is walking before us with Mrs. Chang, to my honoured friend?'

'You flatter me, that is my daughter.'

'I am here as a deputy for an honoured master,' Mr. Chang proceeded to say.

Mr. Kuo was not overpleased at this intelligence, and inquired who the honoured master was who had so suddenly admired his daughter, further asking his name and residence.

'His equal would be hard to find,' answered Mr. Chang, 'his name is sufficient to prove that it is Sien Yen-fang, a son of the Chancellor Sien. Now what do you think of such a splendid alliance, surely you will be deeply grateful to me if I arrange the affair.

'The son of Sien Hsien?' interrupted Kuo, his face reddening with anger.

'It is.'

'I hate him with the hate of a son for his father's murderer. And this notorious despot actually desires an alliance with me! If Sien Hsien grovelled before me in the dust begging for my daughter, I would not consent,' and Kuo saluted Chang and walked away. Chang felt so nonplussed that he was half inclined to be angry, but could not help also feeling amused at the rebuff; however, he took a step after Kuo and called out, 'Mr. Kuo, I have tried to do you a favour, see that hereafter you do not repent your obstinacy.'

'The bark of a dog,' roared Kuo, 'the bestowal of my daughter rests with me alone, what then have I to repent of?' and almost choking with rage he walked off.

Chang Shang-tien gave vent to an exclamation and returned to the pavilion.

'Well?' asked Lord Sien.

'Ah my Lord do not let us speak about it. At first I made some progress, but when I mentioned your name, the old man's countenance changed, and he said, 'To

other men I would be delighted but to Sien'—and Chang hesitated.

'Sien what? *go on*'! was the angry interruption.

'I am afraid you will be displeased if I continue.'

'Speak out, don't be afraid.'

'He said, "If that old robber Sien preferred the request on his knees, I would not grant it." Now was not this malevolence? Of course I had to drop the negotiation.'

Lord Sien could not contain himself when he heard this, and anger made his eyes flash fire as he cried, 'Good, all right. He refuses, does he? very well.'

Lord Sien was not the man to let the matter rest, and as the garden was actually his father's property, rented by the restaurateurs, he had a ready means of revenge. He had only to ask the keepers to disperse the visitors, then lock the gates and call on his braves to seize the girl, to have her at his mercy. The two could read in each other's faces that a similar idea possessed both. 'What will we do if she gets out and proclaims the wrong done her?' queried Sien. 'My Lord, all the officials in the city are obsequious placemen of your father's,' argued Chang; 'who then, would care to incur your father's enmity for the sake of a poor girl? Besides cooked potage cannot be resolved into raw rice. The old man will accept the immutable; your father can generously enrich him somewhat, and you need not fear but that they all will be happy enough.'

'You are right. I'll trouble you to go and give the word to the keepers.'

Chang at once descended, called the family servants back, told some braves to go to Lord Sien for orders, and requested the landlords to clear the gardens, promising them 15 taels apiece if they dispersed the people quickly.

The waiters immediately began securing all loose articles, at the same time warning the holiday makers that they must at once depart. This alarmed the people, still some who had not finished their wine demanded back part of their deposits; but the keepers argued that the turmoil was caused by Lord Sien, otherwise they would only be too happy to supply all. 'Whoever has not received his money's worth, had better apply to the Chancellor Sien,' hinted the waiters. This was enough for the visitors and all quickly withdrew, to the great delight of the shop-keepers as they contemplated the handsome gains likely to accrue.

The underlings soon found, however, that the two gentlemen still remained in the pavilion, and how to get rid of them was a puzzle; but the attempt must be made. One therefore went up to these gentlemen, timidly asking for permission to address them. 'Say on,' cried Lord Lo. 'Why do you hesitate?'

'Lord Sien has been insulted by some one,' said the waiter, 'and eager to be revenged has ordered us to shut our shops and clear the grounds of visitors; he has also called in his braves and I am afraid you are likely to be disturbed.'

'Let him hit whom he likes,' replied Lord Lo, 'that will not stop us from eating, you surely never suppose we will meddle in his affairs.'

'It is not that. What I am afraid of,' urged the waiter, 'is that the disturbance may inconvenience and anger you. I beg you, gentlemen, to go home to-day somewhat earlier. To-morrow you can come back and enjoy yourselves to your heart's content, this will be the safest course.'

'Oh we are not afraid of being disturbed, we rather enjoy seeing men use their weapons. You may go, we will not leave here before nightfall.'

The waiter, seeing they were not to be persuaded, said, 'So long as you do not interfere to spoil Lord Sien's sport, it will be all right.'

The Los did not deign to reply and the man left. When he had gone, Lo Hun

turned to Hu Kuai and said, 'Brother, this shutting of the shops and driving away of people in broad daylight, must have something unusual at the bottom of it.'

'I'll go and enquire,' said Hu Kuai, and descending he met Chang Shang-tien face to face.

'I wish to ask you something,' said Hu Kuai.

'What?'

'You are of the Sien household?'

'Yes, I am.'

'Why is Lord Sien closing the shops and mustering his braves? Who has been troubling him?'

Chang, knowing Hu was of the Lo company, proceeded to give a one-sided account of the passage between himself and Mr. Kuo.

'He deserves chastisement,' cried Hu Kuai, when Chang had finished, and he saluted and returned.

'What have you heard?' asked Lo Tsan.

'If the same had been said of me, I also would give the man a thrashing,' and Hu Kuai related Chang's version of the affair.

'My worthy brother, you are putting too much faith in Chang's partial statements; depend upon it there is some other motive. Even among the poorer classes, the universal rule which demands a becoming reply to a marriage proposal, prevails; how then, when a Noble honours a poor commoner by desiring to marry his daughter, can there be any possibility of the offer being met by insult, even if the honour be declined?'

'What you say is true,' replied Hu Kuai. 'I must find out what sort of character the old man bears,' and he began to interrogate the servants concerning Kuo Tsu-tang.

* * * * *

Mr. Kuo, after his angry parting with Chang, proceeded to accompany Mrs. Chang and his daughter in their walk around the garden. Very soon he began to notice an unusual stir among the people near him, and overheard one chatter to the other, 'Who is it, I wonder, that has declined his offer of marriage and also grossly insulted him, thereby rousing his anger, and making it impossible for us to finish drinking what we have paid for? That heaven-blighted, evil-omened Chang Shang-tien says that the offender is one old man named Kuo. I expect there must be some old quarrel.' Others cried, 'Don't let us concern ourselves with them or their affairs, it is better to get out of the way as quickly as possible.' These remarks rather startled Kuo. When he imparted what he had heard to Mrs. Chang, she also felt uneasy, and accused Kuo of having, by his surly disposition, again courted misfortune. 'What are we to do?' she cried. 'We must at once try to get out through one of the back gates.' But when they reached the gate, they found it already closed. They now began to tremble for their safety. There was no place where they could, by hiding, hope to evade pursuit, and the possibility of escape seemed so hopeless that Miss Kuo began to weep.

'Don't weep,' cried Mrs. Chang; 'weeping will not do us any good; let us run to the front entrance and see if we can slip out among the crowd unperceived.'

It was a forlorn hope, but their last, and they ran towards the gate, only to find that everyone had gone and they three alone were left. Here also Lord Sien was waiting. 'Where are you running to?' he cried, 'you can't escape me.' Halloing to his braves, thirty to forty clad in bonnets and jerkins, and armed with staves, jumped out. 'Ha ha!' they cried as they stopped the fugitives, 'you had better accept our master's matrimonial proposals, old fellow, if you do, you will be handsomely provided for; if you refuse, you imperil your life.'

Kuo, when he saw the unfortunate turn things were taking, became imbued with the recklessness of despair, and began to vituperate. 'In open day to force a man to give away his daughter, merits punishment,' he cried, and he aimed a blow at Sien.

'Hold him down,' shouted the latter, and immediately two servants struck Kuo with their staves across the belly and knocked him down. Kuo was unable to rise, but cried, 'Save me, save me.' 'You silly old man,' said the braves. 'spare yourself the trouble; crying for help is of little use here, and they held him fast in order that Lord Sien might carry off the girl. In the meantime Mrs. Shang had been tripped up by Chang Shang-tien and also lay helpless on the ground. Miss Kuo, when she saw her father struck, considering all as lost, rushed towards one of the towers intending to throw herself over. Lord Sien, divining her intention, ran to intercept her; she then fled in another direction. It was a pitiable sight to see them all so completely at the mercy of such a villain.

Lord Sien soon caught Miss Kuo, and when carrying her off passed near the pavilion where the two, Lo and Hu Kuai, were seated. The struggle having roused the three, Lo Hun had already jumped down. Observing Lord Sien carrying the girl and making toward the back gardens, he at once considered he saw the motive and prime mover in the piece of unprincipled scoundrelism just being enacted. Rushing after Sien, he caught him by the girdle and demanded a full explanation. Lord Sien was rather startled when he perceived who had stopped him, but said to Lord Lo, 'Brother, never meddle with other people's affairs, let us part, please.' 'If you release the girl and give me some good reason for your conduct, I will not interfere with you,' rejoined Lo Hun. However the braves, seeing that Lord Lo had seized their master, hastened to his aid. Lo Hun with a shout picked up a couple of clubs weighing nearly 300 catties; whirling them about to right and left with a rattle and clatter, staves and men fell together on all sides before these formidable weapons. At the same time Hu Kuai and Lo Tsan, clenching their fists, clove through the mob and rescued Mrs. Chang and Kuo Tsutang. Lord Sien, when he saw the untoward turn of things, released Miss Kuo and stood aside, while Chang Shang-tien, nearly frightened to death, meditated flight, but could not determine on a place of refuge: eventually the two retired behind a large tablet.

'Come with us and explain all this trouble,' said Lo Tsan, and Mr. Kuo and the two women followed the three gentlemen into the pavilion. Here Kuo wept aloud, and falling on his knees piteously begged for protection. 'Don't be distressed,' said Lo Tsan, 'we will protect you; but relate to us your antecedents.' Thereupon Kuo gave them a sketch of his life, showing how he had lost his office through the machinations of old Sien Hsien; how he eventually settled in Chang-an; adding, as he wept at the recollection of his troubles, —'He is the murderer of my father! how could I give my daughter to his son? I know better than to think that, because Lord Sien saw my daughter had attractions, he really wished to marry her. Although I am a poor man, I understand enough of etiquette to be aware that, when each has a dwelling, the open street is not the place where matrimonial alliances would be discussed; this tended to increase my anger. Then he called his bullies to seize and beat me; if it had not been for your heroism and gracious help, by this time I would most likely be lying dead,' and poor Kuo crouching down gave way to a burst of uncontrollable grief. At this recital the eyes of the three gentlemen flashed fire. Telling Kuo not to distress himself, that he might depend on their help, they rushed out of the pavilion, and called Sien to come and prostrate himself in the dust and apologize for his dastardly conduct. 'See that you allow these people to leave the garden unmolested,' they cried. 'If you remain obdurate, we will thrash you into compliance, you outcome of incontinence. We are not afraid to meet your father before the Emperor!'

'A nice mess we are in now, through rousing up these pestilent fellows,' remarked Sien to Chang as they sheltered behind the monument; 'this will break up the whole affair, and in fact I think we had better give it up.'

'Don't say that my Lord,' replied Chang, 'you will never, surely, allow the dumplings to be snatched from between your very teeth; you ought not to consider the matter at an end. What you have already endured calls for a supreme effort at turning the tables. The bravest of the brave may be overpowered by numbers. Call in some really powerful braves, and then see whether they are invincible or not.'

'If we were dealing with some of the commonalty,' argued Lord Sien, 'I would act as you recommend, but the resentment of the Los might prove unpleasant, to incur it would be to court an inconquerable evil.'

'That need not trouble you,' urged Chang. 'Old Lo Tseng is abroad; if we makean end of the three, who in Chang-an will have the temerity to appear against your father?'

Chang's arguments raised the courage of Lord Sien, and some servants were sent in haste to call two hundred braves.

All this time the Los were heaping abuse on Lord Sien. Writhing under their insults, his anger at length overcame his fear. 'There are bounds even to vituperation,' he shouted back, 'and yours have overstepped them. Why do you wish to meddle in a quarrel which does not concern you? You surely do not think that fear of you can deter me; we are both scions of nobility, if we have to appear before the Emperor, I will stand before him as your equal; what necessity is there then for such uncultivated behaviour on your part?' and bounding out he ordered the attendauts to double bar the gates and attack the three unmannerly fellows. His orders were at once obeyed, and some thirty braves, assisted by over ten servants, flourished their staves, and depending on their numbers, rushed to the attack. Lord Lo, seeing that a deadly encounter was inevitable, called on Hu Kuai to guard the three in the pavilion, while he with his brother met the assailants. Lo Hun grasped the enormous clubs which had already done such good service, while Lo Tsan snatched down a heavy stave and joined the fray. Lord Sien made an attempt on the pavilion to seize the refugees, but Hu Kuai bravely held his ground and repulsed all attacks. Lord Lo swept on like a fierce wind, making his opponents tremble as if they were facing a ferocious tiger, while Lo Hun in his might rivalled the death-dealing dragon of the ocean. The two mauled those opposed to them with such effect, that the forty odd men soon lost courage, scattered in all directions, and incontinently fled. The Los proved that the fame of their valour was not undeserved.

The stall keepers had not escaped unscathed either. In the turmoil, crockery, table gear, and gambling effects, were smashed to pieces. The valuable plants and flowers had also been greatly damaged and in some places completely destroyed. The keepers were wishing the trouble well over, for, although expecting a certain amount of damage, they never had contemplated the probability of so complete a destruction of their property, but beyond attempting to secure their cash boxes they were helpless.

When Lord Sien saw that the Los in less than an hour had dispersed his men, who were with aching heads and swollen eyes flying for their lives in all directions, he became alarmed for his own safety, and with Chang Shang-tien fled towards the back gardens. Lord Lo, his fiery temper being fairly aroused, continued to pursue and knock down the servants. Hu Kuai, seeing they had won the day, shouted, 'Stop fighting, I think it will be better for us to leave,' whereupon Lord Lo ceased the pursuit and returned to the pavilion. The two brothers then escorted Mr. Kuo and the

two ladies towards the entrance, Hu Kuai clearing the way in front, when all at once a peculiar noise seemed to rise around them, and 200 men, girded with long swords and trailing staves, burst in and barred the way. Lord Sien's call for help had been promptly responded to, and the reinforcement had arrived in the nick of time. Lord Sien, seeing his soldiers had come to the rescue, rushed out shouting, 'Seize them all and you will be handsomely rewarded.'

The Los without hesitation began to wield their weapons, but Chang Shang-tien taking advantage of the melée jumped in and catching up Miss Kuo carried her off. 'Alas! alas,' cried Mrs. Chang, 'they have carried her off, our child; we are indeed undone.' Lord Sien, elated at Chang's success, called on the men to capture old Kuo and bring him along. Hu Kuai, when he heard Mrs. Chang lamenting, looked around, and missing the father and daughter, called to the Los to fight their way inwards and he would endeavour to meet them. Making a supreme effort, the three met together in the centre; none of Sien's men could withstand them, their onslaught was as that of dragons and tigers. But strong as they were, they began to feel the effects of the superhuman exertions they had previously made. Yet Miss Kuo's good fortune had not yet deserted her.

The father and daughter were both captured and placed in a house in the rear of the gardens; still Lord Sien not satisfied with this success, conceived the idea of also seizing his three opponents, and began shouting commands to that effect. Lord Lo at once formed a plan. We may keep on fighting all day, he thought to himself, but will that release the imprisoned ones who are now hid away? If we can get hold of Sien, then they will be quickly forthcoming; so he kept pressing in Lord Sien's direction. Sien was eagerly inciting his men to capture the three, when Lord Lo with a bound and a shout caught hold of him. As Lord Sien attempted to turn round, he felt himself carried towards the front. The braves tried their utmost to rescue him, but with Hu Kuai on the right, and Lo Hun on the left, they might as well have dashed against a mountain.

Lord Lo dragged Sien to the gate, and there administered a kick which laid him prostrate. To howl, 'Save me!' was all he could do. 'We can make our own terms now,' cried Lord Lo to his comrades, 'you need not continue the fighting.' Lo Hun and Hu Kuai soon joined him. The braves came rushing along intending to make another attempt at rescuing their master; upon which Lord Lo drew a dagger and ordered them back. 'If you don't,' he cried, 'I will first cut your master's mulish head off, and then crack your skulls.' As he spoke he made two passes at Sien's heart, as if taking sure aim for the final stroke. 'Brother Lo,' cried Sien submissively, 'spare my life, the braves will not attempt anything.'

'If you wish your life spared,' returned Lord Lo fiercely, 'tell us where you have hid Kuo and his daughter and have them quickly brought here.'

Lord Sien attempted to prevaricate, saying he did not know where the two had hid themselves. 'Allow me to get up,' he added, 'and I will in- stitute a search and bring them here.'

'Don't attempt to deceive me,' angrily interrupted Lord Lo, 'I'll sink this dagger in your brains!'

Sien shook with fear, and his countenance became as clay. 'Give me time to speak,' he cried.

'Be quick then,' was the answer.

Seeing there was no help for it, he said, 'They are in that house which stands in the back part of the garden.'

'Get them quickly brought here,' rejoined Lord Lo.

Lord Sien gave the necessary order and his men hurried to obey.

Lo Tsan, when the two arrived, jerked

Sien to his feet and said, 'Have the gate opened at once.' The gate was immediately unbarred, and with Lo Hun and Hu Kuai leading the way, Mr. Kuo and the two ladies were escorted through the entrance. Lord Lo sheathing his dagger said to Lord Sien, 'You must accompany me a little farther,' and he drew him outside the principal entrance, then, when the boat with Mr. Kuo, his daughter, and Mrs. Chang had gone some distance, he kicked down Lord Sien saying, 'Take that as a suitable punishment,' and left. Following after Mr. Kuo's boat the three young men returned to the city.

The humiliating treatment Lord Sien had received was the reverse of agreeable to one who had from his birth led the unbridled and pampered life of a nobleman's favourite son. It was galling in the extreme. When he thought of the cornering and kicking the Los had subjected him to, his feelings became uncontrollable, but by the time his attendants had revived him, his late opponents were far from the scene. Besides the surging feelings of anger and mortification which shook him, his person bore many marks of the fray; so as soon as possible Chang Shang-tien called some retainers and Lord Sien was lifted into a chair and carried home.

G. TAYLOR.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOLK-LORE OF CHINA.

Having been appointed to act in this part of the world as local Secretary of the Folk-Lore Society of Great Britain, it has appeared to me after reflection that the only possible way of dealing effectively with the vast field of Folk-Lore in China, which has received but slight cultivation at the hands of Western Scholars, is to invite the co-operation of all Europeans and Americans resident in China. There can be little doubt that, either by their position or influence, they could materially contribute towards a thorough investigation of a subject which is daily becoming of greater interest, and which is gradually assuming a place of no small importance among other branches of science.

The Folk-Lore of China is not only a study of great interest in itself, but the mass of materials it contains will, after careful collection and discrimination, be of great scientific value for purposes of comparative Folk-Lore. No attempt has ever been made to deal with this subject as a whole. What little has been written has, with a few notable exceptions, been generally of a local character. What is now proposed is to endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, collections of the lore peculiar to different parts of China and its dependencies. Each collection, while in itself highly instructive, will be chiefly important as forming a link in the chain of facts from which a general account of the Folk-Lore of China may be deduced. If willing helpers can be found to assist in the work of collection, the success of the scheme is ensured. Failure can only result from want of co-operation and support. It is therefore earnestly hoped that all will be ready to give their aid either by collecting and contributing themselves or by inducing others to do so.

As a first step towards obtaining a collection of Chinese Folk-Lore as complete as possible, and with a view to uniformity of