Compare the foregoing phrase 梹榔木.

30. 白鼻哥；奸仔.

The white nose; the villain.

(In the Chinese drama the villain of the piece is distinguished by a whitened nose).

Usage.—A rascal, a villain, a person with the worst kind of reputation.

31. 打齋鶴；導人升仙.

A paper stork on which a dead man rides to heaven; to lead men to a place among the immortals.

Usage.—Applied to those who lead men astray into vicious courses that end in the destruction of their victims.

T. W. Pearce.
J. H. Stewart Lockhart.

(To be continued.)

FUNEREAL NOTICES.

'FRIENDS WILL PLEASE ACCEPT OF THIS INTIMATION.'

The death of a parent is perhaps nowhere and to no one so eventful an occurrence as in China and to a Chinese. To the official above all such a bereavement carries with it a double shock; he not only feels the sorrow natural in a son, but he knows that the fact of having lost a parent consigns him to the ranks of the unemployed and forces him to live in retirement for a space of twenty-seven months, if he be a Chinese properly so called. The Manchu custom requires mourning for a hundred days only, and this rule applies to all bannermen alike, whether Manchu, Mongol or Chinese. It may be remembered that when Li Hung-chang lost his mother a few years ago, his personal conduct of the post he occupies was deemed of such vital importance that, in spite of his own entreaties, assumed or genuine, the Court insisted that he should mourn his mother in the Manchu fashion, for 100 days only. This compulsory curtailment of the mourning season is almost, perhaps quite, without parallel and was not extended to his brother, Li Han-chang.

Among the ceremonies entailed by the death of a parent is the circulation, among the friends, relations and colleagues of the bereaved survivors, of an intimation of the death, consisting of two documents, one giving a short history of the deceased and eulogising his or her virtues; the other reciting the titles and honours bestowed on the deceased and announcing the date of the obsequies. In the case of officials stationed at the open ports, it sometimes happens that the circle of friends to whom the intimation is forwarded includes foreigners with whom the sender has official relations. This constitutes one of the rare cases in which Europeans are admitted to a participation in the family life of the otherwise exclusive Chinese.

The following is a translation of such an intimation of death. The sender in this case is Lo Chia-chieh, Magistrate of the Shanghai Mixed Court, but now removed from office by the event here intimated, viz. the death of his mother. The translator received a copy as being his colleague on the Mixed Court bench.

1.—*Biography and eulogy of the deceased.*

A sorrowful intimation on the part of the afflicted.

Lo Chia-chieh (1),
Lo Chia-ch'i,
Lo Chia-t'ang,
Lo Chia-jung,
Lo Chia-chi,

who, weeping tears of blood, bow their heads to the ground.

Our late mother was by nature loving and true; she taught herself to be ever thrifty and saving. At an early age she was bereft of a mother's care but gave earnest heed to the teaching of her father as if it had been her mother's own counsels. At the age of seventeen, she became the wife of our late father, whose grandmother, Liu *T'ai Shu-jên* (2), was at that time still in the ancestral hall. Our lamented mother waited devotedly on the two elder generations of her husband's family (3), striving earnestly to anticipate their wants and, whether at home or abroad, acting in consistent obedience to the tenets of filial duty as ordained by Heaven. Thereby she earned our *great-grandmother's warmest* affection. Our grandfather, having taken the degree of Senior Licentiate (4), was appointed a District Director of Studies and was selected for the post of District Magistrate of Shu-ch'êng in Anhui, from which he had to retire on the occasion of our *great-grandfather's decease.* On the expiry of the term of mourning, he was chosen for the post of District Magistrate at Chin-hua in Chehkiang and was later transferred to the Ts'ŭ-ch'i District. Our father and mother continued to attend on him at each of these posts. Subsequently, at the instance of our grandfather, our father purchased the rank of Receiver in the Salt Department and elected to be appointed to Chehkiang. He proceeded to the capital of that province to await office. At this time our great grandmother passed away to the poignant grief of our mother who dearly loved her husband's grand-parents. Unceasingly but silently she wept for them, with the result that she injured her eyesight. When our grandfather's period of mourning was over, the Board of Civil Office selected him for the post of District Magistrate at T'ai-ho in Yünnan, from which position he was detached as (2) Subprefect of Yung-pei. Our grandmother, Chou *T'ai Shu-jen*, thinking the province of Yünnan too far off, did not accompany her husband to his new post, but went to live with our father who was nearer at hand, being then awaiting office at Hangchow. Our father maintained her till her death there, in 1832, obliged him to retire into private life. Thereupon he took our mother with him to visit our grandfather in Yünnan. The latter shortly afterwards also breathed his last, leaving behind him (for his salary was small) little beyond his books. Our mother aided our father to convey the coffin to their native place for burial, and thenceforth devoted herself entirely to the affairs of her own household, allowing herself from morning to night but little leisure. After some years, our father's mourning being ended, he obtained in due course the appointment of Salt Receiver at Shih-yen Ch'ang in Chehkiang. He had then many mouths to feed on a small income, but our mother worked with might and main, doing with her own hands much that another would leave to her women and maidservants. So notable a housewife was she in precept and example, that she was preëminently the first in importance by her own fireside. The day's work done, she would stitch and sew by lamplight far into the night, and, though her eyesight was seriously affected, she disregarded her ailments for the sake of her work. Thus a score of years passed, of which each day was the counterpart of its fellows. By dint of incessantly practising economy, thrift became at last part of our mother's nature.

Then our father in turn went to his rest, and as at that time the Empire was in a state of disorder (5), our mother hurriedly removed us from the vicinity of danger and

left Chehkiang for Fuhkien, where for years she underwent daily privations, sorrowing all the while for our departed father, weeping in silence the whole day long, till both eyes little by little lost the power of sight and her bodily strength was gradually undermined.

In 1866 I, her unfilial son, Lo Chia-chieh, left my position as secretary in the Imperial Patent Office and was despatched to Kiang-su as expectant Subprefect. Having thus acquired a position, I was enabled to receive our mother in my own house. In process of time I was appointed District Magistrate of Fêng-hsien and later of Nan-hui; with the salary thus accruing I was able to provide somewhat for our mother's maintenance, she being then over 60 years of age. My brothers Chia-ch'i and Chia-t'ang had already taken the degree of *hsiu-ts'ai* and were now living with me and waiting on our mother. The family circle gathered round her was full of life and bustle from morning to night. My brothers just referred to having several times competed for the *Chü-jên* degree without success, eventually purchased rank and proceeded to different provinces. My remaining brothers Chia-jung, Chia-chi 樾 and Chia-chi 極 had already been appointed to their provinces. When we paid our mother our evening visit, she was wont to exhort us as follows: 'To be a profitable servant of the State is no easy matter. Remember that our family has owed much to the Emperor's gracious goodness and do you, to whom, though lacking wealth, are given positions under government, keep ever before you as your aim in life these three words: clean-handed, careful, diligent. And see that you never sully the good name bequeathed to you by your father and grandfather.' This counsel we all reverently took to heart, and if during all these years of service to the State we have kept clear of dishonour (and our superiors know this has been so), we owe it entirely to our adherence to the teaching of our lamented mother.

In 1880 I, the unfilial Chia-chieh, was nominated River Subprefect at Nanking. There my son, Shao-hun, died at an early age. Our aunt, who was early left a widow with one son, had for years resided with me wherever stationed. In 1883 I was transferred to the subprefecture of Ch'uan-sha, and while there our aunt died, being followed to the grave shortly after by my eldest daughter. So many successive misfortunes had come upon our mother that she now suffered from a settled melancholy. In the 6th moon of last year our brother Chia-chi 樾 also died at Soochow. This brother had been adopted as heir to our third uncle, who with his wife died several years ago, leaving an only child, a little girl. From the age of three this child was cherished by our mother and on attaining maturity was married to a member of the Lu family of Hang-chow. In parting with her on the occasion of the marriage, our mother wept and said, 'My little girl, my great desire is now accomplished and I think your father's spirit will rest in peace. Your brother by adoption, Chia-chi, still remains to carry on his uncle's lineage, so the task committed to me is well nigh fulfilled.' This is why she felt a specially tender love for Chia-chi and this is why his loss was such a terrible shock from which our mother's strength never entirely recovered.

I was then transferred to preside over the Shanghai Mixed Court and there received our mother to live with me in my official residence. I hoped, by searching on all sides for medical aid, to see her once more enjoy health and spirits. But alas! in the first moon of this year she suddenly was seized with bronchitis and her lungs were affected. Physicians were called in from every quarter, but what with her extreme age and the failure of her vital powers, it was hopeless to expect a speedy recovery. My brothers arrived from other provinces to wait on her in person, themselves administering draughts and medicaments, but without avail. In the latter part of the 5th moon she began to sink, and on the 9th June, during the night,

her state was aggravated by disorders of the digestive organs. She lingered till the 11th and at 7 a.m. passed away to her long home.

Alas! What anguish! Were our ministrations then so skill-less that this thing should have happened to her? We can only beat the ground and call aloud to Heaven without cease. How can we desist? But her resting place is not yet prepared; we must therefore choke back our sobs and turn every faculty towards the execution of this paramount duty. We sit on straw and exchange incoherent words. Friends! we ask for your sympathy.

2.—*Recital of titles, date of funeral, etc.*

We, Lo Chia-chieh and her other unfilial sons, own that deep indeed is our transgression and our sin; for had we but put an end to our own worthless existence, this calamity would never have been entailed by our faults on our Illustrious Mother, who had conferred upon her by Imperial command the title of *An-jên* (6), afterwards that of *T'ai Shu-jên* (2), and lastly the higher grade of *T'ai Fu-jên* (7).

The late *Tai Fu-jên* was taken ill and completed her old age at 7 a.m. on the 7th June, 1886, at the Mixed Court, Shanghai, where her coffin is now lying in state. She was born at 7 p.m. on September 4, 1808, and enjoyed an old age of 79 years.

We have with our own hands performed the last offices (8) for our dead mother. In obedience to the law we have assumed mourning and selected a day on which to convey the coffin to our native place, there to be laid to rest.

With respectful salutation we send this sorrowful intimation to our townsmen, colleagues, fellow-graduates, family friends and relatives.

We have reverently selected the 10th day of July for the reception of offerings of condolence (9).

The unfilial orphan sons, Lo Chia-chieh and four others, who weep tears of blood and prostrate themselves with their faces to the ground.

The grandsons, Shao-hui and seven others, who will bear mourning with trimmed edges (10) for the full period and who weep and bow their heads.

The greatgrandson, Yüeh-nien, who will wear mourning with trimmed edges (10) for five months and who brushes away his tears and bows his head.

The brother-in-law, Ju-ch'êng, who will mourn for nine months, and who wipes away his tears and bows his head.

The nephews, Chia-huan and four others, who will mourn the full period and who brush away their tears and bow their heads.

The grand-nephews, Hsiang-hsi and seven others, who will mourn for nine months and who wipe away their tears and bow their heads.

G. M. H. PLAYFAIR.

Notes.

1. The late mixed Court Magistrate and eldest son.

2. Title of Honour betowed on wives of officials of the 3rd rank.

3. i.e. her husband's grandmother, just referred to, and her husband's father, to be mentioned later.

4 拔貢生. A degree obtainable only every twelve years.

5. The Taiping Rebellion is referred to.

6. The title of wives of officials of the 6th rank.

7. The title of wives of officials of the 1st and 2nd ranks.

8. The expression used means to place a coin in the mouth and dress the body in a shroud.

9. Such as honorific tablets, scrolls, etc. contributed by friends.

10. 'Mourning with trimmed edges' 齊衰 (read here *tz'ŭ-tsui*). The mourning is sack-cloth, which, in the case of the chief mourners, the sons, has ravelled edges.