January 978) there was a total eclipse of the sun [日食旣] on the 1st day of the moon. On the 1st day of the 5th moon 1,091 there was an eclipse of the sun. Another partial eclipse on the 1st of the 3rd moon 1,094.

In the year A.D. 979 a new orrery [渾儀], revolving of its own motion without human aid, was invented by the chief astronomer 張司訓.

In the first moon of 998 (i.e. end of 997) a comet appeared north of the 營室 (said by Williams to be a star near Aquila). In the sixth moon of 1,018 a comet appeared in the north [出北斗]. On the 1st of the 7th moon 1,022 there was an almost total eclipse of the sun. An eclipse of the sun was predicted for the 1st of the 5th moon 1,024, but it did not come off; on the first day of 1,068 another took place.

Williams says under 奎 'the five planets met in it in the year 967.' He omits to state however that between the years 954-60 the Chinese astronomer 竇儼 told his friend 楊徽 that in the year 丁卯 (967) this event would happen. The importance of Tow Yen's prophecy is a matter for modern scientists to estimate, and by their estimate may perhaps be gauged the extent of Chinese knowledge at that period.

Do 太白經天 (A.D. 626, 6th moon) and 太白晝見 (A.D. 949, 4.10 moon) refer to the Transit of Venus?

Tribute Articles.—Pearls were first sent as tribute from Kwang Si in the year A. D. 977; possibly (as there can be no pearls inland), this signifies trade through Annam with India. Wine was also first taxed this year, [初榷酒酤].

With reference to the tribute-fruit 哈達果丹 sent from Uliasutai, it may be noted that in the 金史 it is stated that 哈丹 means 山之上銳者.

Greek Fire and Firearms.—Mr. Mayers says that 魏勝 is said to have 'been the first to employ gunpowder in warfare,' but suggests that it was a sort of Greek fire that he used. The Chinese annals say that he did 張旗幟 and did 舉烟火, and precisely these expressions occur with reference to the After Han general 吳漢 1,000 years earlier, so that Mr. Mayers is probably right.

According to the *Shên Pao*, firearms were first introduced into China at the battle of 采石 [see Mayers' Manual, No. 955], about the middle of the 12th century A.D.

Publication of the Classics.—The nine classics which were cut in type by the After T'ang Turkish Emperor 李嗣源 were not completed until 953, under the After Chou Emperor 郭威, whose character was almost as noble as that of the Turk. In the year A. D. 175, the Han Emperor 靈帝 planted the stone-engraved five classics at the gate of the 大學. In 518, the Tartar Emperor 孝明帝 repaired the 三字石經. In the year 529, the Tartar Emperor 文 removed the stone classics to Lin-chang [鄴]. In the year 580 the Chou Emperor 靜 removed them back to Loh-yang. In the year 837, the 國子監石經 were completed. It was not until the year 953 that the classics were widely published in China. The local ruler of 蜀 built a school at the expense of 1,000,000 strings, and thus modern Sz ch'wan became a learned centre.

Saints of Literature.—A great Court discussion is taking place as to whether 黃宗羲 and Ku Yen-wu [Mayers 281] should be admitted as 徒祀 or 'saints' of literature. The Board's Memorial (in the *Shên Pao* of the 26th of the 12th moon) is a model of courtly and academical reasoning. It appears that, towards the end of the Ming Dynasty, the 心學 [? liberty and equality] system was in the ascendant, under the leadership of 李贄 and 何心隱 and 顧山農, who are described as 標目狂禪. The merit of the two worthies

under discussion consists in crushing the 禪學 and reverting to the 樸學 [i.e. ? intelligent atheism, instead of enthusiasm].

GRADUATES.—The re-examination of 舉人 [覆試貢士] was instituted in the year A.D. 968, in consequence of statesmen's sons being unfairly passed. In the year 974 the 殿試 re-examination was instituted.

The feasting of successful graduates [宴進士] began with 宋太宗 in the year 983. The 提刑官 for each Province were established in A. D. 991, and a Supreme Court or Court of Appeal or Revision was established at the capital.

THE INVENTOR OF PRINTING.—The Turkish Emperor 李嗣源 appears to have been the inventor of printing. The History Book, under the year 932, says: The T'angs cut for the first time blocks 'for the Nine Classics; printed, and sold them.' The Commentator observes, 'Sold them! Ha! Ha! The language of satire! Still, students now first got books easily, and hence the expression first time.'

This Emperor is undoubtedly (if not the noblest) one of the noblest characters in Chinese History, and perhaps the only one against whom not a single fault is charged, —except the above imaginary fault conjured up by the priggish Chinese commentators. The History Book thus sums up his character: '[The Emperor] Ming Tsung was of unsuspicious nature, and not jealous of others' success. He was over 60 when he ascended the Throne, and every evening in his palace he burnt incense, and prayed to God in these words, "I am a poor Turk, and have been suddenly placed here by popular acclamation. May it please God to soon give birth to a truly great man to be this people's ruler!"'

CHAIR PRIVILEGES.—A special decree authorises the Emperor's father and mother to ride in chairs of apricot yellow. The Prince having begged to be excused the honour, a further decree orders him to accept it [王其謹受恩命]. Note the use of 其.

BOOT REMOVAL.—As a mark, of esteem, the Hangchow Salt Commissioner's boots were removed by the affectionate people [仿行脫靴故事以留遺愛]. The 故事 in question is not mentioned in the Concordance, the only case of boot removing being that mentioned in Mayers' Manual, No. 240.

FINANCIAL.—The *Shên Pao* of the 27th January contains an interesting summary of the new rules proposed for the National Bank of China.

With reference to an old *Chinese Note* upon the subject of 掛印總兵, it may be mentioned that there is one for 皖南 (An Hwei).

The sum of Tls. 260,000 a year for impecunious Peking officials appears to be made up as follows:—

	Tls.
Canton, Customs	40,000
Hankow, ,, *Taotai* ..	10,000
Hu Peh, Province	6,000
Ho Nan, ,, ...	8,000
Fu Kien, ,, ...	10,000
Shan Tung, ,, ...	7,000
Sz Ch'uan, ,, ...	14,000
Hu Nan, ,, ...	8,000
An Hwei, ,, ...	7,000
Chefoo, Customs *Taotai* ..	5,000
Ho Tung, river defence ..	8,000
	113,000
(So far) occult sources ..	147,000
	$260,000

Incidentally we may mention that if anyone with a genius for compiling will wade through *Chinese Notes* (a task which we ourselves shrink from), he will early be able to 'tot' up China's revenue.

The Board reports that the annual deficit in taxes which should be forwarded to