under the names T'ukuhun, T'ufan, and Oelots. The Mongol tribes have repeatedly changed form, and do not represent the ancient family groups. The Hans established the four principalities west of the Hwang Ho, with the object of separating the Southern *Kiang* from the Hiung-nu. At the beginning of the Ming dynasty the same thing was done again, to keep off the Tatars in the north, and repress the *fan* tribes in the south. It was only when the northern tribes, later on, succeeded in effecting a junction with those on the other side of the Mountain Range, that trouble began again for China.

The first thing done by the new Manchu power was to open communications with Tibet by conciliating Kushi Khan, and at the same time protect the Kan Suh frontiers. Thus the Dzungars never became formidable enough to venture across to Kokonor. Of recent years the Kokonor Mongols have grown more feeble in proportion as the different *fan* 番 tribes have grown stronger. Hence the Kokonor tribes have a great dread of the Si-fan. In former times the *fan* were kept away in order to weaken the Mongols, but now the Mongols have to be protected from the *fan*. Some think that the Kokonor tribes have become less warlike and intractable since their conversion to the Yellow Faith. The Alashan tribe is now the strongest.

E. H. PARKER.

A CHINESE HAROUN AL RASCHID.

The object of this article is to present, in a succinct form, an account of the wanderings of the Emperor Kien Lung, as detailed with much circumstantiality in a Chinese work, the Wan Nien Ching 萬年清, published a few years ago. The memory of this Emperor is yet green. Only a hundred odd years have passed since his death. It may therefore be interesting to note what the Chinese of the present day consider to be some of the more prominent characteristics which contributed no doubt to earn for him the title of the most Saintly Son of Heaven 仁聖天子, and which classed him among the most popular of Chinese rulers. Of course it must not be supposed that these tales are put forward as authentic incidents, although it is an historical fact that Kien Lung did indulge in some such eccentricities, but more as an amusing portrayal of what the Chinese consider a kingly way of redressing wrongs and rewarding virtue.

The scene opens at the Imperial Court in Pekin where the Emperor makes known to a body of horrified Ministers his intention of making an excursion towards the south of the Yang-tze Kiang, and asks who among them will undertake the responsibility of providing for his personal safety. None of the Ministers dared to assume the charge. All trembled in silence. So in high displeasure he dismissed his court, issued a decree authorizing a certain officer to manage all affairs of State until further notice, disguised himself as a merchant and left the palace by a back door.

His first halt was at 瑞龍鎮 where he put up for the night in an inn. Next morning he strolled out for a leisurely survey of the city, and while walking through one of the principal streets felt rather hungry. Selecting an hotel of somewhat imposing dimensions, he walked in and was served in the usual way. He ap-

plied himself with hearty zest to the good things set before him, and in fact when they were finished, he felt rather elevated. Making the best of his way out, he was reminded that he had not paid his bill. He promptly dipped his hand into his pocket, but made the alarming discovery that his purse had remained in his portmanteau. He duly informed the landlord of the fact, in his innocence never doubting but that the latter would take his word. The host, however, immediately classed his hungry customer as one of the genus loafer whose inflictions he had more than once experienced, and in no measured terms informed his Majesty of the fact, adding, that if the Emperor himself came and had no money to pay, he would have to leave his crown as security. Accordingly he requested Kien Lung without delay to strip off as much of his clothes as would settle his score, adding further that only a prompt compliance would save him from a forcible disrobement. Kien Lung was at first somewhat amused at this, for him, novel situation, but as the landlord's sarcasms grew, from being amused he became amazed, and when the innkeeper wound up by desiring him to strip, he got thoroughly angry and administering a well-planted kick knocked the innkeeper prostrate. The latter was however backed by his establishment, and the Emperor, in spite of being as powerful physically as mentally, had hard work clearing away to the door. In the midst of the hubbub a youth, whose personal attractions are described as of no mean order, came on the scene, and rushing up begged Kien Lung to try a more amicable means of suasion. The Emperor smiled at the impetuosity of the youth and asked if he was related to the establishment that he appeared so anxious to settle the fray. The youth, however, argued that all mankind being brothers, he could not pass by and see people wrangling over what was perhaps only a small matter and one which a few soft words might settle. Eventually, after mutual explanations, the boy advanced enough money to pay the bill and led the Emperor off to his mother's house. On the way His Majesty learned that his youthful guide was named Jih Ching, and that he, and his widowed mother, lived together.

Entering the house, the Emperor sat down while Jih Ching ran to his mother's room and related all that had occurred. The mother, pleased with her son for shewing such discretion, commended his actions and made a bowl of tea for the visitor. H. M. hearing her voice asked to be presented; but Mrs. Huang begged to be excused. Nevertheless she took a good look at her guest over the partition, pronouncing him a very presentable person. The Emperor remarked that a youth so capable as Jih Ching ought by assiduous attention to his books to attain a distinguished position, but the mother explained that she was sorry to say her son preferred military exercise to improving his literary knowledge, and that although she and her friends had done their best to dissuade him, their advice had not had much effect. Hereupon the Emperor, explaining that he was possessed of some influence, offered to at once place the boy under a fitting military instructor, where he might have full opportunity for perfecting himself in the profession he had chosen. The delighted mother readily accepted the offer, ordering Jih Ching to kneel and thank his benefactor. After dinner the Emperor bade good-bye to Mrs. Huang and, accompanied by his young protegé, returned to the hostelry where he had slept.

Next morning the two started for 海邊關 which town they reached in due course and deposited their baggage in an inn. During dinner, the Emperor made enquiries as to what parts of the city were worth seeing, and was told that although there were several places of interest in the neighbourhood, yet a pleasure house surrounded by grounds of great beauty, the property of a certain General Yeh's son, surpassed all

and would well repay a visit. Thither accordingly the Emperor and Jih Ching went, leaving their belongings in charge of mine host, who very affably gave such directions as would enable them to find their way, telling them, at the same time, that they were on no account to enter the garden if young Yeh and his friends were there, as it was only during their absence that visitors were granted admission.

Entering the garden which was enclosed by a strong brick wall, they first strolled round admiring the flowers and plants, and then noting the high pavilion which stood near the centre of the grounds, determined to have a look at the interior. But as they began to ascend, they were stopped by a servant who informed them that he was sorry to say his master and some friends were expected soon, and that all the tables being laid for their reception, visitors could not enter, but if they came some other day he would be happy to show them round.

The Emperor explained that they did not wish any refreshment, only to see the place, and offered a handsome bribe. The servant after some hesitation consented, but on the condition that they would not disturb anything and would leave before a certain hour, thus avoiding a meeting with his master, as such a rencontre would lead to the servants being punished. The two promised to strictly comply and were accordingly allowed to ascend.

They found the interior furnished most luxuriously: polished marble floors, carved red-wood chairs and tables, couches of marble and ivory, and the walls hung with scrolls. The windows opened on a view of an artificial hill and lake, reached by a suspension bridge.

On the third story a sumptuous banquet was laid out. Here the Emperor considered himself justified in refreshing himself, and told the attendant as much. The poor man trembled and turned yellow with fright. He explained that the banquet was for young Yeh and his friends who might arrive at any moment, and reminding the Emperor of his promise, begged him to straightway leave the place and not bring misfortune on a poor man's head. 'Slave,' cried the Emperor, 'You shall fear my displeasure more than Yeh's!' Saying so he lifted the waiter up as if he was a chicken and held him over the window. 'If you don't do as I tell you, you can see where you'll go to.' 'Hold,' the poor man cried, 'Spare my life, I am at your service.' The Emperor gave a quiet laugh and laid him gently down, saying, 'You be easy in your mind and fetch something to eat and to drink, I'll be responsible for the day's proceedings.' The terrified waiter duly went to bring up all the costly delicacies prepared for his master, but at the same time managed to send some one to report what was going on. The Emperor and his young friend sat down and began a hearty dinner.

His father being the General Commanding in the district, young Yeh took advantage of this high rank and position to play many tricks among the inhabitants of the town; not only did he and his friends help themselves freely to their merchandise, but also made sad havoc among their wives and daughters. The General saw in this only the promise of a future adept at extortion who would increase the family wealth, and to encourage this disposition forced the people to contribute a round sum to the building of this pleasure place, where each day the youth, with his boon companions, came to enjoy themselves and to mature fresh mischief. On this particular day, the young fellow was busy discussing some matter with his servants, when one of the pavilion keepers rushed in and recounted how two strangers had entered and forced an attendant, on pain of death, to set out the good things prepared for the master. He stated that they were at present disposing of the delicacies with evident satisfaction, and begged his young master to hasten to the scene. Yeh actually danced with rage, and summoning over a hundred of the household who could all fight when

necessary, armed them and ran to the garden. Here they were told off to watch all outlets, and the different heads instructed that on the order 'seize,' they were to seize, if he cried 'kill,' they were to kill, and none should be allowed to escape or else the servants would be severely punished, whilst, if the two were captured, substantial rewards would be given. Eight of the best men he took with himself, and mounting the stairs arrived at the third storey, where he saw the two quietly enjoying a well-cooked dinner, while behind them stood the waiter with a most lugubrious expression on his face.

'What uncultivated uncivilized part of the kingdom,' cried young Yeh, 'do you churls come from, who have the impudence to threaten my servant, enter my house, and forcibly possess yourselves of my dinner? Do you think of life or of death that you dare raise a turmoil in his Excellency's very face? You surely are not ignorant of the dread his son inspires; quickly give me your brutish names, that I may the more readily introduce you to the next world.' To this tirade the waiter whined his tale of how he had been coerced into serving them, and knocked his head before his master till all the plates and dishes rang again.

The Emperor could see this was young Yeh and he laughed loudly as he replied, 'I am a gentleman, my name is Kou (高 high), my surname Tien tzu (天賜 heaven-conferred), my young friend here is Jih Ching, a protegé of mine. We have been viewing the beauties of this pleasure resort and, feeling hungry, helped ourselves to some of the good things we saw prepared in such abundance. If you understand what good breeding is, at once humbly apologize and call off these ruffians, and when we have finished our dinner, I will bestow a few dollars on you. If on the other hand I hear a word out of place, may I be reckoned a worthless braggart if I don't send you all into the middle of next week as you stand.'

This made Yeh absolutely frantic with rage and he ordered his followers to seize them at once. Each grasped his weapons and rushed in. The Emperor had not even an inch of steel about him, but breaking up a hardwood chair he armed himself with the legs and met his assailants half way. Being of a powerful physique, he soon had one knocked down, and Yeh, seeing that the stranger was too formidable to be lightly encountered, turned to fly, but the wine from the upset tables had made the floor so slippery that he stumbled and fell and was pounced upon by the Emperor, to the great consternation of the braves who hurried to his rescue, when, to their horror, the Emperor, shouting 'be gone,' flung the young fellow right through one of the windows. He fell on a rockery three stories below, and breaking his skull, his blood and brains were spattered over the stones. All cried in dismay, some running away to break the news to the father, others closely guarding the outlets. His Majesty and Jih Ching slowly fought their way down and reached the garden. The Emperor had managed to pick up a two-handed sword, while Jih Ching had armed himself with a large crow-bar. They precipitated themselves on those massed in front of the entrance gate, but made little impression, as their numbers were too great. It became evident that, although many might be disabled, it would be impossible for them long to retain strength enough to overcome all.

In the meantime the General had been apprized of what was going on. On first hearing the news, he swooned outright. When he recovered, he wept loud and long. Gradually controlling himself, he at length was able to learn all that had happened. Thereupon his rage rose like 'a column of fire 10,000 feet high,' and ordering his horse he led over 500 cavalry and foot soldiers to the scene of the fray. The soldiers, as they approached, observing that Kien Lung would prove difficult to disarm in an ordinary way, provided ropes and shackles, with which they quickly pinioned Jih Ching. After some further manipulation, they managed

to entangle the Emperor, and he also was dragged down and secured. Both were led to prison, and enquiries having elicited their inn, the landlord was also committed to jail. The General sentenced the three to be decapitated as soon as his son's obsequies were over.

The Emperor was without doubt in a pretty pickle. Closely imprisoned, he was at his wits' end how to devise means of communicating with Pekin and summon immediate help. Added to this were the lamentations of Chao Hung, the inn-keeper, who never ceased upbraiding him for having brought such misfortune on his household, and the terror of Jih Ching who, giving himself up for lost, continually begged his protector to devise some means of escape. Next day, however, the landlord's wife, by heavily bribing the turnkeys, managed to gain admission and took some food for her husband. When the Emperor saw her, he cried 'we are saved.' By smuggling in writing materials, she enabled him to send a note to Pekin explaining his danger. The note reached its destination and help came not a moment too soon. The three were already on the execution ground and the executioner was awaiting the signal to strike, when the General of the Nine Gates, heading a troop of cavalry, burst in and ordered the immediate release of the prisoners. The feeling of relief experienced by the three may be imagined. The Emperor lost no time in issuing secret instructions for the execution of General Yeh and his entire household. These instructions were promptly given effect to, the General and his family being all beheaded to the great joy of the populace. The inn-keeper was directed to Pekin where he received a handsome gratuity, and the Emperor and Jih Ching continued their journey towards the Hai Ching 海青 district of Kiang Nan 江南.

The pleasant weather and delightful scenery soon drove away all memory of their late peril, and after resting one night at an inn on the way, they bought tickets and went on board a passenger boat plying on the river. As the boat glided along, Kien Lung observed the captain draw out a red tablet and proceed to collect money from the passengers. Some gave silver, some only copper coin, but all appeared to be equally acceptable. The Emperor asked an elderly individual sitting near him for an explanation, and was informed that somewhat farther on, near the middle of the river, was a rocky islet on which stood a temple dedicated to a certain very dangerous water sprite. From time immemorial all passengers subscribed, according to their means, sufficient to buy sacrifical meat and wine, and also went ashore and offered incense before the shrine. When this was done, the voyage could be prosecuted with both safety and comfort, but, if neglected, then at a certain point the waves would surge and rise, and if the boat turned back, the sky would suddenly become overcast, and the earth darkened, a furious wind and sea making escape from foundering almost impossible. So the tale ran, and at the present day neither crew nor passengers ever dared to pass without first visiting the temple. The Emperor laughed and told his fellow-voyagers to take back their money and fear naught, because he would guarantee their safety. The passengers, however, thought that this was only intended to hide an inability to subscribe and said as much, offering at the same time to contribute some cash for him, as it was a very serious matter for all. Kien Lung, seeing they did not believe him to be supernaturally gifted, thrust his hand in his bosom and drew out a pearl. The Emperor carried with him five pearls, each severally giving power over metals, woods, water, fire, and earth. This rendered him invulnerable to weapons and secure amid the dangers of fire or water. Calling his fellow-passengers' attention, he stretched his hand over the water muttering a spell, and immediately the water divided, forming a lane some scores of feet long and

nearly two fathoms deep. This satisfied all, and the master returned the subscriptions. Soon they passed the temple round which many vessels were at anchor, their crews being busy making offerings at the shrine. Several idlers on the island, seeing a vessel sailing past without making the customary stay, showed by their gestures of astonishment that they considered a number of madmen were courting certain destruction. With a favourable wind and tide the boat shot along like an arrow, and quickly entered a wider reach of the river. Here a sudden squall, which lashed the waves into fury as it approached, struck the boat, heeling her over, while the spray dashing everywhere gave all a thorough drenching. The Emperor was beseeched to use his enchantments without delay or all would soon be food for the fishes; the sprite was without doubt showing intentions of avenging the slight. Kien Lung took a slip of red paper, wrote on it the words 'avoid the Sovereign' 免朝, and pretending to mutter spells, sent Jih Ching to throw it over the bow. Immediately, to the great joy of all, the wind ceased and the sea became smooth. This action becoming known, other vessels followed the example, and from that day to this all craft, when passing this spot, throw over their bows a red paper bearing this injunction. Thus by the Emperor's kindness countless travellers are saved much expense and vexatious delays.

The voyage terminated at Nan Ching 南京 where they disembarked and proceeded to search for a suitable hotel. When walking along a street, a man suddenly bumped up against Kien Lung with such violence that with the rebound he stumbled and fell into the gutter. He quickly picked himself up, however, and apologising for the accident was hurrying away, when the traces of deep sorrow marked on his face attracted the Emperor's attention, and feeling sure that there was some unusually sad cause for it, hastened after the individual and stopping him began to enquire. The man deprecated being thus hindered by what could be only idle curiosity, but the Emperor, giving his assumed name and where he came from, assured him that if he was put in possession of the facts, he might be of some use. A gleam of joy lit up the man's face when he heard this, and he at once informed his questioner that he was the head of one of the wealthiest families in the city. He had not been blessed with children and his brother had only one child, a girl, on whom all their hopes were centred, and she would inherit the family wealth. This young lady was now about sixteen years of age, and awaited an auspicious day to complete her bethrothal, when an evil demon entered into her, causing a painful illness, and she was now almost at death's door: various doctors and enchanters had been called, but all attempts to drive out the evil spirit had failed, and they had despaired of saving her life, when the father dreamt, that a god-like man, clad in golden armour, came and told him that to-day at this hour two travellers from Pekin would land from a vessel, and pass through this street, into the city, and that these travellers possessed the power of driving out the evil spirit. If they could be persuaded to visit his house, his daughter might be saved, if on the other hand they missed them, his daughter would certainly die; 'so he entreated me to carefully watch this street, and I am overjoyed to find that I have encountered the two gentlemen I was in search of, and earnestly beg you to visit our house and, if you can save our child, I will reward you with 30,000 taels of silver and a hundred of the purest pearls.' The Emperor hastened to explain that he had no knowledge of the mystic art, neither had he learnt the spells of enchanters. If it was a case of physical prowess or mental ingenuity, he would be happy to grapple anything, from a ferocious tiger to a writhing dragon, he neither feared skin of brass nor bones of steel, but a demon spirit, a thing which comes in a cloud and departs in a mist, leaving neither trace nor shadow, was beyond his power. At this the man threw himself at the Emperor's feet

beseeching him to at least visit the house and try, declaring he would follow Kien Lung everywhere until he persuaded him to go. Some of the supplicant's servants had informed his brother that the two persons dreamt of had been found, and he now appeared on the scene with chairs for the illustrious visitors, joining in his brother's entreaties. The unwonted sight soon gathered a crowd of idlers most of whom knew of the devil's advent into the man's daughter. The press became so great, and the entreaties of the two so urgent, that Kien Lung reluctantly assented and allowed himself to be carried off. On reaching the house, his hosts proposed refreshments which Kien Lung desired should be served in the sick girl's chamber. The demon usually made his appearance in the afternoon and it would be as well to await him. For arms he only asked an iron staff and desired a few of the bravest of the household to station themselves around the house, and when the demon arrived, beat the largest drums and gongs, fire muskets, crackers and cannon, and make as great a noise as possible. He also directed them to light a lamp in every room and have in addition a few of the best glass lanterns ready, as the spirit would likely come in a rush of wind, and, he had heard it said, revelled in darkness. They were not to spare powder nor fire; this was a first essential. All nervous people he ordered off, as they would only be in the way. His requests were carried out to the letter.

Kien Lung, Jih Ching, and the two brothers sat down to dinner and the wine circulated freely. The first watch was struck, but no demon appeared. More wine was served and the second watch passed without anything unusual. In the third watch, all were slightly tipsy and left the table to saunter in the court. The moon at this time was in the zenith shining brightly in a clear sky; this, with the numerous lamps alight, made things look almost as bright as by day. The trees threw dark shadows across, and rooks roosted quietly in their topmost branches; moths and beetles darted around, and the crickets chirped their loudest. All gazed at the sky, remarking on its loveliness, when a small dark cloud flew up from the north and rapidly neared the dwelling. A fierce wind rose, driving sand and shingle through the air, the sky became overcast, the earth darkened, and the lamps dimmed for a while, but again shone out; all felt that the demon had arrived. Kien Lung's piercing glance soon discerned a Taoist descending from empty space. He looked about thirty years of age, his face being white and beardless. He wore a blue robe and a horned headdress, his feet resting on gliding clouds. He was girded with a silken sash from which hung a sword, and in his hand he held a long hook. As he rushed in and saw the remains of the banquet, he angrily asked who had dared to appropriate the chamber he had specially marked as his own. The Emperor as angrily responded and advised him to fly away at once and save people the trouble of depriving him of life. To all of this the Taoist made reply in similar strain. His Majesty rushed at him with the iron bar which had now been made red hot. The Taoist drew his sword and manfully held his own, but what with the beating of drums and clanging of gongs, the firing of crackers, muskets and cannon, and the gesticulating and shouting of the servants as they threatened him on all sides, he got confused and retreated, warning all to refrain from following him. The Emperor and the rest pressed after him as hard as they could, when the Taoist, seeing there was no help for it, stamped on the ground, and, to the terror of all, a something over two feet high, with an immense head covered with red hair, a black face in which two goggle eyes shone like brass mirrors, a body covered with golden scales, and a huge blood-red open mouth, waved its long arms which terminated in dangerous claws, and leaping up, descended with all its force on the Emperor's head. All stood

motionless with fear, when a golden dragon about eight feet long appeared and confronted the monster. The Taoist at once saw that his opponent must be the Emperor, and dropping a slip of red paper on the ground, he and his familiar disappeared. The Emperor had been rendered almost unconscious by the blow, but now recovered, and all rushed forward to congratulate him. Jih Ching picked up the paper on which were written verses to the effect, that the young lady would recover but must be betrothed to Jih Ching.

As soon as possible, the betrothal ceremonial was performed, and after great feasting and rejoicing, they gave an assurance that they would soon revisit the place, adding however that urgent business must first be attended to, after which Kien Lung and Jih Ching resumed their journey.

About sunset they reached a large and turbulent river but could not see any ferry boat. Just as they were proceeding to search for some craft to take them across, they noticed in front of them a woman with a baby on her back, while three other children, none of whom were over five years of age, toddled after her. As she walked, she called on heaven and earth to witness the wrong done her. Kien Lung, deeply moved by her distress, walked quickly up, and laying his hand on her shoulder stopped her. The woman turning sharply around cried, 'How dare you, a stranger, stop me in this manner,' she screamed and roundly scolded him as an impudent fellow. The Emperor, rather put out at this reception, quoted the old proverb, 'to rescue a life is better than a thousand pieces of silver,' and asked her to confide her griefs to hi ı, and he would endeavour to help her. After some hesitation, she related how her . usband, a poor fisherman, earning only a are subsistence, had during the festivities incident to the birth of a son, supplied a certain Ou Jen-shan, the headman of a village a short distance ahead, with fish to the value of ten taels odd. Her husband being a simple man ignorant of the ways of the world, when his bill was paid, had not examined the silver. Soon after, finding it was counterfeit, he took it back and demanded genuine coin, but Ou Jen-shan refused to recognise the claim. After mutual recriminations, her husband unfortunately lost his temper, and struck one Ou Fan-lin on the forehead. Immediately the Ou household set on, and bound him, carrying him before the Chin Peng magistrate, where he had been tortured into confessing that in broad daylight he had attacked the Ou household sword in hand, and they held that he fully merited capital punishment. Nothing less would satisfy them. He was now in jail, and they threatened to sell her and her children to pay the costs of the trial. She begged Kien Lung to help her if he could. The Emperor sincerely regretted that pressing business prevented him from sparing time enough to personally conduct her case. He severely animadverted on the actions of Ou Jen-shan, characterizing them as those of a villain who took advantage of a superior position to oppress poor people. Giving the woman a hundred taels of silver, he advised her to present this to Ou Jen-shan, and to beg him to have the proceedings quashed. The woman, overjoyed, knelt in the road and called down myriads of blessings on her benefactor. Kien Lung promised to call at her house next day and learn how she had succeeded.

On the morrow he found the woman in greater distress than before. She had gone with the money, but the rascal, first substituting base metal for the silver, drove her away. Kien Lung decided to personally interview this man Jen-shan. He was well received and seated in the parlour. After tea had been served, he introduced the subject, and entreated his host to be merciful and not bring such distress on a woman and her helpless children. But Ou Jen-shan was obdurate, declaring that if he was offered 10,000 taels of silver, he would not reduce the man's punishment by one iota, and de-

clined to further discuss the matter. High words then passed between the two, and at length Kien Lung became so enraged that he knocked Ou Jen-shan down, and gave him a severe beating. The villagers assembled and attacked Kien Lung, but he threatened to decapitate Ou Jen-shan if they did not instantly disperse. The latter in mortal terror also advised them to go away, and the villagers reluctantly obeyed. The Emperor fearing that, if he allowed the headman to escape, he might gather the villagers and follow in pursuit, decided to bring Ou Jen-shan with him to the nearest Magistrate. So off they marched, the headman bellowing like a pig about to be butchered; calling on his men to rescue him, and then warning them to keep at a respectful distance. As they passed through the fields, many peasants who had suffered from his exactions thanked Budda that Ou Jen-shan had at last met his match.

On reaching the office of the Chin Peng Magistrate, Kien Lung marched boldly up to the drum which hangs in the inner court, and giving it a few heavy blows called out, 'redress wrongs,' 'redress wrongs.' The Magistrate immediately ascended the judicial dais and demanded an explanation. Ou Jen-shan was so flustered, he could hardly speak, but Kien Lung in a clear concise manner gave a lucid relation of the whole matter. By the time he had finished, Ou Jen-shan had recovered himself, and in turn denied having made any exactions or having issued counterfeit silver, and accused Kien Lung, who gave his name as Kou Tien-tzu, of being a pirate chief who, during a futile attack on the village, had been cut off from his band, and being unable to return had threatened him with death preferring this grave charge against him. Both prayed that the guilty might be punished. The Magistrate, although a clear-headed official, and as a rule a just one, was in a quandary. He knew from experience that Ou Jen-shan was a rascal who, whenever he had an opportunity, harassed and plundered, but Ou Jen-shan being born in the same year as the Prefect, the two were bosom friends. The Prefect was the Magistrate's superior, with great power over him; what could he do? Kou Tien-tzu looked a gentleman, and from the manner in which he stated his case, seemed possessed of some influence and was not to be easily set aside. On the whole the Magistrate decided that the safest plan would be to decline to try the case, and forward both to the Prefect. He himself escorted the two to the Prefect's Yamên, and stating the petition and counter plaint, left the matter in his superior's hands.

The Prefect, after assuming his judicial robes, sat in judgment, but after asking a few questions, and before it was possible to distinguish the pure from the impure or black from white, released Ou Jen-shan and sent him home, while he decided that Kou Tien-tzu should be imprisoned to await trial. On hearing this decision, Kien Lung's rage knew no bounds. He poured the vials of his wrath on the Prefect's head in a manner better imagined than described. The latter, astounded at such audacity, ordered his lictors to seize the prisoner and give him one hundred blows on the cheek —百嘴巴. This was easier said than done, however, for the first underling was promptly knocked down by Kien Lung, and the remainder meeting a similar fate, all were forced to desist. The Prefect did not much relish the look of things, and attempted a hasty withdrawal, but Kien Lung seizing him from behind laid him flat on the floor. The discomfited official implored his lictors to come to his aid, but they were afraid to stir. Kien Lung's temper being fully aroused, he lifted his right foot and came down with such force on the Prefect's back, that the spine snapped, blood gushed from his mouth, and with a gasp he died.

To murder a Prefect, is anything but a small matter, and messengers flew to acquaint Huang Taotai with what had occurred. This official immediately ordered the

Colonel in command to muster his troops, sent officers to close the city gates, and with a strong escort proceeded to search for and seize the culprit. In the meantime Kien Lung had gone into an inner apartment and finding a good sword cut the dead Prefect into two halves. After this he thought it was time to depart, and was proceeding at a rapid rate along the street, when he found he was hemmed in on all sides by soldiers. This fact rather alarmed him, but there being no help for it, he attempted to cut his way through. Several soldiers fell before him, but the street was too narrow and as the shutters and boards from several shops had been taken down and placed across the road, he could hardly use his weapons. Still he kept all at arm's length, and as the wonderful pearl kept him safe from injury by metals, he might after all have managed to find an outlet, but some soldiers brought up ropes and casting nooses over him, he was finally pinioned down and carried to the Taotai's office.

The Taotai ascended the dais, looked down and recognised the Emperor! A lengthened service as private secretary to one of the high officials in Pekin had made him familiar with the features of the Son of Heaven. Kien Lung also recognized Huang and laughed as he asked if he knew who confronted him. The terrified Taotai hastily commanded the prisoner to be brought to an inner chamber, and after dismissing the escort, tremblingly loosened the Emperor's bonds, and, bowing in the dust, implored his august prisoner to seat himself, at the same time demanding condign punishment for having dared to lay hands on the sacred person. Kien Lung graciously waived all idea of punishment, but requested Huang to keep his personality a strict secret, and after explaining the affair between the fisherman and Ou Jen-shan instructed the Taotai to make preparations for the immediate seizure of the villain, so soon as a Secret Decree could be issued. As he desired to continue his journey with the least possible delay, the Taotai quietly conducted Kien Lung through the city gates and returned to his yamên.

The Emperor soon reached the inn where he had left Jih Ching, and, after telling him all that had happened, both retired to rest. Next morning the Emperor wrote a Secret Decree and placing the missive, with ten taels for road expenses, into the hands of one of the servants, requested him to deliver it at the office of the Governor of Kiang Soo. After seeing the servant on his way, he told Jih Ching to prepare their baggage and both went to another inn.

The Governor of Kiang Soo was surprised by the arrival of a Decree. Lighting the incense and kneeling he read as follows:

'We having gone for a ramble along the Kiang Nan roads, while passing by the Ou village in the prefecture of Chin Peng, were astonished at seeing a peasant woman named Kou, the wife of a fisherman named Chang Hsieh-huang, with four children, in all five persons, hurrying towards the river with the evident intention of drowning themselves. We prevented the woman committing suicide and learned from her that Ou Jen-shan had falsely accused her husband of committing a capital crime, avowing his intention of selling mother and children on the pretence of reimbursing himself for the expenses of the trial. We have personally enquired into the matter and find that Ou Jen-shan is an individual dangerous to the welfare of the community. The Prefect of Chin Peng is a false judge, and we have slain him. Fortunately we received the help of the Intendant Huang and were enabled to leave the city in safety. On receipt of this our commands, you will immediately prepare men and horses and in accordance with the requirements of justice, seize and decapitate Ou Jen-shan. Obey this Decree. By Imperial authority.'

The Governor warmly thanked his Majesty for his graciousness, at once ordered a thousand horsemen to Chin Peng and commanded the city authorities to immediately muster

their available foot and horse and await his arrival. The Governor hastened to the inn from which the Emperor had despatched the Decree, but Kien Lung was gone no one knew where. However no time was lost in surrounding the Ou village.

Ou Jen-shan, when he saw such a body of military coming, knew that all was up, and prepared for a desperate resistance. The village had a good wall, and he could depend on all fighting to the last. On the first day, the Governor made several attacks but was repulsed with loss. The cordon was drawn closer, and several attempts by the villagers to cut through during the night failed. The second day a continual series of attacks were made but without perceptible effect. The third day an assault was delivered from four different points by the entire strength of the besiegers, and the store of ammunition in the village being almost exhausted, the wall was stormed and all over fifteen years of age put to the sword. Ou Jen-shan was captured and reserved for the next day, when he was taken outside the village and decapitated. All articles of value being removed, the village was reduced to ashes. The booty was distributed among the poor peasantry in the neighbourhood.

The Emperor, in his hiding place, heard of all this with great gratification, and despatched Jih Ching with an order requesting Huang Taotai to pay the oppressed fisherman a sum of 100,000 Taels, which was promptly done. From this time forward the family increased in wealth, fame and honour. The four boys, when they grew up, entered the Emperor's service, and by meritorious actions rose to distinction in the State.

The Emperor and Jih Ching continued their journey towards another place. But here the Chronicler says: 'For a short time we will leave them. The lily bears more than one bud and our attention is directed to events in another province.' I also think enough has been written for the present. At some future date the translation may be resumed.

G. Taylor.

FRAGMENTARY STUDIES IN ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHY.*

The metaphysics of the Chinese, that is to say, their earliest attempts at speculative philosophy, originated perhaps in Shamanic superstition, starting from the generally accepted idea, which pervades all the Chinese Classics, that for all mundane affairs there is a fixed destiny laid down by Heaven. The ancestors of the Chinese people believed, however, that Heaven's decrees, though inscrutable in a sense, are not absolutely unknowable, but hinted at by all peculiar, sudden or unusual events or products of Nature. These were supposed to be intended to serve, so to say, as omens or portents, interpreting the will of Heaven. The ancient Chinese further believed that the parapace of tortoises, and the stalks of the milfoil can be so examined and manipulated as to afford a clue towards the theoretical comprehension and practical application of the meaning of such omens or portents, or to indicate by themselves prophetically the events of the near or remote future. As to natural omens, the course of the sun was watched, and the

* The reason why this article makes no reference to the views lately advanced on the subject of the Yih King philosophy by Dr. Legge, Dr. Edkins and Professor De Lacouperie, is simply this that this article was written more than ten years ago and is now, for want of leisure, published without material alterations.—E. J. E.