



英文學生叢書

MAN AND STUDENT—II

葛傳槩英文集

第二集

註冊商標



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MAN AND STUDENT—II

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序

余幼時誦方望溪姚姬傳劉大櫟諸先生所爲古文辭，竊喜其意在言外，淡而彌永，至於循玩不忍釋手。長習英吉利文字，仍嗜讀其雋逸有神味者。求諸國內殆鮮其人；有之自嘉定葛君傳藥始。葛君夙賦天稟，又能力學不倦。驟聆其言論，似尙詭辯，多偏見；然靜焉思之，確有至理存乎其間。譬食諫果，初甚澀口，終則齒頰間津津有餘味也。其爲文善取不倫不類者以爲比，輕描淡寫，寓諷深刻。余嘗擬爲英文之桐城派，英文學者中之東方生。雖人事百忙，讀之便覺大快。君邃於英文規範，故爲文清新純正，不落恆蹊；論文往往多獨到處。生平著述極富，所作致友人書及英文學生日記，尤風行海內。茲更覺其生平所作，付梓問世；以余相知較深，馳書索言，因泚筆而樂爲之序。

蘇兆龍

PREFACE

Except for the fact that it is issued in three volumes, this book may be properly called an omnibus. It contains special articles, letters, prefaces, little essays, poems interpreted, and essays concerning the study of English. Most of the things included have been first published in *The Chung Hwa English Weekly*, under the headings "Talks on Things", "This and That", "Thoughts and Impressions", "The Open Classroom", "Chats on Writing English", and "Helps to the Study of English". The "Thoughts and Impressions" series and three other essays originally appeared under a pseudonym.

It is a matter of regret that I did not make a duplicate of my first letter to Mr H. W. Fowler, and therefore cannot include it in this book. The one printed herein, as is mentioned in "To the Memory of Mr H. W. Fowler", was written a fortnight after his death.

The essays concerning the study of English must not be regarded as a systematic treatment of the subject. Many of the points touched upon are more fully dealt with in my *How to Master English Without a Teacher*.

The following publishers have kindly permitted the inclusion of the pieces the titles of which follow their names in brackets: *The China Journal* ("On the Europeanization of the Chinese Language" and "Some Fragments of Pai Chü-i's Poetry concerning Women"); *The English Weekly* ("Letter to Mr H. W. Fowler" and "Letter to Mr A. J. Fowler" [dated March 23, 1934]); The Ching Wen Book Company ("Preface to 'The Diary of a Student'", "Preface to 'The Peacock Flies South-East'", and "Preface to 'A Chinese Schoolboy Visits England'").

Hertz C. K. Kê.

December, 1936

MAN AND STUDENT

BOOK TWO

IN A BARBER'S SHOP°

As soon as° you enter a barber's shop, you lose your freedom.° You are not to regain° it till you have paid for it after a full hour's slavery.°

Well,° you may not wish to call it slavery. You may call it enjoyment. Many persons call it enjoyment; perhaps they enjoy slavery. Drunkards° enjoy being slaves to drink.° Young lovers enjoy being slaves of their sweethearts' caprices.° And many persons enjoy being slaves to a barber once a week!

I, for one,° do not enjoy being a slave to a barber. As soon as I enter a barber's shop, I feel I lose both my freedom and my dignity.° For I have to resign° myself, and especially that important part of myself, the head, to the control of an ignorant° or at least ill-educated° barber (I beg barbers' pardon). He turns about my head as though° it were his own instead of mine. He sometimes offers me a newspaper as much as to say,° "While I improve the outside of your head for you, you ought to improve its inside° yourself". But in fact° he does not care a bit° about what is in my head. He treats my head, which contains a knowledge of English

grammar, rhetoric,° phonetics,° literary history,° versification,° etc., in the same way as any head that does not contain a single word of English.

Talking of° English, I wonder, why the barbers in some fashionable shops in Shanghai often speak English—surely pidgin English°—among themselves. But this is by the way.°

To return to° the question of slavery. I feel my slavery more keenly as often as° I look into the glass before me. Is it not enough to make a slave of me? Is it necessary to remind° me that I am a slave?

I am glad that I do not make so much of° my hair as to require it to be shampooed° or singed° in a barber's shop. I want to have my hair cut, and have it cut, that's all.° Thus, if° I have to be a slave once every three or four weeks, my period of slavery is always a short one.

Emerging° from a barber's shop, I often heave a sigh of relief.°

NOTES

P. 1. barber's shop, 理髮店.

as soon as, 一俟.

lose my freedom, 失去我之自由.

are not to regain, 不可復得.

a full hour's slavery, 足有一小時之奴隸生活.

well, 語助詞.

drunkards, 酒徒.

enjoy being slaves to drink, 以耽於狂飲爲樂.

their sweethearts' caprices, 彼等之情人之任性.

for one, 就我個人而言.

dignity, 尊嚴.

resign, 拋棄.

ignorant, 無知識的.

ill-educated, 教育不良的.

as though, 宛如.

as much as to say, 若曰.

improve its inside, 改善其內部 (意即增加知識).

in fact, 在事實上.

does not care a bit, 毫不留意.

P. 2. rhetoric, 修詞學.

phonetics, 語音學.

literary history, 文學史.

versification, 詩學.

Talking of, 今既論及....

wonder, 不知; 不解.

pidgin English, 洋涇浜英語. (一種中國人與歐美人間所用之極不純正之英語, "pidgin" 原係 "business" 之轉譯.)

by the way, 偶然說及.

To return to, 回至; 再說.

as often as, 每次.

remind, 提醒.

make so much of, 如是重視.

shampooed, 擦洗.

singed, 燙.

that's (=that is) all, 如是而已.

if, 纔.

Emerging, 走出.

heave a sigh of relief, 因得安慰而歎息.

DO YOU ENJOY THE TELEPHONE?

Some time ago I talked to you about slavery in a barber's shop. Today I will talk about another form of slavery: I mean being a slave to the telephone.

If you have seen telephoning° in the movies° but have never talked on the telephone yourself, you cannot possibly know the meaning of being a slave to the telephone. On the screen° the telephonic system° is a perfect one. The man, or the woman, just snatches the receiver° and speaks, "Hullo...yes...please...all right...thank you...good-bye". There seems to be no delay, no indistinctness° of sound, no wrong number, no "engaged"°—in a word,° no slavery.

In real life, however, telephoning is quite a different thing. The number is often wrong, though oftener right. The right number is often "engaged", though oftener not "engaged".

Granting° that the number is right and is not "engaged", still° there is much slavery. "I wish to speak to Mr Wang", you say. But you get the reply "Here we have no Mr Fang". "I wish to speak to Mr Wang", you say again, with emphasis° on *Wang*. But you get the reply "Here we've° twenty Wangs". "I mean Mr A. B. Wang", you say. But you get the reply "Here we've two Mr A. B. Wangs". "I mean the one who is rather tall but not very tall, who sometimes wears a blue silk gown but always a low-crowned° hat, and who is a native of Shanghai", you

say. But you get the reply “And may I know your name”? You say your name three or four times and then wait, wait, wait.° When waiting, you are a perfect° slave. You are not allowed to read a book, nor to write a letter, nor to have a cup of tea, nor even to build castles in the air.° You can only imagine how the man at the other end of the line° is going to tell Mr A. B. Wang and how Mr A. B. Wang is hastening to the telephone.

At last, fortunately, you hear Mr A. B. Wang speaking. Then you two begin to talk—but I do not think so easily as those in the movies. Indistinctness of sound, repetition, misunderstanding,° annoyance°—all these are highly probable.

I am glad that I do not often have to talk on the telephone. I wonder why some people like to telephone as often as they have the least occasion.° I know a little boy who rings up° his father in his office more than ten times a day. Of course,° he enjoys doing it.

NOTES

P. 4. telephone, 電話機; 電話.

telephoning, 打電話.

movies, 電影.

screen, 銀幕.

telephonic system, 電話之組織.

snatches the receiver, 執住聽筒.

indistinctness, 不清晰; 糊塗.

“engaged”, 有人正在打電話 (謂此號今有人用也).

in a word, 總而言之.

granting, 假定.

still, 仍; 但.

emphasis, 著重.

we've—we have.

low-crowned, 低頂的.

P. 5. wait, wait, wait, 繼續等待.

perfect, 完全的; 純粹的.

build castles in the air, 冥想; 空想.

line, 電線.

misunderstanding, 誤解.

annoyance, 煩惱.

have the least occasion, 雖祇有極微之理由.

rings up, 用電話喚.

of course, 當然.

GETTING AND LOSING

Once I lost a small dictionary only a few days after I bought it. A short time later I got a letter from a friend informing me of his being jilted by his sweetheart.° In reply I remember I wrote something like this:

I am very sorry to learn that you have lost your sweetheart. I also have a loss to tell you of; that is,° I have recently lost a small dictionary, which I bought but a fortnight ago.°

You want me to console° you? Well, losing things is common enough, and losing a sweetheart is no exception.° So far as I can see,° the only way not to lose a thing is not to get it. If I had not bought the small dictionary, I could not possibly have lost it. I have never had a sweetheart, and so° I have never had the sad experience of losing one.

What do you think of my opinion, reader? Don't think that I wrote the letter in jest.° I was perfectly serious.° I meant what I said.° All we have may be lost at any moment—and for ever.° One may lose one's life when one least expects it.° A clerk may lose his position when he counts on° promotion. A girl may lose her chastity° when she thinks she has most force of character° among her friends.

As soon as you come into possession of° something, you begin to run the risk of° losing it. By something I mean everything; it may be a dictionary, a fountain-pen,° a reputation,° a friendship, a love, and so forth.°

A student of mine lost an umbrella in a tram-car° the other day.° I am glad that he does not seem to have lost the few rhetorical principles° that I had explained to him only two or three days before he lost his umbrella.

NOTES

P. 7. jilted by his sweetheart, 爲其愛人所棄。

that is, 卽謂。

but a fortnight ago, 僅二星期以前。

console, 安慰。

exception, 例外。

So far as I can see, 就我所知。

so, 故; 所以 (此字應重讀)。

in jest, 藉戲。

serious, 認真的; 非說笑話的。

meant what I said, 意與言合。

for ever, 永遠。

least expects it, 最不期望之; 以爲決不臨到此事。

counts on, 預費。

chastity, 貞操。

force of character, 品性之力量; 自持之力。

come into possession of, 得到。

run the risk of . . . , 冒 . . . 之險。

fountain-pen, 自來水筆。

reputation, 名譽。

and so forth, 以及其他。

P. 8. tram-car, 電車。

the other day, 數日前。

rhetorical principles, 修詞學原理。

A SICK MAN'S THOUGHTS

Owing to° ill health I have not talked to you for a long time I am now well° again, and, fearing the editor° may have been growing° impatient over my delay in sending him my "talks:", have decided upon the above-given subject,° to assure° him—and also you—that I really was a sick man till but a few days ago.

I hasten° to add° that I had only slight attacks of fever° and a cough.° I was not very ill. I was simply poorly,° and too unwell to write.

But if I was too unwell to write, I was yet well enough to think Hence my thoughts.°

As is often said,° one does not realize° the value of health till one is taken ill.° Needless to say,° my chief thought during my indisposition° was how to get over° it. I tried to account for° it in several ways, and regretted° having stayed too late at a friend's house on a certain° night, having gone out too early on a certain morning, having walked too much on certain days, and, having. . . .

I thought a great deal° besides.° Perhaps one cannot afford° to spend whole days thinking and thinking° except when ill in bed. Then one thinks and thinks; for the only thing one then can do is to think—if one can then think at all. During my recent illness, I thought of many things that I do not usually think of. I thought of particular little incidents° in my early childhood, of particular passages° in books that I had read long before, of particular faces I had seen, and of. . . .

Nor did I think altogether aimlessly and carelessly. I thought seriously of life and its problems. I thought of the most serious thing in my mind—the reading and writing of books. I considered what an ideal° series of English readers for Chinese students should be. I planned (of course merely mentally°) a handbook° of English composition for Chinese college students that should teach them to write English as Englishmen write it.

I wonder I did not think much of any of my favourite authors° during my last illness. Last year, when I was laid up with a cold,° I used to think so much of Burns° and Blake° that I dreamt of them in the night.

NOTES

P. 9. owing to, 因.

well, 健全的.

editor, 主筆.

growing, 變.

subject, 題.

assure . . . , 向 . . . 鄭重聲明.

hasten, 趕快.

add, 加言.

slight attacks of fever, 寒熱病之小襲擊; 小寒熱.

cough, 咳嗽.

poorly, 身體不適的.

Hence my thoughts, 故有我(下文所述)之思想.

As is often said, 有如人所常言者.

realize, 知.

taken ill, 起病.

Needless to say, 不必說.

indisposition, 小病.

get over . . . , 由 . . . 復原.

account for . . . , 說明 . . . 之理由.

regretted, 悔.

certain, 某.

a great deal, 多.

besides, 除此以外.

cannot afford, 不能; 不會得.

thinking and thinking, 繼續思想.

incidents, 事.

passages, 文字之片段.

P. 10. ideal, 理想的, 完美的.

mentally, 在心上.

handbook, 小書.

favourite authors, 喜讀之作家.

was laid up with a cold, 因傷風而臥.

Burns, 即 Robert Burns, 蘇格蘭詩人, 生於一七五九年, 卒於一七九六年

Blake, 即 William Blake, 英國詩人, 生於一七五七年, 卒於一八二七年.

BUYING SECOND-HAND° BOOKS

Money being no consideration,° perhaps no-one would prefer second-hand clothes to° new clothes or second-hand furniture° to new furniture. But we must not jump at the same conclusion° in regard to° books—and women. One may seek twenty excuses° to break off an engagement° for the purpose of marrying, or “keeping”,° a woman who has either buried° or divorced° her fifth husband. One may also fall in love with a “ragged veteran”° at first sight° and keep it for God knows how long.°

Not being here concerned with° women, let us imagine a hard° student parting with° a favourite book° for his next meal. The book has its pages badly thumbed,° and probably its binding° somewhat loosened, but it bears° its owner’s signature,° the date of its being bought (and maybe also that of its being sold), and his copious notes and comments.° Another hard student (but by no means° so hard up° as the first student) sees it at a second-hand book-shop, opens it, reads it here and there,° finds it interesting, looks at it again and again, talks (mentally) with it, thinks of its fate,° takes pity on it, and falls in love with it. Having inquired the price, he buys it. Having bought it, he carries it home. Having carried it home, he reads it and caresses° it, and caresses it and reads it.

Have you ever had such an experience? Do you believe me when I say one may prefer a second-hand

book to a brand-new^o copy of the same book? It seems to me that while new books are mere things, second-hand books are personalities^o.

I have to add, however, that in saying so I have had only literary books in mind^o. Dictionaries, scientific treatises,^o grammars,^o and all sorts of text-books cannot develop a personality. They are the best when the newest. If I sometimes buy a second-hand dictionary, it is because money is^o a consideration with me. It is cheap, and I hold it cheap.^o

NOTES

P. 12. Second-hand, 已經他人用過的; 舊的.

Money being no consideration, 在並無金錢問題之時 (意即在不必省錢之時).

prefer... to..., 愛... 而不愛
furniture, 家具.

jump at the same conclusion, 貿然得到同樣之結論.
in regard to, 關於.

seek twenty excuses, 利用許多託詞

break off an engagement, 解除婚約.

"keeping"... , 與... 姘.

buried, 葬.

divorced..., 與... 離婚.

"ragged veteran", 穿破衣之老兵 (指舊書)

fall in love with... at first sight, 與... 一見

God knows how long, 無人知如何長久.

concerned with, 論及.

hard, 勤奮的.

parting with, 賣去.

favourite book, 喜讀之書.

thumbed, 被擗指弄污.

binding, 裝釘.

bears, 載.

signature, 簽字.

copious notes and comments, 許多注解及評語.

by no means, 決不.

hard up, 無錢的.

here and there, 隨處.

fate, 命運.

caresses, 撫弄.

P. 13. brand-new, 簇新的.

personalities, 人.

had...in mind, 想到...

treatises, 論文.

grammars, 文法書.

is, 實係; 果是 (此字應重讀)

hold it cheap, 輕視之.

OWNING A WATCH

“What time is it by your watch?”° This question, which is undoubtedly° one of the most frequently asked in the world, suggests the idea that each of us has a separate° time of his own, just as he has a separate head of his own.

And as a matter of fact,° it often happens that the watches produced° by two or more persons at the same time show different times. One of them may be right, and yet often none of them are right. At any rate,° only one of them may be right, and the other or others must be wrong.

Well, I seem to hear you say, “Mr Kè, you are referring to° poor watches. You must own but a poor watch.” Reader, I do not own a watch at all. Once I owned one, but I soon had to get rid of it° for economy’s sake.°

For so far as watches are concerned,° owning is almost the same thing as owing.° Buying a watch may be compared to borrowing money. Sudden stoppage, high speed, slow movement, going by fits and starts°—all these remind you to pay the interest falling due.°

Nor is it true of° poor watches only. I know people who have paid large sums for their watches, but who have to make periodical° little payments on them. And the larger the principal, the larger the interest.°

I know a lady who says her watch is such a good one that she takes care° not to wind it up° until it runs

down.° Is it true that a good watch must not be wounded up until it runs down? If so, it seems to be necessary that anyone who owns a good watch should own a poor one as well.° Moreover, the poor watch would have to serve the good one—for the simple reason that it is poor.

NOTES

P. 15. What time is it by your watch?, 君之錶上此刻爲何時?

undoubtedly, 無疑.

separate, 各別的.

as a matter of fact, 在事實上.

produced, 取出.

at any rate, 無論如何.

referring to, 說及.

had to get rid of it, 不得不棄去之.

for economy's sake, 爲節省起見.

so far as watches are concerned, 就錶而論.

owing, 欠(錢).

going by fits and starts, 時走時停.

interest falling due, 到期之利息(指修錶所用之錢).

of, 關於.

periodical, 有定期的.

the larger the principal, the larger the interest, 本金愈大, 則子金亦愈大.

takes care, 留心.

wind it up, 開此錶.

P. 16. runs down, (發條走完而) 停.

as well, 亦.

MY IDEAL HUSBAND

I have not yet met my ideal husband, though I know several young men in whom I like to think I have found some or other qualification° of a good husband. An ideal husband is perhaps as hard to find as an ideal teacher, an ideal guide to English composition,° or an ideal snapshot camera.°

The first requirement of my ideal husband is that he should treat his wife as a personality, not as a thing. He would love me as he loves his parents and brothers and sisters rather than° as he loves his stick, his gramophone,° his favourite book, or his evening read.° It sounds° laughably absurd that a husband should ever treat his wife as if° she were his stick (I do not exactly mean when he walks with her), his gramophone, his favourite book, or his evening read. Yet it is nevertheless true that husbands often look upon their wives as° things, to be liked and loved. I have heard a young man say that he cannot conveniently afford to have so great a luxury° as a wife. Personally I would not glory° in being considered a luxury, nor would I ever think of making a luxury of myself.

Being passionately fond of English literature, I would sooner remain single° for life than° have a husband who does not have the same taste as I. My ideal husband would read to me° and enjoy being read to by me. He would talk with me about sixteenth-century English writers as interestingly° and as interestedly° as so many couples° in Shanghai talk about American film stars.°

I do not have much to say besides° the above-mentioned two requirements. I have simply to add that my ideal husband would also possess the ordinary qualifications of a good young man. He would be honest, energetic, and trustworthy. He would take good care of his health and his conduct.° He would use his money wisely. He would forbear° borrowing or begging or stealing. He would not under any circumstances° commit a murder.°

As I have said, I have not yet met my ideal husband. I am yet to wait and see.°

NOTES

P. 17. some or other qualification, 某種資格.

guide to English composition, 英文作文指南.

snapshot camera, 快鏡攝影機.

rather than, 而非.

gramophone, 留聲機器.

read, 閱讀(時間)

sounds, 似乎.

as if, 好像.

look upon...as..., 視...如....

luxury, 奢侈品.

glory, 自豪; 自以為榮.

single, 不嫁的.

would sooner...than..., 寧願...而不願....

read to me, 讀書給我聽.

interestingly, 令人感到興趣.

interestedly, 自己感到興趣.

couples, 夫婦.

film stars, 電影明星.

P. 18. besides..., 除...之外.

conduct, 行爲.

forbear, 免於; 不.

would not under any circumstances, 無論如何決不.

commit a murder, 殺人.

wait and see, 靜待.

THE DEATH OF A MOTH°

I was casting about in my mind for a topic° just now,° when a moth came to flutter° about the light. Somehow° it got hurt and lay beside my ink-bottle, dying. Dying, dying—dead. Truth to tell,° I feel pity for it. But I do not feel too much pity for it to write. I am even making use of° its death in my “talk”. It seems that this trifling incident° has put a world of thoughts into my mind.

Do I say “this trifling incident”? Yes, the death of a moth is trifling enough in human eyes.° Equally trifling is the death of thousands of innocent° people in the eyes of war-lords.° We men are men° and can think only as men think; we cannot take the point of view° of moths and realize the value of their lives as they see it. War-lords, too, can think only as war-lords think, and cannot bring themselves to believe that a beggar prizes° his own life as highly as a war-lord does.

I have said I am making use of the death of the moth in my “talk”. But is not the death of a human being° often made use of? A young man may hug himself° on an uncle’s death, because that uncle happens to be a rich one and his flight from this world to the other° means the transfer° of wealth from his hands to the young man’s. I do not here care° to say anything about the highwayman° who kills a traveller to take his money.

Figuratively,° a moth fluttering about the light is a man hovering° round some sort of temptation.° How

many men and women fall a prey to^o what they hover round! Let us learn a lesson from the death of the moth and see that we are after all^o wiser than moths.

NOTES

P. 19. moth, 飛蛾.

casting about in my mind for a topic, 思索欲得一題目.

just now, 片刻之前.

flutter, 飛撲.

Somehow, 爲某種原因.

Truth to tell, 按實情而言.

making use of, 利用.

trifling incident, 微細之事.

a world of, 許多.

in human eyes, 在人類之目光中.

innocent, 無罪的.

war-lords, 軍閥.

We men are men, 我儕人類終爲人類而已.

point of view, 觀點; 意見.

prize, 珍重.

human being, 人.

hug himself, 自幸.

his flight from this world to the other, 彼之死亡.

transfer, 移交.

care, 欲.

highwayman, 攔路搶劫之盜.

figuratively, 就譬喻而言.

hovering, 徘徊.

temptation, 誘惑物.

P. 20. fall a prey to ..., 爲...而犧牲.

after all, 畢竟.

ON GAMBLING°

“Would you mind joining our mah-jongg party?”

“Sorry, but I do not gamble.”

“Not gamble? Why not learn to,° just for amusement?”

As if° one could take gambling as serious work! As if one could gamble as seriously as one teaches school,° defends a fortress,° saves a friend from drowning, or does something or other° with a view to the immortality of his soul!°

Well, there are people who do° gamble seriously, though they say they gamble merely for amusement. And it seems that most of those who gamble at all gamble seriously. Moreover, there are those who gamble seriously but are serious in doing nothing else. I do not mean that most of those who gamble do it for money. I mean that while they may not have money in view,° they are nevertheless seriously absorbed in the game. They show accuracy,° promptness,° thoroughness,° carefulness, and other elements of personal efficiency.° They observe the time-honoured rules.° Their watchword is “fair play”.° What is more,° when the table is removed,° they never fail to hold° a warm° discussion about their game, with as much gusto° as though° they were debating a newly-discovered law of the universe.°

Personally° I hate gambling. I hate both the sight and the sound of a gambling party. I hate gambling as much as I hate opium-smoking and prostitution.°

I am told that gambling is one of the best means for fostering^o friendship. Indeed, there are friendships that are kept up^o merely by occasional rounds^o of gambling. But I would rather lose a friend than keep him by doing with him what I have a strong dislike to. I wonder whether a friendship is possible—I mean a friendship in the true sense of the word—when nothing else can maintain it than mah-jongg or poker.^o

I do not wish to talk of the evils of gambling here. Those who have a passion^o for gambling would never desist^o till they have gambled themselves out of house and home.^o May every student of science or literature take a leaf out of the confirmed gambler's book^o in regard to earnestness and seriousness!

NOTES

P. 21. On Gambling, 論賭博.

“Would you mind joining our mah-jongg party?, 君肯加入我等之雀牌團體否?”

learn to=learn to gamble.

As if, 好像; 豈.

teaches school, 在學校中當教員 (美國語).

defends a fortress, 守砲臺.

something or other, 某事.

with a view to the immortality of his soul, 以求其靈魂之永生.

do, 實在; 竟然.

have money in view, 以金錢爲目的.

accuracy, 精確.

promptness, 迅速.

thoroughness, 澈底.

efficiency, 效力; 能力.

observe the time-honoured rules, 遵守由來已久之規訓.

“fair play”, 均等機會; 公正.

What is more, 更有進者.

when the table is removed, 當桌已移去之時 (指賭畢之後).

never fail to hold, 必舉行.

warm, 熱烈的.

gusto, 興趣.

as though, 竟像.

universe, 宇宙.

personally, 就我個人而言.

prostitution, 賣淫.

P. 22. fostering, 養成.

kept up, 保持.

rounds, 回; 次.

poker, 撲克牌戲.

passion, 嗜好.

desist, 停止.

gambled themselves out of house and home, 因賭而傾家.

take a leaf out of the confirmed gambler's book, 效仿時常賭博之人.

IN THOSE DAYS

What do you think of this phrase? When you read in a fairy-tale° about medieval Europe° that “in those days young men and young women had a far more romantic° time of it than in the twentieth century”° how does the phrase “in those days” strike you?° When you are caught writing a love-letter° by your grandfather and he, commenting° on the present age and recollecting° his own youth, say, “In those days love-making was taboo”°, how does the phrase impress you?

I suppose that the same phrase impresses you differently on different occasions. On one occasion, it may cause you to wish you had lived hundreds of years ago; on another, it may make you bless your stars° that you belong to this century. You may think how great° it would be to make friends with° or merely to see a knight-errant° wandering in search of chivalrous adventures.° You may also regard motoring° and dancing and seeing the movies as the highest possible forms of pleasure in this world.

When old people say “in those days”, they usually mean to condemn° the present and praise the past. They perhaps consider everything old good—old customs,° old fashions, old wines, etc. Hence the ironical phrase° “good old days”.

Personally I like reading “in those days” in literature. I like reading both “In those days all had enough to eat and to spare” and “In those days all scholars and

authors were poor". I have the prejudice^o that literature must tell of the bygone^o days. I do not delight in any piece of writing of the literary kind that contains nothing but motor-cars, telephones, and aeroplanes.^o

NOTES

P. 24. fairy-tale, 神仙故事.

medieval Europe, 中世紀之歐洲.

romantic, 浪漫的; 富有情趣的.

century, 世紀.

How does the phrase 'in those days' strike you?, 君對於 "in those days", 一語之感想如何?

are caught writing a love letter, 被人查獲方寫情書.

commenting, 論.

recollecting, 回憶.

taboo, 禁止的.

bless your stars, 自己慶幸.

great, 大快樂的.

make friends with..., 與... 交友.

knight-errant, (中世紀之) 俠客

in search of chivalrous adventures, 找尋武俠之事; 求作俠客之事

motoring, 坐汽車.

condemn, 嚴責.

customs, 風俗.

Hence the ironical phrase , 故有 之諷刺語

P. 25. prejudice, 偏見.

bygone, 過去的.

aeroplanes, 飛機.

TALKING SHOP°

The other day I had occasion° to inquire the price of cod-liver oil° at a dispensary.° By a slip of the tongue,° I asked if° the shop kept any form of the oil *published*° in China. Of course, I was aware of my mistake the moment° I made it, and hastened to say *prepared* (I spoke in Chinese, not in English.)

If the salesman did pay some attention to my mistake, he would gather° from it that I have something to do° with books. As a matter of fact, I made the mistake simply because I am accustomed to talk about books and editions° of books and publishers° of editions of books.

Surely it is absurd to speak of *publishing* any medicine° or tonic.° But does one's use of words not often betray one's profession° or calling° or social rank? A scientist° *analyses* anything, a clergyman° *expounds* anything; a public man° *investigates* anything. A lawyer° receives his *fee*, a teacher draws° his *salary*; a workman gets his *wages*. A student must have read one or more books on rhetoric when he accuses a note° from his little sister of° lacking force and coherence.° A man must have some knowledge of economics° who calls his superannuated° father an unproductive consumer.°

In a way,° we all talk shop, as the saying is.° We often take care to sink the shop,° but often in vain. We may talk shop without our own knowledge°—and yet to the amusement of° our hearer or hearers.

NOTES

P. 26. talking shop, 三句不離本行.

had occasion 須

cod-liver oil 鱈魚肝油.

dispensary, 藥房

slip of the tongue 誤言

if = whether

published, 出版

the moment = as soon as

gather 推測

have something to do . . . 與 . . . 有關.

editions, 版本

publishers, 出版家.

medicine, 藥

tonic, 補品

profession 職業.

calling, 行業

scientist, 科學家.

clergyman, 教士.

public man, 公務人員

lawyer, 律師

draws, 支取

note, 短信

accuses of . . . 指摘 . . . 謂犯 . . . 之弊.

coherence, 連貫; 順適

economics, 經濟學

superannuated, 老而無用的.

unproductive consumer, 不生產之消耗者.

in a way, 有幾分

as the saying is, 如習語所云.

sunk the shop, 不談本行

without our own knowledge, 爲我人自己所不知

to the amusement of . . . 使 . . . 引爲好笑

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

This question, as a question, is none too polite.° But I hope I do no wrong in making it the title° of my "talk". I suppose it is an attractive title.

How old are you, reader? And how old do you feel? And how old do you look? And how old do you wish you were? And how old do you think others think you are?

Well, how old do you think I am? I am afraid you think I am about forty. Some° five years ago, when a student who had read my articles° for a long time came to see me, he told me that he had thought I was at least forty and was surprised to find that I was yet about twenty-five. I must have looked about twenty-five then. In fact, however, I was then only twenty or twenty-one.

To be exact, I am at present twenty-six.° But I am told that I look thirty or so.° And I feel fifteen or so. And I wish I were ten or so.

I have grown into a young man before I knew it. Perhaps you are growing into a young man or a young woman without your knowing it.

Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore,
So do our minutes hasten to their end°;
Each° changing place with that° which goes before,
In sequent toil all forwards do contend.°

—Shakespeare.°

We *are* young. But we *were* younger. And we *shall be* older, older, older. We grow up, up, up—and then down, down, down.

It is said that men are now young at fifty.^o But I find that many men and women are now old enough at twenty-five. I mean that at twenty-five they have done with^o their reading and study, leaving this “young^o people’s work” to their children and their children’s children to do.

NOTES

P. 28. none too polite, 極不客氣的。

title, 題目。

Some, 大約。

articles, 論文。

I am at present twenty-six, 按此文係一九三二年所作。

or so, 或多或少; 大約。

Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore, so do our minutes

hasten to their end, 光陰之前奔, 有如海浪之流向多礫之岸。

each=each minute.

that=that minute.

In sequent toil all forwards do contend=all do contend forwards is

sequent toil, 光陰努力, 繼續前進。

Shakespeare, 莎士比亞, 即 William Shakespeare, 英國大戲劇家兼詩人,

生於一五六四年, 卒於一六一六年。

P. 29. are young at fifty, 年至五十而尚覺年青。

have done with, 完畢。

SOUR GRAPEISM°

This expression I have found only in Mrs Gaskell's novel *Cranford*.° It occurs in "There,° economy was always elegant, and money-spending 'vulgar and ostentatious';° a sort of sour grapeism, which made us very peaceful and satisfied". The allusion° is to the well-known fable° of the fox that tried in vain to get at some grapes hanging from a vine,° but when he found he could not reach them went away saying "I see they are sour".

Cases of sour grapeism we meet with on all sides,° and perhaps most of us sometimes play the "sour grapeist."° To quote from *Cranford* again, "If we walked to or from a party,° it was because the night was so fine, or the air so refreshing; not because sedan-chairs° were expensive. If we wore prints,° instead of summer silks, it was because we preferred a washing material;° and so on, till we blinded ourselves to the vulgar fact that we were, all of us, people of very moderate means"°. It seems that sour grapeism is resorted to° more often to conceal one's poverty than for any other purpose.

For my part,° I am not a "sour grapeist". My fountain-pen was lost in Shanghai some time ago, and I have not yet bought a new one. Not because I do not like a fountain-pen, but because I wish to save a few dollars. I would gladly have *The Great Oxford English Dictionary* if I could afford° the price. As things are,° however, I could not at present conveniently manage° to

get even a copy of the American edition of *The Pocket Oxford Dictionary*.° Often I hang° about a second-hand book-shop° and cast a loving eye at some favourite book or other, but very seldom I make bold° to spend a dollar or two for a few hundred pages of fiction or poetry or belles-lettres.° There are lots of° sweet grapes that, alas, I have to forbear eating simply because I do not have the money!

Well, if sour grapeism as the term is usually understood always implies dishonesty and falsehood, sour grapeism as a *philosophy* or a *religion*, I should think, would serve a very good purpose. Would a young man not find great comfort in it when he is thrown over° by his girl of girls°?

NOTES

P. 30. Sour Grapeism, 酸葡萄主義 (意義見文中).

Mrs Gaskell's novel *Cranford*, Gaskell, 夫人所著小說 *Cranford* (Mrs Gaskell 卽 Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 原姓 Stevenson, 英國小說家, 生於一八一零年, 卒於一八六五年.)

there, 指 Cranford, 地方.

"vulgar and ostentatious", 鄙陋而炫耀的.

allusion, 典故.

fable, 寓言.

vine, 葡萄樹.

on all sides, 各處.

play the "sour grapeist", 爲酸葡萄主義者.

party, 宴會.

sedan-chairs, 轎.

prints, 印花布.

washing material, 可洗之衣料.

very moderate means, 極微薄之財.

resorted to, 利用.

For my part, 就我而言.

The Great Oxford English Dictionary, 此字典係全世界最詳備之英文字
典, 英國 Oxford University Press 出版.

afford, 供給.

As things are, 按諸事實.

manage, 設法.

P. 31. *The Pocket Oxford Dictionary*, 此書亦係 Oxford University
Press 出版; 其美國版係美國 Albert & Charles Boni 出版, 中多美語.

hang 徘徊.

second-hand book-shop, 舊書店.

make bold, 鼓起勇氣; 冒險.

belles-lettres, 美文學.

lots of, 許多.

thrown over, 棄絕.

girl of girls, 愛人.

SNOW-BOUND°

Snow-bound, I have been reading John Greenleaf Whittier's° famous poem "Snow-bound",° which is an idyll° on country joys as serene° and beautiful in its way as Robert Burns's "The Cotter's Saturday Night"° and Oliver Goldsmith's "The Deserted Village".° These three poems are the best among the longer poems on rustic° life that I have ever read, and I hope you will find them very delightful and charming if you are at all interested in literature of their nature. They are not very hard to read: they, and many other good English poems, are rather easy. Do not fear poetry, reader. Poems are written by human beings° like you and me, I think it is merely because they believe all poetry is hard that many of those students who profess° a genuine° interest in English literature do not try to read any poem at all.

But I digress.° Snow-bound, I have been reading Whittier's "Snow-bound". It is the only long snow poem in English that I know of. It is a vivid° picture of the honest, laborious, and God-fearing life of the Massachusetts° farmer as he is shut in by the snow.

Snow everywhere. I read "Snow-bound", and I wish I were in the poet's house and were helping him as he did his "nightly chores",° when

Unwarmed by any sunset light°
The grey° day darkened into night,
A night made hoary with the swarm°

And whirl-dance° of the blinding storm,°
 As zigzag wavering to and fro
 Crossed and recrossed the winged snow.°

But I am in Shanghai, where snow does not bring any scenes° like those described in Whittier's poem.

I recall the throwing of snowballs on the housetops at Christmas as portrayed° in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*.° Even such a sight I am denied° in the world-known city where I make my bread!°

NOTES

P. 33. Snow-bound, 被雪所困.

John Greenleaf Whittier, 美國詩人, 生於一八零七年, 卒於一八九二年.
 "Snow-bound", Whittier 所著長詩名.

idyll, 田園詩; 鄉景詩.

serene, 清靜的.

Robert Burns's "The Cotter's Saturday Night", 按 Burns 已見前注,
 詩題中 "Cotter's" 作「農人的」解.

Oliver Goldsmith's "The Deserted Village", 按 Goldsmith 係愛爾蘭
 詩文名家, 生於一七二八年, 卒於一七七四年, 詩題中 "Deserted" 作
 「荒涼的」解.

rustic, 鄉村的.

human beings, 人(類).

profess, 自認.

genuine, 真的.

digress, 離題.

vivid, 生動的.

Massachusetts, 美國州名.

chores, 雜役.

sunset light, 夕陽.

grey, 灰色的.

swarm, 羣.

P. 34. whirl-dance, 旋舞.

blinding storm, 令人眼花之雪陣.

as zigzag wavering to and fro crossed and recrossed the winged
(wing'ed) snow (=the winged snow crossed and recrossed), 當雪花
飛舞, 錯綜曲折而往來之時.

scenes, 景象.

portrayed, 描寫.

Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, 按 Dickens (迭更斯) 係英國小說家.

於一八一二年, 卒於一八七零年, 小說題中 "Carol" 作「歌歌」解.

even such a sight I am denied, 我竟不得見此景.

make my bread, 謀生.

WRITING FOR OTHERS

Almost in every ten or fifteen days some friend or other° of mine asks me to write something in English. It may be a letter, an essay, a story, or a few sentences as an exercise in grammar or rhetoric. It may be something that my friend has to write himself, or it may be something that a friend, an acquaintance, or a relative of my friend has asked him to write, or it may be something that a relative of an acquaintance of a friend of my friend has asked that acquaintance of that friend of my friend, and that acquaintance of that friend of my friend has asked that friend of my friend, and that friend of my friend has asked my friend, to write. At any rate, it is something that my friend asks me to write.

Often what I am asked to write is a practical letter, such as one to the Municipal Council° applying for° the use of a tennis court° in some park or one requesting a foreign missionary° to help a poor boy through his primary school course.° Sometimes it is two or three sentences illustrating° some grammatical or rhetorical principle. In both cases I delight in the work and like to think that in so doing I am doing my friend, or somebody else, a useful service.

Often, however, I am asked to write an essay or a story that my friend, or somebody else, ought to write himself: it may be either his school work or something by which his ability is to be tested. In either case, my

friend should not make, and I should not grant, the request. The reason is plain.

Once a teacher of my acquaintance^o asked me to translate an article into English, saying that a friend of his would like to learn some idiomatic expressions^o from my translation. I believed every word he said, and translated the article as requested. Later on^o I heard that my translation had helped the teacher to get a lucrative post,^o and wondered whether he really had a friend who was interested in the study of English.

NOTES

P. 36. some friend or other, 某友.

Municipal Council, 工部局.

applying for, 請求.

tennis court, 網球場.

missionary, 教士.

help a poor boy through his primary school course, 資助一貧之兒童, 使之躋學上學課程.

illustrating, 說明.

P. 37. a teacher of my acquaintance, 我所相識之某教師.

idiomatic expressions, 習語.

later on, 後來.

lucrative post, 可以獲利之位置.

LIONS° AND LIONISM°

If you are at all interested in literary news° and have a fairly good memory,° you must remember that George Bernard Shaw,° the famous Irish writer,° was quite a lion in Shanghai on February 17.°

I am sure that you learnt the word "lion" long, long ago. But here I use the word in a special sense.° I mean a person of literary or other celebrity° who is sought after° to be shown off° at social gatherings.° Used in this sense the word is sometimes enclosed in quotation-marks, but as the sense is not now uncommon,° I do not think the quotation-marks necessary.

George Bernard Shaw, as you probably remember, was a lion in Shanghai on February 17. He is one of the few people in the world who are lionized wherever they go.° Can you tell the name of any of the others? Do you remember any other person who has ever been lionized in Shanghai? Do you remember John Dewey?° And Rabindranath Tagore?° And Bertrand Russel?°

Have you ever read of any case of lionism in history? What do you think most lion-hunters° aim at in their lion hunt? Do you think all lions enjoy being lionized°? Have you read what Thomas Carlyle° has to say about Robert Burns as a lion in Edinburgh° and those who lionized them? You may read it in Carlyle's *Heroes and Hero-worship*° and *The Essay on Burns*.

By the way, do you think there is any difference between lions and heroes and between lionism and

hero-worship? Do you know of any hero who has never been lionized, and of any lion who is anything but^o a hero?

NOTES

P. 38. Lions, 名人 (詳見本文)

Lionism, 追求名人.

If you are at all interested in literary news, 若君尙留心文學界消息.
fairly good memory, 尙佳之記憶力.

George Bernard Shaw, 蕭伯納 愛爾蘭文豪, 生於一八五六年.

Irish writer, 愛爾蘭之著作家.

February 17, 指一九三三年.

sense, 意義.

celebrity, 名望.

sought after, 追求.

shown off, 炫示.

social gatherings, 社交上之集會.

is not now uncommon, 現在並不生僻.

are lionized wherever they go, 到處受人以名人相待.

John Dewey, 杜威, 美國教育家, 生於一八五九年.

Rabindranath Tagore, 泰戈爾, 印度詩人, 生於一八六一年.

Bertrand Russel, 羅素, 英國哲學家, 生於一八七二年.

lion-hunters, 追求名人者.

enjoy being lionized, 以受人以名人相待爲樂.

Thomas Carlyle, 蘇格蘭文豪, 生於一七九五年, 卒於一八八一年.

Edinburgh, 愛丁堡, 蘇格蘭京城.

Hero-worship, 崇拜英雄.

P. 39. is anything but, 決非.

SIMPLY CANNOT°

Several years ago, when I was on the English editorial staff° of the Commercial Press,° I received a letter from a hard self-taught student of English° requesting me to correct some short essays for him. In reply I said that I was very sorry I could find no time to do so. The student wrote° again to repeat his request, saying, if I remember right,° “I would kneel and I would remember you even after my death”. As I could not conveniently arrange° to correct his essays for him, I had to reject° his request once more,° though at the same time I gave him much advice and encouragement° concerning° the writing of English.

Perhaps we are all of us sometimes asked by somebody to do something that it is beyond our power to do.° I have been several times asked by someone or other to find him a position° as teacher or clerk or salesman° or servant. In fact, however, I have never succeeded in securing any sort of position for any person.° For I am a man with but few° friends and of absolutely no influence.°

Nor can I possibly help any young man in hunting for° a wife. I have no girl friends, and, to tell the truth,° I have never seen a girl who I think would make° a perfect wife for any young man I know, nor *vice versa*.°

To return to° the student. I do not know how he felt on reading my second letter. I hope he did not take offence° at it. At any rate, he must have felt

disappointed. I wish I had corrected his essays for him. But then I could find no time to do so. I wish I could help others in their search for positions and wives. But I simply cannot.

NOTES

P. 40. Simply Cannot, 竟然不能.

English editorial staff, 英文編輯部

Commercial Press, 商務印書館

hard self-taught student of English, 勤奮自修英文之學生.

wrote, 寫信.

if I remember right, 倘我所記不誤.

arrange, 設法.

reject, 拒絕.

once more, 再.

encouragement, 鼓勵.

concerning, 關於.

it is beyond our power to do, 爲我人所不能爲.

find him a position, 爲之尋一位置.

salesman, 售貨人.

have never succeeded in securing any sort of position for any person,

從未爲任何人謀得任何位置.

but few, 極少.

of absolutely no influence, 絕對無有勢力的.

hunting for, 追求.

to tell the truth, 說實話.

make, 成爲.

nor *vice versa*, 反之亦無 (“*vice versa*” 係拉丁文).

return to, 再談.

take offence, 見怪.

WHAT DO WOMEN DESIRE MOST?

Well, I simply cannot answer this question. I know very few women and very little about women.° I am sure that what women desire most is not poverty, nor ill health, nor bad luck. But then° there does not seem to be any man who ever seeks poverty, ill health, or bad luck. Nor does the average woman, any more than the average man, wish most for a good knowledge of English°—though *you* may happen° to be more deeply interested in this subject than in anything else.

What, after all,° do women desire most? According to° Geoffrey Chaucer,° known as the Father of English Poetry,° once there was in England a young bachelor knight° who saved his own life by answering this question. He had been sentenced by the King to be killed° on account of a certain crime.° The queen, however, persuaded her husband to grant him his life° and turn him over to her for her to deal with him as she thought fit.° She put the question "What do women desire most?" to the young knight and gave him leave° to go away for a year and a day° to prepare his answer. Upon that answer was to depend whether he would keep or lose his head.°

The knight went from town to town in search of a satisfactory answer.° But he could not find two people of one mind.° Some° said women desire wealth most, some said honour,° some said happiness, some said beautiful dress, and some even said being often widowed and wedded.°

At last, he met an ugly old woman and he asked her advice. After making him pledge his honour^o that he would do whatever she should require next of him,^o if that was in his power,^o the old woman whispered a short sentence in his ear and bade him be glad and have no fear.

The knight came to the court^o on the fixed day and said that he was ready with his answer. When commanded to say it, he replied in a manly^o voice, so that the whole court could hear it, "My noble lady, what women desire most is to obtain dominion^o over their lovers and husband". The court pronounced^o that he had fairly obtained his pardon.^o

This is not yet the end of the story. But as the remaining part has nothing to do with^o my topic, I think I may well stop here.

NOTES

P. 42. very little about women, 甚少關於婦女之知識。

but then, 但。

Nor does the average woman, any more than the average man, wish most for a good knowledge of English, 普通女子並不最希望得良好之英文知識。猶普通男子之並不如是也。

happen, 適。

after all, 畢竟。

according to, 依據。

Geoffrey Chaucer, 英國詩人, 約生於一三四零年, 卒於一四零零年。

known as the Father of English Poetry, 稱為英詩之祖。

bachelor knight, 尙未婚娶之武士。

sentenced by the King to be killed, 為國王判定死罪。

on account of a certain crime, 因為某種罪惡。

grant him his life, 赦彼。

turn him over to her for her to deal with him as she thought fit, 將此人交伊由伊自由處置。

leave, 允許。

a year and a day, 一年又一日 (法律所規定之限期, 一年加一日乃所以得實足一年也。)

keep or lose his head, 保其首或失其首; 生或死。

in search of a satisfactory answer, 尋一滿意之答覆。

of one mind, 意見相同的。

honour, 貴顯。

often widowed and wedded, 時作寡婦而時作新娘。

P. 43. pledge his honour, 以其人格作保。

require next of him, 第一次向彼要求。

power, 權力。

court, 朝廷。

manly, 雄壯的。

dominion, 統治權。

pronounced, 宣稱。

had fairly obtained his pardon, 已應得赦罪。

has nothing to do with..., 與...無關。

A KITTEN°

A kitten has recently been brought to my home. It is not a pretty one, but, like all kittens, has its engaging manners° and many delightful tricks.° It jumps from bed to table and from table to chair. It catches at everything that is moving. It runs quickly and hides behind the door, and in an instant° sallies forth° as if to seize upon something. It mews° and purrs° by turns.°

And just as a cat may look at a king,° a kitten may look at an author. Ours often watches me write. If it had not been for this,° I should not have thought of writing this article. At this moment our kitten is looking at its master and seems to be wondering whether he is not producing some feline literature.°

I have not read much about cats and kittens in English literature. I remember only four pieces, two poems, an essay, and a joke, in which a cat or a kitten forms the subject. One of the poems is Thomas Gray's "On a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Goldfishes".° The other poem is a long description of a kitten by a Scottish poet° whose name I have forgotten. The essay is entitled° "A Kitten" written by Agnes Repplier.° The joke consists of a conversation between a little girl and an old lady. It runs somewhat like this:

Little girl: We have lost our kitten.

Old lady: Is it dead?

Little girl: No.

Old lady: Has it escaped?

- Little girl: No.
 Old lady: Has it been stolen?
 Little girl: No.
 Old lady: Has it been given away?
 Little girl: No.
 Old lady: What, then, has become of it?^o
 Little girl: It has grown into a cat.

This joke reminds me of what a young man once said to a friend. "I shall never see my *fiancée*^o again", he said. The friend replied in surprise, "You don't mean——" "As you know, we are to be married the day after tomorrow. I shall soon see my bride,^o but never my *fiancée* again."

NOTES

P. 45. Kitten, 小貓.

engaging manners, 動人之態.

tricks, 技; 戲法.

in an instant, 片刻後.

sallies forth, 衝出.

mews, (貓) 鳴.

purrs, 作嗚嗚聲.

by turns, 相替; 更換.

a cat may look at a king, 貓亦可注視君主 (諺語).

If it had not been for this, 若不因此事; 若不如是.

feline literature, 論及貓之文學.

Thomas Gray's "On a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Gold-fishes", 按 Gray 係英國詩人, 生於一七一六年, 卒於一七七一年, 此詩

題可譯作「詠淹死於金魚盆中之愛貓」.

Scottish poet, 蘇格蘭 (Scotland) 之詩人.

entitled, 名曰.

Agnes Repplier, 美國女文學家, 生於一八五八年.

P. 46. What, then, has become of it?, 然則彼曾何所遭?

fiancée, 未婚妻.

bride, 新娘.

NO LONGER A BOY°

Of his entrance at Trinity College, Cambridge,° at the age of twenty-seven, George Gordon Byron° wrote, "I know not° how, it was one of the deadliest° and heaviest° feelings of my life that I was no longer a boy". I am barely° twenty-seven, but I have had the same feeling for a long time. During the past ten years, except in my parents' presence,° I have always felt that I am a man, not a boy. Not that° I try to look and walk and talk like a man. Far from it,° I try to look and walk and talk like a boy—a good boy of about fourteen. But I am reminded on every hand° that I am no longer a boy. I work in an office, and of course one cannot be very childish in an office. I am called Mr Kê, and of course one cannot be both a mister and a boy. I write and edit,° and of course boys are too young to write and edit.

I am really a man, though I wish I were a boy. I am glad that if no longer a boy, I am still a youth. Time goes quickly, however. We do not feel any older from week to week, from month to month. But months make years, and as years go by,° we are surprised to find that we are older and older. When I was about ten, I thought that I ought to be ten and my parents ought to be a little over forty ° But now I am twenty-seven, and my parents are sixty or so

Not being a boy, a man does not usually retain° any of his boyish interests° and ambitions.° William

Makepeace Thackeray° said, “When I was a boy, I wanted some taffy.° It was a shilling; I hadn’t one. When I was a man, I had a shilling, but I didn’t want any taffy.” Can you see any truth in these words, reader?

NOTES

P. 47. No Longer a Boy, 不復爲孩子; 已爲成人.

Of, 關於.

Trinity College, Cambridge. (英國) 劍橋大學之三位院.

George Gordon Byron, 拜崙, 英國詩人, 生於一七八八年, 卒於一八二四年.

know not = do not know.

deadliest, 最可恨的.

barely, 僅僅.

in my parents’ presence, 在我父母之面前.

Not that . . . , 並非 . . .

Far from it, 大非如是.

on every hand, 在各方面.

edit, 編輯; 校訂.

go by, 過去.

a little over forty, 略過四十歲.

retain, 保存.

interests, 關心之事物.

ambitions, 志向.

P. 48. William Makepeace Thackeray, 英國文學家, 生於一八一一年, 卒於一八六三年.

taffy, 牛奶糖

PLEASING EVERYBODY

A novel by Jane Austen° has been recently printed from the manuscript° for the first time in England. I read an extract° from it in a newspaper some time ago and found it very interesting. The extract tells of a young lady who has decided to make everyone happy. An old man proposes to her° one day, and she accepts him.° On the same day a young man proposes to her, and she accepts him too. It is not until the next morning that she recollects the double engagement she has entered into.° Then she commits suicide° by throwing herself into a stream.

Jane Austen was born in 1775, and the manuscript is dated 1793. In those days young ladies were quite different from those of today, and it does not seem probable that the author ever knew of° such a lady as she described in her novel. Times have changed, however. Modern young ladies are more inclined° to please men than their grandmothers and great-grandmothers° I have lately° read of° a bride who ran away with a young man and wrote to° her husband to say that though she had decided to elope° with her lover she still loved her husband with all her heart.°

What do you think of such ladies, reader? I think they are no good° and will come to no good.°

Well, it often proves disastrous to try to please everybody. Have you ever read the very popular story of an old man with his son and their donkey? Father

and son are leading° their donkey to the market to sell it. To please various persons, now the father sits on the donkey and the son walks beside him, then° the son sits on it and the father walks; now both father and son ride, then they carry the donkey instead of having it carry them. At last the beast° struggled and fell into a river.

NOTES

P. 49. Jane Austen, 英國女小說家, 生於一七七五年, 卒於一八一七年.

manuscript, 稿本.

extract, 摘錄之文字.

proposes to her, 向伊求婚.

accepts him, 允其求婚.

it is not until the next morning that she recollects the double engage-
ment she has entered into, 直至翌晨始憶及伊所締結之二重婚約.

commits suicide, 自殺.

knew of, 聞及.

inclined..., 有...之傾向的.

great-grandmothers, 曾祖母.

lately, 近來.

read of, 讀及.

wrote to, 致函與.

elope, 私奔.

with all her heart, 竭誠.

are no good, 無益於人.

come to no good, 無好結果.

P. 50. leading, 牽.

now...then..., 時而...時而....

beast, 獸(指驢).

PRACTICAL JOKES°

While a joke is something said or done to excite laughter, a practical joke is a trick played on some person in order to excite laughter at his expense.° It puts him into a ridiculous° position or shows him in a ridiculous light.

Jokes are almost always harmless. But practical jokes often produce bad results. For example, a boy may be drowned in consequence of° being ducked° in a pond by some other boys by way of° practical joke. What do you think of the following story of a practical joke, which has horrified a number of people in England?

A young man of title° was the guest at a great house° in the country.° One night some of the younger members of the houseparty° removed his bed-clothes and hid them in another room. This wanton act,° when discovered, caused a sudden rush of blood to the head of the victim.° He upset the furniture of the room. Paintings° were removed from the walls to the corridor,° movable objects of art° followed, and chairs and mirrors were overturned. The man then rushed from the house, took his car from the garage,° and drove away into the night.°

I hope you hate rather than° like such a practical joke. I myself hate it. I hate all practical jokes and never play any on others. One like the following does not seem to do much harm, yet it is at any rate° a dishonest act.

Two brothers in England decided to have a dinner at a tavern° and then go to the play.° When it was time to call for the reckoning,° one of them dropped a guinea.° They searched for it in vain,° and came to the conclusion° that it had fallen between the boards of the uncarpeted floor. The other young man called the waitress° and said to her, “We’ve° dropped two guineas. See if you can find them.” The girl went down on her hands and knees, and found the one guinea, which had rolled under the fender.° “That’s a very good girl,°” said the young man, pocketing° the coin; “and when you find the other you can keep it for your trouble”. The brothers went with a light heart° to the play.

One day, when I was a little boy, a school-mate of mine, an L., said to me, “Mr C. wants to speak to you”. Mr C. was one of our teachers and was not over kind to the boys.° My school-mate meant to play a practical joke when he told me that Mr C. wanted to speak to me. But I believed what L. said. I went to Mr C. accordingly.° “Who has told you to come to me?” Mr C. asked. “L.”, replied I; “he says you want to speak to me”. Mr C. sent for° L. at once° and put him in the corner.°

NOTES

P. 51. Practical Jokes 惡作劇

in order to excite laughter at his expense, 目的在以彼爲資料而引人發笑

ridiculous 可笑的

in consequence of, 因爲

ducked, 淹入水中。

by way of, 當作。

young man of title, 有爵位之青年。

great house, 大家; 巨室。

country, 鄉間。

houseparty, 別墅中之宴會。

wanton act, 無理之舉動。

caused a sudden rush of blood to the head of the victim, 使此受害者

忽然大怒。

paintings, 油畫。

corridor, 走廊。

objects of art, 藝術品。

garage, 汽車間。

drove away into the night, 驅車入黑夜中。

rather than, 而非。

at any rate, 無論如何。

P. 52. tavern, 酒館。

go to the play, 觀劇。

reckoning, 帳單。

guinea, 英國昔時之金鎊名。

searched for it in vain, 尋不着此 guinea。

came to the conclusion, 決定。

waitress, 女侍者。

We've=We have.

fender, 爐圍。

That's (=that is) a very good girl, 汝乃一甚佳之女郎。

pocketing, 放入袋中。

with a light heart, 欣然。

was not over kind to the boys, 不甚善待諸童。

accordingly, 因此; 卽。

sent for, 喚。

at once, 立即。

put him in the corner, 使之立於屋角 (卽立壁角)。

WHEN THE CAT COMES HOME

My cat disappeared three days ago and did not return till towards evening° today (November 15). He came back from a neighbour's house mewing at the top of his voice° and presenting a very miserable appearance.° Evidently° he had been imprisoned° and cruelly treated by my neighbour's children during the entire period of his disappearance. As soon as he saw me, he ran up to me, sat before me, and looked into my face, as much as to say "Your puss° was lost and is found".

I happened to be reading a sarcastic° essay on some modern scholars by a certain modern scholar. I had to put down my book and caress my cat. I thought and thought as my cat purred and purred.

O the cruelty of man!° Why do you harass° harmless cats, you children? Why do you attack your fellow scholars, you scholars? Without the cruelty of man—to man and beast°—there is enough distress in this world of ours.°

To all appearance° my neighbours's children worried° my cat merely for amusement. They did not intend to kill him. Why,° if they had killed him, they would have killed him merely for amusement. They did not hate him at all.

As most schoolboys can tell, bullying° in school is often done simply for the fun of it. "Look at that little boy over there", says a schoolboy tyrant.° "I will just throw this ball at his back for fun". No sooner said than done.° The ball hits the poor boy's back. The

tyrant laughs in triumph.° One boy's pain is another boy's joy!

I have lately read a life sketch of a king who took infinite delight in war. He killed thousands and thousands of people not because he hated them but because he liked manslaughter.° More and more men and women died. He was simply having a good time.°

To return to my cat. He is home again. Thanks to my neighbour's children, he has all his nine lives intact.° Incidentally,° I suppose those children will soon be able to write a short composition on "Be Kind to Animals".

NOTES

P. 54. towards evening, 傍晚.

mewing at the top of his voice, 大聲而鳴.

presenting a very miserable appearance, 爲狀甚爲可憐.

Evidently, 顯然.

imprisoned, 關起.

puss, 貓.

sarcastic, 譏刺的.

man, 人類.

harass, 惡弄.

man and beast, 人類及獸類.

there is enough distress in this world of ours, 世界上已有不少苦痛.

To all appearance, 顯然.

worried, 惡弄.

Why, 語助詞.

bullying, 欺凌.

tyrant, 惡霸者.

No sooner said than done, 一說即行.

P. 55. triumph, 勝利.

manslaughter, 殺人.

having a good time, 取樂.

has all his nine lives intact, 保全其九命 (按英人謂每貓有九命).

Incidentally, 順便說及.

SOME CASES OF MISUNDERSTANDING°

Here is an amusing³ case of misunderstanding, which I found in a foreign newspaper some time ago:

“And now”, said the teacher, “can anyone give me a sentence using the word ‘candour’?” “I can”, said a little boy in the front seat; “my papa had a pretty stenographer^o and my mamma saw her and so my papa candour.”

Reader, do you understand this case of misunderstanding? I am afraid you do not. Let me explain. “Candour”, as you probably know, is a noun meaning frankness. Of course, “my papa candour” has neither grammar nor sense.^o What, then, did the boy mean? The fact was that he did not know the word “candour”, and that when he heard the teacher say it, he mistook it for^o “caned her”³. Now read the boy’s sentence again, reading “caned her” for “candour,” and you will understand all.

Below is another amusing case of misunderstanding.

A woman said to another, “Oh, Mrs Jones,^o I have never seen a child as badly spoilt as that son of yours”. Mrs Jones replied, “Why, Mrs Murphy,^o I don’t believe you”. “Oh, yes, he is too badly spoilt”, said Mrs Murphy; “just come out and see what the fire-engine did to him^o”.

You will easily find out where the misunderstanding lies, if you know that “spoilt” may mean both *seriously injured* and *too much indulged*.^o

The first of the above-mentioned cases tells of beating and the second tells of injuring. Both are sad tales. I will now mention one that contains a happy event, the birth of a baby. It is as follows:

Boss^c: Late again!

Clerk: Well, my wife presented me with a baby^o last night.

Boss: She would have done a lot^o better with an alarum-clock.^o

Clerk: Come to think of it,^o that would have been quite an achievement.^o

Indeed, did you, reader, ever heard of any woman's being delivered of^o an alarm clock?

NOTES

P. 56. misunderstanding, 誤解.

amusing, 令人發笑的.

candour, 坦白.

stenographer, 速記員 (此處指女速記員).

sense, 意義.

mistook it for . . . , 誤認之爲

caned her, 以杖擊伊.

Jones, 姓氏.

Murphy, 姓氏.

see what the fire-engine did to him, 請看此救火機已有何事發生於彼 (謂此兒已被救火車撞傷也).

too much indulged, 過份姑息.

P. 57. boss, 領袖; 長 (俚語).

presented me with a baby, 贈我一孩 (意即生下一孩).

a lot = much.

alarum-clock, 鬧鐘.

come to think of it, 試思此事.

achievement, 奇事.

being delivered of, 生出; 產.

A TRIBUTE° TO MAH-JONGG

I well remember the advice given me some years ago by a Chinese doctor whom I consulted about a slight indisposition. "There is nothing serious°", he said, with an air of importance° assumed by nearly every doctor when he says something that his patient knows only too well.° "You are in low spirits° because you study too hard. My advice to you is to learn to play mah-jongg in your spare time.° Mah-jongg is a harmless pastime, and it would help to improve your health." As a matter of fact, I set no more store by the doctor's advice than if he had suggested suicide as a means of improving my health,° and I have since had no more to do with the art and science of mah-jongg than I had had before.

But because I did not follow his advice, I can now offer no proof that it was sheer° nonsense. Possibly mah-jongg is a tonic,° even a panacea.° There are people whose headache cannot be otherwise stopped than by mah-jongg, and whom mah-jongg, and nothing else, can keep sitting up all night long.° If it were not for this panacea, the pressure of life might even send them to their graves.°

Aside from its value as a universal remedy, mah-jongg may be called a liberal education.° It teaches fair play, scientific methods, order, regularity, tact,° and alertness. Which of the many subjects in school or college can teach so many things?

I say a liberal education. The word "liberal", as you may have learnt, is here used in a sense that is

almost obsolete except in the term "liberal education", which means an education fit for a gentleman as opposed to° technical or professional or any special training. I use the term quite advisedly.° A gentleman, or a lady, who does not play mah-jongg, is not much of° a gentleman, or of a lady. Times have changed. Modern ladies and modern gentlemen of 1934 dance and drive,° things frowned upon by ladies and gentlemen of the old school,° who stick to their chess and poetry,° things that do not seem to be very fashionable. But mah-jongg is practised by both those who dance and drive and those who affect° chess and poetry—those who adore what they call Western civilization and those who look on China as the only civilized country in the world.° The lady or gentleman of twenty-five says, "China has nothing good except mah-jongg"; the lady or gentleman of sixty-five says, "China has everything good, and mah-jongg is the best".

I have read in an American magazine that mah-jongg was invented by Confucius.° Well, Confucius was the greatest Chinese sage, and *therefore* mah-jongg has made Chinese civilization what it is.°

NOTES

P. 58. Tribute, 讚詞.

There is nothing serious, 並無大病.

air of importance, 自矜之狀.

knows only too well, 却甚知曉.

in low spirits, 精神不佳的.

spare time, 暇時.

I set no more store by the doctor's advice than if he had suggested suicide as a means of improving my health, 我之不重視此醫生之勸告, 有如彼若竟謂自殺乃增進我健康之方法也.

sheer, 完全的.

tonic, 補品.

panacea, 萬應藥.

sitting up all night long, 徹夜不眠.

If it were not for this panacea, the pressure of life might even send them to their graves, 若無此萬應藥, 人生之壓迫或竟驅彼等入墓矣.

liberal education, 意義觀下文自明.

tact, 機敏.

P. 59. as opposed to . . . , 別於 . . . 而言.

advisedly, 故意.

is not much of . . . , 非爲完全之

drive, 乘汽車而遊.

things frowned upon by ladies and gentlemen of the old school, 老派之女士所不贊成之事.

stick to their chess and poetry, 保守其圍棋與吟詩.

affect, 喜.

look on China as the only civilized country in the world, 視中國爲天下惟一之文明國.

Confucius, 孔(夫)子.

has made Chinese civilization what it is, 使中國有今日之文化.

DEATHS OF OLD PEOPLE

Leigh Hunt° wrote a charming essay on "Deaths of Little Children", which has been reprinted in various collections of English essays.° But I do not remember ever having read an essay on the death of old people. This subject may not be interesting to young readers; but it has been in my mind ever since the death of my uncle last December,° and I feel compelled to° write on it.

I am not yet thirty, but I have lost no less than five° relatives by death—my grandparents, my uncle and aunt, and a sister. My uncle was the last to go,° and his death seemed to me to be the saddest because the other four deaths had all occurred before I was old enough to feel a bereavement° keenly.

My uncle died after an apparently slight illness of a few weeks. As a matter of fact, the doctor did not give him up° till within a few days of his death. (Dear Dr—, you know as much about health and death as I do; I honour you.) My uncle remained conscious till death, and had even a long chat with me the day before. He died at sixty-seven.

My uncle is dead. It seems impossible, but it is true, cruelly true. It is equally true, however, that I often try to persuade myself° that he is still living. I have several times dreamt that he had returned to life, and even that he was discussing with me the wording° of the memorial couplets° hung on the walls.

“Even children may die”, said a certain° Englishman whose name I have forgotten. But I feel inclined to say, “Even old people may die!” Year after year goes by. Some old man or old woman, near and dear to you, continues to live, to all appearance to the end of time.° But all too soon° the inevitable° happens, without a warning. Is it not sad?

Not sad, of course, to those who believe that old people have no business° to live and should therefore make their exit° as early as possible to make room for° the young. The trouble is that this principle does not seem to be very popular among those who are old enough to act up to° it.

NOTES

- P. 61.** Leigh Hunt, 英國小品文作家, 生於一七八四年, 卒於一八五九年.
reprinted in various collections of English essays, 重印於各種英文小品文集中.
last December, 指一九三四年十二月.
feel compelled to..., 覺有...之必要.
no less than five, 足有五個之多.
go, 死去.
bereavement, 死亡.
give him up, 聲明彼為不可治.
persuade myself, 使我自己相信.
wording, 措詞.
memorial couplets, 輓辭.

- P. 62.** certain, 某.
to all appearance to the end of time, 宛若將無盡期.
all too soon, 何其速.
the inevitable, 不可避免之事 (指死亡).
business, 權利.
make their exit, 死.
make room for, 讓.
act up to, 實行.

A SORT OF FALSE PRIDE°

In 1821, then at college, Nathaniel Hawthorne° wrote to his mother: "What do you think of my becoming an author and relying for my support upon my pen?° Indeed, I think the illegibility of my handwriting° very author-like." I agree with Hawthorne that his illegible handwriting is very author-like. Moreover, most great authors write illegibly. But, of course, it is not to be inferred° that one cannot possibly write a legible hand° as well as write fine books, nor that° authorship can be learnt by learning to write illegibly.

There *are* people, however, who are proud of their inability to write a legible or careful hand. And also° proud of their inability to do things that ladies and gentlemen are not generally supposed to have to do.° What we call a fine lady° may say "I don't know anything about cooking" with as much pride in her eyes and voice as if she said "I am the best musician° in China"; and if you catch her sewing or knitting,° she will feel more ashamed than if you catch her kissing her lover.

And I know a returned student from England° who boasts of his ignorance of niceties° of English grammar, and a professor° of English who boasts of his never having paid any attention to any system of phonetic symbols.° Perhaps it is not very difficult to find returned students who look upon their inability to speak and write correct Chinese as one of the proofs of their having received a good Western education, and professors who take a pride

in° saying to their students: “I teach you literature; therefore never mind my mis-spellings and mispronunciation°”.

Similar instances may be given in regard to personal conduct.° Punctuality° and promise-keeping are regarded by many° as things to be ashamed rather than proud of. “The dinner starts at seven; so I must arrange not to arrive before seven-thirty°”—this is their way of observing the rules of polite society.°

NOTES

P. 63. False Pride, 錯誤之自尊.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, 霍桑, 美國小說家, 生於一八零四年, 卒於一八六四年.

relying for my support upon my pen, 藉我之筆以爲生; 操文字生涯.
illegibility of my handwriting, 我之書法之不清楚.

inferred, 推論.

hand, 書法.

nor that... = nor is it to be inferred that... .

And also = And there are also people who are.

have to do, 不得不爲.

fine lady, 时髦女子.

musician, 音樂家.

catch her sewing or knitting, 發現正在縫衣或編織.

returned student from England, 留英回國之學生.

niceties, 微細點.

professor, 大學教授.

phonetic symbols, 注音符號.

P. 64. take a pride in..., 以...爲榮.

mis-spellings and mispronunciations, 誤拼及誤讀.

in regard to personal conduct, 關於個人之行爲.

punctuality, 守時刻.

many, 許多人.

must arrange not to arrive before seven-thirty, 必須設法在七點三十分後方到.

polite society, 上流社會.

CO-EDUCATION°

Co-education is said to have originated in America. It was adopted in China more than ten years ago. There are many other things that originated in foreign countries and were later adopted in China, such as the telephone, Christmas cards,° neon light,° and permanent waves° that need to be renewed permanently. And as there are people who dislike the telephone, or make it a rule never to send a Christmas card, or hate the sight of neon light or permanent waves, there are those who do not favour° co-education.

Like some old authors and old books, co-education, after being neglected as a topic for discussion for a long time, began to be much discussed recently, as a result, it seems, of° the alleged fact° that an effort had been made in certain quarters° to put an end to° co-education.

In my opinion—well, I do not care° to repeat any pros and cons° here. My opinion is that so long as° boys and girls are well, or ill, educated, it makes little difference° whether they are educated together or separately. Take the teaching of English.° You can never make a boy and a girl, no matter° whether at the same desk or in two rooms a hundred miles apart, learn to use correct current English by teaching Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare*.°

It is time that° education was° taken good care of instead of° paying much attention to the question of "co-educating"° or "de-co-educating".° I do not think

there are any boys who cannot learn anything when there are girls or no girls in the same room, nor any girls who cannot learn anything when there are boys or no boys in the same room. And I suppose that a good teacher can teach well in one-sex^o rooms and two-sex^o rooms alike, while a bad teacher—well, can he ever teach well?

NOTES

P. 65. Co-education, 男女同學.

Christmas cards, 耶穌聖誕節賀片.

neon light, 霓虹燈.

permanent waves, 電燙之髮.

favour, 贊成.

as a result, it seems, of, 似因.

alleged fact, 據述之事實.

certain quarters, 某方面.

put an end to, 制止.

do not care, 不欲.

pros and cons, 贊成及反對之理由.

so long as..., 在...之時; 祇要....

makes little difference, 不甚重要.

Take the teaching of English, 例如英文之教授.

no matter, 不論.

Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare*, 按 Lamb 卽 Charles Lamb, 英國文學家, 生於一七七五年, 卒於一八三四年, Shakespeare 已見前注, 此書係 Charles 與其姊 Mary 合著.

It is time that..., 此時應....

was, 按 "it is time..." 後所用 verb 常用 past time.

instead of, 而不.

"co-educating", 男女同學.

"de-co-educating", 制止男女同學.

P. 66. one-sex, 祇有男或女的.

two-sex, 男女兼有的.

LOVE OF NEW NAMES

The other day I was asked to write a “foreword”^f for a new book. I wrote one; but, being in doubt whether I should call what I wrote “foreword” or “preface”, I consulted *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*,^o which told me that “foreword” is usually used of a preface written by another than the author of the book. Looking up^o the same word in *Modern English Usage*,^o I found it described as a vogue-word^o with people who love a new name for an old thing.

That people are fond of novelties is obvious.^o For instance motor-cars of 1935 are more in demand^o than those of 1934.

But it is not quite obvious that people are also fond of new names for old things. It is nevertheless true, though.^o A lady's gown used to^o be called a “dress”, but nowadays^o there are many who like to call it a “frock”. And, what is more interesting,^o an old thing may come into vogue as soon as it has got a new name.

I know some persons who always seek to use new names. They never have a cold, but sometimes have a catarrh.^o They wear spectacles not because of near-sightedness but because of myopia.^o

I could give many examples of the vogue of Chinese new names; I do not do so, simply because this is an English essay. I do not think it improper, however, to give one or two. Modern men and women do not refer to poverty as 窮, but dignify^o it with the phrase 經濟壓迫.

And I am inclined to think that the frequency with which we read and hear of cases of suicide is to some extent^o due to^o the vogue of the phrases 自殺 and 厭世.

* New names of persons are as popular as new names of things. There are persons who change their names as often as they change their shirts. Pseudonyms^o are a kind of new names. Though I am by no means a novelty-hunter,^o yet I use the pseudonym Thomas Tsun in this series of essays instead of my real name, which is H—z and something after it.

NOTES

P. 67. forward, 序文.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary, 此書係英國 Oxford University Press 出版.

looking up, 查得.

Modern English Usage, 此書亦係英國 Oxford University Press 出版.
vogue-word, 時髦字.

That people are fond of novelties is obvious, 人之喜新奇事物, 乃顯然者也.

in demand, 被人需要的.

though, 但.

used to..., 往往...

nowadays, 現今.

what is more interesting, 事有更足注意者.

catarrh, 傷風.

myopia, 近視.

dignify, 使...尊貴.

P. 68. to some extent, 多少; 有些.

due to, 因.

pseudonyms, 筆名.

am by no means a novelty-hunter, 決非追求新奇事物者.

DOCTORS

An English poet—I forgot who—says that he hates theft but does not hate thieves. He probably means that while theft is in itself very abominable,^o thieves are usually poor creatures^o to be pitied rather than despised and hated. I am inclined to hold a similar opinion in regard to medical science^o and medical men:^o in plain English,^o I believe in medical science but do not believe in doctors.

The reason why I am inclined to hold this opinion is that I have heard of many cases of patients' being made worse or even killed by their doctors,^o though the science itself is no doubt^o making constant progress. Some time ago I mentioned my opinion to a friend who is one of the few Chinese young men I know who can write fine English. As he looked surprised at my words, I explained that just as there are many people who, despite their studies in English,^o cannot use the language correctly, there are many who are or have been careful students of medical science but are not quite well versed in the art of healing.^o "I don't quite agree with you", said my friend; "for medicines can deceive no-one". "Well," I replied, "medicines, as well as words, are apt to be misused. When you condemn a sentence as un-English, the fact is not that the words composing it are not in themselves good English but that they are not properly used. Moreover, to talk about rules of grammar and principles of rhetoric is one thing, but to write faultless English is another.^o Likewise, to lecture on

medical science is not the same thing as to save a man from death or to restore him to health. And the trouble is that while many teachers of grammar and rhetoric are clever enough to content themselves with° teaching others to write English, there do not seem to be many people who do not care to make some practical use of the medical principles and rules that they have learnt enough of the science to talk about.”

I do not mean, however, that there are no good doctors under the sun.° Elizabeth Stevenson Gaskell° says in the first chapter of her novel *Cranford*: “But every man cannot be a surgeon°”. Nor can every doctor be a good doctor. We have but° one life to live and therefore cannot well afford° to treat it as material for doctors’ experiment.

NOTES

P. 69. abominable, 可恨的.

poor creatures, 可憐之人.

medical science, 醫學.

medical men, 醫生.

in plain English, 明言之.

patients’ being made worse or even killed by their doctors, 病人之被其醫生所加重其病或竟被殺.

no doubt, 無疑; 當然.

despite their studies in English, 雖彼等研究英文.

not quite well versed in the art of healing, 不甚精於醫術.

... is one thing, but ... is another, ... 爲一事, 但 ... 乃另爲一事.

P. 70. content themselves with ..., 以 ... 自足; 不作 ... 以外之事.

under the sun, 天下.

Elizabeth Stevenson Gaskell, 已見前注.

every man cannot be a surgeon, 並非人人得而爲外科醫生.

but, 僅; 祇.

cannot well afford, 不堪; 不能.

MONEY IS TIME

“Time is money” is a very popular saying, in spite of the sad fact that° in the prevailing world-wide depression° there are only too many who are trying in vain to turn part of their time into money. Fortunately, I do not now happen to be one of these. But then I have come to find as much truth in “Money is time” as in “Time is money”. While I am indeed much luckier than those whose only work is to seek work,° I always have too much work to do to have much time that I may call my own. It is Arnold Bennett° that says something to the effect that° with man and cat alike a day consists of twenty-four hours. But I almost have a feeling that with me a day is much shorter than with many other people. This is due to the necessity I am under of° working and working to support myself and those whom it is both my duty and my right to support.

Besides spending six hours and a half in an office, I have to work about four hours every week-day,° and on Sundays I also have to work a few hours. So that° I have very little time left for reading and correspondence and any form of “having a good time”. Reading is a great pleasure to me, but I blush to own that I can now find time to read practically° nothing except his *Weekly* and occasionally a short story, an essay, a poem, or an article in some newspaper or magazine—and even this much I do not think I could read if I were not the fairly°

quick reader that I am. The other day I said in jest to an intimate friend, "I wish I could be paid for reading". Well, if you will send me ten or fifteen dollars a week, I will undertake to read a new book, say^o of three hundred pages, during the same period and submit a weekly report to you.

The saying "Money is time", however, is not mine. I came across^o it some years ago, when I had more time to read, in George Gissing's *Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft*,^o the hero^o of this book, who is an elderly scholar, speaks feelingly^o of the days when he was perhaps even less of a "leisured gentleman"^o than I am.

The frequent references that I make to authors and books in this series of articles may lead you to think that I devote a good deal of^o time to reading every day. I have to confess, however, that I have not read five books^o during the past year or so.

NOTES

P. 71. in spite of the sad fact that..., 雖有...之可悲事實.

world-wide depression, 全世界之不景氣.

whose only work is to seek work, 其惟一之工作爲尋工作(謂欲求工作而不得也).

Arnold Bennett, 英國文學家, 生於一八六七年, 卒於一九三一年.

to the effect that..., 其意謂....

the necessity I am under of..., 我之不得不....

week-day, 星期日以外之日.

So that, 故; 所以.

practically, 幾乎.

fairly, 尚可.

P. 72. say, 假定.

came across, 遇.

George Gissing's *Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft*, 按 Gissing 係英國文學家, 生於一八五七年, 卒於一九零三年, 此書係屬筆記體.

hero, 主人翁.

feelingly, 深有所感.

leisured gentleman, 有閒之上等人.

a good deal of, 許多.

have not read five books, 未讀滿五書.

ARTIFICIAL° SPEECH

If I am not mistaken,° one of the essential differences between a modern Chinese gentleman or lady and a Chinese gentleman or lady who is not modern at all is that the former° uses an artificial speech and the latter° uses a natural speech. Calling a spade a spade° is now as much out of fashion° as any custom in dress that obtained° twenty or thirty years ago.

Believe me or not as you will,° but I, who am in no way° “modern”, have lately discovered this characteristic of modern Chinese gentlemen and ladies; that is,° they use a speech that is something like translation from some foreign tongue.° They will say 我很和你表同情, when they mean they sympathize. They will say 生活太單調了, when they suffer from ennui.° They will ask you 你的健康怎樣, and if you say you are all right, they will reply 我樂於聽到這句話. When you are in their good graces,° they treat you as their 親愛的對象. They may from time to time take you with them on an excursion to 陶醉在大自然的懷抱中, though they hold° that it is only the 弱者 that 逃避現實.

Such artificial expressions abound in all the Chinese talkies° that I have ever attended. In one of them a young gentleman courts° a servant girl by making an eloquent appeal in this kind of speech. I wonder whether in real life servant girls would understand this gentleman like speech. But then a girl cannot possibly fail to° understand when a young man speaks to her, whatever form of speech he may use. She knows what he

says without troubling to find out the meaning of the words and phrases he says.

To return to artificial speech, which, as I have said, is something like translation from some foreign tongue. By the way, it seems to me that no-one who uses this artificial speech can speak perfect English. I cannot tell why.^o

NOTES

P. 74. Artificial, 人造的; 不自然的.

If I am not mistaken, 若我所見不誤.

the former, 前者.

the latter, 後者.

Calling a spade a spade, 作直捷之語.

out of fashion, 不合時的.

obtained, 盛行.

Believe me or not as you will, 不論君信我此言與否.

in no way, 絕不.

that is, 即.

foreign tongue, 外國語.

ennui, 無聊; 厭倦.

are in their good graces, 被彼等所愛.

hold..., 持...之意見.

talkies, 有聲電影.

courts..., 向...求愛.

cannot possibly fail to..., 必能....

P. 75. cannot tell why, 不知何故.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING *WEN-LI*°

Granting that° *pei-hua*° is not only easier to read and write but also more expressive° than *wen-li*, I still hold that it is necessary for all of us to learn *wen-li*—to learn to write it as well as to read it.°

You must not, however, understand me to say° that I see in *wen-li* any intrinsic value° not possessed by *pei-hua*, still less° that I regard *wen-li* as a means, or even *the* means,° of national salvation.° My reason for insisting on the importance of learning *wen-li* is a “utilitarian”° one, so to speak.°

Say what you will against° *wen-li*—and I think I can say a great deal against it—you cannot but° have something to do with° it, so long as it is so widely used as it is today. If you cannot read *wen-li*, you cannot read newspapers, you cannot read any kind of official or legal document,° you cannot read any kind of regulations,° you cannot read many social and friendly letters, you cannot read those advertisements which are written in *wen-li* though the books or magazines they advertise are written in *pei-hua*, and you cannot read such sentences as 投稿請用白話, 文言恕不刊登 and 然則文言之不應復見於今日, 夫復奚疑. You do not like *wen-li*, but *wen-li* confronts you on all hands. You cannot avoid it, any more than° you can bring about° a breeze simply by complaining of the heat.

I seem to hear you say: “Yes, I have to read *wen-li*, but I will not write *wen-li*. *Pei-hua* is far more expressive.” Well, there are many occasions when you

are not allowed to be expressive. Suppose you are secretary^o to some boss, you will have to write *wen-li* for him. If you say "I should prefer *pei-hua*, because it is far more expressive", he may consider you a language reformer^o but will not agree to your suggestion. And if you insist that a letter should not be allowed to lose expressiveness by being written in the inexpressive *wen-li*, he may lose his temper^o and you may lose your position.

And perhaps there are gentlemen and ladies who write their "literary" works^o in *pei-hua*, but who hate being addressed as 你, 您, 妳, or 怒. I am not one of these, however.

NOTES

P. 76. *Wen-li*, 文理 (即文言文).

Granting that, 假定.

pei-hua, 白話.

expressive, 達意的.

understand me to say..., 以爲我意爲....

intrinsic value, 內在之價值.

still less, 更非.

the means, 惟一之方法.

national salvation, 救國.

utilitarian, 實用的.

so to speak, 可說.

Say what you will against..., 君儘可作反對...之論.

cannot but, 不得不.

have something to do with..., 與...有關.

document, 文件.

regulations, 章程.

cannot..., any more than..., 不能..., 猶不能...也.

bring about, 致成.

P. 77. secretary, 祕書.

language reformer, 文字改革家.

lose his temper, 發怒.

"literary" works, 「文學」作品.

A STRANGE DREAM

I had a strange dream the other night.° I dreamt that a near relative of mine who died last year rose from the dead° and appeared in our sitting-room. He looked every bit° like himself or, if anything,° a little younger than when he died. I was very much frightened and ran upstairs to tell my father, who was greatly surprised to hear it and came down at once. He inquired of the old man (for my relative lived to be nearly seventy) how he had risen from the grave.° The old man kept silence,° and it was not until my father had repeated his question several times that he declared himself,° saying that he was a member of an amateur dramatic club° and that he had merely personated° the old man to play a trick on our family. I was going to remonstrate with the young man (for the supposed old man had now proved to be a young man), but I awoke with a start.°

Dreams are often unexplainable. But I can account for° this strange dream after a fashion.°

Several weeks ago I attended a performance of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*,° in which the ghost of the murdered king appeared to his son. About a week ago I reread 侯方域's 馬伶傳,° in which the actor Mr 馬 is described as being able to imitate 嚴嵩° exactly. On the day preceding my strange dream, I read in a newspaper of° the discovery of an old grave containing a corpse looking like a living man.

Coupled with^o all this is the fact that not a day passes but^o I think of my dead relative and wish he were still with us.

It is by no means easy to construct a story with the material afforded by a few unconnected hints. I wonder how my strange dream was possible, which was not the production of a story writer.

NOTES

P. 78. the other night, 數夜之前.

rose from the dead, 復活.

every bit, 完全.

if anything, 若有不同之處.

risen from the grave, 復活.

keep silence, 不作聲.

declared himself, 顯示自己爲何人.

amateur dramatic club, 業餘戲劇俱樂部.

personated, 扮作.

awoke with a start, 驚醒.

account for, 解明.

after a fashion, 多少; 約略.

Shakespeare's "*Hamlet*", Shakespeare, (已見前注) 所著之悲劇 *Hamlet*,

(按 *Hamlet*, 亦即劇中主角名).

侯方域's 馬伶傳, 按侯方域係明季文學家.

戴嵩, 明季大臣.

read in a newspaper of, 在某報中讀及.

P. 79. coupled with..., 與...相連.

not a day passes but..., 無日不....

A "MODEL" FRIENDLY LETTER

Friends, or rather mere acquaintances, who cannot hold a conversation for ten minutes without talking about the weather often promise to write to each other° when they part.° And having promised to write, they do write, though not until each begins to think the other has forgotten his promise.

At last one of them writes, in spite of the fact° that he really has nothing to write about. Well, a friendly letter should not be too short. So he devotes one paragraph to expressing his surprise at not having heard from° the other yet, two or three paragraphs to an indexed° statement of reasons why he has not written before, one paragraph to an account of his "present condition" (which, by the way, he says is not well worth speaking of),° and one or two paragraphs to the reasons why he has now to bring the letter to a close° and a promise to get off a longer letter by and by.°

Having received this letter, the other man writes a reply that is similar to it except that the first paragraph is given over not to expressing any sort of surprise but to mentioning the fact that he was just going to write when he received the letter.

After this exchange of letters, it will be some months before° one of the two men thinks of writing again. And there are always reasons for not having written before and for having to bring the letter to a close earlier than was expected. Things° are always going

along as usual.° A longer letter is always promised, but never sent.

Such is what I call a “model” friendly letter. This dull and infrequent correspondence goes on till one of the men writes to the other a much shorter letter, which begins “Can you oblige me with°...?” or “I write to request...” or the like. The monotony° is now broken. But then the letter is not a friendly one; it does not read very much unlike one addressed to “Gentlemen”° and enclosing a money order° for so much money for such and such goods.

NOTES

P. 80. write to each other, 互相通信.

part, 相別.

in spite of the fact, 雖有此事實.

heard from..., 接到...之信.

indexed, 列舉的.

not well worth speaking of, 不甚有述及之價值.

bring the letter to a close, 結束此信.

by and by, 不久以後.

it will be some months before..., 須數月後....

Things, 一切情狀.

P. 81. as usual, 如常的.

Can you oblige me with...? 君能以...加惠於我否?

monotony, 單調.

Gentlemen, 諸位先生.

money order, 匯票.

PERSONAL MAGNETISM°

I do **not** remember the exact words, but I remember that about twelve years ago a Dutch astrologer° wrote to me something to the effect that° after examining my handwriting he was sure that I possessed much personal magnetism.

Perhaps he regarded me as a man whom to know is to love.° The fact, however, is that while I sometimes receive kind and even affectionate letters from unknown friends, I have never met anybody who avowed something like a personal interest in me. I do not think I am one whom to know is to hate, nor even that my personal appearance° is in any way repellent.° But I have to own that I possess no personal magnetism at all.

And I even wonder whether what we call "personal magnetism" exists anywhere except where sex appeal° is involved. Between persons of the same sex personal contact does not count for much.° Just as it is often the distance that lends charm to a tree or a hill,° so it is often the mere fact of unacquaintedness° that causes one to respect or even worship another.

Some time ago a young man who had corresponded with me for a long time before he came to see me, sent me a few questions about points in some literary works,° asking me to answer them. I answered all the questions to the best of my ability° But he wrote to say that he did not find my answers as satisfactory as those published in this Weekly I had to reply as follows:

I think there are three reasons why you do not find my answers as satisfactory as those published in the Weekly. The first is that your questions are rather difficult to answer. The second is that my answers to you are written instead of printed. But the chief reason is that *you are now quite intimately acquainted with me.*

NOTES

P. 82. Magnetism, 吸引力; 魔力.

Dutch astrologer, 荷蘭國 (Holland) 之占星家.

to the effect that..., 意謂...

to know is to love, 一經認識即生愛慕.

personal appearance 容貌.

repellent, 厭厭於人的.

sex appeal, 性的誘惑.

does not count for much, 無甚價值.

it is often the distance that lends charm to a tree or a hill, 一樹或一

小山之美麗, 往往因其在遠處而然也.

unacquaintedness, 不認識.

to the best of my ability, 盡我所能.

ON MIXING ENGLISH AND CHINESE
WORDS IN CONVERSATION

It° is now very common among the educated,° mixing English and Chinese words in conversation. They talk Chinese, but their Chinese contains some English words; for example:

A: Mr 王, 你的 salary 加了麼?

B: 上月加了 fifteen. 你知道 Mr 李近來怎樣?

A: 我好久沒有 meet 他. 昨天他的 father 說起他將要 marry 了.

B: 他 marry 的當然是 Miss 張. 她年紀還不過 twenty 左右.

If I am not mistaken, the English words thus contained are usually nouns and verbs, sometimes adjectives and adverbs, never pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions. Thus, while “Dr 陸請我在 Capitol 看電影” is usual, sentences like “陸博士請 me at 光陸看電影” are never heard.

I do not see any good° in this mixed speech, except when an idea cannot for the moment° be easily expressed in Chinese, as, for example, that of the word “sonnet”°.

Perhaps some of those who talk in this way aim at practice in English conversation. But they are wrong. This is not the way to practise English conversation.

Well, I would advise practising English conversation by mixing English and Chinese words in another manner. That is, by talking English and substituting° an occasional Chinese word or two when an idea cannot be easily expressed in English; for example:

A: Where are you going, Mr Wang?

B: To the Chung Hwa Book Company^o for some books and 儀器.

A: Have you read the 特大號 of the Weekly? They contain many good articles.

B: I haven't read them yet. I got back to Shanghai only this morning, from a visit to a 姑丈.

But I do not think that most of those who use English words in their Chinese conversation aim at learning to speak English. They do so simply because so many others do so. In speech, as well in dress, fashion has its place.^o Man is no less imitative than^o monkeys are.

NOTES

P. 84. It, 指下文 "mixing English and Chinese words in conversation."

the educated, 曾受教育者.

good, 益處.

for the moment, 暫時.

sonnet, 十四行詩 (一種詩體之名).

substituting..., 以... 代入.

P. 85. Chung Hwa Book Company, 中華書局.

has its place, 有其地位.

no less imitative than, 與... 有同樣程度之摹仿性.

“BECAUSE OF” AND “IN SPITE OF”

“But great authors”, I say in my preface to *Studies in English Grammar*,° “if you please,° are great, not because of their faultless English, but rather in spite of the faults in their English”. Now the phrases “because of” and “in spite of” play important parts° in controversies and quarrels. If I say that a certain author is great in spite of his faulty English, someone else may reply that that author is great because of his faulty English. If I say that a certain young man cannot write correct current English because of his exclusive study of the classics,° someone else may reply that that young man cannot write correct current English in spite of his exclusive study of the classics.

When a doctor loses a patient,° he will say “He died in spite of my efforts to save him”. The fact, however, may be that the man died because of the doctor’s efforts to save him. “Because of” or “in spite of”, the doctor is paid.

The clever use of these two phrases may also give one an appearance of wisdom and authority. Let me speak of doctors again. If you say to a doctor, “I think I have caught cold° because of the scanty clothing I wear”, he may say, “No, sir; you have caught cold *in spite of* the scanty clothing you wear. One cannot be too scantily clothed these days.”° On the other hand,° if you say to a doctor, “I still have a headache in spite of my long rest”, he may say, “No, sir; your headache

remains *because of* your long rest. Work vigorously, and you will get rid of^o your headache in no time.”^o I have heard more than one doctor give such clever replies.

The other day a text-book writer told me about a returned student's criticism^o of his book. “He accuses many of the sentences of lacking variety^o”, the writer said. “He does not realize that I have made many of the sentences similar in structure on purpose to^o impress the readers deeply”. Well, both writer and critic may have much to say. If they think fit^o to resort to the phrases “because of” and “in spite of”, they will not find much difficulty in maintaining an interesting controversy.

NOTES

P. 86. *Studies in English Grammar*, 英文文法精義.

if you please, 君其不以爲非; 竟然.

play important parts, 佔重要之地位.

exclusive study of the classics, 專讀文學名著.

a doctor loses a patient, 醫生失其病人 (謂病人死去也).

caught cold, 傷風.

One cannot be too scantily clothed these days, 現今我人穿衣愈少愈佳.

On the other hand, 反之.

P. 87. get rid of, 除去.

in no time, 立刻.

a returned student's criticism, 某留學生之評論.

lacking variety, 缺乏變化.

on purpose to . . . , 以 . . . 爲目的.

think fit, 決定.

A LETTER TO A FRIEND WHO IS
SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Dear C—,

I am very sorry, but not the least surprised,° to learn that you have not got a position yet. I am too small to be able to recommend any man; but even if I were as influential as I am small,° I do not think I could recommend you for any sort of position. For I cannot think of any sort of position that requires a man of your ability—except that some day° I might be rich enough to employ someone to study English literature with me.

I admire your knowledge of English. I do not know of many Chinese who can write and speak English as well as you. But you are wrong, if you think that because you can write and speak English so well, you would make° a good teacher of English or a good writer of English books.

Just consider the word “teacher”, which means one who teaches. A teacher of English is one who teaches English, not one who writes or speaks English. He is not required to write and speak English; he is required to teach others to write and speak English. And he is required to teach in the standard way. For instance, he must talk about unity and coherence° and euphony,° though he may not be interested in such things himself.

As to being a writer of English books, you must learn the art before you can become one. This art you can learn only by reading a number of° English books

published in China. If you wish to write a book on English composition, the very silliest thing you could do would be to improve your own ability to write English. That would be a waste of time and energy. And it is only fools and children that believe that all writers of books on English composition can write English themselves.

Now you have learnt neither the art of teaching English nor that of writing English books. You can write and speak English well. You are free to^o make some English friends and to marry an English girl. You are welcome to^o correspond^o with me in English and talk nothing but English whenever you see me. But you have only yourself to thank^o if you cannot get a position.

Yours sympathizingly,
Thomas Tsun

NOTES

- P. 88.** not the least surprised, 毫不以為奇怪.
 as influential as I am small, 其有勢力之程度, 一如今日渺小之程度
 some day, 將來之某日.
 make, 成爲.
 coherence, 聯貫.
 euphony, 和諧.
 a number of, 許多.
- P. 89.** are free to..., 儘可....
 are welcome to..., 儘可....
 correspond, 通信.
 have only yourself to thank, 乃自取耳 (非他人之過也).

POETRY AND POVERTY

The poverty of poets is proverbial.° It seems as if only poor men cared to write poetry. A "rich poet" is almost a contradiction in terms,° and, so far as I know, there does not exist any popular poem that gives a self-portrait of one wallowing in money.°

For my part,° however, I think I would and could produce a poem or two from time to time° if I had the money to do so. I am in danger of being misunderstood,° but by "if I had the money" I mean if I were better off° than I am. I learnt Chinese verse-writing at an early age, and to this day° I know by heart° a number of well-known Chinese poems; and as to English poetry I seem to have read more than any of my intimate friends has. I should take as much delight in composing Chinese poems as in writing little English essays like the present series. If I do not write a single Chinese poem these days, it is because I am not better off. I am now thirty years of age according to the Chinese way of computation,° and "Thoughts at Thirty" would be a very likely title for a series of short poems. But I am not rich enough to write any. Some time ago I said in a friendly letter: "I have for some time been thinking of writing a few Chinese poems about my birthday. But I have to give up the idea,° for while the work would have to take many hours, it could not possibly be sold. I must spare the time for writing English, which is certainly a better commodity°."

My case does not at all belie° the proverbial relation between poetry and poverty. Since poetry is unsaleable, one cannot make one's living° by writing poetry. To try to do so is to court° poverty.

Incidentally, both "poetry" and "poverty" begin with *po* and end in *y*, both are pleasant words, and in both Chinese and English literatures there are many poems that praise poverty. But there are things that seem romantic or picturesque enough when read about but are none too° agreeable when personally experienced. Among these are absolute loneliness, sleeplessness, benightedness,° lovelornness,° and poverty.

NOTES

P. 90. proverbial, 衆人皆知的.

contradiction in terms, 矛盾語.

wallowing in money, 大富的.

For my part, 至於我.

from time to time, 有時.

in danger of being misunderstood, 有被人誤解之可能.

better off, 較爲寬裕的.

to this day, 直至今日.

know by heart, 熟知.

I am thirty years of age according to the Chinese way of computation, 依中國計算法, 余今年三十 (按此文係一九三五年所作).

give up the idea, 打銷此意.

commodity, 商品.

P. 91. belie..., 證...爲妄.

make one's living 謀生.

court, 求; 招致.

none too, 極不.

benightedness, 旅中遇夜.

lovelornness, 失戀.

HEARING SPEECHES

Hearing speeches is one of a few things that I consider it a great treat^o not to have to do often. The latest speech I ever heard was one delivered by the principal witness^o at a wedding. I did not enjoy the speech at all. If I was patient enough to hear it out,^o it was because I was well aware that soon after the speech the dinner would follow. I was enough of an animal to look forward to^o the dinner, but was too little of an intellect^o to find in the speech the least of what we call intellectual food.^o

Speeches at weddings are admittedly uninteresting; for marriages and weddings are common enough, and it is by no means easy to say something new about them. But it seems to me that of the numerous speeches on various subjects as delivered by leaders and non-leaders in various walks of life^o and reproduced or summarized in the papers,^o very few are really worthy of consideration. To read them is like reading some school compositions. I simply cannot find wherein lies the difference between what some eminent men say in their speeches to graduating college students and what the average schoolboy of fifteen says in an essay with a title such as "Students and Society", neither in matter nor in manner.^o If you please, I have never heard a speech that is as thought-provoking^o as some "vulgar" plays^o I have attended.

If I were a bigwig^o and were often requested to deliver speeches, I think I should do well to^o employ a junior middle school student^o and tell him to write a

number of essays on international cooperation,° patriotism, good citizenship, student culture, punctuality, and kindred° subjects, as speeches to suit various occasions. I even wonder whether no bigwig has ever employed a “speech-secretary” of qualifications like those above referred to.

Of course, essays like the present series will never serve as speeches. Nor will they pass muster° in any sort of examination either, as you know only too° well.

NOTES

P. 92. treat, 樂事.

principal witness, 證婚人.

hear it out, 聽完之.

look forward to, 盼望.

intellect, 智者.

intellectual food, 智慧上之糧食.

leaders and non-leaders in various walks of life, 各界之領袖與非領袖.
papers, 報紙.

neither in matter nor in manner, 無論在內容或形式上皆不能.

thought-provoking, 啓發人之思想的.

“vulgar” plays, 俗劇.

bigwig, 大人物.

do well to . . . , 不妨 . . .

junior middle school student, 初級中學學生.

P. 93. international cooperation, 國際合作.

kindred, 同類的.

pass muster, 合格.

only too, 却甚.

THE GENERAL TALKER

I cannot give an exact definition of a modern gentleman as I see him,° nor do I think I can do him full justice in the way of portraiture° in a short essay of, say, three hundred words. But it seems to me to be safe to say that one cannot be a modern gentleman without being a general talker. He may not possess an accurate knowledge of anything, but he knows enough of many things to talk about them. He may not have any shop to talk;° if he has any,° he takes care not to talk it, for talking shop is ungentlemanly. But silence, too, is ungentlemanly. So he is a general talker—one who talks about things about which gentlemen in general° are supposed to be able to talk and to hear others talk.

For instance, the general talker talks about the Italo-Abyssinian war.° He talks about it to his friends in the belief that they know something about it. If someone should own that he has never heard of it, he will be put down as° an ungentlemanly man.

The general talker talks not as a dictionary, nor as a newspaper, but as a man, a gentleman. He has more views° than news to give, and is more a prophet than a chronicler.° He says "It is bound to lead to a second world war"° or "It cannot possibly lead to a second world war", though he himself does not know what his prophecy is based upon.° Fortunately, he is not likely ever to be held responsible° for his talk. The general talker talks for talk's sake° only.

It is regrettable, however, that there are people who take a leaf out of the general talker's book when they should not talk for talk's sake. Read accounts of interview^o in newspapers, and you will see that in persons of whom special information and responsible statements are expected we may often find the mere general talker as he talks over a cup of tea.

NOTES

- P. 94.** a modern gentleman as I see him, 我觀察下之現代上等人.
do him full justice in the way of portraiture, 充份描寫之.
may not have any shop to talk, 或無一己之專門話可說.
any=any shop to talk.
gentlemen in general, 一般之上等人.
Italo-Abyssinian war, 意大利 (Italy) 與阿比西尼亞 (Abyssinia) 間之戰爭.
put down as, 視爲.
views, 意見.
is more a prophet than a chronicler, 乃預言家而非作史家.
is bound to lead to a second world war, 必至引起第二次世界大戰.
does not know what his prophecy is based upon, 不知其預言有何根據.
be held responsible, 被人使其負責.
talks for talk's sake, 爲談話而談話.
- P. 95.** interviews, (與名人之) 訪問.
of=from.

“WE HAVE NO CAUSE TO BE PROUD”°

On a Sunday afternoon in October 1935 I visited a book-shop with a friend who is so deeply versed in English grammar as to° well deserve the nickname° “grammarian”, given him by his intimate friends, I among the rest.° We looked into° an English magazine and found a very long article written by a Chinese. It was written in fine though not absolutely faultless English° and did not at all betray its writer’s nationality.° “For all° our studies in English,” I said to my friend, “neither of us has ever written so long an article. You rejoice in° your nickname ‘grammarian’, and I rejoice in my nickname ‘pure’ (that is, one who insists on pure English).° But what cause have we to be proud of our attainments° in English when we think of the Chinese who wrote this admirable article?”

Coming out of the book-shop we went on to a theatre to see a ballet.° All the girls danced very nicely, and one of them, who could not be over eighteen,° moved her body, especially the lower part, in an almost incredibly nimble manner.° We watched with undivided attention,° and many people clapped their hands.° “We have still less° cause,” said my friend, “to be proud, when we see these girls, who are, and deserve to be, thus acclaimed. For is it possible that we can ever do something in public that draws° so many people as these girls’ dancing does?”

From the theatre to a walk. On a busy street we saw a little beggar of about seven playing with a pair of

knives in front of a shop. His skill was marvellous, though the copper he expected was problematical.^o “Outdone^o by a little beggar!” said I. “I think that boy could learn the English alphabet^o far more easily than I could learn to practise his knife art with such dexterity”^o.

NOTES

P. 96. We Have No Cause to Be Proud, 我儕無自傲之理由。

is so deeply versed in English grammar as to..., 對於英文文法, 如是精通, 故...

nickname, 綽號。

I among the rest, 我爲其中之一人。

looked into, 翻閱。

fine though not absolutely faultless English, 雖非絕對無疵但亦可稱佳美之英文。

did not at all betray its writer's nationality, 並不顯露作者之國藉 (意即並不顯露其爲中國人)。

for all..., 儘有....

rejoice in, 享有。

pure English, 純粹之英文。

attainments, 造詣。

ballet, 團體跳舞。

could not be over eighteen, 決不過十八歲。

in an almost incredibly nimble manner, 其靈活之狀, 幾乎令人難信。

with undivided attention, 聚精會神。

clapped their hands, 拍手。

still less, 更無。

draws, 引動。

P. 97. the copper he expected was problematical, 彼所冀之銅圖, 未必可得。

outdone, 勝過。

alphabet, 字母組。

dexterity, 靈活。

HOW TO KEEP FIT°

Many books and articles have been written on this subject. Because of, rather than in spite of, this,° I have decided to write this little essay. For one of my secrets of health is to abstain from° reading such books and articles. I often say that the reading of books on grammar and rhetoric does not help one much in composition. As to books and articles on health and hygiene, I am inclined to think that by reading them one may prevent one's health from improving or even get worse results.

For such books and articles, as a rule,° contain names of diseases and seem to say that everyone is subject to° many of them, that even a very slight illness may result in death, and, by implication,° that everyone is liable to die at any time.° To read them is to be reminded of one's ever-present° possibility of death.

I know some people who see in every second-hand book, in every cloud of dust,° in every cup that is not their own, even in every room that is not well decorated, the germs of some disease or other° that might carry them off overnight.° Such people always complain of bad health. They consult doctors very often, the doctors give them technical° advice in technical terms, they receive doses from the doctors, the doctors receive dollars from them. When they die, they die of° a disease the name of which they have long been acquainted with because they are really interested in diseases though they think they are interested in good health.

I have mentioned only one of my secrets of health. There are some others, but they are quite similar to the one I have just mentioned. For convenience' sake,^o I write some below in the form of commandments:^o

1. Thou shalt^o not take a physical examination regularly.
2. Thou shalt not listen to friends who call you pale or sickly.^o
3. Thou shalt not make friends with doctors.
4. Thou shalt not marry a nurse.

Well, I do not need to go further. I am afraid you have already come to the conclusion that I have been jilted^o by some nurse. Which is not true.

NOTES

P. 98. Fit, 健康的。

Because of, rather than in spite of, this, 因為如此而非雖然如此。

abstain from, 免; 不。

as a rule, 通常。

subject to, 易患。

implication, 含意。

is liable to die at any time, 隨時有死之可能。

ever-present, 常在的。

a cloud of dust, 一陣灰塵。

some disease or other, 某病。

carry them off overnight, 不崇朝而使之死。

technical, 專門的。

die of . . . , 因 . . . 而死。

P. 99. For convenience' sake, 為便利起見。

commandments, 誡。

thou shalt, "you shall", 之古文。

sickly, 有疾的。

jilted, 遺棄。

AUTHOR WORSHIP°

Being the author of some books on English,° and some of them in English,° I often receive letters of appreciation from readers who credit me with° a far better knowledge of the language than I really possess. This makes me feel ashamed. As a matter of fact, if I seem to some of my readers to be perfectly at home with° English, it is mainly, if not solely, due to° the printed page, from which I myself am sometimes surprised to find that it should be myself that wrote what appears on it.°

The magic of the printed page accounts for author worship, which, strange to say,° is not quite uncommon among the younger generation° in this godless and heroless age. Gods and heroes are, so to speak, intangible; you read about them but do not see anything they have done. But a book is to its author what a photograph is to its original.° You read a book and become interested in its author; and because of the magic of the printed page, and because you do not know the author personally, you think he must be an extraordinary man. Hence the worship.°

If I am not mistaken, however, few, if any,° modern authors are really worth worshipping. Authorship is nowadays a trade. Authors make books in much the same° way as shoe-makers make shoes. They write books to sell to publishers,° who publish the books to sell to readers. Very often publisher and author talk

the matter over° before the latter begins writing. He writes and writes, always keeping in mind° the market° for, and the money from, the book. He is, in a word,° a book-maker by trade. As to Chinese authors of books professing to teach English, I do not hold many of them in very high esteem.° It is only fools that think that because a man has written a grammar or a book on composition he must write correct English. Honestly, I do not think it very difficult to train an army° of senior middle school students in the art of making such books as readers, grammars, and manuals of composition and letter-writing—I mean such books as such books go.°

And I pity those who worship an author because they find many exercises in his books too much for them.° They think that the author must be a master of English. Alas! they do not stop to consider° whether it is not possible for one who cannot swim at all to shout to a group of timid boys, "Jump into the water!" Well, if I ever tell you to write a Shakespearian drama,° shall you therefore call me a second Shakespeare?

NOTES

P. 100. Author Worship, 對著作人之崇拜.

on English, 論述英文.

in English, 用英文作成.

credit me with, ... 以為我有....

at home with, 精諳.

is mainly, if not solely, due to..., 雖非完全因..., 却是大半因....

it should be myself that wrote what appears on it, 躍然紙上者, 乃我之所作也.

strange to say, 言之殊奇.

younger generation, 青年人.

a book is to its author what a photograph is to its original, 書籍之於
其著作人, 猶照相之於其本人也.

Hence the worship, 因而崇拜.

few, if any, 絕無僅有.

much the same, 大致相同的.

publishers, 出版家.

P. 101. talk the matter over, 談論此事.

keeping in mind, 記於心.

market, 銷路.

in a word, 簡言之.

do not hold many of them in very high esteem, 並不極尊敬其中之許
多人.

army, 羣.

as such books go, 指今日一般之此種書籍而言.

too much for them, 彼所不能作的.

stop to consider, 止而思; 靜思.

Shakespearian drama, 如 Shakespeare, (已見前注) 所作之劇本.

THE SWEETNESS OF DISHONESTY

When A tells a lie to B and B feels sure that it is a lie, the chances are that B will take offence.° But not always; for dishonesty has its sweetness. Often B appreciates the spirit in which A has told the lie, and takes delight in the thought that A has had enough regard for him to avoid telling the truth,° which would have wounded his feelings.°

“Not at home” is a very common dishonest phrase that is sweet to one to whom it is said. When A calls on° B and B tells his servant to say “Mr B is not at home”, A may feel disappointed, but he does not feel half so much hurt as he would if° the servant had said something like this: “Mr B is at home. But he says he does not care to see you.”

In what we call polite society, dishonesty is considered as essential in a gentleman as a college education, a fair° knowledge of current events,° and a certain degree of neatness in dress. To be perfectly honest at all times and on all occasions is to be ungentlemanly. A gentleman never fails to be sweetly dishonest when he thinks honesty would be the reverse of° sweet.

If there were no sweetness in dishonesty, or if everybody preferred hard fact to° sweet dishonesty, I think most love-letters would well be reduced to less than half their length. For instance, sentences like the following would be spared:

1. You are the best girl on earth.
2. You are not an ordinary girl, you are an angel.

3. Never has girl written so fine a poem as that you wrote last week.

4. My life had been a desert till I saw you yesterday, and I shall not be able to sleep a single wink^o till I see you again.

5. If you do not answer this letter, I am afraid I shall commit suicide. I simply cannot live without you. I would rather die than not have you as my sweetheart.^o

All these are lies, and the girl who reads them are too clever not to know that they are lies. Nevertheless she enjoys their dishonest sweetness. On the other hand, an honest love-letter like the following cannot but give offence and stamp^o its writer as an ungentlemanly man:

I am old enough to wish to have a girl. I have for a long time wanted one, but I have not yet got any. Of course, you are not the best girl on earth. But I want you, just as one wants food when one is hungry and wants water when one is thirsty. I hope you are old enough to wish to have a boy, and that you will accept me.

NOTES

P. 103. take offence, 見怪.

had enough regard for him to avoid telling the truth, 因尊重彼而不講實話.

wounded his feelings, 使彼見怪.

calls on, 訪.

does not feel half so much hurt as he would if . . . , 其見怪並不及若...之半.

fair, 尚可的.

current events, 時事.

the reverse of . . . , . . . 之反.

preferred hard fact to . . . , 寧欲事實而不欲... .

P. 104. sleep a single wink, 睡着片刻.

would rather die than not have you as my sweetheart, 寧願死而不願不得汝為愛人.

stamp . . . , 使...被認.

WHAT IS ENGLISH COMPOSITION?

“English composition” is a very common term. But many common terms admit of various meanings. “Honesty”, for example, is a very common term, but when you hear a person called honest, you are not always sure why he is called honest. He may be called honest because he never tells a lie, or because he never cheats at cards,^o or because he is always ready to be made a fool of,^o or because he is too rich to borrow or beg or steal.

Now “English composition” also admits of various meanings. So far as I know, all manuals of English composition published in Japan talk about subject and predicate, number and gender, infinitive and participle, and other points of elementary grammar, those published in America talk about unity, coherence, emphasis, and some principles and rules of rhetoric, and those published in England talk about points of style and the faults of this and that author. And a Chinese teacher of English composition, who teaches composition by teaching a composition book, may take a leaf out of the Japanese or American or English book^o—with the result that^o he teaches English composition to his pupils without troubling to write English himself, and his pupils get a large amount of knowledge of English composition as a science without acquiring much skill in English composition as an art.

I have said sarcastically^o in a letter to a friend: “If you wish to write a book on English composition,

the very silliest thing you could do would be to improve your own ability to write English". I have to say here that the reading of books on English composition is the least important thing for one who wishes to learn English composition to do. For composition is an art. You cannot learn English composition merely by reading books on English composition, any more than you can learn music merely by reading books on music. "Practice makes perfect"° is an English proverb; I would add: "Reading about an art means little or nothing".°

How to teach English composition to Chinese students is a large subject. I wish I could address a group of teachers on this subject. But I am anything but° sure whether they would not pooh-pooh° my suggestions if I had the courage to make any.

NOTES

P. 105 admit of 有 之可能.

cards, 紙牌戲.

ready to be made a fool of, 易於受欺.

take a leaf out of the Japanese or American or English book, 效法日本, 美國, 或英國.

with the result that..., 其結果為....

sarcastically, 譏諷狀.

P. 106. Practice makes perfect, 熟能生巧.

means little or nothing, 無甚意義.

anything but, 全不.

pooh-pooh, 輕視.

THE MUFFIN MAN°

I am going to read with you a light° or even childish poem. It is very simple. Perhaps it is written by a child, though I am not quite sure. Its title is "The Muffin Man".

A muffin is a kind of spongy cake, eaten toasted and buttered.° Sellers of muffins, or muffin men, in England carry muffins in trays° and ring little bells in the streets. They ring bells to announce that they have muffins to sell. Now children like muffins. As soon as they hear the welcome sound, they run out of their houses to buy them. The following poem is on this simple subject.

On winter Sundays	Out of the house°
At half-past three,	And up the Square,°
When we're° just beginning	Yelling as loud
To dream of tea,°	As we possibly can
There comes the sound	To catch the vanishing°
That we know so well°—	Muffin Man.
The welcome sound	Then on he goes°
Of a distant bell.	With his magic tray
Sweeter than harp,°	Poised° in a most
Braver than trumpet,°	Precarious° way
It sings of° muffin,	Flat on the top
It shouts of crumpet,°	Of his square grey head.
Till two of us simply	(It's practice does it°—
<i>Have</i> to tear	Or so <i>he</i> said.°)

This poem I have found it number 4744 of *Punch*, which is a famous humorous and satirical^o weekly published in London. The weekly was established in 1841, and therefore has now produced nearly five thousand numbers.

NOTES

P. 107. Muffin Man, 賣鬆餅之人。

light, 遊戲的; 輕妙的。

eaten toasted and buttered, 烘後塗奶油而食。

trays, 盤。

we're=we (指孩子) are.

tea, 午後之茶點。

know so well, 熟知; 聽慣。

harp, 豎琴。

trumpet, 喇叭。

of, 關於。

crumpet, 一種軟餅。

Have to tear out of the house, 不禁奔出戶外。

up the Square, 延區街而去。

vanishing, 漸去的。

on he goes=he goes on.

poised, 平置。

precarious, 冒險的。

It's (=it is) practice does it, 由於練習而能之; 習慣而成自然 (“does” 前省去 “that”)。

so he said, 彼云如是 (謂彼賣鬆餅者自己云因練習而能之也)。

P. 108. satirical, 譏諷的。

A DYING GIRL AND HER LOVER°

Today I will give you a poem to read.

Don't be afraid, reader, if you have never read a poem. I know many students—some college students among them—who have never read a poem. They are afraid to read a poem. They think they cannot, and so they do not. I pity them. They are shut out from° much of the best in English literature.°

Not every poem is difficult, however. Some poems are quite easy. Those poems which tell tales are not usually difficult. I should like to advise you to read such poems before reading those° of other kinds. The one that I am going to give you to read today is such a poem: it tells a tale of a dying girl and her lover.

It is an easy poem. Still° I will first tell the tale in a few words as follows:

A girl has been seriously ill° for a long time, because her father has forbidden° her to see her lover. Now° she is dying, she looks out of the window to watch° her lover's coming. He comes, but soon passes. She is so pale that he does not know her. The girl feels very sad and dies at once. The young man weeps and sighs, but in vain. The girl is dead—for ever and ever.°

Now read the poem:

Earl March° look'd on° his dying child,
 And, smit with grief to view her°—
 The youth, he cried, whom I exiled
 Shall be restored to woo her.°

She's at the window many an hour^o
 His coming to discover^o:
 And he look'd up to Ellen's bower^o
 And she look'd on her lover—
 But ah! so pale, he knew her not,^o
 Though her smile on him was dwelling^o—
 And am I then forgot—forgot?^o
 It broke the heart of Ellen.
 In vain he weeps, in vain he sighs,
 Her cheek is cold as ashes^o;
 Nor love's own kiss shall wake those eyes
 To lift their silken lashes.^o

This poem is written by Thomas Campbell.^o There is another poem on the same subject written by Sir Walter Scott.^o

NOTES

P. 109. A Dying Girl and Her Lover, 一個將死之女郎及其情人。

are shut out from . . . , 與 . . . 隔; 不得享受 . . .

the best in English literature, 英文學中之最佳處。

those=poems.

still, 仍; 但。

seriously ill, 患重病的。

forbidden, 禁止。

now, 今既。

watch, 待。

for ever and ever, 永遠。

Earl March, March 伯爵。

look'd (=looked) on, 注視。

smit (=smitten) with grief to view her, 因覩伊而悲不自勝。

the youth, he cried, whom I exiled shall be restored to woo her, 彼呼

曰,「彼被我驅去之少年(指其女之情人), 必當召之使來向伊求愛。」

P. 110. She's (= She was) at the window many an hour, 伊在窗前(在樓上之窗前)數小時。

His coming to discover = to discover his coming, 冀見其情人之來。

Ellen's bower, Ellen (女郎名)之閨房。

so pale, he knew her not = she was so pale that he did not know her.

her smile on him was dwelling (= was dwelling on him), 伊之微笑, 注於其身。

And am I then forgot—forgot (= forgotten)?, 然則我竟被忘却乎? (女郎心中之語。)

broke the heart of . . . , 令 . . . 心碎; 使 . . . 大悲。

Her cheek is cold as ashes, 其頰冷如灰(蓋已死矣)。

Nor love's own kiss shall wake those eyes to lift their silken lashes, 卽有熱情之吻, 亦不能啓其雙目以舉彼柔軟如絲之睫毛矣(謂死後不可復生也)。

Thomas Campbell, 英國詩人, 生於一七七七年, 卒於一八四四年

Sir Walter Scott, 蘇格蘭文豪兼詩人, 生於一七七一年, 卒於一八三二年;

“Sir” 指是人係一爵士。

A LOVER'S QUESTIONS TO THE MOON

The moon is one of the commonest poetical subjects in the world. I have several favourite moon poems in Chinese and in English. The first Chinese poem that I ever wrote (at nine or ten, under my father's guidance) was about the moon. The first English poem that I ever wrote (at sixteen or seventeen, under nobody's guidance) was also about the moon. It is entitled "To the Moon", and reads.

O Moon, how bright
 Thou art^o tonight!
 May I be told
 if thou feel'st^o cold,
 Sitting so high
 Up in the sky?

This is, indeed, a childish poem, in which, I, the child, put a childish question to the moon as I am looking at her.

It is not children alone, however, that ever put questions to the moon. I am going to read with you a poem in which a grown-up man^o puts questions to the moon. The man is grown-up enough to fall in love^o and to feel love-lorn.^o The poem is written by Sir Philip Sidney,^o a perfect English gentleman of the sixteenth century. It is as follows:

With how sad steps, O Moon, thou climb'st the skies!
 How silently, and with how wan^o a face!
 What, may it be that e'en in heavenly place
 That busy archer his sharp arrows tries!^o

Sure,^o if that long-with-love-acquainted eyes
 Can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's case,^o
 I read it in thy looks^o; thy languish'd grace,
 To me, that feel the like, thy state describes.^o

Then, e'en of fellowship,^o O Moon, tell me,
 Is constant love deem'd there but want of wit?^o
 Are beauties^o there^o as proud as here^o they be?
 Do they above^o love to be loved,^o and yet
 Those lovers scorn whom that love doth possess?^o
 Do they call virtue, there, ungratefulness?^o

NOTES

P. 112. Thou art=you are.

feel'st=feel.

grown-up man, 成人.

fall in love, 發生戀愛.

love-lorn, 失戀的.

Sir Philip Sidney, 英國著作家, 生於一五五四年, 卒於一五八六年.

wan, 憔悴的.

What, may it be that e'en (=even) in heavenly place that busy archer his sharp arrows tries (=tries his sharp arrows)! 豈彼忙碌之弓手, 竟在天上試其利矢乎! (謂豈天上亦有戀愛之事乎, “archer” 指愛神, 相愛神挾弓矢, 被其射中者即鍾情.)

P. 113. Sure=Surely.

if that long-with-love-acquainted eyes can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's case, 倘久已熟見愛情之日, 果能判斷愛情者, 則我決爾必患相思。(謂我固深知愛情之事者, 見爾之悄然徐行而知爾之必患相思也; “if that”=“if”, “that” 係一 conjunction.)

I read it in thy looks, 我察爾之狀貌而知之.

thy languish'd grace, to me, that feel the like, thy state describes (=describes thy state), 爾之悴容, 向我顯出爾之狀態, 蓋我固亦患相思者也.

of fellowship, 因同病相憐之故。(“of” 作「因為」解; “fellowship” 言彼此皆患相思, 可引為知己也.)

Is constant love deem'd there but want of wit? 忠實之愛情，在天上乃
被視爲不遜智慧之缺乏乎？（謂人間以薄情爲尙，彼忠實之愛情，反受迂
闊之譏，豈天上亦如是乎？）

beauties, 美人。

there, 指天上。

here, 指人間。

they above, 天上之美人。

love to be loved, 喜受男子之愛情。

Those lovers scorn whom that love doth possess = scorn those lovers
whom that love does possess, 蔑視彼真心戀愛之愛人。（“that love”
指上文所云 “to be loved” 之 “love”；“possess” 之義爲「佔...之
心」。）

Do they call virtue, there, ungratefulness? = Do they call ungrateful-
ness there a virtue? 彼天上之美人，豈解負情爲道德乎？

TO STAND AND STARE°

The following is a poem, entitled "Leisure",° by William Henry Davies:°

What is this life if, full of care,°
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time° to stand beneath the boughs°
And stare as long as sheep and cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,°
Where squirrels° hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,°
Streams full of stars,° like skies° at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,°
And watch° her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.°
A poor life this° if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Well, how many rich people are leading° this poor life! They do not have to work to live.° They are what we call the "leisured class". But they are too busy to have the time to stand and stare. They are always occupied° one way or another°—in seeking an appointment° under the government, or in making love to° some celebrated but disreputable social butterfly,° or in trying to evade° applications° for loans from poor friends, or in making excuses° for not contributing to a charitable institution,° or in . . .

On the other hand, many people have no time to stand and stare simply because they *do* have to work to live. They have no leisure at all. They work so much that they have no time to be conscious of living°—no time to stand and stare.

Of course, no-one would enjoy standing and staring for fifteen or twenty hours a day. But, as the poet says,

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

NOTES

P. 115. To Stand and Stare, 立而凝視.

“Leisure”, 「閒暇」(詩名).

William Henry Davies, 韋爾茲 (Wales), 詩人, 生於一八七一年.
care, 憂慮.

No time=if, full of care, we have no time, 下文仿此.

boughs, 樹枝.

when woods we pass=when we pass woods.

squirrels, 松鼠.

broad daylight, 白晝.

streams full of stars, 滿布星辰之小溪。(日光下溪水閃爍, 如星光然。故云).
skies, 天空.

turn at Beauty's glance, 向美人之目光看去.

watch, 視.

her mouth can enrich that smile her eyes began, 伊之口使伊之目所開
始之微笑更豐富; 口繼日以笑而其笑更美.

A poor life this=This life is a poor life.

leading, 度; 過.

do not have to work to live, 不必工作以生活.

occupied, 作事; 忙.

one way or another, 在某种情形之下.

appointment, 官職.

making love to . . . , 向 . . . 求愛.

some celebrated but disreputable social butterfly, 著名而不名譽之某交際花.

evade, 躲避.

applications, 請求.

excuses, 遁詞.

contributing to a charitable institution, 捐款與某慈善機關.

P. 116. conscious of living, 覺到生活.

THREE SONNETS TO SLEEP

Have you ever read any poem to Sleep, the God of sleep? I have read several. In the following I will talk about three of them. All these three, as far as I know, are among the best and best-known of English sonnets.

“What is a sonnet?” I think you will ask. You will come to know its origin,^o its structure,^o and its place^o in English literature, when you read a book on English prosody.^o Here I will tell you only this much: a sonnet is a poem of fourteen lines.

The three sonnets that I am going to talk about are written, respectively,^o by Sir Philip Sidney,^o Samuel Daniel,^o and William Wordsworth.^o They all pay tribute to^o Sleep. They all implore him to come. They all seem to have been written by authors suffering from sleeplessness.

The first stanza^o of Sidney’s poem reads:

Come, Sleep: O Sleep! the certain knot of peace,
The baiting place of wit,^o the balm of woe,^o
The poor man’s wealth, the prisoner’s release,^o
Th’ indifferent judge between high and low.^o

That of Daniel’s reads:

Care-charmer^o Sleep, son of the sable^o night,
Brother to Death,^o in silent darkness born,^o
Relieve my anguish,^o and restore the light,^o
With dark forgetting of my care return.^o

The last stanza of Wordsworth's reads:

Without Thee what is all the morning's wealth?
Come, blesséd° barrier° between day and day,
Dear mother of fresh thoughts and joyous health!

Do you agree with these poets as regards° what they say to Sleep? Do you think sleep means peace? Do you think sleep brings happiness? Do you think sleeplessness is a great trial?°

Of the three poems, that by Wordsworth is the easiest. Wordsworth is one of the most easily read of the English poets. If you wish to read English lyrical poetry,° I believe you will do well to begin with° some short pieces of Wordsworth.

NOTES

P. 118. origin, 起原.

structure, 結構.

place, 地位.

prosody, 詩學.

respectively, 各別; 各各不同.

Sir Philip Sidney, 已見前注.

Samuel Daniel, 英國詩人, 生於一五六二年, 卒於一六一九年.

William Wordsworth, 英國詩人, 生於一七七零年, 卒於一八五零年.

pay tribute to, 頌揚.

stanza, (詩之一) 節.

baiting place of wit, 智慧之進食處 (意謂睡眠可以增進智慧).

balm of woe, 痛苦之安慰物.

prisoner's release, 罪人之釋放. (意謂罪人睡時不知己身之在獄, 不覺已得自由也.)

Th' (=the) indifferent judge between high and low, 富貴者與貧賤者間之公正之法官 (意謂睡時無貧富貴賤之分).

care-charmer, 解除憂慮者.

sable, 黑色的.

Brother to Death, 死神之弟兄。(蓋死後與睡中皆失去知覺, 二者頗相似也.)

in silent darkness born=born in silent darkness, 生長於寂靜之黑暗中
(蓋睡眠多在夜間也).

Relieve my anguish, 解去我之痛苦.

restore the light, 恢復光明。(謂醒時痛苦, 睡後反覺光明也.)

With dark forgetting of my care return=return with dark forgetting of my care, 在黑暗中忘却我之憂慮而復來。(謂使我入睡, 俾得忘我之憂也.)

P. 119. blessed, 賜人幸福的.

barrier, 中間物.

as regards, 關於.

trial, 令人不快之物.

lyrical poetry, 抒情詩.

begin with..., 從...手着.

ADVICE TO A LOVER

This is the title of an anonymous° English poem that I am going to read with you today. “Anonymous”, as you probably know, means *of unknown authorship*.° An anonymous poem is one of which it is not known who is the author.

The author of “Advice to a Lover” seems to have flourished° more than three hundred years ago. I think he wrote the poem either because he had been crossed in love° or because he had loved too much or simply because he could not get a sweetheart. At any rate, he advised young men not to love.

I do not quite agree with what he said in the poem. Not that° I am in love. I have never been and perhaps shall never be. But I hold that love in its purest form is a very beautiful and very ennobling° thing, and that every young man has the right to be a lover if he has a worthy object. Moreover, it seems to be of no use to offer advice on love or abstention° from love. We cannot talk any friend into love, nor out of love.

However, the poem is a very sweet one. You may feel it is of a “pessimistic°” nature. But you may enjoy it all the same.° It is as follows:

The sea hath° many thousand sands,
The sun hath motes as many;°
The sky is full of stars, and Love°
As full of woes as any:°
Believe me, that do know the elf,°

And make no trial by thyself°!
 It is in truth a pretty toy
 For babes to play withal:°—
 But O! the honeys of our youth
 Are oft our age's gall°!
 Self-proof in time will make thee know
 He was a prophet told thee so°;
 A prophet that, Cassandra-like,°
 Tells truth without belief°;
 For headstrong° Youth will run his race,
 Although his goal° be grief:—
 Love's Martyr,° when his heat is past,
 Proves Care's Confessor° at the last.

NOTES

P. 121. anonymous, 義見文中。

of unknown authorship, 不知某氏所作的。

flourished, 生存。

crossed in love, 失戀。

Not that . . . , 並非因為 . . .

ennobling, 令人高貴的。

abstention, 免去。

pessimistic, 悲觀的。

all the same, 仍。

bath=has.

hath notes as many=has as many notes as the sea has sands, 有數千
 微塵。

Love, 愛神; 愛情。

as full of woes as any, 極多痛苦。

know the elf, 深知此鬼怪 (意即深知愛神令人痛苦)。

P. 122. make no trial by thyself, 勿自嘗試 (意即勿入情網)。

It is in truth a pretty toy for babes to play withal, 此誠爲小兒之美好
 玩物 (意即青年人固以戀愛爲樂事)。

the honeys of our youth are oft our age's gall, 我人青年時之甜物, 恆爲老年時之苦物。(意即青年時之樂事, 往往致成將來老時之痛苦)

Self-proof in time will make thee know he was a prophet told thee so (=he who told thee so was a prophet), 將來自己經歷後, 自能知昔日告君如此者, 乃一預言家也。(意即待君老時受苦後, 將知我言不謬也)

Cassandra-like, 如 Cassandra 然。(按 Cassandra 係一古希臘詩中之預言家, 嘗言大難將臨而人不之信, 其言終驗)

without belief, 不爲他人所信。

headstrong, 剛復的。

goal, 目標。

Love's Martyr, 愛神之殉道者; 致身於愛情者。

Care's Confessor, 憂愁之懺悔者; 悔罪於困苦中者。

“A FAVOURITE° HAS NO FRIEND!”

This is the thirty-sixth line of Thomas Gray's poem “On a Favourite Cat, Drowned in a Tub of Goldfishes”. This poem is quite simple, but very fine. I like it very much, and wish I could° read it with you—which, however, I find I cannot because it is rather long. I will, instead,° tell its story in outline as follows:

A cat is looking into a tub of goldfishes with admiration. She feels happy, and tries to get them. Unfortunately, she falls into the water and dies.

In this poem, whose story, as you can see,° is quite simple, the poet means to teach a lesson, especially to young women. It contains

What female heart can gold despise?°
What Cat's averse to fish?°

and concludes° with

From hence,° ye beauties,° undeceived°
Know one false step is ne'er retrieved,°
And be with caution bold:°
Not all that tempts your wandering eyes
And heedless hearts, is lawful prize,°
Nor all that glisters, gold!°

But I like the thirty-sixth line best:

A favourite has no friend!

This line occurs immediately after the few lines that describe how the cat is mewin° for help, all in vain.°

She is a favourite, but when she is dying, no friend comes to her rescue.^o A favourite has no friend!

This line, I should say, is worthy of every young woman's attention and consideration and remembrance. A young woman who knows that "one false step is ne'er retrieved", and is consequently "with caution bold", may yet be apt to revel^o in being a favourite. Indeed, a favourite has fifty^o "friends",^o but she has no *friend*^o!

NOTES

P. 124. favourite, 被衆人所愛者.

wish I could, 但願能; 恨不能.

instead=instead of reading it with you.

as you can see, 如君所能看出.

What female heart can gold despise (=can despise gold)? 天下豈有輕視黃金之婦人心乎?

What Cat's (=Cat is) averse to fish? 天下豈有嫌惡魚類之貓乎?

conclude, 結束.

From hence, 自今以後.

ye beauties, 爾曹婦女.

undeceived, 覺悟.

one false step is ne'er (=never) retrieved, 一失足即永不能補救; 一失足成千古恨.

be with caution bold, 須謹慎勿過鹵莽.

lawful prize, 應得之物.

Nor all that glisters, gold(=is gold)!, 且燦爛者, 非皆黃金也; 外觀佳者, 未必有真價值也.

mewing, (貓) 鳴.

in vain, 無效; 徒然.

P. 125. comes to her rescue, 來救伊.

revel, 大樂.

fifty, 五十 (言其多也).

"friends", 指虛偽之朋友.

friend, 指真正之朋友.

EATING AND READING

In order that he may live° man has to eat. They are indeed very unhappy who cling to life° without anything to eat. They try every means° to earn a piece of bread honestly, but cannot find any work. They beg from house to house,° but can hardly keep body and soul together.° They resort to° stealing, but get themselves punished for thieves.° At last they cannot but wish that they had never learnt to eat!

Now there are poor people with whom reading is as necessary as eating, and who are as hard put to it° to obtain books as to obtain food. Intellectually,° as well as physically,° they often suffer from hunger, simply because they lack a small amount of money. Perhaps they, too, sometimes cannot but wish that they had never learnt to read!

Below is a little poem by Mary Lamb° on this subject.

I saw a boy with eager eye
Open a book upon a stall,°
And read, as he'd° devour it all;
Which when the stall-man did espy,°
Soon to the boy I heard him call,
"You, Sir, you never buy a book,
Therefore in one you shall not look".
The boy pass'd slowly on,° and with a sigh°
He wish'd he never had been taught to read,
Then of the old churl's books° he should have had no
need.
Of sufferings the poor have many,

Which never can the rich annoy:°
 I soon perceiv'd another boy,
 Who look'd as if he'd° not had any
 Food, for that day at least—enjoy°
 The sight of cold meat in a tavern larder.°
 This boy's case, then thought I, is surely harder,
 Thus hungry, longing,° thus without a penny,
 Beholding choice of dainty-dressed° meat:
 No wonder° if he wish he ne'er° had learnt'd to eat.

NOTES

P. 126. In order that he may live, 俾彼得以生存.

cing to life, 懸着生命.

means, 方法.

beg from house to house, 挨門乞食.

can hardly keep body and soul together, 幾不能生存.

resort to, 求助於; 依賴.

for thieves, 作為竊賊.

hard put to it, 處在困難中.

Intellectually, 在智育上.

physically, 在身體上.

Mary Lamb, 英國女作家, 生於一七六四年, 卒於一八四七年.

stall, 書攤.

he'd=he would.

espY, 察見.

pass'd slowly on, 慢慢走去.

sigh, 歎息.

the old churl's books, 此老僮(指書攤主人)之書.

P. 127. Of sufferings the poor have many, which never can the rich annoy=The poor have many of [the] sufferings which never can annoy the rich, 貧人有許多從不礙及富人之困苦.

he'd=he had.

enjoy 此字係 infinitive, 直承上文之“boy”.

tavern larder, 酒店之伙食房.

longing, 盼望(食物).

dainty-dressed, 烹調精美的.

No wonder, 不足怪.

ne'er=never.

HEART AND BODY

Love is a very common subject in English literature, especially in poetry. Most of the English poems I have ever read are love poems, and most of those which are not love poems contain one or two lines about love. As a matter of fact, love is a favourite topic with poets.

It seems to be also a favourite topic with modern young men and young women. They talk and write about it more interestedly° and more interestingly° about it than about most other topics.

I am a young man. I find love a very interesting topic, though I have never been in love and most probably° shall never be.

Today I am going to read with you a four-line poem of Oliver Goldsmith,° entitled° "Translation of a South American Ode". It means to say that one cannot be happy who secures a girl's body without securing her heart.°

Heart and body, which do you think is the more important in love? Do you think a girl really loves you if she eats with you, drinks with you, talks with you, walks with you, but does not give her heart to you?

Now let us read the poem:

In all my Enna's beauties blest,°
 Amidst profusion° still I pine;°
 For though she gives me up her breast,°
 Its panting tenant° is not mine.

This poem is quite easy. The only expression° that you may fail to understand° is “its panting tenant”. What is it that pants inside the breast? Of course, it is the heart—the seat of the emotions,° especially love.

NOTES

P. 128. interestedly, 自己覺得津津有味.

interestingly, 令人覺到津津有味.

most probably, 大約.

Oliver Goldsmith, 愛爾蘭詩人; 生於一七二八年, 卒於一七七四年.

entitled..., 題名為...

secures a girl's body without securing her heart, 得某少女之身而未得其心.

In all my Enna's beauties Blest=blest in all my Enna's beauties, 享受我之 Enna 之美色.

profusion, 豐富 (指美色而言).

pine, 憔悴; 萎頓.

gives me up her breast, 以其胸給我.

its panting tenant, 其跳動之往居者 (指心).

P. 129. expression, 語.

seat of the emotions, 情感之中心.

PRESENT IN ABSENCE

There is a proverb that says "Out of sight, out of mind". It means that we are apt to forget the absent.° Suppose you have an intimate friend with whom you read and play and talk and walk every day. You find in him the only ideal young man you have ever known. You feel you cannot have too much of his company.° But now suppose he has to go away to live in a distant place for a long, long time. You may shed a tear at the parting.° You may miss him° very much for weeks. But as time goes on, you may think less and less of him; for "out of sight, out of mind".

With lovers (I mean true lovers), however, the proverb does not hold true.° On the contrary,° they may love each other all the more because they are far apart from each other. This is the main idea of the poem that I am going to read with you. The poem is written by John Donne,° whose poems are noted for their subtle imagination.° It is as follows:

Absence, hear thou° this protestation°

Against thy strength°

Distance,° and length;°

Do what thou canst for alteration:°

For hearts of truest mettle

Absence doth join, and Time doth settle.°

Who loves a mistress of such quality

His mind has found

Affection's ground

Beyond time, place, and mortality.°

To hearts that cannot vary

Absence is present,° Time doth tarry.°

By absence this good means I gain,^o
 That I can catch her,
 Where none can match her,
 In some close corner of my brain:
 There I embrace and kiss her;
 And so I both enjoy and miss her.^o

NOTES

P. 130. the absent, 不在目前之人。

cannot have too much of his company, 恨不得久與相處。
 parting, 分別。

miss him, 因其不在而覺悵悵。

hold true, 成立。

On the contrary, 並不如此。

John Donne, 英國詩人, 生於一五七三年, 卒於一六三一年。

subtle imagination, 玄妙之想像力。

hear thou, 爾其靜聽。

protestation, 抗辯。

strength, 指離愁之甚。

Distance, 指相隔之遠。

length, 指相違之久。

Do what thou canst for alteration, 爾儘可盡爾之力以改變人心也。

For hearts of truest mettle absence doth join, and Time doth settle

=for absence does join and Time does settle hearts of [the] truest

mettle, 蓋彼質地真實之心, 隔離聯之而時間定之。(意即彼真正之情人, 相隔愈遠愈久而相愛愈切。)

Who loves a mistress of such quality His mind has found affection's

ground beyond time, place, and mortality, 彼愛秉性如是之情婦者,

其心中已得愛情之域於時地生死之外。

Absence is present, 相違即相處(蓋不因相違而愛也)。

Time dotht arry, 時間乃停留而不前者。(時間雖過而愛情不減, 故不啻時間停留也。)

P. 131. this good means I gain = I gain this good means, 我得此良法。

both enjoy and miss her, 既樂之, 又思之。

THE BEAUTY OF THE BODY

I first read of nudism° and the nudist movement° about five years ago. At that time there was very little, if any, talk° about them here in China. The other day, however, I learnt from Chinese papers that possibly some nudists° would soon start work in Shanghai, and that some well-known men were endeavouring to nip the “evil” in the bud.°

I have not made a study of the subject, and so have no definite opinion on it. All that I can say is that even if nudism has its advantages, it cannot become popular for a long time to come° simply because it is something too new to most people, and that even if it is in fact an unqualified curse,° it is bound° to be supported and advocated by many men and women simply because it is something “new under the sun”.

I do not know whether nudists believe that the human body is the most beautiful thing in the world. I myself do not think so: I find a beautiful sunset or a beautiful poem far more beautiful. But I remember reading somewhere that nothing can be more beautiful than the body.

And I have read two seventeenth-century English poems each praising the body of the poet's sweetheart, one by Robert Herrick° and the other of unknown authorship. Both poems say that with her clothes on the girl is very beautiful, but when naked° she is far more beautiful.

Owing to lack of space,° I can here show you only Herrick's poem. It is interesting to note that Herrick never married because he loved all women instead of only one woman. The poem reads:

Whenas° in silks my Julia° goes
 Then, then (methinks)° how sweetly flows
 That liquefaction of her clothes.°
 Next, when I cast mine eyes and see
 That brave vibration each way free;°
 O how that glittering taketh me!°

NOTES

P. 132. nudism, 裸體主義.

nudist movement, 裸體運動.

very little, if any, talk, 雖有亦甚少之談話.

nudists, 裸體主義者.

nip the "evil" in the bud, 除此害於未萌之前.

for a long time to come, 在未來之久時中.

unqualified curse, 完全之禍患.

bound, 必; 一定.

new under the sun, 天下所希有的.

Robert Herrick, 英國詩人, 生於一五九一年, 卒於一六七四年.

naked, 裸的.

P. 133. Owing to lack of space, 因缺少篇幅.

Whenas = When.

Julia, 女子名.

methinks, 我以為.

That liquefaction of her clothes, 伊之衣服之那種液化 (指綢衣之飄揚).

That brave vibration each way free, 那毫無牽掛之美麗之波動 (指裸體之狀態).

taketh (=takes) me, 引動我心.

TO PROUD GIRLS

In the last stanza of his "Counsel" to Girls Robert Herrick said:

Then be not coy,^o but use your time;
And while ye may,^o go marry:^o
For having lost but once your prime,
You may for ever tarry.^o

But do all marriageable^o girls who remain single^o do so^o because they are coy? Perhaps many of them are really very eager to marry, and delay and delay^o simply because they are proud. They are so much above themselves^o that they feel they should marry none but *perfect* men. But such men they do not find. They wait and wait; in the mean time^o they reject all men who make love to them.^o At last, perhaps before they are aware of it,^o they become too old to marry.

The above-quoted lines from Herrick give advice to girls who continue single because they are coy. As to advice to those who continue single because they are proud, I do not know of any poem better than one by Christina Georgina Rossetti,^o entitled "Helen Grey^o". It consists of^o three stanzas of eight lines each. Owing to limitation of space I here give only the last stanza. It is interesting to note that the poetess herself never married. She lived a retired life^o in London.

Now let us read the said stanza:

Stoop from your cold height,^o Helen Grey,
 Come down, and take a lowlier^o place,
 Come down, to fill it now with grace;^o
 Come down you must perforce some day.^o
 For years cannot be kept at bay,^o
 And fading years^o will make you old;
 Then in their turn will men seem cold,^o
 When you yourself are nipped and grey.^o

NOTES

P. 134. Counsel, 勸告.

be not coy, 勿羞怯.

ye may = you may marry.

go marry = go to marry 去結婚.

for having lost but once your prime, you may for ever tarry, 蓋一

且失去青春，爾或將永遠遲延矣（謂永不能嫁矣）。

marriageable, 已到結婚年齡的。

remain single, 繼續單身；不嫁。

do so = remain single.

delay and delay, 遷延復遷延。

are so much above themselves, 如此之驕傲。

in the mean time, 同時。

reject all men who make love to them, 拒絕一切向伊等求愛之人。

before they are aware of it, 在伊等知之之前；若輩自己猶不之知。

Christina Georgina Rossetti, 英國女詩人，生於一八三零年，卒於一八九四年。

Helen Grey, 女子名。

lived a retired life, 隱居。

P. 135. Stoop from your cold height, 自冷淡之高處下俯（去擧謂傲態也）。

lowlier, 較低的。

grace, 美態。

Come down you must perforce some day = you must come down

perforce some day, 爾必有不得不下之一日（謂不能長此倨傲也）。

years cannot be kept at bay, 年華過去，不能止也。

fading years, 衰退之年華。

in their turn will men (= men will) seem cold, 男子亦將冷淡颯爾矣。

are nipped and grey, 年老而色衰。

“WHOM THE GODS LOVE DIE YOUNG”*

This is a common saying when a young man of great promise° dies. What, after all, is the true idea of this proverb? I cannot give a definite answer. Nor have I ever seen it interpreted anywhere except in George Gordon Byron's "Don Juan".° I do not at all agree with the poet's philosophy of life° as expressed in those lines. But I like them all the same; that is, I love them because of their beautiful diction° and musical quality. They are as follows:

“Whom the gods love die young”, was said of yore,°
 And many deaths do they escape by this;°
 The death of friends, and that which slays even more°—
 The death of friendship,° love, youth, all that is,°
 Except mere breath°; and since the silent shore°
 Awaits at last even those who longest miss
 The old archer's shafts,° perhaps the early grave
 Which men weep over may be meant to save.°

These lines are rather difficult to read. So, besides the notes in Chinese, a little explanation is necessary. Imagine a man who lives to be a hundred° but who is without a friend, without anyone who loves him, without youth and health. He is by no means happy. He may wish he had never been born or had died young. Hence Byron holds that an early death is a blessing.

As I have said, I do not at all agree with the poet. I should like, instead,° to sing with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:°

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal.

However, let's read and appreciate Byron's lines—not for their philosophy, but for their poetry.

“Don Juan” is a very long but incomplete poem with its hero° of the same name. It is a satire° on modern society, and its story is formed by the hero's adventures in the Isles of Greece,° at the Russian Court,° in England, etc.

NOTES

P. 136. Whom the Gods Love Die Young, 神愛者早夭.

young man of great promise, 前程遠大之青年.

George Gordon Byron's “Don Juan,” 按 George Gordon Byron 已見前注, “Don Juan” 係詩名, 亦即詩中主人名.

philosophy of life, 人生哲學.

diction, 文字.

of yore, 在古時.

many deaths do they escape by this—they do escape many deaths by this, 彼等因此而免却許多之死亡.

that which slays even more, 彼殺害更甚之事 (意即有甚於友朋之死之事).

death of friendship, 友誼之死. (友死固足傷心, 友未死而友誼滅, 更足傷心.)

all that is, 世界所有之一切.

Except mere breath, 祇除氣息而外 (謂惟有生命尚存也).

silent shore, 靜岸 (指死者所居之地).

who longest miss the old archer's shafts, 最久倖免老弓手之箭者. (意即年高而未死者; “old archer” 指死神.)

perhaps the early grave which men weep over may be meant to save, 或者我人所痛哭之早夭, 乃上天所藉以救人者也.

a hundred, 百歲.

instead=instead of agreeing with Byron.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 美國詩人, 生於 1807 年, 卒於 1882 年.

P. 137. hero, 主人翁.

satire, 諷刺.

Isles of Greece, 希臘羣島.

Court, 朝廷.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Below is the last stanza of Edmund Waller's "On a Girdle":

A narrow compass°! and yet there
Dwelt all that's good, and all that's fair:°
Give me but what this ribbon bound,°
Take all the rest the Sun goes round.°

Here the poet means to say that he wants nothing in the world but° his dear girl. He is deeply in love. Perhaps any young man who is deeply in love wants nothing in the world but his dear girl.

Those who are not in love, however, may want other things. I have heard several students of English declare that they want, among other things, a perfect knowledge of English. And I am sorry to find that there are not a few young men who want only comforts,° pleasures, and luxuries.°

What do *you* want, reader? I hope that you want to live a useful life, whether as a typist° or as a teacher or as a member of some other honest calling.° For **my** part, I want to do something helpful to all Chinese students of English. Of course, I have other wants; for example, I want a typewriter and a copy of *The Great Oxford Dictionary*. But these are not **my** chief wants.

Many years ago, Samuel Rogers,° an English poet, wrote a little poem called "A Wish" to state what he wanted. It was to live quietly with his wife in a

cottage beside the hill. We young men, I should say, cannot possibly agree with him, nor ought we to.° But the poem is a very sweet one, and I hope you will enjoy reading it. Here it is:

Mine be a cot beside the hill;°
 A bee-hive's hum° shall soothe my ear;
 A willowy brook° that turns a mill,
 With many a fall shall linger near.°
 The swallow, oft,° beneath my thatch°
 Shall twitter from her clay-built° nest;
 Oft shall the pilgrim° lift the latch,°
 And share my meal,° a welcome guest.
 Around my ivied porch shall spring
 Each fragrant flower that drinks the dew;°
 And Lucy,° at her wheel,° shall sing
 In russet° gown and apron blue.°
 The village church among the trees,
 Where first our marriage vows were given,°
 With merry peals shall swell the breeze°
 And point with taper spire to Heaven.°

NOTES

P. 138. Edmund Waller's "On a Girdle", Waller 所著之「詠腰帶」詩。

(按 Waller 係英國詩人；生於一六零六年，卒於一六八七年)
 compass, 環。

yet there dwelt all that's (=that is) good, and all that's fair, 但一切
 善性及美質，俱在其中 (指彼佩此腰帶之女子)

Give me but what this ribbon bound, 祇須給我此帶所曾圍之物 (指彼
 女子)

Take all the rest the Sun goes round, 儘可取去世界上其他之一切。

but .., 除 . 外

comforts, 使生活安適之物。

luxuries, 奢侈品。

typist, 打字員.

calling, 職業.

Samuel Rogers, 英國詩人, 生於一七六三年, 卒於一八五五年.

P. 139. nor ought we to = nor ought we to agree with him.

Mine be a cot beside the hill, 但願我有一小舍在山旁.

bee-hive's hum, 蜂房中之嗡嗡聲.

willowy brook, 旁有柳樹之小溪.

With many a fall shall linger near, 瀑布潺潺, 逗遛於近處.

oft, 時常.

thatch, 葦草.

clay-built, 用土築成的.

pilgrim, 遊客.

lift the latch, 拔起門門 (而入).

share my meal, 與我共餐.

Around my ivied porch shall spring each fragrant flower that drinks
the dew = Each fragrant flower that drinks the dew shall spring
around my ivied porch, 在我之滿佈常青藤之門廊之四周, 生出吸收露
水之種種香花.

Lucy, 女子名 (指妻).

at her wheel, 在其機輪上 (指紡織之事).

russet, 赤褐色.

apron blue = blue apron, 藍色之帷裙.

Where first our marriage vows were given, 我倆結婚之誓語初發於此 (意
即結婚於此).

With merry peals shall swell the breeze, 鐘聲喧嘩, 使風聲增大.

point with taper spire to Heaven, 以尖頂塔高聳天際.

ON WINTER NIGHTS

Do you ever lie awake on a winter night, listening to the wind? What does it suggest to you? Does it suggest the coldness of the weather and by contrast° the warmth of your bed? Does it cause you to feel for the poor,° who are suffering from the hard° winter? Does it remind you of° these popular lines from William Shakespeare?

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;°
Thy tooth is not so keen°
Because thou are not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

A long time ago, there was a talented° young woman in England who used to weep on winter nights. But she wept not because she was unhappy, but because she was very happy. She thought of the delights she had had in the past and of the delights she would have in the future. Such happy thoughts made her weep hot tears. This young woman was one of the famous three literary Brontë sisters° of the first half of the nineteenth century; I mean Emily°, the middle one. She wrote a now well-known novel° and a number of poems. She wrote her poems with an apparently heedless pen for her own relief.°

Her poem entitled "That Wind" describes what the wind suggested to her on winter nights. I do not know at what age she wrote it, nor what part of her life she

had in mind° at the time of writing it. She died at the early age of thirty, and so far as I know, she did not live very happily. The poem is as follows:

That wind, I used to hear it° swelling°,
 With joy divinely deep;°
 You might have seen my hot tears welling,°
 But rapture made me weep.°
 I used to love on winter nights
 To lie and dream alone
 Of all the rare° and real delights
 My lonely years had known.°
 And oh!—above the best—of those°
 That coming time° should bear,
 Like heaven's own glorious stars they rose,°
 Still° beaming bright and fair.°

NOTES

P. 141. contrast, 對比; 相反.

feel for the poor, 哀憐貧人.

hard, 難受的.

remind you of, 令君憶及.

man's ingratitude, 人類之忘恩負義.

keen, 厲害的.

talented, 有才的.

three literary Brontë sisters, 有文才之 Brontë 氏三姊妹.

Emily, 女子名. (按其姊名 Charlotte, 妹名 Anne)

now well-known novel, 現今著名之小說 (此小說名 *Wuthering Heights*).

relief, 安慰.

P. 142. had in mind, 憶及

it, 此字即指上文 "wind".

swelling, (風聲) 漲.

with joy divinely deep, 至深欣喜

You might have seen my hot tears welling, 君或能見我熱淚湧起.

But rapture make me weep, 但狂喜使我泣。(謂我非因悲哀而泣, 乃因狂喜而泣也.)

rare, 罕有的; 可貴的.

My lonely years had known, 在我寂寞之年華中所曾享有者.

of those=dream of those delights.

coming time, 未來; 將來.

Like heaven's own glorious stars they rose, 未來之快樂, 現於目前, 有如天上之明星.

Still, 常.

fair, 美麗的.

THE END

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