

李伯元：文明小史

Modern Times

or A Brief History of Enlightenment

By Li Po-yuan (1867-1906)

Translated by Douglas Lancashire

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

I remember how, on one occasion, when at sea and travelling aboard a steam-ship, I happened to go on deck at dawn and, seeing only the vast and limitless expanse of sea and sky, was totally at a loss to know where I was. After remaining there a few moments a slither of red light suddenly appeared in the East on the surface of the ocean, rising and falling with the motion of the sea. Despite the fierce waves, the light shone far and near, illuminating everything. Everyone on the ship shouted: "The sun is coming up!", and rushed on deck to watch the phenomenon. Sure enough, in less than a quarter of an hour, the sun emerged from a segment of the ocean.

I also remember another year. It was summer, and I had just finished my midday meal. Casually, I picked up a newspaper, opened the window on the North side of the house, and reclined on a bamboo chair, reading the paper to pass the time. Although the naked sun was high in the heavens and it was hot enough to melt metals and fuse rocks, I did not feel the least discomfort, and forgot the time of day. After I had lain there a little while, a dark cloud suddenly appeared in the North-west. It grew dark, and there was the sound of thunder. A moment later there was a flash of lightning and a fierce wind howled angrily. When I looked outside again, I saw that the dark clouds had completely blocked out the sky. Everyone shouted: "It's about to rain!", and the people in the house immediately busied themselves closing windows and gathering up the chairs. In less than a quarter of an hour the wind abated and, sure enough, there was a downpour of rain.

Dear readers, consider: how did people know that the sun was about to rise before it actually did so? And how could one tell before the downpour that the rain would fall? There is a reason, and this reason is right before our eyes. By looking at the sea and by listening to the wind it is possible to know that the sun will surely rise and that heavy rain will fall. There is no difficulty about making such prognostications.

Because of these two experiences I have been able to present my readers with an illustration. What period have we reached in our world today? One person will say: "An

ancient empire cannot be rejuvenated." Another will say: "There is nothing difficult about growing from childhood to adulthood." In my humble view, our present circumstances are not those of childhood, and it is most probable that the time for the sun to rise and the rain to fall is not far distant. And on what do I base this conclusion? Just look at what has happened over the past few years: there have been new measures and policies in government and education, repercussions of which have filled the heavens with their din. Some things have been done well and some badly; some changes have been carried through with sufficient knowledge and some with insufficient. But, whether good or bad, there have been those who have been willing to make the changes, and whether there has been sufficient knowledge or not, there have been those who have been willing to learn. When one adds to this the fact that people's minds have been stimulated and that all levels of society have been roused to action, are these not indications, like the sea and the wind, that the sun is about to rise and the rain to fall?

Thus, irrespective of whether these people have succeeded or failed, been cast aside or are flourishing, been public-spirited or selfish, proved genuine or false, they will eventually be regarded as men of merit in a civilized world.

It is for this reason that I have specially written this book, publicizing their deeds. Far be it from me to deny the pains they have taken on the lonely path of progress.

*Ssu-ma¹ was disparaged from earliest times because of his outspokenness,
And some today scorn Tung Hu² for his honesty.
But change determines what is rotten and what is marvellous,³
And with these words I felicitate the future.*

But if you wish to learn the contents of this book, please listen to what I have to say in Chapter One.

¹Ssu-ma Ch'ien (145-90? B.C.) the author of the *Shih-chi* or *Records of the Historian*.

²Tung Hu was an historiographer during the rule of Duke Hsuan (607-590 B.C.) of the State of Lu. According to the *Tso Commentary* on the *Spring and Autumn Annals*, Confucius praised Tung Hu for his refusal to conceal unpleasant events. See Legge, J.,

The Chinese Classics, Hong Kong re-issue, 1960, Vol. 5, p. 290.

³Cf. *Chuang Tzu*, Ssu-pu pei-yao (Essentials of the Four Libraries) edition, chuan 7, p. 23a, and Ware, James R., *The Sayings of Chuang Chou*, New York, Mentor Classics, 1963, p. 145.

Chapter One

*In which family servants discuss history in the examination hall,
And a prefect entertains Westerners at the Inn of Advancement.*

IT IS SAID that in the region of Yungshun Fu in Hunan, bordering on Szechuan and occupied both by the Miao people and Han Chinese, customs have a primeval air about them, suggesting that the practices of ancient times have been preserved in all their rustic simplicity. Although patriotic statesmen and families of high rank have come into their day of glory following an increase in military activities, these great men and families are only to be found scattered among the few Prefectures located between the cities of Changsha and Yochow, so that secluded border regions in the vicinity of Yungshun have thus far been unaffected. Hence, local customs have remained intact in all their rude simplicity.

Because this place is dominated by mountains rather than by lakes and rivers it is concealed from the world by ridges and peaks rising up on every side. There is an air of beauty in the luxuriant countryside. The people are dispersed among the valleys, their villages nestling among the trees and their huts constructed beside the streams; tilling the fields and sinking wells and totally ignorant of all else, they are a perfect illustration of those words in the *Great Learning*: "The common people enjoyed what they enjoyed and benefited from their beneficial arrangements."⁴ Thus, those who served as officials in this region enjoyed leisure the livelong day and were blissfully free from care.

I shall not continue further with this description but simply inform the reader that at this time the person serving as Prefect of the region was a certain Liu Chi-hsien who hailed from Kiangsi. He had graduated with a *Chin-shih* or Doctor's degree, had been selected by the Emperor for appointment as Assistant Secretary of a Board

(second class),⁵ and had served as a *Consultant* in the Board of Civil Office. Jogging along for more than twenty years he was promoted from Assistant Secretary (second class) to Second Secretary and then to Senior Secretary.

In the year that we are concerned with, when his assessment period was due to expire, the President of the Board, remarking on Liu's intelligence and experience, his courage and ability, his moral calibre and compassion and his diligence in pursuit of the common weal, offered to recommend him for higher office. Following an interview, an Imperial command was issued that his name be put on file for an assignment. Within half-a-year Liu's present position fell vacant; his name was put forward, and by the magnanimous grace of the Emperor, the Holy One, he was selected to fill the post.

After Liu had expressed his gratitude he took leave of all his friends and acquaintances.

NOW IT SO HAPPENED that he had an old friend whose name was Yao Shih-kuang, alias Tun-an. A native of Huichow, he was already more than seventy years of age, and a lecturer at the Paoting Academy. On account of some business which he had to attend to he was on a visit to the Capital. By good fortune he ran into Prefect Liu as the latter was about to take up his duties away from the Capital and, since they would seldom have the opportunity to see each other again—because of the great distance separating the North from the South—he persuaded Prefect Liu to tarry a few more days so that they could leave the Capital together. On the eve of the day when they were due to depart Old Mister Yao prepared a farewell feast at his lodgings. When they had consumed

⁴Chan, Wing-tsit, *A Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1963, p. 88.

⁵I have on the whole employed the translations of Chinese titles as found in Mayers, W.F., *The Chinese Government*, Shanghai, Kelly & Walsh, Third edition, 1897, Taipei reprint, 1966.

about half the meal Mister Yao poured some wine into a cup until it was brimming over and, placing it before Prefect Liu, said: "My venerable younger brother, on this occasion as you depart to take up a post in which you are to accept the commands of the Emperor and govern the people, I ask you not to treat this Prefectship lightly; for even in Han times such a post already carried with it enormously heavy responsibilities. Although the region you are going to covers an area of over a thousand square *li*, you will find it well worthwhile to exercise all your skill and abilities when it comes to reforming the people and their customs. This is the only advice your foolish elder brother wishes to offer. Since our friendship is not based on power or money, I shall refrain from making the usual comments about elevation to high office and the amassing of wealth. If you agree with me please drain this cup."

Old Mister Yao was exceedingly well grounded in traditional learning and was a master of classical prose. Despite his age he was most adept at adjusting to the times, and in consequence there was not a single student in the Academy who did not respect him.

Although Prefect Liu was a product of the examination system based on the "eight-legged essay", he had developed a deep admiration for Old Mister Yao. On this occasion, therefore, having listened to these observations, he took the cup into his hands and said: "Now that I, your younger brother, am about to set out on this journey, I would like to receive instruction from you, elder brother. Out of your magnanimity you have offered me good advice and I am uncommonly grateful. But this present posting to a provincial office will prove very different from anything in the Capital. I would therefore like to ask you for some indication as to what things I ought to promote and what things I should reform after taking up my duties." When he had finished speaking drank the wine, handed the cup back to Old Mister Yao, returned to his seat and resumed drinking with his friend.

Old Mister Yao said: "Since the promotion of anything beneficial first involves the reform of some corruption or evil practice, it is not at all easy to discourse on change and reform. To take the noble province of Hunan as an example, the people are conservative in the extreme when it

comes to their customs; since it is impossible to reform their ancient practices what hope is there for the emergence of anything new? But all my life I have had the utmost respect for Confucius, and he once said: 'The people may be made to follow a path of action, but they may not be made to understand it.'⁶ I am not saying this because I have in mind the practice of the First Emperor of the Ch'in dynasty of keeping the common people stupid.'⁷ My reason for speaking thus is that China has preserved her customs for several thousand years, and that apart from a few commercial seaports, where it is comparatively easy to act as the times dictate, there is not a single place in the remaining eighteen provinces where people do not hold stubbornly to their mistaken views. In such places it is absolutely essential that one should not act with haste when introducing anything new or when getting rid of anything old, for to 'beat the grass and startle the snakes' will only produce ugly results. My venerable younger brother! Mark well what I say: in my humble opinion our China is going to experience great instability!" Prefect Liu was thoroughly startled over what he had just heard, and could find nothing to say in reply beyond a few words of admiration and thanks.

THAT NIGHT, after the feast was over, Liu returned alone to his lodgings, and the next day, having made their farewells, each went his own way. Old Mister Yao returned to Paoting where we shall leave him. Prefect Liu, together with his family, hastened on his journey travelling by night. Steam-ships had already begun to operate so that he travelled from Tientsin to Shanghai and thence to Hankow. Liu had remained in Peking from the time he was enrolled as an official until the present—a period of fully twenty years, and he had no idea that the countryside had changed as much as it had. Thus, along the route there

⁶Legge, *op. cit.*, Vol. 1, p. 211.

⁷We are told in the Bibliographical Section of the *History of the Former Han Dynasty* that The First Emperor of the Ch'in dynasty (221-207 B.C.) ordered the destruction of most of the literature extant in his day to keep the common people ignorant. See *Han-shu i-wen chih* in *Ch'ien-han shu*, Ssu-pu pei-yao, chuan 30, p. 1a.

Li Pao-chia (李寶嘉), 1867-1906, more popularly known as Li Po-yuan (李伯元), was a native of Shang-yuan in the province of Kiangsu. After trying unsuccessfully for the more advanced civil service examinations, he made his way to Shanghai where he went into the newspaper business. In 1903 he established the biweekly Hsiu-hsiang hsiao-shuo (Illustrated Stories) in which his novel Modern Times first appeared in serial form. This belonged to the same genre of contemporary exposé fiction as the well-known Kuan-ch'ang hsien-hsing chi (官場現形記) by the same author, The Travels of Lao Ts'an (老殘遊記) by Liu Ê, and Erh-shih nien mu-tu chih kuai hsien-chuang (二十年目睹之怪現狀) by Wu Wo-yao.

Professor Lancashire, who has translated the entire novel of sixty chapters, writes, "The fact that so much of the fiction of this period first came out in newspapers, which were the chief popularizers of modern knowledge, shows that apart from being a form of entertainment, the novel was increasingly treated as an ally in the dissemination of modern ideas. In 1902, Liang Ch'i-ch'ao published an article in his magazine Hsin hsiao-shuo (New Fiction) in which he argued that since the novel had such an enormous influence on men's minds, it was capable of transforming society. The didactic element is prominent in Modern Times; but the novel is also satirical in character in that it exposes and ridicules the foibles of China's scholar-officials and pokes fun at the false attitudes of many of those who professed to espouse reform."

were many things which attracted his attention and which added greatly to his knowledge and experience. Because of his long sojourn in the Capital, when he arrived in Hunan his immediate superior hurriedly issued an order on the public notice-board that he was to take up his new appointment.

After his arrival he followed Old Mister Yao's advice, carrying out his duties according to the practices of the old regime, and not daring to rush through any change. After some six months had gone by all levels of society were at peace and there was nothing of consequence to do beyond sleeping and eating.

But because, by nature, Prefect Liu was a man of action, he thought to himself that, since, as an official, he was regarded by everyone in his Prefecture as their leader and example, he should embark on something which would express this fact. But much as he mulled over the matter he was unable to decide where to begin.

Now it so happened that the triennial Prefectural examinations were to be held in spring of this year and a despatch had been issued urging teachers in every school to summon salaried

graduates holding the *Hsiu-ts'ai*, or first degree, along with their attendants, and notifying students of both the civil and military arts that they should all proceed to the Prefectural Capital for the impending examinations.

The Yungshun Prefecture controlled four districts. Of these, the most important was Yungshun Hsien, followed by Lungshan, Paoching and Sangchih.

When all candidates' names had been elicited it was found that those studying military affairs outnumbered the students of civil affairs and, when the candidates of all four districts had been added together, it turned out that barely one thousand students had prepared for the civil examination, whereas more than three thousand were offering themselves for the military examination.

Teachers from each school were received in audience by the Prefect, and left with their authorizations. It was decided that on the first day of the third month all candidates for the civil examination would be tested in the Classics, and, on the third, would sit the main part of the examination.

Now although Prefect Liu was a graduate of the "eight-legged essay" examination, because as a government-supported student, he had taken a further examination to gain highest honours, he was most proficient in every aspect of learning whether it be classical studies, history or poetry. Whilst residing in the Capital he had often heard of cases where individuals had memorialized the throne, requesting that topics on current affairs be introduced for the civil examinations. He was also aware that the "eight-legged essay" would have to be eliminated ere long. Moreover, his old friend, Mister Yao, who was known for his attainments in classical prose, had influenced him, so that his disposition had gradually been transformed. Because of all this, he decided on this occasion to search out those of special ability from among the examination candidates. He first issued a notice calling on candidates to be ready to enter their names, not only for poetry, but also for subjects like arithmetic and history. But, alas, students did not understand the notice and, when the time came to register, only one student from Lungshan put his name down for the history essay, and only one student from Yungshun selected the arithmetic option. The remainder chose topics based on the *Classic of Filial Piety* and on Neo-Confucian metaphysics. Even those opting for poetry numbered very few indeed.

After Prefect Liu had checked the names of the candidates he was thoroughly disappointed, but there was nothing for it but to draw up the examination questions and put up a notice on the notice board. The student who had registered for arithmetic unexpectedly managed to complete his paper. The candidate for the history topic noted that the subject of his essay was Han Hsin; but, although equipped with several volumes of the *Kang-chien-i-chih-lu*⁸ and a simplified version of the *Twenty-one Histories*, he had not the faintest idea as to which dynasty Han Hsin belonged to and, although he searched his books from cover to

⁸By Wu Sheng-ch'uan and published in 1711, this work is an abridgement of the *Tung-chien kang-mu* which itself is a condensation made under the direction of Chu Hsi (1130-1200) of Ssu-ma Kuang's (1019-1089) *Tzu-chih t'ung-chien*. It covers the period of the commencement of history to the close of the Ming dynasty (1368-1644). See Wylie, A., *Notes on Chinese Literature*, Shanghai, 1867, Peking re-issue, 1939.

cover, was unable to find any reference to him. The student therefore appealed to his teacher to petition the Prefect; to inform him that he had no idea as to what the sources were for his topic, and to ask him if he would please change it for an easier one. Unable to extricate himself from the toils of his importunate student the teacher first discussed the matter with the attendant invigilators at the examination hall. One of the invigilators took the examination paper and, after perusing the question, said that he was well acquainted with the name Han Hsin and was sure that he had come across it somewhere. After inclining his head and thinking about it for some considerable time he said: "Yes, surely this young gentleman of yours will have seen the opera even if he hasn't read about Han Hsin in his books? Lord Yang, singing the last sentence in the opera *Erh chin kung*,⁹ refers to a certain Han Hsin of the Han forfeiting his life in the Wei-yang Palace. Surely that's the man isn't it? He was a man of the Han dynasty. If he weren't, why would he be called Han Hsin of the Han?"

The invigilator had spoken thus far when an attendant standing beside him interrupted and said: "Sir, don't be so sure. If Han Hsin was a man of the Han dynasty why is it said earlier in the opera that he is King Han of the Three Ch'i who mounts the commander's platform and appoints his generals? In my view Han Hsin was in fact a man of the state of Ch'i." Turning to the candidate he said: "Young gentleman, don't be misled by him. Base your essay on what I've told you and you'll be sure not to go wrong."¹⁰

But how was anyone to know that this student had lived all his life in a country district and had never witnessed a Peking Opera? He had not even heard of the opera *Erh chin kung* to which they referred so that he was still unable to make any

⁹The *Erh chin kung* (Two Remonstrances in the Palace), which is really one act taken from a larger work, deals with events in the royal palace following the death of Emperor Mu Tsung (1567-1573) of the Ming dynasty. The death of Han Hsin in the Wei-yang Palace is referred to in an aria sung by Yang Po near the beginning of the act.

¹⁰The topic *Han Hsin* would confuse any examination candidate since the *Records of the Historian* (chuan 92 and 93) contain biographies of two men bearing this name.

sense of the question. In the end his teacher went to see the Prefect who produced a question on Kuan Chung. Kuan Chung was a character in the Confucian *Four Books*, so there was no further need for the student to refer to his history books. As luck would have it, in a published reference book for examinations there was a ready-made article with the title "Kuan Chung". When the candidate saw it he was overjoyed and, hurriedly disguising its appearance, transformed the "eight-legged essay" into a composition containing eight paragraphs. Elated, he copied out his script and handed it in.

When the Prefect's private secretary opened and read it he puckered up his eyebrows. Prefect Liu asked him how the candidate had fared and the secretary answered: "If he had been asked to write an 'eight-legged essay' some of his sentences would be quite arresting, but since the topic has been changed to an historical one, much of his language is inappropriate." As he spoke he handed the script to the Prefect adding: "Please cast your eyes over it, Sir, and decide whether the student should fail or be allowed to pass."

Having read through the script Prefect Liu found it really impossible. He therefore debated with himself in these terms: "How can one pass a script such as this? Yet only one student out of all the candidates has tackled the topic and, although he hasn't made a good job of his essay, he has at least heard of the two words 'historical essay' which is rather better than empty and groundless exegeses of texts selected from the Classics. No matter what one may say, this person is at least unwilling to follow the common herd and is sympathetic to better things. He must be regarded as a scholar with some ambition. It would be best, then, to pass him, even though it is somewhat irregular, so that other students will take note and be encouraged to tackle topics based on historical writings."

Having made up his mind, Prefect Liu gave the candidate sitting the examination in arithmetic a first-class pass, and the history candidate a second-class pass. He also passed a few scripts dealing with poetry.

After he had made his decisions known, the remaining examinations were held in succession and were all over in about fifteen days. Immediately the results had been issued those taking military studies began their examinations. Candidates taking the tests in mounted archery did so in the

Pavilion for Military Displays, those being examined as ordinary archers were tested in the Grand Prefectural Hall. Because of the large number of contestants, and to avoid an examination lasting many days, three targets were set up so that three archers could shoot at one time.

NOW ON THIS DAY Prefect Liu and the Prefectural officials had just taken their seats in the Grand Hall. Prefect Liu had not even started to call the roll when he saw someone being brought in through the gates. The man was panting heavily and his head was bathed in sweat as he knelt down before the whole assembly. He spoke up and said: "My name is Chi Ch'ang-ch'un and I am the constable from outside the West Gate. This morning the potboy at the Inn of Advancement outside the West Gate ran over to my home to tell me that three foreigners arrived at the Inn yesterday evening together with a few men wearing queues."

The Prefect said: "Well, they must be Chinese."

The constable continued: "They were not Chinese. If they had been Chinese like ourselves why were they wearing foreign hats?"

The Prefect asked: "Did you see them?"

The constable replied: "When the potboy at the Inn came to report the matter I went to have a look. There were several foreigners and so I didn't dare enter the building. I was afraid I might alarm them, and therefore hurried here to report the news to you, Sir."

The Prefect asked: "What have they come for?"

"I inquired of the potboy," said the constable, "and he said that last night a foreigner wearing a queue flew into a rage because the boy's father was careless and broke a teacup belonging to him. The foreigner immediately gave the potboy's father a beating; he then laid hold of him and refused to let him go saying he would take him to the Magistracy. The potboy was so frightened that he hurriedly slipped out of the Inn, and is now afraid to return."

The Prefect cried: "You scoundrel! I knew you'd hide away and refuse to report anything to me unless there was trouble. What kind of cup was it that was smashed? Don't you know that if you ruin something owned by foreigners we have to pay compensation?"

The constable produced two broken shards from his jacket pocket and, presenting them to the

Prefect, said: "The cup is made of white porcelain. We should be able to find another one like it in a shop that sells crockery."

The Prefect took the shards and examined them with care; then he shouted: "Rubbish! This is foreign porcelain. Not only is it impossible to find such ware in a local shop, but even if someone were sent to Kiangsi he wouldn't be able to have this kind of porcelain fired there. The matter is grave indeed! Lock this scoundrel up first and I shall look into the affair later."

Hearing these words the constable hurriedly doffed his cap, prostrated himself, and struck his forehead on the ground. "Be gracious, Sir," he said, "Be merciful!"

Ignoring these comments the Prefect asked: "What about the potboy at the Inn?"

"He's hiding in my house," replied the constable.

"You two are in league with each other," said the Prefect, and immediately issued a warrant of arrest, ordering an official messenger to hurry off and return with the potboy. The messenger departed to carry out his orders, and then the Prefect announced: "An important matter has interrupted the day's programme so we had better delay the examination. We shall wait until this business with the foreigners is settled before issuing a notice for the resumption of the proceedings." As he spoke he prepared to withdraw from the hall.

Although the students were disgruntled over the delay, they were all under the supervision of fathers, elder brothers, teachers and guarantors, and so had no alternative but to retire as well.

The Prefect now invited the local Brigade Commander into the Office for the Countersigning of Documents to discuss the situation with him.

"Since foreigners have arrived in this region we ought to send a few troops from our barracks to suppress any idlers that may be about and to carry out our duty to protect the populace," said the Commander.

"You are absolutely right," said the Prefect.

The Commander immediately took his leave, and without even giving himself time for a cup of tea, departed in his palanquin.

The Prefect now hurriedly summoned his Chief Magistrate,¹¹ who had originally accompanied him in order to attend to his needs during the military examination but who, after finding he had nothing to do at the auditorium, had promptly set out on

the road back to his Magistracy. He had just reached half-way when a constable and an assistant raced up to him to deliver a message. He proceeded no further towards his Magistracy, but promptly returned to the Prefectural Offices where he waited on the Prefect in the official waiting room. The Prefect also sent for Master Han, the Legal Secretary, but the Secretary's servant said: "We've never been able to wake him before twelve o'clock."

The Prefect had no alternative but to delay taking further action.

Less than a quarter of an hour later the Magistrate arrived and, having sent in his visiting-card, was immediately invited into the presence of the Prefect. When he had bent his knee in salutation and taken his seat the Prefect said to him: "Several foreigners have arrived outside the West Gate, did you know about this?"

"I have only just received word of the matter," said the Magistrate, "and so have come to see you. Would you please instruct me, Sir, as to what should be done? Should we take note of them or ignore them? Of course, they haven't paid you a courtesy call since arriving here."

"But there's already been some trouble," said the Prefect, "so that even if you pay no heed to them they'll still come looking for you."

The Magistrate quickly inquired as to the nature of the trouble.

"Do you mean to say you still don't know?" asked the Prefect, and thereupon recounted how the constable had informed him that the father of the potboy at the Inn had smashed one of the foreigner's cups, with the result that the foreigner had seized hold of him, and threatened to deliver him to the Magistracy.

The Magistrate was stupefied by what he heard and for some time was lost for speech.

"You're an official who's served a long period in the provinces," said the Prefect, "and you're therefore unaware of the situation in the Capital. When I was in the Capital, whenever Magistrates received foreigners they regarded it as a matter of

¹¹Mayers, *op. cit.*, states that "the District within which a provincial capital is situated gives the title *Shou Hsien* to its incumbent." One might therefore have translated *shou-hsien* Chief District Magistrate, but since this is too cumbersome I have called him Chief Magistrate or, simply, Magistrate.

great moment; and even when the foreigners dressed casually we, on our side, always wore our official insignia. Regardless of whether the foreigners were mere artisans, we would sit and stand with them as if they were our equals. Now, as a matter of principle, we ought to be gracious to strangers, as we are taught in *The Mean*. Moreover, the visitors are our guests, so that we have the duties of hosts laid upon us. In our Classics we are instructed to accompany those who leave, and to welcome those who arrive, and this is as it should be. At the present time the Court is most punctilious about this, but it will not be until later, when the number of foreigners visiting China increases, that we shall see the efficacy of our policy of graciousness.

"In my humble opinion we should pay them a visit right away, prepare a banquet for them and provide them with a few servants to cater for their needs; thus fulfilling our duties as hosts, as well as showing that even though the inn-keepers have damaged their belongings, the local officials treat them with courtesy. Should they be determined on satisfaction, this determination will be weakened, and a matter of some seriousness will be transformed into a trifling affair, and then into a matter of no importance.

"When they have departed and crossed the boundaries of our Prefecture we shall have rid ourselves of all responsibility for them, even if they should be murdered by robbers on their journey."

"You are remarkably perspicacious, Sir," said the Magistrate, "I shall accompany you on your way."

"Fine," said the Prefect, "but there is just one problem. How are we going to manage if we have no one with us who can speak their language?"

"There's an old private tutor in my Magistracy called Chang. This person formerly attended some school or other in the Provincial Capital where he studied English for three months, and I am at present engaging him to teach my two boys to read foreign books," said the Magistrate.

"So your sons are studying foreign languages," said the Prefect. "This is the most important and useful kind of study today, and its value will be unlimited in the future. I congratulate you; you have my respect."

The Prefect immediately summoned a servant and instructed him to take his visiting-card and to present it to Master Chang, requesting him to call the Prefectural Offices.

After a brief delay, Master Chang donned his gown and set off in his palanquin. The Prefect received him with grave courtesy uttering some words of admiration. Master Chang was more than a little pleased with his reception.

When the three men had made each other's acquaintance they set off without more ado, their way being cleared for them by runners beating gongs. Together, they hurried to the Inn of Advancement outside the West Gate.

Chapter Two

*In which governors with a knowledge of general principles
expound foreign relations
And misguided individuals stir up trouble among students.*

PREFECT LIU together with the Magistrate and interpreter went directly out of the city, and moved in all haste in the direction of the Inn of Advancement. One of the Magistrate's clerks, only a step ahead of the entourage, entered the Inn and presented the Prefect's visiting-card. A moment later the palanquins arrived at the gate where the

occupants found the old officer deputed by the Brigado Commander, together with the four soldiers he had brought along with him, already standing on guard.

Now the foreigner who was lodging at the Inn was in fact an Italian mining engineer. It so happened that in recent years the government's

coffers had become quite empty so that there was less and less money available for expenditure. Both in and outside the Capital there were a number of great officials who understood the situation, and who knew that the reason for the nation's poverty stemmed from the fact that she was unable to develop her resources.

Although steam-ships, the telegraph, textile spinning, engineering and munitions factories, both large and small, had already been introduced in fairly large numbers, good laws had not yet been enacted, so that achievements were constantly being eroded; some of these ventures being well managed while others were not.

But there were two natural assets which particularly demanded investigation: one was agriculture, and the other mineral resources. If the exploitation of these could be put on a proper footing, the common people would no longer suffer poverty, and the nation would naturally become powerful and flourish.

Thus, those provincial governors who genuinely had the nation's welfare at heart and who understood this principle had each sent delegates to Japan to investigate agricultural techniques, and engaged a number of famous mining engineers from other nations to visit every prefecture, district and county in their provinces to make surveys of mineral resources so that people might be encouraged to commence mining activities.

The Italian who had arrived on this occasion had been deputed by the Governor of the Province of Hupei. He was accompanied by a representative of the Governor, but because this representative had been delayed in the district previously visited, the engineer had arrived first with two other foreigners, an interpreter and two servants, some six persons in all.

When they had arrived outside the city walls of Yungshun they had discovered the Inn of Advancement where they had taken accommodation, intending to wait for the arrival of the Governor's representative so that they might enter the city together to pay their respects.

But, unexpectedly, because of the beating meted out to the potboy's father, the young lad had hastened to the home of the constable to make a complaint, and the constable, afraid to take any action lest he be made to bear the blame, had run immediately into the city to report the affair.

Unfortunately for him, he had come up against Prefect Liu, who was a stickler for correct behaviour when it came to foreign affairs, and who, together with the Chief Magistrate, had now come to pay his respects first.

IT WAS FORTUNATE that when the Prefect's visiting-card was delivered at the Inn, it came into the hands of an engineer who, since arriving in China, had met a goodly number of officials, both high and low, and who was well acquainted with the manners practised in official circles. On top of this, he was able to speak a few words of Chinese, so that when he saw the visiting-card he hurriedly said, "*Ch'ing*, Please come in."

Prefect Liu was the first to alight from his palanquin. He headed the procession, followed by Master Chang and the Magistrate, the latter bringing up the rear. On passing through the door of the Inn they were led upstairs by one of the Inn's attendants. The mining engineer, however, had already come to the head of the stairs to receive them. On seeing the delegation, the engineer doffed his hat. Being acquainted with foreign customs Prefect Liu immediately put out his right hand and shook the hand of the engineer. Next came Master Chang who, it goes without saying, was also knowledgeable about these customs, since he had made a three-month's study of foreign books. Master Chang also uttered a word or two in English to which the mining engineer replied.

Finally it was the turn of the Magistrate who walked up to the engineer, but held out his left hand by mistake. The engineer was unwilling to shake the hand proffered to him, but fortunately, Master Chang noticed the error, and quickly drew the Magistrate's right arm forward into a hand-shaking position, thus bringing the ceremonious welcome to a proper conclusion. The mining engineer's secretary and translator also introduced themselves. A pair of small gold-rimmed spectacles rested on the nose of the translator. He wore a foreign nightcap on his head, and a pair of leather shoes on his feet, which squeaked as he walked. His shirt and trousers were as white as snow, so that if it had not been for the fact that a queue as black as ink hung down his back, everyone would have taken him for a foreigner.

When he saw the visitors he did not remove his glasses but bowed to the Prefect and the



*Two parties meet over
an affair of national im-
portance*
by WU YU-JU.

Magistrate—happily he had not yet forgotten his Chinese manners.

The visitors were made to take their seats whilst a waiter served some tea. Master Chang, however, had only one thing on his mind, and that was to display his talents and learning to their greatest advantage. He therefore came out with a few foreign words such as “wen” (*one*), “t’u” (*two*) “t’o-li” (*three*), “k’o-mu” (*come*), and “yeh-ssu” (*yes*), but his speech was lacking in lucidity.

At first the mining engineer was all ears as he

tried to understand what was being said, and at times he answered Master Chang with one or two words of his own. Finally, however, he was alternately puckering up his eye brows and pursing his lips in laughter, but uttering not a word in reply. The Prefect and Magistrate, meanwhile, thought the two men were in complete accord and looked on contentedly, forgetting to utter a word.

When there was a lull in the conversation the engineer suddenly laughed and, speaking in Chinese, said to Master Chang: “Mister Chang, I think it

would be best if you spoke in the language of your honoured country. Not only is my interpreter quite unable to understand your English but even I can't understand a word."

It was only at this point that everyone realized Master Chang's efforts were inadequate; that his English was poor, and that therefore the foreigner too did not want them to continue.

On hearing the engineer's request, Master Chang was quite overcome with shame and blushed so strongly that his ears turned a dull red. He fell silent and sat mute, afraid even to say anything in Chinese.

The Magistrate looked on, utterly embarrassed. The Prefect, however, was a man of eloquence and experience and bypassing his interpreter spoke briefly, but courteously, to the engineer in Chinese. The mining engineer understood everything that was said to him and said: "I met the Governor-General in Wuchang. He is a great and loyal official of your honoured country who knows that profits from mining are greater than those from any other industry. He therefore deputed me, together with Mister Chin, to visit your honoured Prefecture. I carried out a survey along the whole route, and on arrival at Changsha I paid your Provincial Governor a visit. The Governor invited me to an evening meal, and I found that he too is a man of considerable understanding. Because Mister Chin has not yet arrived here, I decided to delay my visit to your honoured Prefectural Offices. Please excuse me for causing you so much trouble, but I am very pleased indeed to meet you."

The engineer continued with a few more courteous remarks, and the Prefect paid the engineer some sincere compliments, before they rose from their seats and took leave of each other. Prefect Liu sought to arrange for the engineer to move into his Prefectural Residence, but the engineer said he would prefer to wait for the arrival of Mister Chin before making a decision.

With some ceremony they accompanied each other to the top of the stairs, shook each other's hands once again, and then the mining engineer turned back to his room.

THE PREFECT, Magistrate and Master Chang descended the stairs and climbed into their palanquins, returning direct to the Prefectural Offices.

When the Prefect had stepped down from his

palanquin, he invited the Magistrate and Master Chang to join him for some general conversation. Master Chang was no longer as elated as he had been on his previous visit. The Prefect tried to detain him, persuading him to share a meal with him, but he was unwilling to remain, and quickly returned to his quarters. At this point the Magistrate said: "I'm afraid I recommended the wrong man and almost caused us great loss of face. I really am terribly sorry."

"There's no need to blame him," said the Prefect, "although his knowledge of foreign languages is shallow, I doubt whether you'll find another student of the subject in the whole of the Yungshun Prefecture. He should be kept here to begin a new trend. When you return, treat him exactly as you did before, for I shall have occasion to make use of him in the future."

They then went on to discuss the matter of the cup broken by the potboy's father which, contrary to expectations, had not been discussed at the Inn, and which, it seemed, the foreigners would not now pursue. But just as they were talking an attendant appeared saying: "The potboy has arrived in manacles. The messenger you sent forced him to go and find his father so that both father and son have been arrested along with the constable. Will the Magistrate or the Prefect himself pass judgement?"

"There isn't any need to pass judgement now," said the Prefect, "although we can't release them either. If we let them go and they run away we won't know where to find them should the foreigners want them. Foreigners are notorious for the way they harbour ill feeling. The breaking of a cup is not the most serious of matters, and is certainly not worth involving a number of individuals in trouble and causing them financial ruin. Nevertheless, at the present time the foreigners are flourishing, and one has no alternative but to give in to them somewhat. The pity of it is that every one of these persons is a subject of the Emperor, so that we officials have no excuse for failing to shield and protect them. The fact that these days we have to help others to ill-treat Chinese citizens means that we are really wrong in receiving emoluments from the Court. Now that I mention it, it really makes me very ashamed indeed! But since we're instructed to act in this fashion there's nothing one can do about it.

Let's wait for the arrival of Representative Chin when we can discuss the affair again. I don't think the matter will amount to anything very serious."

The attendant withdrew, and after a few further comments the Magistrate took his leave also.

Having bid his guests farewell the Prefect hurriedly changed his clothes and took a meal. When he had finished his midday meal, the Director of Studies requested an attendant to present his visiting-card to the Prefect and to ask him to indicate when the military examination would now be held. The candidates were numerous, and the majority were penniless. The living expenses they had provided themselves with were limited to a determined number of days. An extra day would involve them in considerable expense, so that if the Prefect could inform them of the precise day and time of the examination, it would help them to settle down.

"How can I be certain?" asked the Prefect. "I wish we could complete the examination today since if the examinations were over a day ahead of schedule, students could return home a day earlier. I too would like to feel at ease as soon as possible; but, as it happens, the foreigners are here and there is no knowing when I shall be involved in dealings with them. In these circumstances how can I sit in the examination hall unperturbed, watching the candidates shooting their arrows from morning till night, and making unhurried judgements as duty demands. But there is something else you ought to tell the students: they may be able to shoot their arrows, but can they hit a foreigner with them?"

Now the Prefect was quite out of temper as a result of the business of arresting the potboy and his father and discussing it at length with the Magistrate. He asked himself if he could even be counted a man when, as the most honoured person in his Prefecture, he could do nothing to protect a common citizen. Because of his state of mind he was unable to get to sleep during his afternoon nap, but tossed and turned on his bed, his temper steadily rising as he considered his predicament. It was the attendant's misfortune to have arrived at this moment and so suffered this rebuff by the Prefect.

When the attendant withdrew he explained the situation in detail to the Director of Studies, and the Director, being at a loss to know what else

he could do, returned to his own lodgings. Later, some of the students' sureties paid the Director a visit and were in turn told the facts of the situation. They were also informed that the Prefect was in a very bad mood just then, and that the Director would be grateful if they would wait a couple of days since the examination was bound to be held eventually.

"Of course the examinations will be held," said the sureties, "and there is no problem for the local city candidates; but students from other districts and from the countryside calculated their stay on the assumption that the examinations would be held on a certain day. How can they extend their stay by so many days? Where are they going to get any more money once they've used up their travelling expenses?"

"Well, the Prefect has issued his orders, and there's nothing further we can do," replied the Director.

At a loss to know what to do the sureties also withdrew and passed the information on to each of the students. The students were furious over the situation and said: "The Prefect is so eager to toady to the foreigners that he's lost all consideration for us students!" The comment had barely been made when it was passed on from one to another and, in no time at all, it had spread throughout the city. But we shall leave these events for the time being and turn our attention to Representative Chin.

NOW REPRESENTATIVE CHIN, who had been deputed by the Governor-General of Hupei to accompany the mining engineer, was an Expectant Department Magistrate who had served as an official in the Office for Foreign Affairs in Wuchang during the whole of his career. He had been overseas and was able to speak both English and French, so that after his arrival at the Provincial Capital, the senior officials all paid special attention to him. That he had been charged on this occasion to accompany the mining engineer to make a continuous survey of mineral resources was precisely due to the efforts now being made by higher provincial authorities to promote the interest of the nation. On the day of his visit to the mining engineer, Prefect Liu had been told by him that Representative Chin would arrive shortly and, sure enough, before it was time to

light the evening lamps, he arrived with his visiting-card to make a call on the Prefect.

Prefect Liu immediately asked him into his presence and, after an exchange of greetings, they each sat down. Following a few desultory remarks about the weather, Representative Chin explained the reasons for his presence, and said that the prior visit of the Prefect to the mining engineer had pleased the engineer enormously.

"I have already arranged for two feasts to be prepared at the Magistracy, and to have them delivered to him," said the Prefect. "I wanted to invite him to stay here in my Prefectural Residence, but he said he preferred to wait for you to arrive before coming to a decision."

"Since you've already visited him and arranged for banquets to be delivered to him, you've done quite enough," said Representative Chin. "In dealing with foreigners it's best to limit oneself to what is appropriate. With these people, if you give them a foot they'll take a yard, and the more you help them the more intoxicated they become. There's no need to compromise with them more than is necessary. I've been overseas and am well acquainted with their temperament. In my view Your Honour should take no further notice of him, and there's no need to arrange for him to move into your Residence during his stay."

Now Prefect Liu had applied himself single-mindedly to the task of winning the approval of the foreigner so that his superiors would notice that he was concerned about foreign affairs. On hearing the comments of Representative Chin, he thought to himself that all his efforts on this occasion would seem to have been as superfluous as adding feet to the drawing of a snake. Fortunately, no one will blame me for being too polite, thought the Prefect, and since even the Court is being very accommodating to the foreigners, how much more should not I?

Thinking thus, but refraining from contradicting Representative Chin in order to avoid embarrassment, he said: "My dear friend, you are absolutely right and I will act accordingly. But now that you have accompanied the foreigners here, are you simply making a general survey of the situation, or are you about to take action and commence mining operations? When I know what you intend to do I can make appropriate preparations."

Representative Chin said: "On this occasion

we are simply making a preliminary investigation of each prefecture on behalf of the Viceroy. We have to make tests in every region where there are mountains, and after our investigations have provided us with clear information, we shall return to the Provincial Capital and make a report to the Viceroy. Share capital may then be called for so that foreign machinery can be installed for mining operations, or there may be local gentry who would wish to engage in such operations, employing local labour and methods. When that time comes other regulations will, of course, be issued; but we can't think as far ahead as that just yet. For the present I would simply ask you, Sir, to issue a few notices to inform the populace that these foreigners are visiting the region to make a survey of local minerals so that the district may benefit from its resources in the future. Nothing malicious is intended and they should not be alarmed. When the foreigners enter the countryside additional attendants from the Magistracy and troops from the barracks should be deputed to provide protection and to prevent any trouble arising. When all four districts in your Prefecture have been surveyed, we shall return to the Provincial Capital to report on our mission. Although there are rather more mountains in this Prefecture than in others, we should be able to complete our work within half-a-month to twenty days at the very most."

Prefect Liu at once promised to produce the required notices by the following day, and to have them posted by early morning the day after that. Representative Chin thereupon thanked him and took his leave, and then went to pay courtesy calls on the Chief Magistrate and on the Commander of the barracks.

THE FOLLOWING DAY Representative Chin went to the Magistracy to compile a list of names of the local gentry. He then visited the homes of each of them, but not one would come out to meet him.

On the third day the notices produced in the Prefecture had all been posted, and the attendants from the Magistracy and the troops from the barracks had all gathered at the Inn to receive their instructions.

Now it so happened that the majority of the military students, who were waiting to take their examinations, were idlers and loafers, and youths constantly spoiling for a fight. Added to this was

the fact that in areas of mixed Miao and Han populations manners were crude and violent, so that if the local officials tried to soothe and placate the populace all tended to be peaceful and uneventful, but if, on the other hand, some matter or other arose, whether of importance or not, and it did not accord with their wishes, then they would make every effort to find fault with the officials and treat them as dirt.

Now Prefect Liu, with his emphasis on learning and with his concern for foreign affairs, could be considered a good official. Yet, because he toadied unduly to foreigners and had postponed the military examinations, so that students were unable to return to their homes even though they wanted to, and could not take their examinations despite their eagerness to do so, it was impossible to avoid the building up of resentment. When one adds to this the fact that these military students constantly congregated together in large numbers either in teashops or in wineshops where they engaged in inventing rumours and fabricating trouble, they were bound to start some trouble even without provocation, if only because it created a little hilarity.

Now on this day there were ten or so persons taking tea in a teashop when suddenly one of their student acquaintances entered the premises and shouted: "It's terrible!"

Everyone felt his intrusion rather strange, and jumping to their feet the group asked what was the matter.

"I've just been to the Prefecture to pass the time," said the student, "and whilst there I suddenly saw a notice posted up on the wall and a huge crowd trying to read it. An old man who knew how to read was explaining the notice to the crowd and he said that Prefect Liu planned to sell all the mountains in our Prefecture to the foreigners so that they would come and engage in mining. Just think of it; which of us doesn't live on the mountains? If they are now sold to the foreigners we won't have anywhere to reside. Isn't this awful!"

The man had not finished speaking before another young student came running into the shop and told them much the same story. In no time at all three or four more rushed in with the same tale.

Before long a crowd of more than two hundred

had gathered together. Some said: "Our homes are on the slopes of the mountains so they are bound to be torn down."

"My fields are in the mountains," said another, "which means that they are bound to be lost."

Another cried: "Our ancestral tombs going back several hundreds of years are located on the mountains. Won't this mean their destruction so that the coffins will be exposed and corpses and bones disturbed?"

Yet another said: "Although I don't live on the mountains I do live at the bottom of them; the gate of our house faces directly towards a mountain. If they move the earth and thereby disturb the contours of the land, won't this affect the influence of the landscape on our fortunes? What we ought to do is to think of some way to stop them."

Immediately someone shouted: "Why all this talk about stopping them? Let's go outside the city right away and kill the foreigners, and so rid ourselves of future trouble. Let's see whether they will then be able to open up mining operations or not?"

"Let's first go and pull down the Prefectural Offices and kill the plaguesome officials," said another, "and let's see whether they will then be able to sell our land to the foreigners? No matter how you look at it, we're not going to be able to take our examinations. If we simply go and do the job, won't that be the end of it?"

Everyone now joined in the discussion until the hubub filled the air. More and more people swelled the crowd on the street to witness the excitement. At first it consisted only of students; but later, even those who were not students joined the *mêlée*.

Just as the disturbance began to grow, the worst Provincial Graduate in the region burst through the crowd and rushed into the tea-house, asking what the trouble was about. Everyone tried to tell him what had happened in his own way. Now this graduate took pleasure only in fomenting lawsuits and intimidating the local officials. There was nothing he would not do, so that his reputation stank.

On learning what had happened he cast his mind about to find some subject about which he could write. He said: "This is very serious indeed! These plaguesome officials have no eyes for the

people. They wish to sell our Yungshun to foreigners so that they can destroy its citizens. Now for a matter as important as this the tea-house is hardly a place for discussion. Won't someone please hurry around to the Assembly Hall of the Confucian Temple for me and open the gates so that everyone can gather there to discuss what we should do. What are we hanging around here for?"

These few words roused the people to action. They rushed out as a crowd which had now swelled to over a thousand. As to the tea-house, not only was it unable to collect the money owing for the tea, but it had also suffered some damage to its crockery. It was truly a case of having a grievance, but no means of redress. The owner had no alternative but to stand and stare at the receding crowd. The fact that the tea-house had not been

torn down was good fortune enough, and he was not about to tempt fate by shouting after it.

A group of men rushed round to the Confucian Temple and opened up the Assembly Hall. Eagerly they carried the drum out of the Sanctuary and began to beat it in the courtyard.

The Confucian Director of Studies happened to be at home teaching his children to read when the gatekeeper hurried in with a report, which gave him such a fright that he did not dare to go out. From outside his courtyard wall came the sounds of a great crowd rushing to and fro. He stealthily made his way back to his own office, fastened the main gates, and ordered the gatekeeper to bring him his suitcase and hatbox. He then disappeared through the rear gate like a wreath of smoke, making his way to the Prefectural Offices where he asked for an audience with the Prefect.

Chapter Three

*In which the mining engineer leaps over a wall and flees for his life,
And a provincial graduate is sent to prison and his punishment is discussed.*

AS WE NOTED in the last chapter, when the Confucian Director of Studies saw the great crowd of students open up the Assembly Hall of the Confucian Temple in order to hold a debate on its premises, he instructed his gatekeeper to investigate the cause of the disturbance, and then slipped out of the rear gate to rush direct to the Prefectural Offices where he sought an audience with the Prefect.

Prefect Liu was deeply shocked when he heard the news and instructed the Director to come into his presence immediately. The Director gave a full account of the circumstances of the disturbance, following which the Prefect fell into a deep silence.

"Since they have now formed themselves into a group to create a disturbance, there is no guarantee that they won't make difficulties for the foreigners," said the Director. "The whole business started with the cancellation of the examinations, and the cancellation was due to the arrival of the foreigners. The root of the calamity is planted firmly in the persons of the foreigners. If the

disturbance continues, the situation will become even graver than it is now. It is for this reason that I made my way here in all haste to inform you, Sir, of events."

"Do you mean to tell me that they dare put foreigners to death?" asked Prefect Liu. "How many heads do they think they have that they dare to open hostilities with foreigners on behalf of the Court?"

"They're not all students in the crowd; there's a good mixture of scamps and rogues as well," replied the Director.

"What's it got to do with them?" asked Prefect Liu in amazement. "How did they get involved?"

"Well, at the outset there were more than a few students who, because they were neither able to take their examinations nor return home, were almost bound to feel resentment. Naturally, those who were simply interested in minding their own business had no comment to make. But there are some who enjoy a spot of bother, and it was inevitable that these would gather in tea-houses

and wineshops and disseminate rumours, claiming that you, Sir, had sold all the mountains of Yungshun to the foreigners. When the crowds heard this, they naturally felt a little displeased, so that as the rumour spread to an ever increasing number of people, a disturbance developed."

"It really is unjust! I may only be the head of this Prefecture, but I am also an official of the Court. How could I appropriate Crown land and sell it privately to foreigners? Wouldn't this make me a traitor to my country and a disloyal minister to boot? These people simply don't understand. But since you understand, revered elder brother, you ought to explain matters to them on my behalf, lest we all appear in a bad light as a result of this trouble."

"Perspicacious Sir!" said the Director, "How can I convince them all on my own, now that they've formed themselves into a huge crowd? Moreover, I am a man of small account whose words carry little weight. Even if I were to talk myself hoarse, they wouldn't listen."

"My public notice provided a clear explanation," said Prefect Liu, "I said that the visit of the foreigners on this occasion was simply part of a wide-ranging expedition to find out whether there are mineral deposits in the mountains, and that if such deposits really existed they would be exploited solely for the benefit of the locality. On top of this I made it plain that mining activities would not be initiated immediately following the survey so that there was no need for alarm. What's so difficult to understand about that?"

"There are few who can read, but many who talk nonsense," answered the Director. "I have been in your presence for half-an-hour already, and I'm afraid that in the meantime the crowd will have swollen to even greater proportions. You must quickly make up your mind what you intend to do, Sir! How are the foreigners to be protected? How are you going to suppress the crowd in front of the Confucian Temple so that the situation doesn't get so out of hand that you will find it difficult to restore order?"

"You are absolutely right," said the Prefect, and promptly sent a messenger to the commanding officer of the barracks, requesting him to send troops to the Inn of Advancement outside the city to protect the foreigners; at the same time he

informed the Chief Magistrate that he wanted to see him for consultations.

Just as he was issuing the order, the Magistrate arrived to discuss this very problem. He sent in his visiting-card and asked for an audience. He was asked to attend on the Prefect immediately. The discussion which followed was so careful, and carried out with such gravity, that the two men might well have been discussing the military affairs of the nation.

"On my way here," said the Magistrate, "I was barely through the gates of my Magistracy when the street-full of robbers made off with my ceremonial umbrella and official paraphernalia. Shops on both sides of the streets have shut their doors and stopped trading. As soon as I was aware that things were getting bad, I ordered my chair bearers to carry me through the back streets. It was only in this way that I was able to get here."

"Fine," said the Prefect, "I have already issued instructions that troops from the barracks be sent outside the West Gate to provide protection. You must now accompany the Director of Studies to the front of the Temple and proclaim to the crowd that I haven't sold the mountains of the Yungshun Prefecture to the foreigners, and that they must each look to the protection of body and home and cease their disturbance."

The Magistrate had no alternative but to agree and to make his departure with the Director. Prefect Liu, meanwhile, had many problems on his mind. He wanted to issue a fresh proclamation himself which would explain the situation to the crowd, but because they were all candidates for the examinations, and he felt that he himself was a little rusty in the art of composition, he made a special point of calling in his ancient Secretary for correspondence to draw up a notice in the elegant four-and-six-ideograph style.

Just as he was about to issue instructions for the completed poster to be displayed, it was seen by the Legal Secretary who said that the students were all candidates for the military examination and that consequently very few knew how to read. Made aware of the problem, Prefect Liu then asked the Legal Secretary to draw up a simple notice employing six ideographs to a line. When this was completed the Prefect's seal was affixed, the text was punctuated, and someone was instructed to paste up copies of it in as many places as possible.



Rioters' attack
by WU YU-JU.

吳友如

Now the Prefect was fearful lest the barracks had been unable to provide the protection he had requested. If the foreigners were killed by the crowd and the Court decided to pin the crime on the major offender there would be no doubt that he would be singled out as the chief culprit, be demoted, and possibly lose his head.

With such thoughts passing through his mind he anxiously tugged his ears and pulled at his jaw. Cornered as he was, he was like an ant crawling over a hot cooking pot.

BUT TO RETURN to the students: as soon as they

heard the words of the trouble-making Graduate, they rushed to the Confucian Temple, opened up the Assembly Hall, and beat the Temple drum to gather the crowd together. In no time at all the crowd swelled to between four and five thousand.

The Graduate's name was Huang Tsung-hsiang. He was born with evil thoughts and wicked principles and there was not a person in the whole Prefecture who did not go in fear of him. Seeing him emerge everyone, without exception, did as he was bidden.

When they arrived at the Temple the rioters crammed together and argued fiercely among

themselves. The Graduate, however, divided the crowd and placed a table in the centre. He then climbed on to the table and addressed the crowd of listeners as follows: "I believe that the territory of the Yungshun Prefecture forms a part of the royal household, as well as being our own property. Now Prefect Liu has had the temerity to sell this property privately to foreigners, thus eliminating our possessions and fraudulently disposing of Crown territory. Since I've set the ball rolling I'll see things through to the bitter end. First, every shop, both large and small, and both inside and outside the city, must close its doors and cease to trade. Secondly, I shall go outside the West Gate of the city, find the foreigners, and put everyone of them to death, ridding ourselves of them root and branch. Thirdly, we must gather outside the Prefectural Offices and seize Prefect Liu. We shall not harm him, but simply force him to compose a document acknowledging that we are in the right, and undertaking not to take the matter of the killing of the foreigners to higher authority. At that point the whole affair will be at an end. If he wants to save his life he'll know that it rests with me." When the crowd heard this they all acknowledged the rightness of what he had said. Whereupon, several hundred men divided themselves into groups, dispersing in four directions, and ordering all shops to close their doors. When the shopkeepers saw the fierceness of the crowds none dared oppose them. Huang Tsung-hsiang himself led a group of men on foot out of the West Gate. By the time they found the Inn of Advancement it was already dusk and time to light the lamps.

Now the mining engineer had received news of these events shortly after midday and, fearing lest the students would create trouble, he, together with his colleagues, interpreter and servants, had not dared set foot outside the Inn. Representative Chin was also thoroughly grieved over the turn of events. He had secretly put on a common, inconspicuous garment, and had made his way on foot to the Prefectural Offices to ask the Prefect to think of some way to protect them. Noticing the crowds along the route he became thoroughly alarmed.

When he arrived at the Prefectural Offices, the Prefect had just deputed the Chief Magistrate and the Director of Studies to meet the crowds, and so

was sitting alone with knitted eyebrows and gloomy countenance. As soon as he heard of the visitor's arrival he asked him to come in. Before Representative Chin had a chance to open his mouth, Prefect Liu asked him what the news was from outside. Representative Chin recounted everything he had heard, and gave an account of the situation as he had witnessed it on the streets.

"I've already arranged for the barracks to provide you with protection. I think the best thing for you to do is to move into my Offices and thus lessen the anxiety," said the Prefect.

"When the crowds are stirred up nowhere is safe," said Representative Chin. He then intimated that he would like the Prefect to go outside the city himself to control the crowds and offer protection.

Prefect Liu felt himself placed in something of a dilemma at this suggestion. Just at this moment a number of attendants rushed through the doors to report that several hundred people had fought their way to the Prefectural Offices, but that they had been able to lock the second entrance. They now requested Representative Chin to remain in the Prefectural Offices out of the way of the impending storm.

Representative Chin stamped his feet and, ignoring the presence of Prefect Liu, asked how he could possibly report back to the Viceroy if the foreigners were killed. Prefect Liu also gave himself up to groaning and sighing as he sought unsuccessfully in his mind for some solution. The servants of the household regarded each other in silence. The Prefect's wife and daughters, the men servants and maid servants, shook the earth and filled the heavens with their weeping and wailing. A group of Prefectural secretaries outside thought to save themselves by leaping over the wall, whilst others considered crawling out of the premises through the hole in the wall provided for dogs.

Neither comfort nor restraint was of any use, and Prefect Liu simply had to let them go. Meanwhile, the noise beyond the second entrance steadily increased. There was even the sound of bricks being hurled at the doors. The situation was becoming exceedingly alarming.

BUT WE MUST leave the Prefect for the time being and turn our attention to the foreigners at the Inn.

Now when the foreigners at the Inn of Advance-

ment saw Representative Chin depart to seek for protection from the Prefect, they considered that they need have no further worries. But Representative Chin had been gone only a short time when a crowd of men arrived from the Temple. Fortunately, one of the managers at the Inn was an extremely quick-witted fellow who, immediately on hearing the news of events just after midday, had set about making preparations for the defence of the Inn. He had also instructed the troops sent earlier on from the barracks and the District Magistracy, to be especially on the alert and not to be careless.

At about lighting-up time he heard the sound of men in the distance for all the world like a swarm of bees. The manager ordered everyone into the Inn, closed the front gates, and piled some rocks, which had been taken from the back garden, behind them. Also fortunate was the fact that the Inn was well supplied with rooms, those at the front facing the street, and those at the rear backing up against the city walls. The rear gate opened upon the moat surrounding the walls so that there was no access from that quarter. Over the wall to the right of the Inn, however, there was a stud farm for the rearing of horses. A small door in the wall opened onto this farm. As soon as the foreigners had learned of events in the city they had noted the existence of this door as an avenue of escape.

The noise of the men outside the Inn rapidly grew louder and louder, and it seemed as if they were about to batter down the gates. The manager peeped through the crack between the leaves of the gates. He could make out torches and lanterns which shone so brightly that they turned night into day. He realized that the situation was anything but good, and hurriedly informed the foreigners of the danger, urging them to flee.

The foreigners had already prepared for flight. They therefore put aside all their heavy luggage, and carrying only a small bundle each, climbed a ladder and jumped down into the neighbouring fields. When they saw the coast was clear, they rounded up a few horses, opened a rear gate, mounted the horses, and fled like the wind, careless of the direction they took.

When the manager saw that the foreigners had fled, he rushed to the front of the Inn. He thought to himself: "If I don't explain things to

them the crowd won't desist from their efforts to break in, and they'll end up by flattening my house. If I say, on the other hand, that I helped the foreigners escape, the situation will only grow more ugly than ever. The best thing I can do is to employ delaying tactics and to say that the foreigners are still in the city, thus driving the crowd back into town."

When he had made up his mind what he should do, the manager explained from behind the gates that the foreigners had long since left for the city. But the crowd would not believe him and demanded entry to see for themselves. The manager then tried to talk to them in as sensible a manner as possible, saying that those in the Inn were their country neighbours, and that there was nothing to be gained from harming them.

Graduate Huang shouted through the gates: "I'm here, and I promise not to harm a tree or even a single blade of grass!" He then urged that the gates be thrown open immediately.

The manager, however, could not muster up sufficient courage to do as he was bid, and in the end the crowd smashed the gates open themselves. The men crowded into the Inn, briefly searched for their victims and, on finding them gone, began to loot the premises. Some of the persons in the Inn, unable to escape in time, were molested and injured.

NOW WHEN THE crowd saw that the foreigners were indeed no longer in the Inn, they made off, like a swarm of bees, into the city, and made direct for the Prefectural Offices. They had barely passed through the city gates when they ran into the commanding officer of the barracks who was leading a troop of soldiers headed by a large banner. They carried bugles, and sounded-off as they marched. Now the troops from the barracks were of no use whatsoever; nevertheless, marching out as they were to put down the students and the undisciplined mob, they felt more than equal to the task.

Seeing how things stood, the crowd began to fall back in confusion. When the commanding officer reached the Inn of Advancement and was informed that the foreigners were in the Prefectural Offices, he realized that the crowd would make its way to the Offices to create trouble there; and he knew that if they murdered the officials and broke

open the gaol to release the prisoners, the consequences would be even more serious. He turned his horse about with alacrity, and with flag flying and bugles at the ready he set off for the Prefectural Offices.

Having arrived in front of the Offices, he barely passed the wall screening the entrance when he ordered his troops to stand fast. Peering inside he saw nothing but a sea of heads, and was informed that the Council Chamber attached to the Grand Hall had already been pulled down. Fortunately, the second entrance was exceedingly strong and had still not been breached. The crowd, however, was still creating a turmoil on the premises.

The commanding officer wondered to himself how these few old and decrepit soldiers under his command would be able to stand up against such a crowd. He therefore thought up a stratagem. He would first line up his soldiers to guard the entrance and order them to blow their bugles so as to frighten the mob. When men began to rush out of the Offices, he would simply allow them to run off unimpeded. He would wait until the crowd had thinned before making up his mind as to what should be done next. The soldiers did as they were ordered and blew on their bugles continuously as they stood behind the wall which served as a screen.

Now the rioters were completely undisciplined and lacked weapons. Because of their numbers they had been able to demolish the Council Chamber, but the second entrance would not yield no matter how hard they battered at its doors. Noticing that it was getting late and beginning to feel hungry, a number made off home to take some food. When they returned, they saw a large troop of soldiers outside the building beating gongs and blowing bugles and were therefore afraid to re-enter the premises. Those still inside, hearing the bugles, were at a loss to know how many troops had been assembled to arrest them and began to grow fearful. Almost imperceptibly the rioters formed into groups of threes and fives and withdrew from the premises. On emerging from the main gate they saw that the troops were not making arrests, and so returned to their homes happy and relieved.

At this point men were only vacating the premises; there were no new arrivals. By the third watch, there were no more than two or three

hundred rioters left. This remnant, having concentrated wholly on beating down the doors of the second entrance, was unaware of the circumstances outside the Offices, and so continued to riot.

As soon as he saw that the crowd inside had dwindled in size, the commanding officer ordered his troops into the Offices where they took up positions below the Grand Hall.

When the Chief Magistrate and the Chief-of-Police learned that the crowd in the Offices had largely dispersed, they also brought three patrols of attendants with them. At this point the two or three hundred men in the Offices suddenly realized that all was not well, stopped hammering on the doors, and decided to make a united dash for freedom. Fortunately, the commanding officer had already blocked the main gate and, having shouted an order to his men to seize the rioters, the soldiers and Magistrate's attendants sprang into action, and immediately arrested twenty or thirty men, the remainder fleeing for all they were worth.

The Magistrate now knocked on the doors of the second entrance himself, explaining that the crowd had dispersed. At first, the defenders on the inside refused to believe him and interrogated the Magistrate over and over again. It was not until the commanding officer and the Chief-of-Police had also answered their questions that the defenders were convinced, opened the doors, and allowed the officials to enter. Once inside they discovered that Prefect Liu had been frightened out of his wits.

When Representative Chin saw his rescuers he first asked them for news of the foreigners. The Commander informed him that they were not at the Inn, and that when he had inquired of the people at the Inn they had told him that the foreigners were in the Prefectural Offices.

"Do you think they came with me?" asked Representative Chin. "The situation really is serious now! There's no doubt they've been killed by the rioters!" So saying, he set out in search of them. Prefect Liu instructed the Chief Magistrate to accompany Representative Chin in the search. The commanding officer also deputed twenty soldiers and a lieutenant to accompany the officials.

When they reached the Inn they noticed that the gates were wide open and that the inmates had fled. The Inn had been looted of all its contents, and all that was left were a few wounded

people who lay about groaning with pain. Finally, they discovered the manager's son hiding in the lavatory, and from him they discovered that the foreigners had escaped in time.

Representative Chin gradually calmed down on hearing this news and asked: "Do you know which way they went?"

"My lord!" said the manager's son, "I didn't go with them, so how should I know?"

Impatient, Representative Chin wanted to proceed with the search alone.

"It's midnight already, in which direction will you go to look for them?" asked the Magistrate. "Since they've already escaped, you've probably no need to be anxious for their safety. I'll send some men to search for them on your behalf. They are bound to locate them by tomorrow."

Representative Chin was at a loss to know what else he could do, and therefore returned to the Prefectural Offices where he shouted, in the presence of the Prefect, that unless those people responsible for the affair were arrested and dealt with severely, he would not be able to return to the Viceroy to make a final report on his mission.

Prefect Liu agreed repeatedly, and then persuaded Representative Chin to remain in his Prefectural Residence for the time being. The Magistrate immediately issued instructions for someone to fetch some bedding and a screen from his Magistracy, telling Representative Chin that should he lack anything at all, he should simply write out an order and have the thing brought to him.

PREFECT LIU NOW instructed the Chief Magistrate to interrogate his captured prisoners in the reception room during the remaining hours of the night. As soon as he had discovered the name of the ringleader, however, he was not to detain those who were innocent.

Representative Chin, unhappy with the Prefect's goody-goody ways, said, behind his back, that as these rioters were arrested they should all suffer capital punishment. Why should a distinction be made between leader and followers? But when Prefect Liu heard of this criticism he simply ignored it.

Now the riot had lasted from midday to midnight and no one had been able to eat during the whole of this time. Prefect Liu therefore

ordered a meal to be prepared, putting Representative Chin at the head of the table, the commanding officer in the second place of honour, the Chief Magistrate in the third and the Chief-of-Police in the fourth, he himself taking the lowest position.

The meal over, the commanding officer led his troops to make a personal inspection of the city gates lest bad elements should infiltrate the city. He left sixteen men behind to arrest anyone behaving in a suspicious manner. Together with Representative Chin, the Chief Magistrate made ready to interrogate their prisoners. They took the list of names of the captured men and went to the reception room where they sat down, one on each side of the brick bed. Eighty or ninety soldiers remained outside, assigned in twos and threes to watch over the prisoners. Each of the rioters was then brought in for investigation in the manner usual for robbers. Those who made false depositions had their ears boxed a few times, but others were ordered to be remanded after they had been asked a few questions.

Altogether thirty-four men had been arrested among whom were three holders of the *Hsiu-ts'ai*, or Bachelor's degree, and eighteen candidates for the military examination. Of the remaining thirteen, some were in commerce, and some had simply joined the crowd to witness the excitement.

Representative Chin ordered all the prisoners, without exception, to be put in manacles and detained. The Magistrate felt unable to oppose him.

During the investigation in the reception room it was discovered that Graduate Huang was the chief instigator of the riot. Inquiries were made as to where he lived, and then Representative Chin reported to Prefect Liu that he wished to arrest Huang that very night before the culprit had time to escape. Prefect Liu gave his approval, instructing the Magistrate to accompany him.

Now Graduate Huang, on quitting the Assembly Hall, had gone first to the Inn of Advancement but, on opening the gates, and failing to see the foreigners, had rushed off to the Prefectural Residence. He was leading the crowd in trying to break down the doors of the second entrance to capture Prefect Liu, thereby creating a great disturbance, when, in the midst of his exultation, he suddenly heard the blast of bugles outside the main gate. He was startled by the noise, thinking that troops had arrived to lay hold of him. Then

he saw the crowd gradually disperse and, since he was being deserted, slipped off the premises.

Happily for him, on passing through the gates, he found no one checking on the rioters, and accordingly returned straight home. Nevertheless, he reckoned that since the Prefect and his entourage had not been overthrown, when an inquiry was held they would discover that he was the ringleader, and would certainly seek him out for arrest.

The more he thought about it the more he felt himself to be in trouble. He therefore discussed the matter with his family, barricaded his front gates, supplied himself with travelling expenses, and planned to escape through the back entrance of his house, determined to lie low for a time in some other place.

As he was putting his luggage together he suddenly heard the sound of voices coming from all sides beyond his walls. Men were stationed to guard both the front and rear entrances.

Now his gates were neither as strong as those at the Inn of Advancement or those at the Prefect's Residence. After two or three kicks and blows the doors burst open. The invading men grabbed a young servant and asked him for Huang's whereabouts. The servant having informed them, the men rushed into Huang's room and dragged him out from under the bed where he was hiding. They slipped a chain about his neck and led him off like an animal.

By the time they reached the Prefectural Offices it was already early morning: the fifth watch.

Representative Chin now urged the Chief Magistrate to co-operate with him in winning a deposition from their prisoner. At first, Graduate Huang was unwilling to admit to his guilt, and Representative Chin, therefore, urged that he be beaten.

"He's a man of rank," said the Magistrate, "you will have to deprive him of this before you can inflict punishment on him."

Changing countenance, Representative Chin cried: "Do you mean to say that when you've caught a man planning rebellion, you've got to wait until he's been stripped of his rank before dealing with him?"

The Magistrate was at a loss how to reply, and therefore dealt Huang several hundred blows on the face, as well as beating him several hundred times with a flat bamboo cane. But it was all to no avail. Huang kept his mouth shut so that their only recourse was to put him in chains and consign him to prison. They would continue the investigation the following day and, having got the truth out of him, would nail him with the crime.

Because Huang had been beaten with bamboo without first being stripped of his rank, Prefect Liu was deeply disturbed and said: "If he had put the foreigners to death I would have paid compensation with my head, if necessary. But Representative Chin ought not to have treated an educated man in such a humiliating manner. It simply isn't a gentlemanly way to behave!"

On the next day Prefect Liu said he would carry out the judicial investigation himself.

Chapter Four

In which a hurried escape is accomplished, but the star auguring calamities shines on,

And in which Chinese and Westerners indulge in recriminations and a worthy prefect is placed in a dilemma.

AFTER ESCAPING from the Inn of Advancement by climbing over the wall, the foreign mining engineer and his colleagues snatched the horses belonging to the Inn's neighbour and, without sparing the whip, fled the district. They took little notice of the terrain or the direction of their

flight, and did not breathe easily until they had travelled fifteen or sixteen *li*. Fortunately, their escape through the neighbouring fields went unnoticed.

When they were finally able to take stock of their whereabouts they found themselves in the

heart of a forest. However, the light from two of three lanterns filtered through to them from the distance.

It was the period of the first ten days of the fifth month, so that a crescent moon hung high above the tree-tops, and they were able to make out a number of cottages among the shadows cast by the trees. It was only the first watch of the night when they had made good their escape, and they had been riding for little more than a quarter of an hour. On seeing the cottages, the escaping foreigners climbed off their horses and, leading them by the reins, moved forward cautiously on foot.

"What the local inhabitants dislike most are foreigners," said the engineer. "I'm afraid they won't be willing to grant us lodgings for the night even if we should ask for them. What do you think we should do?"

"This place is a fair distance from the city," said his servant, "so they won't have heard of events there. With us Chinese accompanying you, it's possible they won't turn you away."

"Though they may not turn us away," said the interpreter, "nevertheless, because these country folk live in such a wild region and will never have seen a foreigner, they are bound to be frightened once they do see one. How, then, can they be expected to entertain us?"

The engineer considered the problem for some time and then asked: "What are we going to do, then?"

Happily, the engineer's secretary, though also a foreigner, was a man of ideas. He held a long discussion with the engineer in a foreign language, whereupon the engineer nodded his head indicating that he had come to a decision. The engineer then asked his interpreter: "Are there any Chinese clothes in the bundles we brought with us?"

"Yes, there are," replied the interpreter.

"If you've got those there won't be any difficulty," said the engineer. He then informed his entourage of the discussion he had had with his secretary, and of how they had decided to change completely into Chinese dress. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea.

"If there aren't enough clothes to go round, I have a long gown and a sleeveless jacket in my bundle," said the servant. As he spoke, he and the interpreter hurriedly untied their bundles.

The interpreter was very fond of Western dress, and only now did he change into Chinese clothes. He also took out a gown and short jacket, whilst the servant produced a long cotton gown and a sleeveless jacket.

The foreigners were delighted. They divested themselves of their foreign clothes at the road-side and wrapped them up in a bundle; then they put on the gowns and jackets. But their shoes and hats did not match their clothes and they wondered what they could do about this. The servant produced a pair of old shoes from his bundle and gave them to the engineer to wear. However, they were still short of one pair. The servant, therefore, had no alternative but to remove the shoes he was wearing and to hand them over to the other foreigner, himself walking bare-foot.

Now that the foreigners were supplied with shoes there was only the problem of their hats. If they failed to wear hats they would be short of queues, and this would cause people to see through their disguise; on the other hand, if they wore foreign straw hats, the country people would still be suspicious, since they would never have seen such straw hats before.

They discussed the matter for a while, but no one could come forward with a good solution. The two foreigners became increasingly anxious as they pulled at their ears and stroked their chins and searched for a way out of this impasse.

They had all fallen into silence when suddenly the servant laughed and said: "I know what to do."

Everyone eagerly asked him what he had in mind.

The servant replied: "There aren't any barbers' shops in the wilds, so there's no possibility of having false queues prepared in a short time. Now in my view, it would be best if the two gentlemen bound up their heads in kerchiefs and pretended to be ill; we two could support them and in this way search for lodgings. We could say that we have lost our way; that in summer the weather is rather trying, that both men are suffering from the heat, and that fearing the breeze they have bound up their heads with cloth. We could say that we are looking for a night's lodging before proceeding to the city tomorrow."

When he heard these words, the mining engineer repeatedly praised the servant's plan, and the two men immediately altered their dress accordingly.



Birthday celebration by CHIN KUEI.

If the villagers asked questions, they would simply say that their queues were wrapped around their heads, and thus avoid any difficulty.

WHEN THEY HAD completed their preparations, they led their horses as before, and made their way to the door of a house. They tethered their horses to the trees and listened for any noise. There was not a sound in the house, however, and, thinking that everyone had gone to sleep, they decided not to disturb the household.

The group now made its way to the door of the next house where they could hear two people talking inside. The servant put out his hand and knocked several times on the door.

Someone inside the house asked who was knocking. The servant did not reply, but continued his knocking.

Now country people are fundamentally straightforward, so without first determining who the caller was and because he could hear the urgency of the knocking, a young lad came out, drew the

bolt on the door and opened it.

The four men, two of whom were supported by the other two, went into the house together. The two foreigners kept their heads bowed pretending to be ill.

As soon as they had entered the house they saw a bed, and promptly threw themselves down on it, fully clothed, in order to get some sleep.

Now the household was made up of a mother and her son, the boy who had opened the door being the son, and the old woman his mother.

As soon as they saw their visitors behaving in this manner they were startled and immediately asked what was the matter.

"I'm accompanying these three on a business trip," said the servant, "and we had originally intended to reach the city today, but unfortunately we've gone too far and lost our way, and we don't know how far we are from the city. Now it's too late to go any further, and on top of this, these two are overcome with the heat, they are suffering from the colic, and can go no further. We would, therefore, like to stay here the night, and offer you thanks for everything first thing tomorrow morning."

On hearing this explanation mother and son were in a quandary and asked: "Have you any luggage and bedding?"

The servant replied: "When we left the city this morning we said we would be back by nightfall, so didn't bring any bedding with us. All we have is a small bundle each."

When mother and son had heard this explanation they accepted it as genuine. They then asked whether the travellers had eaten, and the servant replied that they had not. The old woman said: "You two can have a meal, but since the other two are ill they can remain undisturbed for the rest of the night. A little hunger will do them good."

On hearing these remarks, the mining engineer who understood Chinese rejoiced and said to himself: "I've been able to deceive them. But prior to leaving the Inn I was unable to get a meal, and now that she makes me sleep here without being allowed to eat anything, I'm most uncomfortably hungry. My life is saved but not my stomach—I suppose I'll just have to let it go at that."

The country lad instructed his mother to make up the fire afresh so that a meal could be cooked

whilst he went outside to wash some rice. He walked casually over to the trees where he was startled by a row of tethered horses. He thought to himself: "These four men look very strange, and if they are bad fellows who have barged in on us then what are we to do?"

After hurriedly washing the rice the lad ran back to his mother and, at the first opportunity, whispered to her what he had found and told her his fears. His mother went out of the house as soon as she was free and saw that the boy was right. She said to him: "If you listen to these fellows talking you'll hear that they speak with accents from other regions, and now we have discovered that they have these horses. What if we've met up with mounted thieves? While I look after their meal at home, you run over and report to the local constable. If they're not what they seem, they should be bound up with rope before they can do any harm."

Agreeing with his mother, the boy returned to the room where he continued to serve the visitors for some time; then, saying that he wished to relieve himself, he went out of the house.

Since only two men were taking a meal, the old woman served them most attentively, providing them with tea or water according to their requirements, and in a very short time they had finished their meal. But as for the horses, no one took care to provide them with fodder. Finally the old woman asked: "Gentlemen, your horses also ought to be fed. We're short of horse-feed here, so what should I do?"

"Feed them some grass and they'll be satisfied," replied the servant. Whereupon the old woman went out herself to provide for the horses.

The four men, two to a bed, rested for a time. Because of the fright they had had that day, the escape during the evening and the distance they had travelled, the foreigners were the first to tumble into bed after feigning illness. The servant, however, was essentially a coarse fellow, and had therefore been able to stay on his feet. But it was the interpreter who had suffered the most. He had never in his life ridden a horse, and his buttocks were saddle-sore from the journey. When, therefore, he had eaten his meal and put his rice-bowl aside, he hurriedly lay down.

The servant was glad to rest with the others; and now all four men took advantage of the absence

of everyone else from the room not only to talk to each other of their plight, but also to praise the old woman and her son for their kindness. "If we hadn't run into them," they said, "there is no knowing where we might have spent the night."

The two foreigners' only problem was their intense hunger. The servant, however, was still carrying a few pieces of bread wrapped up with his belongings. When the two foreigners saw them it was as if they had discovered a priceless treasure. They snatched at them as a temporary means to satisfy their hunger.

In no more time than it takes to say it, the four men had closed their eyes. In the meantime, the old woman's son had already gone to find the constable.

WHEN HE ARRIVED at the constable's house, the boy told him that some mounted robbers had arrived in the village, and that they were now lodging in his house.

On receiving this report the constable regarded the matter with great seriousness, and immediately gathered twenty or thirty men together, each man carrying a hoe or a toothed harrow, and surrounded the house. With the old woman's son in the lead, the constable behind him, and the group of men in the rear, they crept stealthily up to the front door; then, with a rush, they entered the house.

The travellers, weary through unaccustomed exertion, were fast asleep, and did not hear the men enter the room. As soon as the old woman saw her son leading a large number of men into the house, she knew they had come to arrest the travellers. She therefore pursed her lips in the direction of the beds. Understanding her gesture, the constable ordered his men to take some rope and hurriedly tie up the four travellers. The old woman's son also gave his assistance.

Alas, the four men lay there as if dead and the crowd was able to handle them at will. When they had been firmly bound up the constable said: "First open up their luggage for inspection, and let's see if they've any stolen goods?"

Who would have thought that there would be mostly foreigners' clothes in their bundles, as well as two straw hats and two pairs of leather shoes? The remaining Chinese clothes numbered no more than two items and, apart from these there was

only a bundle wrapped up in a kerchief, and in this there were merely a few pieces of bread and the like.

When the constable saw these things he was dissatisfied, and issued orders that their persons be searched to see if they were carrying any weapons.

It was only now, as the crowd made to search his person, that the mining engineer awoke. As soon as he opened his eyes and saw the large number of men, he thought they must be rioters from the city who had pursued him to capture him and his associates, and he quickly tried to get up. He soon found, however, that he was bound hand and foot, and could not struggle with his captors. He wished to argue with them, but dared not do so. He believed that he was about to die and decided to see what the crowd would do to him.

Having searched for a while, the constable found only the two sticks used by the foreigners when they went outdoors for a walk. There was absolutely nothing else. He then took a burning torch to light up the area outside the house. He found that of the four horses, only two had saddles and reins; the other two were bare-back.

Someone in the crowd said: "There is absolutely no doubt that these are mounted robbers. Who else but robbers would have the ability to ride bareback? Don't bother with them. Just carry them into the city and ask the Magistrate to decide what should be done."

The constable thought this a good idea, and ordered the villagers to find two wooden doors and two large baskets and to place two of the captives on the doors and the other two in the baskets and carry them off. He took them into custody, and dragged the old woman's son along with him to serve as a witness.

Now whilst all this discussion was taking place outside the door, the engineer was able to hear everything that was said. He was suddenly relieved as he realized that these men were not the rioters from the city. When he heard the crowd say that they were going to deliver him and his companions into the city he felt both alarmed and happy: alarmed lest, on arriving in the city, he should again fall into the hands of the students, which would mean total loss of life and limb; and happy because he had no idea what route he had taken

in making his escape, and on top of everything else had lost all his luggage and consequently lacked the wherewithal for the journey. Once he was able to see the local officials he need have no fear that they would not offer him assistance since he had met them all previously.

Thinking in this manner he decided not to argue with his captors, but to wait until they had transported him into the city where he could take appropriate action.

Having thus made up his mind, he deliberately pretended to sleep, and allowed the crowd to carry on with what they were doing.

The crowd placed two of the men on the doorboards and the other two in the large open baskets. As to the four men themselves: the mining engineer pretended to be asleep. The secretary, whom he had brought with him, was unable to speak Chinese and, seeing the developing situation, was frightened into silence. The translator, who was suffering from sore buttocks due to the jolting of the horse, was now experiencing a rising temperature and feeling dizzy. The servant, however, was a robust fellow and totally unaffected by the handling he received.

More than ten strong villagers were selected to accompany the captives on their way to the city and to act as alternate bearers. The remainder led the horses and carried the captives' bundles. In this fashion, the cavalcade made its way to the West Gate.

AS TO THE officials in the city, as soon as Representative Chin had arrested Graduate Huang, had given him a beating and detained him in prison; he retired to the Prefect's Residence to take some rest. The Chief Magistrate also took his leave and returned to his Magistracy to attend to his affairs. Prefect Liu, tired out following a sleepless night, and all alone after seeing off his guests, decided to go to the Office for the Countersigning of Documents to lie down on a smoking divan and to take a nap.

He had barely slept an hour, however, when the sun came up, and no matter how he tried, he was unable to remain asleep. He crawled out of bed and, whilst smoking a hubble-bubble, thought: "How am I going to handle this affair? Although we've arrested the chief trouble-maker, the foreigners have made off I know not where, and

there is no sign of them at the present time. Representative Chin is living here waiting for the foreigners, and so long as we have no idea of their whereabouts, so long will he remain here and refuse to depart. If all this comes to the ears of the Viceroy it won't augur well for me. Moreover, in negotiations over this affair, if the foreigners should demand that their fellow countrymen be produced, what am I going to hand over to them? The charge would still be too much for me to bear, even if Graduate Huang were executed."

Prefect Liu mulled over his problem, but was like a dumb child in a dream trying to communicate his suffering to his mother.

Whilst thus preoccupied, the gatekeeper suddenly appeared with a fist full of visiting-cards and reported that the gentry of the whole city had come to pay their respects. Prefect Liu asked the gatekeeper the reason for this visit, and why they had gathered together so early in the morning.

"I don't know why exactly," said the gatekeeper, "but I heard something to the effect that they are dissatisfied over the beating meted out to Graduate Huang by Representative Chin before Graduate Huang had been stripped of his rank, and that they have come to you first to seek an explanation. They demand convincing reasons and, if they don't get them they plan to appeal to a higher court."

Prefect Liu stamped his feet in his anxiety and cried: "Now what? I said this would happen right at the outset. This gentleman Chin is bright enough when dealing with foreigners, but when it comes to legal procedures he could do with a few years of schooling. You think that being an official is easy, do you? Look, I've lost all trace of the foreigners; Mister Chin refuses to depart, and will stick to me until I find the foreigners for him. Graduate Huang has been given a beating, and the gentry refuse to accept this treatment of him and have come looking for me. I really have become a scapegoat for everyone. If I knew where I could find a cave I would have burrowed into it long ago. The truth is that I have no inclination to serve in this office, even for a day."

The gatekeeper stood to one side, holding the visiting-cards, and afraid to make any answer. The Prefect's other attendants had meanwhile helped him on with his clothes and hat, and made him ready to go out to meet his visitors.

Now there were no outstanding members of the gentry in this city of Yungshun Fu. The most eminent man of letters was a holder of the *Chin-shih* degree, with the rank of Second-Class Assistant Secretary, and the leading military personalities were a major together with a number of lieutenants and the like. All in all there were no more than twenty or thirty members of the gentry and, of these, only just over ten had come to see the Prefect.

After greeting his visitors Prefect Liu arranged for them to be seated.

"I've disturbed you very early to-day," said the Prefect opening the conversation.

"Your Honour was badly shocked last night," responded the visitors.

"I am a man of poor virtue and little foresight," said Prefect Liu. "and I am incapable of pacifying the common people. I hold office here and I am therefore deeply ashamed."

"The students wouldn't dare to make a disturbance, but after Your Honour cancelled the examinations they lost hope, and it was inevitable that they should harbour some resentment. As to the rioters, these were simply local villains. The examination candidates could never behave in this way," said the members of the gentry.

"I realize this," said Prefect Liu.

"That Your Worship is aware of this is indeed fortunate for our region," said the visitors, "but there is one matter: why was Graduate Huang arrested, beaten and detained in prison last night? There is no need to discuss his character because we all know the kind of man Huang is; but he is also a successful graduate and, according to the law, even if a prince commits a crime, he must first be stripped of his rank before he can be punished. How then could Huang be given a beating when a legal investigation has not even been held to determine his crime?"

"He was named as the instigator of the riots by the rioters," answered the Prefect.

"If rebels turned on him and accused him of also being a rebel, would Your Honour submit him to slow dismemberment and have all the members of his family executed before ascertaining the truth of the charge?" asked the deputation. "Your Honour is a senior graduate and ought, therefore, to be extremely solicitous for the scholar class; only so will you be able to avoid bringing disgrace

on your peers. If you claim that a graduate can be beaten, then the one or two among us who hold the same *Chin-shih* degree as yourself must also feel apprehensive."

Hearing these comments, Prefect Liu's countenance turned alternately red and pale, and he was totally at a loss as to how to reply. There was a long silence before he managed to say: "I have still to investigate this matter personally, and I can assure you that the rights and wrongs of the affair will be determined. I can give you an absolute guarantee that Mister Huang will suffer no wrong."

At this, the deputation said: "Since Your Honour is willing to act on our behalf we will take our leave for the time being, and return tomorrow for fresh information. As to the destruction of the Council Chamber in the Grand Hall by the trouble-makers yesterday, when the affair has been settled, we would like to assist with the cost of repairs."

When they had finished speaking, the visitors stood up together. Prefect Liu wished to make further explanations, but when he saw the deputation already on its feet, he could find no way to continue. He therefore accompanied the group to the gate before returning to his inner quarters. He was immediately met, however, by the gatekeeper with another visiting-card in his hand, announcing that the Chief Magistrate wished to see him, and that the foreigners had been found.

Prefect Liu was unable to contain his joy at this news and was like a man who had discovered a treasure. He eagerly inquired where they had been found, where they were at the moment, how long they had been in the city, and why someone had not told him the news earlier.

"They weren't found by the men sent to search for them," said the gatekeeper. "They were brought in, bound, by some villagers."

Prefect Liu received a fresh shock on hearing this and said: "How did they come to be brought here, bound, by villagers? They haven't been harmed by the peasants have they?"

"This is what the Chief Magistrate has just told me, and I haven't any detailed information," said the gatekeeper.

Prefect Liu asked the Magistrate to come into the room and at the same time instructed an attendant to inform Representative Chin that the foreigners had been found, and that the Magistrate was about to see him.

The Prefect had barely given these instructions when Representative Chin hurried in to his presence.

"Congratulations, congratulations!" cried the Prefect, "The foreigners have been found."

"How were they found?" asked Representative Chin.

"Let the Chief Magistrate tell you himself," replied the Prefect.

THE MAGISTRATE then gave the following account: "I had just returned home from the Prefect's Residence early this morning when a village constable arrived to report that he had apprehended four mounted robbers. When I heard this I was very surprised, since we have had nothing but peace in the district and no cases of banditry. I wondered where these robbers could have come from. I therefore ordered someone to go out and make inquiries and, when he returned, he reported that there were four horses in all, that two had saddles and reins, but that the other two were bare-backed. He also stated that foreign clothes had been found in the prisoners' luggage. When I heard this my suspicions were roused. I immediately took my place in the court-room and had the four captives carried in. As soon as the foreigners saw me they recognized me and addressed me. As soon as I saw that it was they, I immediately rose from my seat and unfastened their bonds myself.

"The only one who seemed to be in a bad way was the translator, who said that he had been hurt whilst riding his horse yesterday, and that he had a temperature, that he was feeling dizzy, and that he couldn't move. I have arranged for a room to be prepared for him in the Magistracy so that he can be nursed back to health. The two foreigners, who had gone without food since midday yesterday, I have kept at my place where they have been provided with a meal. When they've had their meal they'll come here right away. I was afraid lest you would be unduly anxious, and so I've come ahead to give you the news."

"Where did they get the horses, and how did they come to be regarded as robbers once they reached the countryside?" asked the Prefect.

"I asked the foreigners about this," said the Magistrate, "and they said that yesterday evening several thousand men arrived at the Inn, but that

the manager had closed the main gates, allowing the four of them to escape over the rear wall. Fortunately, there were stables on the other side of the wall, and they therefore jumped on some horses and made off. They galloped on horse-back some ten or so *li* before arriving at a village. Fearing that the villagers would be suspicious they changed into Chinese clothes. The two foreigners also feigned illness, wrapped pieces of cloth about their heads, and thus avoided the need to speak to the villagers or to be scrutinized by them. Unfortunately, having escaped from one impasse they found themselves in another. The villagers, noting the fact that they were able to ride bare-back, drew the conclusion that they were robbers and informed the constable. He didn't investigate the situation very carefully, and had them all bound and delivered into the city. It really is a joke! But it's fortunate the villagers didn't beat them up. The constable and the villagers have been kept in the messenger room for the time being, and we now await your instructions."

"Why didn't they yell out when they were being bound?" asked the Prefect.

"The four of them were all fast asleep," said the Magistrate, "and the mining engineer, who was startled out of his sleep, on hearing that they were to be transported into the city, realized that the misunderstanding would be dispelled in the long run, and so avoided entering into an argument lest further complications should arise. As to the other three: the foreigner is unable to speak Chinese, the translator was so ill that he fainted and couldn't speak even if he wanted to, and the servant slept like a dead man. In fact he slept the whole way whilst being carried from the village into the city, and didn't wake up until I instructed someone to loose him and deliberately rouse him out of his sleep."

"Ai-ya-ya!" exclaimed Prefect Liu, "Heaven and Earth be thanked! Now that this much of the affair has been resolved I feel somewhat relieved. But there's the rest of it to be dealt with, and I am still at a loss as to how to bring this business to an end."

Now when the Chief Magistrate arrived at the Prefect's residence he was already aware of the reason for the deputation from among the gentry, and knew that it was this that the Prefect was referring to. He was about to pursue the matter

when the gatekeeper entered the room and said: "The foreigner has arrived and has alighted from a palanquin in front of the Second Hall."

Prefect Liu, Representative Chin and the Magistrate went out together to greet the engineer. Once outside they saw three palanquins. The first two, each of which was carried by four bearers, were occupied by the two foreigners, whereas the third, which was borne by two men, carried their servant.

When the servant arrived he did not step down from his palanquin immediately, but waited for the arrival of the Prefect and the Magistrate. Then all three alighted together and were shown into the Hall. Prefect Liu shook hands repeatedly and said how very sorry he was that his guests had been subjected to so many shocks. Then he invited the visitors to sit down. As to the servant, he was led away by Representative Chin's major-domo for a chat.

Prefect Liu first inquired of the mining engineer as to the circumstances of his escape, and the engineer gave him a full account of everything that had taken place. Representative Chin now

informed the engineer that several of the rioters had been arrested and beaten, and that they were now detained in gaol pending investigation and punishment.

"Your Honour!" exclaimed the mining engineer addressing the Prefect, "the customs of the people in your honoured Prefecture are very bad indeed! We almost lost our lives as a result of yesterday's rioting by the students. Then when we escaped to the countryside the villagers suspected us of being robbers. We were invited here by your noble Viceroy, and it was therefore incumbent upon you to offer us every protection. This was only the right and proper thing for you to do. Now that these events have taken place, you have put yourself in the wrong, not only with us, but also with your Viceroy. We've lost all our luggage and means of support. To satisfy our anger, the villagers and all the students arrested yesterday must be dealt with with the utmost severity."

The Prefect's anger rose within him as he listened to the engineer, but he could not think of a single word to offer in reply.

Chapter Five

*In which bribes are fixed, a crafty official offers to pay travelling expenses,
And the mining engineer is inclined to demand recompense.*

PREFECT LIU, having first had his shortcomings enumerated by the gentry, and then having been put under pressure by the foreigners to deal with the rioters, felt himself beset on every side with difficulties, unable to advance or retreat. He was suffused with both anger and anxiety, and for a time sat in his place, speechless. Representative Chin was also present in the room at the time and, when he saw the foreigners, felt immediately relieved of all further responsibility. Since the rioters were detained in prison, he felt he had done his part with regard to this phase of the matter. So now he could afford to be a good fellow: he wanted to be well regarded by the Prefect and he also wanted to make a bit of money out of the situation.

On seeing that Prefect Liu was unable to reply to the foreigners, he broke the embarrassing silence by carefully, explaining to the foreigners "Prefect Liu has made every effort on our behalf in this matter. Think how well His Honour has treated us since we arrived in this place! The fact is that the populace is extremely cantankerous and no blame can be attached to His Honour. Since the trouble began yesterday Prefect Liu hasn't been able to close his eyes or take a meal for more than forty hours, and all on account of us. Since the trouble-makers have now been apprehended, and some have already been beaten and detained in gaol, there is no doubt whatsoever that they'll be dealt with severely in the future. It is absolutely certain that they will not be lightly treated and

released, so you can set your mind at rest. As to the luggage, bedding, provisions and the like which we lost, if these can be recovered in the near future, all well and good; if, on the other hand, they really are lost, Prefect Liu will insure that you don't return empty-handed.

"Then, of course, there is the question of the villagers who delivered you here bound with rope. In principle they must be regarded as having done the right thing. If they hadn't seized you, tied you up and brought you here, I'm afraid there's no knowing where you might have ended up. It is true that they ought not to have bound you with rope, and in this they are at fault. But these are matters of minor importance, and there is no doubt that His Honour will dispose of them on your behalf. There is no need for you to burden yourself with them any more.

"Now you two had a hard time of it last night and were brought here bound up today, so you've suffered quite enough. You can come over to my room where you can take some rest. The whole business can be discussed later."

"I'm not concerned with these various matters," said the mining engineer. "I leave it to you, Mister Chin, to handle them for me."

Turning to Prefect Liu he said: "You've suffered a lot of hardship on our behalf, Your Honour, and later we shall not fail to offer you our thanks."

Prefect Liu listened to these remarks, but was at a loss to know what to say in reply.

When the foreigners had finished speaking they stood up to leave. Representative Chin hurried ahead of them to lead the way, taking the two of them straight to his own quarters. Prefect Liu, seeing that they were going to take some rest, was fearful lest one bed was insufficient and immediately instructed someone to deliver some bed curtains and bedding.

WHEN THE Chief Magistrate saw that the foreigners had left, he wanted to enquire of the Prefect what should be done next.

"You heard what they said, didn't you?" asked the Prefect. "The one is playing a red-faced hero and the other a white-faced villain, but they are in league with each other. I don't mind making some financial restitution; the question is how much? We've got to have a definite figure. I'm no longer angry about anything except that China

is not as strong as she once was, and any cats or dogs can clamber over us to take advantage of us. It really is outrageous!"

As the Prefect spoke the few whiskers on his face danced in anger. Then he fell silent.

"There is always a limit to what can be demanded in the way of monetary restitution; but how are we to dispose of the men arrested yesterday and the villagers?" asked the Magistrate.

"The villagers haven't done anything wrong," said the Prefect. "When they saw these men, who spoke with strange accents and were dressed in unusual clothing, they were afraid that they might be bad characters, and therefore had them tied up with rope. It wasn't until they had delivered the men here that they came to know we were concerned about them. They didn't beat them up either. If they really had been mounted robbers we would have had to reward them handsomely for capturing them. How, then, can any blame be attached to them?"

"But if you don't punish them in some way, I'm afraid the foreigners won't be satisfied," said the Magistrate.

"You'll find it very hard to satisfy them if that's what you want," said the Prefect. "I'd rather give up being an official than provide them with the flesh of the common people as payment for their happiness. I simply cannot do things in this way. As to financial restitution, now that we've got ourselves into this situation, and since the Court, moreover, is helpless, you and I will simply have to resign ourselves to it. Whatever happens, we cannot implicate people who are essentially good."

"Foreigners are only interested in money," said the Magistrate, "and once they've got it it's easy to negotiate. The problem of the men from the village can easily be shelved. As to Graduate Huang and his associates, they have had a beating and have been detained in prison without, in certain cases, having been officially stripped of their ranks. It is in this last matter that I would appreciate some indication from Your Honour as to what should be done.

"There is nothing for it but for me to make restitution, even at the cost of my career," said the Prefect.

Conscious that the Prefect was labouring under a strong feeling of vexation, the Chief Magistrate



*A stranger's visit to
the monastery*
by MING P'U.

felt it inopportune to dwell further on the matter. Consequently, after making a few more desultory remarks, he took his leave, and returned to his Magistracy to deal with other matters waiting his attention.

THE FOREIGNERS and Representative Chin stayed on at the Prefect's Residence for two or three days. After two days of rest in the Magistracy, the translator had recovered from his illness and also moved into the Prefect's Residence to be with his colleagues. Graduate Huang and his associates, however, were still in prison, whilst the villagers continued to remain in the Magistracy. Prefect Liu cared neither one way nor the other. When the gentry called on him he refused to go out to see

them, saying that he was unwell, but promised to pay them a personal visit once he was better.

Thus the situation remained unchanged for four or five days. Finally, it was Representative Chin who became impatient. He realized that Prefect Liu was a somewhat eccentric character who, when his courage was low, could even be afraid of being hit on the head by a falling leaf, but who, when his spirit was roused, would fear nothing. During the last two days Prefect Liu had continued to exert all his energy to placate the foreigners whenever he met them, but it seemed that each time he spoke to Representative Chin some misunderstanding would arise; consequently, Representative Chin thought it best not to disturb him.

Fortunately, he still found it possible to talk

to the Chief Magistrate. He therefore went by himself to the Magistracy, dressed in casual attire, hoping to see the Magistrate and to discuss the situation with him. When he saw the Magistrate he said: "The trouble caused by our arrival in this place was quite unexpected. There is no need now for us to make a survey of mineral resources in the region, and I think we should simply return to the Provincial Capital to make a report. But there is the question of our lost belongings; as for my own, I want us to remain on good terms, and so will accept whatever is given me. I certainly don't intend to argue over trifles. However, when it comes to the foreigners, His Honour must acknowledge their demands as quickly as possible. Each day we stay here means insecurity for everyone. We should be told what is to be done about the arrested men, so that when we return to the Provincial Capital to make our report we will have something to say. His Honour persists in his silence and, in consequence, no one knows what is brewing in his mind."

"There is no doubt whatsoever that compensation will be paid for the things lost, and that the troublemakers will be dealt with," said the Magistrate. "The fact is that the Prefect has been highly displeased for the past two days, and those of us who serve under him have found it inconvenient to put full pressure on him. Fortunately, we two are on the best of terms. When you have nothing to do after your meals, you can come here frequently for some leisurely conversation. It won't do you any harm to have a few more days of relaxation."

"My venerable elder brother," said Representative Chin, "You speak with great reassurance! But it is two months now since we set out on our journey and we have accomplished precisely nothing during this time; how, then, can we delay returning to the Capital to report? And what would we do if we simply remained here? Venerable elder brother! I plead with you a thousand times to act on our behalf and to ask the Prefect, either today or tomorrow, for some reliable information so that we can be sent on our way. When I first saw him, I formed the opinion that His Honour was a very considerate man, but now I'm afraid to meet him. For good or ill, will you please come to my aid?"

When he had finished speaking, he stood up once again and bowed deeply. The Magistrate could only respond with a promise to do as he was asked. He then inquired how much money was needed as recompense for the lost luggage. Representative Chin replied: "If you were negotiating with the foreigners you would find them to be lions with wide-open jaws who would demand fifty or sixty thousand; but, since I am mediating, it is likely that as little as fifteen thousand, or at the very most twenty thousand, will be enough."

The Chief Magistrate answered not a word, and the two men took leave of each other.

Revered readers! If you must understand why Prefect Liu who was so prone to compromise and so accommodating was now behaving like a totally different person in these negotiations, it was because he had always yearned to be an official and, in consequence, had had to give total obedience to the Court in the matter of currying favour with foreign countries. It was for this reason that on hearing that foreigners had arrived in the region, he had immediately ordered the suspension of examinations, and that on hearing that the attendant at the Inn had smashed a teacup, he had ordered the detention of both father and son until he could pass sentence on them.

But the rioters had caused a hundred times more trouble than the inn-keepers, and the lost equipment and luggage were a hundred times more valuable than the teacup, so why did the Prefect keep silent and refuse to take any action over these things? The reason was that at this moment he was under pressure from both the gentry and the foreigners, and he was well aware that it would be difficult to reconcile their competing claims upon him. He therefore lost the willpower to seek a solution. The thought that he might quit his office had also passed through his head, and this, far from distressing him, had actually brought him greater peace of mind.

However, Representative Chin, noting the Prefect's total inactivity, and fearing that there would be no end to the affair, became extremely anxious, and seeing no way out, appealed to the Chief Magistrate to broach the problem on his behalf.

But we must bring this diversion to an end and return to our story.

THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE requested the Prefect for an audience and, with many circumlocutions, informed him of Representative Chin's request. He also said that the continual presence of the foreigners in his residence was somewhat improper, and that it would be better to send them on their way at the earliest possible moment, thus, happily, removing the unsightly mess.

Prefect Liu had at first seethed with discontent and had refused to consider anything, but now that a few days had gone by the turmoil within him had gradually died down. When he heard the Magistrate's request he inquired as to how his visitors wanted the matter settled. The Magistrate informed him of the amount of compensation Representative Chin had asked for, and Prefect Liu replied:

"That's too much! Could their few pieces of luggage be as valuable as that? I think we should give them two thousand ounces of silver and tell them to be on their way. In fact, their luggage was worth no more than a few hundred ounces, so that my offer gives them more than they're entitled to."

When the Magistrate noted the discrepancy between the sum demanded and the sum now being offered in compensation, he felt he ought not to pursue the matter further, but asked instead what was to be done with the detained rioters, so that Representative Chin could make some sort of report on his return to the Provincial Capital.

"I've already made up my mind what to do in this matter," said the Prefect. "We must petition the Provincial authorities and resolve the affair in accordance with their ruling. You and I will then avoid all opprobrium, although we shall not merit their approval either. If I am now to put myself in the right with the foreigners, I shall find myself in the wrong with the gentry; and if I put myself in the right with the gentry I shall be in the wrong with the foreigners. Besides, the majority of the detainees were arrested at the scene of the crime, and some of them were asked for depositions during the trial. Those removed by Representative Chin of his own accord were also given a beating on his authority. The common people are undoubtedly wicked, but Mister Chin was also somewhat hasty. I shall not now inquire as to who was right and who was wrong, but will simply communicate the facts, in detail, to higher author-

ity. We shall see how the higher authorities view the matter, and act accordingly."

The Magistrate felt that there was nothing he could usefully say at this point. When he had returned to his own residence he simply reported all that he had been told to Representative Chin, who now began to reproach himself for having ordered the beating of Graduate Huang, for having detained all the arrested men in prison, and for having handled the affair with such haste and harshness that it was now proving quite difficult to bring it to a conclusion.

In the end, however, it occurred to him that if the affair was taken to higher authority, all responsibility could be transferred to the foreigners and he would cease to be involved in any way; he would simply take advantage of this opportunity to make a little money on the side. He therefore continued to haggle with the Magistrate, saying that he would be unable to hand over a mere two thousand ounces of silver to the foreigners, and that the Magistrate should exert himself to the utmost in this matter. He would reduce the claim to ten thousand, but could go no lower.

There was nothing for it but for the Magistrate to speak on his behalf once again. Prefect Liu offered to go up to two thousand five hundred, and then to three thousand. He adamantly refused to raise his offer any further.

The Magistrate communicated this offer to Representative Chin who now employed every means of flattery at his disposal to continue the negotiations. Since the Magistrate felt too embarrassed to raise the issue again with the Prefect, he had no alternative but to send Representative Chin a secret gift of one thousand ounces of silver himself. Fortunately, as the saying goes, not a copper spent is ever wasted; and so his gift must eventually fulfill a function. On handing over the money he said: "This is a token of my good wishes. I'm giving this to you for your own travelling expenses, and it's not to be regarded as part of the reparations."

Representative Chin was truly grateful as he received the gift, but he abhorred Prefect Liu. He said: "I regard this sum of a thousand ounces as indeed a great favour. As to the three thousand mentioned by Prefect Liu, I shall not demean myself to wrangle with him. If the foreigners say no more about it, we might as well consider the

matter settled."

When the Chief Magistrate saw how successful he had been in settling the affair, and realized that Representative Chin would speak up on his behalf when the foreigners returned to the Provincial Capital, he felt there was no need for further anxiety; he took his leave, smiling, and without further prolonging the conversation.

Representative Chin, however, having been informed of the sum the Prefect was willing to pay in compensation, and feeling that it came nowhere near to satisfying his wishes, returned to his room, and began to incite the mining engineer to take action, using every argument he could think of to malign the Prefect.

"So far as I can see," said the engineer, "neither the Prefect nor the Chief Magistrate is willing to exert himself on our behalf. In fact it was the officer commanding the garrison who arrested a few of the rioters for us."

"On the day of the riot," said Representative Chin, "Prefect Liu closed the inner gates and hid in his Residence. Fortunately, the Magistrate went out on the street with the Chief-of-Police to suppress the rioters, and later went with me at midnight to arrest that fellow Huang. He spent the whole night without any sleep. In fact, the Magistrate expended a lot of effort on our behalf. If it hadn't been for him, that fellow Huang—the chief culprit—would never have been seized."

"You wouldn't think it to look at him, but he is really a good official," said the mining engineer. "When we first met Prefect Liu, on the other hand, he looked like a most understanding man. Why, then, is it that he doesn't make any effort on our behalf?"

"Whether he exerts himself on our behalf or not," said Representative Chin, "all our luggage has been lost, and here we are living in this place and unable to return to the Provincial Capital. Not only did he refuse to come up with even ten cents when I went to see him to discuss borrowing a few thousand ounces of silver for travelling expenses, but he refused also to pass judgement on, or contemplate the arrest of, the rioters. I don't know how long he's going to keep us before he takes action."

"I was invited to come here by his Viceroy," said the engineer. "If he offends me, he'll offend the Viceroy. I must have every single item of my

luggage, and if I find myself short of one item I demand that he recompense me with its full value in silver. He must restore to us in silver the full value of whatever has been lost by our party of six or seven men. Hurry up and calculate the amount involved, and then draw up an account for me. I'll go to see him and demand the money. He won't get away with anything short of full restitution."

Representative Chin immediately set himself to the task. He drew up an account, inflating the value of the lost luggage to more than twenty-six thousand ounces of silver. He handed the account to the mining engineer, and the two of them hurried over to the Prefect's reception room, where they requested an interview.

WHEN PREFECT LIU heard who his visitors were he hurried out to meet them. He was confronted with an angry mining engineer who said to him: "Your Honour! Who do you think invited me here? I came at the request of your honoured Viceroy, and having arrived at this place which is under your supervision, it was your duty to make every effort to protect us. When the trouble broke out we barely escaped with our lives, and then you caused the country folk to have us delivered to the city bound up with rope. I suppose I should thank you for your kindness in putting us up in your official residence.

"Since you are not judging the arrested rioters, and since you are also making no inquiries about our lost belongings, we have decided that we no longer want you to deal with the prisoners or to recompense us for the luggage; all we want is to borrow travelling expenses from you so that we can return to the Provincial Capital to make a report. Since you refuse to do anything about the rioters, the best thing I can do is to put the matter into the hands of the Viceroy, and ask him to act on our behalf. We have an account here of the things we lost, the total value of which comes to twenty-six thousand ounces of silver. We shall take it back with us to Wuchang where I have no doubt your Viceroy will accept it. Anything short of total reimbursement will be unacceptable."

This long speech drove all coherent thought from the Prefect's mind and he was reduced to little more than repeated denials. He said that the rioters had been arrested by Mister Chin, that some

had been beaten, and some had been detained in gaol, and that he wondered what else they thought he ought to do.

Prefect Liu had barely finished speaking when the mining engineer continued: "But for our Mister Chin no one would have been arrested. Of what use were your local officials?"

"On that day," said the Prefect, "I instructed the Chief Magistrate to go out first to try to pacify the mob. Later, I also told him to help to apprehend the prisoners."

"Quite right," said the engineer, "in the whole city, only the Chief Magistrate was willing to put himself out on our behalf."

Hearing this, Prefect Liu became both angry and irritated. He said: "I've already promised to pay three thousand ounces for the things you lost. Are you trying to tell me that this isn't silver? Moreover, every ounce of this sum is contributed by myself. Could it be that you won't be satisfied until you've fleeced the common people as well?"

"I haven't seen your three thousand ounces of silver," answered the mining engineer. "Who did you give the money to? My account comes to a total of more than twenty-six thousand ounces of silver; what item of luggage are these three thousand in payment for?"

"We agreed on three thousand, and three thousand it is," said the Prefect, "How can you fail to keep your word?"

Now Representative Chin was also seated on one side and, when he heard Prefect Liu refer to the three thousand ounces, he knew that the Prefect was telling the truth and that he had kept the matter to himself, refusing to inform the foreigner regarding the agreement. If he were faced with the facts he would not be able to avoid embarrassment. He therefore rose hastily to his feet and, to break up the trend of the conversation, exhorted the mining engineer as follows: "We've been on our journey for some days now and must therefore hurry back to the Provincial Capital to make our report. If Prefect Liu can increase his offer by two thousand, this will be excellent. If he cannot do this, even the three thousand will be more or less sufficient for our travel expenses. Fortunately, Prefect Liu also wishes to report recent events here to higher authority, and is prepared to act once the higher authorities have made known their attitude."

The mining engineer had wanted to continue arguing the pros and cons with Prefect Liu, but

when he heard Representative Chin's comments, he said no more.

Prefect Liu was, after all, a good-hearted man, and he was genuinely grateful to Representative Chin for extricating him out of his difficulty. He therefore said to the mining engineer: "The three thousand I have mentioned is all that is readily available. I really cannot add any more even if you should want it. When you are ready to travel, fix a day, so that I can instruct the Chief Magistrate to make appropriate preparations."

Representative Chin and the mining engineer immediately consulted together, and it was agreed that they should set out on their journey in two days' time.

Representative Chin also said to Prefect Liu: "Please first pay us a few hundred ounces of silver so that we can have some travelling apparel made up for us."

Prefect Liu agreed, and immediately had instructions conveyed to the accountant to have five hundred ounces of silver delivered to his guests. On the next day Prefect Liu handed over the balance of the promised sum, for which the mining engineer produced a receipt.

That evening Prefect Liu specially prepared a feast of both Manchurian and Chinese food, and invited the commanding officer and the Chief Magistrate to join him in entertaining the survey party of three. There was talk and laughter during the banquet which commenced at six o'clock in the evening and went on till well after the drum had been struck to mark the second watch. The conversation at the banquet was limited to pleasant chit-chat, and no public business was mentioned at all.

On the following day the commanding officer and Chief Magistrate both made their way to the Prefectural Offices to see the visitors on their way. All prefectural and district officials accompanied the party beyond the city gates before returning home.

REPRESENTATIVE CHIN and the foreigners, together with their translator, returned to Wuchang, where we shall leave them. As for Prefect Liu, he returned to his Residence where he first consulted his legal secretary as to how the whole affair should be reported to the Viceroy. A draft of a report was prepared which was then amended several times. But Prefect Liu was a well educated man

and was quite capable with the writing brush. He therefore drew up a most detailed account of events, from their inception to the departure of his visitors, and had it forwarded to the Viceroy. He reported that the trouble-makers had all been apprehended and detained in prison, awaiting a final decision. However, he failed to mention the suspension of the examinations, and played down the part taken by students in the riots and in the demolition of the Prefectural Hall.

Having dispatched his report he issued instructions to all government teachers to present themselves at the Prefectural Offices. There he told them that the foreigners had departed, and that the interrupted examination in military affairs would be resumed in two days' time. The teachers were commanded to pass this information to each candidate for the examinations.

When the day arrived very few students attended. And why was this? In part, it was because there was a limit to the students' finances, so that they were unable to remain in the city, and had long since returned home; but it was also due to the fact that the majority of students in the military division had been involved in the rioting and, fearing that the Prefect would use the examination to obtain their names and subsequently arrest and brand them as criminals, they were afraid to present themselves. At least fifty to sixty per cent of the students thought this way. The end result was that

only ten to twenty per cent of the students registering for the examination actually attended.

There was little Prefect Liu could do but allow the affair to drift to a conclusion. The gentry had visited him on numerous occasions to press for an answer to their queries. Prefect Liu, sincerely and publicly, announced to them: "This matter has already been passed to higher authority, and I must act in accordance with the instructions I receive. As for the arrested men, so long as there is one way for them to be acquitted I shall never cease striving for their acquittal. So far as the students in the military division are concerned, I have completely omitted any reference in my report to their being part of the mob, or to their destruction of the Hall in the Prefectural Offices."

"Your concern for us, the common people, revered Sir, is truly a blessing for this region, but this affair really began with the suspension of the examinations," said the gentry.

Prefect Liu could find no answer to this, and therefore acknowledged that he himself was deeply to blame. At this, the gentry took their leave, and some of the honest and trustworthy persons among them no longer came to trouble him, simply waiting for orders to be issued by the higher authorities. But some of the more unscrupulous had already composed a charge against him, and had gone to the Provincial Capital to appeal to a higher court.

*(For Chinese text of Author's Preface
and Chapters One and Two see page 178)*