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ORDINARY MEETING.*

PROFESSOR E. HULL, LL.D., F.R.S., IN THE CHAIR

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following paper was then read by the author :—

CHINA'S PLACE IN ANCIENT HISTORY: A FRAGMENT. By Surgeon-General Sir C. A. GORDON, M.D., K.C.B., Q.H.P., Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, etc., etc.

TWENTY-SIX centuries B.C. an office of Historiography was established by order of Hwangti, "the yellow emperor," then ruler of the Chinese people. From that date to the present the current of history in relation to them is for the most part accepted as correct and continuous, although the circumstance is acknowledged that during the two or three centuries immediately following, a remnant of tradition gave colouring to records of actual events.

In accordance with the custom of the time Hwangti was elected to rule over the united tribes of immigrants engaged in consolidating their organisation and government in the limited territory then occupied by them on the borders of the Yellow River in Shensi. His first task completed, namely, the subjugation of his enemies, he devoted his attention to the improvement of conditions educational and

* Subject introduced 17 February, 1896 (5th Meeting of the Session), finally arranged and passed for press 1 September, 1897.

† B.C. 2632? The assigned date of Deluge B.C. 3155. (Hales.) See Note 1 before Appendix.

*** The Author desires to express his thanks to Mr. Theophilus G. Pinches, of the British Museum, for having enabled him to arrange the references to Babylonian and Assyrian History in accordance with the results of modern research up to the present date, September, 1897.
—C. A. G.

social, relating to his people. Among the subjects to which his attention was directed the following brief record must here suffice, namely:—He established the cycle of 60 years in accordance with which Chinese chronology has ever since continued to be reckoned. That cycle would appear to have been little if anything more than an adaptation of a mode of reckoning time adopted nearly two centuries before the date of his accession, by means of the numbers 10 and 12, the characters of which gave a cycle of 60 years,* and formed also the rule of the hours, days, months, and years—a formula so commodious that it has been preserved in China, even from the time of Fohi to the present period.† He introduced the decimal system of notation.‡ He encouraged the study of astronomy and meteorology; being able, “by means of making experiments, to foretell the changes of the weather and air.” He established methods of measurement by length and by weight, and made stringent enactments that both should be just; the art of cooking in furnaces prepared for the purpose; the erection of houses instead of bowers formed by branches of trees. He caused roads, chiefly for military purposes, to be made and bridges erected throughout his dominions.§ It is related that while they were as yet unfinished, he invented a carriage on which was arranged a gallery surmounted by a little figure that pointed to the *south*, thereby indicating the direction in which on the occasion of an Imperial progress he desired to wend his way through primeval forest land. The same instrument served to determine the four cardinal points without considering the aspect of the heavens. This could have been no other than the compass, the discovery of which in China is usually assigned to a date long subsequent to that

* The sexagenary cycle seems to have been perfectly arbitrary, for no explanation now exists of the reasons which induced its inventor Hwangti, or his minister Nao the Great, to select this number. It is in fact nothing more than a method of reckoning chronological periods, though restricted to China, the century being adopted for the same purpose by Western nations. Du Halde, vol. i, p. 135; Williams, vol. ii, p. 69. China opened—Gutslaff, vol. i, p. 296.

† *China*, by Hugh Murray, vol. iii, p. 234.

‡ The notation of the Chinese is based on the decimal principle; but as their figures are not changed in value by position, it is difficult to write out clearly the several steps in solving a problem. Williams, vol. ii, p. 66.

§ Which extended from near Sha Chow in the province of Kansu on the west to the sea on the east, and from Pechli on the north to the Kiang on the south.

of Hwangti. The introduction of money dates* from this period, the Chinese term for which, namely, Tsyen, signifies "the water of a fountain that runs without ceasing." A system of *polymetallism* existed; gold, silver, and copper were in use, and subsequent emperors are said to have permitted the use of foreign coins of gold and silver throughout their dominions. There came also to be used money made of tin, lead, iron, baked earth; also cowry shells.† To him also is assigned the introduction of written characters, his idea in that respect having been derived from observing the markings on the shells of tortoises; the systematic rearing and management of silkworms‡; the manufacture of the fibre produced from them into robes of different shapes and colours, were among the numerous advances connected with that reign.

He created six ko-lau or Prime Ministers§ to assist him in governing his empire. He appointed a professor of music, whose duty was to explain the order and arrangement of the different tones. He taught the way of making flutes, fifes, and organs, trumpets that imitated the voice of the dragon, and drums that made the noise of thunder. He divided his country into principalities, in each of which he caused cities to be erected. He introduced the use of wheeled carriages, and the training of horses to draw them. Lastly, he ordered that coffins should be made in which the dead were to be interred.

Nor were such subjects as in our day pertain to medicine, hygiene, and physiology neglected. It was pointed out that

* Neither gold nor silver has ever been coined to any great extent in China, although in 1835 and 1856 some attempts were made.

† *Cyprea moneta*.

‡ *The Silkworm Classic* was published during the reign of Hwangti, B.C. 2640-2600. The methods of rearing silk worms introduced and described at the very distant date of forty centuries ago is that still followed in China. Only a few months ago the papers of the day stated that a delegate had been sent from France to study that method.

§ The supreme government consists of :

(a) Ayko, or cabinet.

(b) Tsing-jin-foo, or board of control of imperial family. The six tribunals are :

1. Tribunal of selection and degradation of civil officials.
2. Hoo-poo, board of reverence.
3. Lepor, board of rites and ceremonials.
4. Ping-poo, tribunal of war.
5. Hing-poo, tribunal of punishments.
6. Kung-poo, the board of works. (Gutslaff, vol. i, p. 39.)

“men suffered from without by the rigour of the seasons, and from within by the passions which disturb their minds; they died before their time.” Hwangti directed that “the five elements,” namely, air, earth, fire, wood and water, should be examined, no doubt in accordance with the “science” of that day; also that “seasons of the year, and the nature of man should be investigated.” Three experts* were charged with what would now be called physiological investigation with reference to the circulation of the blood, namely, “to examine the blood.” For the better administration of his kingdom he divided the people into families and communities, to each of which a definite system of rules and orders was applied. A system of therapeutics was devised, in accordance with which proper remedies for every distemper were detailed, the general result of the several reforms and advances pertaining to his era being that “men lived out their time according to the due course of nature.”

The personal characters and more important events connected with the reigns of the four succeeding monarchs may be epitomised thus:—The first,† governing with equity, carrying on improvements previously begun, and initiating others; reconciling the two classes high and low, patrician and plebeian classes, into which the people had already become divided; at a later period, voluptuous, superstitious, neglecting the duties of his high position, his death unregretted by his people. The second,‡ energetic, extending the confines of his possessions; autocratic in his “religion,” declaring that he alone possessed the right to offer sacrifices in the Temple of Heaven. The third,§ the institution of State schools and professors; a lover of music; appointed masters to teach his people virtue; loving his subjects, and by them beloved. A man of devout sentiments, he worshipped the Sovereign Lord of Heaven, and “reformed himself.” His grand and august air drew veneration; his virtue was eminent; he did nothing amiss, and kept a just medium in all things. With all the virtues so recorded of him, history relates that he became the husband of four

* Named respectively Kype, Yeufou, and Leyking. With reference to this point it is important to notice the record B.C. 4366, that Teta, a monarch of the 1st Egyptian dynasty, wrote a book on anatomy; that is 1666 years prior to the Chinese reign just mentioned.

† Chao-how, B.C. 2577.

‡ Chwen Hio or Hu, B.C. 2457.

§ Tico or Caosin, B.C. 2397.

wives, and so set the first example of polygamy. The fourth,* dissolute in habits; making use of his authority only to serve his brutal passions; disappointing expectations, the tributary princes (or barons) combining in rebellion, dethroning, then sending him into exile, electing in his place a younger brother, to become known in history as Yao† the Great. It is related of him‡ that he believed in the existence of a definite relation between our globe and the other heavenly bodies; that he devoted himself to a study of the laws of their respective movements, in order that in accordance therewith human affairs might be regulated throughout his kingdom. The views so expressed were to be resuscitated some forty centuries thereafter as an outcome of advanced science of the present day, namely:—“One chain of causation connects the nebulous original of suns and planetary systems with the protoplasmic foundation of life and organisation. Pathology is the analogue of the theory of perturbation in astronomy.”§ The ancient Chinese monarchs appointed “tribunals of astronomy and religion.” The erection of sepulchral monuments dates from this reign.|| Among important events connected with it was an overflow of the Hoang-Ho—a river ever since known as “China’s Sorrow”; the systematic introduction of engineering methods to remedy the misfortune in question, and to guard against a repetition of similar catastrophes.

¶ Yao promulgated among his people “The Five Rules of Duty,” namely:—1, Between the king and his subjects; 2, parents and children; 3, old persons and young; 4, husbands and wives; 5, friends. The rules then published continuing (theoretically) in force at the present day, more than four thousand years after the date of their original issue. Many other rules and orders are assigned in history to this monarch, the general result proceeding from which was that “peace reigned among families, good order among officers, union among principalities, the evil-disposed corrected their own conduct, peace reigned everywhere.”

* Ti Chi, B.C. 2366.

† B.C. 2356, Medhurst. Died, B.C. 2238. Gutschlaff, vol. i, p. 131.

‡ Pauthier, p. 33.

§ Prof. Huxley, 1881.

|| Namely, from the year 2350.

¶ See paper on “Chinese Ethics” read before the Victoria Institute, p. 2.

The successor of the great and estimable monarch so alluded to, namely, *Te Shun* or *Chun*, is stated to have had only one title to advancement to the throne over the hereditary heir to that dignity, namely, his integrity. His early life was rendered the reverse of happy by reason of the conduct towards him of his step-mother and half-brother;* nevertheless, his demeanour under such trying circumstances was so correct that philosophers derived therefrom two great principles of morality: the first, that however wicked parents may be, their children are none the less bound to show them respect and obedience; the second, that there is no man so bad but he may be reclaimed by good offices. Throughout his reign† he was rigid in his religious observances. "A prince," said he, "who desires to fulfil his obligations, and longs to preserve his people in the way of peace, should watch without ceasing that the laws are observed with exactitude." To the advance of agriculture he paid special attention; he established various colleges, and endowed a *hospice* for the aged.‡

An allusion in this place to some contemporary events elsewhere than in China may serve to indicate the vast distance by which the present time is separated from the periods to which, so far, our attention has been directed, namely, that described as the Mythological or that of "the Five Emperors," of uncertain duration, but usually reckoned as extending from B.C. 2637 to B.C. 2208. But as with regard to the one series of events, so in respect to the others there are difficulties in drawing a definite line between what is actual history and what traditional.

In Egypt, great obscurity prevailed over the history of the land and people. The sacred island of Meroe, as it is called, formed by the confluence of the Astraboras and the Astrapus, otherwise the Tacasze and Blue River, appears to have been the first nucleus, whence sprang "the civilisers of mankind." Thence they spread their industrious colonies downwards along the course of the Nile, displacing the earlier inhabitants as they advanced. In their progress, B.C. 4400 to B.C. 2200, the cities of Thebes or No-Amon, On (Heliopolis) and Memphis were erected by them. Great improvements had already been made in respect to the

* Persecutions to which Shun was subjected. See Gutschaff, vol. i, p. 131.

† From B.C. 2254 to 2204.

‡ Pauthier, p. 67.

country itself; special attention bestowed upon the rise and periodic fall of the Nile; the nilometer established; canals and sluices for irrigation constructed, the great reservoir, the lake Moeris, formed*: the labyrinth made, certain colossal figures constructed within the area of, and in the vicinity of that reservoir; the great pyramids of Sakkara and of Ghizeh raised.

In Chaldea the descendants of Cush, who did not follow the rest of the children of Ham into Africa, seized upon the fertile fields of Shinar, otherwise Babylonia, where under Nimrod and Ashur, they erected various cities, including Babylon and Nineveh,† the assigned date of the former city being B.C. 2247. The foundation of the Assyrian monarchy was probably laid about this time. At the same early period it is recorded that there learning flourished; astronomy was in a considerably advanced condition. According to the Greeks, about B.C. 1968 Ninus succeeded his father Belus; his wife Semiramis, in one account, being the real foundress of Nineveh. She resigned in favour of her son Ninyas, after whom for 1350 years or more Assyria was ruled by his descendants until Sardanapalus‡ immolated himself and so put an end to the first empire. It would be useless to reconcile the contradictory accounts which the ancients have transmitted to us of the last days of Sardanapalus. It seems, however, to be established by modern critics that Sardanapalus was Assurbanipal, and that this name was applied by the Greeks to Sin-sarraiskun or Saracos, the last king of Assyria. Nineveh was destroyed by the Medes and Assyrian power came to an end about 607 B.C.

With the accession of Yu the Great, B.C. 2208, and the institution thereby of dynastic succession, history became disconnected from mere tradition, being thenceforward itself

* Its formation is assigned to Amenophis III, sixth monarch of the twelfth or Theban dynasty, B.C. 2300 to B.C. 2084; also to Amenhemne III, of the thirteenth dynasty B.C. 2120. But it is impossible to reconcile discrepancies between different dates given. A continuous chronological record will no doubt be the outcome in due time of investigations by Flinders Petrie and other distinguished Egyptologists. See Note 2.

† Of Babel, supposed to exist in the Birs Nimroud. By some authors the tower was connected with Fire-worship, *i.e.*, Sun-worship.

‡ *Ancient History*, Schmitz, pp. 73, 75; White's *Universal History*, p. 47; Rollin, vol. 1., p. 279. (From Greek sources.)

definite and reliable. The first dynasty of China, or that of Hea, becomes established, the period of ancient history properly so called begins, and is to continue till B.C. 263. Of the precepts attributed to that monarch, the following are a few examples:—"He" (that is, the ruler) "who would govern a people must do so in accordance with public opinion; he must be careful not to alienate the suffrages of his people" (*vox populi vox Dei*); "virtue is the foundation of government"; "Government consists in procuring for the people all things necessary for its preservation, and protection against whatever is injurious to health or life.* National songs were encouraged for the double purpose of animating and exhorting the people."† Doubtless, therefore in those far-off days Chinese patriots had their own equivalents for "Rule Britannia," "The British Grenadiers," "Scots wha hae," "Mourir pour la Patrie," etc.

Public works of drainage and reclamation were vigorously conducted. He devoted much attention to what would now be called scientific agriculture, including drainage, the methods of tilling and sowing, the levelling of irregularities on fields, and the application of suitable kinds of manure. He instituted a class of feudal chiefs, and of tributary princes, a system out of which in after years very serious troubles to the empire arose. Certain crown-lands were reserved for the maintenance of the Court; others for the public, and others for "the habitation of barbarians." Yu committed to his tributary princes full powers of government within their several principalities‡; but held all of them subject to military service, compulsory in all ranks.

He directed that his subjects, whatever their rank or position, should have free access to, and so lay their grievances before him for redress. Government was carried on by means of nine departmental offices.§ Unhappily, the introduction of

* Thus indicating the recognised importance of State Medicine.

† Psalm 137, B.C. 1063-1015, is a "national song." Spartan boys, under the system of Lycurgus, B.C. 884, committed to memory patriotic songs.

‡ Home government in fact.

§ Those under Yu were:—

1. President of the Council.
2. Minister of Agriculture.
3. Minister of Education.
4. Minister of Justice.

strong drink among the people took place in this reign. It is related that when the emperor tasted the newly discovered spirit he declared that "this drink will be the cause of the greatest trouble in the empire," that he caused Y-tih, its discoverer, to be banished, and that down to the present day the name of the latter is reprobated. Duke Chau strongly condemned its use, his address on the subject, B.C. 1120, being the oldest "temperance speech" on record, not excepting the words of Solomon in the Proverbs* (B.C. 1015-975). Like many others subsequently delivered, it had little if any result.

From the death of Yu, B.C. 2197, to the extinction B.C. 1765 of the dynasty he had founded, sixteen monarchs occupied the imperial throne, of whom history relates that "individually they were tyrants, seekers after pleasure, and as a consequence hated by their subjects." The chief events within the four centuries so comprised may be enumerated thus: Rebellions by "Barons"; remonstrances by the people; depositions; mistrust and contentions between feudatory chiefs; an occasional interval of happy rule, and awakening content among the people, to be followed by a repetition of occurrences of the nature already enumerated. An amiable and unsuspecting monarch,† against the warnings of his father was betrayed into placing an unjustifiable degree of power and confidence in the hands of a designing minister‡; a revolution, successful for the time being, was brought about by the latter, a period of close upon half a century having to transpire before legitimate sovereignty was re-established, scenes of bloodshed and of cruelty having prevailed the while, and for some years thereafter; indeed it is recorded that nearly a century after the rebellion in question abuses which had then arisen were not then eradicated. Then came a period including five reigns, during which prosperity and happiness prevailed, to be followed in its turn by one

-
5. Minister of Public Works.
 6. Minister of State Lands.
 7. Minister of Ceremonies and Rites.
 8. Minister of Music.
 9. Public Censure. (Pauthier, p. 42.)

* Four centuries before the date of Solomon, namely, about B.C. 1452, the Five Books of Moses were written. In them various allusions occur alike to the use and abuse of strong drinks, namely, Levit. x, 9; Numbers vi, 3; Deut. xiv, 26; xxix, 6; Prov. xx, 1.

† Namely, Te Seang, B.C. 2146-2118.

‡ *I.e.*, in the reign of Te Chou, B.C. 2057-2040.

of decay, culminating in the ignominious cessation of the dynasty. Of the five monarchs whose downward course so culminated, it is related that the debauches of one* rendered him odious and contemptible to his people; a second† abandoned himself to vice and dissipation, selected bad men to be ministers and other officials; a third‡ made his palace the seat of the most infamous pleasures, and shortened his days by debauchery; a fourth§ though perhaps not actively wicked, has not assigned to him any particular virtue or capacity for governing; the fifth and last|| “naturally vicious, without one redeeming quality.” The cruelty and infamy of his acts continue even at the present day to render his name odious in China, as that of Nero is in western nations. In all these respects he was equalled by his empress.

The brief summary so given of events connected with the first Chinese dynasty, or that of Hea, comprises the period from B.C. 2208 to B.C. 1776,¶ namely, 432 years, during which important advances took place in various branches of knowledge, including those to which in subsequent years the term *science* came to be applied; progress also took place in respect to art and agriculture, the last-named industry being that in which from time immemorial the Chinese have excelled. Corresponding advances were meanwhile taking place in other regions of the ancient world, some of which, together with other circumstances, may be here enumerated in their chronological order, namely:—

During this period commerce of Egypt much extended; divine honours came to be paid to a host of divinities, obelisks and columns were erected as memorials. In consequence of a famine in Canaan, Abraham, accompanied by Sarah his wife, proceeded to Egypt to buy corn,** the latter country being even then known as “a land of plenty.”

A colony of Aryans, otherwise of the Indo-Germanic stock, having started from their primitive home, supposed to have been on the borders of the Caspian Sea, proceeded eastward; they entered the north-western region of India, defeated the

* Ti Kin, B.C. 1899-1879.

† Kung Kia, B.C. 1879-1847.

‡ Te Kaou, B.C. 1847-1836.

§ Te Fah, B.C. 1836-1818.

|| Kya, or Kea Kwa, B.C. 1818 to B.C. 1766.

¶ Or, according to Medhurst, B.C. 2204 to B.C. 1765 = 439 years.

** Gen. xii, 10; to sojourn there, A.V. Born B.C. 1996; called B.C. 1921.

aboriginal tribes then known as Dasyu or Dasa, who are said to have fought against their conquerors with all the obstinacy and skill of barbarians.* The Aryans then established their own city of Hastinapora, and gradually became masters of the district situated between the Ganges and the Jumna, the wars in question being subsequently celebrated in the great Hindoo epic, the Mahabharata.†

From the same primeval Aryan stock a western offshoot spread to Greece, where they built Athens and Sparta, and became the Greek nation; another to Italy reared the city on the Seven Hills, which grew into Imperial Rome. Another colony of the same race excavated the ores of prehistoric Spain; and when, long subsequent to the date with which we are now concerned, we first catch a sight of ancient England, we see an Aryan settlement fishing in wattle canoes, working the tin mines of Cornwall,‡ and there is every reason to believe worshipping at the shrines known as Druidical deities of the Vedic age as their distant cousins the Brahmins and Rajpoots of India continue to do at the present day.

Within the same period the cities of the plain were destroyed§; Hagar and her son Ishmael|| driven out; and having retired to "the desert," the youth married an Egyptian woman, and so became progenitor of "the Arabs," whom in subsequent ages the Persians, Greeks, Romans, Tartars, and Mongols vainly endeavoured to subdue. From Ishmael, through the Hejazite kings of Arabia, the lineage of Mahomed may, it is said, be traced.¶ According to Arab legend Ishmael settled in the district of al-Hijāz, where, on the site subsequently occupied by Makka (Mecca), Hagar died and was buried, the Ka'bah erected by Abraham. Ishmael became prince and high priest of Makka. After his death, B.C. 1774, he was succeeded by his eldest son Nebat, though it is through his younger brother Kedar that the pedigree of Muhamed is traced, with what degree of truth is a subject beyond the scope of these remarks.

* *Ancient India*, by R. C. Dutt, p. 13.

† The date of the Mahabharata was about the commencement of the Christian era; that of the story itself B.C. 1400—B.C. 1000.

‡ *Brief History of the Indian people*, Hunter, p. 52.

§ B.C. 1897.

|| B.C. 1910 Ishmael born.

¶ *White's Universal History*, p. 9; also Hughes's *Dictionary of Islam*.

The measures by which the change from the Hea dynasty in China to its successor was brought about were briefly after this manner. Among the tributary princes, one, namely, Ching Tang, traced back relationship to "the Yellow Emperor," with whose reign* the present paper begins; thus in his particular instance family descent was traced through upwards of eight and a half centuries. Ching Tang gave asylum to all faithful ministers and others who were forced to flee from the presence of Kea, their monarch, and last of his line. At their solicitation he took up arms. After a time spent in war and negotiation, "the imperial troops threw down their arms and fled. Kea escaped, and, forsaken by the whole world, died an ignominious death in exile."† His son also, the heir apparent, and last scion of the Hea dynasty, retired to the northern deserts, where he ended his life amongst savages.

In the year B.C. 1766 Chin Tang accordingly came to the throne of China as first emperor of the second dynasty, to which he gave the name of Chang, from the province of which he had been feudal chief. That dynasty was to consist of twenty-seven monarchs and to continue till B.C. 1121, namely, a period of 645 years.

During the reign of Chin Taug "there occurred a drought which lasted seven years.‡ Streams and rivers were dried up, and the whole soil was parched. Notwithstanding the scantiness of the harvest none were reduced to starvation, for there was always a quantity of grain remaining in the store houses"; taxes were diminished; the people encouraged to cultivate the arid ground, the produce being entirely their own. In other respects his acts of benevolence were numerous, the people were astonished at his tender consideration for them, and called him "the well beloved sovereign."

During the reigns of the fourth, fifth, and sixth monarchs of this line,§ administrative power decayed. Then came a revival during the long period of 75 years embraced in the reign of the seventh.|| He set himself to govern well; he directed that almshouses for the aged should be established in

* Dated from B.C. 2637.

† Gutschlaff's *History of China*, vol. i, p. 150. Also Du Halde, vol. i, p. 151.

‡ From 1766 to 1760 B.C.

§ B.C. 1690 to 1636.

|| Tai Wou, or Tai-Sü, B.C. 1636-1561.

towns and cities, and supported by communities, thus instituting a Poor Law, such as still continues in operation.

It was while the eighth monarch* of this line was on the throne that mention was for the first time made in Chinese history of the Tartar tribes of the desert situated north-west of China, who, ethnically related to themselves, were thenceforward to be sources of trouble to them. Then also it was that on account of repeated and frequent inundations of Shensi by the Yellow River, it was deemed advisable to remove the imperial capital from that province and establish it first in Honan, then in Pe-cheli, upon the site of the modern Peking.†

Somewhere about this period the Shepherd kings are considered to have invaded Lower Egypt, namely, about B.C. 2233-1800; the duration of their rule to have continued 260 years; various other dates are however assigned to the former event, but that now given may suffice for present purposes of comparison with reference to the second Chinese dynasty.

During the same period the birth took place of Isaac (B.C. 1896); of Esau and Jacob (B.C. 1836); Joseph‡ was sold by his brethren into Egypt; his family, then a nomadic tribe, settled in the land of Goshen, he himself became minister to Amosis or Thotmosis, the then reigning Pharaoh, and by his foresight preserved the country from famine during the seven years of sterility.§

It was during the reign of the Chinese monarch Wae-jin, B.C. 1549-1534, that disaffection which for some time previous had been gradually rising with regard to the order and manner of succession to the imperial throne culminated; brother had succeeded brother to the detriment of sons of deceased rulers, so that sovereign power was looked upon less as a hereditary right than as a prize to be won by the ambition of members of the Royal Family among themselves, constant wars being the accompaniments of such conditions. Through several successive reigns civil war of that kind continued, while rebellions among tributaries further disturbed the empire. By way of compromise the ministers of state in the year B.C. 1433 elected their own nominee|| as emperor. But the result

* Chung Ting, B.C. 1562 to 1549.

† And so remained till the reign of Pwan Kong, B.C. 1401-1373.

‡ Joseph sold, B.C. 1730 (Haydn).

§ From B.C. 1708 to 1702; Gen. xli, 54; xlvii, 13-26.

|| Namely, Nakanang, fifteenth emperor.

was unfortunate in a double sense; the selection was not in accordance with public opinion, and the monarch proved to be himself unworthy of the choice that had fallen upon him.

A state of general anarchy was the result. But as on many other occasions before and since, opportunity brought to the front the suitable man, this time in one of the imperial princes,* though not the lawful heir to the throne. Throughout his reign of twenty-eight years he devoted himself to advance the well-being of his subjects. Among the principles laid down by him for the guidance of his high administrative officers were these:—"The care of the people, not the enriching of one's self should be their object. They should repair to Court from time to time to learn the wishes of the emperor, to receive his approbation or otherwise of their public behaviour. They should strive to maintain peace and tranquillity in their respective administrative districts. They should themselves in their conduct be examples to the people in respect to virtue and rectitude."

But the good effected during that reign was destroyed by the conduct and example of the monarch who immediately followed,† an impulse at the same time given to conditions which were already threatening the destruction of the dynasty. Unhappy as conditions were, however, ten more sovereigns in succession reigned, and a period of one hundred and ninety-eight years had to elapse before matters culminated in the abolition of this dynasty.‡

It unfortunately happens that available records contain little more than personal details relative to emperors, ministers and feudal chiefs, the general conditions of the country and inhabitants being seemingly passed over as of no importance. An exception to this rule occurs in connection with the final reign of the dynasty. It was then recorded of the Chinese people that "they were still few in number, and relatively feeble in power." To the eastward of them were territories occupied by foreigners (Mongol Tartars?) numerous and powerful, while in the west various tribes of aborigines held possession. But the Chinese proper gradually

* Pwan-keng, B.C. 1490-1373.

† Seau Sin, eighteenth emperor, B.C. 1373-1352.

‡ Namely, B.C. 1121. History relates that towards the Hea dynasty Japan and the neighbouring islands were peopled from China owing to the tyrannical oppression of the rulers, which drove their subjects from the soil.

established their military power in the midst of their surroundings, and from that circumstance adopted for themselves the name of Chung Kwoh, or, "The Middle Kingdom."*

Here are a few characteristics of Chow-sin, the last of his dynasty, and no wonder that he was so: "Of strong mind and passions, he excelled in all kinds of wickedness, his vices nourished by his empress, an infamous but beautiful woman, every vice found in her an advocate and promoter."† The atrociously wicked deeds perpetrated by Chow-sin are detailed in works on Chinese history, though unfit for mention here. The tributary princes combined their forces to rid themselves of the monster; under one of themselves, Wou Wang, the confederates marched their forces against him, and speedily overcame the Imperial troops. Thereupon Chow fled to his palace, which being set on fire, he perished in the flames.

Thus hastily have the events in China's history during close upon five centuries‡ been glanced at. In a similarly hurried manner must a summary be made of those recorded in other regions of the then civilised world, namely:—

The several nations of Greece§ rose in power; wandering tribes from the north (Scythians) migrated to that country, and to others more favoured by climate and in soil than their own. Troubles in Egypt led to further emigration therefrom, chiefly to the land of Ion.|| The Phœnicians had established Tyre, and themselves became an important maritime power; their name among the early Greeks, synonymous with fraud, deceit, and treachery. In Egypt the Israelites had increased in numbers and strength, and so excited the fears of the reigning monarch.¶ The Exodus took place B.C. 1491; the hosts of Manephtah were destroyed in the "Red Sea"; the Israelites spent forty years in the desert, during which period the Ten Commandments were

* To the empress Ta Kia, wife of Chow Sin, the last monarch of the Shang dynasty, is said to be due the method of contracting the feet of Chinese girls, which has continued to the present day. She also is said to have introduced what has ever since been known as "the Feast of Lanterns." Du Halde, vol. i, p. 292.

† Gutschlaff's *History of China*, vol. i, p. 162.

‡ Namely, from B.C. 1636 to B.C. 1122 = 514 years.

§ Mentioned in Scripture under the name of Javan, son of Japheth Gen. x, 2.

|| Ion, *i.e.*, Javan, Greece.

¶ Rameses II. In the space of 215 years from about 70 persons the family of Jacob had increased to 600,000 fighting men, or a gross population of more than two millions.

promulgated from Mount Sinai; and Moses having committed the Book of the Law to the priests, he ascended Mount Pisgah, ten miles north-east of the Dead Sea, there died B.C. 1451; leaving Joshua* and Caleb as leaders. During their wandering in the desert Moses established the Jewish Republic.† In B.C. 1471 fire from heaven destroyed their camp, and pestilence 15,000 of their numbers.

The legislation of Moses embodied in the Pentateuch‡ was promulgated at a time when the word *law*§ was unknown to other nations. This code is divided into five parts, namely, religion, morals, and civil, military, and political affairs. Its wisdom is acknowledged at the end of nearly forty centuries, while the more recent institutions of Minos, Lycurgus, Numa and Solon have fallen into desuetude.

Sesostris or Rameses II, the great founder of the nineteenth Egyptian dynasty|| liberated his country from the Hyksos,¶ who had renewed their invasions under his father.** His own conquests extended over Libya, Ethiopia, Media, Persia, and Asia Minor, trophies being brought to him from kingdoms extending from the Danube on the west to the Ganges on the east.

The origin of Sidon is lost in antiquity. Towards the end of the period now under review, Tyre was erected, but for a considerable time held a position second in importance to its elder rival. The people by whom they were established, and the adjoining territory occupied were described in the Mosaic account as descendants of Ham, whence they would belong to the same race as the Egyptians, and other southern nations. Numerous cities and towns were erected along their line of coast, these becoming celebrated for their various industries and manufactures, as also for maritime enterprise. Even at this early date they excelled in the

* Adverting to the miracle of the sun standing still in the time of Joshua (Josh. x, 12), the Chinese have a tradition that in the time of Yao (B.C. 2356-2254), the sun did not set for ten days. The Egyptian priests told Herodotus (about B.C. 450) that within a period of 341 generations, *i.e.*, about 11,000 years, the sun had deviated four times from his usual course. White's *Universal History*, p. 18.

† Theocracy (?)

‡ "The Book of the Law of Moses," Ezra vii, 6; Neh. viii, 1.

§ In a forensic sense.

|| Or Arabians. (Rollin.) White, p. 18.

¶ B.C. 1326, according to Manetho. Achmes I, B.C. 1703-1700.

** Seti I.

manufacture of glass, and were famous for the art of dyeing purple.*

During the Shang dynasty of China, Athens is said to have been founded by Cecrops† (B.C. 1571); the court of Areopagus established; Thebes erected B.C. 1453, by the Phœnician Cadmus,‡ by whom also the fifteen letters of the Greek alphabet which go under his name were introduced; the oracle of Delphi became a central point of union of different tribes.

In Judea the Council of twenty-three Judges to govern the people was established after the death of Joshua (B.C. 1443). Each city had its special magistrates and ministers of justice; their place of audience the gates of the city. To this period belongs the narratives of Sisera (B.C. 1285), of Ruth§ (B.C. 1312), the story of Jephtha's vow (B.C. 1188), that of Jason and the Argonauts (B.C. 1263), and Trojan war (ended 1184).

To the same period is referred the Vedic portion of India's history, when Vishnu was a name for the sun, the luminary at his rising, in the zenith, and setting representing the three steps of Vishnu while striding across limitless space. To the latter part of the same period are referred the events real or mythical, or partly both, which form the subject of the Ramayana commemorative of Rama, Seeta, and Ravanu, King of Lunka, or Ceylon.||

The advent of the third dynasty, or that of Chow,¶ was the commencement of a period the duration of which was destined to extend to 873 years,** and to become the most remarkable era of China's history. At the date when it was first established the maxims of politics and government laid down by the sages of antiquity had been to a great extent forgotten, They were in part revived, in part modified so as to be applicable to the "advanced" condition of affairs brought about during the continuance of this dynasty. It is asserted that the state to which the arts, science and policy of China

* The *Purpura patula* is believed to have yielded the Syrian purple.

† According to tradition Cecrops was no Egyptian, but an autochthon of Attica. Schmitz, p. 144.

‡ Did such a person ever live? *Id.*

§ Ruth, by whose marriage with Boaz was born Obed, from whom descended Jesse, father of David, the royal progenitor of the Messiah. White, p. 21.

|| Ramayana. The poem so named narrates the advance southward of the Aryan invaders of India. ¶ B.C. 1122

** *i.e.*, till B.C. 249; it comprised 35 monarchs.

were severally brought at the date in question has persisted down to our own time. But notwithstanding the advances so made, it occupied one of the most distracted and calamitous periods in the annals of the Chinese empire, political and warlike troubles arising on the one hand from combinations among the feudal princes,* on the other from invasions threatened and actual by the Tartars, the rebellious wars continuing at intervals during the long period of five hundred years.† At length the turbulent potentates were reduced, but in the general condition of anarchy prevailing the reigning emperor at the time was defeated at the head of his army by the Tartars, who “growing more daring by repeated successes, and profiting by the internal divisions of the country, no longer confined their inroads to sudden invasions, but carried on a regular war of plunder against the defenceless Chinese.”‡ Finally, the thirty-fifth emperor§ under the irresistible pressure of events abdicated, and retired into private life. With him the dynasty came to an end.

Among the more important events connected with the Chow dynasty, the following are selected in chronological order, namely :—A colony of Chinese took possession of Corea.|| Sea-going ships were constructed; long voyages, even across the Indian Ocean, and as far as to Egypt, undertaken.¶ Metal money brought into use, such as continues current at the present day,** *i.e.*, *cash*. Palaces and numerous public buildings erected.†† At a later date‡‡ mining for copper is for the first time mentioned, and also the coining therefrom of money. The use of family names was introduced during the same period.§§

With regard to the general conditions of the people, very little transpires in available literature. That little indicates that they were partial to athletic exercises, and to games, some of the latter requiring great mental calculation. Luxury had increased among them; they rode on horses, sat on chairs,

* See Gutschlaff's *Hist. of China*, vol. i, p. 202.

† Read *Historical Account of China*, by Hugh Murray, 1836, vol. i, p. 59.

‡ *China opened*, by Gutschlaff, 1838, vol. i, p. 315.

§ Chwang-seang-wang, B.C. 245. He reigned one year only.

¶ Sent by Wu Wang, founder of the dynasty, B.C. 1122-1115.

¶ B.C. 1113. (Pauthier, p. 85.) See Note 3.

** B.C. 1115-1078. See Du Halde, vol. i, p. 331.

†† B.C. 1001-946.

‡‡ Namely, B.C. 571-519.

§§ In England the use of surnames dates from 12th century A.D.

partook of meals served on tables, made use of bath tubs; as parts of their costume wore shoes and stockings, and as a beverage drank the infusion of a leaf supposed to have been tea.

Literature had made great advances, universities were established; the *Peking Gazette* published for the first time B.C. 911. A system of land division and tenure was promulgated*; a legal code, extreme in its severity, laid down. Rules were drawn up relating to composition and rhythm in poetry; the *Sheking*, a book of Odes, published. A mode of writing designated "The Great Seal Characters," was invented, the object being to establish a recognised centre of unity between feudatory tribes whose language or dialects differed widely among themselves.

Astronomical science was zealously cultivated, and had made considerable advances; an observatory was established, and a work on mathematics published. Time was measured by means of the sun-dial, the science of navigation understood, an instrument of the nature of the mariner's compass used at sea, as it had already been on journeys on land.†

Agriculture and horticulture were progressing towards the conditions in which through many centuries they have continued to be sources of wonder, admiration, and often of imitation throughout the western world.

Many works, believed by their authors systematic, had already been written on curative medicine; a college was established at Peking for its cultivation. As examples of "science" pertaining to the healing art which had come down from distant times previous to this dynasty, and was then gravely taught, the two following must here suffice; "There are two natural principles of life, the *yang* or vital heat, the *yin* or radical moisture, of which the spirits and the blood are the vehicles. As out of these two names they have made that of man, called *jin*, so by joining together the strokes which compose these two words they have formed the character or figure which stands for the name of man, so the separation of these two strokes destroys the figure of the name of man, so the division of these two principles destroys the life of man."‡

* B.C. 544-519.

† See *China*, by H. Murray, 1836, vol. iii.

‡ *Du Halde*, vol. ii, p. 183.

According to what may be called the musical theory of pathology, the body, by means of the nerves, muscles, veins, and arteries, is like a kind of lute or musical instrument, the different parts of which emit various sounds, proper for each, and suited to their figure, situation, and particular uses, and that its different pulses, which resemble the different tones and notes of those instruments, enable one to judge infallibly of their situation and state in the same manner as a cord more or less tense touched in one place or in another, in a stronger or gentler manner, sends forth different sounds, and discovers whether it be too much stretched or too much relaxed.*

Under the reign of the twenty-third emperor of this line,† Confucius was born (B.C. 552) of whom let it suffice here to say that in a vicious age he desired to teach the people and their rulers "the art" of becoming virtuous, and the principles of good government, with the result to himself that he became an object of scorn to many, who hated his rigid principles, puritanic as they would be called in our own advanced and progressive day.

Contemporary with, but senior to him, was Laotze,‡ the primary object of whose teaching was to refine human nature, and so lead it to the utmost perfection. But it is said of him that he was too abstruse, and moreover, so wedded to this mortal life that he endeavoured to find out the liquor which confers immortality. Nor has he been without his proselytes to that extent even within very modern times.

Mencius also belongs to this period.§ In his teachings he condemned self-interest and war, inculcated care of the aged and the poor. "He feared lest a system of general philanthropy should do away with innate love of kindred." He declared that "the bent of the human mind towards virtue is as strong as the law of gravitation,"|| the expression so employed by the Chinese philosopher preceding the

* *Description of China*, by Abbé Grosier, vol. ii, p. 481.

† Ling Wang, who ascended the throne B.C. 570. See *Sketch of Chinese History*, Gutschlaff, vol. i, p. 189 *et seq.* Contemporary with Ling Wang was the era of Cræsus, Solon and Æsop.

‡ *Id.*, p. 201. The date of birth of Laotze is said to have been 14th August, 604 B.C. Herodotus, born B.C. 484; died B.C. 413.

§ To the reign of Li Wang, 31st emperor, B.C. 375-368.

|| *Chinese History*, by Gutschlaff, vol. i, 208. See Note 4.

period in which Newton* lived by upwards of two thousand years.

A fourth philosopher may be alluded to as pertaining to this dynasty. Chwang Tseï† argued that "if all laws were abrogated crime would cease; if weights and measures were abolished the people would not cheat each other in the exchange of commodities." His doctrines found but few supporters, and speedily fell into disrepute.

The summary of events contemporary with the Chow dynasty‡ in China, recorded in history relating to other civilised countries of the then known world which is now to follow, must be even more brief, and it is feared, even more imperfect than have been the remarks already made. Suffice it to observe that the particulars to be given may serve as a framework, to be filled in according to available pursuits and studies of those to whom the present remarks are with much respect and deference submitted.§

1. With regard to scripture records the period under consideration includes the whole history of the Israelites from the date of Saul their first king; their division into the kingdoms of Israel and of Judah,|| and finally the conquest (B.C. 721) of the former by Salmanasar the Assyrian; the latter with the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian captivity; the capture of Babylon by Cyrus. It comprises the period of all the prophets, from Samuel to Malachi, down to the conclusion of Old Testament history.¶

2. *Chaldea and Assyria.*—The Chow dynasty was in the fourth century of its existence when (B.C. 747) the second Assyrian empire was established by Pul,** whether a legitimate ruler or an adventurer matters not for the purpose of this paper. In 747, Tiglath Pileser III, as Pul seems also to have been called, invaded Palestine, destroyed the city of Damascus, and carried its inhabitants to his own states. On his death, B.C. 728, he was succeeded by his son Shalmaneser, and he, about B.C. 714, by Sennacherib, the son

* Newton, born December, 1642; died March, 1727.

† B.C. 330. Contemporary with him was Euclid, B.C. 374-300. See *Life of Mensius*, by Professor Legge, p. 51.

‡ *I.e.*, as already stated, B.C. 1122 to B.C. 255 = 867 years.

§ They are given in greater detail in the Appendix.

|| Israel = ten tribes; Judah two, namely, Judah and Benjamin.

¶ See Williams, vol. ii, p. 159.

** *Assyria.* Professor Sayce. *Records of the Past*, vol. v, 115.

of Sargon of Isaiah,* who having invaded Judea, lost in one night 185,000 of his troops before Jerusalem from pestilence.

B.C. 604 till 561 included the period of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. On three different occasions he laid siege to and captured Jerusalem, on the last, carrying many of its illustrious men, among them Daniel, as captives to Babylon (Jerem. xxiv, 8; xxvii, 12; Ezek. xii, 13). Twenty-three years after the death of Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon was taken by Cyrus, by whose decree, B.C. 536, the Jewish captivity came to an end. Five years thereafter, Babylon, together with its vast treasure, fell to Alexander, B.C. 331; its empire and power were ended. But the great Chinese dynasty of Chow had still seventy years of its course to run.

3. *Egypt*.—The Egyptian dynasties from and including the 21st to the 31st,† with which ended the line by conquest of the country by Alexander, rose and passed away, while this, the third dynasty of China, held sway. The power of Ethiopia came and went; the invasion by Sennacherib of Egypt B.C. 712, Phœnicia, Judah, and neighbouring countries took place; Pharaoh Necho instituted many public works, including an attempt at a maritime canal ninety-six miles long and the completion of various other canals; his ships manned by Phœnician sailors circumnavigated Africa; Apries conquered Phœnicia and a portion of Egypt,‡ a Persian province under Cambyses; his failure against the Ethiopians or Soudanese; the destruction of an army (527) sent by him towards the oasis of Ammon;§ afterwards Egypt conquered by Alexander.||

4. *Persia*.—The whole period of the Persian empire from its foundation by Cyrus to its end by defeat by Alexander of Darius III at Issus, B.C. 333, and Gaugamela, B.C. 331, comes within that of the third Chinese dynasty.

5. *Media*.—Also from the early period of subjugation of Media by the Assyrians to the date when five hundred years thereafter it recovered its independence, and had its own capital city¶ established, its subsequent combination

* Isaiah, B.C. 786-696.

† Manetho's list.

‡ Presently invaded by Assyrians; subdued and divided into twelve provinces or Governments.

§ Ammon, his wife Mut, and son Chesiu form the divine triad of Thebes, No-Amon.

|| For record of historical events, see *Ancient History*, by Schmitz.

¶ Ecbatana, near the modern Hamadan.

with Babylon, subjugation of the Assyrian Empire, and finally its union with Persia under Cyrus.

6. *Bactria*.*—It includes the greater part of the history of Bactria, beginning about six centuries prior to the conquest of that kingdom by Cyrus, then by Alexander, and extending to within a century and a half of the time when it was subjugated by the Scythians.

7. *Phœnicia*.—For a thousand years, from the fourteenth to the fourth century B.C., a great and remarkable nation occupied the country so-called. Egypt, Judea, Syria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, came successively into contact with it and its inhabitants. The most prosperous era of its history from B.C. 1000 to 332. In the early years of that period vessels were being sent out therefrom, and navigation extended in various directions; down by the Red Sea to Arabia and, it is believed, Western India, supposed to have been alluded to under the name of Ophir; they circumnavigated Africa, discovered some of the islands along its coast, traded with the Cassiterides or Scilly islands for tin, and, it is believed, with the Baltic for amber.

The country was invaded and partially subdued by Shalmanasser, king of Assyria, against whom however New Tyre successfully withstood a siege of five years' duration. At a later period Nebuchadnezzar besieged the same city during thirteen years, also without result; he however sent many Phœnicians and Jews captive into his own kingdom. Soon thereafter Tyre as well as the rest of Phœnicia was forced to submit, and the country became a Persian satrapy. Once in the reign of Ochus, oppression drove the Phœnicians into rebellion, but the attempt failed, the noblest citizens were put to death; the inhabitants of Tyre set their city on fire, and burnt themselves and all their treasures. Finally Phœnicia being conquered by Alexander, its importance speedily passed away.

8. *Carthage*.—Three centuries after the Chow dynasty came to power, Carthage was founded by Eliza or Dido, sister of Pygmalion, king of Tyre, about B.C. 890. During the six centuries of the Chinese dynasty which were still to run, the Phœnician city rose to marvellous power, being formidable alike by land and sea; it extended commerce to distant regions, raised armies of mercenary troops, established a

* The modern Balkh.

navy, the models according to which the ships composing it were built being speedily adopted by Rome, its great rival. Then came a period of war for the possession of Sicily and of Sardinia. This republic became connected with the Persian monarchy, extended its colonies along the shores of the Atlantic, concluded a treaty with Rome, but the alliance with Xerxes in his attack upon Greece led to the rout and disgraceful peace of Himera. Various treaties were made with Rome. War against Sicily renewed and continued many years; Hamilcar defeated at Syracuse and died in captivity. Afterwards persistent wars against Rome culminating in the defeat of Appius Claudius in the very year in which the Chinese dynasty now being considered came to its end (B.C. 249).

9. *India*.—Nearly contemporary with the advent of the Chows in China, the Vedas* were arranged in their present form. Five or six centuries elapse, and India became subject to Persia. First, the Hindoos, departing from primeval simplicity of worship, made to themselves images; then long subsequently, became divided into castes. Then arose (B.C. 543) the reformer Gautama Buddha, against whose system of philosophy in subsequent years persecution prevailed. The customs of the Brahmins were reduced to definite form, described as the Code of Manu. Next, the imperial city of Delhi is founded, though five centuries after the most ancient Hindoo capital, Canouj,† had been established. The secession among the Buddhists‡ and their division into the northern and the southern sections took place, followed by the expedition of Alexander, arrested at the Jhelum (Hydaspes),§ and, lastly, the rule of Sandracottus, otherwise Chandragupta, King of Behar (Magadha), the capital of which was Palibothra the modern Patna.

10. *Greece*.—The war against Troy (B.C. 1194–1184) had ended sixty years before the advent of the Chow dynasty. Contemporary with that dynasty Greek colonies emigrated to Asia Minor. Olympic games were instituted; a constitu-

* Vedas—the sacred hymns of the Hindoos. The *Rig Veda*, the great literary memorial of the early Aryan settlements in the Punjab.

† Canouj: in Furrukabad district.

‡ B.C. 377. The northern Buddhists, *i.e.*, those of Nepaul, Thibet, China, and Japan are the successors of the seceders. The southern Buddhists, *i.e.*, those of Ceylon, Burma, and Siam, represent the other side. See *Ancient India*, R. C. Dutt, p. 103.

§ B.C. 327.

tion and laws established; a Corinthian colony founded Syracuse; the Draconian system of laws promulgated at Athens; then abrogated by those of Solon. Among other important events were the invasion of Greece by the Persians; their defeat at Marathon, and death of Xerxes; the retreat of the ten thousand; the defeat of Darius at Issus by Alexander as already stated; and, lastly, the break up, B.C. 301,* of the empire founded by the last-named great conqueror.

11. *Rome*.—Four centuries after the third Chinese dynasty began Rome was founded. During the four centuries then to follow the events to be specially noted include the union of the Romans and the Sabines; the administration of Numa; the war against the Albans; the duel between the Horatii and Curatii and defeat of the latter; the war against, and overthrow of the Sabines; the expulsion of Tarquin; the proclamation of an aristocratic republic, B.C. 509; the capture of Rome by the Gauls under Brennus; the first Punic war; the formation of the Via Appia, and of canals through the Pontine marshes.

12. *Britain*.—Youngest of nations of antiquity becomes alluded to, and takes its place in history.

Such then, in brief, are some of the landmarks by which an attempt is made in this paper to indicate the position, in contemporary history within the periods mentioned, held by that of ancient China.†

NOTES.

Note 1, page 1.

The Deluge.—Various dates are assigned thereto, there being much difference of opinion as to its precise epoch. It is fixed by the learned author of *l'Art de vérifier les Dates* B.C. 3308; by the Septuagint text at B.C. 3246. Besides that given in the note here referred to, there are others, among them B.C. 2348 (*Helps to the Study of the Bible*) and B.C. 2400 (*Schmitz's Ancient History*). All these have only an approximate value, and in so far as they are now referred to, that is the sense assigned to them. On this subject, in relation to Chinese Chronology, see Du Halde, vol. i,

* As a result of the battle of Ipsus in Phrygia. See *Ancient History*, by Schmitz, p. 340.

† See Note 5.

pp. 130-135; also the paper by Professor Legge read before the Victoria Institute.

Note 2, page 6 (Egypt).

Thebes.—Supposed to have been established about B.C. 4400, by Menes. During the early dynasties no mention is made of it, but B.C. 2500-2466 it became the capital city of Egypt.*

Heliopolis.—The obelisk of, set up by Usertsen I about B.C. 2433.†

Memphis.—Supposed to have been established by Menes as above; but the point is conjectural.

Nilometer; Canals.—B.C. 2300-2266. In the reign of Amenemhat III, sixth monarch of the XII Dynasty, special attention was paid to the rise of the Nile, canals made of length and breadth proportioned to the different situations and wants of the lands, and sluices made for irrigating the country. The rise of the Nile was marked on the rocks at Semneh about thirty miles above the second cataract.‡ The early kings had placed at Memphis a Nilometer. Strabo speaks of a well on the banks of the Nile near the town of Syene made for that purpose. At the present day there is a Nilometer at Cairo, namely, on the island of Rodda, but it is of comparatively modern date, having been erected by the Kaliph Suliman A.D. 715-717. In the days of the early Roman emperors, dating from B.C. 27, there was a Nilometer on the island of Elephantia; but in consequence of the rise of the river bed, the high scale of that instrument is now below the level of the ordinary high Nile. A Nilometer also exists on the island of Philae.§

Lake Moeris.—Constructed under the same reign as the Nilometer. Its extent, about one hundred and eighty French leagues, and three hundred feet deep. It had a communication with the Nile by a great canal more than four leagues long and fifty feet broad.||

The Labyrinth.—Stood on the shore of Lake Moeris. Also erected at the same date as that in which that lake was constructed.

Pyramids.—B.C. 3733-3333. Those of Ghizeh and Sakkara raised.

Note 3, page 18.

Communication with Western Nations.—In or about B.C. 1113 an embassy from Egypt is said to have arrived at the court of Ching Wang, they having made their journey in "a floating

* Ezek. xxx, 14; Nahum iii, 8.

† Rollin, vol. i, p. 13.

‡ Gen. xli, 45; Jerem. xlili, 13.

§ *The Nile*. E. A. Wallis Budge

|| Rollin, vol. i, p. 9.

habitation"; Pauthier, p. 85. About B.C. 1001 allusion is made to a voyage having been undertaken by Chinese to a country described under the name of *Si-Wang*, believed to have been either Persia or Syria; that a queen of the former country visited China, carrying presents to the emperor Mou Wang (B.C. 1000-945); also that he himself visited some Western nations, but whether India, Chaldea, or Persia is uncertain, *id.*, p. 94.

Note 4, page 20.

Mencius.—He believed that in man nature is originally good; that all men are naturally virtuous, as *all water flows downward*; all men have compassionate hearts, all feel ashamed of vice; shame is of great moment to men, it is only the designing and artful that find no use for shame; human nature must be tried by suffering, and to form an energetic and virtuous character a man must endure much. *Middle Kingdom*, Williams, vol. i, p. 671; also *Life and Work of Mencius* by Professor Legge, D.D., p. 58.

Note 5 (General), page 24.

Historical dates given in the text of the preceding "Fragment," more particularly those referring to the more distant periods, must be looked upon as tentative and conditional. Discrepancies with regard to several of them exist in works referred to; nor has it been practicable in the text to enter upon a critical analysis of data in accordance with which those discrepancies have come about. The Rev. R. Cooper has kindly revised and commented upon the paper as originally drafted, and is hereby thanked for the trouble he has been so good as to take in so adding to it the results of his own technical knowledge. As the outcome of his revision certain additions to footnotes and others are made in the hope of thereby enhancing whatever value may be assigned to the "Fragment of Comparative History" now given.

APPENDIX.

CHOW DYNASTY.

Contemporary Chronology.

B.C. 1122-255.

1. *Scripture events.*

- B.C.
 1117-16. Death of Samson; apparently the original of Hercules, Rustum, and Antar. Samuel the first of the prophets; the twelfth and last judge of Israel.
 1096. Saul made first king of the Israelites; anointed by Samuel.
 1085. David born.
 1063. He slays Goliath; defeat of the Philistines.
 1048. Jerusalem captured by David from the Jebusites, and made the seat of his kingdom.
 1033-975. Rich trade with Ophir and Tarshish, Egypt, India, Persia, Arabia.
 1015. Death of David. Solomon began to reign.
 975. Revolt of the ten tribes; division of the kingdom into Judah and Israel. A system of direct taxation imposed.
 972. Shishak invades Judea and plunders Jerusalem.
 941. Zerah, the Ethiopian, with 1,000,000 men, totally defeated by King Asa in the valley of Zephathah.
 895. Judah invaded by an army of Moabites, Edomites and Arabians. At Engedi dissension arose among them, and they turned their arms against each other.
 825. The prophets Jonah, Hosea and Amos flourished.
 810-771. Story of Azariah, struck with leprosy.
 807. Ahab killed by the Syrians in the battle of Ramoth Gilead.
 806. Jonah preached to Nineveh; Pul being king at the time.
 804. Damascus captured by the Assyrians.
 787-778. Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Habbakuk prophesied.
 730-721. Samaria subdued by Shalmaneser; an end put to the kingdom of Israel. The ten tribes sent into Media, being replaced by Medians and Assyrians, subsequently called Samaritans.
 717. Tyre besieged in vain for about five years by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria.
 710. Sennacherib appeared for the third time with an army before Jerusalem; 185,000 of his troops perished by pestilence in one night.
 677. Manasseh, king of Judah, taken prisoner and carried in chains to Babylon.
 629-625. Zephaniah-Jeremiah.

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- 617-608. Wars of Pharaoh Necho against Josiah, king of Judah.
 587. Jerusalem captured by Nebuchadnezzar after a siege of eight months. Commencement of the captivity which lasted till B.C. 538. Jer. xxiv, 8; xxxvii, 12; Ezek. xii, 13.
 582. Daniel in Babylon, Ezekiel in Chaldea.
 569. Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. Capture of Babylon by Cyrus. Belshazzar's feast and death. Is. xlvi, 12, 13; Dan. v, 1-29.
 538. Cyrus, after conquering Babylon, allows the Jews to return to their own country.
 538-322. All Palestine subject to Persia.
 520. Building of the second temple.
 458. Ezra. Nehemiah.
 440-430. The walls of Jerusalem built by Nehemiah.
 Malachi, the last of the prophets.
 The history of the Old Testament finishes about this time.
 332. Alexander the Great at Jerusalem, to whom Palestine is subject until his death B.C. 323.
 323-301. Palestine subject to Syria.
 301-203. Palestine subject to Egypt.

2. *Chaldea. Assyria.*

1120. Tiglath Pileser I. established in Nineveh a kind of botanical garden which he filled with strange plants brought from his campaigns.
 1230. Ninus, founder of the Assyrian empire, and of Nineveh, with the aid of Semiramis took Bactria.
 911-889. The armies of Rimmon-nirari overran Western Asia.
 883-858. Those of Assur-natsirpal repeated that invasion; impalements, and pyramids of skulls marked his track.
 854. Campaign of Shalmaneser II against the tribes of Kurdistan; his destruction of a confederacy including Ahab of Israel at Karkar.
 841. Defeat by Shalmaneser of Hazael, king of Damascus.
 834. Revolt of twenty-seven cities, including Nineveh and Assur, put down by his son Samas Rimmon, who succeeded him on the throne B.C. 823-818.
 810-781. Rimmon-nirari III compelled Damascus, Phœnicia, Israelites, Elamites and Philistines to pay him tribute.
 763. Revolt in the city of Assur, which lasted three years.
 753. Assur-nirari, the last of his line, ascended the throne. Ten years later the army declared itself against him, and he and his dynasty fell together.
 747-5. Second Assyrian empire established by Tiglath Pileser III, whom the Babylonians called Pul. He endeavoured to unite Babylonia with Assyria; to overthrow the Hittites of Carchemish, and to render Syria and Phœnicia

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tributary; the northern part of Babylonia was annexed to Assyria; conquest carried through Kurdistan and Media.*

- 742-732. The siege of Arpad (Tel Erfâd) the fall of which (B.C. 740) rendered Pul master of Northern Syria (2 Kings xv, 19). Damascus captured; its inhabitants transported to Kir. Tyre fined £400,000 (2 Kings xvi, 10).
- 731-727. Babylon and other great cities of Chaldea taken by Pul, who in 729 assumed the title of King of Sumer (Shinar), and Accad. In 727 he died, and then the crown was seized by Shalamaneser IV, called by the Babylonians Ululâa or Elulæus.
- 722-717. Shalamaneser died, and was succeeded by Sargon, another usurper. Samaria subdued and placed under Assyrian government. Babylon, Elam, Kurdistan and Carchemish rebel against Sargon, but are subdued and an Egyptian army defeated by him.
- 711-700. Capture of Ashdod by Sargon (Is. xx, 1). He overran Phœnicia and Judah; captured Babylon; Merodach Baladan driven therefrom. Murdered, his son Sennacherib succeeding him. The latter marched into Phœnicia and Palestine; his armies overthrown before Jerusalem.
694. By means of a fleet manned by Phœnicians he destroyed the settlements of Merodach Baladan and his followers at the mouth of the Eulæus.
690. The combined Babylonian and Elamite power overthrown by Sennacherib, who, entering Babylon, gave it up to fire and sword. Subsequently he constructed various canals, aqueducts, and embankments.
681. He was murdered by his two elder sons. Esarhaddon, the younger son, defeated the forces of the two elder, and was proclaimed king. He subsequently rebuilt Babylon, residing alternately there and at Nineveh. His forces penetrated 280 miles into the desert of Northern Africa.
- 675-647. Esarhaddon invaded Egypt, captured Memphis, and subdued the country, which he divided into twenty satrapies. In B.C. 667 he died, and was succeeded by his eldest son Assur-bani-pal, *i.e.*, Sardanapalus. His brother Samas-sum-ukîn, who was under-king of Babylon, was leader of a rebellion in B.C. 652; Babylonia, Egypt, and Palestine, as well as other nations, made cause

* *Assyria*. Professor Sayce, p. 35, *et seq.* A great part of the data in this section are taken from that learned work.

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- against the common oppressor. Babylon was reduced by famine; Samas-sum-ukin immolated himself.
- 625-606. Nineveh destroyed by a combined Babylonian and Median army; the latter under Cyaxares.
- 604-561. Nebuchadnezzar captures Jerusalem, and led the Jews captive to Babylon.
- 538.* Under its last king, Nabonidus, Babylon is captured by Cyrus. Jewish captivity ended. Dan. v.
516. Revolt of Babylon; but reconquered by the Persians.
331. As a result of the battle of Gaugamela, Babylon and its territory became subject to Alexander.
268. Berossus, the Chaldean historian, flourished.

3. *Egypt.*

- 978-71. The twenty-second dynasty or Bubastides began (?)
- 971-966. Shishak or Sesonchis marched against Jerusalem and plundered that city.†
941. Zera, king of Ethiopia (and of Egypt) marched against Asa, king of Judah, but was defeated by the latter.
770. Under Sabachus the Ethiopians rose to great power, and took possession of that country.
- 720-710. The twenty-fifth or Ethiopian dynasty under Sabachus or So, flourished.
- 719-712. Sethos, a priest of Hephaestus, usurped the sovereignty; he neglected and slighted his army, so that on the occasion of Egypt being invaded by Sennacherib the soldiers refused to fight against the latter; but with suddenly raised volunteers he obtained victory at Pelusium over the invaders. (2 Kings, chap. xix.)
- 700-670. After two years of anarchy the Dodekarchy was established, the kings composing it having been elected by the people. To these twelve rulers has been assigned the building of the Labyrinth, near Lake Moeris, to serve as their common place of burial. Wars among themselves were followed (B.C. 656) by the accession of Psammetichus of 26th dynasty as ruler over all Egypt. Historical uncertainty now ended; writing came into use; hieroglyphics were gradually forgotten.

* *Ancient History*, Schmitz, p. 600. Babylon captured B.C. 538, the Jews being permitted to return. In B.C. 536 the Decree on the subject was issued. See also *Helps to the Study of the Bible*.

† 1 Kings xiv, 25-28. 2 Chron. xii, 2-13. Dates differ by authorities referred to.

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616. Nechao, or Pharaoh Necho, attempted to connect the Nile and Red Sea (at Suez) by means of a navigable canal. The work was abandoned after 120,000 workmen had died on it.

In 608 he defeated Josiah at Megiddo and took Jerusalem. In 604 he was himself defeated by Nebuchadnezzar at Carchemish Circesium. He caused ships to be built both on the Mediterranean and Red Sea. His ships, navigated and manned by Phœnician sailors, having sailed from the Arabian Gulf, rounded Africa, returning to Egypt *viâ* Mediterranean.

594. Apries, or Pharaoh Hophra, sent an expedition against Cyprus, besieged the city of Sidon, and made himself for a short time ruler of nearly all Phœnicia and Palestine. Ezekie's prophecies against, xxix, 3; xvii, 15; xxx, 1-3. His subjects revolted against him, and offered the crown to Amasis, who was popular alike with the people and the army. The king retired to Upper Egypt, where for a time he maintained his power while the usurper was acknowledged by the rest of the country. Nebuchadnezzar availing himself of the state of civil war, invaded and devastated Egypt, defeated Apries, who was strangled by order of the conqueror.

570-526. Amasis conferred considerable privileges on the Greeks. In his reign Egypt enjoyed a prosperity greater than it had done under any of its native rulers. When he died the Persians were about to invade Egypt.

526. Psammenitus. His army pursued to Memphis by Cambyses, defeated, and thus Egypt overcome. An army sent by Cambyses against the Ethiopians (Soudanese), perished in the desert. Various revolts against the invaders took place, the first in B.C. 487, in the reign of Darius Hystaspes; but in B.C. 484 it was suppressed by his successor Xerxes; a second which lasted from B.C. 460 till B.C. 453, also proved unsuccessful. From circumstances not known, Egypt for a short time regained its independence under Amyrtaeus, the only king of the twenty-eighth dynasty. The last revolt occurred in about B.C. 358, but in B.C. 350 the country was reconquered by the Persians. Thenceforward Egypt remains during 286 years a portion of Persian dominions till—

332. When it is conquered by Alexander the Great.

287. Ptolemy Philadelphus began to repair the fresh-water canal made by Necho. Egypt powerful—famous for its flax.

284-246. Under Ptolemy II, Philadelphus Manetho, an Egyptian high priest and keeper of the sacred archives of Egypt,

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was ordered to transcribe into Greek the historical records contained in the Egyptian temples; the Greek version of the Old Testament (Septuagint) to be made.

4. *Persia.*

- 586-546. Period of Hystaspes.
 559-531. Persian monarchy founded by Cyrus.
 538. Cyrus conquers Babylon.
 530-526. Cambyses succeeds Cyrus. He conquers Egypt.
 521-486. Darius, son of Hystaspes, is king.
 498. Persians again masters of all Asia Minor.
 490. Persians defeated at Marathon.
 485-465. Xerxes.
 480. Is defeated at Artemesium and Salamis.
 479. His general Mardonius defeated at Plataea, and on same day Persians defeated at Mycala.
 334. The Persians defeated by Alexander on the Granicus.
 333. Battle of Issus.
 331. Battle of Gaugamela. End of the Persian empire under Darius III.

5. *Media.*

1230. First mentioned in history. Subdued by the Assyrians, under whom it continued 500 years.
 713. Threw off the yoke of Assyria.
 709-656. Under Deioces their king, the Medians founded Ecbatana (Hamadan).
 656-634. Phraortes made war against the Assyrian empire; he was killed in battle.
 634-594. Cyaxares reigned. Media invaded by Scythians. After twenty-eight years of subjection to them they were expelled. He allied himself with Nabopalassar, king of Babylon, and so captured Nineveh and subdued the Assyrian empire, extending conquest to Persia and Bactria.
 559. Cyrus usurped the throne of Media, and so became founder of the Persian empire, of which it became a province.

6. *Bactria.*

1230. Ninus, the Assyrian, marched an army into Bactria and took the country. (According to the Greeks.)
 1000. Period of Zoroaster.
 540. Submitted to Cyrus. One of his sons was appointed satrap. Thenceforward it was part of the Persian empire.
 328. Alexander conquered Bactria with other parts of Persia.

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256. The governor, Antiochus Theus, threw off the yoke of Alexander's successors, and proclaimed himself independent king of Bactria.
100. The overthrow of the Bactrian kingdom by the Scythians.

7. *Phœnicia.*

1255. About this period Tyre founded. Josh. xix, 29. The date of Sidon is lost in antiquity.
- 1100-800. Colonies from Tyre founded Gades (Cadiz), Corcyra, Carthage, and Utica, traded with Cassiterides (Scilly Islands); and Cornwall.
- 870-727. Tribute paid by Phœnicia to Assyria.
- 730-725. Shalmaneser IV, king of Assyria, invaded Phœnicia, but failed to subdue it.
720. Sennacherib captured various cities; he appointed Assyrian governors over Phœnicia, but did not annex it.
681. Phœnicia rebelled; the rebellion suppressed by Esarhaddon, king of Assyria.
- 672-668. The tributary king Baal rebelled against Esarhaddon, and became feudatory of Egypt under Tirhakah. In the latter year, together with twenty-one other kings, he submitted to Esarhaddon.
664. Another expedition sent by Assurbanipal against Tyre and other Phœnician cities, in which rebellions had arisen against Assyrian tyranny.
- 640-630. Phœnicia took decisive steps to cast off the Assyrian yoke, the latter power being moribund. Ezek. xxxviii, 2-7. In the latter year Phœnician independence was declared.
- 630-585. Its independence continued, and great prosperity attained. Ezek. xxvii. Meanwhile, for a short time it was tributary to Egypt.
- 605-595. Tyre besieged by Nebuchadnezzar; Phœnicia accepted suzerainty of Babylon.
585. Tyre surrendered upon terms. Line of Phœnician kings ended.
540. Phœnicia submits to Persia.
532. Western Asia, including Phœnicia, passed from Assyria to Persia.
332. Tyre taken and destroyed by Alexander. From that time the importance of Phœnicia decayed.*

* *Story of the Nations. Phœnicia.*

8. *Carthage.*

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- 819-814. Carthage founded by Dido, a Tyrian princess.
 550-480. Established colonies in Sicily, Sardinia, and Africa.
 Had become formidable at sea and on land.
 546-533. Carthage declared a free republic; formidable alike
 by land and sea. Contest with the Syracusans for Sicily.
 509. First commercial treaty with Rome when the latter had
 become a republic. Carthage commerce extended to
 Balearic Isles, Egypt, Britain, and coast of Guinea.
 480. The fleet defeated at Himera by the Greeks.
 410. War renewed in Sicily.
 348. A second commercial treaty with Rome.
 310. Carthage invaded by Agathocles.
 306. The ancient commercial treaty with Rome renewed for the
 second time.
 281. Mercenaries revolt and take possession of Messina.
 279. Carthage and Rome form a defensive alliance against
 Pyrrhus.
 264-241. First war of Carthage against Rome.
 264. Hiero concludes peace with Rome.
 262. Carthaginians in Agrigentum besieged by the Romans.
 Roman ships built after Carthaginian models.
 260. Roman fleet under Duilius defeated Carthaginians off
 Mylae.
 258-255. Various other defeats of Carthaginians by the Romans,
 at sea and on land. In the latter year, the Carthaginian
 army commanded by Xanthippus of Sparta, routed the
 Roman forces under Regulus.
 241. Sicily evacuated by the Carthaginians; it becomes the first
 Roman province.

9. *India.*

1100. The Vedas arranged in their present form.
 1000. Image worship by Hindoos began. The city of Canouj
 built.
 600. India tributary to Persia.
 559-480. The system of caste introduced among Hindoos.
 558-478 (as also 623). Assigned era of Gautama Buddha.
 512. Darius subdued the country of the Indus. India became
 the 20th province of the Persian empire, with the Indus
 as its frontier.
 500. Menu's code originally arranged.
 400. Delhi founded.

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377. A schism among the Buddhists. The northern Buddhists of Nepal, Thibet, China, and Japan, are the successors of the seceders; those of the southern division, namely, Ceylon, and Burmah, represent the other side.
357. Asoka ruled in Behar.
327. Alexander's expedition.
323. At Taxila (Rawul Pindee) a colony of Scythians founded.
- 312-306. Chandragupta, *i.e.*, Sandracottus, repelled a Scythian invasion of India.

10. *Greece.*

1184. Greek war against Troy.
1068. The first great Ionian emigration took place, led by Neleus.
1044. Further migration of Greek colonies to Asia Minor.
1000. Grecian states became gradually formed into city republics.
- 900-800. Age of Homer and Hesiod.
884. Olympic games instituted, or revived, by Iphitus and Lycurgus.
880. Lycurgus, the first legislator in continental Greece, established the constitution of Sparta.
814. Kingdom of Macedon founded by Caranus, a descendant of Hercules.
743. The first Messenian war began. It continued nineteen years.
732. Syracuse founded by a colony from Corinth.
682. The second Messenian war began. It lasted fourteen years.
623. Draco furnished the Athenians with a code of laws, the severity of which led to his own flight from that city.
594. Salamis recovered by the Athenians. Legislation of Solon.
570. Pythagoras, the philosopher.
562. Solon, Pisistratus, Lycurgus.
548. Thales of Miletus established the Ionian school of philosophy.*
535. Tragedy first performed in Athens by Thespis.
531. Pisistratus established in Athens a public library and public garden.
490. Invasion of Europe by Persians, and battle of Marathon.
480. Xerxes invaded Europe. Battles of Thermopylæ, Artemesium, and Salamis.
- 479-473. Socrates, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes.
- 440-430. Theucydides, Aristophanes, Hippocrates.

* He maintained that water or some liquid was the origin of all things. That there was one supreme mind distinct from the visible world, to which it imparted form and motion.

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- 434. Peloponnesian war.
- 430. The great plague at Athens.
- 414-413. Siege of Syracuse ; defeat of the Athenians.
- 404-401. Capture of Athens by Lysander. Battle of Cunaxa.
Retreat of the ten thousand.
- 355. Birth of Alexander the Great.
- 335. He invades Persia.
- 332. Tyre taken and Egypt subdued.
- 327. Alexander invades India.
- 306. Naval battle of Salamis in Cyprus.
- 301. The battle of Ipsus, which led to the break up of the
empire founded by Alexander.

11. *Rome.*

- 753. Rome founded.
- 746. Rhegium founded.
- 665. War against Alba. Duel between Horatii and Curiatii.
- 509. Tarquinius driven from Rome ; regal power abolished ; an
aristocratic republic established. First treaty between
Rome and Carthage.
- 390. Rome taken by the Gauls.
- 304. Via Appia, aqueduct, and canals through Pontine marshes
begun.

12. *Britain.*

- 1100. About this time Phœnicians traded with the Scilly Islands
and with Cornwall.
 - 484. Britain mentioned by Herodotus.
 - 480. Mentioned in relation to Carthaginian vessels sent for tin.
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The CHAIRMAN (Professor E. HULL, LL.D., F.R.S.).—I am sure you have already expressed, by your applause, the gratification you have had in listening to this very interesting communication, which shows us through what a vast and interesting period of time these wonderful people and their historic record can be traced back. I will invite discussion thereon after some communications have been read.

Captain F. PETRIE, F.G.S. (Hon. Secretary).—The first letter is from the President, who greatly regrets that he is detained at Cambridge and is therefore unable to be present.

The second is from the Rev. Dr. Legge (Professor of Chinese at Oxford), who says :—

“Many thanks for the proof copy of the interesting paper on ‘China’s place in Ancient History.’ I wish it were in my power to be present on Monday, but I am suffering from a persistent cold, which has kept me for several weeks almost entirely indoors. May I ask you to say to Surgeon-General Gordon how sorry I am not to be able to be present, to hear him read the paper.”

The third is a letter from a student of ancient history. He says :—

“In regard to this paper I would venture to remark that the mention of the law of Gravitation by Mencius 500 years B.C., and 2,000 years before Newton, may not necessarily imply that Newton’s theory of gravitation had been anticipated by Mencius.”

A MEMBER.—It may interest some present if the author will kindly give a sketch as to in what form and how the records referring to the early portion of Chinese history have been conveyed to us? Research is showing this in a special manner as regards the Babylonian and Egyptian records.

A VISITOR asked if there were many ancient records referring to Chinese intercourse with other nations.

The AUTHOR.—Of course a paper on so large a subject as mine must be but a summary and entirely tentative. The difficulties I had in arranging and formulating such data as I have given, I think will be understood by all scholars. One speaker asked as to how the ancient records were preserved. An account of that is given by many writers on China—first and foremost by our respected friend, Dr. Legge. The earliest form of Chinese writing is described as that of the “tadpole” character; the first idea of “writing” assigned to Fohi, who conceived it from observing the markings on the shell of a tortoise. About the time of Confucius, it appears that the records

of China extended to something like, if I remember rightly, 30,000 volumes. A short time before the date of Confucius, an Emperor came to the throne, who like a certain Egyptian monarch, desired it to be understood that history should begin with him; he gave stringent orders that all the existing records should be burned, and that all scribes and literary men should be put to death. I am speaking from memory; but many hundreds of the *literati* were put to death, and wherever any literature could be laid hold of it was burnt; but there were in China many men, as amongst ourselves, partial to literature and historic records. According to history, fragments and portions of old books in the possession of private individuals, were secretly preserved—many of them by being built up in the walls of houses and thus preserved for some centuries; when Confucius lived, and for some time after him, these records or fragments were got possession of, and from them the history of China was reconstructed. I believe that the treatises on the subject so conveyed to us were reconstructed with very great perfection. The whole story of the books which perished is related by Du Halde in his *History of China*, also by Gutzlaff in his history, and these authors also give the particulars under which the records of China were preserved and the history of this wonderful people reconstructed.

It seems to be a very suggestive circumstance, that dealing as Chinese historians have with Chinese history, through such enormously distant periods, how wonderfully reliable it is as compared with the history of other nations. There is less doubt—and in fact no difference of opinion among authorities on Chinese history that I have consulted. As regards Du Halde, Gutzlaff and others—Pauthier particularly—there is an absence of all difference in their statements, with regard to historical events in China. Certainly amongst authorities on history in connection with Western countries, including Egypt, Babylonia, and Assyria, there is no such clear concord; the more we enquire into these histories the more numerous are the great differences we see; but as I have stated, one intention of my paper is to bring about a re-study or re-comparison of the data, by the great authorities, and if in any way it has this effect, I shall be very well satisfied.

A visitor asked a question as to China's intercourse with other nations. I think I mentioned that about 1113 years B.C. the

navigation of the Chinese is considered to have extended as far as Egypt. If it extended to Egypt we may assume, I think, with good ground, that it included the countries between Egypt and China, that is to say, India and so on. When communication between China and the Western nations began has been the subject of a very interesting and learned work recently published. As evidences of this intercommunication it has been alleged that a great many of the silks used by the ladies of ancient Rome were imported from China; and we lately had a specimen of a small jar or bottle with a Chinese inscription which had been found with an Egyptian mummy. As to the letter asking about the word "gravitation," those who desire to see what I have stated are referred to Gutzlaff's *History of China*, vol. 1, page 208. It is simply the word that is there made use of. Gutzlaff does not discuss the application of the word though he italicises it. So far as I know, that is the first occasion on which the word itself has been used in literature.

May I conclude these remarks by mentioning a statement alleged to be historical that may be of interest to others. I daresay those who know it will bear me out in what I say.—It is related that about 600 years after the Christian era, the then reigning Emperor of China heard that there was a new religion of extreme excellence in the far west. Accordingly, an embassy was sent to the west in search of this new religion, which the then Emperor expressed a desire to introduce into his dominions. The embassy proceeded to its task, and having arrived in India they found the persecution of the Buddhists by the Brahmins was in full force. On being questioned the persecuted Buddhists were only too glad to say that they were the representatives of the new religion; indeed, as compared with the Hinduism, they are, and to put it briefly, the story is that these missionaries who were sent to the west in search of what we have every reason to believe was Christianity, returned to China in a sort of triumph carrying with them the Buddhist priests. It is an interesting speculation what China might have been to-day, if Christianity had been taken back, as we may believe was intended, instead of Buddhism.

Captain F. PETRIE, F.G.S. (Hon. Sec.).—The question of intercourse among nations in early times has been referred to, and the Chinese seem to have borne their part in such intercourse. I may

mention that in his work, *Western Origin of the Early Chinese Civilization*, by the late Professor Terrien de Lacouperie, that author refers to having discovered that, during the Chow dynasty, China had a trade to India from two ports on the Shantung promontory. As regards the efforts made at such intercourse by more Western nations, many ancient authors throw light on a considerable overland intercourse with India, etc., and research has already tended to prove that Egyptian and other ships manned by Sidonian sailors went eastward at least as far as the Malabar coast. In his reply the author of the paper has kindly referred to a Chinese bottle found in a mummy, of which I spoke at a late meeting. Since that meeting I have had communications on the subject of such bottles. So far as I have investigated, these bottles appear to be of three kinds, glass, delf, and porcelain; all have Chinese inscriptions, and are reputed to have been found in mummies or elsewhere in Egypt. The glass ones are modern, those of delf are of a coarser make, and may owe their origin to the fact that several hundred years ago a small colony of Chinese potters arrived in the capital of Persia, and in default of a better material made all their goods of delf; the bottle of which I showed the photograph is made of fine porcelain, and is in the collection of a correspondent living in the South of England, one well acquainted with Egypt, having had much to do with the natives during twenty years' residence there, and hence about the last person to be imposed upon. It was found as follows, a few years ago: he and two archæological friends discovered a mummy of early date. On carefully unrolling this the bottle in question was revealed and taken possession of by its present owner; the inscription upon the bottle is archaic, which is not the case with the other bottles referred to, and I conclude refers to the contents, which seem a dried-up pigment; for these reasons I think we may safely venture to say that this bottle helps to support the author's remarks as to the extent of Chinese intercourse with other nations in early times.

The CHAIRMAN.—The author of the paper has done valuable service by bringing together so many points in ancient history, and any that may criticise his work adversely will doubtless remember that he cannot be held responsible for mistakes and errors which other Chinologists—if I may use the word as regards his authorities—may have fallen into. I think we are all very much indebted to him for his interesting paper.

The meeting was then adjourned.