

he needs no support from anybody. Europeans often complain of want of work, but a Chinaman never does; he always manages to find something to do; consequently, beggars are but seldom met with amongst them.

All Chinamen can read, write, and cipher with facility. It is a curious sight to see book-keepers in the stores tallying up their accounts on a machine like a gridiron, with buttons strung on its bars, the different rows representing units, tens, hundreds, and thousands. With all the shopkeepers the value of the slightest article purchased is calculated in this way in dollars and cents with great rapidity. The studs are pushed about from place to place as fast as a musical performer's fingers travel over the keys of a piano.

The theatres, or (as they English it) the sing-song houses, are amongst their principal amusements, and exhibit the peculiar traits and character of these strange people. Being possessed of a language which may be termed the very music of speech, from its capabilities of modulation, great things might be expected; but the vocal music seemed to us of an extraordinary character, little resembling any description of sounds with which we were at all familiar. Pitched in the highest falsetto tone, the voice of the singer flies from note to note in the most singular manner, producing a very unearthly noise, which has no relation to any conceivable progression