

the body of the condemned sinner and the descending mallet. This struck me as a very quaint way of indicating merciful interposition by the Goddess. At this temple some women engaged in an act of religious devotion were pouring libations of some kind of spirit at the foot of one of the pillars.

At the bookshops close by the water-clock, a bookseller, from whom I had bought some books, presented me with an old wood block as a specimen at my request, and refused payment for it. Yet the Chinese are commonly accused of being universally grasping in their dealing.

The Government competitive examination buildings are astonishing for the large area which they cover, and the vast accommodation which they afford. It is singular that a similar institution should just now be in course of construction at a vast cost in Oxford. The Chinese examination halls cannot but recall to an English University man the close analogy which exists between Chinese methods of mental training and learned thought, and those in vogue at home. As in our own Universities, the main energies of the learned have been devoted to the study and reiterated translation into English of the mouldy and worm-eaten lore of a bygone age; so in China successive generations of students have for centuries devoted their lives to the acquisition of the antiquated philosophy of their remote ancestors, for the purposes of display in competitive examination. The reformation of the English Universities proceeds but slowly, and notwithstanding the hopeful movements now in progress in that direction, a period of very many years must necessarily elapse before all branches of knowledge shall be equally and adequately represented in them.

Like the examination halls, the great monastery at Honam was full of interest from its close resemblances to similar European institutions. We listened awhile to the evening service, intoned and chanted by the monks in their priestly vestments; a gong and a kind of wooden bell giving out a very sharp and short note when struck were used as an accompaniment. We were next shown the refectory; here was a small pulpit for the reading of pious books by one of the monks whilst the others are at dinner, just, for example, as at Tintern Abbey. Close by was the flower-garden of the monastery, where bright flowers were carefully grown, to be used to decorate the holy shrines. The principal flowers in blossom were very fine large red and yellow Cockscombs (*Amaranthus*), of which the gardener of the monastery was very proud, and which displayed pyramidal masses of blossom three or four feet in height. Not far from the garden is a fish-pond, and near by a small cremation house, where the bodies of monks