

human mind is appalled in any effort to take an inventory of this gigantic accumulation of records, annals, biographies, practical and scientific treatises, encyclopedias, literary and dramatic works, bibliographies, etc.

Furthermore, Chinese civilization has shown certain marked elements of permanency which are conspicuous by their absence from the great civilizations of the west. The great Sumerian and Babylonian civilizations of the Euphrates and Tigris valleys, the Sabaeen civilization of southern Arabia, that of Egypt, of ancient Greece and finally that of Rome, have collapsed and largely disappeared from the face of the earth. It is only in China that a truly permanent civilization was ever developed, that is, permanent in the sense that it would doubtless have persisted for indefinite millenia had not the western world invaded China both by force of arms and still more effectively by force of ideas, and caused, first the decay and finally the rapid disintegration of the whole Chinese civilization. It would seem worth while, while this ancient civilization still persists, while old-style Chinese scholars, steeped in the lore of past ages, still live, for the world to concern itself actively with the unsurpassed records to be found in China which, if studied by properly qualified scholars, would enable them to present a clear picture of just what were the vital principles of Chinese civilization.

Many of the basic discoveries utilized by all modern civilized people were made by the Chinese. The printer's art in its entirety from manufacturing of paper, printer's ink, blocks for printing and movable type, both engraved and cast, to the printing presses themselves, are all without doubt Chinese inventions. Is not printing on paper the basic art of civilization? The art, indeed, which renders civilization possible without which it could not persist in its present form?

Centuries ago the Chinese faced, and to a certain extent solved, the problems arising from pressure of population, that nightmare of statisticians and far-sighted statesmen. They have, unlike most other peoples, been able to maintain a stable and orderly society with a relatively high level of intelligence and culture in spite of a pressure of population probably not equaled anywhere else in the world. Doubtless one of the means which permitted them to maintain their relatively high civilization in the face of such an ominous pressure was the adoption, centuries ago, of a truly democratic civil-service system which actually opened all careers, even the highest administrative positions, to any young man, however humble his birth, provided only that he possess sufficient talent. The old-style Chinese examination has been contemptuously dismissed by many western educators who have not taken the trouble to investigate its action carefully by the statement that it did not give adequate training and was occupied with a stereotyped copying of the old traditions as embodied in the classical literature. As a matter of fact, the