

them, some change may take place in your opinion about the Chinese. The first that we produce is the following:—

“If on an ape a crown you fling,
Say, will that make the ape a King?”

No, indeed it will not; neither will a great name make a great man, nor riches a good man. This Chinese saying is one that may be turned to good account, and no bad thing will it be to commit it to memory. But here is another:—

“He who pursues an idle wish
But climbs a tree to catch a fish.”

That is, he goes the most unlikely way in the world to do himself any good, or to accomplish any desirable purpose. Hardly could any one have set forth in a more striking manner the folly of wasting our time in foolish wishes. Let us now try another saying:—

“Water and protect the root;
Heaven will watch the flower and fruit.”

A wise maxim is this, and one which may with confidence be relied on. He who ploughs and sows diligently, need not be over anxious about the harvest. He who honestly performs his duty, may safely trust the wisdom and goodness of his heavenly Father. The next saying is a singular one:—

“Few and simple be your words,
But your actions strong as swords.”

What a reproof is this to the proud boasters of the world, whose promises are always greater than their performances! Depend upon it, these Chinese are not such ignorant people as many suppose. Actions speak louder than words, and they know it. But let us proceed:—

“To seek relief from doubt in doubt,
From woe in woe, from sin in sin,
Is but to drive a tiger out,
And let a hungrier tiger in.”

The truth of this saying can scarcely be called in question. To hide one fault by another is both unwise and

wicked. Sin is overcome only when by God's grace we repent of it, abhor it, and forsake it. The next wise saying is the following:—

“Know you why the lark's sweet lay .
Man's divinest nature reaches?
He is up at break of day,
Learning all that nature teaches.”

Herein is set forth the value of rising early, and a love of nature. We should hardly think that the Chinese would care much about these things, judging by their appearance; but the love of nature is, more or less, implanted in every heart. We think that the Chinese are an odd people, and they no doubt return the compliment by thinking us much odder than themselves. We are now come to our last specimen:—

“There's no confusion in the springs
That move all sublunary things:
All harmony is heaven's vast plan;
All discord is the work of man.”

A sad pity it is that the Chinese, having the wisdom these lines imply, should not know that wisdom's first step is the fear of the Lord. And a still sadder pity it is, that, knowing so much, they should still be ignorant of Him, whom to know is eternal life. As yet, they may be said to be a Scriptureless and a Saviourless people.

The Chinese knew three of the most wonderful discoveries in the world long before Europeans knew them; printing, the mariner's compass, and the use of gunpowder: but if they knew some things that we knew not then, we know many things which they know not now. Let us take, then, their silks, their carving, their vermilion, and their tea, and send them, among other things, in return, the Gospel of the Redeemer; so that, having the means of grace and the hope of glory, they may be made wise unto salvation through faith in Him who died upon the cross, even our Lord Jesus Christ.