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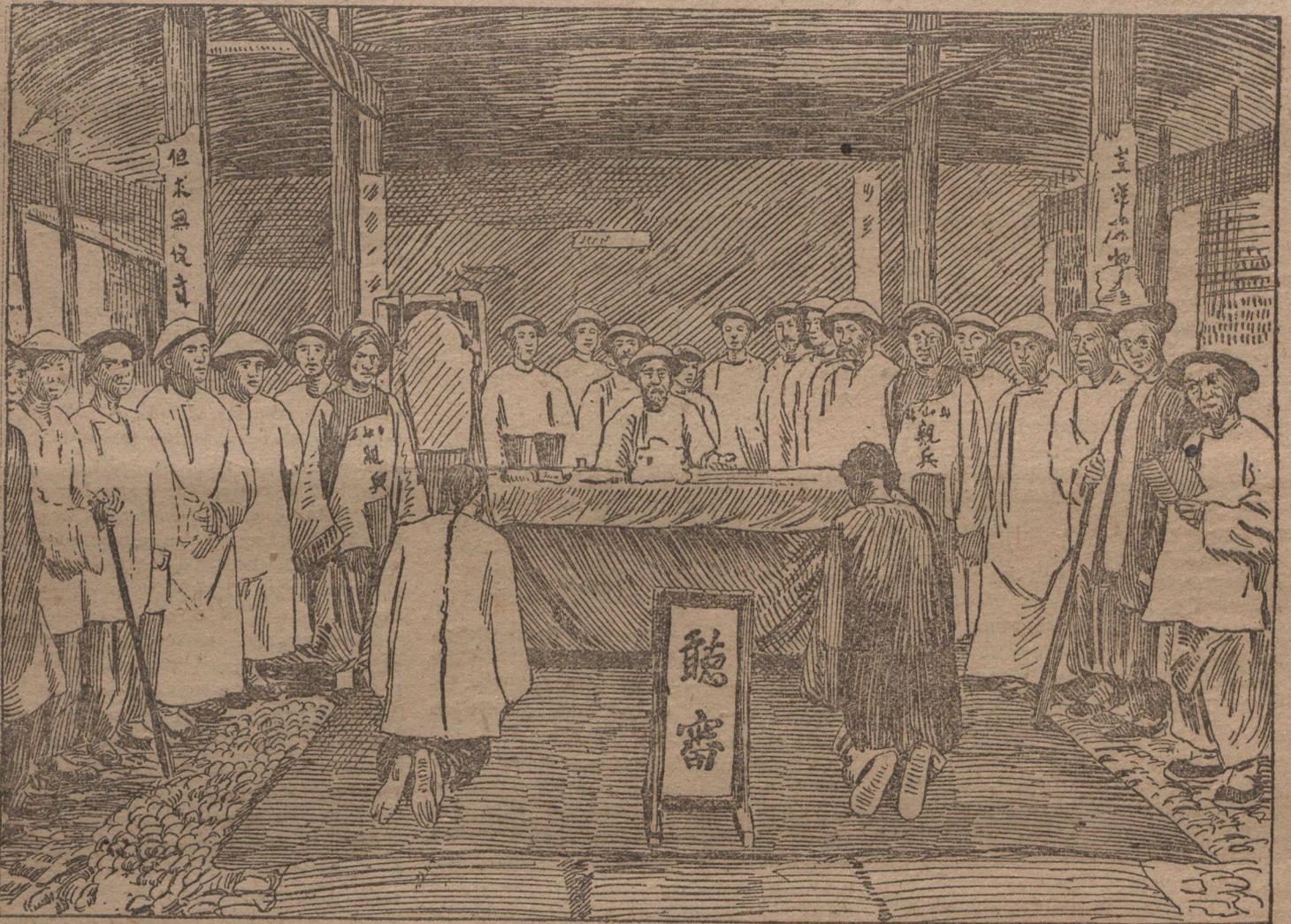
A Chinese Court of Justice.

In their legal affairs, as in other matters, the Chinese are peculiar. Under the patriarchal ideas which lie at the basis of the Chinese system of government, much larger powers are given to the judge of the court than is common with us. His power is, in fact, almost despotic, and limited only by the customary practices of Chinese courts. He can show great mercy or

court. The two kneeling figures are the criminal and the accuser: both alike show the greatest humility in the presence of the judge, and in cases where specially favorable consideration is desired, they prostrate themselves upon the floor. Witnesses give their testimony in the same position.

The proceedings of a Chinese court are usually in the form of personal interrogatories by the judge. In framing these the Chinese show great ingenuity. In impor-

questions is framed and asked. It is only the most adroit minds and most retentive memories which can pass a series of three sets of questions, purposely framed to interlace and interlock with each other, with clearness and success. This method is undoubtedly ingeniously contrived to elicit the truth, and to enable the judge to give a just judgment. It is also well calculated to wear out the spirits and patience of the contesting parties, and to bring a pressure upon them to offer bribes to the judge



he can exercise great severity; he can dispense justice or he can take bribes from the most wealthy party, and give the most unjust decisions without being called in question, unless his conduct should be too flagrant or his contributions to the support of the higher authorities too limited. The cut which we give of a Chinese court of justice is representative. The judge is the only one who is seated. Behind him and on either side, stand the officers of the

tant cases it is customary to have a long string of questions all written out. These are asked the culprit, and his answers are all taken down by the secretaries. He is then remanded to prison for a month or more, and another set of interrogatories is framed, ingeniously bearing upon the questions and answers at the previous session of the court. Again the questions are asked; again the prisoner is remanded to jail, and sometimes a third series of

for a speedy termination of the suit. With all the resources of family connections and personal supervision, which are customary in China, judges undoubtedly have excellent means of administering affairs, with justice and equity, if they are so inclined, but the lack of rigid responsibility allows the great corruption, which according to all accounts, is far too common in the court of justice in China.—'Baptist Missions Magazine.'

Raising a Building Fund in China.

(The Rev. G. E. Whitman, Kiaying, China.)

Since my report to Dr. Barbour in June, following attempts to spend a few days with my family, first at Kakchieh and then at Double Island, I have had two very profitable and pleasant periods vis-

iting the churches in the Munkheuliang region. One or two experiences there may be worth relating.

Each time I spent a Sunday at the station of Hopho, opened at the end of last year. The building in which the meetings are held belongs to one of the Christians, and is occupied without charge until a chapel can be built. The first Sunday I had intended to spend elsewhere, and had

made engagements to that effect; but a delegation came after me reporting that on that Sunday the time would be ripe to start a subscription for the chapel, and if the opportunity was allowed to pass, such a favorable time might not come again soon. After due consideration I cancelled my previous engagement and went.

At the close of the morning service the work for which my presence was so earn-