

expression, though I doubt whether many of our own philosophers could have seized and followed them.

His familiarity with the Chinese language and the Chinese system of writing gave him no doubt a great advantage, because that language, with its peculiar system of half-pictographic and half-classified writing, might well suggest the idea and the possibility of a universal language. And yet a Chinese from Canton would hardly understand a Mandarin from Nan-king, because they each pronounce the same written signs so differently. If an Englishman and a German saw in an astronomical work the signs ☉ ● ⊕, they would know at once that they meant sun, moon, and earth. But the German would pronounce it *Sonne*, *Mond*, and *Erde*; the Englishman, *sun*, *moon*, and *earth*. That is the difference in the pronunciation of Chinese writing, in the south and north of that country.

Again, a Frenchman who saw the Chinese signs or words ☉ 月 山 犬 would say at once, *soleil*, *lune*, *montagne*, and *chien*, but the Englishman would read, *sun*, *moon*, *mountain*, and *dog*. When an Englishman pronounces 899 as *eight hundred and ninety-nine*, a German would read *achthundert neun und neunzig*, but both would understand just the same thing. However, this subject, though it is very clear and simple, would carry us too far at present, and I can only say that I shall not easily forget the intelligent sharp eyes of my Chinese visitor when he perceived that I understood what he meant, and when he began to see the difficulties also which I pointed out to him in his great undertaking, difficulties which had frightened even Leibnitz, and made him say that he would want the help of several academies to enable him to carry out his scheme of a universal language.

An equally startling visitor was a Buddhist monk that came to visit me at Oxford. He was a splendid-looking man, tall, strong and very handsome, nay beautiful. He wore an unspotted yellow silk dress, that fell like a Greek tunic from his shoulders to his feet. His face had all the Greek nobility, but