

local paper

STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR KIANG KANG-HU ON THE DESTRUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL PRESS
AND THE ORIENTAL LIBRARY IN CHAPEI, SHANGHAI.

In the recent calamity of the Japanese attack on Chapei, the northern section of Greater Shanghai, apart from the wholesale destruction of Chinese private property and the massacre of innocent civilians, women and children, an even greater loss to China and to the world at large is the bombardment of the Commercial Press Company and the Oriental Library.

The Commercial Press Ltd. is purely a Chinese business concern and is known as the largest publishing house in the world today. It is the largest, not in the sense of its capital which is less than ten million silver dollars, but in its size - employing 15,000 men and women - and the quantity of its annual output of text books and other literary works amounting to many million copies or volumes.

This Company celebrated its 35th birthday last Spring. All the shareholders, the chief officials and the great majority of the workers are Chinese. The headquarters of its managing and editorial departments, together with its main printing plant, are on Paoshan Road, Chapei, while its sales department is in the foreign settlement in Shanghai Proper. The printing plant covers 20 acres of land in the most congested part of the city, with fourteen groups of modern buildings. It consists of all working divisions related to the art of printing and bindery, all done by up-to-date machinery imported chiefly from America and Germany. With the Chinese more than one hundred foreign experts are employed, including Japanese.

The Oriental Library was at first attached to the Commercial Press and was known as the Han Fen Lou Library. Ten years ago the Company, with the help of the local self-government, provided a special fund and erected a large modern building of six stories as its new home. The entire collection of the Han Fen Lou was then moved into it and the library was renamed with an elaborate opening ceremonial. Thenceforth the library has been open to the public and has received many large donations of both official and private publications. It handles also the safe