

and Mr. Mien Woo, after reading the prefaces, summarize the nature of this work as follows:

In order to counteract the tendency toward the total neglect and decline of the old classical studies, Dr. Philip T. Y. Sze led a group of men to establish an Institute of National Culture and invited T'ang Wên-chih, the chief compiler of this work, to be its president. As a result of this he has, with the assistance of others, compiled this work. Its distinctive feature is an attempt to simplify the interpretations of the previous commentators and writers which are difficult of understanding to the young students. In his preface the author argues that the decline of interest in classical studies should not be attributed to the difficulty of understanding the classics themselves but rather to the fault of the commentators who in interpreting frequently distorted and obscured the classics instead of explaining or clarifying them. This work represents an attempt to remedy this defect and make them clear to youthful minds.

It is fortunate that Chinese scholars are inclined more and more to present copies of important works like this to the Library of Congress, where they will be available to western scholars.

Among such gifts is a beautiful edition of *Hêng p'u wên chí*, the collected writings of Chang Chin-ch'êng (tzu Tzu-shao), a scholar of the Sung dynasty. It is a reprint of a famous Ming edition, apparently dating from 1614 A. D. The author lived during the Sung dynasty and is known principally as the author of a work on the philosophy of Mencius; this work, as well as the *Hêng p'u wên chí*, was considered worthy of being included in the great *Ssu k'u ch'üan shu* collection. The main collection is in 20 books, but there are four supplements and five folios of correction of errors, etc.

Literary collection of a Sung scholar.

At the end of the last volume there is a postface written by Chang Yuan-chi in 1925, the retired general manager of the Commercial Press Ltd., the largest publishing establishment in China, and perhaps in the entire world, and himself a descendant of Chang Chin-ch'êng. The gift of this beautiful edition of the works of one of his remote ancestors is only one of the numerous friendly acts performed by Mr. Chang Yuan-chi to show his great interest in and sympathy with the Chinese collection rapidly being built up in the Library of Congress. The complete work, with its appendices, is bound in eight