

**CHINESE WITHOUT A TEACHER:
BEING A COLLECTION OF EASY
AND USEFUL SENTENCES IN THE
MANDARIN DIALECT WITH A
VOCABULARY**

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Chinese without a teacher: being a collection of easy and useful sentences in the Mandarin dialect with a vocabulary by Herbert A. Giles

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HERBERT A. GILES

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CHINESE WITHOUT A TEACHER

BEING A COLLECTION OF

EASY AND USEFUL SENTENCES

IN THE MANDARIN DIALECT

WITH A VOCABULARY

BY

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FIFTH AND REVISED EDITION.



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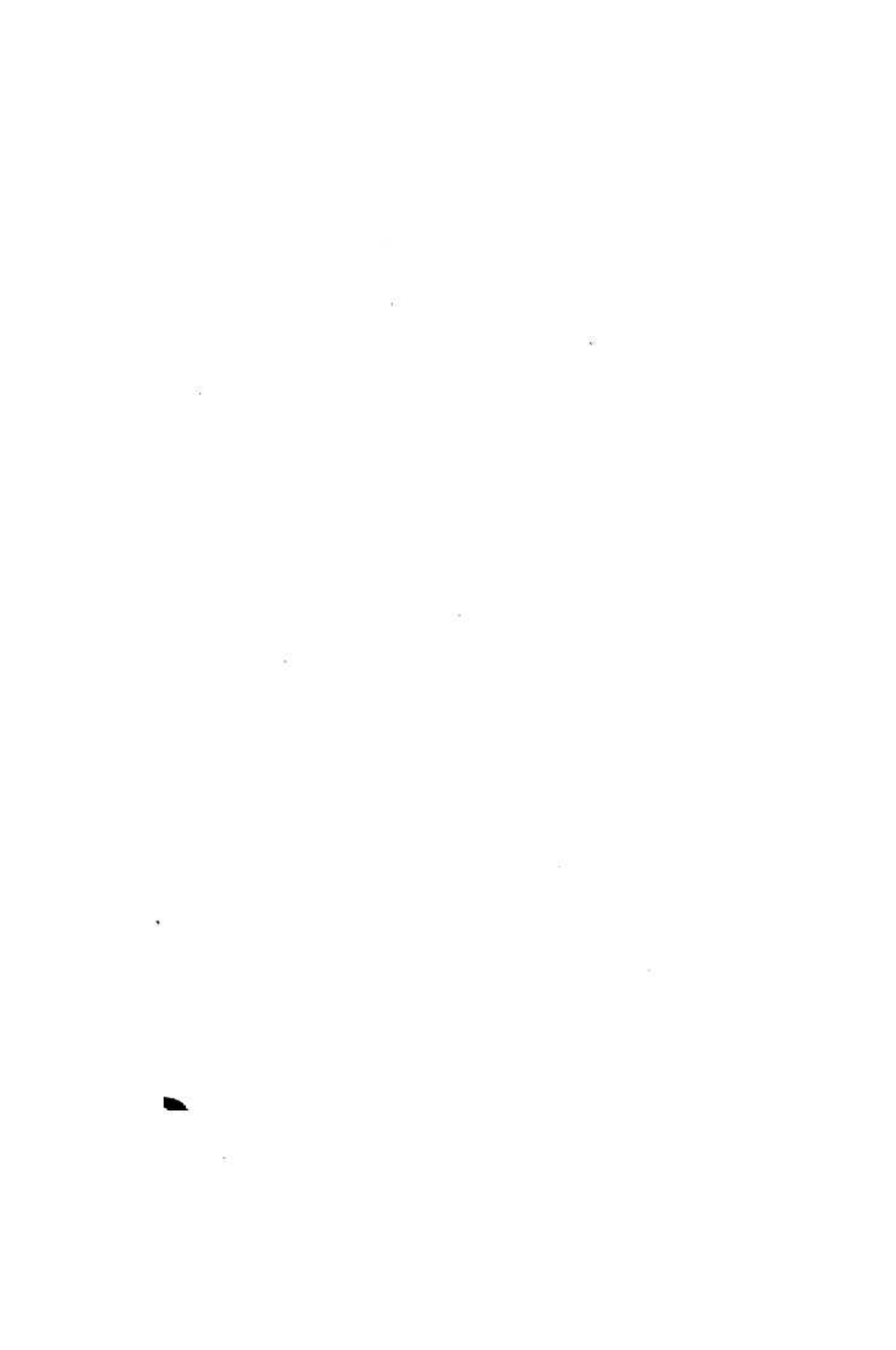
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2

Dedication



TO THE LADIES AND TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE
MERCANTILE, SEA-FARING, AND SPORTING
COMMUNITIES OF CHINA,
MANY OF WHOM I HAVE SO OFTEN HEARD EXPRESSING REGRET AT NOT KNOWING
"A FEW WORDS OF CHINESE,"
OR HAVE SEEN TURNING AWAY DISHEARTENED
FROM THE ELABORATE SYSTEMS OF LEARNED SINOLOGUES,
I OFFER THE FOLLOWING PAGES



PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

THE following Lessons and Vocabulary are intended to assist those who wish to acquire quickly a temporary or superficial knowledge of the Chinese language as spoken in the northern provinces, and by educated people all over the Empire. ✓

The orthography, if such it may be called, is an attempt to express, so far as possible, Chinese sounds in simple English.

The Chinese vowel-sound *ü* is the only one which cannot be even approximately expressed, and the reader is therefore requested to pronounce it like the French *u*, or the German *ü*. ✓

With regard to words like *shirt* or *sir*, pronounce exactly as in English, stopping short at the romanised letters, *i.e.* not sounding them; and observe that, were it not for those romanised letters, *si* would be pronounced *sigh*, and *shi*, *shy*. Thus *ki* is to be pronounced as the *ki* in *kine*; *kui* as the *qui* in *quite*.

So, whenever *a* occurs, followed by *h*, or by *h* and other letters, the sound must be always that of the exclamation *ah!*

Remember, too, that as *ow* is pronounced throughout as in the words *how* and *now*, *show* must be read in the same manner, and not *sho*, which sound is already provided for.

Again, *to* is to be pronounced like one's big *toe*, and not *too*; and in *dzi*, and all words ending in *i*, the *i* is to be read like the 9th letter of the alphabet, and not *e* or any fancy sound. Above all, not like the *y* in *beauty*, that sound being itself of frequent occurrence.

Be careful to aspirate where an aspirate is required. There is a great difference between *choo* and *ch'oo*. To make sure, some speakers pronounce the first almost like *joo*.

But to multiply observations and rules is to do the very thing it is so desirable to avoid; I therefore leave the rest to the patience and common sense of those for whom these sentences and vocabulary have been composed.

H. A. GILES.

H.B.M. CONSULATE,
TIRINTSIN, 26th October 1872.

INDEX



	<i>Page</i>
The Numerals	1
The Tourist... ..	8
The Merchant	7
General	11
Do.	27
Do.	81
The Housewife	18
The Sportsman	19
Do.	29
In a Shop	21
Buying Curios	28
The Sailor	25
Grammar	88
Vocabulary	85