

**THE CHINESE BOOK OF  
ETIQUETTE AND CONDUCT FOR  
WOMEN AND GIRLS, ENTITLED.  
INSTRUCTION FOR CHINESE  
WOMEN AND GIRLS**

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The Chinese Book of Etiquette and Conduct for Women and Girls, Entitled. Instruction for Chinese women and girls by Lady Tsao

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**LADY TSAO**

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Women and Girls**



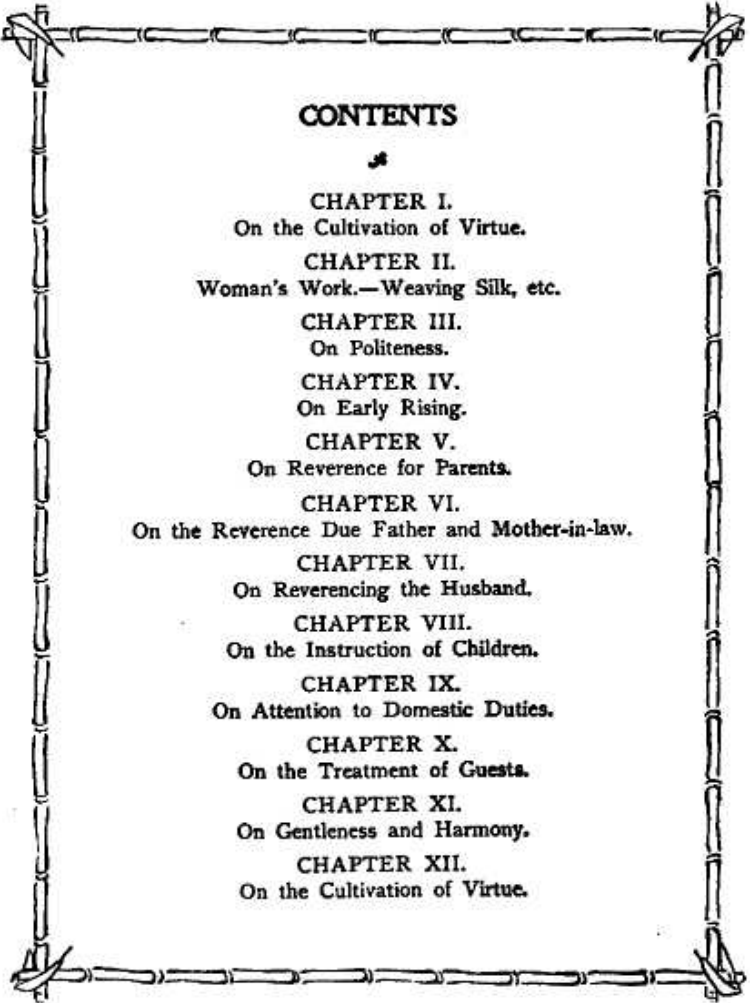
By  
**LADY TSAO**  
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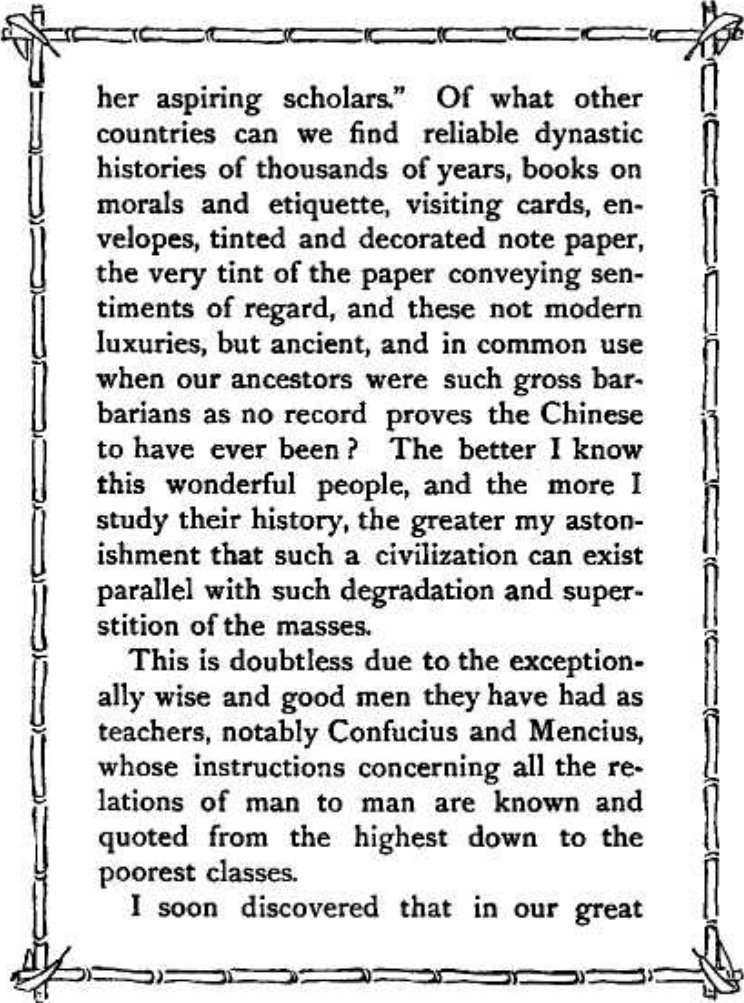
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## PREFACE

**F**EW people in the West have any intelligent conception of the remarkable civilization that has existed in China for hundreds of years, and this in strange contrast with her squalor, poverty, and heathenism.

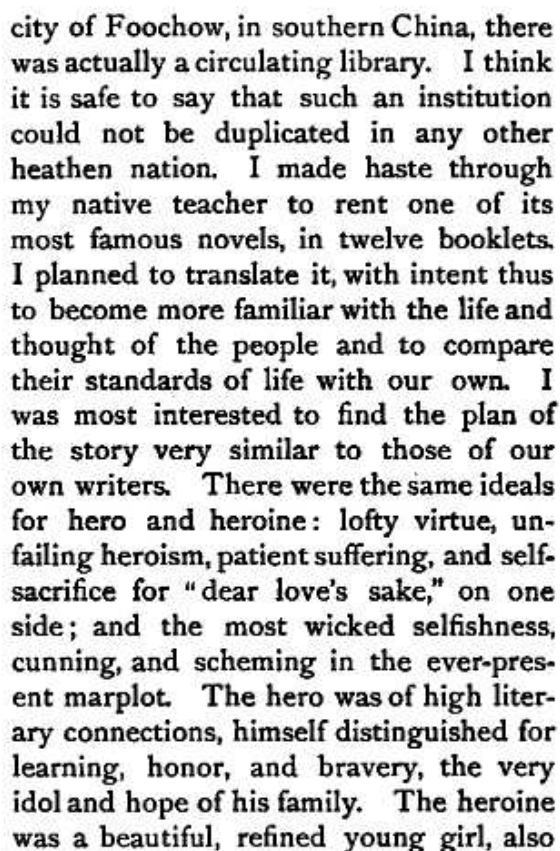
How little is known, save by a very few, of her reverence for parents, age, letters, and law ; of her teachers, schools, colleges, literary chancellors and degrees ; and that it is true in that great empire that the humblest may rise to be second only to the emperor if he has the ability. A literary aristocracy leads all others ; indeed, leaves no place for any other, and it is far more to have a literary degree than to be a millionaire. "Twice six hundred years has China's famed Hanlin Academy existed and been the Mecca of



her aspiring scholars." Of what other countries can we find reliable dynastic histories of thousands of years, books on morals and etiquette, visiting cards, envelopes, tinted and decorated note paper, the very tint of the paper conveying sentiments of regard, and these not modern luxuries, but ancient, and in common use when our ancestors were such gross barbarians as no record proves the Chinese to have ever been? The better I know this wonderful people, and the more I study their history, the greater my astonishment that such a civilization can exist parallel with such degradation and superstition of the masses.

This is doubtless due to the exceptionally wise and good men they have had as teachers, notably Confucius and Mencius, whose instructions concerning all the relations of man to man are known and quoted from the highest down to the poorest classes.

I soon discovered that in our great



city of Foochow, in southern China, there was actually a circulating library. I think it is safe to say that such an institution could not be duplicated in any other heathen nation. I made haste through my native teacher to rent one of its most famous novels, in twelve booklets. I planned to translate it, with intent thus to become more familiar with the life and thought of the people and to compare their standards of life with our own. I was most interested to find the plan of the story very similar to those of our own writers. There were the same ideals for hero and heroine: lofty virtue, un-failing heroism, patient suffering, and self-sacrifice for "dear love's sake," on one side; and the most wicked selfishness, cunning, and scheming in the ever-present marplot. The hero was of high literary connections, himself distinguished for learning, honor, and bravery, the very idol and hope of his family. The heroine was a beautiful, refined young girl, also