

**CHINESE STORIES FOR
BOYS AND GIRLS,
AND CHINESE WISDOM
FOR OLD AND YOUNG**

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Chinese Stories for Boys and Girls, and Chinese Wisdom for Old and Young by Arthur E. Moule

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AND

CHINESE WISDOM FOR OLD AND YOUNG

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WITH TEN ENGRAVINGS



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PREFACE.

A CHINESE story-book lies before me. It is in two volumes, containing in all one hundred and two stories, with a picture to illustrate each tale. This is a very popular work in China, and many editions are published by rich people for free distribution. I am acquainted with the gentleman in Hangchow who superintended the cutting of the blocks for this edition. Anyone can have a copy gratis on application at the publishing office, or at mere cost price, if he prefers to pay.

I give to my readers a few specimens of these stories. They all have one object, namely, the illustration of filial and fraternal duties.

The plates in this little book are facsimile copies of the outline illustrations in the Chinese original.

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CHINESE STORIES.

CHAPTER I.

A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION.

ALLOW me to introduce to you two hundred millions and more of Chinese boys and girls.

I must not attempt to give you all their names. That would take too long altogether. I can only mention one or two, and my readers must imagine the rest.

Here comes Master "Long-lived King," and Master "Glorious Light Summer." Here is Miss "Beautiful Gem Place," and Miss "Beautiful Phoenix Bell." Then there are nicknames, and pet names, and the babies have what the Chinese call "milk names,"

like our "Tiny," "Dot," and so on. But the superstitious Chinese, being afraid of the evil eye, and of calamity following if they choose too high sounding names, often call their children by some mean title, in order to avoid the envy of evil spirits. So one is called "Little Dog," and another "Hill Dog," "Old Cow," and so on. These milk names and nicknames sometimes cling to them through life. A tailor whom we employed in Ningpo was called "Dog the Tailor."

But a mother's love and pride often overcome these foolish fears, and "The Precious One" is a common name for a little girl or boy; or "Threefold Happiness," meaning "much joy, many sons, much money"—the Chinese ideal of threefold or perfect bliss. Sometimes convenience guides the selection of names, and the child is called simply "Number One," "Number Five," and so on. Then, when the boys go to school, (there are no schools for girls except mission schools in China) they have a *book-name* selected by the master, and written on the