

Dr. Lacouperie
Chinese Dept
Chinese

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638 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.,

May 9, 1892.

Prof. Wm. R. Harper.

My dear Dr. Harper,-

Congratulating you upon the amazing success of the great university which you have been called to organize and build up, let me hope that the trustees are going to have at least one professorship of the language of the greatest nation next to our country, on its western side. There certainly ought to be one professorship of the Chinese language and literature, and I know of no one who has mastered and applied the modern principles of linguistic study and investigation to the Chinese language, more than Professor Terrien De Lacouperie. I have kept track of his work for several years past, and know that he is a thoroughly accomplished scholar, especially strong in the antiquities of the Chinese history and language, and in their connection with the early Central Asiatic civilization. Furthermore, as the great sources of information are found in literature, such an occupant of the professorial chair would not be dependent, when in America, on museums and collections, but could bring his material with him. I should be very glad if you would consider the claims and qualifications of Professor Terrien De Lacouperie; but even apart from his name and personality I should be

exceedingly glad if you would use your great influence to have a
chair of the Chinese language and literature endowed in the new
university of which the world is expecting so much.

With the best-wishes for your health and success, I remain,

Faithfully yours,

Wm Elliot Miffis.

de Lacourperie
Auril
MRS
My dear President

136 Bishop's Road S.W.
London 15 Mar. 1892

When I had the pleasure of dining with you the 30th Sept. last, and calling on you the 9th of Oct., it was spoken of a professorship which you would arrange for me in your new University of Chicago.

I had mentioned to you the circumstances which compelled me to find another post, and I referred to the prospectors about another of your Universities for which I did not care much because of the narrow mindedness of the spirit which rules them. These prospectors I dropped altogether after our first conversation.

You said to me that your professorships would be £500 or £600 a year, but that you did not foresee the possibility for the chair spoken of for me to begin

with the highest salary, and £ 500 or 2500 \$ was the figure spoken of.

All this was mentioned on the 30 Sept. When I had the pleasure of seeing you on the 4th of Oct., I asked you if you had thought over the matter, and what conclusion you had come to. You told me that you had personally decided that I should come with you to Chicago, and this I agreed to most willingly, because I am convinced that there is a great future for scientific researches and progress in America, in my line of study. I had mentioned to you previously that it was rather hard for me to have to wait, and on the second occasion I referred again to the same thing, but as it could not be helped, it was arranged that I should wait and I promised to do so, however difficult it is for me.

I had mentioned also that a certain

sum, a few thousand \$ would be required for the acquisition of the necessary number of standard Chinese works in the library of the University, and this you agreed to.

The exact denomination of the professorship was not settled; it might be History and Literature of Eastern Asia, or Chinese language and literature, or History and Philology of Eastern Asia. Perhaps that the first might be more suitable because of its large scope. In a new University of this importance matters concerning one fourth of mankind cannot be left aside. With the increase of the numbers of students, we might add in future years, under that professorship, native teachers of colloquial Chinese, Japanese &c as required.

You said to me that you had to make some arrangements with your Council, financial and others, and that the matter could not be settled before your coming over here, ? this month or the next?

Now, my wife had the pleasure of calling on Mrs Harper last month, when she was passing through here, and I understand that her going over at present will preclude your coming here. Moreover I understand that, half of your professors are already appointed.

Although I know that you shall open the University only in October, I venture to write to say that I should consider ~~to~~ a great favor from you to me if you could hasten the arrangements concerning my appointment. Should you require in my favor the commendation of several scholars of eminence, I know that I could secure their opinion on the matter. Is it necessary that some articles should be written in the State. You know better than me, if my name is known there.

I hope your health is good notwithstanding the exertion required by your organization, and that Mrs Harper is also well.

Yours very sincerely
William A. Carpenter

1275 Sixth Ave. ^{Larimer}
East Oakland, Cal.

Apr. 17th 1899.

(21)

~~Chinese~~ Wm R. Harper,
President University of Chicago.

My dear Sir: -

I presume you wish to hear from me with special reference to my qualifications as teacher of the Chinese language. In the first place, I was born in China - of American parentage - at once in a position to secure the two-fold advantage of early acquiring the Chinese language from the best of Chinese teachers and under the guiding hand of American educators; my parents having been teachers as well as missionaries. With this guidance, I sought from early childhood to converse with the better classes of Chinese, those whose pronunciation was the purest. Taught thus to be careful from the first, I was enabled in course of time to speak the language with a degree

1275 South Ave.
San Antonio, Tex.
Apr 14, 1899

(18)

Wm. R. Chapin
President University of Chicago

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of Chinese, those whose pronunciation was the
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time to speak the language with a degree

of purity and precision denied even to many of the Chinese themselves. Then with English spoken at home as well as Chinese, I learned to speak these two languages about the same time, with the result that I could think in either language, expressing my thoughts in the one language as readily as in the other, in either case using idiomatic language, in neither case, resorting to mental translation. I had the fortune of being so situated as to be able not only to know the meaning of individual words as they appear in vocabularies, but also to be familiar with the genius of the language.

Then as to the use to which I put this knowledge of the two languages. I early developed a desire to teach. I am this year thirty-six. Twenty-six years ago I taught all the English I then knew to the younger members of the famous family of Hongqua's in South China. Every opportunity I had I

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languages. I can this year study two
to teach. I am now twenty-five years ago I thought all the
English I then knew to be German members
of the famous family of Shakespeare in
South China. Every opportunity I have I

taught, acquiring new knowledge all the time, but imparting as I acquired. This has been going on for the last twenty-six years. My first English education I got from my parents, when the text-book used was mainly the Bible. Later on I went to school in Hong Kong. Later on in Australia, where my step-father was Superintendent of the Presbyterian Missions to the Chinese in Victoria. Before leaving Victoria for California I became a teacher in the Ballarat High School - teaching English. We came to California in 1882, when I combined teaching the two languages with interpreting and translating for the United States Government. In 1885 I was persuaded to go North - to British Columbia - to translate certain Chinese documents in the most important suit that was ever tried in the province. I went North, and when the suit was over, I remained to organize mission schools to the Chinese, the

to organize Mission schools to the Chinese, and when the first was over, I remained for some time in the province. I was with documents on the most important and the most interesting and valuable for the United States Government. In 1875 I was permitted to go North - to British Columbia - to translate certain Chinese documents to go North - to British Columbia - to translate certain Chinese documents. He came to California in 1882, when I combined teaching the two languages with interpreting and translating in the Holloman High School - teaching California for California. Before leaving to the Chinese in Victoria. Before leaving Victoria for California I became a teacher Superintendent of the Presbyterian Mission in Victoria, where my step-father was English in Strong Town. Later on in the school in Strong Town. Later on I was from my parents, when the first book was years. My first English education I got has been going on for the last twenty-five years, but participating as I acquire. This taught acquiring new knowledge all the

not then being one in the whole province. Finding no suitable person to leave the schools with, I remained some ten years, during which time I studied for the ministry, was ordained, and before leaving was made Superintendent. For part of the time I supported myself by being interpreter and translator for the Canadian Government.

In the autumn of 1897, I spent my vacation in Eastern Canada and the Atlantic states, visiting my ancestral home in Massachusetts.

At New York, I was appointed Professor to take charge of the English Department in the Canton College in Canton, China by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. The climate of South China however, being deemed by the doctor too severe for Mrs Gardner, I was obliged to relinquish the appointment. Upon my return to British Columbia, I accepted a

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call to resume work in California, being now Interpreter and Translator for the United States Government, Associate-Pastor of the Rev. Dr. Condit (Superintendent of the Presbyterian Chinese Missions on the Pacific Coast) and Instructor of Chinese in the University of California, teaching particularly the commercial dialects of Chinese as Prof. Fryer is teaching the official dialect.

Now as I intimated to you in the short conference we had in the Palace Hotel - our only "opportunity" for conferring - I am desirous of giving up interpreting and translating for governments, so as to restrict my energies hereafter to teaching and engaging in literary work. The literary work that I have in mind is the bringing out of a work on the "Structure of Chinese Characters," designed to aid the mastering of the written language of China - one that

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"Character," designed to aid the mastering
one of a work on the "Structure of Chinese
has I have in mind as the grouping
in literary work. The literary work
thereafter to teaching and engaging
government, so as to reflect any changes
up with existing and translating for
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the Palace Hotel - our only "opportunity"
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I have as I anticipated to

teaching the officer details
of Chinese as Prof. Hayes is
particularly the common and
the University of California
and Jack tests Chinese literature
Prof. Hayes (Professor)
of the Pacific Coast
of the Presbyterian Chinese Mission
of the Rev. Dr. Gordon Superintendent
States Government, Associate-Editor
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shall contain all the useful words of the language, (upon which I have already spent a good part of many years). I am desirous also of giving to the world a complete translation of the Imperial History of China. The late Dr. Legge, for many years, Professor of Chinese at Oxford made the world his debtor by furnishing a complete English translation of the thirteen classical works of China. As yet, the English speaking world looks in vain for a complete translation of the Imperial History of China, from which so much can be learned. It is my ambition to be where I can devote all my time to preparing and delivering lectures to classes on these two topics - language and history of China, the combined notes of which shall eventually form text-books. It will give me very

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China on this topic - language
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notes of which shall eventually form
two books. It will give me very

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much pleasure if these works can some day go forth under the auspices of the University of Chicago. In view of the opening up of China, the prospecting increase of opportunities for trade, and so forth, a knowledge of the language and customs of the Chinese people will be increasingly desirable.

As to my method of teaching the Chinese written language, I might add that in general terms it is analytic; i. e. I resolve every character into its component parts, giving the 'why and wherefore' of its existence. In this way, I leave my pupils in an investigating frame of mind, bristling with interrogation points, never willing to take anything for granted, satisfied only after a thorough grasp of the subject has been secured. When they say they know a Chinese character, it means more than that they can read or write it - it means they

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our customs of the Chinese people
as fact, a knowledge of the language
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of the opening up of China, the possibilities
University of Chicago. In view
to first make the subject of the
much pleasure if these words can come day

have completely mastered it, just as much as the Chinaman who first put the character together. My pupils tell me this method gives them pleasure as well as profit.

It remains for me but to say that as far as I know, I am the only American in the United States who knows the written as well as the spoken language of China, - and who has a strong natural inclination to impart that knowledge to others.

As to my qualifications, I have much pleasure in referring you to the Chinese Consul General now residing in San Francisco and Mr. Arthur Rodgers, a regent of the University of California.

I am

Very respectfully yours,
Jno. Endicott Gardner.

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Rogers, a representative of the University of California.
I am

Very respectfully yours
Geo. Easton