

## CHAPTER XXI

### THE CHINESE STUDENT <sup>1</sup>

FORMERLY I considered the want of discipline and unnecessary number of soldiers was China's chief trouble ; I have now come to the conclusion that the students are an even greater evil, certainly from the point of view of the foreigner.

The student, usually a wretched half-baked creature who argues like a small child without fear of correction, has no solid basis of education to help him. He picks up a smattering of foreign learning, which enables him to pose without difficulty as a superior being among his own people, who therefore fear him, whilst before the foreigner he realises his inferiority, causing him a loss of face and turning him to anti-foreign feelings at heart.

If the students were under a strong foreigner, not afraid of them, the foreign trained student in China would, no doubt, benefit, but, when he is under weak foreigners, afraid to stand up to him in a fight to a finish, the student gets the upper hand and the prestige of the foreigner sinks. He judges that all foreigners are weak in the same way, and the more this feeling takes root, the more anti-foreign and dangerous he becomes.

<sup>1</sup> Written by General Pereira in 1923.