

Unfortunately, from my own experience, by far the greater number of foreign teachers I have met, in native or foreign-run schools and universities, have proved to be weak. They are handicapped by being generally poor and dependent on their salaries from Chinese officials or foreign societies. If they put up a fight to a finish in a Chinese-run institution they will probably be forced to give up their jobs, whilst in the foreign-run institution there is the danger of the students going out in a body, with the onus to the teachers of being made responsible for the collapse of the school.

The Chinese are past-masters in the art of asserting themselves by combination, and, as a result of successful strikes and threats in the past, they have gradually got to realise their own strength and the weakness of Chinese officials and foreign teachers in the face of organised opposition, the only thought of the latter being to check the evil by temporising and concessions.

The Chinese student is the result of the zeal of the foreigner for bringing the Chinese up to modern requirements, and, I think, the very large bulk of foreigners now regrets his arrival.

It is curious how the Chinese mind is diverted into the wrong channels. China rose to its highest prosperity under the Han dynasty, roughly from 200 B.C. to A.D. 200; they themselves look upon this as their most glorious epoch, and even to this day speak of themselves as the men of Han. Since then they have gradually gone downhill except for brief flashes of advancement, such as the glorious reigns of the great Manchu Emperors, K'ang Hsi and Ch'ien-lung.