

Some of the students sent abroad have done great things, such as T'ang Shao-yi, who went with one of the first batches sent abroad to America; others sent to our Navy have signalled themselves and done good work in the Chinese Navy, but unluckily they have not had the chance of proving their worth in a more extended field of action.

The chief failure, however, has been among those educated in China, especially among those under foreign instructors in Chinese universities. Here the unfortunate foreign teacher finds he has no real authority, he himself is under Chinese officials, who are afraid of the students and cringe to them.

This is one of the extraordinary anomalies of China, where respect for ancestors and elders has been one of the chief characteristics of the middle kingdom, so called because it is supposed to be the centre of the universe. Perhaps it is because the older official, educated in the old system of education, at last recognises the superiority of foreign teaching and gives the student credit for being a superior being.

The result is that the student finds himself pampered, and the more he asserts himself the more the higher authorities knuckle under to him, and the more he becomes a popular idol and leads public opinion.

Affairs have reached such a pitch that he finds that he can assert himself with impunity. Under the autocratic rule of the old Dowager Empress, the first ebullition of unruly students would have been put down with a vigorous use