



Easy lessons in Chinese; or progressive exercises to facilitate the study of that language

Samuel Wells Williams

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1842 Excerpt: ...are designed principally as guides in the construction of simple sentences; from them, the scholar can learn the colloquial idiom of this dialect, and by comparison with the preceding lessons in reading, also mark the principal features of difference between the two. He should learn the sentences so thoroughly as to speak them with perfect freedom, for it will require no small degree of careful attention to avoid speaking in an English idiom; which is, to a Chinese ear as barbarous and uncouth as the English spoken at Canton by the Chinese according to their idiom is to a newly arrived Englishman. Although the spoken language is more diffuse than the written, its idioms have the same general characteristics, which are both so unlike western languages as to prove one of the greatest difficulties in acquiring the Chinese tongue. In learning to converse, it will be found to be a good plan to request the teacher to write down a few of the first conversations as they are spoken, that they may be read and reread until made familiar. The following conversation contains such phrases and requests as the beginner will be most likely to need. The grammatical terms contained in the lesson comprise only a part of those found in writings on the language, but they are all that will be useful at first. The English translation is given in a parallel column, and the literal one omitted; but the corresponding words in both languages can, however, easily be ascertained. CONVERSATION WITH A TEACHER. These two conversations with a cotnprado and a servant, as will have already been seen, are not continuous dialogues, but are made up for the most part of such leading questions as are most likely to be needed by persons employing such domestics, and also to a great degree in intercou...

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