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HANLIN PAPERS

OR

ESSAYS ON THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE
OF THE CHINESE.

BY

W. A. P. MARTIN, D.D. LL.D.,

President of the Tungwen College Peking.

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TO PROFESSOR W. D. WHITNEY, LL.D.,
THE MAINSTAY OF THE AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY,
AND A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN ORIENTAL STUDIES,
THIS LITTLE VOLUME, WHICH, IN SOME SENSE,
OWES ITS EXISTENCE TO HIM,
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY HIS FRIEND
THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .



MY DEAR PROFESSOR WHITNEY.

The earliest of the following essays was written at your instance, twenty years ago, and you will recognize several of the others as having passed through your hands on their way to the A.O.S., or to the magazines in which they made their first appearance.

You will, I trust, welcome them as old friends, and for their sake give a favourable reception to those which are now, for the first time, introduced to your attention.

The contents of this volume, though somewhat miscellaneous, are yet connected by a certain unity ; falling naturally into three divisions, treating respectively of the Education, Philosophy and Letters of the Chinese ; in a word, of their Intellectual Life.

I call them Hanlin Papers, not merely because the first three discuss educational processes which culminate in the Hanlin Academy, but more especially because the Hanlin is confessedly the highest embodiment of Chinese intellectual life.

No one of these papers throws any light on your favourite field of research,* and none of them pretends to be exhaustive of its special subject; they are offered to you and the public only as a bundle of *beiträge*,—a small contribution towards the better understanding of China and the Chinese.

Yours truly,
W. A. P. MARTIN.

Peking 24th March, 1880.

* Philology.