

OUR COLLEGE SPIRIT.

Chinese customs like the Chinese language have become established in some way unknown to us. Again, their customs like their language, once established resist change. Then we have that perplexing variation of usage indicated in this common Chinese proverb, "Custom differs every ten miles."

Custom may be said to resemble plaster of Paris, in that when it has once become set it may be broken but not changed.

A prevailing custom in China is to represent every business by a coat of arms which is handed down from generation to generation. The coat of arms for different lines of business differ both in material and design, and there may be no resemblance what ever to the occupation it represents.

As an example, take what we call our College Spirit. Its history dates back over five hundred years. It was not, as many of you suppose an idol worshipped by the heathan Chinese, but a coat of arms in an old family of druggists living in Foo Chow. Whatever good luck befell this family it was always attributed to this image of bronze.

A very exciting time it was in Foo Chow a few years ago, when a member of this family sold to Rev. J. E. Walker, a missionary in China

this image which had been so dear to the family for many, many generations. Nevertheless this particular druggist had gone into bankruptcy and money he must have. His relatives became desperately mad and immediately disowned him, then quieted down to await some terrible calamity which they were sure would befall the family. The sum received for the image was not enough to save the poor druggist and he who but a few weeks before was a wealthy man, was now thrown out upon the streets of his own town, homeless, friendless and penniless. Starvation stared him in the face, but just in time to save him from such a terrible death one of his relatives reclaimed him; then after many councils together, the rest of the family relented, but never again will he be held with esteem among his brothers. And whatever ill luck may come to this family for generations it will fall back upon the head of this poor fellow who sold the family coat-of-arms.

The image was brought to America by Mr. Walker and given to his mother. It was afterwards presented to Pacific University where it has many admirers but none perhaps so devoted or superstitious as was the Chinese family of druggists.