

簡公耀初

竊維太上不朽。立德，立功，立言。天下達尊。爵一，德一，齒一。仕宦而至將相。祿位而至公卿。豈乎尚已。而生前則榮。歿則已焉。惟簡公耀初。手報艱難。味嘗甘苦。以陶宋之致富。等卜式之輸財。國人皆曰賢。交游稱其信。德則集而貨殖。愛其所親可謂仁。具此



THE LATE MR. KAN YEW CHO

門不容車。既鮮偽原。曷陸烏養。年十七。將姻族膏火之資。為家娶束脩之奉。軌軌紡車之響。密密縫線之痕。落葉添薪。古槐是仰。機聲殷影。圖畫依然。遭遇如此。亦足悲已。越二載。江革以行備供。燕卒以廝養稱賢。果也才高。握算。術擅持籌。執券執鋸。指揮不讓於楊潛。為補為標。解說吏精於幹。歷年二十四。與同村昆李。淑設崇昌木梓於廣州市河南永興街。發報之始。銳意進征。長袖之工。多財善舞。又復才猷展拓。器識宏通。香海一島。華洋互市之區也。經溪萬里。機杼載船而來。虬餘千章。杞梓航輪而至。遂乃高竿遠矚。內充外辦。更在香港設木行九家。及貨倉四五座。一帆風順。長鯨息浪於江中。萬貫腰纏。黃鶴翔雲於天表。蓋先生之才既展。而先生之年已高矣。總其善行。有可述者六焉。一曰築堤防。吾粵地形窪下。水勢遙流。湯湯莫挽。夫狂瀾。即浩浩頓傷。夫

雄才。微為嚴行。豈必都三公位。享萬鍾祿。勒諸彝鼎。著之旂常。方足以樹之風聲。昭茲來計哉。然則其生平。以樹之風聲。昭茲被及社會者深。抑亦義之表揚善行者宜也。自古英雄崛起。多由貧賤。豪傑樹立。半出寒微。膠鬲之魚鹽。傳說之販菜。固無論已。遇或起家寒素。坐擁厚封。為後者牧。散之親舊而無遺。文正義田。贈諸族人而飽給。求之世上守錢虜。往往難之。先生之少也。家徒四壁。

巨浸。乙卯水災。適成洋國。南海鼎安園崩決。莫占魚夢。詎免鴻敷。先生慷慨黎庶。慨捐朱提。工程務著其堅牢。財用靡論其多寡。為一鄉謀桑田之鞏固。以獨力障梓里之安危。用能慶安集於秋濶。浪怨咨於苦雨。此其一也。二曰衛鄉閭。荏苒之害。甚於天災。桑梓之安。由於人事。自當失其私。即民匪其情。火災未殲厥渠魁。靴尖難踴其巢穴。先生築欄樓。以助守望之力。設圍牆。以杜奸宄之萌。焚炭

獨解。履視無驚。迄今未麻迺野。桑拓成村。當年之手澤如新。載道之口碑猶在。此其二也。三曰嚴自治。替人明而恕己。古今通病。躬自厚而責人薄。聖賢嘉謀。廣東簡氏家族自治社。報自遜清宣統二年。歷舉先生。充任社長。束身似璧。勵行如刻。鄉鄰有闕。則排難解紛。兄弟間牆。則自提使悔。二十餘年之楚舉。聲竹難書。七十二縣之宗盟。高山仰止。此其三也。四曰孚人望。才不足以服眾。則位高者危。德不足以護聞。則任重者竭。先生於民國十二年。歷任香港樞木行商會主席。兼任華商總會理。分任南海商會理。民國廿三年。公推香港東華三院總理。聞善則服。見義勇為。取六馬而朽索無虞。得一變而大幸已足。此其四也。五曰建祖祠。睦族之情。染浣風而己。敬宗之誼。處孝世而無聞。吾粵蘭氏閭族祠。照南昆仲提倡之。先生完成之。何者。宏規具舉。惟大力者負之以趨。眾論紛拏。有老成人於焉是式。無蕭何之領餉。則漢業不成。無劉晏之理財。則唐祚不長。先生成竹在胸。有珠盈握。其為等廷委員也。開校可親。兄寬予人以寬假。取疵悉收。中候任便於取求。故豪懷之捐款猶後。而熱心之辦事為先。此其五也。六曰興學校。氏智通靈。開係國家。世道隆污。導源鄰族。禮記曰。兄弟睦。家之肥。周子曰。子孫才。族乃大。先生知之。氏國九年。開辦南海第六區國民學校。先生任校長。氏國廿四年。在本鄉購地建學校。先生捐巨資。力有餘而必殫其力。財有餘而善用其財。恂恂然。穆穆然。與子弟言孝。與父兄言慈。一洗涼薄之風。克勵精勤之業。此其六也。簡公耀初。粵之南海良沙海人也。生平好善。在港經商。兩子菲春仙逝。享受六十有九。同人修誌。得其斯文行畧。所載恭詳。至錄之。以仰景仰前徽之志云爾。

THE LATE Mr. KAN YEW CHO.

The late Mr. Kan was a native of Nam-hoi District, Kwangtung Province, where he was born in 1867. He was bred up in a poor family which could scarcely afford him a thorough education. His father died when he was yet an infant and it was his mother who went through hard and soft to rear him up. It would be surprised to learn that the late Mr. Kan received no other higher education than his homely tuition when he was young, yet he could become a rich merchant later. When he was seventeen years of age he was sent by his relations to go to school. In spite of the short span of two years in school, he obtained a fair knowledge in writing and counting. Before he was known to his community he had been an apprentice in Canton, and through his frugality he could accumulate a little savings.

In 1891, in partnership with a kinsman, Mr. Kan established a lumber firm in Canton under the name of Wing Cheong. Through his able management and foresight, this shop soon prospered to such an extent as enabled him to initiate a firm of his own in Hongkong. This ambitious and industrious man worked on energetically and before his death in 1936, he owned nine lumber shops and five go-downs, and was considered to be one of the most influential lumber magnates in Hongkong.

In his life there were many good deportments and charitable deeds and the following descriptions are the most popular ones. First of all is that he was generous in contributing a large amount of money to build a dike in his native village, which is located on the bank of a river and is often threatened by floods. Secondly, about half of a century ago, his village was threatened by bandits who used to rob and made disorder every now and then. The late Mr. Kan gave his own money to build many ramparts and earthworks to resist the robbers. Therefore, though all the neighbouring villages were deeply afflicted by the outlaws, Mr. Kan's village was always in the safest situation.

Lastly, the late Mr. Kan paid much attention to education. He spent considerable time and money for the purpose. In 1910 he was a director of the Kok Man School, and in 1935, just a year before his death, he founded a school in his native village with his own means.

Commercially, Mr. Kan was a committee of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong; Chairman of the Lumber Merchants' Association; President of the Tung Wah, Kwong Wah and Tung Wah East Hospitals; and committee of the Nam-hoi Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.