

何甘棠先生

自古非常之人。然後能任非常之業。任非常之業。然後能立非常之功。是則非常之人。其言哉。則開港以來。雖聞人迭出。求能如何甘棠之當仁不讓。遇事出財兼出力者鮮矣。先生就其生。行五。蕭邦曉生之介弟也。誕於香港。粵之寶安縣人。現年七十二歲。居於新業於香



Mr. Ho Kom Tong

結束。大人之性情。既富之後。必廣事留財。為兄孫作馬牛。而先生則異是。大部輸將。均作造福人存之舉。五十年來。揮金不下百萬。已而而和者。其數又復倍之。用特分述。以紀實。並聞乎故。此篇者所以不厭求詳。俾後人藉資觀感焉。(一)庚子(西一九〇〇年)我邦承匪之亂。吾粵同鄉官眷。旅京者達百家。於閏八月生日。電滬之廣榮公所求援。時值

冰河。交通將絕。稍事遲延。救當莫及。公道客中江。參斯議席。赴會者數十人。卒由先生解囊以倡。隨電港粵協助。共籌一萬五千圓。立以萬金浼華俄道勝銀行電滬。(時滬報停頓。經先生向該行討情。後且結免滙水)另購米石二千包。躬來招商局廣濟輪押運。既抵塘沽。幸聞京訊。民食漸充。乃將米易金。稍釋重負。遂於九月初二動程。水凝地凍。船行艱辛。至初九始入都。即面謁君彭蒞於廣東會館。

港是家英文大書院。及京師國學。博覽群經。既冠舉業。即能學以致用。有進流南洋行。經理燕梳。兼辦糖業。新創初試。游刃有餘。復於廣州。汕頭。九江。蕪湖。鎮江。南京。上海。寧波。烟台。青島。宜昌。天津。漢口。牛莊。各內地商埠。及澳門。小呂宋。伊勞。波華。各外人市場。遍設商號。經營金融。糖業。花紗。煤炭。什貨等業。及年剛學易。始將渡向職務告辭。迨貽仙耳順。復教各地商業。

○方港同鄉官陳伯陶。尹應舉。諸師奉命。早已避難懷柔玉田。一面週知彼等準備南回。一面請求得相借車。並照會聯軍保護。部若既畢。隨返滬江。與招商局郭君商洽。放船三艘。前往塘沽接應。是役救護同鄉達千人。忠及外省亦二千餘人。至今中江廣榮公所猶紀念之。(二)戊申(西一九〇八年)即匪清光緒卅四年。廣東水患。鉅劫空前。先生紅滿為懷。慨捐五萬圓。在港僑商物賑災。是為首物

籌款第一人。與馮公華川戮力同心。卒等四十萬金之巨。以賑災黎。(三)庚戌(西一九一〇年)即匪清宣統二年。餘水又復為災。先生乃再捐五萬圓。並向港府求發五萬圓。以勸善舉。奔走呼號。為難民請命。計是次勸捐連貨物等款所付。與前不相伯仲。時與先生共事者。為劉公銓伯。為快電計。故由港方日辦。除文銷急賑數萬金外。餘以修堤填壩。立水閘。先德港府助工程師接辦。及副華民政務司利倫結君。聯同核學路。歷時月餘。始於肇慶海峽施其工作。為餘年來。人無其魚之數者。有拜先生與劉公之賜也。(四)西一九〇六年(即丙午)本港颶風肆虐。慘狀為聞。埠以來所報見。水上居民幾身魚腹者萬餘。公華川。出面救濟。並許先生勸捐若干。照數倍之。先生尚義急公。拜命即赴。日勸各行商會。踴躍輸將。夕返東華醫院。審查船戶。結末之時。已歷半載。在辦理期間。無日而不雞鳴而起。午夜言歸。或拜勸捐。有如此者。計是次共籌金六十萬。合港府補助共壹百二十萬。除分給船戶外。仍存六十三萬餘圓。銀呈港府。以協助興築油蔴地海堤之用。(該塘工租。共費二百五十餘萬)至今蒙過暴風。而海面損失。較前大減。(五)西一九四四年(即甲午)本港疫症發生。嗟乎四境。港例為杜絕傳染起見。凡患此病者。須往西環之杜巷(譯音)船留醫。家人固需陪去。同席亦難免焉。人皆避疫忌醫。付諸天命。因是病日以深。竟告不治。復罹株連。時死無報。棄屍通衢。日凡數百。先生以政令之嚴峻也。乃聯合各紳顯請。始及撤銷此例。並面商。百五萬。一

Mr. HO KOM TONG,

O.B.E.; J.P.; Kt. of Grace, Ven.; Order of St. John of Jerusalem

There are two kinds of philanthropist recognisable in the world. The first kind is a person who is always generous in giving money to the poor, while the second kind is a person who is always busy in making his personal effort in charity besides giving his money. The story of Mr. Ho Kom Tong will show one of the second case.

Mr. Ho Kom Tong, the younger brother of Sir Robert Ho Tung, was born in Hongkong in 1866. He received his early education at the Central English school (Now Queen's College), and concurrently he was taught Chinese literature under private tutors.

Starting his commercial career at the age of twenty, Mr. Ho's first occupation was Chinese agent of the Insurance department of the Jardine Matheson Co., Ltd., Hongkong. He was successful in business because of his hard effort in social affairs. He invested a large capital in sugar enterprise, so his business extended throughout China, Manila, Iloilo and Java. He resigned from the Jardine Matheson Co., at the age of fifty, and concluded all his business to lead a retired life at seventy. Mr. Ho is always considered as the most influential figure in benevolent affairs in the Chinese community. Most of his money and time were spent for the poor sufferers. The followings will show his natural humanity and bigness of beneficence.

Upon the uprising of the boxers in 1900, the whole city of Peking, the then Capital of China, was in a chaos. The Cantonese inhabitants therein cabled to the Cantonese in Shanghai for relief. Mr. Ho, who was in Shanghai at that time, immediately held a meeting in the Cantonese guild to discuss that matter and gave his contribution to lead the others. At the same time he sent a telegram to Canton and Hongkong for assistance. Finally, a sum of \$15,000 was raised. \$10,000 of the money was remitted to Peking while the rest amount was used in purchasing two thousand bags of rice for the sufferers there. Through much difficulty, more than a thousand Cantonese and nearly two thousand people of other provinces were saved.

In 1908, when Kwangtung was in a terrible flood, Mr. Ho contributed \$50,000 and at the same time he held a Relief Fund Bazaar to raise money for the purpose. Consequently, more than \$400,000 were raised.

The flood came again in 1910 and Mr. Ho contributed another \$50,000. Besides, he made an appeal to the Hongkong Government to sue relief. At the conclusion, nearly \$400,000 were raised, and aside from the necessary sum for relief, the remainder was used to build dykes and embankments to prevent further misfortune.

The story of the typhoon of 1906 is a sorrowful page in the history of Hongkong. Especially those who lived on the sea suffered the worst. Mr. Ho, with the aid of the Hongkong Government, raised \$1,800,000 in a short time. Besides the relief work, a remainder of \$630,000 was submitted to the Hongkong Government for the use in the construction of the Yau-nati Breakwater. (The whole expense of the construction amounted to \$2,500,000).

When the plague visited Hongkong in 1894, Mr. Ho contributed \$50,000, and at the same time distributed medicine and medical mixture to the inhabitants of the Colony.

In 1904, the plague was again in action, and the plan of establishing public dispensaries was suggested by Mr. Ho. After the plague was entirely cleared, Mr. Ho established the Kau-U-Fong public Dispensary, the late Mr. Lau Chu Par established the West Point Public Dispensary, and Mr. Ho induced the Chinese community to build the Wan Chai Public Dispensary. At present, there are altogether nine public dispensaries in Hongkong and Kowloon.

Small-pox is a disease which is considered by Westerners as bad as leprosy. When an epidemic of small-pox broke out in Hongkong towards the end of 1903, Mr. Ho, after the frequent and fruitless petitions of the late Sir Ho Kai and the late Sir Boshau Wei Yuk to the Hongkong Government for improving the treatment of the disease, supplicated the favour of Dr. Atkinson, who was then president of the Medical Board of Hongkong, to allow the disease to be healed by Chinese medical doctors. The supplication was granted and in that year more than eighty-six percent of the sufferers were cured.

As the inhabitants in Hongkong and Kowloon increased rapidly, Mr. Ho realized the urgent need of a public hospital besides the Tung Wah Hospital. With the aid of his colleagues, he founded the Kwong Wah Hospital in Kowloon.

In 1915, Mr. Ho organized the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Hongkong. For twelve years he was sole supporter of the organization, and within that period, not less than \$150,000 of his money were spent. Till 1928, when members increased to a number of three hundred and expenditures became too big, Mr. Ho suggested that Endowment Fund should be subscribed from the public to maintain the institute. At present, there are nine plants in the New Territory and one in Cheung Chau.

Mr. Ho is one of the original member of the "Brewin's Fund" and hitherto, hundreds of poor people have been bestowed with this beneficence.

The rule of the Chinese Public Cemetery in Hongkong is that seven years after the burial, the remain should be removed and buried in somewhere else. In 1911 Mr. Ho was one of the original members of the Committee to apply for a Permanent Cemetery for the Chinese.

Mr. Ho is one of the founders of the Hongkong Confucian Society; a committee in the re-construction of Ellis Kadoorie School; and one of the founders of the Hongkong Chinese General Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ho is a Justice of the Peace of Hongkong. The honour of O.B.E. was conferred upon him by His late Majesty King George V in 1928. He is also the proud possessor of several Chinese decorations. By the late President Yuen Shih-kai he was honoured with the Order of the Chia Ho (Excellent Crop), Third Class; the second class of the same Order was given by President Fung Kwok Chang; while the Second Class of the Order with brilliancy came to him from President Hsu Shih-chang. The Red-Cross Association of China honoured him with a Medal. The Order of St. John of Jerusalem was given him by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, England, in 1924.