In the fifth case we have a specimen of Chinese theatricals. There are three figures of actors, — an adult and two children, — a gorgeous state parasol, a number of theatrical caps, and a sample of embroidered tapestry. The costume of the Chinese stage is sufficiently appropriate to the characters represented, and on most occasions extremely splendid. Gay silks and embroidery are lavished on the dresses of the actors, and as most of the serious plays are historical, and for obvious reasons do not touch on events that have occurred since the Tartar conquest, the costume, as in the case of the tragedian here represented, shows the ancient dress of China, which in females, is nearly the same now as ever; but, as regards men, very different. The splendour of Chinese theatrical wardrobes was remarked by Ysbrandt Ides, the Russian ambassador, as long ago as 1692. The dresses and adornments of the actors here represented, are of rich materials and elegantly wrought with gold thread.

Theatrical exhibitions are favourite amusements of the Chinese, and as among the ancient Greeks and Romans, they are sometimes connected with religion. The estimation in which they are held may be inferred from a single fact. The money expended upon them in one year at Macao, a place where there are but few wealthy Chinese, amounted to nearly seven thousand dollars.

It is remarkable that there are no regular theatres. The actors are literally vagabonds, strolling about from city to city, and from province to province. In Canton, for example, the inhabitants of a certain quarter club together and make up a purse, with which a company is engaged. A temporary theatre is erected, and the whole neighbourhood at liberty to attend. When the *quid pro quo* has been rendered by the actors, they move off to another quarter, and the same thing is repeated. It is customary to employ actors at private entertainments, which are never considered complete without a theatrical exhibition. Upon such occasions a list of plays is handed to the most distinguished guest, who selects whichever most accords with his fancy. The principal inns and all large private establishments have a room expressly for this purpose. Females are not allowed to appear upon the stage.