

## LONGEVITY SYMBOLS.

THE character "longevity," pronounced *shou*, is the most favorite word in the Chinese language, and the Chinese never tire of repeating it on cards of congratulation, on their dishes, decanters, in wall hangings and on ornaments of any kind



As an instance of this tendency we reproduce the adjoined illustration, which is a photograph of the upper part of one of three tablets containing specimens of ornamental characters meaning *shou*, "long life." The characters are over two inches in height, and are made of mother of pearl, in high relief, on a red background. On the three tablets there are altogether 180 different characters. The tablets belonged to the leader of the T'ai Ping, the Christian Chinese sect who rebelled against the present Manchu dynasty and were subdued with the assistance of General Gordon. They passed into the hands of Julius Saur, who was at that time a resident of Shanghai, when he

went to Nanking, in company with Captain Fishborn, to treat for peace.