

Journal of a Mission in Korea

By Kouei Ling

Ambassador of His Majesty the Emperor of China to the Korean Court in 1866

Translated from the Chinese by F. Scherzer

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東使紀事詩略

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Pages 1-39 (pages 41-62 = translator's notes)

Translator's Introduction

For several years now, the attention of those who deal with things in the far East has been focused more especially on Korea; unfortunately, this country has so far remained closed to Europeans; most of the brave missionaries who have tried to penetrate it have found martyrdom there, and commercial relations have never been able to be established. It is therefore to the Chinese documents that we must resort if we want to have some precise information on this region. Korea is a vassal of China, and, consequently, at the advent of each new sovereign, the Son of Heaven sends to the latter an ambassador charged with giving him the patent of investiture. I thought it would be interesting to translate the report of the last of these embassies, sent in 1866 at the time of the marriage of the young king of Korea. It is an account written from day to day by the head of the mission, who simply and faithfully reports everything that seems worthy of note. In addition to the geographical information it contains, we find many details on the Chinese ceremonial, so meticulous and complicated, but preserved with so much care for five thousand years as the basis of the institutions of the empire. It allows us to penetrate into the life of a Chinese statesman, to see him, so to speak, painted by himself, with his ideas, his morals, his character. One of the first things our traveler does when he arrives at his evening stopover is to pick up a brush and compose a piece of verse, and we soon recognize in our ambassador a distinguished member of the Academy of the Forest of Brushes, as the Chinese say. I have translated some of these verses to give the reader an idea of Chinese poetry, so mannered, so difficult and so different from ours.

My only desire, in doing this little work, has been to add a few notions to those we already have about an otherwise unexplored country, and I will feel amply rewarded for my trouble if I can inspire more worthy and more capable people with the thought of exploiting further the treasures contained in Chinese literature, this mine so fertile in information of all kinds on the history, geography and customs of the Far East.

F. Scherzer.

Peking, July 16, 1874.

Diary of a Mission to Korea

On the 4th day of the 7th moon of the 5th year of the Tong-tche reign appeared the following decree:

“We are sending to Korea, in order to deliver to the queen (of Korea) the patent of investiture, the vice-president of the court Koei-ling as the first envoy and the “San-tche-tachen” Si-yuan as the second envoy.

“Respect this.”

The 3rd day of the 8th moon - I ask His Majesty the Emperor for his instructions.

The 12th day of the 8th moon. - We go to the Court of Rites to take the imperial caduceus and from there we set out. We make the salute of the three kneelings and the nine prostrations in front of the caduceus and the patent of investiture; I take this last with both hands and, raising it to the height of the eyes, I deposit it in the chair to the dragons preceded by carriers of emblems.

We leave the city by the Tchao-yang-men gate and we continue our road until Tong-tcheo, where we stop.

Poetry composed during the presentation of the imperial caduceus.

“Humbly bent, I receive, in the court of the Spring, the imperial caduceus, then I respectfully raise above my head the scroll with the phoenixes and the book with the dragons. By my scrupulous observance of the rites, I want to mark as deeply as possible the respect which I owe to the emperor. I feel, however, how difficult it is to carry out such a mission without incurring a single reproach.”

The 14th day of the 8th moon - We left Tchong-tcheo early, by a driving rain. We had lunch in Pang-kun. Suddenly, after the lunch, the west wind rises and the rain ceases; the heat of the autumn, which was very strong these last days, decreases at this moment. We slept in Pié-chan.

That day, I received the visit of the chief of the district of Ki-tcheo named Ou-fou-yen. It was one of our old colleagues of Tong-tcheo.

The 15th day of the 8th moon. - We got up early, we passed the Tsaé-ting-kiao bridge. At midday, lunch in Iu-tien. I received the visit of the dear interim of the canton. We slept in Cha-leou-ho. That night, the second envoy and I contemplated the moonlight.

The 16th day of the 8th moon. - Departure early. At midday, arrival at Feuug-jong-hien; the chief of this canton, named Tchou-li-kan, came to visit us. He took leave after a short conversation. That day the road was very bad and we arrived at Tcheun-tzeu-tchen only at the first watch. This canton depends on the district of Loan-tcheo, whose officials abstained from coming to visit us.

The 17th day of the 8th moon. - Early departure. After having made 30 lilies, we arrived at Cha-bo-y, where we had lunch. The chief of the Tslen-ngan canton, named Tchou-pei-kin, sent one of his people, with a visiting card, to inquire about my health.

That day we made 110 lilies. After having passed the Loan-ho river during the night, we arrived at Yong-ping-fou, which includes the canton of Lou-Iong-hien, whose chief, named Lin-Kaè-to, and the judge, named Tchen-yuan-tié, came to see us.

The 18th day of the 8th moon. - We set out early. Lunch in Chouang-ouang.

On the walls of the hotel, I read poems composed by one of my friends, at the time of his return from Chan-baé-kouan. At noon, we cross the village Pei-ing-pou and the Lou-feung-ko pass. In the evening, we slept in Fou-ning, outside the eastern gate. The chief of the canton, accompanied by the chief of the police, came to see me. This magistrate seemed to me gifted with the happiest dispositions.

The 19th day of the 8th moon. - Lunch at Cheun-ho-y. To sleep in Chan-baé-koua.

On my arrival in this city, the Tartar general, whose name is Tchang-chiao, and the small name: Lo-tchou, came to the temple of the genius Kouan to inquire about the health of the Emperor. I received him in the name of His Majesty, and, the ceremony finished, I went to the hotel. The chief of the canton of Ling-iu, named Shu-tchong, visited us then. Lo-tchou came in the evening to see me and talk with me. We had been friends for a long time, and I was very happy to see him again.

The 20th day of the 8th moon. - We got up early and returned the visit made by Tchang-lo-tchou. After a short discussion we set out. We show the pass which was delivered to us by the Court of the war, and we pass the great wall. The west wind blew that day with violence. The country, apart from the wall, offered a dull and sad aspect, quite different from that under which I had seen it formerly. Lunch at Tchong-tchien-sou. The Tartar commander, named To-haé, came to visit us.

This locality is in the jurisdiction of the district of Ning-yuan-tcheo, whose chief had not received the announcement of our arrival; it was the postmaster of Cha-bo who provided us with the relays and the carriages necessary for the transport of the boxes filled with silk which we took with us. In this way our journey could continue without delay. In the evening we slept in Tsien-toun-ouei.

The 21st day of the 8th moon. - Arrival at noon at Tchong-ho-sou; it is one of the most considerable places of the country located beyond Chan-haé-kouan; the figure of its population is very high and its trade very important. Last year, after having seized Sin-ming-tomi, the rebel cavalry troops concentrated their efforts on this fortress; but, on hearing of the approach of Ouen, honorary tutor of the Emperor, who had come out of Chan-haé-kouan at the head of his army, they fled, abandoning their plans, and the city was thus saved.

The Tartar commander Ho-eur-ting-ho and the Tartar lieutenant Ouang-lan provided the relays and both came to visit us. We slept in Ouang-haé-tien.

We went up on the hills to contemplate the spectacle of the sea.

The 22nd day of the 8th moon. - Arrival at Ning-yuan-tcheo, where we lunch. The district of Chan-haé-kouan is distant of 200 lis from Ning-yuan-tcheo, and all this country is placed under the jurisdiction of the magistrate of this last city, also it is quite difficult for him, because of the distance, to discharge his duties of host; however, as soon as he learned my arrival, he hastened to come to visit me. His attitude expressed the fear of having delayed in fulfilling his duty. I reassured him with these words: "I did not send a courier to announce my arrival, and on my way they are preparing the relays at the very moment of my passage; your district is very large, and I realize the difficulty that you would have experienced in trying to foresee my arrival," I saw the peace return to the face of this magistrate, who accompanied us to Ou-tao-ho. There he left us to retrace his steps.

Sleeping in Lien-chan. The days being short and the stages long, we arrived at the hotel only around nine o'clock in the evening, but fortunately the mildness of the temperature and the absence of wind made our journey resemble a walk with lanterns.

That day, the Tartar commander of Ning-yuan-tcheo, called So-pou-kang-ho, came to visit us after having prepared the relays. The people beyond the Great Wall used to live in a state of constant agitation, but this year the farmers had been able to bring in their crops, and the morale of the people had risen.

The 23rd day of the 8th moon. - We had lunch at Kao-kiao-pou and arrived at noon at Sin-chan. The Tartar commander of Siao-ling-ho, called Tching-yun, came to visit us after having the horses changed. In the evening, we slept in Soung-chan-pou'. The Tartar general of Kin-tcheo, called Tching-tchoun, comes to inquire about the health of His Majesty with the same ceremonial as that which was observed previously. The prefect of Kin-tcheo, Ouen-che-

Un and the chief of the canton Liou-soung-yun came both to visit me. After a conversation which lasted four hours, we parted quite regretfully.

The 24th day of the 8th moon. - Lunch in Ta-ling-ho. The north wind blows with violence. Tseun-ho-tien, magistrate of the district of I-tcheo, comes to meet us and takes leave after an interview of almost four hours.

This magistrate is a nephew of my wife, and I had supervised his education. He had been successively in charge of the administration of the cantons of Tchang-to and Kaé-ping. I had heard a lot of good things about him; so, on my way, I asked various people about him, and as the answers were all favorable, I am happy to have noticed that the good principles I had tried to inculcate in my pupil bore fruit.

Sleeping at Sse-taé-tzeu. The officers and soldiers of the Tartar district Che-chan-tchan all came to meet us around eight o'clock.

The 25th day of the 8th moon. - Lunch at Tchang-sîn-lien. The Tartar district commanders Fou-kouei, Li-kouo-ouen, the Tartar captain Tcbi-cban, came to meet me in the middle of the road. At Ln-yang-y we found the relays. The Tartar commander of Siao-r'hé-chan, who was supposed to meet us, failed in his duties; but Yu-ping, magistrate of Kouang-ning, accompanied us from Tcbang-sin-tien to Kouang-ning-tchan, where he left us. To sleep in Tchong-ngan-pou. That day I had not written a single piece of verse when, remembering the advice of the honorary tutor of the emperor Paé, who had engaged me, at the time of my departure, not to neglect poetry, I started to compose a piece of verse.

The 26th day of the 8th moon. - In the morning, the Tartar commander of the district of Siao-r'hé-chan, Mou-ko-to-ko, came to meet us. At noon, we had lunch at Hou-kia-pou. The wind had risen violently since the morning, the sky was obscured by clouds, the air was filled with fog, it fell a little rain that the cold changed into sleet, and we had to put on wadded clothes. We were able to get an idea of the difference between the climate of the countries situated below the Great Wall and that of the countries situated beyond.

In the afternoon, the Tartar district commanders, Paé-shî, Jong-hoei and others, came to meet us. The postmaster Chiang-yei-han had the relays changed. We slept in I-pan-la-men.

The 27th day of the 8th moon. - Lunch at Ta-paé-tchi-pou, whose Tartar commander and two officers accompanied us to Tcha-pang-ngan.

The chief of the district of Tsu-leou-ho, who was supposed to come to meet us, missed his duties. At noon, the rain began to fall and was accompanied by a cold wind. Tsan-tchen and I, who were on horseback, were shivering under our soaked clothes. We slept at Sin-raing-toun, whose magistrate, called Ouen-ting, came to see us; he was the younger brother of my fellow student Ouen-han-tchou, and we had a very pleasant conversation together. In the evening, Kouï-tchoun, Tartar commander of Tsu-leou-ho, of the rank of lieutenant, came to return us his duties.

The 28th day of the 8th moon. - In the morning we passed the Tsu-leou-ho river. At midday, we lunched at Kou-kia-tzeu. In the evening, we slept in Ta-che-kiao. We could not, that day, make only half a stage, because the roads were flooded, and we had to follow diverted ways on a length of 80 lilies. In the evening, around eight o'clock, we arrived at the hotel, where the magistrate of Tchang-to-fou, named Feung-ti-iao, came to visit us. The Tartar marshal sent three orders to meet me; the vice-president of the court of rites of the province also sent several of his people to meet me; I sent them back with my card and my compliments.

The 29th day of the 8th moon. - Towards eight o'clock, I pass respectfully in front of the imperial burial Tchao-ling, (whom I greet by prostrating myself. At ten o'clock, we arrive at the western entrance of Cheng-king. The Tartar marshal, the vice-presidents of the five

courts, the governor of the province, the great examiner, had come there to meet us. They inquired about the health of His Majesty with the same ceremonial as on previous occasions.

The officers of the suite of all these characters had come, further on the road, to meet us. At midday, we arrived at the Sau-i-tien hotel, where the Tartar marshal Tou-sin-ha came to make us a visit during which we had a long conversation. A secretary of the court of justice, named Tchang-ien, came to visit us, as well as a great number of civil servants belonging to the local administration and to each of the five courts.

The vice-president of the court of the Tsing officials, the governor Ngen, came to visit us; one of my fellow students, named Tche, and Ho-siao-chan, Koei-lien-fang, Ien-chou-nan, Ouang-han-kiao, who were my elders, all came to see me one after the other; I felt the greatest pleasure from this meeting and from the conversations we had together.

The 30th day of the 8th moon. - We arrive towards ten hours at the imperial sepulchre Fou-ling in front of which we prostrate ourselves. This sepulchre is at a distance of a little more than 20 lilies from the enclosure of Cheng-king. The roads being flooded, we could not return for lunch until two o'clock. The afternoon was used to pay visits.

The 1st day of the 9th moon. - We got up early and went to the cave of the genius, where I burned scented sticks. In the afternoon, the Tartar marshal and the high officials gave us a farewell dinner in the governor's hotel; we did not return until the hour when the lamps were lit.

The 2nd day of the 9th moon. - Departure at nine o'clock; the marshal and Their Excellencies accompanied us to the temple of the Kouan genius, located outside the southern gate of the city. After having exchanged a few words, we separate.

At noon, we pass the Houn-ho river, which is nothing other than the Siao-leao-choui. In the commentaries of the Choui-king, we read that the Siao-leao-choui takes its source in the mountain Leao, located in the canton of Kao-kiu-li. In the same work, we read that the Houn-ho rises northwest of Chiang-pae-chan, crosses the district of Ing-ho and then, heading southwest, crosses the district of Sin-king, the imperial sepulchre Yong-ling, located between the southern slope of the mountain Lao-long-to and the northern slope of the mountain Ien-tong; from there, heading west, it takes the name of Sou-tzeu-ho, enters Manchuria, where it is called Houn-bo; finally, heading south, from where it arrives at Taé-ouang-toun, obliquely towards the south-east, it flows into the Taé-tzeu-ho. I once had the opportunity to verify these observations when I was in charge of inspecting the works of the imperial domain in the Sin-king.

To sleep in Cha-ho-pou. The Tartar commander of this canton, named Hoi-lin, went to meet us on the road.

The 3rd day of the 9th moon. - We passed the Che-li-ho river and arrived at Ouan-pao-kiao, where we had lunch. The ancient name of Che-li-bo is Tcho-leou-ho, Ouan-pao-kiao was formerly called Ko-li-ho. Under the Ming, the stage that we have just made was called Hou-pi-i.

In the afternoon, we passed twice the Taé-tzeu-ho. This river takes its source at the Sa-mou-tchan mountain, in the Ki-lin, passes to Ouei-tzeu-iu, and arrives in the Leao-yang; there, heading south-west, it joins the Houn-ho, then, heading west, joins the Ta-leao-ho; finally, heading south-west, it receives the San-tcba-ho. These three rivers joined together and flowed into the sea at Niou-tchouang. That day, the Tartar lieutenants of the canton, named To-iu, Ha-long-ha, Hoi-siang, the second lieutenant Yong-chang, the postmasters named Youan-kouo-chang, Ho-yun-tchang, all came to meet us.

To sleep in the city of Loao-yang, whose tartar colonel, named Ouan-fou, and the district chief, named Tchang-tche-tcheng, who had passed his examinations at the same time as me, came to meet us in Ouan-pao-kiao; we were very happy of this meeting.

In the evening, the literary examiner, named Io-shue-tchang, and the secretary of the district chief, named Tchen-iu-ouen, came to see me. The population of this district is animated of excellent feelings, and, certainly, ease and peace can only reign there.

The 4th day of the 9th moon. - Lunch in Ouang-pao-taé. The Tartar colonel and the district chief returned to their homes. In the afternoon, the postmaster Tchang-tcho came to meet us halfway. We slept in Lang-tzeu-chan.

That day, we had to travel only on mountainous paths. Sometimes we saw a mountain whose top seemed to want to pierce the sky, sometimes we skirted torrents which rolled their masses of water of abyss in abyss. The road could not however be compared with those of Sse-tchuen, although the heaviest carts had difficulty to advance. We were fortunately favored by a beautiful weather, and, in fact, the day was not as hard as one could have feared.

The 5th day of the 9th moon. - Lunch in Tien-choui-tchan. We slept in Lien-chau-kouan, whose postmaster, named Lieou-lan-feun, came to meet us and did not leave us all day. At midday, we crossed the mount Mo-tien-ling whose top rises above the clouds. In Leao-yang, on a course of 300 lis the road is mountainous and the most difficult part is this one. The site which we have in front of us answers well to the description which the old poets made of very high mountains on which graze horses in freedom.

The 6th day of the 9th moon. - Departure at ten hours. The rain, which had not ceased to fall all night, continues; at the point of the day a great north wind rises. We are freezing, and the tops of the mountains are covered with a white crown of snow. At midday, we had made 50 lilies under the rain, by mountainous, sinuous roads and filled with precipices. In the evening, we had to stop, in Tong-yuan-pou, in the house of a bachelor named Lou-to-tchen, who belongs to the Chinese banners and whose family possesses a lot of land.

That day the Tartar lieutenant Hoei-siang, after having fulfilled his duties, returned to Leao-yang. The Tartar lieutenant of Feung-hoang-tchang and other officers came to meet me.

The postmaster Kouo-tshuan had arranged the relays and had come to meet us halfway.

The 7th day of the 9th moon. - The north wind blew violently during the whole day. When it rises through the mountain, it reminds the roar of the tiger; while passing through the forest, it resembles the roar of the oxen; the water of the torrents roars while rolling heaps of sand in its impetuous waves. The wind coming down from the mountains piles up dry leaves on the villages, uproots the tallest trees, tears out the birds' nests. This is not one of those winds that make the twigs fall, and it would not be prudent to risk a ferry in such weather. It is a real hurricane. In the countryside all the plants are broken. We slept in Sie-li-tchan. The postmaster, Lo-tien-taé, arranged the relays and came to visit us. This locality is under the jurisdiction of Sio-yen; the soil is thin and not very fertile; the population is numerous, but poor.

The 8th day of the 9th moon. - Arrival at Feung-hoang-tchang, whose governor I-jong came to inquire about the state of health of His Majesty with the same ceremonial as in the preceding cases.

The Tartar lieutenant Ngan-pang-ha had come to meet us halfway and the postmaster Iu-si had arranged the relays. All these officers came to visit us. The Tartar commander So-pou-tsin and others also came to visit us.

The regent of the kingdom of Korea, named Piao-naé-sin, followed by two officers of the king's guard, named Li-taé tseng and Li-ing-in, and the interpreters, came to meet me. The interpreters of the city, named Koei-feun and To-koei, presented us their cards.

The chief of the police, named Ouemg-ouei-fan, came to see us as soon as he returned from the interior of the province. In the evening, we slept in the temple of the Supreme Being.

The 9th day of the 9th moon. - The civil and military officials of Feung-hoang-tchang come in body to visit us and accompany us to our departure. At midday, we present our passports at the border, which we cross, lunch at Tchong-sio. In the evening, we camp in a deserted place located at more than 100 lis of I-tcheo and where we meet mountains, forests, rivers, but not a human being.

Our camp consists of pits dug in the ground and covered with mats. These shelters are narrow and not very high, so that it is impossible to stand upright, the fire that is made there makes us so uncomfortable, that we find ourselves in the position of crabs that are thrown into boiling water. We could not sleep all night.

The 10th day of the 9th moon. - Lunch at Ngaé-ho. The military escort which had accompanied us since Feung-hoang-tchang returned to its post. The attendant at the barrier of Tchong-kiang, named Fo-pao, comes to see us. At midday, we arrive at I-tcheo, where we lodge at the Long-ouan-kouan hotel. This city is located halfway up the mountain and has a very beautiful view.

The king of Korea sent to ask for news of me; I sent the officer back with instructions to convey my compliments and thanks to the king. The body of officials came to visit us. They had prepared 20 bushels of salt and as many bushels of rice for us; in addition, they had provided us with interpreters, carriages with drivers and an escort, as required by the rites.

The 11th day of the 9th moon. - Lunch in Siao-hoa-kouan. After a few moments of rest we set out again for Long-chueu-tcheo, where we slept at the hotel Leang-tso-kouan. We went very fast that day.

The 12th day of the 9th moon. Lunch in Chû-nien. At midday, we crossed the city of Tong-lin-chang. To sleep in Siuen-tchuen-fou at the Lin-pan-kouan hotel. One of the chiefs of the royal guard, named Piao-naé-sin, came to speak to me about business; we talked with the help of the brush for nearly four hours.

The 13th day of the 9th moon - Lunch in Yun-Sin-kouan. At midday, we passed the Tang-ho-ling mount, following a very steep path,

We arrived in the evening at Ting-tcheo-tchang where we slept at the hotel Ien-shun-kouan.

That day, the body of the officials of Ting-tcheo went to meet the Imperial Order with a procession of musicians, and asked for news of the health of His Majesty, the second envoy and I followed the same ceremonial as in the preceding cases.

The 14th day of the 9th moon, -- We set out towards four hours. At midday, we pass the mountain Siao-sin-ling, the ways which we followed seemed to want to lead us to the stars, but with the assistance of the sedan chairs we could pass the mountain without encumbers.

Halfway up the mountain, we found the relays at a place called Ti-choui-tong. We slept in Kia-ping-kouan.

The 15th day of the 9th moon. - We crossed the Ta-ting-kiang river. At midday, we passed the Tsing-choui-kiang; we went to the city of Ngan-tcheo where we got off at the hotel Ngan-sin-kouan.

The body of the officials of Ngan-tcheo came to meet the Imperial Order and inquired about the health of the Emperor with the same ceremonial as in the preceding cases.

The king had sent from the capital a eunuch to carry his compliments to me, all took place with the same ceremonial as before. I accepted the few delicacies which he offered me on behalf of the king.

The 16th day of the 9th moon. - We leave Ngan-tcheo at four o'clock in the morning. We had lunch in Sou-tchuen, and arrived in the evening at the post office hotel of Ngan-ling, where we slept. That day we made 120 lilies; however, towards four o'clock, a strong west wind had risen which did not cease to blow until about eight o'clock, and the voyage had been painful for everyone.

The 17th day of the 9th moon. - While leaving Ngan-ling we cross Ta-tong-fou. This city is protected in front by walls, in back by the mountains, and its aspect is very picturesque.

I have heard that this city was once the capital of Korea when, under the Cheus, Kitzeu was sent there. Under the Han, this city was called Lo-lang-kun. During the Sung dynasty, the capital was transferred to Kae-cheng. Even now the common name of this city is Ping-jiang.

The body of the officials of Ta-tong-fou went to meet the Imperial Order and inquired about the health of His Majesty with the same ceremonial as in the previous cases. The king had sent a chief of cabinet, named Tchao-ping-ché, to bring me his compliments, everything took place in the same way. The governor of Ping-jiang, named Piao-kouei-cheo, sent one of his secretaries to convey his compliments to me.

The 18th day of the 9th moon. - Towards six hours we crossed the Ta-tong-kiang river, this river is also called Pei-kiang. The weather is covered, it drizzles and one could believe to be in spring. At noon, we arrive at the post office hotel of Cheng-yang, where we have lunch. We slept in Hoang-tcheo-fou. This city is located halfway up a mountain. Behind the post office, there is a pavilion of old construction which is called the Pavilion of the Heavens. This pavilion is not very high; but as it is built on the mountain, it dominates the plain. Its walls are covered with inscriptions and poems written by the paintbrushes of the people who have successively come down to this hotel.

The body of the city's officials had come to meet the Imperial Mission and inquire about His Majesty's health. The ceremonial observed was the same as usual.

The king had sent the adviser to the court of finances, named Li-iu-ming, to bring me his compliments, the ceremonial was the same as that which was observed previously; the governor of the province of Hoang-hâé, named Li-tchong-tchang, came to see us. We did not receive there visit of any other official.

The 19th day of the 9th moon. - We set out towards four o'clock and we passed in sedan chair the Tong-sien-ling mountain. Arrived at the top, we see the clouds hovering a little distance above our heads; at our feet opened gaping precipices, and, certainly, this part of the voyage was difficult and perilous. At midday, we arrived at the post office hotel of Tong-sien, where we had lunch.

In the afternoon, we found the relays in Tien-choui. Besides the lunch stop, we stopped to drink tea at three places on the road, which was more than 110 lilies long. Because of the height of the mountain which we had to cross, and the length of the road, we arrived at Joui-hing only at eight o'clock in the evening, there we went down to the Long-siuen-tsuan-kouan hotel.

The 20th day of the 9th moon. - Lunch on the Tsong-sio-ling mountain. In the side of this mountain is dug a cave, from which comes out a spring called Iu-liou-siuen-tsan. This spring gives a clear water like a mirror, it is a site renowned for its beauty.

The 21st day of the 9th moon. - We cross Chou-tan, and we have lunch at the hotel Kin-tchuen-kouan. At noon, we cross Tsing-che-kouan. This city is located on the top of a mountain and has as much importance on the northern side as on the southern side. The governor of the province of Houang-haé, after having led us there, returned on his steps. We passed the barrier and entered the province called King-ki-tao on the maps. We arrived at Kae-chang, where we slept.

This city was, at the time of the dynasty of Yuan, the capital of Korea. It kept vestiges of its former splendor, but it is abandoned today. The body of officials of Kae-chang went to meet the Imperial Order and asked for news of His Majesty's health. The same rites were observed as in the preceding cases. The king especially sent an officer to inquire about my health; this officer was accompanied by a chief of staff named Cheun-sou; I behaved with these officers in the same way as before.

The governor of the province of King-ki, Iu-tche-chan, the government commissioner in Kae-chang and the sub-prefect came to visit me. None of the other officials came to see us.

The 22nd day of the 9th moon. - Lunch at the hotel Lin-touan-kouan. At midday we pass the Lin-tsun-kiang river. In front of us are two mountains between which Tchen-si-tchang is situated. This city is very important because of its situation in the valley. We slept in Po-tcheo, at the Po-ping-kouan hotel.

The "Ta-yuan-kun", Li-che-yu, sent an officer to bring me his compliments. I sent him back with my compliments. The "Ta-yuan-kun" is the father of the king, and has in hand the high direction of the affairs of the state. He also sent an officer of the royal guard acting as chief of staff, named Tching-ti-hoan. Whenever this officer came to see me, he made the prostration salute to me.

The 23rd day of the 9th moon. - Lunch at the hotel of the posts Pi-ti-kouan. Arrival at midday at Hong-ti-yuan. The king had sent a member of first class of the great council of the kingdom named Kin-ping-shuo, and the chief of the cabinet of the king named Li-taé-mien, who came to make me compliments of his part and who asked me to fix the day and the hour of the ceremony of the investiture. I designated the next day and the hour of ten o'clock. From the eighth moon in which I had left Peking, I had used forty-two days to make the road.

The 24th day of the 9th moon. - Around eight o'clock, the king sends officers who invite me to enter the capital. At nine o'clock we set out, the king came to the meeting of the Imperial Order, at 10 lilies outside the door Yng-ngen-meu. After having carried out the ceremonies required by the rites, he took the lead and returned in the city. The second envoy and I entered the outer city through the Chong-lí-men gate, and we went to the inner city through the Choun-hoa-men gate, then, heading east, we arrived outside the Kin-chan-men gate, where we got off our sedan chairs. We enter the Jen-chang-tien palace. On both sides of this pavilion, one had set up tents where we could change clothes and put on our ceremonial dresses and our badges. The king, wearing his dragoon costume, came out to meet us, he saluted the Imperial Order, which he read aloud; this ceremony was accompanied by the salute of the three kneelings and the nine prostrations. At the commands given by the masters of ceremony, the music was heard three times, and three different times people shouted in honor of the Emperor. The ceremony was then finished. We change our clothes, then we return with the king in the palace Jen-tchang-tien. The foreign guest was seated in the west, the master was seated opposite, in the east. The king had appointed three interpreters who passed on his questions according to the ancient rites which regulate the reception of guests. The king asked about the health of His Majesty and that of the two empresses. I stood up, and turning to the left, I answered: "The health of His Majesty is good, the health of the two Empresses is both excellent. The king asked about the health of the princes and dukes of the empire. I answered that they were all very well, then, by an exchange of questions and answers, the king and I had a most important conversation. Intermediaries were sent by the king to tell me respectfully that he was going to greet me, I apologized and refused up to three times, then finally I thanked him, and after having exchanged a greeting we sat down at the banquet which had been prepared; we drank several cups of wine to the sound of music, and the ceremony was finished only when I had been offered nine kinds of dishes.

In the evening, we slept in the Nan-pié-kong palace. That day, the father of the king brought me two of his nephews and his two sons-in-law. The latter occupy very high positions. His son Li-taé-mien came to see me with some members of the Academy, we conversed with the help of the brush, and did not separate until about four in the morning.

The king sent that day to ask several times about my health. The civil and military officers all came to see me, they were very numerous, and I had to receive them until ten o'clock.

The 25th day of the 9th moon. - The king came in person to visit me; a banquet similar to that of the day before had been prepared; we were very polite to each other, and, according to the custom, I received presents from him. I had brought with me eight different kinds of Chinese products, which I sent to the king. In the evening, the king returned my politeness by sending me productions of Korea, of twelve different kinds, which I refused at first, then which I ended up accepting on his repeated requests.

That day, from morning to evening, I had to receive many people. The father of the king, Che-po, the elder brother of the king, Io-che; all the members of the Academy came to visit me and to converse by means of the brush, many of them asked me for autographs and poetries, and several offered me autographed verses as a present; I could not rest of the night, also I was exhausted.

The 26th day of the 9th moon. - Around ten o'clock, my mission being accomplished, I set out to return to Peking. The king had arranged for emblem bearers and musicians in a vacant lot outside the western gate, Ing-ngen-men. A snack was set up there on tables placed opposite each other on both sides of the road. We were very polite there, and two hours were spent in conversations and libations: we could not decide to separate. Finally the king and the other civil servants came to offer me wine, wishing me a happy journey and expressing their regrets to see me leave.

That day we went down to the Pi-ti-Kouan hotel of the city of Kao-yang; the king had sent four secretaries, one of first, the others of second, third and fourth class, to escort me to the border, I made them present of autographed poems.

The 21st day of the 9th moon. - We went down to the Po-ping-kouan hotel of Po-tcheo, where we devoted a long night to sleep: indeed, we went to bed before the end of the day. The king had sent the president of the court of the rites, named Li-tchang-fou, who came to visit me and made me the greeting of the prostration. I offered to this last one an autograph piece of verse.

The 28th day of the 9th moon - We went down to the Taé-ping-kouan hotel of the city of Kaé-tchang-fou. The king had sent a eunuch named Tsing-tsaé-Kouan to take care of our voyage and a councillor of the court of public works to inquire about our health. I asked them to present my compliments to the king on their return and I presented them with some autographed verses. The day was extremely hot that day.

The 29th day of the 9th moon. - To sleep at the post office of Ping-chan; the governor of the province of Hoang-haé, named Li-tchoun-tchang, came to visit me and greeted me by prostrating himself. That day the wind of the southeast blew with violence, the first half of the day was very hot and the second very cold, we all did nothing but sneeze.

The 1st day of the 10th moon. - We enter the winter. A west wind soufble with violence, in the morning we arrive at the source Iu-liou-siuen-tsuán. The landscape was not the same as at the time of my first passage, but I could not prevent myself from admiring still the beauties of the table which offered to my eyes the mountain and the source, I felt inspired and started to compose a poetry.

We went down to the Ing-po-lo pavilion of the Long-siuen-tsuán hotel. The day was very cold, it was a real winter day.

The 2nd day of the 10th moon. - We set out at three o'clock, lunch in Tien-choui. At noon, we passed the Cheo-jen-ien mountain. In the evening, we went down to the Tchi-ngan-Kouan hotel of Hoang-tcheo. The wind blew from the northwest and the day was very cold.

The 3rd day of the 10th moon. - Lunch in Chong-ho at the hotel Cheng-yang-kouan. To sleep in Ping-jang at the hotel Ta-tong-kouan. The king had sent a chief of staff, named Houng-shuen-tchong, to ask for news of me; I sent him back at once by charging him to transmit my compliments to the king. While passing through Ping-jang I had composed a piece of verse on the rhymes of which the prefect of the city, named Chen-iu, made another which he offered me after having transcribed it on a fan.

I then took these rhymes and used them to compose a new piece of verse which I dedicated to him.

The 4th day of the 10th moon. - Lunch in Ngan-ting, Sleeping in the hotel of Sou-tchuen.

The 5th day of the 10th moon. - To sleep in Ngan-tcheo. The king had sent a eunuch, named Tchoang-tchuen-jong-ting, to present his compliments to me; I sent him back at once by asking him to transmit my compliments to the king.

The 6th day of the 10th moon. - We passed in the morning the two rivers Tsing-choui-kiang and Ta-ting-kiang. At midday, we passed the mountain Siao-sin-ling. In the evening, we slept in Ting-tcheo in the hotel Jen-shun-kouan. We made that day 110 lilies and, because of the length of our stages, it was only around eight o'clock in the evening that we arrived at the place where we had to spend the night.

The 7th day of the 10th moon. - Lunch at the hotel Yun-sin-kouan. At midday we crossed the Tang-ngo-ling mountain. We slept at the Ling-pan-kouan hotel. The temperature had become milder, it was thawing, and one could have believed to be in spring.

The 8th day of the 10th moon. - We had lunch in Tié-chan at the Tcho-nien-kouan hotel. In the evening we slept in Leang-tso. That night we had to get up at three o'clock in the morning in order to arrive at the hotel of So-chouan at daybreak.

The 9th day of the 10th moon. - Lunch in So-tchouan. Arrival at midday at Itcheo. The king had sent the vice-governor of Han-chang-fou, named Po-lo-yuan, to pay me his compliments; everything happened as before. The king's elder brother, called Li-io-che, sent me some jen-cheng with a most kind letter and three poems; I used the rhymes of these poems to compose three others which I sent him in return.

The lord of the great court Che-po sent me two paintings of orchids. I sent him in return a piece of rhythmic verse with these flowers as the subject.

The 10th day of the 10th moon. - Early rise. The civil servant in charge of accompanying me, Li-tchong-fou, paid me homage of three pieces of verses on the rhymes of which I composed three new ones which I dedicated to him in return. After all these politenesses we set out. I made that day gifts to the interpreters. I gave them more than one hundred and twenty pairs of knife cases and sticks, one hundred and fifty pairs of small embroidered purses, more than two hundred fans and lighters, and a thousand or more felt caps. The customs of Korea are of an extreme simplicity. Except in the king's palace, I did not see any art objects. The people prefer to wear white clothes. Their food is very frugal, the objects they use are not very ornate, but, on the other hand, they are very cleanly kept. The Koreans sit on the floor and, consequently, their tables are not very high above the ground; at the entrance of each house there are shoes (to change before entering). In all their manners the Koreans have kept the old traditions; their written language is the same as ours, but their spoken language is different, and, without the help of the brush, it would be impossible for us to make ourselves understood by them.

The 11th day of the 10th moon. - We leave about the fifth watch from the deserted place called Ma-tchuan-po. At noon we crossed the border. In the evening, we arrived at Feung-hoang-tchang. The body of the civil servants came to visit me as at my first passage.

The 12th day of the 10th moon. - We stopped at Feung-hoang-tchang. I got up early to go to visit and I gave the necessary orders for the hiring of the cars and for the packing of the luggage. At noon, an inhabitant of the city came to ask me to let him take an autograph of me. It was only around eight o'clock that I left the brush. I did not make any poems that day.

The 13th day of the 10th moon. - We set out only after lunch, around noon. The officers of the district of Feung-hoang-tchang led us in the countryside until outside the western gate. The acting magistrate of Sio-yen township, named Mo-in-koun, and the chief of police, named Ouang-ouei-fan, accompanied us to Siué-li-tchan where we slept.

The 14th day of the 10th moon. - We set out towards eight o'clock; we passed a very high mountain, then we crossed the Kin-kia-ho river, on the edge of which is the inn called Li-yong-tien, where we stopped. There a man named Kia asked me to leave him an autograph of my hand, I gave him three sentences coupled and we left. We arrived in the evening at Tong-yuan-pou, where we stayed in the house of the bachelor Lou.

The 15th day of the 10th moon. - We passed several small hills and slept in Lien-chan-kouan. In the morning there was much frost, a very cold wind blew, and I was obliged to put on a large fox-furred robe; however, towards midday, the weather became milder.

The 16th day of the 10th moon. - Snow fell in large flakes in the morning. We pass the mount Mo-tien-ling. We arrived at Tien-choui-tchan, where we had lunch. At midday, we passed the Tsing-che-ling mountain, the snow turned into rain and we continued our road by mountain paths during several tens of lilies; the mud which covered the roads made the walk difficult to the point of exhausting men and beasts of burden,

At sunset we arrived at Leang-kia-cha, where we slept.

The 17th day of the 10th moon. -- Lunch at Onang-pao-taé; night at Leao-yang-tchang.

The 18th day of the 10th moon. - We set out towards four hours of the morning. Lunch at Onan-pao-kiao. We arrive at the hour of the first watch at Paè-ta-pou, where we sleep. During the night it froze, and the wind rose violently from the west. I suffered from a violent headache.

The 19th day of the 10th moon, - Around ten o'clock we arrived at Cheng-king; the high officials of the city came to meet me outside the city at the temple of Che-ta-jen. They asked me for news of my journey. After a few moments of conversation we entered the city. We stayed in the hostel called San-cheng-tien.

The Tartar marshal, the vice-presidents of the five courts, the governor and the officials of each administration all wanted to see me. That day the wind was very cold, our ears and hands were frozen.

The 20th day of the 10th moon. - We feel more tired in the comings and goings necessary for the exchanges of visits than in a day of travel; but as it is a question of seeing old acquaintances, we do not feel any consequences.

The 21st day of the 10th moon. - The officials of the city came in body to wish us a happy journey. I distributed to these characters some products of Korea which I had brought back with me; they offered me in exchange productions of the province of Cheng-king; all the politenesses which accompany the exchanges of presents did not leave me one moment of freedom during all the day. All took place in accordance with this precept of Che-king: "To him who offers you a peach, offer a pear".

The 22nd day of the 10th moon. - We set out; each of the high officials accompanied us to the outside of the western gate at Chan-yuan-sse, where they asked for news of the

health of His Majesty; the second envoy and I respectfully observed the ceremonial used previously.

We slept in Ta-che-kiao, a place also called Yong-ngan-kiao.

The 23rd day of the 10th moon. - Lunch at Kou-kia-tzeu; at noon, we cross the Tsuliou-ho river. We slept in Sin-ming-toun.

The Tartar general of Chen-king, named Ting-kiu-tsoun, had sent an officer of the rank of major named Tchen-ling-ko with soldiers to escort me to the stage. This officer, who was twenty-five years old, came from Ho-kien-fou. His stature and physiognomy revealed strength and energy; he was well versed in the art of command, for he had taken up arms at the age of eighteen. He owed to his acts of bravery and the numerous captures he made, a rapid advancement and the reputation of a fearless warrior, and it is expected that he will reach the first rank, if he keeps the promises given by his debut.

The 24th day of the 10th moon. - Lunch in Kou-kia-tzeu. Arrival towards eight o'clock in the evening at I-pan-la-men, where we slept. As the next day (the 20th day of the moon) we must have lunch in Hou-kia-pou and make a stage of 120 lilies and more to sleep in Tchung-han-pou, we do not dare to give ourselves up to sleep. After a light rest we get up; we wake up our people and we leave. From two o'clock in the morning, the time of our departure, until eight o'clock in the evening, the time of our arrival, we had to pass a serene but cold night, during which the cold and the frost tested us harshly, and, during the day, the wind cut our face and numbed our limbs. It is impossible to imagine a journey as painful as this one was.

The 26th day of the 10th moon. - Lunch at Tchang-sin-lien. To sleep in Sse-taé-tzeu.

The 27th day of the 10th moon. - We pass the Che-chan-tchan mountain, also called Che-san-chan-tchan; this vulgar name comes from the thirteen peaks which crown it. We slept in Ta-ling-ho. That day a very cold north wind blew.

The 28th day of the 10th moon. - At noon, we crossed the Siao-ling-ho river. To sleep in Soung-chan-pou. A stormy wind blew all day throwing sand through our face. The mountain roads were also very-difficult.

The 29th day of the 10th moon. - About eight o'clock in the morning, the Tartar general of I-tcho, named Y-jong, and who had just been promoted, came to see us at the hotel and respectfully inquired about the health of His Majesty. I got up and followed the rites as in the previous cases. At noon, we arrived at Kao-kiao-pou. In the evening, we went to a hotel in Lien-chan.

The 30th day of the 10th moon. - Lunch in Ning-yuan. To sleep in Ouang-haé-tien. On the wall, Tsao-pao, whose nickname is Yu-fang, had written four pieces of verse on the rhymes of a poet named Fou-ouei-tsing; these verses were remarkably well done. So I spent the night, by the light of the lamp, composing a piece of verse on these same rhymes.

The first day of the eleventh moon. - I set out on the fifth watch. To lunch in Tchong-ho-souo, to sleep in Tien-toun-ouei. It was rather hot in the middle of the day, the Tsing-choui river was thawed.

The 2nd day of the 11th moon - Lunch at Tchong-tshien-souo; around four o'clock we entered Qian-haé-kouan, where we stopped. The Tartar general Tchang and I exchanged visits and we had together a very interesting conversation. After a few quarters of hour of conversation we took leave of each other.

The 3rd day of the 11th moon. - Around eight o'clock we left Ling-in. At noon, we stopped at Cheun-ho-y, where we had lunch; we arrived around eight o'clock in the evening at Fou-ning-hien, where we got off at the post office. That day, the temperature was very mild.

The 4th day of the 11th moon. - Lunch in Chouang-ouang-pou. To sleep in Yong-ping-fou. That day the weather was extremely pleasant. The springs were thawed and the

water rolled with a roar on the paths. Towards the evening, we found in Lu-tsoo mountain roads narrow and uneven. We had a lot of difficulty to traverse this sinuous road.

The 5th day of the 11th moon. - We set out in the morning; we passed Loan-ho and Tsing-chouei-ho on ferries. For a few days the winter has been very mild, the ice of the rivers is half melted. At noon, we cross Yé-ki-to, where we rest. We slept in Cha-ho-y. For a length of several lilies we had to travel on paths flooded with sand in which the horses and carriages had great difficulty in advancing.

The 6th day of the 11th moon. - We got up towards four o'clock in the morning by a very pleasant weather. We arrived at noon at Tcheun-tzeu-tchen. In the evening we arrived at Feung-jong-hien. We had had a little wind during the day. That day an old man, inhabitant of Feung-jong-hien and named Tchang-tchoun-to, came from very far with his wife, named Tchang-kao-che, to the hotel where we had stayed. They had come all in tears to make a complaint and insisted on staying there. As at this moment the magistrate of the city, named Pang-tsaé-ngen, was retained out of his court by the business, I made come the chief of the police, named Kouo-ouei-sin, and I ordered him to deal with these people, to question them and to record their complaint; I took the case file out of the court archives, questioned the plaintiffs several times in order to complete my investigation, and finally ordered the local authorities to examine the complaint carefully and to act on it as soon as possible. The two spouses returned satisfied. I had hardly gone to bed when I had to get up and set off, so that I did not sleep that night.

The 7th day of the 11th moon. - Lunch in Cha-leou-ho. Remembering my passage in this place in the middle of autumn, on the 15th day of the 8th moon, I retraced in my mind the picture of the three months which had just passed.

In the afternoon, a strong wind came up. I slept in Iu-tien-hien, whose magistrate, newly promoted, came to see me for the first time. I met there the Tartar general of Mi-yun, who was on an inspection tour. He asked for news of the health of the Emperor. The ceremonial was the same as before. In the evening, we exchanged visits and experienced much pleasure in our conversations.

The 8th day of the 11th moon. - Lunch in Pie-chan. Arrival in the evening at Pan-kun, where we had dinner. That day the weather was splendid. On the other side of the wall, on an area of more than 700 lilies, not a snowflake had fallen since the beginning of the winter. It was a calamity.

The 9th day of the 11th moon. - We set out in the middle of the night. Lunch at Tsao-ling-tsoun. To sleep in Ien-kiao-tcheun. The temperature had dropped a little.

The 10th day of the 11th moon. - Early rise. The Tao-tai of Tong-tcheo and Yang-ping-fou, named Ing-hao-tien, who had been my colleague at the court of public works and was of my friends, invited me to lunch. I left him after having spent four hours with him. The day was very beautiful. The civil and military officers, as well as the junior officers, all wanted to see me and to make the bowing salute to me. I thus received many people, and while seeing these people again I remembered the pleasant relations which we had formerly had together.

The 12th day of the 11th moon. - We entered Peking towards midday by the Tong-pien-men gate, then by the Tchang-yang-men gate, and arrived at the Lu-tsou-ko pavilion, where we got off. We respectfully write our report to the Throne, announcing to His Majesty the completion of our mission and asking him for news of his health. The civil servants of the various administrations to which I belong and who had to speak to me about business, came to see me.

The 13th day of the 11th moon. - I entered the palace at about four o'clock (in the morning), I respectfully asked for news of his Majesty's health. The Emperor questioned me

during this audience about the affairs of Korea; I gave respectful and detailed answers on all points. I returned home around noon.

I was able to recognize that among the scholars who were once sent on a mission to a foreign country, or even to a distant province, none of them let slip the opportunities that were offered to them to observe the climate, the manners, the customs, the configuration of the countries they visited. All of them took note of what they heard and saw, so as never to lose the memory of it and not to pass for men who aim at the extraordinary. Now, if a scholar is ignorant of the least of things, is it not a matter of shame for him, and, on the other hand, should he not be afraid of doing wrong what he has undertaken? Therefore, I did not write anything until after careful consideration, and I did not allow myself to be carried away by my imagination, and, following this rule of conduct, I acted with the best intentions.

This year Ping-ing, in the middle of autumn, having received orders to go on a mission to the east as far as Korea, I passed through Moukden, crossed the border of China and travelled a road of several thousand lilies. I saw many people and I tried to avoid doing anything reprehensible in my words and in my conduct, so as not to incur the reproaches of both foreigners and my compatriots. It is in this spirit that I have written this report, taking the ancients as my models. My diary will clearly expose to my contemporaries all that was done during my trip, both on the way there and on the way back. I have not published it with the intention of showing off my talents, for I could have avoided all criticism by refraining from writing it; but, in facing the satires (of my readers), I have only one aim, that of sincerely exposing truthful facts.

Koa-eur-kia, native of Tchang-paé, (name) Koei-ling, (nickname) Hoa-feung, wrote this in the 11th moon of the 5th year of Tong-tche, in front of the window exposed to the south of his library of Vigilant Work.

Peking, July 15, 1874.
F. SCHERZER.