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Korean Conundrums.

The Korean word for conundrum is *soo-sookuki*. Like the American youth the Korean youth delights in riddles and knows a great many of them. As an evidence of their abundance the writer requested two Koreans, some time ago, to collect for him some conundrums. Two days later they came back and, after cutting out duplicates, it was found that they had between them 175. I wondered how many Americans could collect that many in two days’ time without consulting books and newspapers.

They were of all kinds, good and bad, pure and impure, humorous and prosy. Many of them are plays upon words and can therefore with difficulty be translated. The following have been selected as typical of the whole, and to them is attached a free translation for the benefit of those who do not read Korean, and such explanation as is necessary to understand them.

*[For the Korean originals see the scanned images]*

What is it that takes on flesh as it grows old? A wall.

Korean mud walls are repaired by daubing on another coat of mud, so that they get thicker as they grow older.

What is it that grows teeth as it gets old? A wicker basket.

The edges of the basket get ragged, thus looking like teeth.

[page 82] What kind of pap (rice) cannot be eaten. Top-pap (sawdust).

What kind of a pang-ool (bell) can not be rung? A sol-pang-ool (pine cone).

The pine cone resembles a bell in shape and is called by the Koreans a pine bell.

What is that on one side of which it snows and on the the other side it hails? A cotton-jinney.

The seed (hail) falls on one side of the machine and the white cotton (snow) on the other side.

What is it that wears a hat but no girdle? A stack of grain.

What is it that wears a girdle but no hat? A wicker fence.

What is it that shakes its fist at the sky? A pestle for hulling grain.

The act of swinging the pestle is interpreted in this bellicose manner.

What is it that bows to the mountain opposite? A mill pestle.

Nothing is more familiar to the traveler in the country than these long wooden beams rising and falling with the inflow and outflow of the water which forms the motive power for hulling the grain.

What is it that has one mouth and three necks? The Korean fire place, which ramifies into three sections under the mud floors, thus spreading the heat over a larger space.

What kind of a *sang* (table) is it which cannot be used? An *oo-sang* (idol).

What kind of a *shin* (shoe) is it that cannot be worn? A *kwi-shin* (demon).

[page 83] What is it that has three heads, three mouths, three noses, six eyes, six arms, six ears and four legs? A per- son riding a two man chair.

What kind of a *si* (seed) is it that can not be planted? A *chup-si* (dish).

Name thirteen kinds of seeds. *Yul-si* (hemp-seed) and *sam-si* (also hemp seed). But *yul* also means ten, and *sam* also means three. Ergo yul (10) + sam (3) = 13. This mixture of Chinese and Korean is improper grammatically but correct arithmetically. This method of counting reminds one of the American boy’s short method of counting one hundred: ninety-nine cows and a bob-tail bull.

What is that which has its head in Chulla Province, its body in Ham Kyung Province, and its feet in Sin-chai Pyung (two counties in Whang Hai Province)? A mourner.

Verily it would seem to be a strange and enormous animal that could stretch itself over so much ground and crouch in such a position. Nothing less than the Chinese dragon would seem to fill the bill, or rather the space, but no, it is only a Korean, in mourning for his dear departed. His head is covered with a bamboo hat made largely in Chulla Do, his body is enrobed in hemp cloth made mostly in Ham Kyung Do, while Sin- chai Pyung furnishes the material for his shoes.

It has six doors but goes in and out of but one. What is it? A Korean shoe.

What is it that has a beard about three feet long and travels upside down in a ditch only? A Korean shovel. The beard is the ropes that are tied to the end of the shovel.

[page 84] What is that which has a full stomach whether it eats or not? A tok or earthenware vessel.

What is that which captures men with one wing? A door.

What is the willow leaf in the water? The goldfish.

Who is it that first goes out to greet the coming guest? The dog.

A dead tree standing up and going is what? A boat mast.

What is that which, on going out, one takes in his arms and on entering one takes on one’s back. A door.

What is like the left hip? The right hip.

What kind of a kam (persimmon) cannot be eaten? Kyung’kam (an old mat).

What is it that is like a cow but without horns? A calf.

What is that which is bad when it is good and good when it is bad? The bottom of the top knot.

When the hair grows well on top of the head it spoils the topknot, but when the hair is poor or absent the topknot is good.

What is it that melts when cold and solidifies when warm? Salt.

What is it that eats from above and vents from the side? The millstone.

What is it that eats from the side and vents from the side? The cotton jinny.

[page 85] What kind of *sool* (whisky) is it that can not be drunk? *Koo-sool* (jade).

What is it that has three legs? A wharo or Korean three legged iron vessel in which a charcoal fire is kept.

What is a house within a house? A hat-box or hat-house as the Koreans call it.

What kind of *pool* (fire) is not hot? *Fanti-pool* (a firefly).

What is it that has four ears (kwi, ears or corners) and several hundred eyes? A reed mat.

The word kwi means either ear or comer. It has the first meaning in the question and the second meaning in the answer. The eyes are the holes in the mat.

What kind of choosa does not emit an odor?

Ans. A Ka-choosa,

Choosa here has two meanings: 1st cinnabar, 2nd the name of an official rank. There are different kinds of *choosa* titles. Some are high and held in respect, others are *ka-choosa* of false. No odor or dignity attaches to these. They are like odorless cinnabar.

What kind of a cham-eui cannot be eaten? A false cham-eui.

There also is a play on the word cham-eui which has the double meaning of melon and an official title. The possessor of a genuine cham-eui official position has good eating i. e. plenty of opportunity for squeezing but this does not inhere in a false title, or a title without position and power.

What kind of eui-kwan cannot be worn?

Answer a ka-eui-kwan. This is similar to the above [page 86] two. A eui-kwan is both a hat and an official rank. And a ka-eui-kwan is a false title, and its possessor can not wear the dignity of the genuine article.

What is it that has hair after the skin is removed? Corn.

What is it that gapes at the sky? The outer shell of the chestnut.

What kind of eyes are those that can not see? Ans. The eyes of the finger-nails, the white spots on the nails being called eyes.

What is it that sticks its fingers into its father’s ears and goes round and round?

Ans. A flail, an instrument used for threshing grain. The revolving sticks fastened to the handle of a

flail are called sons of the flail and these are fastened to the flail by being pinned through a hole (the ear) of the handle (the father).

What is it that always carries its house about with it? A snail.

What travels day and night? Water.

What travels on its back? A boat.

What has eight ears (kwi ears or corners) and only one mouth? A box.

What is it that does not eat though fed for three years? The box in which the ancestors’ spirits repose, before which food is offered for three years after death.

What is it that bathes three times a day? Dishes.

[page 87] The son can wear the father’s hat but the father cannot wear the son’s hat. What is it?

Ans. The covers of the iron rice kettles. The large covers can be used on the small vessels but the small covers cannot be used on the large vessels.

What is a *too* within a *too*,

Ans. A *sangtoo* (topknot) within a kam-too (a horse hair hat).

What is a tang within a tang?

Ans. A moo’tang (sorceress) within a sung whang-tang (a joss house).

What is it that goes when loaded but stops when unloaded? Shoes.

Chas. F. Bernheisel.

A Korean Mint,

If one were to start out in search of a man who is not interested in money in any form he would find that he had embarked on a much more arduous undertaking than the one which engaged the attention of the venerable Diogenes. Robinson Crusoe may be supposed to have had a kind of scorn for the filthy stuff and yet, if there had been a chest of it on board the ship which he so successfully lightened, he doubtless would have carried it ashore.

The problems of finance form the principal study of the statesman of today. The political economist devotes his longest chapter to it. The novelist sows money up and down the earth.

The evolution of money is a fascinating study. Cattle have been used as money in Greece, horses in Arabia, beads, ivory and cattle in Africa, shells and sharks’ teeth among the Pacific islands, pressed tea in China and [page 88] Turkestan, cowries in India and “cat’s eyes” in the islands about Japan.

Among coins the “cash” is the peculiar product of the Eastern Asiatics. The Chinese were the first to make use of it and they were followed by the Koreans and the Japanese.

The distinguishing mark of “cash” is the square hole in the center by means of which the coins are strung together for convenience in transportation. The necessity of this becomes apparent when we remember that these coins are of such small intrinsic value that it takes a large number of them to pay a small bill. Until recent times, when one went shopping in Korea he did not slip his money into his waistcoat pocket but he loaded it on the back of a stout coolie, and even then he could take but twenty dollars worth. Korean cash is so bulky that in every business transaction which involves the transportation of money even a distance of only a dozen rods such transportation costs one tenth of one per cent of the amount.

The art of making cash was introduced into Korea from China eight hundred years ago. Before that time Korean money consisted of arrow-shaped rods of copper or a mixture of copper and lead. But barter was by far the most common form of trade. Even today rice is practically legal tender.

Until about the year 1880 the minting of cash was strictly in the hands of the government, the plant, utensils, bullion and wages being provided for out of the national treasury; but about that time a new and peculiar method was adopted. The minting of cash was farmed out to private individuals or companies. The native furnaces being of uniform capacity, the average daily output could be closely estimated. A number of individuals received, from the government, charters by the terms of which they were permitted to operate a fixed number of furnaces a certain number of days, the government to receive each day a stated sum and the operators of the furnaces to keep as their pay all they could make over and above the amount paid the government.

[page 89] A plot of level ground containing about four acres was selected and was surrounded with a high, strong wall. Within the inclosure the operators erected their furnaces and began their work. The government furnished nothing. The operators paid all expenses whether of tools, bullion or labor. The minting of cash was not so extremely remunerative as might at first appear, for we must remember that the intrinsic value of the coin was about three fourths the face value and the cost of minting is about one eighth. For every hundred dollars’ worth that the operator handed over to the government he sustained a net loss of eighty-eight dollars and a half. This loss had to be covered by the minting of seven hundred and eight dollars’ worth more. Whatever he made in addition to this would of course bring him a gain of twelve and a half per cent. The government did not stipulate that the coin should be of any particular fineness of weight but it reserved the right to reject any that was not satisfactory. In this case the operator was [page 90] compelled to remint the coin or possibly to forfeit his charter, either of which penalties would doubtless reduce him to beggary.

It is evident from this that the policy of the cash-maker was to make the coin just good enough to be accepted at head-quarters and no better.

We will now enter the Korean native mint and see how they made what everyone wants and no one gets enough of. Here is money-making in its primitive simplicity. Here are no ponderous and complicated machines that swallow metal and vomit money, no nice appliances of science by which the weight and size of coins are accurately determined.’

The general view of an old time Korean mint was not prepossessing. It consisted of a long low building with a tiled roof which was pierced at intervals with dormer-like apertures in order to give egress to the clouds of suffocating smoke aud the poisonous exhalations that rose from the molten metal. [page 91] This main building was divided into compartments about thirty feet square, each containing one furnace together with all the apparatus necessary for the melting and casting of the coin.

In front of this main building was a motley collection of wretched straw-thatched huts in which was carried on the various steps in the process of finishing the coin and preparing it for circulation.

The whole place is noisome and filthy to a degree and yet at night the sight was not unattractive, when the green blue and golden lights from the seething metal illuminate the thick masses of smoke which poured out from every crack and crevice of the decrepit old building and when the naked bodies of the workmen were silhouetted against the rafters, as they leaped back and forth before the glowing pits in which the metal was preparing for the moulds. The fascination of the scene was the fascination of the [page 92] *Inferno* and one needed no strong imagination to fancy that these grimy creatures with tongs and pinchers were the same as those so sulphurously depicted by the brush of Dore.

Entering the low door to the smelting room and becoming gradually accustomed to the lurid light, we see at the farthest comer the furnace. It consists simply of a cubical mass of cement let into the ground to the depth of five feet and raised but a few inches above the surface.

The top of the furnace is flat and in the center is a circular aperture about ten inches in diameter by which the crucibles of metal are lowered into the fire. It is through this opening that the flames pour forth which illuminate the whole vicinity. On the right of the furnace is a rough box-bellows at which sits a boy on a bag of sand pushing and pulling with all his might. His position excites the keenest pity, for not only is every muscle of his body kept in a state of tension, but he is compelled to sit there within six feet of that withering column of flame of which he himself is the cause.

[page 93] In another part of the room the metal is being broken up and put into the crucibles ready for the furnace. The crucibles are miserably frail affairs made of ordinary fire-clay and they are so unreliable that a little furnace at one side is kept busy testing them.

Into each crucible are put about six pounds of copper, three of zinc and one of lead. I say about that amount for they do not make exact measurements. If they happen to put in a little larger amount of lead it means a saving of so much good copper. So long as they draw their wages regularly and have time for an occasional pipe it makes little difference to them about the proportions of metals.

In another comer we see a heap of fine black earth which some sooty individuals are shovelling into shallow wooden pans three and a half feet long by one and a half wide. As fast as they are filled they are passed on to another set of men who stand in a row and, as the trays of earth are passed beneath their feet, dance on them and stamp the earth down firmly. A number of small boys then drag them away and smooth off the tops with sticks to prepare them for the impression of the mould. A plate of metal which looks like a great many coins fastened together at the edges is laid upon one of these trays of earth and the impression is made. Then another tray receives the impression of the other [page 94] side of the metal plate; the two trays are clapped together, iron bands arc passed around the ends and made tight with wedges and the mould is all ready for the metal.

When the sign is given an oily looking individual with a very long pair of tongs and a very short pair of trousers steps forward, prods the bellows boy to let him know that the moment of respite has come and steps upon the top of the furnace. Approaching as near the orifice as the intense heat will permit he inserts his tongs and feels about until he gets hold of one of the crucibles. He hoists it up until he can see the surface of the metal and if it appears to his experienced eye to be properly melted he hauls it out and hands it over to another oily man with short tongs. Two assistants hold the mould while he pours the hissing metal into the opening.

When the casting is cool enough the iron bands are knocked off and the rough mass of connected coins falls to the ground. It is broken up with a hammer and placed in rough straw baskets and carried to one of the thatched huts outside where the next stage of the process may be seen. Here the workmen sit on scaffolds about six feet from the ground stringing the cash on [page 95] long iron rods that just fit the square hole in the center of the iron. The reason of their elevation is that they can thus hold the rods perpendicularly and string the cash on them without having to reach up to do so

As soon as a rod is filled it is taken away to the filing room where it is laid in a horizontal trough, or rather groove, about two feet above the ground. The extreme roughness of the edges of the coins is here removed by the use of long heavy files, while the more careful filing is left for a later stage of the process.

When the cash is removed from the rods it goes to the polishing room where it is thrown into wooden troughs about a yard long and ten inches deep. A bucket of water and a little sand is added. The polishing process is carried on by two men who sit on bags of sand at either end of this trough and push the coins back and forth with their feet until by the friction they shine as only new copper can. The polishers keep time to the motion of their feet by singing a rude song which is familiar [page 96] to the ear of anyone who has ever landed on the shores of Korea.

Until recent times this was considered the final step, but the cash makers became so careless that they turned out very imperfect coins. Some would have a great dent in the edge, some would be bent, some would have sharp, jagged edges which cut the fingers, so they were compelled to add another step to the process. This consisted in going over the whole lot piece by piece and hammering out the imperfections on the edge and filing each one with a small hand file. This added greatly to the cost of making, for each filer received five per cent of all cash that went through his hands.

All that remained to be done was to carry the cash away and string it. The string is made of ordinary rice straw twisted in a peculiar way which gives it much greater strength than one might imagine.

Two hundred pieces, one thousand cash, made one string and ten strings were tied together for convenience in carrying.

When the cash was all strung it was piled up in the counting room where each string was counted and entered in the books. Outside stand coolies waiting to carry it off, some to the government treasury and some to the houses of the cash makers. Each coolie carried on his back a *jiggy.* This is made of stout pieces of wood in the shape of a chair, minus its front legs. It is held by strong bands that go over the shoulders. Each coolie can carry on his jiggy about sixty thousand cash. As they carried the cash through the streets they were accompanied by guards whose special duty it was to see that it reached its destination safely.

The workmen in the mint were a very low class of men. They lived in unbounded filth and squalor. At night they slept in what is called an *oom*, which is simply a hole in the ground covered with a rough straw thatch. These holes are sunk in the ground below the frost line and so do not require to be warmed in winter. In summer the men slept on the floor of the smelting rooms or on the ground anywhere.

[page 97] As we go out the great front gate of the inclosure the guard salutes us lazily and sinks back on his seat. Just outside we come upon a company of little urchins sitting on their haunches and washing out in shallow pans the gravel and sand in the bed of the little stream which flows from the mint. They are searching for little pieces of the metal which may be washed down. For these they find a ready sale within.

One piece of cash is called *han pun*, two pieces are called *han dun* and twenty pieces, or one hundred cash, are called *han nyang* and is the unit of Korean money. This unit is worth about one cent of American money or two Japanese sen, but its value is extremely fluctuating. Twenty years ago a Japanese dollar would buy two thousand cash, fifteen years ago thirteen hundred cash and now it will buy over five thousand. There was a large foreign mint in Seoul, thoroughly equipped with the best modern minting machinery but it was never operated. It was built and equipped in the early eighties at a time when there was a strong feeling in favor of foreign innovations but soon after that time the conservative spirit got the upper hand again and it was not until many years later that anything like a modem coinage was introduced.

These mints almost always ended by going up in flames at a time when a large amount of cash was about to be sent to the government office, but the public shrewdly guessed that care had been taken that the money should be removed to a place of safety just before the unexpected accident happened.

Rear Admiral Schley on the Little War of 1871.

In the eighth and ninth chapters of his remarkably interesting book of reminiscences, entitled “Forty-five years under the Flag,” Rear-Admiral Schley deals with the expedition under Rear-Admiral Rodgers, which made [page 98] a descent upon the coast of Korea in 1871, and in which Schley himself was a participant. The stirring episode is graphically pictured by the pen of the soldier, and the standpoint is that of the date at which the event occurred, so that what is lost in accuracy, owing to the fact that only one side of the affair was clearly understood, is more than compensated for by the glimpse it gives us of the way Korea was looked upon at that time. Later developments have shown serious flaws in the argument which led to the expedition, but these are things that could not have been known at the time and therefore reflect but slightly upon the judgment of those who planned and executed it.

One of the most interesting points brought out in this book is that of the underlying cause of the expedition. The writer says.

 It was during this winter (1870-71) in Japan that rumors reached the *Benicia* that the affair in Korea relating to the American Schooner *General Sherman* was to be enquired into by our government. This vessel had ventured into the waters of Korea on a trading voyage in 1868 or 1869, with a cargo of “Yankee Notions.” The vessel, as was learned subsequently, had been burned and her crew to a man had been killed by the Koreans. . . . . . . Before sailing from the United States there were vague rumors that this matter was to be settled by the squadron then being prepared for Rear-Admiral Rodgers. . . . . . The anti-foreign feeling in China was more likely to revive if any one of the nations represented there should appear to hesitate to take redress in matters so seriously grave as that of the *General Sherman*, The murder of the entire crew, with the destruction of the vessel, merely because her master had ventured into forbidden waters for purposes of trade, was hardly to be justified under any code of ethics. This view was that taken by our government in directing careful inquiry, which led to prompt action later in the year.” And again he says: “The prospective expedition to Korea to adjust a wrong and the probable effect it would have at a time when unrest was general in China was believed to be for good. It was thought that [page 99] Admiral Rodgers’ attempt to open communication with the government of that hermit Kingdom would meet with suspicion and possible obstruction from its officials. The sentiment general in the Squadron was that when the relations of two countries was such that the subjects of one were not safe in the territory of the other, the time had come to make them so by force of arms. . . . .. Enough was gleaned from conversations with those nearest the Admiral to satisfy anyone that he had concluded that the moment had come when Korea must be compelled if need be, to take up her duties as a power bound by international law and usage, lying, as her territory did, athwart the routes of the world’s commerce. . . . . As vessels prosecuting legitimate trade must pass and repass the coast of Korea, or through stress of weather at times might be driven upon her shores, the right to humane treatment had to be insisted upon. There were abundant rumors that unfortunates had been slain or cast into prison to die of neglect.”

Now, in fairness to Korea as well to the American Government and Rear Admiral Rodgers, there are several points in the above quotation that require comment. In the first place we find nowhere else such a definite statement that the expedition was in retaliation for, or to obtain redress for, the destruction of the *General Sherman* and her crew. We are told that this occurred “in 1868 or 69” when in fact it occurred in September of 1866 almost five years before this expedition was planned. An examination of diplomatic records so far as published does not indicate that the expedition was intended to obtain redress of any kind nor does it appear that Rear Admiral Rodgers was invested with any authority to “compel Korea to take up her duties as a power bound by international law and usage.” Not only so but Admiral Rodgers was not even entrusted with any diplomatic message to the Korean court. Mr. Frederick Low was given the work of carrying on negotiations with the Korean Government with a view to the establishment of treaty relations, and the sole work of Admiral Rodgers was to form a fitting escort for this high functionary of the American Government. There [page 100] was no intention of demanding redress or even apology for the *General Sherman* affair. It was an entirely peaceful mission and nothing was further from the purpose of the American Government than the precipitation of a fight with the Koreans, especially the sort of fight which this turned out to be. It is evident however that the sentiment among the naval men was strongly in favor of a scrimmage of some kind, for the writer says in one place that “there was some apprehension (sic) that the presence of Minister Low with Chinese interpreters might indicate that there was to be only a ‘parley’ after all.” Now this “only a parley after all” was precisely what the American Government intended and the greatest danger to the success of the mission was this same misplaced “apprehension” lest there would be no fight.

There are several reasons for believing that the *General Sherman* affair and the danger to seamen wrecked on the coast of Korea was not the theme of Mr. Low’s communication to the Korean Government. In the first place we note that in June of 1866, shortly before the *General Sherman* affair, the American Sailing-vessel *Surprise* was wrecked off the western coast of Korea but that the officers and crew were treated most hospitably by the Korean authorities, taken with the greatest of care to the northern border and handed over to the Chinese authorities for safe conduct to Tientsin. No government could have acted with greater courtesy or humanity. It should be remembered that this act of kindness was performed at a time when the Korean Government and people were worked up to a white heat of anger and hatred against all foreigners and in the midst of a sanguinary persecution. It is highly to the credit of the authorities that they fulfilled so perfectly their duty to these ship-wrecked Americans. Now Minister Low must have known about this personally. He and the American Government must have known of a surety that it was the settled policy of the Korean Government to treat cast-aways humanely. It had been proved in 1847 when two French war-boats, on a semi-hostile expedition to Korea were wrecked on a mud-bank. The Korean authorities [page 101] fed them and treated them with utmost courtesy and offered to provide boats for them to go back to Shanghai. Can we believe that the American Government was not aware of these important facts? By no means. The writer made a great mistake when he affirmed that “the right to humane treatment had to be insisted upon.”

Five years had passed since the *General Sherman* affair. It had probably already transpired under what conditions this vessel had been destroyed and her crew massacred. Five years tell a good many secrets and Minister Low doubtless knew very well that the *General Sherman*, in direct opposition to orders from the Korean Government, had forced its way into the estuary of the Tadong River and with the help of a heavy freshet and a high spring tide had crossed the upper bar and effectually cut herself off from the possibility of getting back to the open sea again. Not once in twenty years is it possible for such a ship to accomplish this feat, and when the Koreans saw it they judged, and with perfect justice, that the Americans had come to win or die. The massacre was a horrible thing but it was the alternative which the Koreans supposed the invaders were ready to face. In June the crew of the *Surprise* had been shown the utmost hospitality; in September the crew of the *General Sherman* were massacred. It was the same government which had done both and in each case, judging from their standpoint, without blame. We say that Minister Low probably knew the truth about the *General Sherman*, but whether he knew it or not, redress was of course out of the question until the Korean Government had been given an opportunity to explain the matter. There is no indication that he mentioned the affair to the Government at Seoul and it is certain that the belligerent attitude of the naval people was rather uncalled for. It is quite probable that the *General Sherman* trouble, innocent though the Koreans were, influenced the American Government in attempting the opening of Korea for it was this mutual ignorance of each other that made the coast of Korea dangerous. If the Koreans had known the real purpose of that unfortunate vessel, the treatment of her would have been very [page 102] different. A treaty would do away with the danger of misunderstanding. We learn from the published records that Minister Low was instructed to go to the shores of Korea and attempt to conclude a treaty relative to the treatment of American seamen who should be wrecked on her shores and to make some sort of trade convention whereby commerce could be opened up. We cannot believe that, coupled with these instructions, there were any orders to demand apology or redress for the *General Sherman* affair; for such demand would immediately defeat the main purpose of the expedition. When you approach a man in order to ask a favor of him you do not begin by reminding him of his past delinquencies.

Now here was the radical difficulty which beset the situation. The naval people were under the impression that something was to be done to bring the Koreans to their knees, and it was a foregone conclusion that the peaceful side of the expedition would be completely adumbrated.

The squadron at length arrived at a point not far from the present outside anchorage at Chemulpo. Everyone knows that this is a safe anchorage in any kind of weather. After several attempts, a small official in a neighboring village was communicated with. In Schley’s words, “This official was assured that the squadron’s visit and purposes were friendly and that the desire to make surveys a few miles further was merely a wish to find a position of more security for the Squadron during the typhoon months. *This permission was granted*, and in compliance thereto, the *Monocacy* and *Palos* were directed to proceed upon this duty.” The italics are ours.

Is it possible that the navigating officers of the squadron did not know that typhoons never come north as far as Chemulpo Harbor? Will anyone try to convince us that after looking at that fierce rushing tide, the mudbanks exposed at low water and the tortuous channels any commander would have dreamed of going up toward Kangwha with what Schley claims to have been as capable a squadron as any afloat at the time. Then as regards the permission obtained, there must have been [page 103] a huge mistake. The petty official may have given it but it certainly never came from the Regent. The absurdity of a squadron of large vessels seeking safety from typhoons in that tide-swept estuary must have convinced the Koreans that Admiral Rodgers wanted to do the very thing the *General Sherman* did, but with a different result. We are safe in saying that wherever the permission came from, either the object of the request was misunderstood by the Koreans or else a frightened petty-officer gave it without authority from Seoul. The whole affair was one series of disastrous misunderstandings.

The *Palos* and *Monocacy* crept up the channel toward Kangwha, which forms the western guardian fortress of Seoul. It was perfectly evident to the Koreans that this was a hostile move. It would have taken super- human wisdom to have divined otherwise. The Koreans were evidently within their rights to fire upon our boats. How was it at Shimonoseki when the Japanese fired upon our vessels and those of other nations? We exacted a large indemnity but a few years later *gave back every cent of it* because we saw that the Japanese were right. Were the Koreans any less right? Not one whit. International law, the dictates of reason and the instinct for self-defense were all with them; and, chimerical as it may sound, we believe that if the American Government were to pay an indemnity for every life taken in that desperate defense she would be doing no more than abstract justice.

Shots were fired at these two boats but without injury to either of them or the loss of a single life. The thing was done. There was no longer any need of “apprehension lest there was to be only a parley after all.” The danger from typhoons in the land-locked harbor of Chemulpo was put before the success of Mr. Low’s diplomacy. The Admiral naively adds “The hostile action of the forts was an unfortunate mistake which had to be adjusted in advance of the real question which had drawn the squadron into Korean waters. Seven days were given for the Korean Government to disavow the act of the commanding officer of the forts and to [page 104] make suitable reparation for the insult to the flag.” We wonder what Mr. Low thought of all this. It is evident that the communication to the government giving them seven days in which to apologize was written by the Admiral, for Schley says a few pages on “Several days before the final answer came to the Admiral’s letter etc.” In view of the fact that Low was the diplomat specially designated to carry on negotiations with the Korean Government it is rather amusing to read that the answer which came “left to the Admiral no other recourse than that which is usual under such circumstances, *when diplomacy fails* to adjust issues among civilized nations.” The italics are ours.

The Rear-Admiral describes most vividly the landing of our troops and the struggle that followed, in which the Koreans fought with desperate valor against tremendous odds, falling, almost every man, at his post. Just at the end however the Koreans broke and fled. “Many were killed in this rout, some jumped over the cliffs to the river bank sixty or eighty feet below, and more made for the road only to meet the fire of Cassell’s men and the artillery directly in their faces, which piled them up two and three deep. Many jumped into the river *where they were shot or drowned in attempting to escape*.” (Our italics).

Listen to this, “There was not a modem gun of any description found in the hands of the Koreans, who attempted with gingalls and such-like superannuated arms to face modem artillery successfully. They fought, how-ever, with desperate courage, until they were over-whelmed, and died at their posts of duty heroically and without fear. The men of no nation could have done more for home or country.” In view of these words of the Admiral, his reference to Bunker Hill a few lines below is unfortunate for if any words ever described a battle the above words are a true picture of the American side in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

The next paragraph contains the astonishing statement that “The morning following, June 12th, orders were received from Admiral Rodgers to withdraw as the object of the expedition was fully accomplished and the [page 105] insult to the flag had been fully avenged.” The expedition had been sent by the United States Government on an entirely peaceful mission with the purpose of establishing relations of friendship with Korea. By an unaccountable mistake the approaches to Seoul had been unnecessarily invaded and the Koreans had acted in a perfectly loyal way in firing upon our vessels. For this insult to our flag the Koreans had to pay a terrible price. As the Admiral tells us very frankly, “It was decided to spare nothing that could be reached by shot, shell, fire or sword.” When our forces were done we are told that they “left behind the appearance of utter devastation in every direction.” But what we ask is, was the object of the expedition fully accomplished? It may have been for those who apprehended that it would all end in mere talk but Mr. Low’s opinion would be worth something at this point. We invited an insult and then bitterly avenged it leaving behind a hatred ten times as bitter as before and making it impossible that any treaty should be signed until the Regent stepped down from the seat of power. It is also worthwhile asking whether the American flag was really insulted. A stranger comes into my yard and acts in a queer way. I order him off the place but he proceeds to climb in at the window, I forcibly resist his entrance. This is an insult to him which he resents. He retires for a time but returns with help and I am properly chastised for my insolence! His intentions at first may have been entirely peaceful, but appearances were dead against him from my point of view. We are forced to take exception to the statement that “the punishment inflicted was great and the lesson it impressed upon the Hermit Kingdom ultimately brought it into fellowship with our Western civilization and made for friendship.” We venture to say it did nothing of the sort. The fact that our forces retired without following up their victory left the Koreans in full possession of the field and confirmed them in the belief that an invading force had been beaten off. It was not quite so complete a victory as they had enjoyed over the French on this same island in 1866 but the departure of the squadron [page 106] without even securing direct communication with the central government or accomplishing the avowed purpose of opening up the country not only seemed a victory for the Koreans but was such in truth.

The record of the American Navy is glorious enough and the bravery and loyalty of its personnel are well enough proved to be able to dispense with any claim to added distinction on account of the little war with Korea. The whole affair was based upon misapprehension and the Americans and Koreans looked upon it from such different standpoints that while we know the former did what they thought was their duty the latter are worthy of our sympathy.

Attack on Doctor Forsythe,

Doctor Forsythe is a young American physician who came out to Korea last Autumn to engage in medical missionary work under the Southern Presbyterian Board of the United States. He is about thirty years old, six feet tall, of splendid physique and well fitted, by his experiences in Cuba immediately after the late war, to deal with the unsanitary and unhygienic conditions in Korea.

He is settled in Kunsan and makes that the center from which he works in a wide radius through that sec- tion of the country. He recently received an urgent call to go to the little village of Man-kol half way between Kunsan and Chunju to attend a man whose house had been raided by a gang of Korean robbers and who had been beaten very severely. He immediately answered the call and, arriving at the village, was able to render prompt assistance. He stayed there over night and the next day, being the Sabbath, he went to another village about a mile distant where there was a little Christian congregation. There he attended the service and as evening came on he went back to the village where he had slept the night before, in order to pass the night. He retired as usual but was suddenly awakened about four o’clock in [page 107] the morning and saw a number of masked Koreans crowded in the small door-way and pointing their guns at him. These men were heard to say as they broke into the compound that they had come to kill the soldier. The people in the house told them that there was no soldier in the house, but that it was a foreign physician. They refused to believe this and made their way immediately to Dr. Forsythe’s room. As soon as he saw this strange company and took in the situation he grappled with the foremost of his assailants, but almost immediately he was struck a heavy blow on the head from behind which put him out of the fight. He was then repeatedly wounded on the head with swords or knives and his body was thrown off the narrow verandah to the ground, a distance of four feet, and was jumped upon by the assassins. The accounts of the inmates of the house as to their own movements are very confusing. One woman is said to have thrown herself between the Doctor and his assailants and tried to defend him by throwing her apron over his head. Others say that the inmates of the house ran away to the hills. The woman is badly bruised in several places and it is plain that she did something toward attempting to defend the guest. This will come out more clearly in the formal examination. When the robbers had finished their work, as they had supposed, they did not immediately leave, but built a fire in the center of the court-yard and stood about till long after daybreak. After they had gone the people of the place immediately sent word to the missionaries both at Kunsan and Chunju. At the same time they called in a native physician who treated the wounds by the application of cobwebs and cotton, thus stopping the flow of blood and without doubt saving the patient’s life.

When the news reached Kunsan, two of the missionaries saddled their horses and hurried away to the scene of the outrage. But before starting they telegraphed the news to the American Minister in Seoul and also informed the Japanese authorities at Kunsan. Mounted on powerful horses, these two men. Dr. Daniel and Mr. [page 108] Harrison, took the road for Man-kol, arriving about fourteen hours after the attack on Dr. Forsythe. The Koreans had made him as comfortable as possible but he was in a terrible condition. His clothing was completely saturated with blood and the court-yard had been sprinkled with earth to hide the pools of blood that the patient had lost. An examination showed that life was still there but the pulse was extremely weak and fluttering and the examining physician shook his head and said that the end was evidently near. The amount of blood already lost made it impossible to dress the wounds properly at once, but a hypodermic injection of strychnine was made and other things were done to rally the patient. He responded readily to this treatment and hope was again renewed that possibly he might be pulled through. He was not totally unconscious but he knew nothing of what was going on and he was vomiting frequently, showing that the brain had been injured. Dr Daniel found five serious wounds on his head but only one of them seemed to be of a very dangerous character. This was a sword cut which seemed to have been delivered from behind and which cut through the left cheek and ear and went deep into the mastoid process just behind the ear.

While this was going on word came that the robbers were about to return; for what reason was not known. This was very awkward, for the two gentlemen were not prepared to deal with a crowd of ruffians. It was decided that though there was danger in moving the patient he must be taken over to the other village where the little church was. So a stretcher was improvised by tying poles together and making a network of straw rope, and the patient was carefully taken the mile or more which lay between the two villages. Fortunately this was done without any evil effect. From the very first the patient seemed to rally and while he was not at all rational as yet, things began to look less gloomy.

Meanwhile Japanese policemen arrived on the scene and, all danger from further attack was obviated. The Foreign Office in Seoul had also sent orders to the [page 109] Kamni at Kunsan to send soldiers and police and make every attempt to arrest the criminals.

The following day the patient had so far rallied as to make it possible to take him to Kunsan. A comfortable stretcher had been sent on, in the shape of a folding coir bed with poles rigged on the sides, and in this way Dr. Forsythe was carried to the port. During this time he was entirely conscious but had not the full control of his mind. In some matters he seemed to be rational and frequently asked whether there were any signs of meningitis, which was the principal danger from such a wound. He was tormented by a continual thirst, due to the great loss of blood.

This wholly unprovoked and dastardly assault has created something of a sensation among the Koreans of that locality, where the Doctor was well known. He had so often responded to their calls for help that although he had been in the country only a short time he had gained the love of many and the respect of all. One of the criminals had been caught, at last accounts, and it is believed they will all be brought to justice.

The pertinent question arises as to the application of the principle of non-resistance in such cases. When it is a matter of religious persecution and people are attacked because of their faith, it is one thing; but in the case of an ordinary, brutal attempt at murder we feel sure that even the Christian gentleman has a right, and is in duty bound, to protect his person at any cost.

It is a matter of profound satisfaction and rejoicing that the splendid constitution of this devoted missionary has pulled him through this trying ordeal, nor must we forget that a Korean physician was instrumental in saving the patient’s life. The Korean medical profession has been let in for a good deal of ridicule in the past, and it is true that many of their methods are very primitive, if not unscientific, but after this we shall probably be careful to give them all the credit that is their due.

And finally, it would be rash to say that Providence had nothing to do in the preservation of this valuable life. That Good Spirit, called by whatever name, watched [page 110] over this event and made ends meet for the saving of a life that has proved, and bids fair to prove, of immense benefit to the Korean people. Human reason gladly incurs the charge of superstition at the hands of a rationalistic world in rendering thanks to that watchful Providence which saved the life of this lover of men.

Editorial Comment.

If anything were needed to attest the popularity of our American Minister, Hon H. N. Allen, it might be found in the unanimous testimonial which has been elicited from American citizens in Seoul and sent by cable to the authorities in Washington. The long residence of Dr. Allen in Seoul, his intimate acquaintance with conditions here and his well-known solicitude for American interests make the change in our Legation look like a personal misfortune to us all. This feeling is shared in large measure by the Emperor and the court and by the whole Diplomatic Corps in Seoul.

No American citizen doubts that the authorities in Washington know what they are about and we have confidence in the good sense of the United States executive. Whatever their reasons may be for this move, which, by the way, does not affect our Legation alone but also embraces those in St. Petersburg, London, Peking and other centers, they are not dictated by any doubt of the loyalty or competence of our present Minister but upon reasons of state which the State Department does not feel called upon to divulge.

Nor does this expression of regret at the retirement of Dr. Allen stand in the way of a loyal welcome to his predecessor, but it merely shows the latter what a full measure of confidence can be won by such sterling qualities as those which have marked the long and successful career of the retiring Minister.

[page 111]

News Calendar.

One ten- and two twenty-dollar American bank notes were lost on the streets of Seoul a few days ago by a Korean on the way to one of the banks. Foreigners having such bills offered to them will do well to enquire into the circumstances before accepting them, or communicate with the Editor of the Review.

Many of the leading Korean officials have listened attentively to proposed plans by the Y. M. C. A. for assisting the young men of Seoul, and several have contributed to the fund for the proposed new building and others to the current expenses.

Another fire in Fusan the night of the 13th burned three Japanese stores on the main street of the city.

A communication has been received by the Foreign Office from the French Minister which states that the governor of North Chulla province has arrested and punished a Catholic missionary. As this is contrary to treaty agreements the matter must be investigated.

A telegram from North Hamkyung states that Russian soldiers are disturbing the people in every district near the Tuman river, and the natives have scattered in all directions.

Serious diplomatic questions have confined the Foreign Minister to his rooms for a number of days.

A petition has come from Kangwun province asking that their former governor be permitted to remain another five years.

The Home Department is petitioned by telegram from South Chulla to reappoint Yi Keun-ho as governor of that province. His virtues are remembered and they look forward to another beneficent term.

All Foreign Ministers and Advisers and foreigners in government employ were received in audience by His Majesty on the 8th inst. in honor of the birthday of the Crown Prince.

The secretary of the Korean Legation at Tokyo and the secretary of the Foreign Office have exchanged positions.

Dr. H. N. Allen presided at a well-attended gathering of the leading Korean officials and gentlemen of Seoul at the Y. M. C A. rooms on the 8th inst. A number of addresses were made, and during the evening refreshments were served by a committee of ladies.

After an encounter between Russian cavalry and Japanese infantry the Russians retreated and the Japanese army entered Songchin. There is now direct telegraph communication between Songchin and Seoul.

Cho Pyeng-sik, Minister of the Home Department, has been dismissed.

[page 112] A memorial has been presented to His Majesty denouncing six former Korean officers as traitors. One is charged with making the alliance with Japan and bringing much trouble on Korea. The second is charged with conniving with the Japanese to compel Koreans to do certain things. The third is charged with placing his seal on the documents for obtaining a loan from Japan. The fourth is charged with taking bribes for the appointment of magistrates. The fifth is charged with squeezing money from the people in country districts. The sixth is charged with having used his great influence to disturb the peaceful relations of the government, and also with squeezing money from the people.

The former government hospital property has been sold to the government and it will be utilized as a residence for the adviser to the Police Department.

Two story buildings with tile roofs are rapidly taking the place of the former low straw-roofed houses along the streets of Seoul. While in every way an improvement over former buildings many of the new structures seem to be only for temporary purposes.

To obviate future discussion and possible trouble over boundaries, the Chief of Police has requested the Home Department to drive stakes indicating the boundaries between public and private lands

The report comes that for the disturbance created by Korean soldiers at Kongju the government will pay one thousand Yen to the Japanese, and the sum of two thousand yen for a similar disturbance at Wiju

Mr. Yi Chun-yong has applied for permission to erect wharves at Chemulpo, Chinnampo and Fusan to facilitate the landing of cargo.

Samples of cotton grown in Korea have been sent to Tokyo, and the quality is said to be good. Much more land than formerly will probably soon be devoted to cotton cultivation in Korea.

Japanese kerosene dealers are exercised over the determination of many Koreans in Seoul to install electric lights.

Collbran and Bostwick have for some time had a concession for laying water mains and pipes in the city of Seoul. Recently other parties have commenced the work of laying pipes within the palace enclosures, and it has been found necessary to make strong representations concerning the matter to those in authority.

The Finance Department by circular letter has notified the various government departments that since by the new official arrangements many officers in all departments have been dismissed and their positions abolished, the salaries will now revert back to the Imperial Treasury.

The terms on which the concession for a gold mine has been granted to Italian interests are said to be that the mine shall be selected within two months, twenty-five per cent of the proceeds are to be received by the Korean Government, and the contract is limited to twenty five years

[page 113] A Korean company with Pak Kui-Chong at its head five years ago obtained a concession for a railway line from Seoul to Wiju. As the company did not have sufficient capital to push the enterprise it is said the Japanese purchased the concession for the sum of 180,000 yen. Now that this same road is being built by the Japanese Military Department for military purposes the demand is made that this 180,000 Yen be returned to the purchasers of the concession

Miss Dr. Kokyoyu has been employed by the Household Department, and Mr. Kohasangijo becomes an adviser to the Police Department.

Among the questions requiring the attention of the Adviser to the Foreign Office is a request to place the Korean Communication Department under the same management as the Japanese Post Office in Korea. There is also a demand by the French Minister for the salary of the Russian engineer formerly employed by the government.

The acting governor of Whanghai province telegraphs that more than one hundred robbers entered Sin-kai district, and after shooting the magistrate they plundered the royal taxes, securing more than a thousand dollars.

A special envoy extraordinary with several attaches has been appointed to go to Japan to extend congratulations over the recent victories.

Pak Chea-soon has been appointed Minister of the Agricultural Department and Yi Chi-yong as Minister of the Law Department.

While for the present the Chinese Legation and Consulate are housed in the same building, they will have separate accommodations later.

Cho Pyeng-sik, former Home Minister, becomes acting chief Judge of the Supreme Court and Cho Pyeng-ho becomes an assistant in said court.

The Minister of War refused a request from members of the Il chin hoi for permission to visit the palace.

Choi Ik-hyun, Kim Hak-jin and Hur Wi have been arrested by Japanese gendarmes for endeavoring to rid Korea of Japanese influence.

The Japanese Minister has asked for the immediate recall of the Korean Minister to China and the closing of the Legation in Peking.

Cho Pyung-sun found a bag containing seven yen on the street of Chingokai and reported the fact to the Japanese police. After some search the police found the owner and restored the money.

It is said the agreement for the employment of Instructor in Law, Inspector of Post offices, and mining engineer will be cancelled.

The secretary of the French Legation because of illness has departed from Korea.

The secretaries and clerks of all the government departments have been reappointed.

[page 114] The Law Department has represented to the Home Department that seldom a day passes without the death of one or more prisoners in the city jail. After an investigation the report comes back that when fever attacks men who are weak from hunger and cold they have little vitality to withstand the disease. It is requested that a physician visit the jail daily to care for any who may be ill.

Min Chong-muk has been appointed Chief of the Ceremonial Department, and Cho Pyen-pil as Chief of the Department of Propriety.

The governor of Sam Wha requests the Foreign Minister to announce that foreigners cannot have residence in his district outside the limit of ten *li* from the city.

Reports come of excellent work being done by Korean laborers in the railway shops at Fusan. They have charge of various machines from press drill to planer.

Mrs. Harry Rice Bostwick will spend the summer in San Francisco, returning to Seoul in the early autumn.

A telegram has been sent to the Korean Legation at Peking ordering that for the present only one secretary and one clerk be retained at that place to look after Korea’s interests.

The report is that to the duties of adviser to the Police Department will be added those of Inspector of the Courts of Justice.

The magistrate of Choongju is exercised because the people are neglecting their farms and flocking to the centers to protest against the departure of Yi Seung-woo, the former governor of the province.

A telegram from Chun ju says the Righteous Army has dispersed, the members going quietly to their homes, but crowds of Il Chin-hoi members continue to flock to the city.

Mr. Megata, adviser to the Finance Department, returned to Seoul on the 25th .

The departure of Mr. H. E. Bostwick for his home in San Francisco after an extended visit with his son in Seoul was made the occasion for a number of farewell functions of various kinds. Mr. and Mrs. Hulbert invited all, the British and American Guards and the missionaries in Seoul to spend a social evening in their home in honor of Mr. Bostwick. There were games and songs and social converse, with dainty refreshments. During the evening the Guards presented an appropriate gift in a neat speech, to which Mr. Bostwick responded in such a way that few dry eyes were seen. A dinner was later given at the home of Mr. H. R. Bostwick, the Korean English literary society had a special evening, and lastly a number of Guards and others spent a whole day with Mr. Bostwick on a tramp over the fortress of Puk-han with a picnic dinner to whet the appetite. Mr. Bostwick will long be remembered by young and old alike in Seoul, and the wish is expressed on every hand that he may find it possible to return to Seoul to reside permanently.

[page 115] A telegram to the Home Department from Taiku indicates a great unwillingness on the part of the people to accept their new governor.

The governor of Wonsan telegraphs to the Foreign Office for instructions as to how to deal with the request of the Japanese Consul for whaling rights in certain waters along the east coast.

Even at this early stage the earnings of the Seoul-Fusan railroad are said to exceed six yen per mile per day.

A famous ancient Korean sword for the Emperor of Japan and an ancient Korean porcelain bottle for the Empress have been entrusted to a general on his way to Japan from Port Arthur by the Japanese Minister in Seoul.

It is said to have been given out that no former Minister of a Department will ever be appointed as governor of any province.

At Chinnampo a school has been established by two Japanese captains for the purpose of instructing Korean young men in politics and law. There are one hundred and twenty scholars, the captains paying the salary of the teacher.

A telegram to the Home Department from the On Yang prefect recites the fact that Japanese subjects have placed sign-posts about fifty feet apart on the four sides of the noted hot spring in that vicinity, and have compelled the natives to tear down two adjacent houses. He wants the signs removed and the houses replaced, as he cannot bear to see the innocent suffering.

A telegram from Chenju says that peddlers are gathering in crowds under the name Kong Chin-hoi, and they are constantly quarreling with members of the Il Chin-hoi.

Yi Seung-woo, governor of North Choong-chung, has been transferred to North Chulla, and Mr. Min Yung-sun goes as governor of North Chung-choong.

Several unnecessary bureaus with their attendant official positions have suffered decapitation at the hands of the particularly zealous retrenchment movement.

The Korean Minister to Washington informs the Foreign Office that Korean immigrants in Hawaii have requested that a Consul be sent to Hawaii to look after their interests.

The Japanese acting commander-in chief at Pyeng Yang has asked the governor to set aside the ground near the Tai Dong river for military purposes, and also a strip of land four hundred feet wide and nineteen hundred feet long outside the Pyeng Yang city wall to be used by the military headquarters. The Minister of the Foreign Department has sent a refusal to the Japanese Legation, stating that this is a very serious matter, and if the request were to be granted the Royal Palace, Kija’s temple and many other houses would have to be pulled down.

Japanese police inspectors will undertake their duties in Seoul after the 27th inst.

[page 1l6] Min Yung-whi, former governor of Pyeng Yang, is accused of having without recompense taken rice fields from a man and deprived him of all income. It is said that during the seventeen years the land has been thus alienated the income would have approximated eighty three thousand dollars. He is asked to repay this amount without delay. Another complainant serenely bobs up and asks for 140,000 dollars for property stolen by this same governor, not to mention the many years of imprisonment suffered by the complainant.

The Korean government according to native papers has been informed by the Japanese Minister that after an examination of the various contracts which the government has made with foreigners through Yi Yong-ik and others he finds several useless positions, filled at great expense to Korea. He recommends a thorough examination and reduction of the pay-roll without unnecessary delay.

On the thirteenth of last June the Korean government was requested by the Japanese Minister to furnish a copy of the regulations governing Korean emigrants. Up to the present no report has been received, and since the Japanese government is calling for the report the Minister is anxious to receive and forward the same.

Min Yung chang, Korean Minister to France, reports that last year the secretary of the Legation returned home because of illness, and now his clerk is starting for Seoul with the same excuse. On this account he desires that a secretary be despatched to France immediately.

The report having been circulated that certain Korean scholars had sent a circular letter to the various foreign Legations asking them to interfere with Japan’s plans in Korea, and that report having reached the Japanese Legation, it is said a desire was expressed to meet representatives of these scholars that they might be informed of Japan’s good intentions.

His Majesty issued the following edict concerning the disturbance in Chulla province : “Alas, Our people! You are all Our children, including the good and the bad; the good must be praised by reward, and the bad must be warned by punishment. Of late the minds of the people in Chulla province have been disturbed by wrong ideas, and they have been gathering in crowds, calling themselves the Righteous Army, and other names. After receiving telegrams concerning these things we have not been able to sleep in peace. They cannot attend to their duties because of this uproar, and will not be able to save their own lives and those of their families. The messenger must run day and night and bear this our order and explain so definitely that they will return to their homes in peace.”

The Belgian Minister informs the Foreign Office that many months ago he made application for a gold mine concession, which as yet has not been granted. Since the contracts with the Italian Minister and others have recently been signed, he hopes his matters will be attended to immediately, without the necessity of further mention.

[page 117] A wealthy Japanese visiting Korea last year found some very desirable fields along the Tai Dong river, and spent a considerable sum of money in purchasing them. After investigation of the conditions he concluded that the city of Seoul would develop greatly toward the south, as there would not be much opportunity for extension on the north and west because of the royal palaces. In accord with this conviction he has purchased ground where he will build the first of many probable residences for Japanese of noble birth.

On the 22nd inst Rev. and Mrs. W. G Cram were bereaved by the death of their infant son, of scarlet fever. Interment took place at Yang W’hachin. Their sorrow is shared by the entire community.

Rev. N. C. Whittemore, of Syen Chyun, recently departed for America on furlough, with home address at Rye, New York.

A remarkably dry Spring until the 20th inst, when a gentle, soaking rain laid all dust and loosened the ground for plowing.

The prefect of Jik San reports that Japanese subjects have entered his district in company with a Korean and commenced mining operations, giving him to understand the concession was granted four years ago. He complains that the people are greatly disturbed at having their fields molested, and asks an investigation and the withdrawal of the parties without delay.

On Saturday, March 18, in the Methodist Episcopal church at Chenml-po, Rev. Dr. W. B. Scranton pronounced the words uniting in matrimony Miss Marguerite Townsend and Mr. James DeForest Atkinson. The impressive ceremony was witnessed by a large number of invited guests from Chemulpo and Seoul. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Townsend. of Chemulpo. Mr. Atkinson is the son of American missionaries in Japan, and after completing his school work in America has assisted Townsend & Co. in Chemulpo for the last two years. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of Mr. Townsend, where congratulations were showered on the happy couple, refreshments were served, and numerous beautiful and costly presents were inspected. Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson have departed for America on their wedding journey, and expect to be absent for some months.

An edict has been issued by His Majesty which recounts the fact that while the Communication Department has only been established six years there has been a very great increase in the amount of both postal and telegraphic business. As this is the result of the diligence of all the officers in the Department he wishes to show his gratitude by conferring decorations as follows : “To the general director, Min Sang-ho, First Degree of Pak Kwai; to the Accounts Director, Chang Wha- sik, Third Degree Pal Kwai; to the Engineer, Kim Chul-yeng, Fifth Degree Pal Kwai; to the Director of Telegraphs, Yi Chung Nai, and to the Director of the Post Offiice, Yu Chi-soo, the Sixth Degree Pal Kwai.

[page 118] On the occasion of the Crown Prince’s birthday several prisoners received pardons and others had their sentences reduced by special edict.

The governor of Seoul reports to the Home Department that the number of foreigners is increasing daily in Seoul, and suggests that there is too much labor attached to making an individual report on each one.

The magistrate of Chin Chun district says that since the withdrawal of military guards his part of the country is overrun by robbers, and he asks that the guards be immediately returned.

A vague rumor is afloat concerning the remarriage of His Majesty the Emperor.

The Inspector of the Police Department has been blamed for his carelessness and an inspector of one of the wards has been fined five days salary because he failed to suppress robbers in his part of the city.

The Chief of Accounting in the Department of Communications has, it is claimed, spent more than thirty thousand dollars of public money. He is now in hiding, and the police are searching more or less diligently for some trace of his whereabouts.

Fifteen thousand yen is said to be the amount appropriated for traveling expenses of the special envoy to Japan, with his suite. The stay in Tokyo will be about one week.

The Foreign Office informs the American Legation that after diligent search the police are unable to locate the robbers who made the dastardly attack on the life of Dr. Forsythe

It is stated that J. H. Muhlensteth has resigned his position with the government telegraphs, and will soon depart for home.

A despatch to the Foreign Office recites the fact that a tract of land at Fusan formerly belonging to the Household Department had been sold to a Japanese by two Koreans. The former Minister of the Household had asked the former governor of Fusan to issue deeds to the Japanese, but the matter was postponed. Lately the acting Minister of the same department has requested the governor to issue the deed, but he has puy it off, so that now the Japanese wish to deal in the matter directly with the Korean Government.

The magistrate of Jik-san reports to the Supreme Court that a Japanese has come to his district and without notice has commenced digging for gold. On being ordered to desist he claimed to have received a concession from the Household Department four years ago. This Department promptly disavowed any knowledge of the transaction, and the Japanese was unable to produce the papers.

The Imperial Treasury has notified the Foreign Office that Japanese have entered the Sun Chun district and are prospecting and taking possession of gold mines with a high hand. They ask that notice prohibiting such actions be immediately forwarded to the Japanese Legation.

Il Chin hoi orators gave a political lecture at Independence Hall on the twentieth inst.

[page 119] The French Minister complains to the Foreign Office that the governor of Chemulpo issued two leases for the same piece of ground, one to a French subject and one to a Japanese. The men are now quarreling, and the Foreign Office is asked to settle the matter.

The Household Department has notified the foreign Office that the laying of water pipes within the palace grounds is merely for protection against fire, and not for profit. After the water mains are laid throughout the city these in the palace can probably be dispensed with.

Because the Righteous Army has recently been creating much disturbance in North Chulla province Mr. Yi Seung-woo has been appointed governor of the province, with instructions to proceed at once to his post of duty.

All heads of Departments and other high officials were invited by the Japanese to attend the opening of the new central observatory at Chemulpo on the twenty-fifth inst.

Mr. Chi Ya has been appointed clerk to assist Mr. Stevens, Adviser to the Foreign Department. The salary is fixed at yen 250 per month, with thirty-five yen per month for house rent.

A communication from the Japanese Minister to the Agricultural Department asks for the immediate dismissal of the French inspectors and engineers employed in the Northwestern Railway Bureau, and also the dismissal of two other engineers when their salaries shall have been paid.

A Cabinet meeting very warmly discussed the proposition for putting the Korean and Japanese Post Office Departments under one management, but so much opposition was developed that the subject was summarily dropped for the present.

From the Ik-san district the magistrate reports to the Law Department that robbers became so numerous he found it necessary to employ detectives to apprehend the robbers. Four robbers have been arrested by the detectives, and since they are ring-leaders the magistrate asks that they be hanged as a warning to others.

The Foreign Minister communicates with the French Legation concerning a despatch from the Department of Communications to the effect that M. Clemenc et has of his own volition resigned from the Department. Because of his diligence the volume of business has greatly increased. They find him entitled to five thousand two hundred and fifty yen as salary and travelling expenses, and he is also presented with a special reward of nineteen hundred and fifty yen .

A deal has been consummated whereby W. H. Emberley, proprietor of the Grand Hotel, Seoul, turns that hostlery over to L. Martin, formerly proprietor of the Palace Hotel, which burned a few weeks ago. Mr. and Mrs. Emberley with their children will sail for England in a few days. They have spent a number of years in Korea. Mrs. Emberley has been noted throughout the East for setting a first class table, and many will join heartily in the wish for a safe and pleasant voyage and happy reunion with daughters and friends in the home land.

[page 120] After securing the approval of the Japanese Minister the contracts between the Korean government and the teachers of the English and Chinese language schools have been signed.

Six Japanese police inspectors have arrived in Seoul, and it is said one will be stationed at the city jail and one in each of five wards of the city.

Evildoers are somewhat frightened over the report that the Chief of Police makes the rounds of the city in disguise every night on the lookout for offenders and to see that his officers are attending to duty.

Prince Hui Chin is said to have sailed from Yokohama for America on the 18th inst.

Five gendarmes were sent by the War Department to Whanghai province to detect the robbers guilty of killing the magistrate.

Yu Pang-ju, a member of the II Chin-hoi, has established a school for teaching Koreans the Japanese language. He charges no fee and has about ninety scholars in daily attendance.

A telegram from South Pyeng An province says that in two districts the people have gathered in large numbers against the II Chin-hoi. Policemen were sent but difficulty was found in stopping the disturbance.

Mr. J. G. Holdcroft is starting on a visit to Pyeng Yang previous to his departure for America to enter a theological school.

Whooping-cough has been prevalent in Seoul during the month. Nearly all the foreign children in the city who have not previously had the disease are having it now, the foreign school being considerably interfered with on that account.

The Korea Daily News has not appeared since March 11, but it is supposed arrangements are under way whereby the paper will again be furnished to subscribers.

Miss Mary Brown is departing on a visit to Syen Chyun.

D. W. Deshler will add two more steamers to take care of the passenger and freight traffic to and from Chemulpo. Capt. Gunderson has already departed for Europe to bring back one of the steamers.

Mr. McLeavy Brown had a house-warming in his new residence the evening of March 30. A merry company assembled and tripped the light fantastic until an early hour. Music was furnished by the Imperial band under the charge of Prof. Franz Eckert.