

A Visit to Quelpart by Rev. Alex. Kenmure and Mr. A. A. Pieters

Mr. Kenmure and I left Chemulpo on the 18th February by the Korean steamer *Chang Riong* for the island of Quelpart (Chai-Joo). Leaving Chemulpo at 6.30 p. m. we reached the first port, Kunsan. next morning at nine o'clock. We went ashore to see Dr. Drew and Mr. Junkin, and as the day was Sunday, we had an opportunity to be present at the Korean service. We were pleasantly surprised to find a congregation of about fifty people. When I was visiting this place three years ago there were only some three enquirers; now Mr. Junkin has a membership of twenty-eight men and nine women. All the women have been received since the last annual meeting, and since that date the male membership has doubled itself. The building is now too small for the congregation and money is being raised for a new chapel. The contributions every Sunday amount to more than \$1.50 and a good part of the necessary funds are already on hand.

Since the magistracy was removed from Kunsan a few years ago, the town has been diminishing very rapidly, and now the number of houses is less than half what it was before. But when the port is opened—which will take place on the 1st May—there is no doubt the place will revive quickly. Kunsan is situated at the mouth of the Chang-Po river, and the harbor is large and deep, the only drawback being the shallowness of the entry which can be passed by large steamers only at high tide. All along the river there are a good many towns and villages. Ninety *li*, twenty-seven miles, up the river lies Kangim, and twenty *li* farther east, Nolmi, two large towns, with periodical markets every five days, that are considered among the largest in the country. Three hundred *li* up the river lies Kong-Joo, the capital of South Chun-Chung do, with two semi-annual fairs. The river is navigable as far as Kong-joo. One hundred *li* east of Kunsan is Chon-joo, the capital of North Chulla-do. Boats can ascend to within thirty *li* of the place. North of Kunsan and across the river the hills are covered with dense pine woods, and recently a layer of coal was discovered. Opposite the harbor there is an island which is visited in the spring and summer by hundreds of fishing boats. The country all around is fertile and well populated, the roads are good, the weather much milder than in Seoul, and conditions for building up a prosperous port are favorable.

A peculiar feature of the country around Kunsan is the abundance of the human debris strewed about the fields and hills. The people instead of burying their dead frequently put them down on the ground and cover them up with a heap of straw about three feet high. With the rains and winds it does not take long for the straw to rot and be blown away, and the bones are laid bare. This I have never noticed in any other part of Korea except once in one of the southern cities of Chulla-do where some years ago a fight took place between the Tong-Haks and soldiers, and all the dead were left unburied for the dogs and ravens.

We left Kunsan at six o'clock next morning and arrived at Mokpo the evening of the same day. The entrance to the harbor of Mokpo is only about four hundred yards wide, and the tidal water rushes in and out with a speed of nine knots an hour, so small steamers are often turned back by the current. Inside the entrance opens a large bay with three inlets: north towards the magistracy of Moo-An, south into the rich valleys of Hai-Nam, and east by Mokpo. The harbor is very large and exceptionally deep, averaging ten fathoms and even within a hundred yards of the shore the water is as much as nine fathoms deep. Although I was in Mokpo twice before the port was opened I could now hardly recognize the place. The transformation was as in one of the Arabian tales. Two years ago Mokpo consisted of a few Korean huts anchored to a large bare rock rising abruptly from the water and surrounded by large stretches of rice-fields and mud-flats. Now all the huts have disappeared. Instead of the mud-flats there are nicely laid out streets with new Japanese stores all along them; the shore

by the rock is reclaimed, and there is room enough for building customs store-houses and for loading and unloading boats.

Mokpo is situated at the mouth of the Kok river, which, famous in Korea for its peculiarly winding shape, is called the River of Ninety-Nine Turns. Three hundred *li* up the river lie five large cities: Na-Joo, Quang-Joo, Nung-Joo, Nem-Pion, and Wha-Sung, all of them some ten miles apart. Of these cities Na-Joo is the former capital and Quang-Joo the present capital of South Chulla-do. This is the most fertile, and most thickly populated part of Korea. Every few miles one comes across large villages and towns; rice fields stretch for many miles and yield two crops a year—barley or wheat and rice. Hills are infrequent and not high and roads good. Rice, barley-beans, bamboo, as well as all the different articles made of it, native cotton and grass cloth, wood-varnish, dining-tables, writing desks, paper, and fans are sent out from there all over Korea. Since the port was opened the exports and imports have been increasing daily, and as Armore, the acting commissioner of customs, figuratively expressed himself, when the railroad connecting Mokpo with Seoul is built, it will not be long before Mokpo becomes the Shanghai of Korea. The port is growing very rapidly, and—we quote Mr. Armor again—when one does not go out for few days, he can easily notice the difference. There is in Mokpo a bank, an insurance company, a Japanese postoffice, Korean post and telegraph office, and a rice-mill. The steamers of the Soshien Kaisha have been regularly visiting there and from this spring the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha will also be calling there. As yet the foreign community consists only of Mr. Armore, a Roman Catholic missionary, Mr. and Mrs. Bell and Dr. Owen.

We left Mokpo the morning of the 22nd but after a two hours' sail met another ocean steamer *Hyenik* which informed us that she was just returning from Quelpart and, on account of the strong wind blowing there, had not been able to discharge her cargo and passengers. This because of the absence of a harbor or any kind of shelter. So we had to go back to Mokpo and stay there all day. We started again at midnight and arrived at Quelpart next noon. We dropped anchor within about a mile of the shore. It was raining and windy and we had to wait half an hour, the steamer rolling all the time very unpleasantly, until a couple of Korean boats came out dancing over the waves. We managed to load our boxes on one of the boats and, after half an hour's soaking got our goods and ourselves to a fisherman's hut outside of Chai-Joo.

From that moment our troubles began. The rain did not stop pouring for seven days and nights. All the time we were shut up in a dark room of just six feet square and less than six feet high. There are many different hardships one undergoes in traveling over Korea, but to be imprisoned in a small room of a Korean hotel for several rainy days is almost more than one can endure. It is impossible to imagine what it is, and one has to experience it personally in order to get some idea of it. During the day it was so dark that we could read with difficulty. To reward ourselves for this we often lit in the evenings our five large candles at once. We got at last so desperate that we almost made up our minds to leave the island, as it seemed the rain was never going to stop. Fortunately on the eighth day it began to clear up and we became more hopeful.

Next day was bright sunshine, and in spite of the deep mud we wanted to start at once, but discovered that there was a stream to be crossed which, on account of the recent rains, was so swollen that it would be impossible to get across. We waited another day and then left for our trip around. Before going we tried to get horses, but found that at this time of the year they were too weak to be ridden, and we had to deny ourselves the pleasure of exploring Quelpart on "The Korean Pony." The road was much worse than even those of KanWon-do and beats everything of the kind I have ever seen; in fact, it hardly deserves to be called road if not for the want of another name. It is only two stone walls, and is all one mass of all possible sizes and shapes, Here and there the walls had fallen and blocked up the road

entirely. The rains filled in the spaces between the stones with water and mud, and while it may be possible to pick one's way when the road is dry, we had to step from edge to edge over the stones, and, of course, many a time our feet would slip and get into a pool of water. As we were not able to lift our eyes for a moment from the ground, our heads soon began to swing and by noon I had a severe head-ache.

The road was ascending all the time, and this together with the other discomforts made the walking exceedingly difficult. After a walk of four hours in which we covered only six miles, we arrived at a village of a few huts where after a half an hour's quarrel between our Koreans and the villagers, the latter consented to cook some millet for the Koreans and some rice for us. After tiffin we continued our way and by dark reached again a few huts. We were told before that there were no inns on the whole island but that midway between the magistracies there were government houses built and kept on purpose for travelling officials to spend the nights. Being quite exhausted with our day's walk—which by the way, was not more than thirteen miles—we were anticipating a comfortable night's rest in the house kept by a considerate government. You may imagine what we felt when we were shown to a room less than six feet square and a little over five feet high, with mud-walls and ceiling black with smoke and cobwebs, a bare mud floor, a three foot door that would not shut, a pile of grain-filled baskets in one corner, and another pile of dirty, old winter clothes, stockings, old straw bags, jars, etc., that took up one-third of the room. This was the best part of the house. Next to it there was another room not so good as ours to which the keeper had removed his sick wife.

Our Koreans had taken their supper and gone to spend the night in an open shed although the thermometer was below freezing point. I thought that if the official who had built this house for the government was not one of the exiles, he ought to be. As soon as we could we crammed ourselves in between the old stockings and dirty walls and went to sleep. I suppose we would have slept as well on the ground in the open air. Fleas, bugs, etc., were of no consequence to us, although we could easily see in the morning many marks of their presence. Early next day we continued our journey. The first thirty *li* the road was fairly good. There were but a few stones, and we were now descending. However, the last twenty *li* the road was worse than ever—if it could be worse. On account of its descent, our feet were coming down with more force upon the sharp edges of the stones and although we kept our eyes close to the ground we were slipping, stumbling, and striking the stones all the time. Not a house was to be seen all the way and only after six hours rapid walking we reached the city of Tai-chang.

As the road was approaching the town we noticed that it was paved, but the pavement was of such a kind that we preferred to walk in the mud. Having arrived in the town tired and hungry we were anxious to find some place where we could stretch our limbs and get something to eat. In reply to all our enquiries we were calmly told that there were no inns nor any houses suitable for our accommodation. There we were, sitting exhausted on a couple of stones, surrounded by a tremendous crowd gazing at us and making all sorts of remarks. After half an hour's unsuccessful arguing with them, we decided to go to the magistrate and get him to give us some place. We found the old man ill but were received very cordially. The Chusa was immediately sent to find a house for us. The magistrate was sorry we did not call at once, apologized for the indifference of the people, and, in fact, was so taken up by our visit that he did not seem to know how to do enough for us. While waiting for the return of the Chusa we were offered different refreshments, such as rice, pomeloes, honey, whisky, powdered Japanese sugar, and pipes which a servant carefully lit by taking a few puffs from them. After some time the Chusa returned and escorted us to our lodgings. This was the usual six foot room. only this time its two doors opened, one into a cow-house and the other into a

stable. Whatever purpose these doors might serve they certainly were not intended for letting in fresh air.

We spent three days in this close proximity to cows and horses. On the fourth day though it was raining in the morning, by noon it began to clear up and we started off, but before long the sky seemed to have changed its mind and it began again to rain. We had to walk some ten *li* under the rain and by the time we reached a shelter we were well soaked. Next morning it was bright sunshine, and we went on. The distance to the next place where we could spend the night was seventy *li*. This on good roads is an easy day's walk. But here, try as we would, night overtook us long before we reached the place. For an hour and a half we had to walk in the pitch dark over a narrow stony path, and one can easily imagine how happy we were. However, in spite of a few scratches, strikes and bruises our poor feet had received, on reaching the house we considered ourselves fortunate for not having broken our necks.

Next day the sky was again threatening, but we decided to go on all the same. We were rewarded for our persistence with a good shower bath. By noon in the midst of a downpour we arrived at our destination—the city of Chang-ni. Here again there were no inns; again we had to go to the magistrate. We found he was asleep and, as none of the runners dared to awake him, we had to wait. We soon got tired of it and insisted that one of the runners find us a house without waiting until the magistrate made up his mind to rise. They would not listen and insisted upon our waiting. But being hungry and wet we were not to be trifled with and spoke to them pretty sharply. That made them get up, and soon we were taken to an uninhabited mouldy government house. We proceeded at once to open our boxes, heated a can of soup, made some tea and got ready to have something to eat. We had barely taken a few mouthfuls, when wild yells outside announced the coming of the magistrate. In a few minutes he arrived with some twenty men, four boys ranging in front of him, one carrying his four foot long pipe, one his umbrella, one his official seals, and one his tobacco box. Of course we had to drop our dinner and entertain him which was not an easy matter as his call lasted fully three hours.

Next day he paid us another short visit of some three or four hours and, when bidding us good-bye he said he would try and see us again next day. Hearing this we became quite alarmed, and next morning in spite of the strong north wind we decided to go on. The wind blew with such force that it was difficult to go against. It was so cold that before starting I had to put on my overcoat and suggested the same to Mr. Kenmore. He laughed at me saying he was not a hot house plant, and started without his overcoat. Soon though, to keep himself warm he had to quicken his paces and left us behind. Not knowing the road it did not take him long to lose it, and when we reached the place for dinner, he was not there and none of the wayfarers had seen him. I was certain that not knowing the names of the villages where we had intended to take tiffin and spend the night, he would not be able to enquire the road. So I sent out a Korean to find him while we proceeded.

When we reached the place where we expected to stop, it was only five o'clock. The distance from there to Chai-poo being only twenty *li* (or seven miles), I decided to go on and finish my journey over the island. I instructed the villagers if Mr. Kenmore came to direct him to Chai-poo, and thus the coolies and I went on. But when we arrived at Chai-poo we found Mr. Kenmore there already. After finding he had lost the way he decided to go straight to Chai-poo inquiring the road as he went, and reached there after walking all day without rest or food. It was a great relief to think that our trip around the island was at last finished:

The island of Quelpart or as Dr Griffis in his fantastic book on Korea calls it—the Sicily of Korea, or as Koreans call it, Chai-Jo, is the largest island of the Korean archipelago and is situated south of the peninsula at a distance of some fifty miles from the mainland. The shape of the island is elliptical and straight lines drawn between the two farthest and two

nearest points thro the center would be forty and seventeen miles long. As you approach the island from the north at a distance of twenty miles it looks like an isosceles, the two sides rising at angle of about seventeen degrees and only near the top turning a little steeper— something like Namsan as you look at it from the north gate of Seoul. The island rises gradually all around from the edges towards the center where the foot of Mount Auckland, or Whallaisan, is planted.

All over the island are scattered small conical hills, which look very insignificant before the cloudy peak of Whallai-san rising to the height of 6558 feet The origin of the island is decidedly volcanic, the mountain being most probably an extinct volcano. The flow of lava was toward the north and south-southwest, the streams being, the first, some twenty miles wide along the coast of the island and the second, some thirty miles. Thus the lava covered two-fifths of the whole area of the island. This part of it is very stony and very difficult to cultivate and gigantic labor must have been spent in trying to clear the fields of the innumerable stones. Often on a field of one acre there will be four or five piles of stone eight or ten feet high. Another way of disposing of these stones was to build walls between the fields, so that from the top of one of the small hills the land seems to be covered with a large irregular net. The other three fifths of the Island is almost free from stones and the soil is black and rich. The mountain slopes gradually towards the east and the west, but comes down abruptly in large ravines towards the south and especially towards the north.

On the top of the mountain there is a small, round lake and at the bottom of one of the ravines another large lake. The first one is probably the old crater filled with water from the melting snow. We were told that ice lies on the top until June, altho the climate on the island is so warm that cabbage grows all winter in the open air. When we were there, towards the end of February, the grass in some places was four inches high and on the southern coast flowers were blooming. In spite of that a third of the mountain was covered with deep snow which would make all attempts to climb to the top useless. All the mountain as well as the hills to the east of it are covered with thick woods of oak. In these forests deer, wild hogs, hares and other animals abound but there are no tigers or bears. The hills that have no trees on them, are covered with the peculiar short Korean grass which makes such fine lawns. This grass is much prettier in Quelpart than anywhere on the mainland and often one comes across natural lawns of four or five hundred yards square, with not a weed on them and all covered as with a heavy velvet carpet. The coast of Quelpart is void of harbors or any shelters, rocky, and the numerous small islands which are scatted so thickly all along the southern and western coast of Korea, are absent here.

This absence of shelter together with the constant strong winds makes navigation very difficult.

One is surprised at the absence of streams and springs. In making our trip around the island we came across only two streams, and that after a whole week of rains. While there are some powerful springs in the city of Chai-Joo, in the other two magistracies there are no springs nor any wells and the people have to use rain water gathered in artificial ponds. Where the water from the melting snow on the mountain goes is a mystery.

As I above mentioned there are three magistracies on the island: Chai-joo on the northern coast, the capital and the seat of the Governor (Mok-sa); Tai-Chung on the southwest coast and Chung-Ui in the east part of the island. All the three cities are walled. Chae-Joo counts some twelve hundred houses. Tai-Chung, four hundred, and Chung-Ui three hundred. The distance from Chai-Joo to Tai-Chung is ninety *li*, from there to Chung-Ui a hundred and thirty *li*; and from Chung-Ui to Chai-Joo seventy *li*. Until the war the island belonged to Chullado; soon after the war it was made independent, and again when Korea was divided into thirteen provinces, Quelpart was put under the jurisdiction of the Governor (Quan-chul-sa) of South Chulla-do. On the whole island there are said to be about a hundred

villages and some hunched thousand people. These figures are given by the Koreans and of course are probably not quite true. All the villages lie either along the coast where the people can raise some rice or at the foot and along the sides of the mountain where fuel is plentiful and where Irish potatoes grow very well. The space between the shore and the foot of the mountain is not populated and long stretches of rich soil lie uncultivated. Only those woods and fields that are near the towns and larger villages have owners. All the rest of the island belongs to nobody and anyone may come and cut the trees or cultivate the ground. An oxload of wood which a man has to bring on his ox for ten or fifteen miles is sold in the cities for twelve cents.

Of the cereals raised on the Island millet takes the first place, and this is the main article of diet. Rice is a luxury and is eaten only by well-to-do people in the cities. In the villages the people never use it. This on account of the scarceness of rice fields, of which there are only a few along the coast. The little rice there is mostly brought from the mainland. Besides millet, rice and Irish potatoes, the people raise barley, wheat; buck wheat, beans, sweet potatoes, tobacco, vegetables and a few other less important cereals. Of fruits peaches, oranges and pomeloes are the only things that grow there. Of animal food the islanders, like the people of the mainland, eat very little. It consists of beef, horse and dog meat, pork, game, fish and pearl oysters. Crabs, common oysters and all the different kinds of clams that are so plentiful on the southern and western coasts of Korea are absent in the Quelpart waters. Owing to the rocky bottom of the sea very little, if any, net fishing is done and the fish is mostly caught with hooks.

For going out into the sea to fish boats are not employed. Instead of them people go out on small rafts made of some ten short logs with a platform built a foot above them to which an oar is fastened. Instead of the tiny little frames not more than eight inches long, used by the fishermen on the mainland for fastening the string, the Quelpart fisherman uses regular rods made of bamboo some twelve feet long, and lack of fish, clams, etc., is supplied by the abundance of pearl oysters and seaweed, which are both used on the island and exploited. The pearl oysters are very large some measuring ten inches in diameter, and very fleshy. Unlike other oysters, it has only one shell, which is often used by the Koreans as an ash tray and of which mother of pearl is obtained. Covered with this shell as with a roof the oyster lies fastened to a rock. Its meat is considered a luxurious dish and one oyster costs as much as six cents on the island. Pearls are but very seldom found in the oyster. For export, the oysters are torn out of the shell, the intestine bag cut off, the meat cleaned, dried and strung on thin sticks. Altho white when fresh the color changes to a dark red, like that of a dried apricot. They can be seen displayed in the native grocery shops in Seoul, flat reddish disks of about four or five inches in diameter fastened by tens with a thin stick stuck thro them.

Of the seaweeds there are several different kinds: some are as rich, used as fertilizers, some are used for food and some are sold to the Japanese for making carbonate of soda. The first kind is gathered on the sea shore, but the other two have to be obtained from the bottom of the sea. It is strange to say that the diving for these weeds as well as for the pearl oysters is entirely done by women. Dressed in a kind of bathing suit with a sickle in one hand and gourd with a bag tied to it in front of them, they swim out from the shore as far as half a mile; boats cannot be afforded and there dive, probably a depth of forty or fifty feet, to the bottom, cut the weeds with the sickle, or if they find a pearl oyster, tear it off from the stone, and then put it into the bag which is kept floating by the gourd. They do not go back before the bag is filled, which often takes more than half an hour. Altho they are magnificent swimmers, one cannot help admiring their endurance, when he thinks that this work is begun as early as February. Of late the Japanese supplied with diving apparatus have been coming to Quelpart and catching all the pearl oysters, so that the poor women have to be satisfied with the weeds

only. The magistrates told us that these Japanese never asked for permission nor paid anything for catching the pearl oysters. If it is so, the imposition upon the weak Koreans is surprising.

The Quelpart women not only dive for weed and oysters but do the largest part of all work. Even ox loads of grain are brought to the city market for sale by women. The carrying of the water is also done entirely by the women, who have often to go a long distance to fetch it. For carrying the water they use broad low pitchers set in a basket, which is fastened with strings around the shoulders and carried on the back. I never saw this done anywhere else in Korea as it is considered very disgraceful for a woman to carry anything on her back. I was told by the Koreans whom we had with us, that if on the mainland a man made his wife to do so, he would be driven out of the village. Native hats, hair bands and skull-caps, which are extensively manufactured on the island are also mostly made by women. In fact the women of Quelpart might be called the Amazonians of Korea. They not only do all the work but greatly exceed the men in number, and on the streets one meets three women to one man. This is because so many men are away sailing. The women are more robust and much better looking than their sisters on the mainland.

As almost everything is done by the women, there remains nothing else for the man to do but to loaf, and to do them credit they do it well. Except a scanty shop here and there in which a man is presiding with a long pipe in his mouth it is very difficult to find a man doing something. For this, however, they are not any better off, as all the islanders seem to be strikingly poor. Not only the food, but the clothes and houses are much worse than on the mainland. Dog skins are extensively used for making clothes. Hats, the shape of a tea-cup, overcoats, leggings like those worn by the Chinese and stockings are all made of dog skin with the hair outside, which for greater warmth are used untanned. A suit of such clothes is handed down from generation to generation, and the smell of it is far from being sweet. The women's clothes as well the men's trousers and shirts are made of native or Manchester sheeting. To make the sheeting stronger they dip it into the juice pressed out of some kind of a wild persimmon. This makes it a dirty brown color, which saves the trouble of washing it. The cloth is thus worn until it falls to pieces.

Besides skin hats the men also use felt hats of the same shape as those worn by the Seoul chair coolies, only much larger, the brims measuring more than two feet in diameter. The one exception in respect of clothes is made by the people in the magistracies who wear the same white clothes and black hats as the people on the mainland. The houses consist of one six foot room and an open kitchen. The walls, ceiling and floor of the room are bare, and the floor has no flues for heating it. Instead of this a large hole is dug in the floor of the kitchen and in the cold weather a fire is kept there day and night. Around this fire they eat, work, and sleep. This again is different in the cities where the houses are much the same as on the mainland. All the houses with a few exceptions are thatched. On account of the strong winds the thatch is fastened by a net of straw ropes two inches thick and eight inches apart.

The needs of the people for things outside of their own products seem to be so small that a few shops supply them all. In the capital, Chai-Joo, there are some eight small shops; in Tai-Chung one: and in Chung-Ui perhaps one. These are probably the only shops on the whole island and from them the people obtain the few needed foreign articles, such as shirting, dyes, thread, needles, nails. etc. The periodical markets which are held on the mainland and in all the towns and many villages every five days, are altogether absent, and in the whole trading seems to be yet in its infancy. The things exported from Quelpart are: pearl oysters, sea weed, native medicine, cosmetic oil, horse and raw hides, horses and cattle. The cosmetic oil is pressed from the seeds of the fruit of the *Datura Stramonium* or, as the Koreans call it, Tong-Paik. This tree grows abundantly all over the southern part of the island. It is

evergreen and blooms in February with beautiful crimson flowers. On the mainland this tree is very rare.

Horses and cattle are very important items of export and a good many of the Korean horses come from there. The cattle are not nearly as large and strong as on the mainland. The average price of a horse is sixteen dollars and of a bull or cow twenty-five. The ponies and cattle are turned loose all over the island and are left to take care of themselves, altho they all have owners. In the winter they feed on the fields and in the spring they are driven into the mountains for the summer. The stone walls built between all the fields are intended for keeping the ponies from running about from field to field. A good many of the horses and cattle belong to the government and an official is kept there for the purpose of taking care of them. Some years before he had to send up annually a certain amount of horses and cattle to Ko rea for the use of the government. Since taxes in kind were abolished, he has been selling the animals and sending up money. As there is no watch kept the islanders are not very scrupulous in catching and utilizing a government cow or horse whenever they have a need for it. Not only is the trade in its infant stage but the mode of life of the people is quite primitive.

Owing to the isolation of the island the people are much more ignorant and much less civilized than those of the mainland. As on the mainland, so on the islands, the people have no religion. A Confucian temple in each of the three cities, six or eight large idols cut of lava and placed outside of each gate, and a few shrines seem to satisfy all the spiritual needs of the hundred thousand people. There is not one Buddhist temple nor a priest on the whole island. It is said that about a hundred years ago a sceptical governor ordered all the temples to be destroyed and all the priests driven out. Since then they have never been allowed to return. The governor was punished, tho, for his atheism and soon died at Chai-Joo far away from his relatives and friends.

There are a few interesting sights on the island. Within ten *li* from Tai-Chung one sees a peculiar rock rises abruptly to the height of some eight hundred feet. In the south side of it at the height of about three hundred feet there is a cave of some twenty feet wide at the entrance twenty feet long and forty feet high. From the opening of the cave the view over the country and the sea is magnificent. We were told that many years ago a Buddhist temple was standing in the cave, but was destroyed at the same time as the others. At a distance of thirt and sixty *li* from Tai-Chung, on the way to Chung-ui, there are two water falls formed by two circular holes in the rocky ground about thirty feet wide and forty feet deep. The walls are quite vertical and two small mountain streams fall into them. When we saw them, one of the streams was almost dry, and the other one had but little water, but in the rainy season they must present a splendid sight. It is interesting to note that both waterfalls are exactly alike. Not far from the top of Mt. Auckland there stand up in one place a number of rocks all alike and of the size of man; when seen from a distance they resemble a company of people and this caused the Koreans ot call them O-paik chang gun (five hundred heroes). Not far from Chung-ui there is a place with which the following legend is connected:

Many years ago a very large snake lived there when from time immemorial a yearly sacrifice of a beautiful virgin had to be offered. The snake used to devour her alive. If the virgin was not brought, rains would not fall, strong winds would begin to blow, horses and cattle would die, and sickness and other calamities would befall the people. About a hundred years ago a man had a very beautiful daughter, who was the pride and the pet of the family. Soon her turn came to be sacrificed. The father, however, did not care to part with her and made up his mind to try and rid the island of the blood thirsty pest. So when the time for offering the sacrifice came this Theseus of Quelpart took a sharp ax with him and led his daughter to the sacrificial spot. He left her there and hid himself not far away. Soon the snake came out, but before he had time to touch the maiden, the man was on him and with one blow

chopped off his head. After this he cut the snake all to pieces and put it into a large kimche jar covering it tightly up. The people were thinking they were going to live now in peace. But from that day the snake began to appear to the people in their dreams, begging them to take out the pieces of his body from the jar and threatening severe vengeance if they did not do so. The people became frightened and at last decided to do as the snake had bidden them but when they emptied the jar every piece of the former snake turned into a whole individual snake and the place was filled with them. However the supernatural power of the snake was lost and no more virgin-sacrifices were needed Still to be sure about it, sacrifices of a pig, rice, whisky etc, are offered yearly on that spot. The ceremony is performed by Mutangs, who of course only show the eatables to the snakes and afterwards feast on them themselves These mutangs, or sorceresses, I suppose, would not hesitate to swear to the truth of this story. We were very curious to see the famous three holes, from which the founders of three noted Korean families are said to have come into the world. But I fear that these holes as well as the three heroes are legends. Nobody on the island seems to know anything about it either.

Quelpart used to be a place of banishment. The last exiles were sent there three years ago. There are twelve exiles there now, mostly political. Two of them came to see us and told us that they were all free to go wherever they liked on the island. They are supported by their own relatives. To prevent them running away, no Korean is allowed to leave Quelpart without a pass from the authorities.

After finishing our tour around the island, our first thought was to enquire about the steamer. Nothing was heard of her and nothing was certain about her coming. There was nothing left for us to do but to hire a boat which was open and was about thirty feet long and ten wide. The channel between Quelpart and the first island near the coast of Korea being forty miles wide we had to wait for a favorable wind to cross it. So the boat-men began to watch the winds. In the evening of the second day just when we were ready to go to bed a boatman came and said that now was a good time to start. However, we were of a different mind. The night was cold, windy and very dark and to take up our warm, comfortable beds which were ready to receive us, pack up all our things. and start off in a small open boat was not a pleasant prospect. We told the boatman that we would start next morning. They tried in vain to persuade us to go at once but had to give in.

Next morning after breakfast, we packed up, hired coolies and went to the boat which was half a mile from our house. But there we found that the Chai-Joo custom (*poong-sok*) was for boats to start only after midnight, and that any other time was unfavorable. No amount of persuasion could make them go and we had to take a few of our things and go to a fisherman's hut. In the afternoon it began to rain and next morning a strong wind from the north was blowing. This wind did not cease for six days during which we had time enough to repent for not going when we were called.

At last the wind changed and one night, according to the *poong-sok* we started at two o'clock having slept not more than three hours. After sailing for some five miles it began to dawn, and the usual morning-breeze began to blow. This being from the north, the boatmen made up their minds to go back and got ready to turn the boat. But we had also made tip our minds that we were not going to go back unless for a very good reason. So I spoke to them very sternly telling them to go ahead and row until the sun was up and then if the breeze did not change, we would go back. My voice and manner must have been pretty suggestive as they took again to the oars and made for the mainland. When the sun arose the wind changed to east and we unfolded our two sails and went flying over the waves. It was pleasant to think that we were moving towards Korea at a good rate, but to be in the boat was not so pleasant. The boat seemed to be very small, indeed, and was leaning on one side and jumping up and down the waves in such a manner that it made us very sea-sick, to say the least. In the

evening we arrived at the first island, spent the night in an inn, next day had a magnificent sail among the numberless small islands, spent another night on the boat, and next day at noon arrived at Mokpo. There we found a steamer leaving for Chemulpo in three hours. At once we transported our goods from the sampan to the steamer, and next noon we were fighting the Chemulpo coolies.