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THE FIFTY-THREE BUDDHAS AND THE NINE DRAGONS.

IN the heights of the Diamond Mountains is the You Chön Sa. It is a temple, the most worthy of consideration of any the writer has seen in Korea. Buddhism seems to be a thing of the past in most of the temples in Korea—rest, dead and gone; but here if dying at all, it is certainly dying slowly, and presents many interesting features to the visitor. In the first place, all its buildings are in good repair and *clean*. In the second place, its priests, who number one hundred and over, are interesting, agreeable and intelligent—a thing which cannot be said of all priests—and here a large proportion of the priests are full of their faith, enthusiastic and meditatively diligent. The ignorance, in general, and of their faith in particular, shown by the average Buddhist priest is appalling. It was therefore a great pleasure to arrive where previous unfavorable impressions could, in a measure, be done away. It will not be easy to forget the gentle and kindly priests of these famous mountains; or the two or three enthusiasts who eagerly poured forth their beliefs to me, as I questioned them.

In most temples, individual priests monopolize the worship at the separate shrines, and I have never seen anything but the most liberal acquiescence in this plan. Here, however, besides the individual attentions at the various shrines, at the hour of prayer, a large proportion of the worshippers met together, as seems more fitting, and in unison of voice and prostrations, chanted forth the names and attributes of Buddha, to the monotonous sounds of drum and bell. Following this service, large numbers of the priests remained in bowed and meditative attitude completing their daily rote of *na mu u mi ta bul*, which the more devout make to reach ten thousand daily. Late into the night we could hear the monotonous and measured stroke of the drum-beat while they continued at their task.

In the main temple of the You Chōm Sa, over its main altar, in a branching and ornamented frame work, are to be seen the small Buddhas which are the subject of this article.

Some three thousand years ago fifty-three Buddhas, then residing in *Sō Yok Kuk*, sat contemplating. Their all-piercing eyes penetrated into all quarters—or their souls more likely preceded them whither they themselves would go. Discovering easily the desirability of the Diamond Mountains, in Korea, as a residence, and the present site of the You Chōm Sa in particular, and contemplating the glory and enlightenment they could bring to that place, it was determined upon by them as their future seat of meditation and throne of influence.

They set out on their journey for the coast of Korea in a slip of stone. The voyage was made in safety until they reached within forty *li* of the site of Shin Kyei Sa, when, the boatman doing badly, their boat was overturned. The upturned sides of their boat can still be seen there.

Unharméd, the Buddhas walked ashore on the surface of the waters, and summoned, judged and condemned the boatman to perpetual imprisonment in a massive rock near by. The neighboring magistrate, hearing of the illustrious arrivals, hastened, together with his worshipful wife, to offer to the Buddhas their services and to escort and do what they could to further them on their gracious journey. The magistrate, named No Chōn Si, and his wife, were told that if they would join this momentous undertaking of the planting of Buddhism in Korea, they must lay aside and leave behind all worldliness and the care for worldly things. And so they started, the fifty-three august Buddhas on a cloud, and the magistrate and his wife as *avant courier*.

On arriving at the foot of the mountain, a heavy thunder-storm arose and the rain-drops recalled to the memory of the good housewife of the magistrate some cotton she had left out in the open drying, before she left home. Thus, like Lot's wife her faith in the things before was tried and found wanting, and it was thought unwise to allow her to accompany further so great an undertaking as the establishment of the fifty-three Buddhas in Korea. She was, however, granted the honor of a way-side shrine at that place—*Fak Chōn Ko*—where she is worshipped to this day.

Thence the bereaved but faithful No Chōn Si proceeded alone in great state and finery on horseback conducting the gods in their course. I am sure it must have required some of the power of fifty-three Buddhas, *as vis a-tergo* to have made his equine ascent successful over the *Pak Chōn Yeng*. This pass is

five miles high and often at an angle better than forty-five degrees—an abrupt ascent from the plains along the east coast to the top of the mountains.

This awe inspiring assemblage proceeded in some successful way to near the site of the present Yun Chōm Sa—at that time a lake in the top of the mountain—and there sat them down once more to contemplate. The lake proved to be the home of nine powerful dragons. The fifty-three Buddhas from the surrounding mountain sides viewed the regions which, before seen by contemplative eye, they had chosen for their home, and summoned the nine dragons to a parley and demanded their quarters. These the dragons were unwilling to yield, and in spite of all the inducements the fifty-three lordships could offer, were not prevailed upon. I judge rather they were incensed, for they proceeded into the heavens from out the lake and sent down such a rain-storm, and great rain-drops as big as your fist, which compelled the gods even to contemplate again, somewhat dismayed. They coaxed the dragons back, asking them to return and dwell in peace. This they assayed to do, being reassured, and all went swimmingly (being dragons), I suppose for a time.

The fifty-three Buddhas, meanwhile, sat and contemplated as only Buddhas can. An idea was formed and next they caused the character for five to be written, bold and large, and slyly slipped, into the lake when—what could the dragons do? The water grew warmer and warmer and began to show signs of ebullition as to in delight; the steam arose denser and denser and for the time that lake became one of the eighty-four thousand Buddhistic hells, which even dragons of miraculous power cannot endure. They precipitately fled. Some, in their agonized anger leaped over the mountain tops; some went (probably from cooler spots) more orderly around the peaks to their destination; and some, in haste went thro the mountain in a certain place,—for you can still see the hole. Of course the hole could not be there unless the dragons went thro it! What havoc they made with mountain peaks and stray boulders you can easily see by the wreck strewn through the valley and on the mountain sides for many a mile. In spite of their own objections and all obstacles they were routed that day by the wile of the fifty-three Buddhas, and, never to return, they all landed in the *Ku Ryong Yen* or Nine Dragon Pool, ten miles from *Shin Kyet Sa*. "But that's another story." Having the lake now at their own pleasure, the Buddhas proceeded, with premeditated zeal, to fill in the beautiful lake; first, with charcoal, and little by little with soil on which now rests the present site of this large, in-

teresting and wealthy Buddhist compound. The original Buddhas were all of solid gold, but knowing the avarice of men, and fearing lest their benign intention should be thwarted and they be made into rings, hairpins and vain and valueless ornaments only, they took their abode in the centre of the stone pagoda in front of the chief shrine, and you can see only their facsimiles to-day. They are of all sizes, from a few inches in height, to a foot, gilt if not golden,—and they still sit and contemplate as of yore.

W. B. SCRANTON.

USEFUL MINERALS OF KOREA.*

KOREA is mountainous in the north and hilly in the south. The great mountain range, which forms the watershed between the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea, extends north and south, nearly parallel to the line of the eastern coast, and at no great distance from it. This is the backbone of the peninsula, to which I give the name of "Korean Range," in distinction from the other mountains. Among the latter are distinguished the "Pyeng-an range," so-called by me for convenience, that forms the northern frontier of the province of Pyeng-an and the "Hwang-hai mountain" in Hwang-hai do. The former may be assigned to a continuation of the "Sinal System."

The eastern side of the main watershed is narrow and precipitous, while the western is more extended and contains low plains favorable to agriculture. A few of the highest peaks reach an altitude of 1,700 metres, but the greater number do not exceed 1,500 metres. The junction-point of the Pyeng-an with the main range forms a plateau on which the celebrated mining districts of Kang-ge, Kap-san and T'chyang-jin are located.

The Korean range is made up mainly of Archæan gneiss, mica-schists and the other crystalline schists, pierced frequently by granite, porphyries and the like. This is also true in connection with the other mountains. The isolated round hills, scattered on the western slope of the backbone, are nothing but the relics of the old rock formation, which suffered from denudation thro the subsequent geological ages up to the present time. Such being the case, Archæan formation plays the most important rôle in the building of the peninsula. Besides gneiss, mica-schists and granite, all in its varieties, there are also found hornblend-schist, chlorite-schist, talc-schist, crystalline limestone, quartzite, phyllite, etc. They may be grouped into three series as follows;— 1. Basement gneiss. 2. Grenville series. 3. Phyllite series, of which description will be given in another

* Our knowledge, for the present, of Korean geology and mineralogy is in its infancy. The present paper is only a preliminary notice of the hitherto known useful minerals of the country.

paper. The strike is generally from NNE to SSW and coincides with the main course of the watershed.

The upper part of the Archæan is discordantly overlaid by Palæozoic rock and is observed in the environs of Tjyo-san and Eui-onen, in Pyeng-an do. The Palæozoic formation is also developed in the other seven provinces. The prevailing rocks are sandstone, slate, limestone, hornstone and conglomerate respectively of different varieties and some of which are fossiliferous. Dr. Gottsche* who had once undertaken a geological sketch survey throughout the land, recognizes two groups of them; namely, Cambrian and carboniferous.

The two formations above mentioned are the repositories of the majority of metallic ores in Korea. Among the eruptive rocks, which are intrusive to them, are granite, porphyries, gabbro, diorite, diabase, etc.

Tertiary formation is much limited in extent making up the hill-land of the environs of Pyeng-yang. It is also developed at Tam-tchyen, in Han-gyeng do. Sandstone, shale and conglomerate are the main components, together with limestone and hornstone. Coal is the only product of this formation.

Alluvial formation is seen at the lower sources of some mighty rivers.

Tho there is not at present any manifestation of internal force in Korea, there are, however, traced a younger volcanic rock on the western side of the great mountain range. It is a basaltic lava, the districts where it occurs forming table lands and giving the striking features to a monotonous scenery of the peninsula. The widest area occupied by the lava lies in the northern portion of Kang-wan do. Paiktu-san, the highest peak in the extreme north, and Han-ia san, on the island of Quelpart, or Tjyei-tjyou, are said to be volcanoes.

Most of the mining districts are situated along all the courses of the Korean Range and the other mountains. The useful minerals hitherto known are the following:—

Gold. By far the richest metal in Korea is gold, the occurrence of which has been known from earliest time. Gold hitherto obtained by the natives is for the greater part by washings. The explorers for gold in drifted matter, have gradually followed the object of their search up the mountain sides until they have struck in veins and lodes whence some of the alluvial gold has been derived. Drifted gold is locally well known as "Pe-roou" or special silver. Nuggets are of frequent occurrences.

*"Geologische Skizze von Korea." Sitzungberichte der Königlich Preuss. Akademie d. Wissenschaften zu Berlin. XXXVI. 1886.

We are oftentimes informed that gold is more abundantly found in the northern than in the southern portion of the peninsula. The chief gold-producing districts are almost limited to the northern half, amongst which Un-san, and Fun-san, in Pyeng-an do and Yeng-heung, and Tam-tchyen in Ham-gyeng do, are distinguished.

Generally speaking, the original source of Korean gold, according to my observation, may be traced into quartz veins that traverse granites, gneiss and the other crystalline schists, as well as the cellular quartzites which are sometimes found in Archæan formation.

The greater part of gold in Korea, as mentioned above, is derived by washings, and the annual production may be estimated in value at 2,000,000—3,000,000 yen. The amount of gold which is exported, passing the custom-houses at the three ports, Gensan, Fusan and Chemulpo, varies year by year between 500,000 to 1,000,000 yen. The majority of the remaining portion is carried away by the Chinese travelling merchants and other travellers, thro' the other parts of the country, a little being kept on hand by Korean rich men.

The gold-producing localities are as follows:—

- Ham-gyeng do:—Am-hyen, Ham-heung, I-onen, Kap-san, Kil-tjyou, Kyeng-syeng, Myeng-tchyen, On-syeng, Pouveng, Sam-san, Tam-tchyen, Tchyang-jin, Tchyeng-pyen, Yeng-heung.
- Pyeng-an do:—An-tjyou, Fun-san, Eui-tjyou, Htai-tchyen, Kang-ge, Kang-sye, Kou-syeng, Pyeng-yang, Syeng-tchyen, Syoun-an, Tia-san, Ryeng-nyen, Uu-san.
- Whang-hai do:—Hwai-tjyou, Koku-san, Pyeng-san, Shim-ge, Swou-an, Syeng-hoa, Tiai-ryeng, Tiyang-nyen, Tiyang-ven.
- Kyeng-koui do:—Hpo-tchyen, Ka-hpyeng, Koang-tjyou, Koa-tchyen, Yeng-pren, Yeng-koun.
- Tchyoung-tchyeung do:—Jik-san, Ok-tchyen, Syeng-san, Tan-yang, Tchyang-an, Tchyeng-eui, Tchyoung-tjyou, Yeng-hpyeng, Yeng-tchyen.
- Kang-won do:—Hoi-yang, Hoing-syeng, Hong-tchyen, Hpyeng-hai, Hoveng-kang, Hpyeng-tchyang, Htong-tchyen, Itchyen, Kang-neung, Kang-syeng, Kin-hoa, Kim-syeng, Nang-tchyen, Oul-tjin, Sam-tchyeok, Tchyel-ouen, Tchyoung-tchyen.
- Chul-la do:—Hai-ran, Im-sil, Kang-tjin, Kang-ryen, Kim-kou, Kim-san, Mon-tjyou, Nam-ouen, Po-syeng, Tjyang-syeng, Um-pong.
- Kyeng-san do:—An-tong, Eui-syeng, Eui-yang, Ham-an, Hayang, Im-tong, K-tchyang, Kyeng-tjyou, Mil-yang, Mung-

gyeng, Poi-g-hai, Ryeng-tchyen, Sam-tchyen, Shin-ryeng, Yang-tiyou, Syeng-san, Tam-syeng, Tchyang-ouen, Tchyeng-syeng, Tchyang-to, Tchyang-ryen, Tong-nai, Rai-tchyen, Yang-tchyen.

Silver and Lead. The important silver ore seems to be galena which is frequently argentiferous. It occurs mostly in the Archæan and Palæozoic formations. The well known silver mine lies at O-mang-dong near Tchyang-jin, in Ham-gyeng do. Cerussite is found at Kim-syeng, in Kang-won do.

The following are reported as the localities yielding silver and lead:—

Ham-gyeng do:—Am-byen, Tam-tchyen, Tchang-jin.

Kang-won do:—Hai-yang, Hong-tchyen, Kiu-hoa, Kiu-syeng, Nin-tjyei.

Kyeng-koui do —Koang-tiyou.

Tchyong tchyeng do:—Po-rye g, Ka-shim-po.

Chul-la do:—Tjin-san

Kyeng-san do:—Ma-san-po, Tjin-tjyou, Ryeng-hai.

Pyeng an do:—Ean-san.

Copper:—By far the richest copper mines in Korea are said to be the Kap-san district. I could not in the summer of 1895 visit the locality, owing to the disturbed state of the country. The ore from there is chalcopyrites intermixed with malachite

Copper localities are:—

Ham-gyeng do:—Kang-ge, Kap-san, On-syeng, Tam-tchyen.

Kang-won do:—Kiu-hoa, Kim-syeng; Pyeng-tchyang.

Kyeng-koui do:—Yeng-pyeng.

Chul-la do:—Tjin san.

Kyeng-san do:—Eui-heng, Pi-an, Pou-san; Pyeng-an, Sim-ryeng, Tiyang-ouen, Ryeng-hai, Yeng-tchyen.

Tin ore. This is said to occur in Chulla do, in the following localities: Hai-nan, Koang-tjou, Tjyei-tjyou.

Iron ores.—Iron ores are of two kinds; magnetite and limonite. The former is well known by the natives as "chin-an-soku," while the latter as "souchol."

Limonite beds are found in the Archæan and Palæozoic strata, but mostly in phyllite series. At Mun-tchyen, in Ham-gyeng do, there occurs a lenticular deposit of limonite in the complex of crystalline limestone and quartzite. The limonite from Hong-tchyeng, in Kang-won do, occurs in gneiss. Most of the limonite ores have probably been derived from the alteration of magnetic or hematitic oxides, disseminated in the country rocks. It is of this iron ore that the natives worked, from earliest times, for the manufacture of pots, kettles, etc.

Magnetite is widely distributed. Its residence is in granites, gneiss and the other crystalline rocks. The ore from Tjyolien, in Kang-won do, forms a lenticular mass interbedded in a neissic rock, intruded by gabbro. Here, owing to denuding forces, the surrounding strata have been broken and washed away, the ore-mass protruding on the top of the mountain.

Magnetic sands are of frequent occurrence at Nye-tiou, in Kyeng-koui do, where they have been collected and worked.

Iron pyrites are abundant, and also copperas, probably derived from the decomposition of the former, is known to occur in a few localities.

Iron-ores are yielded in the following districts:—

Ham-gyeng do:—Kap-san, Kil-tjyou, Mun-tchyen, Tam-tchyen, Yeng-heung.

Pyeng-an do:—Eun-san, Kai-tchyen, Kou-syeng.

Whang-hai do:—Hai-tjyou, Shim-ge, Tjyang-nyen.

Kang-won do:—An-hyek, Hoi-yang, Hong-tchyen, Kim-hoa, Pyeng-tchyen, Sam-tchyeok, Tjyel-ouen.

Kyeng-koui do:—Kang-hoa, Nye-tjyou.

Tchyoung-tchyeung do:—Kong-tjyou, Mok-tchyen, Tjyang-an, Tjyeng-eui, Tjyoung-tjyou.

Chul-la do:—Ham-nyen, Hoa-syoun, Kim-san, Koang-tjyou.

Kyeng-san do:—Eui-yang, Hap-tchyen, Ko-syeng, Kyeng-tjyou, Ryei-tchyen, Ryeng-kon, Tchyang-ouen, Yeng-tok.

Mercury ore.—The localities of this ore are said to be:—

Kyeng-san do:—Oul-san.

Ham-gyeng do:—Yeng-heung.

Mangan ore.—Deer Island, or Makinoshima, off the southern coast of Fusan, and Tchyang-ouen, in Kyeng-san do are reported to yield this ore.

Coal.—As might be expected from the wide distribution of older eruptive and crystalline rocks throughout the peninsula, coal-yielding districts are much limited in extent. The mineral coal is locally well known as "soktan." Anthracite, from Pyeng-yang, is very famous and it is used for domestic purposes in the neighbouring districts.

Coal localities are:—

Pyeng-an do:—Mun-son-pong, Mun-sou-kol.

Kyeng-san do:—Kyeng-tjyou, Oul-san, Tjyang-gi.

Ham-gyeng do:—Myeng-tchyen, Kil-tjyou, Kyeng-heung.

Kyeng-syeng, Ou-syeng, Yeng-heung.

Kyeng-koui do:—Tong-jin.

Kang-won do:—Sam-tchyeok.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

THE SPITTOON GOVERNOR.— The Koreans are capital story tellers. After the evening meal is over and several congenial spirits have assembled in some cozy room or study of a gentleman of leisure, tobacco is handed round and as the air thickens with the smoke the tongue loosens, and the conversational ball is kept rolling from small talk and neighborhood gossip up to anecdotes of great men, dead and living, and tales of the supernatural. Many a strange and curious narrative have I heard under such circumstances, and among them that of the Spittoon Governor rivals the "Tale of the Big Nose" found in the Korean-French grammar. With a few necessary English embellishments it runs as follows: Once upon a time, there lived in Seoul a nobleman by the name of Pik mi-öp. His was a restless spirit, resourceful and ingenious, lustful of wealth, and savage. Those were days when big fish ate little fish, little fish ate shrimps and shrimps ate mud in Korea. In amassing wealth H. E. Pik Mi-öp was more successful than all his compeers, and no position was beyond the reach of his persuasive tongue and his golden touch. Finally he was appointed to the goal of all Korean ambition—the governorship of a distant province.

This province was famous for its wealth and aristocracy. No ordinary mortals were they who dwelt within its bounds. They had blood as blue, and minds as broad, and pride as stiff-necked as that of Pik mi-öp himself. The financial administration was therefore no ordinary problem. But the governor was equal to the occasion. Knowing that no ordinary methods of "investigation and cultivation" would yield the golden harvest he coveted, he rejoiced that he had at last found a field adequate for the exhibition of his peculiar genius. On arrival at the provincial capital he went into absolute retirement for a few days which were spent in mapping out the financial campaign. Then the governor, redolent with musk, gorgeous in silk robes, and with a manner for which urbane is but a weak descriptive, appeared on the scene. The gentry of the province were received with a deference and dignity, the story of which is

historic; the wealthy men were sent from the presence of the governor completely intoxicated with the warmth of their welcome.

Then came days of merriment and feasting in the provincial capital. Little select companies of the richest men in the province were treated to feasts and banquets and other attentions were lavished upon them, the most conspicuous of these attentions being a personal interview with the governor's chief private secretary. Here the clients could make their requests known, certain of a sympathetic hearing. As each was dismissed the secretary among other things told them of a remarkable cuspidor, in Seoul which had attracted the attention of H. E. Pik Mi-ōp. It was large, it was ornamental, and being of solid silver was just the thing for a governor's private sitting-room. The caller was delighted to know of something that the governor coveted, and discovering that all he needed to make himself solid with the versatile Pik Mi-ōp was one of these spittoons, despatched a messenger post haste to Seoul to purchase it.

Now it happened that the secretary gave the same instructions to each one of the governor's new-found friends, only pledging secrecy and haste in order to prevent others from getting ahead of the anxious suitor. And the story says there were several hundred of these wealthy men. They made a dash on Seoul. The result can be better imagined than described. The sudden, unexpected and urgent run on the silver cuspidor market dislocated the entire commercial situation in the capital. Cuspidors of all kinds rose in value, and silver—well silver appreciated until you could get sixteen gold dollars for one yen at any of the pawn shops in Chingogai—at least so the story teller affirmed. In the meantime cuspidors were raining in on Pik Mi-ōp. From east, from west, from north, from south, wealthy men sent in silver spittoons. Some were large, some small, others were ornamented with the governor's coat of arms and monogram, while some even had (so it is said, I don't know) allegorical scenes from history.

Pik Mi-ōp was in high feather. He had so many spittoons he did not know what to do with them. He had cuspidores galore. Some were slung in nets of silk, and others were hungs in bands of flax. Pik was really bewildered. He put them in his reception-room, in his back parlor, in his bed-room. They were conspicuous in the inner and the outer apartments as flower pots and vases, as articles of bric-a-brac and instruments of utility. His chair was trimmed with them and it was even affirmed (tho I think this was a case of poetical license)

that like the gourd-cluster standard of the Japanese Hideyoshi, a cluster, hung from a tall pole, was borne in front of the governor as his personal standard whenever he appeared in public. His secretaries and clerks came in for a share; the cook had two in the kitchen, and even the gateman enjoyed the luxury of a silver cuspidor. There was a cabinet full of them as curios, and the very valuable ones were deposited in the treasury for safe keeping.

Finally H. E. Pik Mi-ōp's term of service came to an end, and when all his household goods were loaded for transport, what was the amazement of the people to see a train of ten ponies (more or less) staggering under the weight of pounds and pounds of silver spittoons and guarded by a regiment of troops! And the people said little. Only they smiled and laughed and ejaculated "Pik Mi-ōp was truly a Spittoon Governor."

TABLES OF DRY MEASURE.—In estimating a standing crop of grain, in order to ascertain its value, the Koreans use as a unit the *put*, or tuft, of stalks. The table is as follows:—

Six *puts* "tufts" make one *on-k'om*.

Six *on-k'oms* "handfuls" make one *mut*.

Ten *mut*s "bundles" make one *chim*.

One hundred *chims* "man loads" make one *kyōl*.

The *kyōl* is equivalent to our stack. Taxation is at the rate of thirty pieces of cash, or six cents, for each *chim* of the estimated crop.

In measuring grain in the kernel, the following is the table used—the *sa* or unit being one pinch of rice.

Ten *sa* "pinches" make one *hop*.

Ten *hop* "handfuls" make one *toi*.

Ten *toi* "measures" make one *mal*.

Ten *mal* "pecks" make one *sōm*.

The *sōm* is what is known as a "bag." Some confusion exists as to the amount covered by these denominations, for the size of the *toi* varies in different sections of the country. But the above is the legal standard. And attached to every prefecture there is an inspector of weights and measures, whose duty it is to see that the standard is adhered to.

THE COMMON TABLE IN KOREA.—In serving food it is the usual custom of the Koreans to put an entire meal for one person on a small table and thus serve each person separately. This custom has its advantages, for it ensures an equitable division of the repast without any discussion before the meal begins, and allows the resources of the host to be extended to all guests,

even those who may drop in unexpectedly. In the island of *Ché-ju* (Quelpart), however, the common table is sometimes used for a meal, the entire family seating themselves around it, as is the custom in the Occident.

KOREAN FARRIERS.—The process of shoeing a beast in Korea is a difficult operation. The sensitive blood of the ubiquitous stallion will not stand the puncturing of his hoofs with nails, so he has to be securely tied before the operation can proceed. This is done by fastening him in a sling which makes it possible for the blacksmith to handle his feet. In Korea the oxen also have their feet shod with iron, as they are in great demand as beasts of draught. In fact horses are never used to pull carts, this being the work of oxen only. The hard stony roads therefore render a shoe necessary, and this is put on as in the case of the horse. The process, however, strikes one from the West as a cruel one. The beast is tripped and thrown down and his head is twisted upon his shoulders by means of the rope thro the nose-ring, and securely fastened. The feet are tied in a bunch and elevated on a ball of straw-cable and there the operator nails on the shoes. These consist of two broad strips of sheet-iron for each foot.

KOREA'S FOREIGN TRADE.—The total value of Korea's foreign trade for the ten years, 1884—1893 inclusive, was as follows:—

	Yen.
Exports = Goods.	15, 282, 433
" = Gold.	8, 538, 616
Imports =	32, 848, 113
	56, 669, 162

This shows a balance of trade against Korea of \$9,027,064 for which it is difficult to account. A theory is suggested, however, that this balance of trade is represented by Korean produce sent abroad across the frontier legitimately, or from the seaboard illegitimately, and by the value of gold-dust taken out of the country without declaration at the custom-house. It is known that Chinese and Japanese merchants, in order to avoid advertizing the fact that they have a large sum with them secreté gold-dust about their persons and thus carry it out of the country. If we adopt this theory of explaining the balance of trade it would give Korea a total in-foreign commercial operations of over sixty-five millions of dollars, or an average of six and a half millions a year.

CHINAMPO AND MOKPO.

THESSE two places under royal rescript of July 8th, 1897 are to be opened to foreign trade on and after the 1st of October next. This is an important event, and what little information of the places I have, I gladly place before the readers of **THE REPOSITORY**.

Chinampo is situated on the northern shore of the Pyongyang inlet and about fifteen miles from its entrance. Its position is $38^{\circ} 42'$ north latitude and $125^{\circ} 31' 45''$ east longitude. The village by this name is pleasantly located. In front, however, there are extensive mud-flats nearly half a mile wide. On these flats are two small islands which relieve the monotony somewhat. The river here at low water even has a width of about a mile and a quarter. The velocity of the current in the inlet during the spring floods, averages about three and a quarter knots but during the ebb, on the Chinampo side, obtains four or even more. In mid-channel, the tidal stream during ebb is greatly lessened, perhaps to half, and during neap tide even less. This increase of current is caused by the projection of Ongoyeun, a point on the opposite side of Chinampo, which extends well to the north and against which the ebb stream discharges its whole volume of water. The main current is thus thrown over to the Chinampo side where it obtains a greater force than it would otherwise. Vessels will experience difficulty to anchor on this side and may have to find a safer and more practical anchorage in mid-channel where the flood is more evenly divided.

What are the prospects of Chinampo as a port? As far as my information goes, derived from many visits to those regions, I should say none. Chinampo is not even a junk center on account of its very bad situation, *i.e.* from a seaman's point of view. A few years ago, the place was not taken any note of more than the other villages on the inlet. The first time Chinampo came into notice was in 1890 when the Japanese made a survey and a picket of sailors was attacked and rather badly handled by the Koreans. Then again during the late war be-

tween Japan and China, Chinampo was made use of as a landing place for the army under Lieut. Gen. Nodzu which attacked Pyeung-yang on the western side. The Japanese no doubt selected Chinampo as the landing place of their army, first, because a clear view of the open sea could be obtained, and, secondly, the country between Chinampo and Pyeung-yang is less hilly and transportation therefore less difficult; it was also a much nearer point to bring the military telegraph line which at that time crossed the river at this place. For these reasons Chinampo was an admirable place for the invading army, but I hardly think these considerations are of sufficient importance to make this place a port for foreign and domestic trade.

The reasons for selecting Chinampo as against other places further up the river, is the comparative easy access to Pyeung-yang. This is a consideration, but much of its force is lost from the fact that there is little or no trade going on along this route. There is not a city or large town even in this whole country; all villages there are; the soil is barren, hardly able to produce enough for home consumption; what few villages or large towns there are on this north side, are nearer the river and separated from the level country by high hills. There is one place where a little trade is carried on and that is fourteen and a half miles from Chinampo to the northwest. The village is situated on a small and shallow river. If the above observations are correct, the prospects of a successful port at Chinampo are rather poor. The trade, as far as exports are concerned, comes from the east side of the river. Here the country is for miles a rolling plain, fertile and producing the various cereals. The country on the east side of the Ta-tong river is well watered by numerous small streams or shallow rivers, some running for miles back into the agricultural districts. On this same side there are large towns; coal is also found; the Chai-ri-ang river runs up into the Whang-hai province and is navigable for smaller craft some ten or fifteen miles. I visited this river, and the inlet into which it empties, for the second time in the spring of 1889. At the head of the inlet, which here has the shape of a half moon, or near Chul-do, I found nearly a hundred Chinese junks at anchor; some ten miles further up I found about twenty small junks. Some of the junks off Chul-do were quite large, able to carry from 2000 to 3000 piculs of beans.

From these statements the careful reader will not fail to note that in my view Chinampo with the foreign concession at Rio-san would have made a better port than Chinampo. The village is large and the neighboring country is more populous. It is true there is not as much depth of water here as at Chinampo, but amply

enough for any coasting steamer. There is here also a more regular and even tidal stream both at ebb and flood tides. All exports will have to be brought by boats no matter where the port is situated. The imports will have to be taken up the streams. As, therefore, the actual trade lies on the eastern side of the Ta-tong and up the Chai-rong river into the Whang-hai province, the nearer the port is to the trading centers the better it would seem to be.

It may perhaps be said, in opening a port as far down the river as possible, that the object is to protect the revenue and to prevent smuggling. The smuggling of valuables, *i. e.* red ginseng, will be carried on wherever the port may be. As for merchandise, junks can be boarded easier at Chul-do than at Chinampo. I may go further in the matter of smuggling; from reliable sources of information, as well as from my own observation, import merchandise is but little carried into the Ping-an province by way of the inlet, up the Tatong and Quil tong rivers, but merchandise is smuggled in thro a river about twenty miles northwest of Pyeng-yang and the Op-nok or Yalu river. Chinese junks have, and probably will continue to visit these rivers unless the strong arm of the law arrests them. Just the same as illicit trade is carried on at what is known as Majoribak harbor some seventy-five miles to the south of Chinnampo.

Much illicit trade with Manchuria is carried on on the Yalu. I know for certain that more silk arrives over the border here and enters Korea than all that is imported at the treaty ports, not to mention other goods of western and Chinese manufacture. Korean products are exported the same way, but principally ginseng. For details I would refer the interested reader to the Imperial Chinese Trade Reports and Revenue of Newchwang.

What are the exports of Pyeng-yang? Cereals of nearly all descriptions,—beans chiefly. Tobacco "of very good quality," buckwheat, deer horns and other minor articles. The same in general may be said of the exports of Whang-hai province. Coal should, if properly taken in hand, figure largely as an item of export.

One more remark in reference to Chinampo. In order to handle cargo to advantage one of two things only is feasible,—either to limit the work of loading and unloading to the few hours during high water or to build a jetty of sufficient size and length to work at all times. If the latter course be adopted the expense will be an enormous one. Steam launches will be much needed at Chinampo to facilitate receiving and discharging cargo.

My decision against the opening of Chirampo as a port, was arrived at years ago, and my preference for Chul do—Rio-San—is based on the fact that everything here is more favorable, less depth and less velocity of tide, sufficient depth of water close to the shore, with no mud-flats and a more commanding position in every respect.

We come now to consider the second place to be opened to foreign trade—Mokpo. This place is situated in the south western part of the Chulla province. It is in $34^{\circ} 47' 30''$ north latitude and $126^{\circ} 15' 31''$ east longitude. The country here for miles is low and devoted mostly to rice-fields. Mokpo, however, is rather a pretty place, situated sufficiently high to break the monotony of the country. The nearest place of any importance is a walled town called Chijin some ten miles to the south.

The approaches to Mokpo are thro a network of islands, large and small, and rocks. The harbor can be approached from the south by Washington Gulf; from the west past the single island up the Lyne Sound. This is decidedly the best entrance. The harbor of Mokpo is really the embouchure of the river Rū yong san. The name of Mokpo is the name of an island opposite the north point, and forms the entrance to the river. There is a narrow pass about three miles below the harbor hardly half a mile wide. Thro this rushes a current with a force of between four and five knots, in summer even more; its depth is from sixteen to nineteen fathoms. The harbor itself has a width of from one and a half to one and three-fourth miles. The distance from Mokpo to the island furthest north (there are four islands in the river connected at low water and which forms a sharp bend here) is about five and a half miles, with an average depth at low water of from six to eleven fathoms. The tide here is very strong. It is known that the velocity of the ebb stream during the summer season has reached as high as five knots an hour. The holding-ground is very bad. I know of a steamer lying at anchor, with only two Korean junks alongside, drifting with her ebb moorings till both bow tackles stood ahead. These are surely not the best prospects for a fine harbor.

The next question to be discussed is the settlement. Where will it be? Will it be on the island called Mokpo, or on the low country opposite, which, by the way, is also nothing more than an island. If the latter is selected it will have to undergo a thorough drainage in order to insure health. The island of Mokpo, it seems to me, would be better for a general foreign settlement than the low country on the opposite side.

As to the prospects for trade. Chulla province has little or no manufactures aside from mattings, paper fans and grass-cloth. Of the latter there are some fine qualities. The province is an agricultural province. Rice, beans and barley are raised in large quantities. There are also other cereals. The import trade will of course have to be developed, as thus far little European manufactured goods have found their way into the province. The people have, till now, made use of their own coarse manufactured cloths. This no doubt will change when it is found that articles of superior quality to their own can be secured at the same or even lower prices.

In a former article in THE REPOSITORY, (July, 1895), I advocated the opening of Kukin-do, a place some twenty-seven miles south of Mokpo. I am still of the same opinion.

The opening of these two places is not the work of a moment's thought. This is especially true of a port for Pyeng-yang. This subject has been agitated for years by the Japanese. In 1886 the subject was broached; in 1887 the writer made the first survey of the river for this very purpose of opening a port. In 1888 the Chinese government made objections, in fact forbade the Korean government to open Pyeng-yang. Their objection was that it would ruin the trade of Newchwang. This objection was known to Japan and only made her more anxious to open a port. No other nation, having treaty relations with Korea, interposing objections Japan, therefore, was alone, and China's word was supreme in the councils in the peninsula. Things have changed now. Japan leads and is supported, if my information is correct, by England.

One question of special interest to us in Chemulpo remains, and that is, How will the opening of these two places to foreign trade affect the trade at Chemulpo? Time of course only can tell. I may say, however, that Chemulpo is about midway between the two places. I think I am not far wrong when I say about one eighth of the total import trade leaves Chemulpo for the north and the south. Of this, but little finds its way into the provinces of Ping-an and Chulla. By this I mean that these provinces are mostly supplied direct.

There is a good deal of trading going on that is not reported and I am inclined to the opinion that Chemulpo will lose somewhat but it will be more as regards exports. We always have the Capital, and with railroad accommodations, Chemulpo may even gain in trade in the end.

F. H. MÖRSEL.

THE PRESBYTERIAN ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Mission (North) in Korea was expectantly looked forward to because of the anticipated presence of Mr. Robert E. Speer, one of the Secretaries of the Board in New York; and on this account the meeting was held at a season of the year which would otherwise not have been chosen. His manly bearing, his clear insight into every problem and his concise manner of stating a position combined together with his deep spirituality and wide acquaintance with Mission work, to render his presence a real benediction. He was with the Mission only during about half of its session, but in that time he helped to a settlement of several problems that had seemed insoluble. And the spiritual uplift from his addresses and his prayers was an aid to higher conceptions fully appreciated by all.

It was, moreover, the longest meeting ever held by this mission, occupying thirteen days of actual session, several of which were marked by long sessions, both morning and afternoon. Committee work proved more arduous than in any preceding year, so that twice a day an intermission was necessary in the series of regular sessions in order that the Committees might have free opportunity for deliberation. In continuance of the spirit of last year all merry-makings were frowned down upon, that which signalized the evening before Mr. Speer's departure being the only one held, and an innocent invitation to a picnic receiving an abundance of harsh language to which it hardly seemed entitled.

To the friends who sat among us as visitors it may often have seemed that no small degree of difference in opinion prevailed, and they may even have thought that very small matters were unnecessarily emphasized. But to one who thoroughly understood the temper of the assembly it was apparent that the Holy Spirit was present in abundant measure, and this largely by the unanimity with which decisions were made where the most contrary views had been expressed—and this in not a few but in every instance, among them many of the highest importance. The keynote to this mental attitude had been struck in preceding months in abundant prayer for this meeting and in a day set apart wholly that God's guidance might be

invoked on its behalf. But especially was it sounded on the second day of the series, given entirely to devotional exercises under the leadership of Mr. Speer, when all united in a common renewal of consecration and supplication that the Divine Spirit might rule in all the coming counsels. At this time the addresses were by Rev. J. E. Adams upon, "Fellowship with Christ," by Mr. W. H. Grant upon, "Unity and Growth," and by Mr. Speer himself upon, "Love, the Missionary Inspiration." The communion service which followed was a solemn one to all.

The devotional exercises of the first Monday morning took the form of a service commemorative of the brief missionary course of Miss Jacobson, who within the year had fallen at her post. The remarks of Dr. Mary M. Cutler of the Methodist Mission and those of Dr. O. R. Avison bore loving testimony to her many noble and self-sacrificing qualities. The far-reaching influence of her example among Koreans and the high standard of her Christian life were points especially dwelt upon. The service included the reading of a favorite poem and the rendering of hymns which had been specially called for by Miss Jacobson during her last illness.

The reports of work, whose presentation and discussion occupied most of the first half of the meeting, were of unusual interest as emphasizing the fact, already so often stated, that now is the time to evangelize Korea and that soon, as in other lands, the golden opportunity may have passed. Especially was it shown in the reports from Pyeng-yang and from Seoul stations that there is no lack among the native Christians of inclination, of ability, and of financial support in extending the gospel; in fact that Christianity has already become a mighty power in these provinces, invading successively village after village and magistracy after magistracy, influencing all grades of society from the governor down, transforming entire communities, and truly converting not a few—a power even now so tremendous that no force but the hand of God could abate it. And yet that all this mass is in many respects incoherent, untaught, unorganized, a power as dangerous for evil as it is capable of good. Mr. Speer summarized the impression given by these reports most concisely in expressing what he had received in a brief inspection of one portion of the field when he said that the present need of Korea is for more missionaries, not that they may preach the gospel, since the native church is doing that untaught, but that they may organize and regulate until that church has confidence to stand alone.

Among the questions that arose for a decision, two were of especial prominence, and called forth a proportionate

amount of debate. Of these the educational problem was first taken up. A year previously the feeling had been very strong at the annual meeting that an educational advance was called for along the line of providing for the children of Christians some means of mental improvement which should fit them for greater usefulness in the church and should look toward the formation of a native ministry. The failure of the Board at home to respond to the wishes of the Mission in this regard changed seriously the aspect of the whole matter, and led to a widespread feeling that no advance of any sort was possible. To continue the present unsatisfactory system was felt to be a waste of money and of valuable missionary time. The first decision made was an endorsement of the policy of holding schools of a few weeks' duration where normal instruction may be given to primary school-teachers, and a recommendation that each station organize such classes. Following this the Mission took action distinctly approving the establishment of primary schools in connection with and supported by individual churches, such schools to be for the children of Christians, taught only by Christians, and conveying largely Christian instruction. In due sequence a motion was passed to suspend for the present year the plan of establishing schools of academical training. Much rejoicing was felt when, after practically three days' discussion, this forward step had been taken—rejoicing most of all that by it two experienced missionaries were freed for evangelistic work in the north—and rejoicing hardly less that it clearly defined an educational policy which threw the burden equally upon the churches and precluded any return to the thought of giving instruction for mere learning's sake.

This difficulty having been thus settled, the Mission turned its attention to a problem even more important, that of Bible translation. The slow progress hitherto made by the Board of Official Translators was the occasion of generally expressed dissatisfaction, as it has so often been before. It was felt, however, that no fault attached to any individual translator, but that all hindrances arose from the system under which the work is being done. Almost at the very outset the question of the amount of time spent in translation work was dealt with and action taken urging the Permanent Executive Bible Committee to request each mission having members on the Board of Translators as far as possible to release them from other work and to appoint them to give their main time and strength to this work. The abuse against which most feeling was aroused was that of representation thro the same member on both the Board and the Committee, and on this point the unanimity

of the Mission was expressed by a rising vote of all its workers, whether possessing the voting power or not. The resolution thus endorsed was a strong one and indicates what the mission believe the radical defect of our present system of Bible translation. There was perceptible during the discussion a strong desire that the translation of the Scriptures might be carried to completion at the hands of those who have undertaken it in concert; but nevertheless the feeling was prevalent that the mission could not long adhere to its agreement under existing conditions.

The statistical report aroused interest by the presentation of the following, among other figures:—

Meeting-places	...	...	101.
Communicants	...	...	942.
Catechumens	...	...	2344.
Added by confession, (11 months)			347.
Sabbath-schools	...	...	18.
Sabbath-school scholars	...	...	1139.
Church buildings	...	...	38.
Separate school buildings			7.
Students in special Bible training			101.
Boys in boarding-schools			35.
Girls	"	"	38.
Day schools	...	...	15.
Boys in day schools	...	...	141.
Girls	"	"	25.
Christian pupils in schools			33.
United during eleven months			16.
Total native contributions			\$971.12.

The report of the apportionment committee, all-absorbing in interest to those whose fate hangs upon it, advised and was adopted with a number of changes in assignment of work. Mr. and Mrs. Baird were transferred to Pyeng Yang station, to aid in organizing that needy field. Mr. Miller was assigned chiefly to country work in Whang hai do. Miss Wambold was removed from the girls' school and directed to work among women in connection with the West Gate church. Dr. Whiting was released from medical work in Seoul and instructed to devote her main energy to country evangelizing work among women. Mr. Swallen was directed to take a protracted tour thro hitherto unvisited portions of Ham Kyeng in company with some member of Seoul station, in order to ascertain the advisability of opening a new station there. But one duty was assigned Miss Best, that of acquiring the Korean language, and the same was prescribed for the expected recruits of the year, Mr.

Hunt at Pyeng Yang, Mr. and Mrs. Ross and Dr. and Mrs. Johnston at Fusan, and Miss Shields, Miss Dr. Field, Miss Dr. Fish, and "Miss Fish's friend" at Seoul.

It was with a very wearied feeling indeed that the Mission adjourned at dusk on September 9th, but with a feeling that God had been with us (marvelously and had guided us into unexpected and wonderful things.

C. C. VINTON.

EXTRACTS FROM SEVERAL REPORTS.

GIRLS' NIGHT SCHOOL AT FUSAN.—"After beginning the Bible school for the girls in the month of December and feeling very much the need of these girls to be able to read, I began teaching them the native character in March. While this seemed to me a difficult undertaking, what with work already begun and from prejudice likely to arise from teaching *girls* to read, I have an interested flock of little girls. Enrollment, fifty-two with an average attendance of sixteen.

"The progress has been very fair indeed and I have been continually surprised that these poor, ignorant girls are capable of learning to read. In teaching them I have used the word method instead of the single letter method. The various Korean teachers about us informed me that I was making a great mistake in teaching this. They said further, that Koreans must learn *ka kyas* or they could not learn to read. Much to their surprise there is another way.

"We have this school on Thursday evening and in order that all may know the days, a red flag is hoisted at the hospital door. A white flag marks the Bible-class day as well as the Sabbath day. The bell rings just after dark and in a few minutes all are present ready for study, which often lasts until ten o'clock. The school has opened the way to so many homes and we always have one or two mothers present."—Mrs. C. H. Irwin.

TRACT DISTRIBUTION BY SCHOOL BOYS.—"Almost entirely thro the aid of the school boys, between 5,000 and 10,000 tracts

were distributed to the soldiers and policemen in Seoul. The leaflets were supplied by Dr. Underwood. He says that twice during one of his trips north, he heard soldiers speak of his tracts as good books, saying they had read them in Seoul."—REV. F. S. MILLER.

WORK IN THE CAPITAL OF HAM KYENG.—"Returning from the last annual meeting I started at once on a trip to the north. I spent some time in Ham-heung, but met none who manifested any interest in what we had to give him. Tho remaining a fortnight in that large city, the only work I could do was done upon the street.

"In April I went again to the north, spending most of the time in Ham-heung. Our visit this time was quite unlike the one made five months previous. Then we saw but few, now we were almost worn out trying to give the gospel to those who came in. I met here high and low, rich and poor, scholars and coolies from far and near. To all alike was the gospel a new story."—REV. W. L. SWALLEN.

"Ham-heung is a large city of about 40,000 people and is situated in the midst of a large and thickly settled plain. We counted a hundred villages in sight from one point upon the city wall. It is the largest city in the province and the political center.

"The character of these northern people is known throughout the land as the best in Korea."—REV. W. L. SWALLEN.

"In six days at the semi-annual fair at Tai-ku, two hours a day, I sold 700 volumes."—REV. JAMES E. ADAMS.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE NEW PORTS.

MR. Mörsel furnishes this month, at our request, an article on Chinampo and Mokpo — the two places that are to be opened to foreign trade on October first. Our study of the two places leads us to conclusions different, in some respects, from those reached by Mr. Mörsel. We place both before our readers as so much information on this interesting subject.

The Ta-tong river is one of the most important and picturesque in Korea. It drains the whole southern and southeastern part of the rich province of Ping-an. On its banks, sixty-seven miles from the sea, is situated the city of Pyeng-yang, than which there is probably no other place in the country that has more legend, romance and history connected with it. Towns and villages are found on the banks of the river. The scenery is beautiful and in some places, even grand. Posan 1,200 feet high, is a landmark of great picturesqueness and Mt. Peony to the north of Pyeng-yang, became famous in the late war, as it commanded the key to the city. The current is swift and there is great rise and fall of tides. The tides come up as far as Pyeng-yang. As a natural consequence the bottom of the river in many places is in a constant state of transition.

The Ta-tong inlet is much indented with irregular bays and openings, which at low tide become mud-flats. Chinampo, the place to be opened to trade, is twenty miles from the mouth of the inlet and on the north side. The town lies on the south east side of a hill on a gentle slope, on an arm of the bay. To the north and west of the village are low hills culminating in Yun-tai pon, 300 feet high. The foreign settlement will no doubt be located here. The native village at present has some 150 houses, or a population of less than 1000.

The extensive mud-flats of Chinampo prejudice the traveller against this place. In front of the village are two small islands, well wooded, lying north and south. From the southern end of the lower island to the projection of the mainland on the west, there is a distance of perhaps half a mile. Here a large mud-flat is exposed at low tide and we are informed that this will constitute the foreshore. Between these two places and

off this mud-flat we are told is the best anchorage, large enough to accommodate half a dozen vessels or more. The depth varies from fifty to one hundred feet; the bottom being mud provides good holding-ground. The native town, as Mr. Mörsel states, is half a mile or possibly more, from this anchorage. This mud-flat, or foreshore, will no doubt be reclaimed or improved, as is the case at Chemulpo now.

There were only two other places seriously mentioned in connection with Chinampo, as ports. One is Chul-do, advocated by Mr. Mörsel, and the other Kichimpo. Chul-do is thirteen miles above Chinampo and Kichimpo is five miles above Chul-do. Chul-do is at the junction of the Chai-rioung with the Ta-tong, and would seem to be admirably located for the trade that comes from the Whang-hai province. What is known as Chul-do Point is an island three miles long by one and a half broad. There is, however, so we are told, no suitable landing place near deep water and no site for the foreign settlement. Waiampo, one and a half miles west of Chul-do, commands the trade of the two rivers, has enough water close inshore, easy access and no mud-flats. But there is no room for the foreign settlement, as high hills are back of the native village. The very strong tides here are also against this place. Waiampo is on the south side of the river and on account of the severity of the winters this objection would necessarily have some force, tho it should not be conclusive.

At Kichimpo, we are informed, there are shoals and rocks which would make the harbor not only unsatisfactory, but almost impracticable. The tides likewise are very strong here. On the land side, however, Kichimpo is probably the best of the places mentioned for a foreign settlement. Another objection to Kichimpo, and to our mind a valid one, is that much of the trade comes from Whang-hai province. Boats can reach Chul-do and float down to Chinampo on one tide, while, if Kichimpo were the port, they would have to wait for the turn of the tide. This would necessarily mean much loss of time and money.

We doubt not, taking all things into consideration, Chinampo, while far from an ideal port, was the best place available. Being close to the sea, it can be entered at all times, and there is also easy access to Chinese and Japanese ports. The anchorage is small, but vessels can go out and lie in mid-channel if necessary. The mud-flats will be reclaimed in large part as trade increases. We doubt not a railroad will, sooner or later, connect Chinampo with Pyeng-yang. For this purpose

the level of the country is more favorable than it is between either of the other places mentioned.

We next come to consider Mokpo. There seems to be less interest, for some reason or other, attached to the opening of this port than to the one in the north. We never had the opportunity of visiting Mokpo and what we have to say is not based on personal observation, but upon such study as we were able to give to the subject.

Mokpo is situated in the southwestern part of the province of Chulla, sometimes called the "Granary of Korea." It is seven miles from the mouth of the Yong san river the main stream of the province. This river starts in the magistracy of Po-sung, in the southeastern part of the province, flows in a northwesterly direction and then southwest into the sea. Its length is about ninety miles. It drains a fertile country throughout its whole course. H. B. M.'s S. *Flying Fish* found fifty feet of water ten miles above Mokpo.

The mouth of the river, or bay, is three and a half miles wide. There are two large islands here making two entrances to the place. The southern and large entrance is about 600 yards wide. It is safe and can be passed thro at all times. The harbor here is large and can accommodate from thirty to forty vessels of large tonnage. The bottom being of mud and sand, does not give the best holding-ground. The current at ebb averages four to five miles an hour, and nearly six at spring tide. The current at the narrow entrance is very swift, having been known to reach nine miles an hour, so that steamers have found it difficult to make much headway against it. Mr. Mörsel is quite right in pointing out the difficulty connected with the strong current and poor holding-ground here. The islands at the mouth afford a shelter and act as a breakwater and go far to redeem the place. We infer from these conditions that instead of lack of water, Mokpo has a superabundance.

The village of Mokpo has a population of 250. It is located on the southeast extremity of the promontory. The village will have to make way for the foreign concession which of necessity will be on the promontory and on the lower slopes to the north and west. The fisherman's hut must give way to the advance of trade; the Korean, as everywhere else, even in his own land, will be asked to take a rear seat, unless he gets up more energy than he has thus far displayed. There are, we are informed, two natural jetties of rock and these are now used as jetties. One is only about 200 yards from the steamer anchorage and the other perhaps twice that distance. These jet-

tics are quite small, and will have to be enlarged, as only ten or a dozen boats can work there now.

The prospects for a port seem to be fair. There is at present little or no trade worth mentioning at Mokpo, but when opened it will tap nearly the whole of the rich province of Chulla. The southeastern part will no doubt find Fusan more convenient and will continue to trade there. The main cereals in Chulla are rice, beans and barley. Some of the finest rice, equal to the best raised in Japan and much sought for there, grows in the Naju and neighboring districts. White ginseng, the best found in Korea, is that found in the district of Tongpuk. The waters of the province furnish an inexhaustible supply of fish, shell-fish and sharks fins. Enormous quantities of edible seaweed, so extensively used by Koreans and Japanese as an article of food, are found here. Quelpart and Chindo, two islands on the south and southwest, furnish the best qualities.

Native manufactures, here as everywhere else in Korea, are limited. Cotton piece-goods, silks, paper, grass-cloth and bamboo ware. Of the latter, the greater quantity comes from Tam-yang, a district near the center of the province. Bamboo is used in the manufacture of screens, mats, fans, baskets and other articles. The Korean hat, that emblem of manhood, while theoretically made of horse hair, frequently if not always, receives its first layer of bamboo raised in Chulla-do. Salt, in large quantities, is manufactured on the mud-flats along the mainland and around the islands, especially in Pigundo and neighboring islands. The people of Chulla and Kyeng-sang provinces are supplied from here, and some salt, we doubt not, finds its way into the other provinces.

The last question raised by Mr. Mörsel, is an interesting one and may properly come into this discussion. Mokpo will no doubt take in the trade of Chulla province. The trade in rice and beans will affect Chemulpo most, but Fusan in these two articles, as well as in others, will probably be affected more than Chemulpo.

We believe, if the Korean Customs remain under the present admirable and businesslike management, the opening of these new ports will give an impetus and a stimulus to commerce and assist in the development of the country.

The New American Minister. On the 13th inst. Dr. H. N. Allen became Minister Resident and Consul-General for the United States to Korea. He took the oath of office on July 26th, but did not take over the duties of his office until the date

above mentioned. On this day the retiring minister, the Hon. J. M. B. Sill, had his last audience with the King, and at the same time presented his successor who, however, needed no introduction to the court to which he is accredited.

We heartily felicitate our old friend and fellow townsman, Dr. Allen, and congratulate ourselves on having as our minister one who, by common consent, has for years been recognized as the best authority on things Korean in general, in the country. With the change of administration at Washington a change was expected here. We thoroughly approve of the selection of President McKinley. Nearly thirteen years ago, when we first came to Korea, Dr. Allen gave us a hearty welcome to his home. He was ready to take us in and we to be captured. We have lived side by side, and in all these years it has been our privilege to rejoice in his success, first, in his profession—medicine—and later in political life, until now he has reached the top. We welcome you, Minister Allen. Pardon us if "Doctor" comes easier and oftener than the dignified "Honorable."

Horace Newton Allen was born in Delaware, Ohio, 1858. He spent his boyhood in his native town, entered Ohio Wesleyan University in 1877, and graduated in 1881. He was among the college honor men. We venture the opinion that his greatest triumph at college was the winning of the affections of one of his classmates, who has ever since been his constant support and to whom more than to any other one person, we doubt not, he is ready to attribute his remarkable success. They were married May 17th, 1883. Mr. Allen first studied medicine at Columbus a year after his graduation, and a year at the Miami Medical College in Cincinnati from which he took his diploma.

In the spring of 1883, Dr. and Mrs. Allen were appointed by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church missionaries to China and for a year they were in Nanking and Shanghai. In the summer of 1884, Dr. Allen, of his own accord and at his own expense, visited Korea. The United States Minister, Gen. Foote, welcomed him and offered to appoint him physician to the legation. Dr. Allen decided to accept the advice proffered by a friend and "go to Korea and grow up with the country." We submit in parenthesis the country has not "grown" as fast as he has.

Dr. Allen, wife and infant son arrived in Korea in October 1884, the appointment having been made by his Board in New York. A Korean house was "made over" into a home and the Doctor at once set about the practice of his profession. The autumn passed by rapidly. December came and with it

the memorable *emcute*, when Prince Min Yong Ik, a cousin of the late Queen, was so badly wounded. Dr. Allen was immediately called to attend him and he saved the Prince's life. His reputation was made at once. The King and Queen knew of it. The Royal Hospital was the immediate outcome of this wonderful success of our pioneer missionary. It was opened April, 1885. Force of character, close application to his profession, clear judgment, and what we call a good, broad swing of doing things, enabled Dr. Allen to maintain the high reputation he won in his treatment of Prince Min. Hundreds and thousands were treated at the new hospital, and its permanence was at once established. After awhile, we do not know just when, the king became indisposed, and determined to avail himself of the skill of the new doctor, and the result was Dr. Allen became court physician, and from that day to this he has maintained a commanding influence in the royal palace.

In 1887, when the first embassy was sent to the United States, Dr. Allen, by special request of the king, was made Foreign Secretary. The position was no sinecure, and the successful piloting of the embassy thro the shoals and quicksands of a new political sea, may safely be attributed to the tact and decision of the Foreign Secretary.

While in the United States, Dr. Allen published "*Korean Tales*," a delightful little book on Korean folk-lore. The first two chapters on the country and the royal palace are remarkable for the amount of reliable information they contain in so small compass—a veritable *multum in parvo*.

The Korean embassy was established in their comfortable quarters on Iowa Circle, in Washington, and the services of the Foreign Secretary were no longer required. Dr. Allen and his family again returned to Korea as missionaries under the Presbyterian Board, locating at Chonulpo. In the fall of this year, 1890, he was appointed Secretary of the legation in Seoul. He accepted the position, tho not until he had the full consent of his Board to do so—in fact he attended the royal hospital until a successor was appointed to the lamented Dr. J. W. Heron. Dr. Allen remained in this position until he returned to attend the World's Fair in Chicago, as Commissioner of Korea, leaving Seoul in January, 1893. The Korean exhibit was not very extensive, but it had a good place, was thoroughly representative, and attracted attention. The credit of this last, in no small measure, be attributed to the ability displayed by the commissioner.

After the return to the United States of the Hon. Augustine Heard in 1893, President Cleveland requested Dr. Allen to go to

Seoul and take charge of the legation as *Chargé d' Affaires ad interim*. Notwithstanding the many demands on his time, he promptly returned to the post assigned him, arriving in Seoul the latter part of August. He had charge of the legation until April 1894, when Mr. Sill arrived.

The last three years in Korea were eventful. Mr. Sill was fortunate in having a Secretary so well acquainted with Korean affairs.

President McKinley appointed H. N. Allen, Minister Resident and Consul-General for Korea, July 15th; the Senate confirmed the appointment a few days later; the credentials arrived on the 11th inst. and on the 13th he assumed full responsibility of his office. We wish him a long and successful administration.

The Opening of Mission Work in Pyeng-yang.—

The wonderful, and to all appearances very successful, Christian work now in progress in the city of Pyeng-yang, and in the Peaceful Province—Ping-an,—is attracting general and grateful recognition. Mrs. Bishop pronounced it the best missionary work she had seen anywhere in all her extensive travels. She was so deeply impressed with the results already accomplished and with the prospects, that she wrote an earnest plea to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in New York, calling for immediate help in this field. The Rev. H. Loomis, agent of the American Bible Society for Japan and Korea, in the April number of *The Chinese Recorder*, has a readable article on "Mission work in Pyeng-yang." The title, however, is somewhat misleading, and possibly, "Presbyterian mission work in Pyeng-yang" would be better. The Rev. D. L. Gifford, since his return last fall to the United States, has come out in a small tract on "A Forward movement in Korea." Mr. Gifford is a careful writer and gives as full and correct an account of the Christian work in Pyeng-yang as his space permits.

Our present object is to correct a few statements made by Mr. Loomis, as well as to give a brief account of the opening of Christian work in the great northern province. Mr. Loomis says—

Up to the year 1890 only two short visits had been made to Pyeng-yang by any of the Protestant missionaries. A few books had been distributed, but no converts had been made.

The first statement is not sustained by the facts. The Rev. H. G. Appenzeller was the first of the missionaries to visit Pyeng-yang. This was in April 1887, or two years after his arrival in the country. In the fall of the same year the Rev. H. G. Un-

derwood visited the city and went as far north as We-ju—at one time one of the most important commercial cities in the country.

These men were drawn to the work by the reports—generally exaggerated—telling them of work being done and of “believers waiting to be baptized.” The British and Foreign Bible Society entered Korea from the north. We may say in passing that the wonderful work in that almost ideal mission region of Chaang-ryang was first begun and for some time carried on by colporteurs of this Society.

In the spring of 1888 these two brethren began a somewhat pretentious evangelistic trip together, planning to take in the whole north of the peninsula, from the Chinese frontier on the west to Ham-heung and Wonsan on the east. At Pyeng-yang, where they spent several days, they were led to discontinue their journey because of instructions received from the United States Minister in Seoul. In March 1889, Mr. Underwood again set his face northward. This time he was accompanied by his bride, and to Mrs. Underwood belongs the honor of being the first foreign woman to visit not only Pyeng-yang, but Kang-gé in the far north, and to sail down the Yalu to We-ju. In October of this same year, Mr. Appenzeller went again to Pyeng-yang and to the Chinese border as well. In both places he met, instructed and baptized several Koreans. This makes five visits to Pyeng-yang in the period mentioned.

Mr. Loomis, therefore, is in error when he says that “up to the year 1890, only two short visits to Pyeng-yang had been made by any of the Protestant missionaries.” As to the “converts made,” we do not have the number Mr. Underwood received and baptized, but we know we received enough to nullify the statement of Mr. Loomis. While perhaps we cannot say of those then enrolled “the great part remain unto this present,” we know of some who have not “fallen asleep.”

In September 1890, the Rev. S. A. Moffett of the Presbyterian Mission, the Rev. H. B. Hulbert of the Government School and the writer went together to Pyeng-yang. The latter left his companions here and continued his journey to the Yalu, then across the country to Ham-heung and Wonsan. On this trip it was our duty to undo, as we suppose is the experience of most of our fellow-workers, some of the work of the last trip. We had to suspend the helper we placed over the work in the city. On Sunday we conducted two public services, held in the house of one of the baptized members. “In the morning,” we quote from our journal, “there were fifteen in the little room and some

standing outside." "In the evening eight were in the room and several outside." We thus particularize in order to correct Mr. Loomis in his account of the work done in Pyeng-yang up to September 1890. This was the beginning of the great work of which we hope to give more in a subsequent issue.

The Hon. C. Waeber. This distinguished diplomat left Seoul on the 15th inst. for Russia. After a short furlough he will proceed with his family to Mexico to which country he was appointed Minister some time ago. Mr. Waeber is well known not only in Korea but throughout the Far East as an able diplomat and courteous gentleman. He came to Korea when Russia made her treaty, selected the splendid compound in which he erected the spacious buildings in which the King of Korea found shelter for a little more than a year. He was a most zealous guardian of Russian interests and the vantage ground Russia has now in this country is due to the consummate ability with which Mr. Waeber managed the affairs entrusted to him by his government. While he was the host of the King, from Feb. 11th, 1896 to Feb. 20th, 1897, the strain on him must have been very great, but he gave the closest attention to even the smallest details.

Mr. Waeber read, some years since, a paper on the "Climate of Korea" before the Seoul community which embodied the results of several years of observation as a meteorologist and is of permanent value. He has also published maps of China, the northern part only. He was at work on a map of Korea, but we are not informed whether it is finished or not.

Mrs. Waeber who went to Russia last spring, is a woman of varied and brilliant accomplishments, and the years she was hostess of the Russian Legation were marked by great hospitality and cordiality. Mr. and Mrs. Waeber were very popular with all classes and they will be greatly missed here. Our best wishes for their future success.

English Policy in Korea.—The reply of Mr. Curzon, Under Foreign Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in answer to questions in reference to England's attitude towards Korea, gives general satisfaction, seemingly, to the papers in the Far East. The independence of Korea, he said, was of international interest, tho as a matter of history she has leaned upon China for centuries and is now supported "by virtue of a sort of common agreement" by Russia and Japan.

The right hon. baronet seemed to think that Korea had been abandoned to her fate, and that she was to be left to share the fate of Northern

China, but I must say I do not agree with his account of the incidents. British interests in Korea are, of course, not identical in character or in moment with the interests of the other Powers I have mentioned. We have not a contiguous frontier, as have Russia and China, and in the second place, we do not gaze at her across the seas, as does Japan. We have, of course, commercial interests in Korea—interests which I should be the last to minimise, but interests not assessable at a high figure. Our interests in Korea are commercial, and first, to see that the independence of Korea is maintained, and that it is not territorially or administratively absorbed into the Empire of Russia; secondly, that Korean territory and Korean harbors are not made the base of schemes for territorial aggrandizement, so as to disturb the balance in the Far East and give to one Power a maritime supremacy in the Eastern Seas. Commercial expansion is a thing which we must expect and which we must endeavor with the means at our disposal to meet, but any such attempts as I have been describing by one Power would find us ready to protect our own interests there.

The policy herein outlined is a most important one as far as the future of this country is concerned. If Korea were 'abandoned to her fate' it is comparatively easy to imagine what that fate would be if the present trend of affairs be taken as a criterion. It is also worthy of note that the independence of Korea is regarded as of international interest and that it must be maintained. This is a good time to give every encouragement to those Korean patriots who are working for this end. We notice one exchange thinks the "statement [of Mr. Curzon] will doubtless give immense satisfaction in military and naval circles in Japan, for with an assurance of this nature the suggested formal alliance of the two island empires, which has recently been so much discussed in Japan, is superfluous."

In the July issue of *THE REPOSITORY* we referred, under the heading "Unnecessary Anxiety," to some remarks made by *The Japan Times* and *The Kobe Chronicle* on affairs in Korea. Both these journals in excellent spirit note our comments. The former journal thinks it would be "a mere waste of time to prove what is incidentally and impliedly admitted by themselves;" says we are "sensitive," and tells us if we are "desirous of refreshing our memory" we can do so "without going to the trouble of applying to us across the sea." We said what we had to say and now dismiss the subject.

The Kobe Chronicle has nothing more to say about the point on which we ventured to differ with it—namely the exercises connected with the laying of the corner-stone of Independence Arch—and the comments on the same by the special correspondent of *The Times*. The editor, however, takes up the other point of our note and says:—

Now we must say that the impression we have derived from its pages during the past two years, taken in conjunction with the statements of Japana-

ese correspondents, has been that missionaries have ranged themselves on the side of Russia as against Japan. . . . But if *The Repository*, speaking on behalf of the missionaries, denies that they have actively aided Russian schemes we are quite willing to accept the disclaimer."

This is frank. If we wrote anything that would warrant the "impression" that "the missionaries have ranged themselves on the side of Russia as against Japan," or the reverse, if you please, it is because we lack that perspicuity so desirable in editors and which we admire so much in others. Our aim is to state matters clearly, forcibly, impartially. If we fail it is not for lack of good intention on our part.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

(Compiled from *The Independent*).

August 19th. *Edict*:—We have been blessed by Merciful Heaven and We have been guided by the royal spirit of Our illustrious ancestors in directing state affairs. But when we reflect upon Ourselves, We realize that we are not worthy of being trusted with so great a duty as to rule the country of Our royal ancestors. This thought causes Us constant worry and discomfort. However, thro Heaven's bountiful blessing, Our country has been peaceful and many auspicious omens have manifested themselves during Our reign. We, instead of doing Our duty more diligently under the auspicious circumstances, have become negligent in the duties which We owe to the nation, resulting in a general confusion and perversion throughout the country. At last a most irreparable calamity has visited the Royal family, which event We cannot bear to speak of again. It is solely due to Our unpopularity that such a horrible event happened.

After that event the traitors had their own way in the management of the state affairs. They destroyed the old customs of the country and abolished the formalities of ceremonies and sacrifices. But fortunately We have re-established some of the ancient customs and made some recoveries in those matters relating to the welfare of the country. We have cultivated the friendship of a neighboring Power and regained Our independent rights. In looking over the old history, We find that during the Chu dynasty the country became more prosperous after the reign of Emperors Sung and Kang; during the Han dynasty the country was regenerated after the reign of the Emperors Mun and Kyeng. Therefore We informed Heaven, Earth, and the royal spirits of Our ancestors, on the 16th day of this month, that We are going to reform Our country in the same manner as was done during the Chu and Han dynasties. We have changed the name of the current year to the first year of "Kwangmu" and We have asked the help and guidance of Heaven and the ancestral spirits. In order to be like Our royal ancestors We hereby issue this new decree to show that We are anxious to imitate the deeds of Our forefathers. Let this decree be known far and near.

(1) We have amply gratified the desires of Our officials by paying them sufficient salaries. They must respond to Our kindness by being loyal to Us and just to the people. They must not take bribes, squeeze public money

or rob helpless citizens. From the 16th day of this month if any official of the Government violates these rules he will not escape lawful punishment. (2) The War Office must grant substantial relief to the families of meritorious soldiers who rendered valuable services during the riots and disturbances in the interior. (3) The provincial officials are allowed to report the names of the dutiful sons and pure minded men in their districts to the Departments and the Departments must give them offices in the Government. (4) It is the law of generations that murderers must be made to confess their crime. Therefore, hereafter, all murderers must make confession before being executed. (5) To reduce the sentences of those prisoners whose offenses are other than conspiracy, robbery, murder and immorality. (6) To relieve the widows and orphans in the interior. (7) To rebuild temples and shrines throughout the country, by the local officials. (8) To repair roads and bridges.

Alas, while we endeavor to do Our best in the accomplishment of the matters numerated above We depend largely upon the assistance of Our officials. We hereby order every civil and military official in the Government to offer his most hearty cooperation, so that We may deserve the blessings from above and We will be able to purify the world. Let this be made known to all.

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

The Kukmin Sohak Tokpon.—For some time past the Educational Department has been publishing books for the use of the government schools which are well adapted to take the place of the time-honored antiquities which have constituted the old curriculum. A good example of these works is the *Kukmin Sohak Tokpon*, or "First lessons of the Little Learning for Country and People." It is in the usual small folio style of Korean books printed on Korean paper and bound in the neat yellow covers and red cord, which make most Korean books an *edition de luxe*. It has seventy-one leaves or 142 pages and contains forty-one chapters. It is written in the mixed script, *i.e.* Chinese and önmun together, as a general thing the root of the word being in Chinese and the grammatical inflexions in önmun, tho this rule is not rigidly adhered to, the önmun often being substituted for the Chinese. It has no preface, but its title-page bears in addition to the whole title the *imprimatur* of "The Bindery Bureau, Department of Education," and the date "Autumn 50th year of Great Chosön, (1896).

Its contents may be gathered from the following titles,—the first five chapters are respectively: The land of Great Chosön; The extension of learning; Hanyang (the Capital); Our home; and The story of His Majesty Séjong. This will give an idea of the diversified character of the subjects treated which may be farther inferred from the fact that Time, The Treaty Powers, London, Wind, Beehives, History of Eulchi Mundök, Garfield and the Independence of America, all form the subject of chapters.

The treatment of these subjects is such as is calculated to convey information deemed desirable for the people to know. The following is a translation of the chapter on The Treaty Powers.

"His Majesty the king having exchanged treaties with the various Sovereigns and Presidents of foreign countries for the purpose of commerce,

they are known as our Treaty Powers. Diplomatic representatives are therefore sent to these nations to have charge of such affairs as may arise while consular officials are located at the various ports of entry for trade to oversee the commercial affairs between the two nations. There are at present eight nations having treaties with us. In the 485th year of the dynasty (1878) His Majesty made the first treaty of amity and commerce with Japan, after which other nations came seeking treaties until the number is now eight. These Treaty Powers are: in the Orient—Japan; in Europe, England, France, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy, six nations; and in America—the United States. We have made our treaties with these Powers as an independent nation. As for China, in the 245th year of the dynasty she by her superior power reduced us to a shameful position by the treaty of Nanchang and for several centuries this stain could not be cleansed. But at this present time this ancient treaty has been abolished and we are no longer classed by it, this reflecting great glory on our king as the most brilliant among the monarchs. It is said in foreign countries that we are small, therefore weak and poor. But weakness and poverty are not determined by the largeness or smallness of a country. In Europe the largest country territorially is Russia and the smallest is England, but the latter conquered India and made it her colony. France and Germany with all their colonial possessions are also not as large territorially as Russia and yet these European nations are equally rich and powerful. Thus teaching us that strength and poverty are not determined alone by size but by the civilization, loyalty and patriotism of the people or their lack of these things. And if we become loyal, patriotic and united we shall be as other nations.

„Among the Treaty powers England is a kingdom, Germany, Russia, Austria, Italy and Japan are empires; the United States and France are republics. And tho the titles of emperor, king and president are different yet in power, privilege and station no classification exists among them.

ON DIT:

- That it has stopped raining.
- That cabinet ministers are still "resigning."
- That the royal palace is still being enlarged.
- That a good hotel in Seoul is badly needed.
- That tourists visiting Korea are charmed with the country.
- That honesty among some native officials seems a rare article.
- That the Bear has captured Deer [Island] at Fusan.
- That he will probably like the taste and paw for more venison later on.
- That Pai Chai had over a hundred pupils in attendance on opening day.
- That the friends who were away on the summer vacation are back again.
- That those who remained in Seoul are glad to see them back.
- That a wave of sickness struck the capital the beginning of this month.
- That Young Korea is studying the meaning of the word "non-commissioned officers."
- That big yarns are told in our neighboring countries about the dreariness, and desolateness of Korea.
- That a subscription to THE REPOSITORY will go far to remedy such erroneous ideas.
- That there is still room on the subscription list for more names. [This is

strictly correct. En. K. R.]

That the question has been raised whether the Korean soldier sings by note or by the ear.

That he probably does neither—he “bollers.”

That the Royal Inspector is like unto the plagues of Egypt—ubiquitous, iniquitous, unbearable.

That the Royal household is persistent in its intention to collect twenty per cent of the gross receipts of the merchants.

That in all probability the average merchant will have no “gross receipts” from which to collect.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Hon. F. Krien was elected President of the “Cercle Diplomatique et Consulaire” in place of the Hon. C. Waeber.

Dr. E. D. Follwell, physician in charge of Hall Memorial Hospital Pyeng-yang, reports that he treated over 1,600 patients during the summer.

M. Kato, H. I. J. M. Minister is now the doyen of our diplomatic body. Mr. Kato is an experienced officer and linguist, able to speak four languages in addition to his mother tongue.

We quite sympathise with our morning contemporary in its desire to have the commands to the army given in Korean and not in the Russian language. It has always seemed very strange to us that any other than the native tongue was allowed to be used. We know well that “reform” is not popular these days, there is too much of a scramble just now for the “good old days,” but “we hope the authorities who have the power to change such matters will see it in the same light as we do.”

This month has been a busy month in Seoul in social circles. Two new ministers had to be welcomed and the departure of Messrs. Sill and Waeter and their families called forth a round of dinners, receptions, picnics and lawn parties that attest the high esteem in which they are held by the community. The American residents gave Minister Sill and his family a picnic party on the 13th inst. in the “Lily Valley”, a beautiful place for such purpose, and Mr. Sill made one of those scholarly and classical addresses on friendship of which he has proved himself a master and which deeply touched the hearts of his hearers.

Our young Diomed, the editor of *the Independent*, fears neither gods no Korean *poong-suk*—custom. In his public addresses he pitches into the first evil or abuse that presents itself. On Founder's Day he spoke on the evils of slavery. One of the auditors was much impressed, went home and liberated thirty-two persons who were in bondage to him. At the mass-meeting of the Christians on the king's birth-day, seeing a few women present, he made a splendid plea for woman and the necessity of honoring her. It was the first public utterance on this subject we remember hearing.

A few days since we heard a young Korean, standing before an audience, urge the necessity of female education, giving as his reason, first, that she might be a companion to her husband and second, that she may be able to educate her children. We are moving forward.

Our Lord High Treasurer is proving his ability to checkmate even the slippery native official. As a result he has amassed enough money to pay off 2,000,000 yen still due on the Japanese loan. It would be interesting to find out from Dr. Brown the amount of substantial support and encouragement he has received, from officials high and low, in his efforts to pay off an honest debt. The ability to pay off a \$3,000,000 debt in less than twenty months, to build a new palace, to prepare a tomb for a dead Queen, to make extensive improvements in the streets, and run the government so that everything and everybody is paid up to date, indicates that Korea cannot be the "miserable country" she has been represented for the last decade or more to be. A good watch dog in the Royal Household Department might help matters even more.

On the death of Hon. Soh Kwang Pom *The Independent* says editorially:—

"The late Hon. Soh Kwang Pom was born in 1858 in the Governor's official residence of Pyengan province, at Pyengyang, while his parents were living with his grandfather who was then Governor of that province.

"From his boyhood Mr. Soh Kwang Pom made himself well known throughout the literary circle in the country for his smart verses and thoughtful essays in Chinese, and after he became a young man of twenty he was considered one of the best penmen and draftsmen at that time. He passed the necessary examinations before the civil service board and was soon made Assistant Royal Librarian, which position was considered then as a great honor for a young official. He was fond of reading and he sent to China for various modern books for his own library. Among the new books, he found universal history and books on travel thro Europe and America of especial interest.

"Mr. Soh and a few others quietly organized a party among their young friends for the purpose of studying the history, customs and geography of the Western countries and the name of *kuivha*, or Party, was coined in the Korean language. During the year 1880 these pioneers of Western education secretly went to Japan with the permission of His Majesty and took with them some twenty young men to study the outside world.

"Mr. Soh was sent to America as Secretary to the first Korean Embassy in 1883. He visited the different parts of the United States and on their way home they were allowed by the American Government to be passengers on *U. S. S. Trenton*. They returned by way of Europe, visiting Egypt, France, Italy, and China. The trip round the world and the knowledge he obtained during his stay in America made Mr. Soh more anxious than ever for the introduction of reforms in his own country. But unfortunately the Government was getting more and more under Chinese influence on account of an opportunity which was afforded to China thro the family quarrels among the members of the Korean royal household. The liberal leaders became desperate as the Chinese influence defeated every semblance of reform that was suggested by them. The consequence of which resulted in the emeute of 1884, in which Mr. So was an active, patriotic member.

"Mr. Soh like many of his compatriots became an exile from his native land. He immediately went to America where he remained for ten long

years. The utterly rotten condition of Korea under the Chinese yoke brought about the uprising of the Tonghaks, followed by the war between Japan and China, which ought to have taken place in 1884. After the Chinese had been driven away from Korea, Mr. Soh was recalled by the Government. He was made Minister of Justice and subsequently transferred to the Educational Department.

"After the emeute of October 1895, his position in the Cabinet under Kim Hongjip's leadership was very trying and at times his life was in danger. He sought the mission to Washington for the sake of the recuperation of his broken health. He had been suffering with pneumonic trouble for a number of years. He left Seoul a year ago last January for America and he held the position of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States until August 1896, when he was succeeded by the present Minister Mr. Ye Pomchin."

ARRIVALS.

In Seoul, Sept. 4, Miss SUSAN A. DOTY from furlough to the United States.

At Chemulpo, Sept. 15, Mr. and Mrs. ROSPOPOFF Russian Vice-Consul in Seoul.

At Seoul, Sept. 16, Miss Dr. INGOLD to join the Southern Presbyterian Mission.

At Chemulpo, Sept. 9, Mr. JULY, H. B. M. Vice-Consul, Mrs. JULY and three children.

At Seoul, Sept. 9, A. DE SPEYER, Russian *Charge d' Affaires*, Madame DE SPEYER and child.

BIRTHS.

In Seoul, Sept. 8, the wife of Rev. Dr. C. F. REID, of a son.

In Pyeng-yang, Sept. 5, the wife of the Rev. W. A. NOBLE, of a daughter.

In Pyeng-yang, Sept. 14, the wife of Dr. J. HUNTER WELLS, of a son.

In Wonsan, Sept. 14, the wife of Dr. W. B. MCGILL, of a son.

DEATHS.

In Seoul, Sept. 6, Miss AGNES HALLIFAX, age eighteen years.

DEPARTURES.

From Seoul, Sept. 15, the Hon. C. Waeber for Russia.

From Seoul, Sept. 23, the Hon. J. M. B. Sill, Mrs. Sill, and Mrs. Graham for the United States.