

The Account of Korea from: The general history of China. Containing a geographical, historical, chronological, political and physical description of the empire of China, Chinese-Tartary, Corea, and Thibet. Including an exact and particular account of their customs, manners, ceremonies, religion, arts and sciences .. Done from the French of P. Du Halde. Volume 4, second edition corrected. London: John Watts. 1739.

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Geographical Observations on the KINGDOM of COREA.

Taken from the Memoirs of Pere Regis.

THE Kingdom of Corea is called by the Chinese, Kao lin [*They say Kao li kou ; Koué signifies Kingdom.], and by the Mantcheoux Tartars their Neighbours, Solho [†The Tartars say Solho Kouron; Kouron signifies Kingdom.], the Name also of Tchaossien is to be met with in the Chinese Writings, either because it was then the Name the most known in the Western Part, or because it was then the Name of the Capital City : I don't think it necessary to give an Account of the other Names by which this Kingdom hath been called for a little time; it is sufficient to know that for a great many Ages past it hath commonly been called Kao li, and that no other Name is to be met with in the History of the Imperial Family Yuen of the twelfth Century. This Kingdom is bounded on the North by the ancient Country of the Eastern Tartars, very well known by the Name of Mantcheoux, since they made themselves Masters of [page 382] China : It borders on the West upon the Chinese Province called in Writings sometimes Leao tong, and at other times Quang tong, which is separated from East Tartary by a wooden Palisado, which the Chinese call "The Wooden-Wall" Mou teou tching. The Sea, where-in there are some islands, bounds it on the East and on the South : The Breadth of Corea from North to South is almost nine Degrees, beginning about the thirty-fourth, and ending at the forty-third Degree of Latitude : Its Length from East to West is unequal, and somewhat less than its Breadth, being in its greatest Extent not more than six Degrees, I did not go far enough into the Kingdom, as I laid before, to be able to speak with any Certainty concerning the Nature of its Soil ; but what I saw of it upon the Frontiers is very well cultivated after the manner of the Southern Chinese: A Tartar Lord, whom the Emperor hath sent here, attended by one of the inferior Mandarins of the Mathematick Tribunal, gave us an Account that the Country is good, and produces in great plenty whatever is necessary for life, as Rice, Corn, Millet and other Grain : The same Lord hath brought along with him a Map of it, exactly like that in the Royal Palace ; as he did not go farther than the Court he only gave us the Length of the Road which he took thither from the City of Fong hoang tching, having had it measured by a Line. Fong hoang tching is at the East end of the Palisado of Quang tong : We were there, and it is from this very Spot that we began to take its Dimensions. We found by immediate Observations its Latitude to be ten Degrees, thirty Minutes, and twenty Seconds ; and its Longitude appeared to be seven Degrees and forty two Minutes ; to the East of this City is the Western Boundary of Corea under the now reigning Family; for after the Wars of the Coreans with the Mantcheoux, who subdued them before they attack'd China, it was at last agreed upon between them [page 383] that there should be left a certain Space uninhabited between the Palisado and the Boundaries of Corea : Those Boundaries are marked upon the Map by prick'd Lines : As I have not myself taken a view of the inward Parts of the Kingdom, nor the Sea-coast, I am far from offering this Map as a finish'd Work, but only as the best which has been publish'd, none having either Ability or Means to take a particular and exact Account of the Situation of the Cities, and of the Course of the Rivers : The Bounds of the whole North Part, and as far as I have survey'd to the West, having been measur'd geometrically, and fix'd by the Elevations of the Pole, we may henceforward make use of them for the bringing the other Parts to their proper Longitude, for it's certain that

there is its greatest Breadth. The Road likewise made by the Tartar Lord, and measured by the Line from Fong hoang tching, has enabled us to judge of the Proportion of the other Measures of that Kingdom mark'd upon the Royal Map : By comparing also the Elevation of the Court of Corea, which the Chinese Mathematicians have found to be thirty-seven Degrees, thirty-eight Minutes, and twenty Seconds, with our own North Elevations, we are certain of its Extent from North to South, at least for five Degrees and an half : There should be some further Observations upon the South and East Sides, which would compleat the Account of Corea with respect to the General Geography of Asia.

The most considerable Rivers, which are its Defence as well as its Riches, are Ya lou and Toumen, which are called upon the Map in the Mantcheoux, Linguong, Talou oula, and Toumen oula, the Word oula in the Mantcheoux Language hath the same Signification as the Word Kiang in the Chinese, which signifies a River, for which reason the Chinese call those two Rivers Ya lou kiang, and Toumen kiang : They both rise out of the same Mountain, one of the [page 384] highest in the World. The Chinese call it Tchangpe-chang, and the Mantcheoux, Chanalin; that is the ever-white Mountain : One of these Rivers takes its Course eastward, and the other westward ; they are both pretty deep, and moderately rapid, and the Water of them very good : The Course of the other Rivers, which I have not seen, are marked upon the Map according to the Corean Measures.

The Houses of the Coreans have only one Story, and are ill built, as the Tartars informed me ; for I was no further than four Leagues from the first Town of Corea : The Houses in the Country are made of Earth, and those in the Towns generally of Bricks : The Walls of the Towns are built after the Chinese manner, with square Towers, Battlements, and arch'd Doors ; but the Great Wall, which the Coreans had raised to desend themselves from the Tartars, and which I have view'd in coasting along the East Shore of Toumen Oula, cannot be compar'd with the East part of the Great Chinese Wall, not being terrass'd, nor so thick : It has for about ninety Years past lain almost entirely in Ruins ; for Corea was the first which felt the victorious Arms of the Mantcheoux their Neighbours : The Capital is called upon the Map King ki too, and 'tis thus that the Coreans call it, but the Chinese call it Kong ki tao ; the reason is that it is not allowed in the Imperial Palace, in speaking of the other Courts, to make use of the Chinese Word King; that Word, say the Chinese, signify only the Court of their Emperors ; they pretend likewise that the Word Sientse van soui, and others of the same sort, which they give to their Emperors, are so appropriated to him that it is not allow'd to use them even in a Translation to express the Heads of other Kingdoms: Nevertheless I cannot say, as one of our own Authors does, in speaking of the Letters sent to S'Louis by the first Emperors of the Yuen, that those Words were *full of Pride, as ridiculous as impious*, because in [page 385] effect it is certain that altho' they may signify, according to their import, the Son of Heaven, and the Immortal, yet they are by long usage brought to signify no more than the Emperor of China ; there being no Chinese who knows not that his Master is a Man, and the Son of a Man.

The same Remark holds good as to the Name that is given to their Kingdom, and especially as to that of Tien hia, by which the Chinese mean their own Empire alone ; for they know very well that they are not Masters of all the World, nor of the whole Earth, altho' they think themselves by much superior to all the People of other Kingdoms : So the difficulty which they make of giving the Name of King to Other Courts has the same Foundation, and can never be got over by any Ambassador, whose Prince would treat with the Emperor upon an equal foot; as to what regards the Ambassadors of Corea, as they represent a feuditary and tributary King, they are treated with no great distinction ; they have not Precedence of the Grandees, nor even of the Mandarins of the second Rank ; they are as it were shut up in the House where they are lodged, at least till after the first Audience ; afterwards, when they have the liberty of going abroad, they have an appointed number of Attendants, not so much to shew them respect as to be Spies upon their Conduct : The Tartar Lord, who went as Envoy to the Court of the King of Corea, told us that he had like wise been kept under great restraint ; that there were Persons in his House who constantly watch'd him, and that every

thing he said was carried to the Palace by young Persons placed at convenient distances along the Street.

The Coreans dress after the Chinese manner, which was in use in the time of the last Family of the Emperors called Tai ming : They wear a Robe with long and large Sleeves, a high Cap of a squarish Figure, a round Girdle, and Leather, Linen, or Sattin [page 386] Boots : Their Language is different both from the Chinese and Tartarian ; and therefore when any one goes into China he takes an Interpreter along with him ; the Emperor has also some of them at his own Expence both at Peking and at Fong hoang tching, through which Places every one must pass who goes into China ; the Chinese Letters nevertheless are in use throughout the whole Kingdom : The last Envoy, who came to pay us a Visit a few Years ago, made use of a Pencil to make us understand what he would say to us : He told us that the Doctrine of Confucius was in great esteem amongst them, and that they kept the Bonzes very low, who were not allowed to build Pagods within any Towns : The Christian Religion hath not as yet been preached in Corea, though some Coreans may have been baptized at different times at Peking : To make a Settlement of it there must be a Permission had from the Emperor of China, a thing more difficult than ever to be obtain'd, since that Mission is almost entirely destroy'd by the Prohibition which the Lipou [*Tribunal of Ceremonies] made in the Year 1724: But it is certain that if, by a Miracle of the Divine Mercy upon that Nation, China should become Christian, the Conversion of Corea and Tartary would be an Affair but of a few Years : Such is the dependance which those Countries have upon China, such the regard which the neighbouring Nations pay to the Chinese.

The Form of Government of Corea is very like to that of China ; the Kingdom is divided into eight Provinces, and each Province into different Jurisdictions, which have the same Rights and Prerogatives as the Towns, that are called Fou in China, have over those which are called Hien.

When a Criminal is to be punish'd they don't put a Gag in his Mouth, as is practis'd in China when there is some particular reason for it; but a Sack is [page 387] thrown over his Head which comes down to his Feet, partly out of design to conceal his Shame, partly with intent to have him in their Power.

That which is most precious in Corea is the Harvest of the famous Plant Gin seng, and the hunting of Sables ; they carry on also a great Trade with Cotton-Paper, which is strong and lasting ; it is used even in the Imperial Palace as Blinds for Windows, and for other like Uses ; altho there comes a great quantity of it every Year, yet it continues to be sold dearer than any pther Paper in China.

Corea is a very antient Kingdom, as may easily be shewn by the Annals and the Books of greatest Antiquity in China : Vou vang, Founder of the Imperial Family Tcheou, after he had defeated the last Emperor of the Family Yng [*Chang, or Yng, is the second Imperial family in China], made Prince Kitse, Uncle to that unfortunate Emperor, King of Corea, even without exacting from him either Tribute or Homage : This must have been about the Year 1120 before the Christian Era, since that Defeat according to History, confirmed by the Calculation of the Eclipses which it gives account of, cannot be placed lower than that Period of time : This Prince was in so great repute for Wisdom that Vou vang would have made him Prime Minister, and received from him the Instructions which are collected in the sixth Chapter of the fourth Book of Chu king, a Book of the greatest Authority amongst the Chinese : The Prince did not care to take upon him the Management of an Empire, that had been taken away from his Nephew on account of his Tyranny : The Emperor approved his Reasons, and gave him all that Country which makes up the Kingdom of Corea ; he furnished him also with the means to make himself Master of it, and to introduce among that People the polite Manners of the Chinese: It is evident that the Wisdom of that Prince easily [page 388] overcame all Difficulties, since, according to the Chinese History, four Years after he had taken possession of his Kingdom he thought he might be absent from it, and pay a Visit to Vou vang, who received him with great Demonstrations of Friendship, and sent him back with magnificent Presents : The Family of Prince Kitse reigned above seven hundred

Years, but the Imperial House insensibly degenerating from the Virtue of its Ancestors, lost by little and little their hereditary Dominion; among the Grandees every one fortify'd himself upon his own Estate, and took the Title of Prince : They who had received the Title of Prince from the first Emperors would be called Kings, and, exercised regal Authority : Nothing but War was to be seen among so many different States, and their mutual Invasions reduced the Empire into seven great Kingdoms, which were called Tsin, Tsou, Ten, Tchao, Han, Isi, Ouei : The Kingdom of Ten, which at that time comprehended no more than the present Province of Petché li, made itself very soon Master of the Province of Leao tong, and by pushing on its Conquests by degrees towards the East, Corea was at last brought under the Authority and wise Government of Tchen pen : This Kingdom for a long time withstood the ambitious Attempts of the King of Tsin, called Tsin vang, but at last it fell under his Power as the other six had done : Hi vang, King of Ten and of Corea, was defeated, taken and killed in the Year 259 before the Birth of Christ, according to the Chinese History, and Tsin vang was acknowledged for Emperor of all China by the Name of Tsin chi hoang ti. When he saw himself in quiet Possession of the whole Empire he had a design of contracting its Bounds between the Great Wall to the North and the Ocean to the South ; he fixed the Bounds of the East at the wooden Palisade, which we have spoken of, so that what was beyond should from that time not belong to the Empire, and Corea was looked upon as a foreign [page 389] Kingdom ; tho' that continued but a short time : The Son of Chi hoang ti lost in three Years all that great Monarchy, and China was divided into twenty Kingdoms : Tsan tou was made King of Yen, and Tien tchi King of Corea, under the Name of Kiao tong, so that he would have been reckon'd the Head of the second Family of the Kings of Corea, if that Establishment had lasted ; but in a few Years afterwards all was overturn'd by the victorious Arms of Lieou pang, Founder of the Imperial Family Han : Tsan tou was defeated as well as the other King, and all the Empire was brought under one single Master : Lieou pang, the quiet Possessor of China, and known by the Name of Hao tsou, fix'd, as Chi hoang ti had done, the Boundaries on the North at the Great Wall, but he contracted it somewhat on the East by making the River Pecbou its Boundary : From that time there was left, as it were abandoned, some Extent of Country between the Limits of China and Corea : Some short time after an Officer, called Ouei, who was descended from the antient Princes of Ten, gather'd together his Friends, and the Soldiers whom the Emperor had disbanded and with a Resolution to push his Fortune entred into that Country, where he established himself so well by force of Arms, that he enjoy'd it peaceably with full Sovereignty : He afterwards passed into Corea, which he entirely subdu'd ; he took the Name of King, and fixed his Court at Van hien : This Kingdom descended to his Posterity down to King Tu kiow, he successfully oppos'd the Arms of the Emperor Hiao ou hoang, but afterwards he was betray'd and murder'd by Nihi tsan, Governor of one of the Towns of Corea, whom the Generals had corrupted.

Corea was reduced into Provinces and divided into different Governments, but that Division lasted but a little while : As soon as the Imperial Family Han began to be divided, and to be weaken'd by Civil Wars, Corea, taking Advantages of this Declension [page 390] of Power, made itself a King ; who to obtain Peace with the Emperor of China, paid him Homage, and presented him, by way of Tribute, several things which his Kingdom produced : This may be affirm'd to be the constant condition of Corea, for whatever Interruptions there may have been in it in so many Ages, it hath always sooner or later return'd to it. The Family Souy being come to the Empire, and having a design to reduce Corea into a Province, attacked it with one of the most numerous Armies which was ever seen in China ; but the Success was unfortunate, and there were only some few thousand Chinese who return'd from that Expedition, all the rest being lost in it : However the Coreans, unwilling to try a second time the Fate of Arms, chose to send Ambassadors to the Emperor to tender him the usual Homage and Tribute, which was accepted : The same thing happen'd a little while after under the Founder of the Family Tang ; he briskly attack'd the Coreans, but without Success ; nevertheless the Coreans offer'd to pay Tribute to his Son ; and he accepted their Offers ; the same Conditions were accepted by the Imperial Family Song, the Chinese and

the Coreans living in a good Understanding, and lending their Troops mutually to one another when they were at War with any foreign Nation : This is what, in the time of the Emperor Song , drew down upon the Coreans the Arms of East-Tartary, which History at that time calls Niutche : The Princes of those Tartars entered into Corea , plunder'd it, and at last subdued it, notwithstanding the Chinese Armies came to their assistance, and were defeated, they afterwards penetrated into China, and made themselves Masters of the North Provinces, and from that time took the Title of Emperor, and gave the Name of King to their Family : However it is not placed among the other Families in the Chinese Annals, because it never had the sole Government of the Empire ; the Family which first put an end to [page 391] that of the King , and afterwards that of the Song, made the strongest Efforts for reducing Corea into a Province ; the Founder of that Family, who took the Name of Tuen, and who is known in Europe by the Name of Zing bi, or Zing his kan, but whom the Chinese History calls Tchih hi fe, and Tai tsou, after he had conquer'd the King had thoughts of carrying the War into Corea : His General, called Leou co immediately made himself Master of the Towns situated upon the East of the River Ya lou, but the Emperor, who was taken up with Wars of greater Consequence, having ordered him to finish that, and the King of Corea, called Tche vang, having offer'd the Tribute, that Kingdom continued upon its antient footing : His Successor, whom our Writers call Octai, and whom the Chinese, according to the Genius of their Language, O ho tai, would have had the Coreans receive Governors of his immediate appointment, but they were so far from receiving them, that they murdered them : To punish them, says the Chinese History, the Emperor sent the Tartar General Tsa lita, who took from the Coreans more than forty Towns ; their King Tche vang dispatch'd his Brother Hoai gan to intreat the Emperor to acknowledge him as a Tributary King, but that Step was usefess, and he gained nothing by it ; the Emperor, on the contrary, ordered the conquer'd Country to be divided into Governments, to place throughout it Mandarins, and to fortify the important Posts with good Garrisons : The King of Corea retir'd towards the East Part on the Sea-coast : The Year following the Towns of Corea which had been forc'd to receive the Mandarins, took Arms and put all Foreigners to the Sword, at that News the General Tsa lita came again into the Country, and engaging the Corean Army was killed by an Arrow ; here-upon they entred into a Treaty of Peace : The King of Corea and his Son, called Chun, were permitted to pay their Compliments to the Emperor Octai as he [page 392] was hunting ; the Emperor received him with Marks of distinction, and was satisfied with only keeping his Son among the Hostages, which he had of several Princes and Commanders in chief, which were brought up and educated at his Court, and at his own Expence : The Peace continued under the Son of Octai, called by our Historians Ko jou, and by the Chinese, Kouei you ; (the fame to whom S' Louis deputed some of the Religious Orders, and sent Presents) but he having reigned but a few Years the War with the Coreans began under his Successor Mango, or Mangou, according to our Authors, and Mong co according to the Chinese : One of the Princes of the Blood called Ye hou, and General Hong fou yuen entred into Corea, and took several Towns, yet could not oblige the Coreans to abandon their King ; who, besides that he had offered always to pay the usual Tribute, had sent one of his Sons to treat of an Accommodation : During these Transactions the Emperor Mong co died, and Coblai or Hobilai, called in China, Hou pilie, succeeded him ; this Prince endeavoured to conform himself in every thing to the Government of the Chinese Emperors his Predecessors : In the first Year of his Reign one of the Grandees, called Lien hi, drew up a Placet in favour of Corea, which was express'd almost in these Words.

The King of Corea has never failed to offer Tribute to the Empire ; one of his Sons, called Tien ou, has come by his Orders, and that often to this Court ; the last time that he came he could not so much as obtain an Audience ; the Emperor, the Predecessor of your Majesty, was engag'd in preparing for the War which he had design'd against the Song ; this Prince has just received Intelligence that his Father is dead ; if he is sent back to his Kingdom, what Esteem will he not have for the excellent Virtue of your Majesty, and what will not be the grateful Returns he will make to your Empire ?

[page 393] The Demand expressed in that Placet was approv'd of by the Emperor, and he commanded that the Prince should be re-conducted with a suitable Retinue at the Cost of the Empire, nay more, he set at liberty all the Corean Prisoners, and publish'd a general Amnesty for all that was past, the King of Corea for his part did Homage, offer'd Tribute as usual, and received the Chinese Almanack for the current Year, which was the third of Coblai, who also in History is called Chit sou : From that time Corea hath kept the same Form of Government, its Kings having reigned with Dependence upon the Chinese Emperors without losing the Rights of Sovereignty, which they have over their Subjects : As soon as the Founder of the first Family of the Ming had drove out of China that of the Tuen, the King of Corea offered Homage and Tribute, which was received without the least opposition : The reigning Family Tsing, since it hath been in quiet Possession of the Empire, hath exacted of the Coreans no more than the same Services : As soon as the King of Corea is dead, the Emperor deposes two Grandees of his Court to the Son to confer on him the Title of Roue vang, that is King ; when the King of Corea is apprehensive that there may be Disturbances after his Death, he names during his Life an Hereditary Prince, and desires the Emperor to confirm him : The Prince receives the Investiture upon his Knees, and presents to the Envoys a certain number of determinate things, and a Sum of Silver which amounts to eight hundred Taels : After that the Minister of Corea brings the Tribute, and touches the Ground with his Forehead in the Emperor's presence ; the Princess also, the Wife of the King, does not take the Title of Queen till she has received it from the Emperor, as the Ceremony is regulated, there is never any cause of Dispute or War : Hence it is that Corea hath enjoy'd the Sweets of Peace for a great many Years,

[page 394] An Abridgment of the HISTORY of COREA.

This Account of Corea is taken out of three different Authors : From a Theatre of the Worlds entitled Tsien kioku loiu chu ; from a general Abridgment of Chorography, which hath for its Title Quang yu ki ; and from a Survey of Universal Geography, entitled Tang yu ching tio. In the essential Points I have contented my self with a bare Translation, and have added to it a Chronology, which is looked upon as unquestionable.

KOREA, which may justly be called the Chesfonesus of China, since it is contiguous and tributary to it, is a large Peninsula which runs out in the form of a Cape into the Eastern Sea between China and Japan : The Sea of Japan washes it on the East ; the Gulph of Leao tong divides it from the Provinces of Pe tche li and Chang tong on the West ; on the North it borders on the Country of Niu tche [*Thus the Chinese Geographers call that part of the Country, which is inhabited by the Mantcheoux-Tartars, tho this Name is unknown to them. See what hath been said of it in the Geographical Observations, p. 88.], on the South it hath the Ocean, and the River Ya lou, which bounding it between the South and North, divides it from Leao tong : Its Extent from East to West is twelve hundred Lys, and from North to South two thousand and between two and three hundred Lys.

Corea hath formerly been inhabited by different People ; the principal were the Me, the Kao kiuli, [page 395] and the Hun : These last were subdivided into three sorts, viz. the Ma ban, the Pien ban, and the Tchou ban : These People erected many Kingdoms, such as was that of Tchaossien, and that of Kalo [*Under the Dynasty of the Family of the Kao, who reign'd for a long time in Corea.] : whence we have corruptly call'd it Corea, It hath at last taken the name of Tchaossien, under the Dynasty that now reigns, which is of the Family of Li : But although in publick Instruments this latter Title is only given it in China, yet in common Discourse it keeps still its first Name : The Mantcheoux call Corea, Sol bo kouron, or the Kingdom of Sol bo.

Corea is at this time divided into eight Provinces, which have a command over forty Kiun, or great Cities, thirty three Pou, or Towns of the first Rank, fifty eight Tchou, or Towns of the second Rank, and seventy Hien, or Towns of the third Rank.

The first Province, which is in the Heart of the Kingdom, and where the King keeps

his Court, is call'd Kingki, or the Province of the Court: The Eastern is call'd Rang Yuen, or the Source of the River, the antient Habitation of the Me; the Western is call'd Hoang hai, or yellow Sea ; it takes in Part of the antient Tchaossien, and the Country of the antient Mahan : The Northern is call'd Ping ngan, that is the Calm or the Pacifick ; it was formerly included in the antient Kingdom of Tchaossien : The Southern is call'd Tçuenlo ; it was the Habitation of the Pien han : The South-west Province was call'd Tchu sin, the Faithful and Pure, it is the antient Mahan : The North east is call'd Kien King, the Happy ; it is the antient Territory of the Kaokiuli : Lastly the South-east is call'd Kin chan, it is the antient Country of the Tchin han.

Han ching is the Capital of Corea ; (according to the Name it hath gone by for near these last hundred [page 396] Years) ; it is situate in the thirty sixth degree of Northern Latitude, and ten degrees more, in Longitude than the City of Pekin : This is the Situation which the Chinese Printer gives it ; the People of Corea were subject to the Chinese from Yao, who began to reign 2357 Years before the Christian Era, to the Emperor Tai king of the Dynasty of the Hia, who began to reign 2188 Years before the Christian Era ; the bad Government of this Prince made them revolt : Under the Reign of Kie, which began 1818 before the Christian Era, they were brought to pay their Tribute ; but his tyrannical Government engaged them in a fresh Revolt, and put them upon invading a Part of China : Tching tang, who began to reign about the Year 1766, before the Christian Era, after he had deprived Kie of the Crown, and founded the Dynasty of the Chang, made War upon them, and brought them back to their Duty: Under the Emperor Tchang ting, who began to reign 1562 Years before the Christian Era, they attacked China, and afterwards they sometimes submitted, and sometimes revolted ; this Alternative of Obedience and Revolt continued to the Year 1324 when Ven ting began to reign ; the Weakness of this Prince gave them opportunity of making themselves Masters of the Provinces of Kiang nan and Chan tong, where they maintain'd their ground till the time of Tsin tchi hoang, who subdued them, and dispers'd them in the Empire ; but so little of the Affairs of their History is known before the Dynasty of the Tcheou, that the Chinese Historians are in the right to begin the Establishment of that Monarchy with Ki tse, from whom to this present time it hath continued two thousand eight hundred and fourteen Years without comprehending in this account the times in which it was reduc'd into a Province : Ki tse, that wise Prince of the Dynasty of the Chang, is look'd upon as the Founder of the Kingdom of Tchaossien : His wholsom and free Advice drew upon him the [page 397] Resentment of Tcheou his Nephew, who was Emperor of China: This Tyrant, far from following his wise Counsels, which would have sav'd him and his Kingdom, condemn'd him to a close Prison, where he was confin'd till he was taken out by Vou vang, who depriv'd Tcheou both of his Crown and Life, and founded the Dynasty of the Tcheou in the 1122d Year before the beginning of the Christian Era. : Ki tse was no sooner at liberty but he thought of withdrawing himself from the Dominion of him who had taken away the Empire from his Family ; he found no Place so proper for his Design as Tchaossien, where he establish'd himself : Vou vang, far from disapproving his Conduct, made him King of the Country, and freed him from the Uneasiness it must have given him to have been in subjection to the Tcheou : The Descendants of Ki tse held Tchaossien in Sovereignty to the time of Tsin chi hoang , who began to reign in China 246 Years before the beginning of the Christian Era ; this Emperor annex'd Tchaossien to Leao tong, upon which he made it dependant, yet without taking the Possession of it from the House of Ki tse : The Princes of this House were Masters of it with the Title of Heou, or Marquis, for more than forty Reigns, till Tchun took that of Vang, or King : A Chinese call'd Ouei man, originally of the Province of Pe tche li, knew how to make his advantage of the Troubles occasion'd by the Civil Wars, which shook China about the beginning of the Reign of Cao tsou, the Founder of the Dynasty of the Han, which began to reign about 206 Years before the Christian Era.

After having defeated Tchun in fevcral Battles, he made himself Master of his Country, and took the Title of King of Tchaossien, Ouei man put an end to the House of Ki tse, and freed Tchaossien from the Dependance it had been in upon the Government of Leao tong , however he was a long time before he could obtain from the Chinese Emperors

the Confirmation [page 398] of his usurped Crown ; but at last Hœi ti, who began to reign 122 Years before the Christian Æra, and Liu heou his Mother, who govern'd under his Name, created him King of Tchaossien, by the Counsel of the very Man who had formerly been Governor of Leao tong; this gave Ouei man an opportunity to push his Conquests further, and accordingly he brought under his Yoke the Me, the Kao kiuli, the Ouo tsiu, and several other People : Teou kiu, Grand-son of Ouei man, having killed Che bo, Envoy of the Emperor Vou ti, about 110 Years before the Christian Æra, drew upon himself a dangerous War: The Emperor sent Tan pou and Sun tche to chastise his Insolence, but without Success; a little while after Teou kiu was assassinated by his own Friends who came to deliver him up voluntarily to the Emperor. Vou ti reduced Tchaossien into a Province, which he called The Province of Tsan hai : This Prince, after he had brought under his Obedience the Kingdom with its Conquests, that is all Corea, divided it into four Kiun, or Provinces, which were Tchinfan, Lin tong, Lo lang, and Hiuen tou; he reduced Ouo tsiu and Kao kiuli to the Rank of Towns of the third Order. The Emperor Tchao ti, who began to reign eighty-six Years before the Christian Æra, laid aside the Governors of two Provinces, and left only that of Lo lang, and Hiuen tou, so that Corea was made up of but two Provinces.

The Kao kiuli were descended from the Fou yu [*The Chinese often give the same Name to the King, to the Kingdom, and to the Inhabitants ; for instance, the People of this Name and their Kingdom are called indifferently : Fou yu ; sometimes also the King is meant by it ; tho there are hut few, yet there are some Examples of its being us'd in that Sense.]; these Fou you must have been a People of East Tartary, but their Origin, according to the Account they give of it is altogether fabulous, and the following [page 399] Relation of it will shew you to what a height the Credulity of these People and their Historians is carried : It is true indeed Idolatry gives some Air of Probability to these sort of Extravagancies ; the Roman History, which in other respects affects to appear serious, furnishes us with Examples of the like Extravagancies; this then is their Account :

The Prince of the Kao kiuli had got in his Power the Daughter of the God of Hohang ho, whom he kept shut up in an House : One Day, as the Sun shone very violently upon her, she conceiv'd, and was afterwards deliver'd of an Egg as big as a Bushel; it was broke, and there was found in it a Male Child ; when he was grown up he was called Tchu mong, which signifies in the Language of the Country, Good Archer: The King of Kao kiuli made him Intendant of his Haras ; Tchu mong let the good Horses be lean, but took great care to fatten up the bad, so that the King took the fat for his own use, and left him the lean : One Day, as they were hunting, the King having given him leave to shoot what Game he met with, he kill'd a great number of Fallow Deer, which put the King upon the Design of making away with him,

Tchu mong, who perceived the King's Design, left his Mother and fled, attended only by Mata ; whilst he was hotly pursued he came to a River whose Passage was very difficult ; Ah ! said he, shall I, who am the Offspring of the Sun, and Grandson by my Mother of the God of Hobang ho, shall I be stopped on the Banks of this River, and not be able to surmount this Obstacle to my Escape ? He had scarce ended these Words, but the Fish and the Tortoises, fastening themselves together, made a Bridge of their Bodies, which he passed over ; he was no sooner got over the River Pouchui but he saw three Persons ; the first was dress'd in Hempen Cloth, the second had [page 400] on a pink'd Garment, and the third was cover'd with Sea Weeds; they join'd him, and came together to the Town of Kii ching kou, where he took the Name of Kao for that of his Family, to shew that he was of Kao kiuli.

Quang vou ti, who was the Restorer of the Dynasty of the Han, and who began to reign thirty-five Years before the Christian Æra, took away the Governors of Lotang and Hiuen tou, and made the Kingdom of Tchaossien a second time dependant upon the Government of Leao tong, which was in the Hands of Tchu tong, whose Justice and Probity render'd him formidable : The King of Kao kiuli laid hold of this Juncture to take Arms, and brought under his Dominion the Mé, Japan, Han, and Fouyu, continuing however the usual Tribute to the Chinese Emperors. Kong, King of Kao kiuli, was the first who carried the War

into the Territories of the Empire ; he besieged the Town of Hiuen tou, and having taken it put all the Officers to the Sword : Tchai fong, Governor of Leao tong, was kill'd in a Battle he fought with him, but Kong was in his turn defeated by Ouei tai kieou, the Son of the King of Fou yo, and left his Son Soui tching for his Successor.

Soui tching deliver'd up Hien tou into the hands of the Emperor, and submitted to the Payment of the usual Tribute ; but during the Weakness of the Government under the Emperors Hoan ti and Ling ti, he carried the War into the Territory of Hiuen tou. Kenlin, Governor of the Province under Hien ti, who began to reign in the Year 196, drove him out ; Kong fun tou made war upon him, and seiz'd upon his Kingdom: The Descendants of Kong fun tou reigned over the Part they had conquer'd down to Kong fun yuen, whose Kingdom was destroy'd by the Dynasty of the Ouei, the Founder of which was Tchao tchao : Y ymo fled, and fix'd his Court at the Foot of the Mountain [page 401] Oua tou chan : Ouei kong succeeded Y ymo his Father ; he was valiant and wine, and joined with the Dynasty of the Ouei in making war upon the Successors of Kong sun tou, under the reign of Ming ti, who began to reign in the Year 322 ; he plundered Ngang ping, and Leao su in the Province of Leao tong : Mou kieou kien, who was Governor of it, repuls'd and defeated him, upon which Ouei kong fled ; but Mou kieou kien gave Orders to Vang ki to pursue him, which he did cross Ouu tsiu for more than a thousand Lys ; at last he came to the Country of the Sou chin (thus the People of East-Tartary are call'd) and, after having engraven the Success of his Expedition upon a Stone Monument he there erected, he returned home: During his Stay in the Country he inquired of the Inhabitants if there were Lands and People beyond the Sea, who inform'd him that there Fishermen were often by Storms carried to an Island, whose Language was different from theirs, and that these Islanders had an annual Custom of drowning a Virgin in the Sea in the seventh Month: They said further, that there was another Kingdom inhabited only by Women, which conceiv'd of themselves, and carry'd the Child in the forepart of the Stomach ; that they had no Breasts, but that instead of them they had behind the Neck a Tuft of Hair, from whence there flow'd a Liquor like Milk ; that they suckled their Children no longer than an hundred Days, and that these Children grew more in that time than another Child who did not take this Liquor would in four Years; that on the Sea-coast there were Men with two Faces, who understood no Language, and who would starve themselves to death if they were taken ; that there was once taken a Man clothed with Stuff after the Chinese Fashion, whose Sleeves were thirty Foot long ; lastly, that this Place was at the most Eastern Boundary of Ouo tsiu.

[page 402] Under Tong kia, [*Another History relates, that Kao lien, King of Kaoli made himself Master of Corea, and took Pinjam, where he fix'd his Court under the same Yong kia ; that he push'd his Conquests quite to the River Leao, and made himself Master of part of Leao tong, which is to the East of that River, and which is properly called Leao tong, or East-Leao; that Tam cai tçong recovered it, and that part of Leao tong, called Leao ji, or West-Leao, was often infested with the Incursions of the Kaoli : This Account makes Kae tchao and Kao lien to be the same Person.] Tchao, Great-great-grandson of Kong, was created King of Tchaossien : Mou yong hoang drove him from Oua tou, which he demolish'd : Tchao establish'd his Court at Pin jam, Which bore also the Name of Lo lang; Mon yong pao subdu'd Ngan, King of Kao kiuli, and made him Governor of Ping tcheou. During the Dynasties of the Tsin, the Song, the Tsi, the Leang, the latter Ouei, the latter Tcheou, the Kings of Corea were always created by the Emperors. Under the Dynasty of the Soui, Yuen King of Corea came at the Head of the Moko to make an Incursion into Leao si, in the Province of Leao tong ; the Emperor Tang ti summon'd him to appear before him, and upon his Refusal went in Person to carry the War into Corea in the seventh Year of his Reign, which was the Year of Grace 611 ; but the Coreans retiring into their Towns desended themselves vigorously, and for want of Provisions the Emperor was forced to retreat : He thrice invaded Corea, but each time with as little Success. Tuen being dead his Son Kien vou succeeded him ; the Founder of the Dynasty of the Tang, who began to reign in the Year of Grace 620, created him King of Corea with the Title of Chang tchu koué, that is The Pillar of the State of the first Order : There was at that time a certain Kai souuen, of the Family of the Tsuen, who pretended to be the Son of a River-God, the

better to seduce the Coreans by the Splendor of his [page 403] imaginary Birth : He was cruel and fierce, and had succeeded his Father in the Government of the East Pou, for Corea was at that time divided into five Pou, or Governments ; viz, that of the Court, or Middle, and those four Parts of the Kingdom which answer'd to the four Parts of the World : This perfidious Wretch assassinated Kien vou, and after he had treated his Body with the utmost Inhumanity flung it into a Laystall; he immediately set Tsang, a younger Brother of Kien vou upon the Throne, and having reserv'd to himself the Post of Molitchi, or Mayor of the Palace, he govern'd as Master : In the mean time: the Coreans, in conjunction with the Petçi, had declared War against the People of Sin lo, and had already made themselves Masters of two of their Towns ; the Sin lo sent to desire Succours of Tai tsong, who began to reign in the Year 627 ; Tai tsong, who had been informed of the cruel manner in which Kien vou had been murder'd, sent a powerful Army, which he intrusted to twenty Commanders in chief, the two first of which were Tchang leang and Lit sing, to chastise Kai Souuen as he deserv'd, and gave Orders at the same time to the Kings of Kitan hi, Pe tsi, and Sin lo to join him with their Troops; after which the Emperor set out and came to Tin tcheou, where he reviewed his Army ; the Goodness which he shew'd to the Soldiers, and the Orders which he gave for taking care of the Sick and Wounded, greatly encourag'd his Troops : Li tsing attacked the Town of Meou tchin, took it, made it a Town of the second Order, and called it Yi tcheou : Sun fa yn besieged the Town of Pe yai with the same Success ; he gave it the name of Yen tcheou, and placed it among the Towns of the second Order: Li tsing besieg'd the Town of Lao tong, and Tai tsing coming before the Place, and seeing the Soldiers carrying Earth for filling up the Trenches, he put his Hand to a Load to help them, which the Officers perceiving they all strove to join [page 404] the Soldiers, and bear a part in the work : The Emperor was every Day on horseback ; one Day, which he thought proper for the Execution of the Project he had form'd, he set fire to some combustible Matter which he had order'd to be got ready : the Wind carry'd the Fire into the Town, and occasion'd a general Confusion in it, so that there perish'd in the Flames more than ten thousand Men ; the Town was reduc'd to the Rank of those of the second Order, and called Leao tcheou : After this Tat tsong march'd his Army towards the Town of Ngan chi ; Kao yen cheou and Kao hoei tchin came at the Head of an hundred and fifty thousand Moko to relieve the Town : The Emperor gave his Orders in the Night, and having observ'd the Fall of a flying Star, which light upon the Camp of the Moko he look'd upon it as an Omen Of Success ; the next Day the Emperor attack'd them in their Camp, and they were drove out of it, and taken in the Defeat ; Kao yen cheou and Kao hoei tchin surrendred themselves to the Clemency of the Emperor, who restor'd them their Liberty, and gave them Posts; but order'd three thousand of the Moko of Pin jam to be buried alive : He gave the Name of Tchu pi chan to the Mountain at the Foot of which he was encamp'd ; and lastly he order'd Hiu king tchong to compose an Inscription, and engrave it on a Stone Monument. Under the Kao tsong, which began in the Year 650, Ambassadors came from Sin lo to desire Succours of him against the Coreans and the Moko, who had jointly declared War against them, and had already taken from them thirty-six Cities : the Emperor granted their Request, and order'd Tching min tchin to command the Succours. During these Transactions Kai souuen died, and Nan seng his Son succeeded him in his Post of Molitchi; Nan seng falling out with his younger Brothers Tsuan nan kien and Tsuen nan tchan, came in Person to implore the Emperor's Assistance: From another Quarter [page 405] Tsing tou, the younger Brother of Kai souuen, waited upon Kao tsong, and yielded up to him part of his Dominions ; Kao tsong made Li tsing Generalissimo, and appointed for General-Officers under him Kipi, Oli, Sue gin kouei, Pang tong, and others, with Orders to make war upon the Coreans ; This Event happen'd in the seventeenth Year of his Reign, that is in the Year 666 N. S. Kao tsong, inquiring one Day what would be the Success of this Enterprize, Kia yen Tchong, Censor of the Empire, made him this Answer : The Coreans will infallibly be defeated ; the secret Memoirs declare that the Dynasty of Kao shall not continue full nine hundred Years in the Possession of Corea, and that it shall be overtum'd by a General who should be fourscore Years old : Now this is the nine hundredth

Year since the Han, that the Family of Kao hath reigned in Corea ; the Generalissimo Li tsing is fourscore Years old, the Famine is great in the Country, the People rise up against and betray one another, the Wolves and the Foxes come into their Towns ; these Prodiges have terrify'd all their Spirits, and this Expedition will put an end to the Sovereignty of the Kao: Li tsing began with the Siege of Pin jam, but Tsang , King of Corea, sent Nan tchang, attended by an hundred of the chief Men of the Kingdom, with a white Flag in his Hand, and surrendred himself to Li tsing, who receiv'd him honourably ; Nan kien continued to sustain the Siege, and did Acts of wonderful Bravery in many Sallies, but was always repuls'd with Loss ; his Generalissimo, Sou tou sin tching, made his Peace underhand with Li tsing, and promis'd to give up the Place; Li tsing set fire to one of the Gates of the Town, as had been agreed upon with Sou tou sin tching, and made himself Master of it ; Nan kien was made Prisoner, and his Kingdom was divided into five Governments, made up of an hundred and seventy principal Towns, and six hundred and ninety [page 406] thousand Families. The Kingdom of Corea was then changed into a Toutousou, which had a Command over nine Tcheou and forty-two Hien ; the other Towns were made Towns of War ; Sue gin kouei was made Toutofou of it, and Generalissimo of the Forces which should be left for the Defence of the Country. Under the Reign of the Empress Vou heau, that is about the Year 687, Pao yuen, Grandson of the King of Corea, called Tsang, was created Kiun vang, or King of the second Order of Tchaossien ; and thus Corea changed its Name of Kaoli to that of Tchaossien. About the Year 927 Vang kien, who then governed Corea, took upon him the Dignity of the Kao, and began to reign over it ; he conquered the Kingdoms of Pe tsi and Sin lo, quitted Pin jam, which till then had been the Seat of the Kings of Corea, and leaving it the Name of Si king, or The West Court, he removed his Court towards the East at the Foot of the Mountain Song yo: For three Reigns under the Outa the Kings of the House of Vang paid their Tribute regularly to the Emperors ; under the Reign of Tchi tsong, of the Dynasty of the Tcheou, who began to reign about the Year 954, Vang tchao, King of Tchaossien, presented to the Emperor a large number of ancient Books, but all full of Fables ; the same Prince sent to pay Homage to the Emperor Tai tsou, the Founder of the Dynasty of the Song, who began to reign in the Year 960 ; after the Death of Vang tchao, the third King from him called Tchi was forced to pay Homage to the Kitan (these are the Tartars which reigned over the Northern Part of China by the Name of the Leao ;) Tchi dying his second Successor, called Vang Sun, lost six Towns of his Dominions, which the Kitan took from him ; Sun remov'd his Court to another Place to be farther from them ; having afterwards made a League with the Niutche, (these are the People who exterminated the Leao, and reign'd over the Northern Part of China [page 407] by the Name of Kin,) he found means, by the Stratagem which he used, to drive the Kitan intirely out of his Dominions; after this he began again to pay Tribute to the Chinese Emperor, and gave him an Account of the Acts of Hostility which had been done him by the Kitan, and the Emperor treated his Ambassadors with Distinction.

The fourth in Succession from Tun was Vang kiai ; he sent Ambassadors to the Emperors upon every occasion, so that they were not able to furnish the Gratuities ; whence it was then said that the Tribute of the Coreans brought no Advantage to China, but on the contrary was the Cause of many Evils: The Leao on this side complained that tho' the Coreans were, as they alledg'd, their Vassals, yet the Chinese Emperors continued to treat their Ambassadors with Distinction : The Niutche [*The Niutche antiently, that is in the time of Vou sang, were called Sou chin, and long before that under the Han they bore the Name of Yieou, under the Ouei that of Ukii ; under the Sous they were called Moko ; under the latter Tang they began to have the Name of Niutching : The Song changed the Termination tching for that of tche, because tching was the Name of a Tartarian Emperor of the Dynasty of the Leao ; however it does not follow that these different Names were common to all those People who inhabited that vadt Tract of Land which lies between the Rivers Hoen tong kiang and He long kiang, Corea and the Eastern Sea, as it is at this time among the Chinese; but it was probably the Name which the People who at different times had the Supreme Power in the Country were call'd by : Thus, they may at this time be call'd Mantcheoux, though that Name strictly taken belongs only to a Nation the least numerous of that Country: Thus likewise the Moko, who established there a powerful Kingdom, called themselves

Pohai ; they were created Kings by the Emperor Jui tsong, of the Dynasty of the Tang, but the Leao quickly subdued them: In short the Names of Countries , Towns , and Kingdoms in China and East Tartary alter at the Will of their Princes; one must not therefore be surprised to find the Inhabitants of the same Country called by different Names, The River He long kiang, or rather Ou long kiang, is called by the Mantcheoux, Saghalien oula, and by the Moscovites Amour, or Yamour : The Chinese have rendred the Word Saghalien by he and ou ; now he in the Language of the Vulgar, and hou in that of the Learned, signify black, and long signifies Dragon ; they give the Superintendency of the Waters to Dragons, so that Ou long kiang signifies the River of the black Dragon.

It is to be observed, that the m final should be pronounced as it is in Spanish and Portuguefe, or as the French pronounce the n final in the Words pain, vin ; the n final should be pronounced as it was a double nn, or followed by an c mute, that is as the French pronounce une, mine.] were formerly , [page 408] Vassals of the Coreans, but Affairs taking another turn, and the Niutche becoming powerful, the Coreans were in their turn subject to them.

The Emperor Kao tsong, of the Dynasty of the Song, who began to reign in the Year 1127, sent Houli Ambaffador to Corea for fear the Coreans should enter into a Confederacy with the Kin, or Niutche, who had just destroy'd the Leao ; at the same time the Kin sent Vang tchu to Corea with Letters-Patents to create him King of Corea, being under the same Apprehension, lest the Coreans should join the Chinese: Under the Reign of Li tsong of the Dynasty of the Yuen, Tché, King of Corea, sent his Son Tching, the presumptive Heir of the Crown, to pay Homage in Person, but Tche dying he immediately return'd to take possession of his Kingdom, of which he receiv'd the Confirmation from Yuen : From the Year in which he was created King, to the thirty-first Year of the Reign of Hou bilai, as the Tartars call him, (he is the Coblai of Mark Polo or Chi tson, as the Chinese call him, that is to the Year 1291 he had paid Tribute thirty-six times : It was at this time that Hou bilai would undertake the Conquest of Japan ; as he knew Corea to be a Neighbour to it, his Design was to make use of the Coreans for an Entrance into it ; with this View he sent Ping che he ti in quality of Ambassador to Japan, and gave him Orders to pass [page 409] through Corea, and take Guides from thence ; but not obtaining them he was obliged to return back again, which began to make Tchin out of favour with Yuen ; tho' he did not omit paying his Tribute, yet the Emperor seiz'd upon Si king (that is, as I have taken notice, a little above Pin jam) reduced it to a Town of the first Order, and nam'd it Tong nin fou: Tching died, and was succeeded by his Son Chin, who afterwards chang'd his Name to Kiu : He married a Princess of the Blood of Yuen, a Daughter of the Emperor, and receiv'd from him the Seal of Fou ma, or of Son-in-law of the Emperor, and the Title of King of Corea ; Kiu dying his third Successor was called Song : From Vang kien to Vang song, the Family of Vang reckon twenty eight Kings of Corea, and more than four hundred Years in duration.

The first Year of the Reign of Hong vou, Founder of the Dynasty of the Ming that is in the Year 1368, the King of Kaoli, or Corea, called Tchouen, sent to pay Homage to this Prince, and to congratulate him upon his Advancement to the Empire ; Hong vou created him King of Kao li, and gave him a Silver Seal, with the antient Privileges of offering up solemn Sacrifices to the Gods of the Rivers and Mountains of Corea : In the eleventh Year of Hong vou the Ambassadors of Corea, refused to do the ordinary Homage ; they had enter'd into the Conspiracy which Houvi vong had form'd against that Prince ; the Affair being discovered, Hong vou order'd the Governor of Lea tong to proclaim the Coreans Enemies; the Ambassadors of Corea came in a little time after to Lea tong, of which the Governor having given the Court Advice, the Emperor received the Satisfaction they made him, and commended their Fidelity : Tchouen died, and was succeeded by Kiu, who however was not his Son : In the twenty-second Year of Hong vou, the Commander of the Garrison of Kao kia nou was sent into Corea to buy Horses : the King [page 410] refused to receive any Mony for them, but the Emperor had them valued, paid the Price of them, and at the same time ordered the Coreans to restore the Towns of Leao yang and Chin tching, which they had made themselves Masters of in the Province of Leao tong; some short time after Li gin gin, Prime Minister of Corea, dethroned Kiu and advanced Vang tchang to the Crown : Li tching

kouei, Son of Li gin gin, took the Crown from Vang tchang, and put it on the Head of Vang yao ; soon after he took it from him, made himself be crowned King of Corea, and removed the Court to Han tching: Thus ended the House of the Vang, which possessed the Kingdom of Corea from the Ou tai: Li tching kouei changed his Name to Tsan ; he sent a solemn Ambassage to China to desire a Confirmation of his Usurpation, and that the Name of Tchaossien might be given to Corea with the usual Formalities : His Placet was couch'd in somewhat too haughty Terms : The Emperor insisted upon knowing who drew it up, and the Ambassador having informed him that it was Tching tse he refused the Presents, and order'd that Tching tse should be sent to him ; Tan obeyed, and Tching tse was banish'd to the Province of Yun nan ; Tan resign'd his Kingdom to Fang yuen his Son, with the Consent of Yong lo, who began to reign in the Year 1403, and who granted him what he in vain desired of Hong vou ; Fang yuen having understood, that Yong lo had assign'd to the Garrison of Leao tong some new Lands, he sent ten thousand Oxen as his Tribute for the stocking them ; soon after these Transactions he died, and his Son Tao succeeded him ; he paid his Tribute in Gerfalcons, or Sea-Eagles, but the Emperor refused them : Precious Stones, said he, and rare Creatures are not what I like ; let him not any more present them. Under the Reign of Kia tsing, Vang ki hiuen, or rather Vang ki houan, King of Corea, intreated the Emperor to erase out of the Book intituled [page 411] Tai ming hoei lien, (that is the Body of the Usages and Customs of the August Ming) the Article where it is related, that Tching kouei had dethron'd his lawful Sovereign and usurp'd his Crown ; giving this reason, That he had done it, but at the Solicitation of the People, and that he was push'd on to it by the Grandees of the Kingdom : His Request was granted.

In the 20th Year of the Reign of Van lie, that is, in the Year 1592, Ping sieou kii, [*Ping sieou is the Name of his Family, Kii his proper Name.] Chief of the Japonese, invaded Corea ; he was first a Slave to an Inhabitant of Samo, and afterwards a Retailer of Fish ; one Day as Kii was asleep under a Tree, Sin tchang, Captain of the Japonese of Chan tching [*Chang tching is probably Meacho.], over whom he was Kouan pé [*This Kouan pé was a Title of Office ; another Author speaking of the King of Japan, who was called Tien tching vang, that is the True Celestial King, says that he did not govern himself but left the whole Management of Affairs to his Ministers, and Kouan pé.], as he was going a hunting met with him ; he intended to kill him, but Kii pleaded his Cause with such Address that the Kouan pé took him into his Service, and made him Intendant of his Haras, and gave him a Name, which signifies in Japanese : The Man from under the Tree : Ping sieou kii rais'd his fortune by little and little ; Sin tchang gave him an Estate, intrusted him with all his most secret Affairs ; and if Sin tchan had followed his Advice he would in a little while have been Master of more than twenty small Provinces : Sin tchang was murdered by O ki tchi his Counfellow ; Ping seou kii put himself at the Head of Sin tchang's Troops to revenge his Death, killed O ki tchi, and succeeded Sing tchang in the Dignity of Kouan pé ; he conquer'd by Cunning and by Force sixty six small Provinces : From the Mountain Kin chang [*Another Author says, that the Passage between this Island and Corea is not more than two or three Days with a fair Wind.] of Corea the Island [page 412] of Toui ma tao in Japan is seen, and so likewise is the Mountain from the Island ; there was always mutual Commerce between the two Nations, and they were allied by Marriages.

Li sen was at that time King of Corea, a Prince so entirely given up to Pleasures and Debauchery, that he never so much as thought of being upon his Guard; [*The particular Account of this War is taken from a complete history of the Dynasty of the Ming, which is of undoubted credit.] Ping seou kii, having formed the design of attacking Corea, intruded Hing tchang and Tsing tching, two of his Chief Commanders, with this Commission, and gave each of them a numerous Fleet; they landed at Feou chan, a large Village ; passed Lin tsin undiscovered, and dividing their Troops surpris'd Fonté, and several other Towns ; the Coreans, who had for a long time enjoy'd the Sweets of a profound Peace, and who were altogether unexperienced in, and not inur'd to the Hardships of War, fled and so abandoned their Towns at the first approach of the Japonese ; the King quitted his Court in haste, and leaving the Reins of Government in the Hands of Li hoei, his second Son, retired to Pinjam ; quickly after he took refuge at Y tcheou, in the Province of Leao tong, and humbly intreated

the Emperor to receive him into the number of his Subjects, and to make his Kingdom a Province.

The Japanese pass'd the River Ta tong chiang, and block'd up Pinjam ; they had already made them-selves Masters of the Court, had overturned the Sepulchres, plunder'd the Treasury, and taken the Mother, the Children, and the Officers of the King ; the eight Provinces were almost entirely subdued, and the Japanese were making Preparations for passing the River Ya lou kiang, and entring Leao tong ; the King of Corea sent Courier after Courier to the Emperor to demand speedy Succours; Sue po was sent [page 413] by the Emperor, with a promise that Succours should arrive with all speed ; in the mean time the Japanese were already come to Penjam, the King of Corea not thinking himself safe at Ytcheou, retired to Ngai tcheou ; Brigadier Che pu marched towards Pinjam ; but as he knew little of the Country, and as great Rains had fallen, he was defeated and kill'd in an Engagement : Lieutenant-General Tsou tching hiun came to his assistance with 3000 Men, and pass'd the River Ya lou kiang ; his Troops also were cut to pieces, and he himself narrowly escaped ; Song yn tchang was sent in quality of King lio [*King lio is a Visitor extraordinary, who hath the power of Life and Death both over People and Soldiers, and a general Inspection into all Affairs of whatever nature they be,] that is Superintendent-General ; the Chinese Troops came in large bodies to the rendezvous ; Hing tchang, and the other Japanese Generals, who were cunning and active Officers, insinuated to the Chinese that they had no intention to attack them, but their design was only to gain time ; Che sing, first President of the Tribunal of War, was of opinion that Acts of Hostility should be deferred till the Sentiments of the Japanese could be sounded; in the mean time Ping sieou kii came to the Island of Toui ma tao, and spread a Report that he was coming to support his Forces ; the Japanese fortified themselves in the Court of Corea, and assign'd to Hing tchang, and his other Officers, the most important Posts to guard them from all Attacks : It was during this time that Ping Jieou hi disposess'd the King of Chan tching, and took the Title of Tai-ko-vang, or King of Tai ko ; Chin vi king, who was charged with the sounding the Japanese, came to Pinjam ; Hin tchang received him with extraordinary Honours, and having bent the Knee, The Celestial Dynasty, said he, (that is the reigning Dynasty) hath suspended the march of its Armies, we [page 414] shall not make a long stay here, but return shortly to Japan ; the River Ta tong tchiang shall be the Boundary of our Conquests, and we will give up to the Coreans all that lies East of Pinjam : However in the twelfth Month Li ju song was made Generalissimo ; he pass'd thro' Leao tong with an Army of 60000 men, crossing the Mountain Fong hoang chan with great difficulty, in which Passage all his Horses sweated Blood ; when he came to the Banks of the River Ya lou kiang the Mountains of Corea appear'd in view; There, said Leou hoang tchang, Inspector of the Army, there is the Place where it depends upon our Valour to recover the hereditary Dominions.

In the twenty-first Year of Van tie, in the first Month, Chin vi king took the first steps in his endeavoring to deceive Hing tchang, by persuading him that the Chinese came to bring Letters Patents from the King to his Master, and it was agreed between them that on the seventh Day of the Month the Titou, called Li, should deliver them to him; on the fourth the Army arriving at the Gate of Souning, Hing tchang sent twenty Officers to receive it ; Li ju song gave Orders to Brigadier Li ning to seize them, and take them alive, but they desended themselves with such Courage and Bravery, that they could take no more than three. Hing Chang having demanded of Chin vi king what that Violence meant, it must needs, said he, have happened from not rightly understanding the Interpreters ; Hing tchang sent two Persons of singular trust, viz. Siao si fei and Tchen cheou teng along with Chin vi king to compliment on his part Li ju song ; he treated them well, and sent them back ; on the sixth the Army arriv'd in sight of Pinjam ; Hing tchang sat upon a Tower, whence he could see the Standards bordered with Dragons, and the whole Procession : The Japanese finely dress'd made a Lane to receive Li ju song, who drew up his [page 415] Troops in order of Battle, and marched them into the Town ; the Chinese Officers shew'd the Japanese some Contempt,

which discover'd the Stratagem to them, and put them immediately upon their Defence.

Pinjam on the South-east side is desended by the River ; a steep Mountain desends it on the West; on the North side there is an Eminence, which is the most important Post, and was guarded by the Japanese : Li ju song sent thither some Troops to skirmish, with orders to retire after the first Charge, in order to draw the Japanese from thence : in the Night the Japanese attack'd the Camp of Li ju pé, but they were repuls'd with lods ; Li ju dong gave Orders to his Officers to keep advancing, and not stop to do execution. On the eighth at break of Day there was a general Assault made; the main Attack was on the South-east side, and the Japanese at first made the Chinese give ground ; Li ju song kill'd with his own Hand the first that ran away, and made the scaling Ladders be set ; he sent Yang yuen, and some others with him, to scale the small Western Gate, whilst Li ju pé did the same at the great one ; the Horse of Li ju sang was kill'd under him by a Canon-Ball, and Ouei tchong was shot quite through the Breast with a Musquet-Ball, and yet continued to encourage his Men to the Fight; Li ju song took a fresh Horse, and running into the Ditch of the Town, where was the hotteft of the Engagement, he continually push'd on his Troops, till at last the Chinese made themselves Masters of the Wall, and the Japanese retired to the Fort. About midnight Hing tchang, followed by many others, pass'd the River Ta tong kiang and shelter'd himself on the Mountain Long chan, the Chinese in this Engagement kill'd two hundred eighty-five Japanese, the rest perish'd in the Flames, and a vast Number of them leaping into the River were drown'd ; Li ning and Tcha ta cheou, at the Head of [page 416] three thousand choice Men, went to form an Ambuscade for the Fugitives upon their Retreat, of whom they slew three hundred sixty two, and made some Prisoners; the 19th Li ju pé took the Town of Fou kai by Storm, where he kill'd one hundred sixty five Japanese ; this Victory took from the Japanese four Provinces of Corea, viz. Hoang hae, Ping gnan, King ki, and Kiang Yuen ; Tching king was Master of Hiang king, but as soon as he had intelligence that Kia tching was in the hands of the Chinese, he abandon'd his Post, and retir'd to the Royal City ; Hien king and Tchou tsing were as Bulwarks to him : The 27th the Chinese Army was come within seventy Lys of the Royal City ; the Coreans gave intelligence that the Japanese had abandon'd it, and were retired ; Li ju song believ'd the Report, and putting himself at the Head of the light Horse advanced to the Post of Picti kouan, which is not above thirty Lys from the City ; as Tacho kiao was galloping to the Bridge his Horse stumbled and fell, and he received a Contusion in the Forehead, which was like to have proved mortal. Then the Japanese issued out of their Ambuscade, and surrounded him ; both Officers and Soldiers fought without any hopes of him for ten Hours, even till Noon, so that their Quivers were almost quite empty : A Japanese Commander, who had on a Golden Cuirass, press'd hard upon the Generalissimo Li ju sing ; Lieutenant-General Li yeou ching covered him with his Body, and kill'd many of the Japanese, but being thrown down by a Hook he was cut to pieces by the Japanese ; Li ju pé, and Li ning encompass'd Li ju song, and fought a long time with an extraordinary Bravery; at last Li ju hoei shot the Japanese with the Golden Cuirass through with an Arrow, and threw him quite down ; at the same time Yang yuen came to their Relief, and having broke the Japanese he put them to flight ; but the bravest of the Chinese Army were lost in this Engagement, and not [page 417] one of them who had pass'd the Bridge escap'd : There had fallen a great deal of Rain, and the Parts about the Town were full of Foundaries, which, added to the Ice that was at the bottom, filled the Country with fo much dirt that the Chinese Cavalry could not charge ; the Japanese on the contrary were advantageoufly posted, they had a River in front, and a Mountain in the rear, and their Camps had a Communication with each other ; they had rais'd within the Town high Machines full of variety of destrudtive Weapons charg'd with small Shot, so that all who came before them would be infallibly kill'd ; the Chinese Army was obliged to turn back and retreat to Kai tching : About the third Month the Spies gave an account that in the Royal City there were 200000 Japanese, and that there went a Report that Taiko their King was coming to command them in person, and that they had abundance of Corn ; the Chinese were so

fortunate as to set fire to it: The Japanese seeing they were in danger of wanting all sorts of Provisions, began again to treat of Peace by the Interposition of Chin vi king,, who having persuaded them to deliver up the Capital the Peace was signed on the 18th of the fourth Month ; Li ju song enter'd the Town, and found in it more than forty thousand Bushels of Rice, and Forage in proportion ; the Japanese sent Siao si fei along with Chin vi king on the Embassy to China to make their Submission ; yet they attack'd Hien ngan and Tsin tcheou, and grievously harass'd the Province of Tsuen lo, into which there is hardly any entrance but by the Town of Nan yuen fou: In the 7th Month the Japanese pass'd thro' the Gate of Feou chan to Sisimpou, and deliver'd up the Children of the King of Corea and his chief Officers ; in the twenty-second Year of Van lie the King of Corea humbly intreated the Emperor to accept of the Tribute the Japanese offered, and create Ping sieou kii King of Japan as he desir'd : [page 418] This was agreed to upon these three Conditions, first, That the Japanese should deliver up all the Places they had possess'd themselves of in Corea ; secondly, That after Taiko should be created King he should not send any Ambassador into China ; thirdly, That they should swear not to make any Attempt upon Corea : Li tsong tching, Marquis de Lin hoai, was sent Envoy to Japan to create Taiko King, but did not arrive till the beginning of the 24th Year of Van Ho. Chin vi king cross'd the Sea before that along with Hing tchang to carry the Presents, and marrying a Daughter of Arima settled among the Japanese : Li tsong tching was much given to Women ; as soon therefore as he was come to Toui ma tao, the Governor Y tchi, who had married the Daughter of Hing tchang, and Who knew the Ambassador's Foible, gave Orders for the finding out two or three handsom young Women, whom he sent by turns into his Tent : These he lik'd very well, but being afterwards informed that the Governor's Wife was a Woman of extraordinary Beauty, he had the impudence to demand her of her Husband, who could not forbear shewing his Resentment : It happen'd in this Conjunction that a Japanese Gentleman, call'd Long, a Son of the Sister of Sie tcheou se disputed the way with Li tsong tching ; he endeavour'd to kill Long, but he having made a signal to the Japanese of his Retinue, Li tsong tching had but just time by a sudden flight to avoid the Death which he would have otherwise hardly escap'd ; he left every thing behind him, even to the Seal of the Embassy : He wander'd about all the Night, and in despair hang'd himself upon a Tree, but those who went after him came in time to his assistance ; he fled to King tcheou where he was tried by the Emperor's Order, who had been inform'd of his ill Conduct:, and who sent Tang sang heng in his room.

Ping sieou kii fasted and bath'd for three Days, then he went out of the Town to meet the Emperor's [page 419] Patent ; he prostrated himself fifteen times, and was created King with the usual Ceremonies : The King of Corea had intended to send his Compliments of Congratulation by the Lord and Prince of Konang hai, but by the advice of his Favourite Li tchin he only sent him a Deputy-Governor of a Town of the second Order, with a Present of some plain pieces of Silk ; Ping sieou kii was nettled at this sight ; hath your Master, said he to the Ambaflador, already forgot that I have conquer'd his Kingdom, and that I had not restor'd it to him, but out of regard to the Emperor ? Who does he take me for that he sends me such a Present, and by such a Messenger as you ? Is this affronting me or the Emperor ? Since he acts thus I will leave some Troops in Corea under Che man tse, till the Emperor chastises the King your Master : The next day he made ready his magnificent Presents in order to pay the Tribute, and presented at the same time two Placets, the one containing his Acknowledgments to the Emperor, the other his Demands of Justice upon the King of Corea.

The 25th Year of Van sie, Tsing tching invaded Corea with a Fleet of two hundred Japanese Ships, upon which the War was immediately renew'd ; Ma kouei was made Generalissimo of the Chinese Forces : In the sixth Month there arriv'd sevefal Barks, and a large number of Ships at Corea ; Chin vi kin, who was a Japanese Spy, was taken : In the eighth Month Tsing tching besieg'd Nan yuen fou; Nan yuten commanded in it, but he fled on Foot at the very first Approaches; Tsuen-tcheou, which is not above one hundred Lys from Nan yuen was invefted, and taken by the Japanese, who already very much harass'd the Province of Tsuen lo : The Court of Corea is in the Heart of the Kingdom ; on the East side

lies Niao ling, and Tchong tcheou, and on the West Nan yuen, and Tsuen tcheou, which command the narrow Passes, so that these two Towns being taken the [page 420] Court was in a manner blocked up by the Japanese; Tching tching and Hing tchang retir'd, the latter to the Town of Tun tsing, which is six hundred Lys distant from the Capital of Corea; the former to King chang, which is four hundred : The Chinese laid Siege to it, but upon a Rumour that Succours were arriv'd their Commander Hao kouei ran away, and left them ; upon which they dispers'd, and the Japanese kill'd above ten thousand of them. Upon a Review it was found that they had lost twenty thousand Men ; Hao kouei was broke, and put into the Hands of Justice to be punished.

In the 26th Year of Van lie, in the ninth Month, Leou ting march'd to besiege Hing tchang in his Camp ; he deputed Ou tsong tao to invite him to an Interview, wherein they might treat of Affairs in an amicable manner ; Hing tchang promised to come to the Place appointed, attended with fifty of his Officers ; Leou ting, overjoy'd at this, laid an Ambuscade of his Troops on all sides in order to seize him when he should give the Word; he made one of his Officers take his Place and Name, and he himself appear'd as a common Soldier ; his Orders were that when he came out of the Tent the Canon should be fir'd, and then every one should make the utmost speed to inclose Hing tchang, and his Attendants, and put them all to the Sword ; accordingly the next Day Hing tchang came attended, as he had promis'd, with no more than fifty Horse ; he who personated Leou ting received him with extraordinary Honours ; as they sat at Table Hing tchang, casting his Eyes upon Leou ting, who was disguis'd like a Soldier, and had a Bottle and Glass in his Hand ; I am much deceived, said he, if this Soldier be not unfortunate ; Leou ting, surpris'd at this Speech, leaves the Tent, and gives the Signal agreed on ; Hing tchang, who had discover'd the Ambush, mounted in an instant, and his Attendants forming a triangular [page 421] Squadron flew off like Lightning, forced their way through the Chinese, killing on both sides every one that oppos'd them, and so got clear off: The next Day Hing tchang sent to thank Leou ting for his Entertainment, who endeavoured to excuse the improper Firing of the Cannon which disturb'd the Mirth of the Entertainment : Hing tchang pretended to be satisfied with these Excuses, but the next Day sent Leou ting a Woman's Head-clothes : Leou ting immediately, made an Assault, but without Success, the Chinese being almost totally routed ; at last the News of the Death of Taiko, which came the ninth Day of the seventh Month, in the twenty-sixth Year of Van lie, which falls in with the Year of our Lord 1598, made the Japanese think of returning into their own Country. The 17th of the eleventh Month Ling tching first set sail, and was soon after followed by the rest of the Japanese ; thus ended this War which had continued seven Years.

The Prince, who at this time reigns in Corea, is of the House of the same Li, and is called Li tun ; it cannot be disagreeable to insert in this Place the Placet which he presented to the Emperor Cang hi in the Year 1694.

"The King of Tchaossien presents this Placet with a Design to settle his Family, and to make known the Desires of his People.

I, your Subject, am a Man whose Fate is not over-fortunate ; I have been a long time without having anyone to succeed me, at last I have a Son by a Concubine, whose Birth hath given me an incredible Pleasure ; I immediately resolv'd to raise the Mother who bore him, but in this I have committed a Fault, which hath been the cause of many Jealousies : I obliged Queen Min chi [*The Word Chi is added to the Family Name of Women : Min chi, for example, signifies of the Family of Min ; Tchang chi of the Family of Tchang : The same is also praclifed with regard to Men upon certain occasions.] [page 422] to retire to a private House, and I made my second Wife Tchang csi Queen in her stead ; I at that time gave your Majesty a particular account of this Affair ; now I reflect that Min chi hath receiv'd the Patent of Creation from your Majesty ; that she hath managed my Family ; that she hath assisted me in Sacrifices ; that lhe hath waited upon the Queen my Great-grand-mother, and the Queen my Mother ; that she hath partook with me in a three Years Misfortune ; according to the Laws of Nature and Equity I ought to have treated her with Honour, but I gave way to my

Imprudence ; after the thing was done I was extremely concerned at it ; now, to conform myself to the Desires of the People of my Kingdom, I intend to restore to Min chi the Dignity of Queen, and reduce Tchang chi again into the Rank of Concubine : By this means the Government of my Family will be settled, and the Foundation of good Manners, and Conversion of the whole Kingdom, will be set to rights again,

I, your Subject, although I debase by my Ignorance and Stupidity the Title I have inherited from my Ancestors, yet I have been the Vassal of your Sovereign Majesty these twenty Years, and owe all that I am to your Beneficence, which, like Providence, shields and defends me : There is no Affair either domestick or publick, of whatever nature it be, that I dare conceal from your Majesty: This is what emboldens me to trouble your Majesty three or four times upon this Affair; I am indeed asham'd thus to exceed the bounds of Respect, but as it is an Affair which concerns the Order that ought to be kept in my Family, and that it tends to inform you of the Desires of my People, there is good reason that I should with all Respect acquaint your Majesty with it."

The Emperor answer'd this Placet by this Order ;

"Let the Court, to which it belongs, consider and inform [page 423] me of it ; the Court, to which it belonged, is the Court of Ceremonies : The Court was of opinion that the Demand ought to be granted, which was confirm'd by the Emperor : Some Officers of his Majesty were sent to carry the Queen her Letters of Creation, magnificent Robes, and every thing that was necessary for creating her Queen with the usual Formalities.

The next Year the King sent a Placet to Cang hi, which the Emperor having read gave this Order,

" I have read the Compliment of the King ; I would have it laid before the Court to whom it belongs ; the Terms of this Placet are not proper, it wants Respect ; I order that it be examin'd, consider'd, and an Opinion given me upon it." Upon this Order the Li pou, or the Court of Ceremonies, condemn'd Li tun in a Fine of ten thousand Chinese Ounces of Silver, and to be depriv'd for three Years of the Returns assign'd him for the annual Tribute he pays : He sends every Year an Ambassador to receive the Chinese Almanack, which is issued out the first Day of the tenth Month for the ensuing Year.

I should now give some account of the People of Corea : They are Generally well made, and of a sweet and tradable Difpofition ; they understand the Chinese Language, delight in Learning, and are given to Musick and Dancing : There come more considerable Persons from the Northern than Southern Provinces ; the Northern People are naturally warlike, and make excellent Soldiers ; their most common Dress is Fur Caps, and Brocade Clothes ; the Women wear Edging or Lace, both upon the upper and under Petticoat ; the People of Quality do usually wear purple Silk ; the Men of Learning, who are distinguish'd by two Feathers which they wear in their Cap, apply themselves more particularly to Musick : After Ki tse had published his Code, which consisted only of eight Laws the Manners of the Coreans became so well [page 424] regulated, that Theft and Adultery were Crimes unknown among them, so that there was no occasion to shut the Street-doors in the Night ; and although the Revolutions, which are fatal to all States, may have somewhat changed this former Innocence, yet they have still enough of it left to be a Pattern to other Nations.

In their publick Assemblies they wear brocade Robes, adorn'd with Gold or Silver; there are abundance of vagabond young Women among them ; they have frequent Meetings of young Men and Women, who marry together by mutual Inclination, without making any nuptial Presents, and without any Ceremony : The Princesses of the Blood are married to none but Princes of the Blood, and the Grandees of the Kingdom observe the same Rule with regard to their Families, though under the Reign of Tun this Custom was somewhat altered : They do not bury their Dead till three Years after their decease; they wear Mourning for Fathers and Mothers three Years, for Brothers no more than three Months : After they have buried their Dead they place by the side of the Tomb their Clothes, their Chariots, their Horses, and in General every thing that they had a regard for in their Life-time, and give

them up to be plunder'd by those who attended the Funeral : They are naturally superstitious, and dread the killing any living thing ; they observe the Law of Fo; they are moderate in eating and drinking, and use at their Meals Dishes and Plates : The Mandarins affect in their Carriage a great deal of Gravity.

Their Houses are thatch'd, but they have no Beds in them ; they make Wine of a sort of Grain call'd Paniz ; they breed but few Silk-worms, for they generally make use of Hempen Cloth ; they never take: Physic : The Salaries of the Mandarins are paid in Rice ; every one hath Ground allotted him in proportion to the number of Persons the Family consists [page 425] of; the King possesses no Lands as his own Property. The Arms of the Soldiery, which are plain and without Ornament, are Cross-bows, and very long Sabres ; their Punishments are gentle even for the most enormous Crimes ; the abusing of Parents is a capital Crime, and they who are guilty of it are beheaded ; lesser Criminals are whipt, and then discharged: Crimes which would otherwise deserve Death they punish by Banishment into the Neighbouring Islands ; there is every three Years an Examination of Doctors, another of Batchelors, and a third of Masters of Arts. When any one is to be sent upon an Embassy he undergoes an Examination in the Tribunal of the Ministers.

The Trade of Corea consists in white Paper, Pencils made of the Hair of a Wolfs Tail , Ginseng, Gold, Silver, Iron, yellow Varnish, which is so very beautiful that whatever it is laid upon seems to be gilt ; the Tree whence this Gum distils is like the Palm-tree ; Fowls whose Tail is three Foot long ; Ponys about three Foot high, Sable Skins, Castor and Mineral Salt ; when Merchants offer Books to Sale they are dress'd in their finest Clothes, and burn some Perfumes before they treat of the Price: Though Corea be mountainous it is yet fertile, especially the Provinces of Tching tsing, King chang, and Tçuenlo, which are very rich and fruitful.

The chief Mountains of Corea are Peyo to the North of the Court-Province ; Oua tou chan to the North-east of the Capital of the Kingdom ; here it was that the King of Kaoli, call'd Y ymo, heretofore establish'd the Seat of his Empire, till Mou yon hoang demolish'd it under the Dynasty of the Tsin ; Chin song chan[*Chan, which signifies Mountain, is added to the Names of Mountains ; as Kiang, which signifies River , is to the Names of Rivers : If one pleases it may be left out, but the Chinese scarce ever use it without joining the Noun Appellative to it.], call'd also Son yo, in the district of the [page 426] Town of Kai tching, where Vang kien fix'd his Court; Lou yang chan> to the North-east of Pinjarn, and Hoang chan in the Province of Ttching tsing.

The Rivers of Corea are the Li kiang, which is in the Court Province ; the Ta tong kiang, which is in that of Ping ngan ; the Ya lou kiang y which takes its rise in the Mountains of Tchang pe chan y and at its Mouth is three hundred Lys broad ; and the Han kiang, which is to the South of the Capital of the Kingdom.

I close this Account with a thing which deserves some regard : In the Abridgment of Chorography, intituled Quang yu ki, we find that the Place or Town of Tchaussien, that Ki pé made choice of to fix his Court there, is in the Territory of Tong ping fou, a Town of the first Order in the Province of Petché li : The Truth of this Fact being granted, it seems necessary to conclude that this Place was at that time dependant upon Corea, and that the Gulph of Leao tong, which at this time separates ancient Tchaossien from the Kingdom of Corea, was not form'd till long after ; for it is not at all probable that a Sovereign would fix his Court out of his Dominions, especially if it was parted from them by any long Passage by Sea : This Conjecture, which seems at first sight to have no great matter of Probability in it, is not altogether without Foundation, as may be seen by taking the thing a little higher ; the just Title with which the Chinese Posterity have honoured the Memory of this Prince, when Yu, I say undertook to make a Passage for the Waters that had overflowed all the flat Country under the Empire of Chun and Tao, he began with the River Hoang ho, as that which did the most damage : He went in his Discovery after it to the furtheft Parts of Tartary, and having brought it to the Southern Boundaries of Chan si and Chen si , which it divides, he opened a Passage for it through a Mountain, whence the River rolls down with a Torrent, and by its Fall makes a [page 427] Cascade equal to those of the Nile : Thence he carried it, by a

gentle Stream, cross the Province of Ho nan, and having at last, following still its Channel, brought it into the Province of Pe tche li, he drained the Lake Ta lou, which was form'd by the Discharge of the Waters of Hoang ho : This Lake took up that whole Space of Ground in which at this time are included the Districts of Chun te fou, a Town of the first Order, of Tchao tcheou, and Ching tcheou in the same Province ; at last to weaken its rapid Course he divided it into nine Channels, and compell'd it to empty itself into the Sea by as many Mouths.

Some are of opinion that these nine Channels terminate in one, before its Discharge into the Eastern Sea, to the left of the Mountain Kie che chan, which at that Place makes a Promontory ; but whether all the Streams of this River go into the Sea at the Foot of this Mountain, or whether it be only that of its direct Course, this is certain that the Hoang ho in the space of 3921 Years (for it is so long since Yu began this great Work) is at a great distance from its antient Channel ; and instead of emptying itself, as it did formerly, directly into the Sea at about forty Degrees of Latitude, it at this time empties itself into the River Hoai ho, a little above Hoai ngan fou, a Town of the first Order of the Province of Kiang ngan, that is in near thirty-four Degrees of Latitude ; and the Mouth, at which the Waters of these two Rivers issue out into the Sea, takes its Name among the Chinese from Hoai ho, and not from Hoang ho: Befides it is to be observed that this Mountain Kie che chan, which was at that time joined to the firm Land of Yong ping fou, is now five hundred Lys further in the Sea to the South of this Town, so that the Sea enlarging its Bounds by little and little hath at last swallow'd up this whole Tract of Land.

[page 428] In Objection to this it may be said, that the Chinese History speaks not one word of this extraordinary Change ; it is allowed, but neither hath it taken notice that the Sea hath cover'd five hundred Lys, which are now between the Mountain Kie che chan and the firm Land of Tong ping fou, and which make part of the Gulph of Leao tong.

Befides the Changes which happen to the Surface of this Globe we dwell upon are not observ'd, unless they be sudden and surprising ; those that are brought about leisurely and imperceptibly, and without alarming Nature, easily escape the Observation of History : Of this kind are the Changes in Lands, which the Seas overflow and leave, and which, the Life of Man is too short to come to the knowledge of: It is also probable that all Archipelagos are formed In this manner, and the reason why those who dwelt near them have not preserved any Remembrance of the Event, is that which I have just now given ; an instance, which may help to confirm this Conjecture, may be produced without going out of China.

Chin tsung tchong being sent Ambassador into the Country which lies North of Hoang ho, observ'd as he coasted the Mountains of Tai hang chan, that the Downs of the Rock, which were perpendicularly steep, were full of Oister-shells, and other Shell-fish, and Beds of Gravel which surrounded them like a Girdle, which makes it credible that the Sea here-tofore wash'd the Foot of these Mountains, tho' they are now a thousand Lys from it : Tchu uenkong is not indeed of this Opinion ; he supposes that these are the Marks of the Hoang bo, which antiently wash'd the Foot of these Mountains ; but tho' it would be no difficult matter to overthrow his Opinion, yet if it be only doubtful whether the Sea hath not heretofore cover'd this vast Traft of Land, it is enough to prove that nothing can be concluded from the Silence of the Chinese History, as hath been asserted.