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# The Making of Brass Ware.

 The native products that immediately interest one on his arrival in this country are comparatively so few, that my attention was called at once to those bright new brass bowls to be found conspicuously arranged upon the street vendor’s mat, especially on boat days; conspicuous because among so much that is old, lusterless, and uncouth, to say the least. This attraction was heightened no doubt by their close resemblance to a style of kitchen ware not long out of common use in that part of the world from which we came. Truly, was this erstwhile hermit nation treading so closely upon our heels as that? It raised the question as to the selection of this metal in preference to another material, and also speculation as to what tools were used in their manufacture. Upon slight inspection it appeared they had been turned upon a lathe and not beaten, tho they do also have beaten brass in some cases of peculiar hollow ware.

Other matters pressed for time and delayed almost to entire forgetfulness interest in this subject, till in the winter when passing through the city of Milrang I was startled by a most singular noise, such as might be made by the combination of a squealing pig and a chattering magpie. Investigation discovered it to originate in the turning of these brass bowls upon a lathe curious beyond all anticipation. Under the same roof the whole process of moulding, casting, annealing, turning and [page 312] polishing was in operation and despite its primitiveness it seemed strangely like such a shop at home. The metal, in this case scraps of old discarded vessels, tho no doubt they make their own composition of native copper and tin or zinc in the same way, was melted in a crucible by means of a charcoal fire raised to proper intensity by means of the common trough bellows used at the village smithy, by the pipe maker, and wherever an unusually hot fire is desired.

The mould is made by the use of sand of apparently superior quality taken from the bed of a neighboring brook, though blackened by its frequent exposure to the flames, when drying the excess of moisture from the mould before casting, it gives no suggestion of such a chaste origin. A circular flask made of baked clay is placed upon a smooth surface on the center of which the pattern, or patterns in case of small articles, are carefully laid. The sand is then sprinkled about and carefully pounded, the operation being repeated till that half of the flask is filled. It is then turned upside down, the surface dusted with charcoal dust or soot to prevent its adhering to the sand in the upper flask which is placed above and filled with sand as at first. The two halves are then divided, the pattern extracted, a gutter made for the molten metal as it enters from a hole above made by a wooden plug previously inserted in the sand. To an American the greatest differentiating feature in this shop is the few articles produced. At home by proper spraying almost as many pieces would be cast in one operation as is done in this go-easy foundry in a day. The “piece work” system in the few trades of Korea would be a revolution indeed. After slight cleaning and annealing, by a process reversed in the case of steel, they are ready for the lathe. This curious machine is made by attaching a cord twisted once and a half around a wooden spindle or shaft to a pair of pedals. The forward and backward movement thus secured, tho not allowing for the continuous application of the turning tool, does permit its use upon either side. As suits the particular case, a concave or convex form is inserted into [page 333] the end of this shaft into which is wedged by a slight blow the article as roughly cast, carefully trued, and turned. The bowl is now finished and ready to grace the table of those who can afford to possess it, bright with a luster never again renewed during its long if uneventful career. In these days of machinery of almost unlimited power it seems like being reincarnated one’s great-great-grand-father to be thrust back upon the instant to conditions so remote. Nevertheless it is the basis for a hope for Korea’s future to see artisans producing this and other articles of commerce with a skill that leaves no fear but that they have a native aptitude which with proper encouragement and training would place them well up in the front ranks of progress.

W. E. Smith.

# The Sluggard’s Cure.

(A Korean folk-tale translated by Rev. G. Engel, Fusan.)

 Once upon a time there lived a certain couple. The husband, however, took no thought of making a living, but was always idling and even by day did nothing but sleep. His wife had to go to a neighbour’s house and earn a daily wage by hulling rice with the pestle, and thus she managed with difficulty to support herself. It seemed as if she were never to have a good time all her life.

However, one day she hit upon a plan for improving her condition. While her husband was taking his usual afternoon sleep, she plucked some “bitterweed,” [\* A kind of thistle, the milky juice of which is very sticky. It is known among Koreans by the name given above. ] cut it up, and rubbed the juice gently on his eye-lids. After a little while she took a switch, entered the room once more, and began to beat her husband severely. The man awoke with a start and exclaimed in his terror:

[page 334] “Stranger, what are you doing? What crime have I committed that you should thrash me thus?”

His wife, being careful to conceal her true voice, replied in a manly tone :

“I am the teacher of the wild geese of this and that mountain [† i.e. of all the wild geese. This mysterious person is supposed to be possessed of great power and wisdom.] As thy conduct is very bad indeed, I shall this day do away with thee.”

“Would you, kindly, indicate to me what the crimes are of which you speak?” pleaded the poor fellow.

“Well then, listen to me carefully. While thy poor wife, who is compelled to do heavy coolie-labour, is over-burdened with work, thou on thy part hast not the least thought of earning thy bread and dost nothing but stretch thy lazy bones and sleep all day long. Thy sins are too many to be forgiven. How could 1 allow thee to live any longer?”

In the most imploring tones the man replied :

“As I have committed such great crimes, it is no doubt meet that I should die. Yet, if you would only have the goodness to take pity on me and let me live, I would certainly not indulge in such vices any more, but as far as in me lies work diligently for my living. There-fore, pray, let me live!”

The woman laid the switch down and seating herself said :

“I ought certainly to kill thee to-day; but as thou hast promised not to do it again, I will pardon thee this time. After this be sure to do all in thy power, do thy work diligently and live with thy family in peace. When I am gone, wash thy eyes in the stream here before thy house, and they will open again But remember: if thou again indulge in those vices, thou shalt surely die. I am off. Quack!”

The man crept out of his house, groped his way to the edge of the brook and washed his eyes when he was able to see again. He at once returned to the house, took his hoe, went to the garden at the back and began [page 335] to dig the black soil round. Indeed, he did this day after day without resting.

Now, although the woman was quite able to account for the change in her husband’s behaviour, she had to express astonishment at the recent events and, there-fore, addressed her husband thus:

“How is it that you are all of a sudden so extremely busy? It is truly wonderful.”

The man only replied : “Aye, aye, it is true, I have not worked like this before. My repentance is over- late.’’

As the man continued to be industrious, all their troubles were now at an end, and they were always well off.

# An Exciting Ship-wreck Adventure,

 It was Saturday night and the good ship *Antu Maru* was nosing her way up the western coast of Korea in thick fog among the treacherous mud banks, swirling tide-rips and shifting currents. The captain was new to the course, and even if he had not been he could scarcely have guessed his way on such a night. An older hand would have anchored and waited for day. The steamer carried a goodly number of passengers, the total of crew and passengers being about 150. Among the passengers was an American gentleman and his wife, and a young lady who was looking forward to her wedding day within a week. These three were the only westerners on board, the rest being Japanese and Koreans. This little trio, who had never before seen a steamship captain play hide and seek with the Korean islands in a fog, sat out on deck till late, thinking how pleasant it would be to land on the morrow at Chemulpo. A little before midnight the ladies retired, but as they expected to reach Chemulpo about four o’clock they merely lay down without disrobing, a very fortunate thing. The gentleman of the party decide to sleep out on deck in a deck chair. The frequent [page 336] blowing of the Whistle prevented much sleep but the ship forged ahead slowly and all seemed to be going well.

At half past one, however, the ship drove on to a ledge of rock, not end on but rather scraping along the side. In spite of the diminished speed the shock was great enough to slam down the patent wash-bowls in the state-rooms and to cause general commotion. In an instant the quiet ship became as busy as a bee-hive struck with a club. The engines stopped and the boat began to list over to port. The ladies after, a few moments of great nervous excitement succeeded in controlling themselves and within two minutes were out on deck. The captain, officers and crew were strenuously at work getting out the boats. The passengers were rushing about bewildered or standing in groups anxiously watching operations The slow but steady increase in the list to port did not promise security on deck for long and the sea which was moderately high made it somewhat difficult to launch the boats successfully. In spite, however, of the general confusion it was noticed that many of the Japanese passengers took advantage of the interval of waiting to light their cigarettes. An officer came up and urged the ladies to go back into the cabin, saying there was no immediate danger. There they were provided with life belts, but as the number of these was insufficient for all the passengers the officers made those who wore them cover them up with a blanket wound around the body, which was intended to guard against violent seizure by some other panic stricken individual who was not favored with a belt.

Thus equipped but without shoes the ladies again took their place on deck to wait for a chance to be taken ashore. The outline of a rocky island could be seen a few hundred feet away but the sea that was running made it difficult to manage the boats. The foreigners were told that there was no immediate danger and that the steamer was solidly fixed on the reef so that it could not sink, but as she was listing further and further, so that even on the deck the ladies stood almost knee deep in water there seemed to be some question as to the safety [page 327] of the situation. In order to find a place to land, one of the boats put off toward shore carrying a stout hawser, one end of which was attached to the steamer. It was nearly an hour and a half before they found a good place to land and erected a light to guide the boats to and from the ship. At last, however, this was effected and the work of disembarking the passengers began. The first boat load consisted of Japanese only, men and women. When the turn came for the little company of Americans to embark, the life-boat pulled up to the rail which was partly under water. The waves were running so high that at one moment the gunwale of the life boat was even with the top of the rail and the next moment it was four or five feet lower. It was a rather rough and tumble embarcation but finally some nineteen people were aboard and all was ready to pull away. But unfortunately at that moment two Koreans who had ensconced themselves on top of the awning and who thought they were to be left to their fate, made a wild leap directly down upon the already crowded life boat. The sudden and heavy impact heeled the little craft completety over on her beam ends, and her human load was pitched headlong into the water. There was a scene of great excitement for a few moments. Some of the people had leaped to the railing of the ship. Some clung to the overturned boat and some went down beneath the water. Among the latter was the young lady who was shortly to become a bride and whose fiancé was even then anxiously awaiting her arrival at Chemulpo. She was standing in the center of the life-boat when it capsized and she was thrown into the water, feet foremost, between the life-boat and the ship. She went down below the surface but had presence of mind enough to hold her breath and within half a minute her life belt brought her up. But she was in the midst of a struggling mass of terrified humanity and everyone seemed to be looking out for himself excepting the American gentleman who clung to the railing of the ship and watched eagerly for a sight of the young lady in order to give her a helping hand. Beneath him along the ship’s side he saw a hand [page 328] above the water wildly grasping at the railing. It was too far for him to reach. A Japanese nearby sprang to assist. Seizing the rigging with one hand he gave the other to the American gentleman and the latter with his reach thus lengthened leaned down and grasped the hand, not knowing of course to whom it belonged. All this took but a few seconds, but when he drew up the owner of that hand he was happy to see that it was that of the young lady for whose safety he was partially responsible. But she seemed unaccountably heavy. The reason for this appeared when it was found that a Korean had seized her around the waist and was holding on for dear life.. And not only so, but a Japanese had hold of the Korean’s leg in a fond embrace. So the whole chain of three was drawn up out of the water and deposited on deck. It seems almost impossible that all the nineteen occupants of that life-boat should have been, saved, when we remember that the waves were sweeping four feet high through the railing of the ship and the swamped boat was grinding against the rail at every sweep. But so it was.

The wife of the gentleman had been so fortunate with the help of her husband as to gain the deck without going down, but now a case or box of some kind came sliding down the inclined deck and struck her a heavy blow on the ankle, which though not disabling her caused severe swelling and pain. The Japanese crew, who did heroic work all through, soon had the life-boat righted and baled out and the remainder of the passengers were safely conveyed ashore. They landed on a rocky ledge in a partially sheltered cove but had a rough cliff to climb before reaching the safe upper ground. This the ladies did in their stockinged feet and at last found themselves on terra firma though incognita.

By this time morning had begun to dawn, the Sunday morning which should have seen them land in Chemulpo. Attempts had already been made to communicate with any ship in the vicinity by wireless telegraphy but without result. A beacon had been erected and a look-out stationed. It. was cold and raining and something had to be done to warm if not to shelter the people. There was no wood [page 329] for a fire, so the Japanese took all the cork life belts, saturated them with kerosene and built a roaring fire, which helped to warm and cheer the bedraggled company. A half mile away was a little hamlet of Korean fishermen. The ladies went and inspected it but decided that the hillside and the rain were preferable. Evidently they were new to Korea and her peculiar laws of hygiene. Well, they camped in the rain on the hill all that day. The night proved clear at first and in spite of untoward conditions they admired the moonlit scene. Later it rained and they lay with their heads only protected from the down-pour, every stitch of their clothing being completely saturated. Monday morning, after one false report that a ship had been sighted, the American gentleman, who had climbed to the top of the hill to get some snap shots of the wreck and the general surroundings, sighted a steamer in the distance. She was hailed and was brought around into a sheltered nook where all were safely put on board. All passengers were allowed to take their hand baggage but as a special favor the American ladies were allowed to take all their baggage. The little steamer was only of 450 or 500 tons burden and she was now loaded with over four hundred people. But she did her work nobly. It was not till one o’clock on Monday afternoon that they got off, after which it was only a few hours’ smooth sailing to Chemulpo, Throughout this trying time the Japanese acted with exemplary coolness and courtesy. Nothing that they could do was left undone to make the ladies comfortable. It is indeed gratifying to be able to record such genuinely humane and’ courteous treatment. It was a rough-and-ready introduction to the peninsula for these people who have come to spend their lives in helping on the education of Koreans, and we wish for them as happy an issue out of every difficult situation they may encounter.

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# An Unvarnished Tale.

 We have received the following communication from Pyeng Yang. We understand that while the bridge was in construction no Korean boats were allowed to pass beneath it.

Dear Sir :

 On March 20th last Capt. Barstow, myself and some other men who were going to the American Mines, left Chinnampo on a small river boat. We knew that our boat could not go above the bridge, so I decided to telegraph to the Poong-poo Co. to send a sampan to meet me at the bridge. Capt. Barstow asked me to get two sampans for his party. So I wired for three boats. The Company agent sent the boats and they arrived at the bridge just at dusk. It was neither dark nor light when the boats went under the bridge between the piers. Six or seven Japanese caught the first boat, struck the head policeman of the company and knocked him out of the boat. He was unconscious and floated down stream until picked up by others. The second policeman was struck on the head at the same time and badly injured but he was not knocked out of the boat. The Japanese tried to throw him out but he begged off. The boatman, a young Korean about eighteen years old, was struck on the head and knocked out of the boat but caught hold of one of the bridge timbers. Then one of the Japanese began pounding on his hands with a drift-bolt about twenty inches long till he had to let go of the timber. He sank in the water and drowned and his body was not found until April 11th, when his father and brother succeeded in recovering it. The Japanese Consul and police were notified but they made no effort to find the Japanese murderers. The bridge police took the sampan and kept it a long time. The Japanese did not want to take up the case as they could easily have found the murderer. They knew who the Japanese were that were employed on the bridge at the time, but Japanese sampans were landing people and they did not want Koreans to have [page 331] the Work. We had to walk up to the city from the bridge and did not arrive till 11.30 p. m.

The head policeman of the Company was picked up by another boat below the bridge and was taken by Japanese and Koreans to a big fire built by the bridge watchman. There he was rolled over a log until the water was gotten out of him. The deep cut in his head was bandaged up.. He was then taken to the Company’s house and put to bed. The second policeman’s head was bleeding freely when I arrived and the clothing of both policemen was ruined, so I had to put up twenty yen, the Japanese refusing to do anything.

After the boatman’s body was found, his father took it to the policeman’s house and made a demand upon the Japanese for Y 300 because of the boy’s death. But no attention was paid to it. He refused to let the body be buried, neither would he remove it from the policeman’s house and drove away everyone who came near. I went to the Korean magistrate to have the thing settled but found that he had no power to compel the burial of the body. I went to the Japanese Consul and he said he could not interfere (sic) in the case. Well, by this time you could smell the body a hundred yards away. It had been in the water twenty days and in the house three days. We raised thirty dollars between us to help the father but he and his son chased away eighteen of the yamen-runners and also the Company’s policeman and defied anyone to come near. At last the magistrate got the father into court and I was there to see the thing settled. The old man was quiet enough and agreed to the funeral arrangements but the son refused. He was brought before the magistrate but refused to kneel, so court servants seized him and forced him to kneel. He then began insulting the magistrate. They began to beat him with iron clubs about a font long with two or three chain links on the end and a diamond-shaped piece of iron fastened to the end of each. The young man wrenched himself free, drew a knife five or six inches long, leaped clear of the crowd and, shouting defiance to the law made off at the top of his speed. I heard later that [page 332] he was retaken and I think he is still in jail. The poor fellow was badly punished. He needed some of it, but not the beating. I do not know why he would not kneel down but, say, you should have seen those fellows scatter that were beating him. Two of them jumped through a window, one ran into the magistrate’s private office, one into the street, and another crawled under the house as far as he could go. As for myself I had a good place, perched on top of a wall where I could jump down either side. I stayed there an hour after everything was over but none of the servants appeared during that time. The magistrate himself came back soon after the man ran away but by the way he was breathing he must have run a long way or else he was wind-broken, sure! So that is how it stands. If you want more details I can give them. When the body was found, some Japanese police went down to have a look at it but that is all the interest they took in the matter.

 John Kavanaugh.

# The Visit of Miss Roosevelt.

 For the past month the commonest question on the lips of the Korean is in regard to the movements of the person whom they call “The American Princess.”

It is not necessary to record every movement of the party but it is sufficient to say that their stay was a round of festivities, dinners, receptions, lawn parties, long horse-back rides about the environs of this ancient city. The Japanese, Koreans and foreign residents all vied with each other in attentions to the distinguished visitors. At a missionary lawn-party Miss Roosevelt was presented with a copy of the New Testament in Korean and a hymn-book, as mementoes of her visit to Korea. Several days before she came, all the Korean merchants provided themselves with the Stars and Stripes which they gave to the breeze in conjunction with the Korean emblem. Judging from frequent comments and [page 333] innumerable questions this show of bunting was caused not simply out of courtesy to the young lady but through some nebulous idea that this visit had some political significance and that it indicated a possibility that the American Government might help Korea out of her present parlous situation. The wish alone was father to the thought, for of course nothing could be further from the truth. Nothing is less likely, to all appearances, than that any power whatever should interfere with Japan’s policy in Korea. Now that the war is over and the Russian Legation is again to be occupied it is reasonable to suppose that every effort will be made to prevent Japan from assuming greater powers here than are nominated in the bond, but that any effective limit will be imposed can hardly be imagined. Nor is it wholly de sired. Korea has suffered long enough from a condition of unstable equilibrium. So long as there were two powers which Korea could play off against each other just so long would the old regime of conservatism prevail. If there is to be advancement it is plain that Korea must accept the tutelage of some friendly power and that that power should be given a free hand in order to demonstrate its ability to untangle the skein and bring order out of chaos. In spite of her rough and ready methods and in spite of serious faults which have necessarily evoked criticism it is patent that Japan is the power to do the work. If she does not know how, as yet, here is the school for her to learn. The Koreans may suffer in the process, but if the question is looked at from a large point of view and with an eye to ultimate rather than immediate results it is fair to hope that mistakes will be rectified, that errors will teach caution and that in time the machinery will work smoothly and successfully. Pessimism is a bid for failure, an acknowledgment that environment is stronger than will, a moral capitulation; and we are persuaded better things of the Japanese than that they should allow any present stress of weather, any lack of allignment in the administrative machinery, to work permanent and irremediable injury to Korea. Our criticisms have been made in an optimistic spirit and [page 334] have been corroborated in unmistakable terms from every quarter of the peninsula. But none of the present difficulties are of such a nature that they cannot be almost entirely mitigated, and we believe that there are already signs appearing of a milder regime. The thing that causes more uneasiness than anything else is the persistence with which the Koreans hold to the belief that the Japanese are no less corrupt than their own officials. We have it on the best authority that the prefect of a large district in the south said to a friend:

Things are worse now than before the Japanese occupation, for whereas before that time one had to pay a large sum to a government official to secure a prefectural position, I myself had to pay both Koreans and Japanese for mine.” Another prefect in the south made the same complaint. When we strenuously objected that this must surely be impossible we were met with a shrug of the shoulders and a pitying glance which spoke louder than words. The Japanese must remember that the Koreans cannot keep a secret and such things are sure to transpire if they actually occur. These things may be true or not but it is certain that the Koreans firmly believe them to be true. It makes all the difference whether Japan wants to be a teacher or a master, a leader or a driver, in the peninsula. If she aspires to become a moral force which shall compel the admiration and the loyalty of the Koreans she must begin by demonstrating a spirit in advance of the old-time Korean.

# Tales of the Road.

 (By Yi Chong-Wun.)

 A Straw-shoe maker, some ten years ago, hearing of a scheme on foot to construct a railway between Seoul and Chemulpo, abandoned his business and took to drink. From being a respectable member of society he dropped rapidly in the social scale until he became the scandal of his village.

[page 335] A friend dropped in and during the conversation asked whether he had found any way to support his family without selling straw-shoes. He drew a deep sigh and replied : “You too are turning against me. What pleasure can I take in my work?” He was asked to explain.

“Sit down and fill your pipe. I will tell you all. An iron road will soon be put through from the capital to the port. When it is done my work will be gone, for there will be no one foolish enough to spend money for shoes to walk along a smooth, iron road.”

His friend laughed heartily. “Why, in time the traffic on the road may lessen your work but you must know that this road is not made of smooth iron sheets to walk on, but of rails on which engines and cars run. In its construction thousands of coolies will be employed and they will each need many pairs of shoes. Your services will be more in demand than ever and you will have an opportunity to become rich before the road is done. It is a piece of good fortune for you instead of a cause for despondency. Get to work. Your customers are even now on their way to buy all you can make.”

# The man reformed.

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 When the work of construction began, one of the Japanese coolies asked a Korean to teach him some Korean “cuss words” to use on Korean coolies as need might require. He wanted the richest, rarest and raciest that the Korean vocabulary could boast. The Korean began by telling him that of all invective the most poignant and compelling were the words “Aigo, harabaji” repeated in a loud tone and with appropriate gesture. Now this cabalistic utterance means in truth, nothing more nor less than the respectful phrase “ Oh, grandfather,” but the Japanese accepted it as hall-marked Billingsgate and went away happy. Thereafter when the Korean coolie lingered too long at his post-prandial pipe or wooed too persuasively the charms of Morpheus the Japanese would rush about [page 336] swinging his arms and shouting excitedly, “Oh grandfather, what are you doing here? Wake up, Oh, grand- father.”

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 A country gentleman intending to come up to Seoul, reached the station in time but had so much work to do in getting the baggage properly checked that the last whistle blew and the train began to move out of the station. He turned to his servant.

“Just ask them to stop a moment. I am almost ready.” A moment later he found that the wretched train had disregarded his express commands although he was a real gentleman. It was pretty hard on him and he came to the conclusion that trains were well enough for bustling coolies and farmers but as for gentlemen they were inexcusably strenuous.

# The Sources of Korean History.

 Some remarks in a recent review, in the Japan Chronicle of The History of Korea which has recently appeared, are well worth reading, calling attention as they do to the question of the sources of Korean history. In many countries we find that the historical sources are of varied character, including all sorts of written documents, letters, edicts, inscriptions and monuments. The data have to be collected, sifted, compared and digested before it can be said that a proper history has been written.

But when we attempt to gather data for the early history of Silla which flourished from 57 B. C. to 918 A. D. we look in vain for many of the forms of secondary evidence with which to check the written annals of the country. There are no monumental inscriptions, few records of contiguous countries, nothing except the capricious folk-lore tales and a few architectural and other remains which have survived the ravages of time. It is true that the history of that great dynasty was not [page 337] written in proper form before its close, but we are distinctly told that Kim Pu-sik founded his great work the Sam-guk-sa or “History of the Three Kingdoms” upon records which had been made by those kingdoms and to which he had access. Not the slightest trace is left us of the manuscripts on which he based his work. There is no other Korean work which pretends to treat the subject so authoritatively, and though there are other and more voluminous histories of ancient Korea yet they are all founded upon the statements made in that historical work. There are four principal works outside the Sam-guk-sa which deal with ancient Korea, but an examination of their contents proves that what little they give outside the statements of Kim Pu-sik is derived from Chinese sources and is all corroborative of the Sam-guk-sa. Some of the Chinese works, one in particular, which deals with all the outlying wild tribes which surrounded China, gives us some details of the tribes which inhabited Korea even before the rise of Silla. The whole Kija episode finds its place in Chinese histories and is accessible from no other original source. All these accounts are mutually corroborative. More so than we might wish; but they are all we have, and whether authentic or not they must be mentioned in connection with the earliest, legendary, period of the Korean people. The same is true of the history of every old civilization. We must take what scanty data we can get together and with them as a basis reproduce by a process of mingled logic and imagination the salient features of the time. This is what was done in this History of Korea. The four great works were a basis, but the Chinese works, the ancient monuments, the geographical names and the philological possibilities were all examined and thus a composite picture was formed. Of course many of the stories and anecdotes related may be apocryphal. Such things are found imbedded in the early history of every land. As fact they may not stand but they add to the local color and give some notion of the condition and qualities of the people. Fault may be found because all these different data hang together so well. I confess [page 338] that it was a matter of surprise to me that the various historical sources left so little room for controversy or difference of opinion. It was remarkably smooth sailing, so smooth in fact as to give rise to the suspicion that all the accounts came from a single older record. On what ground, however, it could be objected that this history violates the rules laid down for a proper historical method I fail to see.

The important question arises, How is it that we have so minute an account of early Silla when the great Chinese influx into Korea did not occur till some five centuries after the dynasty began? If the study of Chinese literature and thought did not seriously begin till that late period what credence can be placed in any historical statements earlier than that? We have no evidence whatever that Koreans possessed a written alphabet, syllabary or ideograph of their own, and anyone who attempts to uphold the credibility of those previous records must show reason for believing that the people had means for keeping records. I think there is sufficient evidence for such a belief.

Both Chinese and Korean history inform us that at the time of the building of the great wall of China large numbers of Chinese fled to Korea and settled in what was then Chin-han, later Silla. They apparently assimilated with the people of Chin-han and it is impossible to believe that if China was at that time possessed of a written medium of thought these Chinese should not have introduced it into the peninsula. Also long before the great renaissance of the sixth century Buddhist teachers had come to Korea in large numbers and the cult had made great progress. They too must have brought the means of communication by written symbols. Again, the splended ruins, the massive bell, and other remains of that ancient civilization attest the high degree which had been attained almost before the Chinese literary awakening took place. That was an event which popularized learning, but there is sufficient reason to believe that from the earliest days of Silla there were people there competent to keep the records of the dynasty. It was [page 339] these records, long and tedious in themselves perhaps, which Kim Pu-sik took in hand and from which he forged the great work, the Sam-guk-sa, The same, in substance, may be said of Koguryu and Pakche that is said of Silla. They both had been in contact with China almost from the very first and it is well-nigh inconceivable that they did not have means for keeping records. A strong indication of this is that at the very beginning of the great literary movement Sul-chong made a diacritical system for the use of the ajuns who like the clerks of the Middle Ages in Europe were, and long had been, the only people able to read and write,

Again the very nature of the work which Kim Pu-sik compiled gives evidence of authenticity. It is not a mass of fantastic and impossible tales like the Kojiki of Japan but for the most part it is a sober and consistent statement of consecutive events. It is given in the form of annals, a form naturally suggested by the nature of the records from which he drew the facts.

It must needs be that this initial attempt at a History of Korea will prove only a possible basis for a more scientific handling of the subject, but so far as ancient Korean history is concerned no one will ever get behind the record of Kim Pu-sik and the four great histories of which the Tong-sa Chan-yo is a fair recension.

# A Striking Corroboration

 It is quite natural that the friends of Japan should receive with caution any statements which reflect upon the good judgment of her agents whether in Korea or elsewhere, but they are beginning to discover that the statements of the Review are not dictated by personal pique or other private considerations, but bear a very striking resemblance to hard fact. The Editor of the Japan Advertiser has done himself the honor to come across the straits and investigate matters in person and [page 340] the result was inevitable. He makes amends for his former scepticism in the following unequivocal terms :

 “As with other of the foreign papers in Japan, we have been loth to put full credence in these reports of our Korean contemporary, believing that private interests might have dictated these strong pronouncements. Recently, however, having been enabled to make observations of our own on the ground, we are free to acknowledge our fault of misjudgment, and, insofar as a limited time for investigation could permit, have corroborated to our own satisfaction the leading statements made by the Korea Review. With this journal we make bold to assert that it would be the part of wisdom for the Government at Tokyo to apprise itself of the methods being put into operation by its agents at Seoul. We do not care to believe that what the inquiring stranger In Korea may see without great effort is the letter of the law sent forth by the Japanese Government; rather do we hope that the granting of too great a latitude for interpretation has converted the policy ordained by the home government into a disgraceful engine of oppression.”

This is the first genuine word of direct corroboration from competent eyewitnesses that has been published, but we shall have many more. Perhaps even the Editor of the Japan Mail, who claims to have investigated our charges and found them false, will follow the good example of the Editor of the Advertiser and make an examination of existing conditions on the spot, rather than from the safe retreat of the editorial sanctum. If, as the Advertiser surmises, the trouble is not with Tokyo but with the Japanese authorities in Seoul, then it is safe to say that information gained in Tokyo alone will hardly be reliable. Now, just to show what the Koreans think of the matter and to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Japanese are treating the Koreans with great injustice, we affirm that scores of Koreans have brought the deeds of their property to the office of the Review and have begged us to buy it at any price in order to save it from seizure by the Japanese. Does anyone suppose the Koreans would go to the trouble of coming hundreds of [page 341] miles, in some cases, to put this property in our hands, if they were expecting to be fairly dealt with by the Japanese? It has been rumored that in view of charges which have been made one or more foreign representatives in Seoul have been asked to investigate and report. We do not know whether this is true or not but if it is true we feel sure that such investigation will be thorough and fair, and if any charges have been made that cannot be substantiated we hope that they will be exposed, whether they were made by the Korea Review or by any other agency. It stands to reason that such investigation must tap every accessible source of information without fear or favor. Such being the case, we welcome it in the warmest terms, knowing what the result must inevitably be.

The Advertiser goes on to say “Russia admits Japan’s preponderating influence” in Korea. But what if Russia should believe that under the trite phrase ‘the cause of humanity’ she could cloak a protest against Japan’s administration of such acknowledged influence and back this protest up with proofs for the world’s reading? There may be a recrudescence of the Korean question under a far different guise from that of the ante-bellum aspect. In this, it seems to us that the Advertiser gives evidence of great astuteness. It realizes, what is eminently true, that the good will of the Korean people is an asset of great value. Now that peace has been made and it is evident that Japan can claim nothing more than a protectorate the autonomy of Korea is assured. Japan has left herself no lee-way for a possible lack of tractability on the part of the Koreans and anyone who has studied the situation on the ground knows that when the Russian legation is once more established in Seoul it will be the Mecca where pious pilgrims will be shriven. Now, what influence will Japan have successfully to neutralize this pious yearning? The almost universal sentiment of the Koreans today is one of bitter antipathy. There is no one lesson that Japan needs more to learn than the absolute necessity, in her own interests, of securing the moral backing of the mass of the Korean people, whatever the court [page 342] and officials may feel. If the people at large are assured, not merely by the official utterances of those who sit in the seat of the mighty in Tokyo, but by the daily and hourly acts of justice performed by Japan’s agents in Korea, that their elemental and inalienable rights are not only to be respected but strenuously contended for, then there is no Muscovite influence however seductive that can alienate the Korean from Japan; but let the brutalities of low class Japanese and the apathy of the Japanese officials to the acknowledged rights of the people be continued and it will follow, as the night the day, that when the flower of mere political supremacy bursts to fruit it will be the Dead Sea’s fruit of ashes.

# Missionary Union in Korea,

 Plans for a closer union among Christian workers in Korea have taken shape during the past month and the idea has been fairly launched. At a mass meeting of Protestant Christian missionaries held in Seoul in the early days of the month it was unanimously decided that the time had come for a definite move in this direction and that body, after long and thorough discussion, solemnly constituted itself a General Council of all the evangelical missions that might elect to join in the movement. The missions represented at that meeting and cordially joining in the movement were those of the Presbyterian Church in America (north), the Presbyterian Church in America (south), the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Presbyterian Church of the Dominion of Canada, the Methodist Episcopal Church of America (north), and the Methodist Episcopal Church of America (south). There is every reason to believe that all educational, medical, literary and publishing work undertaken by these missions will be immediately amalgamated. In fact, steps have already been taken to secure actual union along these lines this Autumn.

The acknowledged end in view is the establishment of a national Christian evangelical Church which shall [page 343] know nothing of the names which have historically grown up to accentuate and perpetuate the lines of divergence in doctrine because of the greater or less emphasis placed upon special phases of truth. It is not conceivable that either Arminius or Calvin would have allowed their names to figure in denominational nomenclature if they could have prevented it. In the evolution of the Church it may have been temporarily necessary but the tendency of this day is to throw these polemical terms into the background and to take common ground against a common foe. In the meetings that have been held we heard a leading representative of one of these denominations assert that he would be willing to put any of his Korean Christian friends under the theological tutelage of a member of a denomination which is ordinarily supposed to hold very different views on some points of theological dogma. The sentiment was applauded, and the evidence was conclusive that the Christian workers in Korea stand committed to the definite policy of erasing from the list of the primary and essential dogmas of the Church the purely philosophical and academic controversy over the paramount importance of the human will or of Divine sovereignty. They agree to pronounce these two ideas mutually complementary rather than antagonistic and to join hands in the formation of a single united Church. The Scriptures are the acknowledged source of Christian theology and all theological differentiae are merely the outcome of different types of mind. The Korean type of mind differs in some respect from that of the West and in time they may develop new and unexpected difficulties in the interpretation of application of Scriptural truth, but it is manifestly absurd for us to burden them with controversies which are in themselves fruitless and which would not naturally be developed by the Korean type of mind. Even if it were inevitable that this same controversy would arise in Korea it would be far better to let it come by natural and spontaneous development than to unload it upon them encysted in the technical nomenclature of the west. What Korea needs is the clear cut, vital truth of Christianity unencumbered [page 344] by any of its adventitious growths, and the present movement looks toward this very thing.

This vital union is a thing which can be accomplished. It is such a large idea and its results may be so far reaching that it is not the part of wisdom to sit down and begin to conjure up the difficulties that will be met. There will be difficulties, but if the thing itself is confessedly in line with Christ’s own words and of God’s revealed will our business is not to forecast and fear the difficulties but resolutely to determine that whatever they may be they must and shall be overcome. Was any great undertaking ever carried through in any other way? It is the will which conquers environment, that sweeps on to the goal of its desire, and if the devotion of these men and women is great enough and they form a unit in this matter the end is not uncertain.

But someone may say, How about the difficulties that are immediately patent even before we begin? What will the Churches at home say when in our annual statistics we tabulate our gains not in terms of Methodist or Presbyterian or Baptist but just as Christians, so that no one can tell whether one denomination can show better returns than another? How will it all affect the rivalry which unhappily exists to some extent in the minds of the laity of the various denominations at home, if not in the clergy as well? What about the charge of disloyalty to denomination which some narrow souls are likely to prefer? Well, we think any Church in America would find itself in a very queer predicament if it began to object to this following out of the plain teaching of Christ. The result will be, rather, that the Churches at home will be led to ask themselves the question whether some such action is not their manifest duty as well.

Evidences of the spirit of union appear in the successful operation of the Educational Association at the annual meeting of which reports were received showing that a large amount of work had been done during the year toward unifying the scientific nomenclature of our school books. Several of the committees handed in completed lists and they were ordered published.

[page 345] The sanity of the present movement is evidenced by the fact that the union proposed is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. If present methods were essentially vicious then reason would that we should insist upon an immediate and complete change; but they are not so. It is simply a change from a good to a better and should be effected as quietly and as normally as the bud changes to the blossom or the dawn to day. Let it proceed along the lines of least resistance; and the full triumph of the idea is as sure as the silent power of the frost in the crevice of the rock. Nature supplies her own antidotes and antitheses and the same spirit of devotion which launched the idea of Christian missions upon an astonished and incredulous Church and, for practical purposes, allowed it to follow denominational lines, will now sup- ply the alterative necessary to direct it into broader, deeper and more truly Catholic channels.

It is of vital interest to the Church to inquire whether this idea, launched in this comer of the earth and among a people so backward as the Koreans, in what we call enlightenment, can possibly have a strong reflex influence upon the Church itself. We think it can and must. The reasons are many and complex but are susceptible of postulation even now. In the first place the work of Christian missions in Korea has been wonderfully successful and the quality of the native church gives promise of permanence and symmetry. The whole Christian world has watched with intense interest this steady and rapid growth and has almost been tempted into the mistake of making Korea a criterion of successful mission labor. The growth of the Church among Koreans has not been spasmodic nor accompanied by an exhibition of erratic tendencies but has developed a large degree of that happy union of reason and emotion which seems to have characterized the Church in its best hours. This is becoming known to the Church at home and will tend to make them think twice before questioning the genuineness of the present movement, and if it is genuine then it must form an object lesson to those at home and give food for thought.

[page 346] In the second place the work of the foreign missionary represents the high-water mark of Christian devotion, and the Church at home is wonderfully susceptible to influences emanating from that body of men and women which forms the foreign corps of workers, just as the fighting ranks of an army are always on the qui vive to know what is going on along the scouting line. It is on the foreign field that conditions most nearly approximate to those which obtained in the primitive Church and it is here that experiments can be tried with less danger of obstruction than among the more conservative and stereotyped conditions of Church life at home. The mission field is the laboratory of evangelization, and a live church will always be awake to the importance of its results.

There is one thing that should be impressed deeply upon the attention and the conscience of every missionary in Korea, and that thing is the solemn obligation that rests upon each one to see to it that the people at home are fully informed as to what is being done. The whole matter ought to be put in printed form and disseminated broadcast throughout the Churches at home. The religious press in America and England ought to be plied with articles and letters drawing attention to the movement; and, perhaps most important of all, each individual missionary ought to assume the duty of making personal appeals to the pastors and other leading churchmen at home, driving the nail to the head and clinching it beyond the possibility of loosening. It is only thus that the broadest and best results can be obtained and that a movement begun in Korea can be made to spread and multiply until one of the most cherished ideals of the Master can be realized.

# Korean Forced Labor.

 It is an unpleasant necessity that forces us to bring to the notice of the public again one of the least defensible practices of the Japanese in this unfortunate peninsula. [page 347] A deputation has just come down from the town of P’a-ju to solicit aid in securing for the people of that district immunity from the exactions of the Japanese. During the past twelve months these agents of the rail- road have come into that town at least eight times and demanded laborers at such small wages that they have been bought off each time by a payment averaging six million cash. Twenty thousand dollars have been paid by that community to escape forced labor. Within the past month those people have been forced to borrow six million cash from money-lenders to buy off the Japanese and for this money they are paying twelve per cent a month. This fact is fully authenticated and we stand ready to prove it to the satisfaction of anyone who has doubts as to the truth of the statement. Twelve per cent a month means that the money will double in eight months and ten days. No other commentary is necessary on the desperate straits to which those people were reduced. The fact of the case is that at the present season labor is so valuable that they could better afford the loss of that amount of money than of the labor of a hundred men for two weeks. Let it be noted that the men who actually go and do the work are paid something like sixty Korean cents a day by the Japanese, but in lieu of the labor of a hundred men for fifteen days they exacted six million cash or 2,300 Korean dollars (Yl,200). This was at the rate of one dollar and sixty cents a day. Note this in comparison with the sixty cent wage.

Remember as you read this page, that those people in order to escape a peonage which they have in no way deserved and which every dictate of fairness and humanity forbids are paying twelve per cent a month for money which has been carried away by Japanese in person in the name of this railway company. You may gloss this over as you will and you many pile excuse upon excuse but you will never make it anything less than abominable. What does the Korean farmer care that the upper class of Japanese speak fervently in favor of treating Koreans well when the agents of those same men go about with arms in their hands and extort money like [page 348] odinary brigands? Let us not hear any more talk of justice and fair treatment but let us have a little of it demonstrated in actual practice.

# Editorial Comment.

 The recent disturbance in educational circles does not argue well for that important cause. In Korea as in every other country the occupation of teaching is the most poorly paid of any, considering its importance to the state. This became such a crying evil that it promised to wreck the schools. Then the government was compelled to consider the matter and the teachers were given to understand that with the beginning of this school year they would receive as many yen as they formerly received Korean dollars. When it came to actual operation the educational authorities cut these figures all the way from fifteen to thirty per cent, the higher salaries being cut the least. The common school teachers and many of the assistant teachers in the foreign language schools were highly incensed at this, since they had been the principal sufferers, and they promptly “struck.” The hundreds of boys thus deprived of instruction joined the movement and moved down upon the Educational Department demanding that their teachers be reinstated. If this was not done they would deposit all their books at the Department and leave, since there would be no further use for them. On the whole it caused a good deal of excitement and the end does not yet appear. Some of the foreign language schools are practically closed and it is now for the Government to decide whether education is or is not worth the few paltry dollars that will be necessary to put it on a sound footing. The absurdly small sum devoted to this important branch of the public service would indicate a very low estimate of is value, and we should have supposed that Japanese influence would by this time have effected a change for the letter. Now that the war is over we believe this matter will receive [page 349] serious attention and that the competent Adviser to the Educational Department will be able to evolve a general scheme for a national system which will be in some measure commensurate with the needs of the situation.

We have seen a translation of an article that appeared in one of the Tokyo native papers stating among other things that the politicians of the city are incensed at the criticisms we and others have made of the actions of Japanese in Korea. We doubt very much whether this statement emanates from an authentic source. On the other hand we know beyond doubt that the authorities in Tokyo have been very desirous of obtaining independent testimony as to the way things were going here, and that they are too broad-minded not to welcome any statement of fact which will enable them to realize the exact conditions that have to be faced in the peninsula.

 As we go to press the latest papers from Japan indicate that the declaration of a fall protectorate over Korea by Japan is imminent. This was foreshadowed in the terms of the Anglo-Japanese alliance in which every-body’s rights are guarded except those of the Korean. It does not pay in this world to be weak. Japan guaranted the independence of this country at the beginning of 1904. It now appears that this was merely a temporary arrangement whereby Japanese could secure the use of Korean territory and resources in time of war without protest from the other powers. This act of friendship is now to be rewarded by dealing a death blow to Korean independence. We say death blow advisedly for it is safe to say that without even the fiction of independence the Korean will not have the heart to make an effort at improvement. They may be forced into certain forms of progress but the spirit will be dead. They will never again be able to gain that point where the government can be restored to their hands. The same old story is to be [page 350] repeated and Korea again falls to the stronger party. If properly handled they have in them the making of a thoroughly enlightened nation but being now tacitly handed over by the other powers to Japan the world knows what to expect. If it does not know it will soon find out.

 But it is useless to “cry over spilled milk.” The die is cast and the future must be faced. Those who care for the Korean people must adjust themselves and work as best they may for the intellectual and moral uplifting of this Poland of the Far East.

 Our Seoul contemporary has called attention to the order issued by the Japanese military authorities prohibiting the sale or transfer of any native houses within the district marked out for practical confiscation. It asked very pertinently what bearing this has on the statements of those who deny that such confiscation is in progress. Why should the Koreans not buy and sell? Simply because someone might get hold of the property who would be able to secure a market price for it. There is a pretty little story about some property along the river, owned by foreigners, and about the tricks that have been resorted to to get hold of it. It is too long to tell here but we have reason to believe that the property rights of foreigners will be looked after pretty carefully.

# News Calendar.

 The chief of police ordered every police station to notify house-holders in Seoul that examiners would be sent from the Japanese Army Headquarters to examine all the houses one by one.

 The Foreign Office has asked the Korean Minister in Washington where he received the information that all Korean envoys would be recalled.

 Word comes to the Foreign Office that the Korean inspector Cho pong-yun left Japan the last of August, and Min Yung-ki started for home the first of September.

[page 351] Yun Chi-ho has sent a telegram from Hawaii to the Foreign Office to the effect that the amount furnished him for traveling expenses has been exhausted, so he cannot proceed to Mexico.

 The Korean government proposes to grant a decoration to Mr. J. McLeavy Brown on his retirement from the office of Chief Commissioner of Korean Customs, in recognition of the many years of faithful service rendered by Mr. Brown.

 As a result of the recent floods reports come in from many districts that fields have been covered with sand and the crops ruined for this year.

 P. K. Yun went from Hawaii to join Yi Seung Mahn in Washington for the purpose of making a direct appeal to President Roosevelt in behalf of Korean independence. It is said that the greater portion of the traveling expenses were contributed by Korean emigrants to Hawaii, while a considerable amount was sent from Seoul.

 The II Chin-hoi have established a Japanese school in the southern part of Ham Kyung province, and employed a teacher. So satisfactory are the teacher’s services that the number of pupils is increasing daily.

 The resignation of the Minister of Agriculture and Public Works was finally accepted after having been presented many times.

 The vice Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Hen Yung-wun, was appointed acting Minister of the same department.

 A collection of the firearms and different weapons of war formerly in use in Korea has been prepared by the War Department, each regiment assisting in completing the collection.

 The Prime Minister, Han Kui-sul, presented to His Majesty the following nominations for the new Cabinet : Mr. Yi Chi-yong, Minister of Education; Yi Ha-yung, Minister of Law; Cho Dong-he, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce; Yun Yong-koo, Minister of Home Department, and Min Yung- whan, Foreign Minister. All the nominees immediately declined the honor with thanks. -

 The Ceremonial Office has tendered several banquets recently in the Old Palace grounds in the name of His Majesty.

 Min Yung-kui’s arrival from Japan was somewhat delayed because of the interruption of traffic on the Seoul-Fusan railway during the floods.

 Rev. G. Engel received some slight injuries in an electric car accident while he was in attendance at the Presbyterian Council meetings in Seoul recently.

 Traffic was actually suspended for but a very short time on the Seoul-Fusan railway during the recent floods, but practically all trains have been delayed during the entire month. Two or three large bridges were washed away, and the road from Seoul to Fusan was divided into three sections, served by three separate and distinct trains, with swollen rivers between, to be crossed on boats.

[page 352] The new stone jetty being erected by the Japanese at Lighthouse Island in the Chemulpo harbor received considerable injury during the recent very severe storms.

 Word comes of the wreck of the Teho II on the China coast on the return voyage from Chemulpo. A large number of Chinese were drowned. This boat saw much service in the American Civil War in 1861-65.

 Having received from-the Minister of the Household Department. Mr. Yi Chai-gik the example of having his top-knot removed, it is said all the officials in that Department will likewise appear minus this more or less useful hirsute appendage.

 Mr. Min Chong-mook has been appointed acting Minister of the Foreign Office.

 The Dai Ichi Gingo announces that deposit receipt No. 67, dated July 13. 1904, in favor of S. A. Beck, baa been cancelled.

 Mr Yi Chi-yong, Minister of Education, has been appointed Lord Chamberlain.

 Mr. Yun Yong-koo ceases to be Minister of the Home Department.

 Two Koreans have gone to Japan to lodge complaint against Minister Hashi, General Hasegawa and Advisor Meguta, but like many other complaints from this land room was found only for lodgment.

 Mr. Kim Eun-yong was appointed governor of Pyeng-Yang with instructions to take office at once and prepare to receive Miss Roosevelt and party, but the plans were changed and he had not that honor.

 The secretary of the Korean Legation in Washington has returned to Korea on a visit to his parents.

 The one ship of the Korean navy is again safely anchored in Chemulpo harbor, having been returned by the Japanese after the close of actual hostilities.

 The wife of Mio Yung chan, Korean Minister to France, has returned to her home in Korea.

 Authorities in Marseilles have been notified that Yi Yong-ik is thought to have departed from Shanghai for that place, and they are informed that he has been deprived of all rank and authority, in no sense represents the Korean government, and is supposed to be interested in some secret intrigue.

 General Cho Dong-yun while on his recent official visit to Japan presented each Korean student in Japan with the sum of eight yen, a gift much appreciated by the recipients.

 Mr. Yi Ha-yung has received and accepted appointment as Minister

 At no time since foreigners have been resident in Korea has there been such extensive floods as were witnessed during this month of September, One of the “oldest inhabitants’“ says that the waters were nearly as high sixty-one years ago.

[page 353] Miss Alice Roosevelt and party arrived at Chemulpo Sept. 19th on the battleship *Ohio*. They came direct to Seoul on a special train over the Seoul-Chemulpo railway, engine and cars being decorated with American, Korean and Japanese flags. Many Korean officials, army officers, the Imperial Guard, military band, foreign diplomats and prominent civilians greeted the visitors on their arrival at the station, while all the streets were thronged with interested spectators. A royal yellow chair was placed at the disposal of Miss Roosevelt, while many state chairs were provided for the members of the party. Most of the houses in the city had been decorated with Korean and American flags, some of the latter lacking an occasional star or stripe, or showing somewhat of a variety in color, but all bearing evidence of a uniform desire to honor the nation’s guest. On the 20th Miss Roosevelt was received in audience by the Emperor, to whom also the other members of the party were presented, after which there were introductions to various Korean officials. On the 21st a garden party was given by the American Minister, where all American subjects and many others met Miss Roosevelt and the ladies and gentlemen of her party. On the 22nd Miss Roosevelt was entertained at luncheon by His Majesty, and in the afternoon a visit was made to the Queen’s Tomb outside of East Gate. On the 23rd there was a garden party at the East Palace, Miss Roosevelt met the native Christian women at Sang Dong church, and was presented to a large number of missionaries on the spacious lawn at Dr. W. B. Scranton’s. At this time a leather bound Korean New Testament and hymn-book were presented to Miss Roosevelt by the missionary body, Dr. H. G. Underwood making the short presentation speech and Miss Roosevelt and Minister Morgan replying. A dinner at the German Legation, a horseback ride to Puk-han, a visit to the exercises of a Japanese girls’ school and many other engagements occupied the time of the party until the 29th, when a special train carried them to Pusan, the condition of the road after the flood necessitating a stop-over at Taiku, where arrangements had been made for their care at the missionary residences.

 The German Legation building outside of West Gate, Seoul, is all enclosed and the lathing and plastering is being pushed rapidly.

 General Hyen Yeng-woon and wife after a short imprisonment at the Japanese army headquarters have been sent to their country home. They were charged with having furnished His Majesty with information concerning the Japanese disturbances in Tokyo.

 Koreans have circulated the report that the adviser to the Police Department made an effort to prevent the use of American flags in the decorations in honor of the arrival of Miss Roosevelt.

 The foreign Office has been asked by the Japanese Minister to order the Korean Minister in Paris to prevent Yi Yong-ik from having any voice in Korean affairs if he should arrive in that country.

 Mr. Yi Won-yong has accepted the position of Minister of Education.

[page 354] The native papers report that the Japanese Minister has informed his government that unless a protectorate is established by which all Korean diplomatic affairs may be controlled there is no bright outlook for the future plans of Japanese in the peninsula.

 Request comes from Chemulpo that other lands be granted to forty-eight men whose houses have been destroyed by the railway authorities on the plea of military necessity.

 Continuous efforts are being made to secure Imperial assent to the request for the privilege of Japanese owning property in any part of the empire.

 Mr. B. V. Morgan, American Minister to Korea, gave a garden party in the Legation grounds in honor of Miss Alice Roosevelt and party on the 21st inst. American and Korean flags were tastefully displayed. The Korean military band in a highly creditable manner furnished the music for the occasion, including the Korean and American national airs. Long tables were filled with refreshments suited to the varied tastes of the cosmopolitan gathering. While Americans largely predominated, almost if not quite all of the various nationalities in Korea were well represented. Under a canopy on the lawn the guests were presented by Minister Morgan to Miss Roosevelt who greeted each with a simple hand-shake.

 The Foreign Office has asked the Finance Department to forward the necessary funds to unable Yun Chi-ho to continue his journey to Mexico on the work of inspection in behalf of the Korean government.

 The Japanese teacher in the School of Agriculture has returned to Seoul from Japan and resumed his duties under the Department of Education.

 The acting Minister of the Foreign Office, Mr. Min Chong-mook, has been removed, and Mr. Pak Yong-wha has been appointed to the position.

 Because of the breaking of what had been considered a distinct promise that their salaries should be paid in the equivalent of Japanese yen, teachers in the Korean government schools refused to continue their work. Then hundreds of teacherless boys presented themselves and their books before the Educational Department, declaring their inability to study without teachers. The Department could furnish no teachers and the boys went home without their books.

 The Emperor appointed the former governor of Pyeng-yang, Mr. Pak Chei-soon, to be Minister of the Foreign Office, and General Yi Chi-yong to be Minister of the Home Department.

 Minister von Saldern, of the German Legation in Seoul, has recently returned from a short visit to Chinese ports.

 Sir John Jordan, British Minister to Korea, is anticipating a leave of absence on furlough in a few weeks.

[page 355] Rev. R. A. Sharp is building a new mission residence at Kongju. He expects to have it completed ready to occupy in a few weeks and will then remove his household effects from Seoul, and with Mrs. Sharp will have a permanent residence in Kongju.

 Mr. Min Pyeng-suk on his return from a visit to Japan has been banished for a term of three years.

 The mother and sister of Mr. P.L. Gillett, General Secretary of the Young Men’s Christian Association in Korea, are expected soon to arrive in Seoul for the purpose of making an extended visit.

 Mrs. J. P. Campbell has returned to her work in the Girls’ School carried on in Seoul by the Woman’s Board of the M. E. Church, South. Mrs. Campbell has been on furlough for a year, and is now gladly welcomed back to Korea.

 Rev. and Mrs. McCune arrived in Korea early this month. Mr. McCune will engage in educational work, and is at present assigned to language study and work in the Pyeng Yang Academy.

 The agreement between Mr. Kato, adviser, and the Agricultural and Commercial Department of the Korean government is said to have been cancelled, and Mr. Kato will probably become adviser to the Household Department.

 Mr. CBS. Wakefield and family, of the Korean Customs in Gen-san, expect soon to leave for England.

 It continues to be difficult to secure sufficient ships to carry the cargoes to and from Japan and Korea,

 A quiet wedding at which only a few personal friends were present, occurred at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Welbon in Seoul, September 14, when Miss Elizabeth Carson of Taiku was married to Rev. W. M. Barrett, also of Taiku. Miss Carson arrived in Korea last November, and has gained many warm friends since her arrival. Mr. and Mrs. Barrett will be at home in Taiku.

 Doctor Emma Ernsberger has returned to Korea alter a year’s absence in America on furlough, and has resumed her work in charge of the Baldwin Dispensary at East Gate, Seoul. Dr. Ernsberger did excellent work while at home in securing thank offering funds to assist in the construction of the proposed Lillian Harris Memorial hospital for women, to be built in Seoul .

 Drawings and plans for the new building for the Young Men’s Christian Association have been forwarded to New York that approval of the International Committee may be obtained previous to the actual commencement of building operations.

 Disturbances in Kangwun province have been numerous lately, caused by members of a so-called “righteous army.” The Japanese Minister has indicated to the Foreign Office that Japanese soldiers could soon quell the disturbance, but the reply has been made that already many Korean soldiers have been sent to the scene.

[page 356] Rev. C. S. Deming, of New York has come to reinforce the Methodist Episcopal Mission in Korea. Mr. Deming’s residence is at Chemulpo.

 Invitations are out for the wedding of Miss Elise Vincart, daughter of Monsieur and Madame Vincart of the Belgium Legation, Seoul, to Mr. Paul Baumann, of the firm of E. Meyer and Co., Chemulpo. The ceremony is to take place at the French Cathedral, Seoul on October 7.

 Trains now leave Yung-san daily on the Seoul-Wiju railroad at 6. 25 A. M., Japanese time, and are due to arrive at Pyeng-yang the same day at 7.35 P. M. The same train leaves Pyeng-yang at 6.30 the next morning, arriving at Wiju at 7.10 that evening. On the return trip trains leave Wiju daily at 6.30 a. m , leave Pyeng-yang at 7 a. m., and arrive at Yung-san at 6.10 p. m. Only by passes issued for the occasion are passengers now permitted to travel on this road.

 Miss Cameron has just arrived from America and will reinforce the mission work at Taiku, where she goes in the capacity of a trained nurse.

 Last November Rev. McFarland arrived alone at Taiku. Recently he went to the United States and has now returned to Korea with his bride. At Seoul during a portion of this month they had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of a majority of the missionaries in Korea. They are now at home in Taiku.

 More than nine million dollars worth of nickels have already been exchanged for the new Korean coinage minted in Osaka and for Dai Ichi Ginko note. Parties desirous of exchanging nickels must have them examined, and they are given a certificate showing how much is due them for first, second and third class coins, and on presenting this receipt at the Dai Ichi Ginko they can choose in what form they wish to receive the amount due them. All the new currency is put out on a par with Japanese currency, and the present rate of exchange is one dollar in Japanese or new Korean coin for two dollars in the old coin.

 Miss Josephine Hounshell has spent three years in Seoul but at the recent annual meeting of the Mission of the M. E. Church, South, she received appointment to go to Gensan to assist in educational and evangelistic work at that place.

 Because of lack of sufficient force to man all their work the Southern Presbyterian Mission has found it necessary to temporarily leave Mokpo without resident missionaries, although they continue to look after the work at that place. When it is found possible to receive the additional reinforcements asked for the station will again be fully manned .

 The city wall of Seoul has been standing during this dynasty, or considerably more than five hundred years, and only occasional repairs have been needed. At the present time, however, principally as [page 357] the result of the unprecedented floods, in many places the outer facing of the wall, composed of massive granite blocks, has been undermined by the water, tumbled outward and left a yawning gap in the wall and a mass of scattered stone and earth beneath. Many thousands of dollars and the labors of a small army of men will be necessary to again put the walls in good condition.

 Monsieur and Madame Monaco, of the Italian Legation, Seoul, are soon to return to Italy on furlough.

 Miss Ivey, of Texas, accompanied Mrs. J. P. Campbell when she returned to Korea. Miss Ivey was a deaconess, but comes to Korea to take up work under the direction of the Woman’s Board of the M. E. Church, South. She will be a resident of Gensan, and has already departed for that place.

 At the annual meeting of the M. E. Church, South, held in September, Rev. W. G. Cram was elected chairman, Rev. C. T. Collyer aud Miss S. B. Harbaugh were the secretaries, and when the appointments were read Rev J. L. Gerdine, of Gensan, was made Presiding Elder for the coming year.

 Rev. C. T. Collyer had been expecting soon to welcome his wife and son on their return to Korea, when a short time ago he received the unwelcome news that almost on the eve of their departure the son was stricken with fever and their departure from America would be delayed for some weeks.

 Miss Cordelia Erwin has come to Korea as a member of the Woman’s Board of the M. E. Church, South, and will have her work in Songdo, but will temporarily reside in Seoul pending the completion of certain building operations in Songdo.

 During this summer there has been considerable discussion and planning for a closer union of missionary workers of the various Protestant denominations In Korea. Committees have been appointed and various tentative plans have been prepared and brought before several of the Missions in their annual meetings this month. One distinctly forward step was taken by the formation of a “General Council of Protestant Missions,” made up of the members of all the Missions desiring to join. Committees have been appointed to prepare a union hymn-book, which is sanctioned by the Presbyterian Council, representing the four Presbyterian denominations at work in Korea, and by the two Methodist denominations. A union of the two semi-official denominational publications in English has been effected, committees are planning for but one series of Sunday School literature for all of Korea, and the vernacular religious papers are about to be consolidated into one. Arrangements have been completed for the temporary union for one year of the Presbyterian and Methodist hospitals in Pyeng-yang, the Pyeng-yang Academy under the control of the Presbyterians and the Methodist boys’ school in Pyeng-yang, and the Presbyterian Intermediate School with the Methodists’ Paichai School in Seoul. It is understood [page 358] by all that these are merely tentative steps taken for this year, and that during the year committees will ascertain whether feasible plans can be prepared, satisfactory to the home Boards and the various interested parties in Korea. If such can be done another year will see more permanent arrangements perfected.

Even the massive stone wall around the palace grounds did not escape during the September floods. With a mighty roar a long stretch of the wall facing Furniture Street fell outward and left a considerable portion of the buildings and grounds within open to the view of the gaping public. Repairs could not be made for some days, or until after the heaviest rains ceased.

The streets of Seoul had been repaired and leveled up and in some places had a thin layer of gravel thrown on top before the floods of September, and some evidence of that work is still apparent, but since those floods there are many fissures and ditches washed out by the water directly or diagonally across the greater portion of the street, so that in some places one almost takes his life in his hand in attempting to ride in a rickisha, while in other places he is forced to dismount because of the gullies in an otherwise almost level street. It is hoped that soon the repairs may be completed.

Several hundred Russian cavalry and mounted brigands having been dislodged by Japanese troops in the neighborhood of Tong-si early this month, they made their appearance in the north of Korea about the 10th instant. They retired whenever confronted by Japanese troops. They seemed to have no provisions except such as could be obtained by seizure in various small villages.

The ice supply seems to have been almost entirely exhausted very early this month, a small piece but little larger than a man’s head now being sold for about thirty-five cents gold.

News has been received which causes members of the American Guard in Seoul to feel that in a comparatively short time they will be withdrawn from Korea and returned to their headquarters in the Philippines. The Guard has now been stationed in Seoul for more than twenty months, and will be missed in the days to come. A number of things will help them to keep in mind their stay in Korea, not least of which will be the baseball games played with the missionaries, always with victory for the Guard, but not without effort.

The “South China Morning Post” contains the following paragraph, but certainly there must now be included a great number of additions to several of the items :

 “Your pity is requested for Miss Alice Roosevelt. During the last fifteen months she has been present at 403 dinners, 350 balls, and 300 small dances. Her five-o’clock teas number 680, and she has paid 1,700 calls. She has been six times a bridesmaid, and shaken hands 32,000 times. Thus it is to have a father who believes in the strenuous life.”

[page 359] A park has been staked out around the eastern foot of Namsan for the benefit of employees in the Japanese Communication Department.

 Mr. Hayashi has proposed to the Korean government that the interests of Korean emigrants in Mexico be cared for by the Japanese Consul in that country. It is thought no direct answer will be given until after Yun Chi ho has made his report of conditions as he finds them on his tour of inspection. Unless the Korean government is willing to furnish the necessary funds whereby Mr. Yun may continue his journey the report may be considerably delayed.

 A very clever counterfeit of the Dai Ichi Ginko five yen Korean bank-note has been seen in Seoul. The picture of Baron Shibusawa is not nearly as good as on the genuine note, but much of the engraving is of excellent quality. The paper is poor, and contains no water-mark as shown in the genuine notes. A counterfeit has also appeared of the new Korean 20 sen piece, but the work and metal is very inferior. It is thought to be the work of Chinese, while the bogus five yen note is undoubtedly the work of very clever Japanese counterfeiters with head-quarters in some city in Japan.

 President Harriman of the Pacific Railroads and Pacific Mail line of steamers arrived in Seoul on Saturday, September 30, having with his party come to Chemulpo on the specially chartered steamer Ohio III. A special train brought the party to Seoul. On Sunday, October 1, a garden party has been arranged in honor of the guests by Mr. Megata, financial adviser to the Korean government, at his residence outside of South Gate. Just how long Mr. Harriman and party will remain in Korea is uncertain. It is thought his coming to Korea may have peculiar significance in connection with the rumors that Korea may be put in the direct line of travel for the large steamers on the Pacific.

 On the evening of September 2, at the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Reynolds, before a large company of invited guests, Rev. L. B, Tate and Dr. M. B. Ingold were united in marriage, Rev. W. D. Reynolds officiating. Dr. Ingold had just returned from America, and was warmly welcomed both as friend returned and as a bride. Their residence will continue to be in Chunju, where several years have already been spent in missionary work.

 At the home of Rev. and Mrs. H. G. Underwood, in Seoul, the evening of September 13, Rev. E. W. Koons of Pyeng Yang, was married to Miss Lucy Donaldson, Dr. H. C. Whiting, of Pyeng Yang, officiating. A large company of invited guests filled the spacious parlors, and tendered congratulations. While temporarily to be residents of Pyeng Yang, Mr. and Mrs. Koons will soon make their home at a new mission station to be established between Pyeng Yang and Seoul.

 At Yokohama, Japan, at eight o’clock in the evening of Friday, September 1, Mr. N. D. Chew, of the Methodist Publishing House, Seoul, and Miss Nettie Trumbauer, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, were [page 360] united in marriage by Bishop M. C. Harris. At the same time and place Rev. Carl Critchett, of Haiju, Korea, and Miss Anna Coffin, of Albioa, Michigan, and Rev. Arthur L. Becker, of Pyeng Yang, Korea, and Miss Louise Smith of Albion, Michigan, were united in marriage, Bishop Harris having charge of the marriage ceremonies. The ladies came to Japan on the Siberia and were met in Yokohama by the three prospective bridegrooms who arrived from Korea barely in time to meet the steamer on its arrival, as the Siberia made a record trip and arrived two days ahead of time. After a few days spent in Japan all the parties came on to Seoul. Mr. and Mrs. Becker are now at home in Pyeng Yang, Mr. and Mrs. Chew are located in Seoul, and Mr. and Mrs. Critchett will have their temporary residence in Seoul until their new house is completed in Haiju.

 The Foreign Office receives word from the governor of Chumulpo that about fifty Korean houses had been destroyed there by the Railway Bureau because they were within the bounds of land appropriated for military purposes. A great outcry has been made by the householders, and they ask to have the houses restored.

 The vice Minister of the Household Department, Yi Yong-sun, has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, and Min Kan sik has been transferred from Chief of Police to the Household Department.

 The governor of Chunju reports to the Home Department that the magistrates of Sa-chun, Woong-chun, Kur-chong, Eui-yuug, Yangsan and Ki-chang districts are all absent, and neglecting their assigned duties. He asks that they be requested to return at once.

 The governor of Chemulpo has beeu dismissed and the former governor, Ha Sang-kui, has been reappointed to the position.

 About thirty Japanese police inspectors arrived from Japan on the 24th inst. They will be stationed in the various Korean Provinces.

 The magistrate at Chunju reports to the Foreign Office that two Japanese policemen stationed there for the protection of Japanese merchants have made a request for one of the Government buildings.

 The magistrate of Kok Sung having returned to his home in Seoul, the people are continuously demanding of the Home Department an officer to look after their interests.

 Mr. J H. Morris, assistant manager of the American- Korean Electric Company, has had an attack of typhoid fever, and was compelled to spend some time in the Severance hospital, but we are pleased to be able to report that he is now convalescent, and hopes to be able to attend to business again in a short time.