THE KOREA REVIEW.

VOL.5. NO. 10. OCTOBER, 1905.

CONTENTS

[Japan as a Colonizer.](#_Toc348346638)

[The Korean Customs Service.](#_Toc348346639)

[How Yi Outwitted the Church.](#_Toc348346640)

[Korean Bronze.](#_Toc348346641)

[Places of interest in Korea.](#_Toc348346642)

[White Head Mountain.](#_Toc348346643)

[Kou-Wol-San.](#_Toc348346644)

[Diamond Mountain.](#_Toc348346645)

[Pyeng Yang.](#_Toc348346646)

[Kiong-Chiu.](#_Toc348346647)

[Song-Do.](#_Toc348346648)

[Kang Wha.](#_Toc348346649)

[News Calendar.](#_Toc348346650)

[page 361]

# Japan as a Colonizer.

 One of the leading Japanese foreign papers recently contained what purported to be, and doubtless was, a digest of remarks made by Baron Kaneko in America on what he called the “Great political question of the twentieth century” namely Colonization. After remarking that “there is little opportunity or inducement for colonization in the cold latitudes” he adds that in the Pacific Islands, Asia, India, Africa and South America there is an immense field of endeavor : and he makes bold to add that “It is on these lands that the eyes of the world’s statemen are fixed.”

Now we venture the opinion that this is true only of the statemen of a very few countries. Take America, whose statemen are at least of average ability. We very much doubt whether there are half a dozen of them interested in the matter of colonizing any of the lands enumerated. Surely the work of the United States in the Philippines would not indicate any desire to colonize those islands. The activities of American statesmanship have been rather to lead the people of those islands to develop the resources of their land themselves. To this end witness the enormous number of teachers sent there. They are not colonizers in the sense intended by Baron Kaneko. Those islands form a hard necessity thrust upon America by the exigencies of war, a war undertaken for no such purpose as territorial acquisition but followed [page 362] almost immediately by the handing over of that portion of the conquered territory which could be properly governed by its own people. No one expects that a large number of Americans will settle permanently in the Philippines nor is there anything to indicate that American statemen so desire. The same may be said of leading statesmen of many other countries. If Baron Kaneko had said that statesmen are keenly alive to the importance of securing markets for the products of their respective countries in these other lands he would have been far nearer the mark, but such an ambition includes every country, England, America, Germany want trade in every country, the great as well as the small, the strong as well as the weak.

It seems to us little less than absurd to say that India forms an immense field for colonization. It already has a population of nearly 300,000,000, and the colonization of that country by others would simply mean the displacement of just so much of the native population, the alienation of just so much wealth and the cutting off of just so much opportunity for native industry. In none of the countries mentioned is there much space to form a spill way for the surplus population of more crowded countries. The law works both ways and these statesmen who are looking out for opportunities to colonize find that the first duty they have is to prevent themselves being swamped by other more teeming peoples. Population like water seeks a level and, other things being equal, the population of every land would depend precisely upon the relative capacity of that land to support a population. Other things not being equal, we find population unevenly distributed, but the enormous flow of immigration into America and the centrifugal force of China’s overpopulation show that the overthrow of artificial barriers is constantly tending toward this equilibrium or level.

This being confessedly true Baron Kaneko’s remarks amount to the cold-blooded proposition that the aim of modern statemen is to seize upon territory not their own and use it for the expansion of selfish interests at the [page 363] exnse of the natives of those lands. We repudiate this slander in toto. There may be some small souls who have such a narrow view of life and of history as this but we sincerely believe they are the great exception.

Baron Kaneko is evidently speaking from what he conceives to be the standpoint of the Japanese people. It might be worthwhile to ask why it is that Japan wants to find an outlet for surplus population. We come face to face with a paradox at the very start for if there is anything evidently true about Japan it is that she aspires to become a great manufacturing and distributing center like England. If so she cannot spare a single man or woman. The rapid growth of her industries demands that people stay at home rather than run away. What she wants is raw material and markets. Population does not depend upon area of soil except in nomadic and agricultural countries and, given all the raw material and all the markets necessary, Japan could support a population four times as great as that she now has. It stands to reason then that the distribution of Japan’s population especially into agricultural countries will defeat her purpose of becoming a great industrial people; she will remain a predominantly agricultural race. Her legitimate ambition demands concentration rather than dissipation. Industrialism is centripetal, not centrifugal. If it is true that Japan actually needs to get rid of part of her population, it must be due to one of two reasons; either industrialism has not kept pace with growth of population or else the people, through the adoption of western ideas have acquired needs faster than they have acquired the ability to secure the satisfaction of those needs. To state it in condensed form and with perhaps a tinge of hyperbola, the clerk on forty yen a month wants to drink champagne but can’t afford it unless he can do the work of four clerks and absorb their salaries. The other three must colonize!

Bringing the question down to its Korean phase, the only one in which this magazine is legitimately interested, we draw the natural conclusion that Baron Kaneko advocates the sending into Korea a large number of [page 364] Japanese. The only opening immediately apparent for these men is that of agriculture, for the soil is the only asset immediately available. Commerce requires time for its development. The soil, like the poor, is ever with us. Colonization will mean, then, an immediate and enormous acquisition of land in the peninsula. As we have before stated, the Japanese will not be content to take up land that the Koreans have hitherto considered too poor to cultivate. They will demand and obtain good land. Let us suppose that 50,000 people come. The land and houses and implements necessary for their support and shelter will cost at least 200 yen per man or a total of yen 10,000,000, but Baron Kaneko says that the population is increasing at the rate of 400,000 per year. Of this a mere 50,000 would be an absurdly small fraction. Who is to provide the money for this settlement? Surely the Japanese government cannot. The truth is that the land will be taken at a merely nominal price just as everything has been taken here. But what about the increase of Korea’s population? It amounts in all probability to at least 100,000 a year. These must be looked after as well. No reasonable man will be able to deny that Baron Kaneko’s plan will be a crushing blow to the progress and welfare of the Korean people. Emigration to Canada, where there are millions of acres still lying fallow, is one thing, but to Korea where every nook in the hills in cultivated to its fullest extent it bears a very different complexion.

Baron Kaneko says that “The great majority of people think we are not a colonizing nation but we are. For many years we have had no opportunity to prove it. Three hundred years ago Japan was the greatest colonizing nation in the world. We colonized China, Manchuria and Korea.” Here we begin to see what sort of arguments the Baron brings forward. Three hundred years ago Hideyoshi, a blood-thirsty usurper, determined to conquer China by way of Korea. He hurled his army of trained cut-throats upon the peninsula but was defeated and driven back into the southern part of the country. There they were obliged to till the fields for [page 365] their own support because the Korean naval power made it impossible to escape to Japan. For seven years they endured this enforced exile and then by a desperate attempt, homesick and half famished they broke through the cordon of Korean boats and got away home. A few hundred who had married Korean women remained and were almost immediately absorbed in the Korean population. A few years later the Japanese humbly asked if they might make a commercial station at Fusan. After long hesitation this was granted but the number of Japanese was strictly limited and they were closely confined to certain narrow limits. And this is what Baron Kaneko calls great colonizing! The truth is that at that very time Spain had probably a thousand colonists to Japan’s one. Japan and China were at swords points and that Japan colonized in China or Manchuria in any genuine sense is inconceivable. It is very unfortunate for the Baron’s contention that he uses such an argument as this. The spasmodic attempt at expansion made by Hideyoshi served but to illustrate the lack of the very quality the Baron would attempt to demonstrate. But even if it were true that Japan had once been a colonizing power, the fact that in 1868 she had not a single colony would prove that she was at that time no colonizer. One might as well say that Spain is a great colonial power simply because at one time she was such.

When ‘asked whether Japan intends to enforce in Korea the same policy she has enforced in Formosa the Baron made an evasive reply but said that in some respects the policy would be the same. A few days ago we received a letter from a gentleman, who crossed the Pacific on the same boat with the Japanese peace commissioner, saying that on that boat he met a gentleman who had long been a resident in Formosa and who said that the administration of affairs there was almost a perfect counterpart of the methods in Korea as set forth in the pages of The Korea Review. But the Baron adds “Their inherited customs we will allow them to maintain so long as they do not conflict with the necessary limitations of loyalty to the Emperor and the [page 366] Japanese government,” In spite of the mixed metaphor we take this to mean loyalty to the Japanese Emperor.

We shall encourage the Koreans to maintain whatever is dear to them in a legendary way, but also encourage a spirit of loyalty to Japan.” Every word of this might be spoken by a Russian about Poland. It all breathes the spirit of absolute and final extinction of Korea as a nation. Now this goes far beyond the bounds of a mere protectorate. It means the definite absorption of Korea by Japan for all time. But more follows and worse. “They are a people whom it will be easy to manage. They are not warlike, they are not troublesome, but they are of rather a low order of intelligence – what you would call stupid in this country (America). We shall not encourage intermarriage between Japanese colonists and the Koreans. On the contrary we shall oppose it very vigorously. We shall consider the Koreans as a lower race.” A lower race, forsooth! Inferior intelligence! When the Korean has outwitted the Japanese at every turn for the past thirty years in the game of diplomacy, being compelled by military weakness to use cunning instead of brute force! A race equal to the Japanese in natural intelligence and greatly superior in plysique and temperament. This Japanese gentleman throws out his chest and says “a lower race,” when many of his countrymen in Korea go about more than half naked through the streets of Seoul to the disgust and scandal of the Koreans; when they do not hesitate to kick and beat and rob the Koreans right and left, as has been proved over and over again; when, baffled in their attempt to browbeat the Korean government into giving up a valuable concession absolutely without compensation, they have the best and most loyal Korean official driven from office to make room for a creature of their own, who will sell his own land for money; when they build in Seoul in a prominent site a huge brothel, housing hundreds of the votaries of vice, and flaunt it in the face of Koreans, who, corrupt enough, God knows, have the grace to hide their infamy from the public eye.

[page 367] He will consider them a lower race; will oppose intermarriage; will, in fine, stamp the Korean beneath his heel for all time and exterminate him. There is not one word of genuine sympathy nor a hint at real helpfulness, and we venture the opinion that with the exception of a very few leading men the words of Baron Kaneko voice the sentiment of the whole Japanese people. They describe with wonderful exactitude the attitude of the Japanese in Korea today, and they demonstrate the lack of the primary and fundamental qualifications for a successful handling of the Korean people.

Witness the closing words of this characteristic interview. “The dominating note in Japan’s colonial policy will be a blending of kindness with firmness, a course midway between that adopted by England and Russia.” Will any student of history, or of contemporaneous government show us how a blending of firmness and kindness will result in a course midway between that of England and Russia? Is England lacking in kindness or is it that Russia is lacking in firmness, or is it vice versa. No, it is plain that this is mere word-juggling. The truth is that in Korea Japan has proved herself neither kind nor firm. She has evinced the narrowest kind of selfishness and at the same time a curious lack of firmness. The latter is due to the attempt to carry out impossible schemes, financial, economic and industrial. If Korea is to be handled properly by the Japanese it must be by a very different stamp of man from Baron Kaneko.

# The Korean Customs Service.

One of the most important and most prominent departments of the Korean government is and for many years has been, the Maritime Customs. It has been the battle ground of more than one international quarrel, the sweetest nut to crack in all the basket. The interest which it inspires is doubtless based upon the fact that it represents ready money, spot cash; and that is the most attractive form which the god of wealth ever assumes.

[page 368] There have been three important crises in the history of the Korean Customs, one when it was taken over by the paternal hand of China to be used as a lever for the hoisting into power her claim to suzerainty which had been somewhat impaired; second when the Russians played their little game soon after the Japan-China war; and third the crisis which now faces it in the form of a change from practically British control to Japanese.

The retirement of J. McLeavy Brown, C.M.G., from the control of the Korean Customs is an event of high importance to this people and its consequences will be far-reaching. There could be no more fitting time and no more fitting place in which to review this gentleman’s career in Korea than now and in the pages of this Review. We propose therefore to give a rapid sketch of the most important points in this career and to ask the question whether and how far this change will be of benefit to all parties concerned.

Dr. Brown came to China in 1881, so he was already an old resident of the Far East and well acquainted with its problems when in 1893 he was appointed to fill the position of Chief Commissioner of the Korean Customs. This place had been filled by Von Mollendorff, Merrill, Schoenicke and Morgan, and when Dr. Brown took over the office he found it thoroughly established and working with that ease and success which would naturally be guaranteed by the character of the men who had preceded him.

Soon after his arrival the war clouds began to gather and in the following year they broke, but failed to cause the flood which was predicted. It was only a gentle shower and after the bubble of Chinese arrogance had been pricked by a few Japanese bayonets the sun came out again leaving Korea cast off from her old moorings and without doubt somewhat homesick to get back under the maternal wing of China again. But this was not possible. Japan had decided that Korea must be independent in spite of herself. They say that some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them. So with Korea, she did not [page 369] attain independence but she had it thrust upon her. It would have been a grand thing, if properly used, but after the war it began to appear that there was too great a contrast between the administration of the Customs and of the other fiscal departments of the government. Japan was attempting to get hold of the situation which was quite new to her and she found it hard work. Things were not going smoothly but there was one man who could bring order out of Korea’s financial chaos, and so Dr. Brown was given complete control of the revenue which the Customs brought in. He was authorized to put this money in the bank in his own name and thus make it impossible of withdrawal without his signature. This immediately made him both friends and enemies for he no sooner had things well in hand before he began refusing foolish and extravagant demands for money on the part of various departments of the government, and the officials found to their dismay that the Customs revenues could no longer be their plaything. Only plans that were well worked out and that promised definite results were sanctioned and paid for by the Chief Commissioner. The natural result was that without holding any other position he practically had the casting vote in very many matters of government which required the expenditure of money, and it is safe to say that Korean officials were seldom interested in any matters that did not involve such expenditure. This strict control of the government money was very galling to that class of officials who considered the money their legitimate loot and Dr. Brown was made to feel that while they dared not stultify themselves by openly attacking him these people would rejoice to get the “knife into him.”

Then came the startling events of the closing months of 1895 which checked so effectively the Japanese plans and jammed the Korean helm down hard toward Russia. At that time the Russian Legation was occupied by Mr. Waeber, a broad-minded and statesman-like man who though always working in the interests of his own country did so in a much better way than his immediate [page 370] successors. It was at his desire that Dr. Brown was given enlarged power and was placed in control of the entire finances of Korea in March 1896. For nearly two years Dr.Brown held this important position and they may be called the brightest and most hopeful years that Korea has seen for a century. There was an instant and marked change in the ruinous financial method that had previously prevailed. When money was requisitioned from the treasury Mr. Brown had the extremely awkward habit of asking why and how the money was to be used and, still worse, to keep his eye on it till it had actually been put to the use specified and had accomplished the purpose for which it was intended. This naturally gave a host of officials something very like a chill, for money in Korea is like a flock of sheep that may start along the right road but soon scatters to right and left;

The main problem which Mr. Brown found confronting him in his new and highly responsible position was the loan of three million yen which the government had obtained from the Japanese when Count Inouye was acting as minister in Seoul in 1895. Mr. Brown considered that Korea was endangering herself by getting into the clutches of money lenders and he shrewdly suspected that the loan was made by Japan not so much to help Korea out of financial difficulty, which in fact did not exist, as to form a useful handle in time to come. He urged that this was about the only way Korea could really incur peril, and he bent his energies to the task of casting off the net that was beginning to entangle the country. There were plenty of lines along which retrenchment was possible, for the government revenues had been used in a most careless way. He began by refusing funds for the employment of more useless soldiers. This was an immediate necessity and was attended to at once. Then Mr. Brown formulated two rules which struck at the very root of the troubles in Korea. The first one was to have each department in the government keep in its own hands the nomination for appointments in that department, and to have all appointments, so far as [page 371] possible, made by priority in service and by merit. This rule immediately made both friends and enemies. The leading officials had been accustomed to fill positions in any and every department at will without regard to fitness or age. Of course they were very much scandalized. The minor employees of the government however recognized the rule as an excellent one, especially since it prevented incompetents being placed over them in office. The second rule was that when any official resigned or died or was removed the position should not be filled again unless there was some actual work connected with it besides that of merely coming around to the office to draw pay. This excellent rule was more necessary than appeared on its face, for it has long been the custom in Korea for men to pay good money for a position simply so as to be able to attach the name of the office to their names and reap credit for greatness among their acquaintances. Having been appointed, their main thought is to avoid all duties devolving upon them. If they cannot possibly avoid the work they resign, but they still retain the name of the office and the glory attached thereto. These two rules promised to work a revolution in Korean upper circles. The whole conservatism of the country sprang to arms against what was thought to be an encroachment upon official prerogative. But Dr. Brown stood firm.

Soon after this good work began an old gentleman of the conservative type was appointed Minister of Finance and immediately nominated twenty-four of his relatives to office under him. Dr. Brown demurred and for a short time, to use the language of hyperbola “there were razors flying through the air.” It was a test case and aroused intense excitement. Dr. Brown wisely compromised by allowing a few of these men to become genuine incumbents but even these were quietly disposed of after they had been paid a single month’s salary, and then retired to their former state.

For one year and eight months Dr. Brown continued to hold this position and during even that short time he saved enough money to pay off two millions of the debt. The Japanese were not highly pleased at this. They were [page 372] quite willing to let the debt stand and the interest accumulate to the sure weakening of the Korean government. This was frustrated and the finances of the country were brought up to a high state of excellence. Two year later the Japanese were paid Y750,000 on the final million, but asked that the remaining Y250,000 be let stand. This was so small a sum as to cause no embarrassment to the government and so Dr. Brown allowed it to stand unpaid for the time being.

But it must not be supposed that his activities all this time were confined to this one line. He busied him- self in various other public matters of importance. He began the good work of repairing the streets in Seoul and its suburbs. Even the main streets of the city had become narrowed by successive encroachments until two carts could hardly pass each other. They had to be widened by the purchase of property on either side. It speaks volumes for the care and tact of Dr. Brown that this work, involving the taking over of thousands of Korean houses, should have been accomplished without any complaint being made. The reason was that every Korean received at least the minimum market price of his property. Dr. Brown’s course in this respect, as in most other respects, was in brilliant contrast to the Japanese methods which have rightly caused the most intense opposition and have been shown to lie but a small remove from robbery.

Under the energetic management of Dr. Brown three miles of streets in the city and twenty miles outside were widened, graded and made thoroughly capable of carrying the traffic with ease and expedition. Three main roads were built from the city to the river. The valuable work of cutting a good cart road through the Peking Pass was successfully carried out and will remain a lasting monument to the energy of Dr. Brown. This latter work cost Y8,600. It has sometimes been erroneously considered to be a gift from Mr. Waeber, but the facts are as follows: After the king’s flight to the Russian Legation he made a present of some Y15,000 to Mr. Waeber but the latter declined. He said however that if [page 373] the king wished to give it to some public cause he could place it well. The king consented and part of the money went into the Peking Pass. It was an immense misfortune for Korea that Mr. Waeber was removed. We shall not soon see his like again from the Court of the Czar.

While Mr. Brown was in control of the national finances, he had nothing to do with the finances of the Imperial Household, which was an important item. The constant tendency toward the centralization of power had made this a serious matter. It August 1897 Mr. Kir Alexaieff arrived from Russia. He was connected with the Russian Chinese Bank, a large and powerful organization that had lately been established. He came at the request of Mr. Waeber to take charge of the accounts of the palace. So far as Mr. Brown was concerned this was not a move against him, at least in the eyes of Mr. Waeber, and if the latter had been retained in the Legation the difficulties that followed would never have arisen. Of course this Russian move was anathematized by Japan who saw in it the fastening upon Korea of Russian influence. Well, under the circumstances one would not have expected Mr. Waeber to work in any one else’s interest than those of Russia. Japan had driven herself from the field by her utter lack of tact and by the abominable crime against the Korean Imperial House which was condoned.

It is impossible to say what was in Alexaieff’s mind in taking up his position, but he doubtless had great faith in Russia’s newly acquired influence at the Korean Court and he was ambitious to play a leading part in the events which should result from that influence. So long as Mr. Waeber remained in the Legation all went well but hardly had Alexaieff been installed in his office when it became known that Mr. Waeber was to be removed to make room for de Speyer. Comment was various but the general impression in Seoul was that the Russian government thought Mr. Waeber had not taken full advantage of the influence he had acquired over the king, that the situation should be pushed to its full fruitage. The actions of Mr. Waeber’s successor bears out [page 374] this theory, but it was a monumental blunder. Had Russia retained Mr. Waeber in power and exercised a wise but firm and kindly hold upon the king she could have established a lasting influence upon Korea but by pressing her claims and grasping after every advantage possible she inevitably awakened suspicion and opposition among Korean officials and also, though more slowly, in the palace.

De Speyer came in the Autumn of 1897 and immediately began a course of braggadocio and browbeating which were quite in keeping with certain Russian methods as illustrated in the war just terminated. Waeber and de Speyer were at the very antipodes as diplomats. The contrast was startling. Mr. Waeber had been on friendly terms with all foreigners but shortly after de Speyer’s arrival he was heard to say that he would soon run all Americans out of the country. The event proved the quality of his prescience. He immediately began to use Alexaieff as a tool to secure the removal of Dr. Brown. In order to do this he played upon the wounded vanity and depleted finances of those evil officials who had been forced to fold their harpy wings under the influence of the Brown narcotic. The crisis came about the middle of November. Dr. Brown had not vacated his position nor surrendered any of his prerogatives, but just at that Autumn season the government officials in England were having their holiday and seemed not to be aware of what was going on. Dr. Brown seemed for a time to be without effective backing. So on that fifteenth of November the officials under Dr. Brown refused to carry out his orders and for the time being he was helpless. Alexaieff dropped in and gently hinted that Dr. Brown might find it convenient to retire but the latter showed no sign whatever of surrender. He cheerfully said that he had no thought of retiring and that if Mr. Alexaieff wanted to work for the Korean government there was plenty of work for two men to do. He declined to act under Alexaieff’s orders and for once in his life the buoyant young Russian found himself up against a clear headed and purposeful Englishman who could afford to bide his time and wait for a tardy government [page 375] to vindicate his confidence in it. Meanwhile the Koreans were executing a war dance over what they fondly dreamed to be Dr. Brown’s expiring influence. Some hundred boxes of silver dollars containing two hundred each were taken from his carefully collected treasure and carried into the palace where the officials made merry over it as the first fruits of their victory over Dr. Brown. They danced about it with glee and threw handfuls of it to the coolies who stood about.

At the time of his assumption of treasury control Dr. Brown had taken in hand the mint and had carried it on in a successful manner. The nickel coinage was never allowed to go to a discount. A wise control of the out-put kept up its credit. But now the mint began pouring out a flood of nickels which soon made them a drug on the market and for the first time they fell below par. Alexaieff who had it in hand exercised no control whatever but allowed the officials to do whatever they pleased. Herein lay Russia’s only power over Korea, the willingness to let her go on her own corrupt and suicidal way without check or curb. The mint never went back into Dr. Brown hands again and the present condition of affairs is the legitimate result.

Alexaieff immediately doubled all the official salaries, which brought down upon his head the blessings of countless rascals and proved him to be the long-sought deliverer who should cut the apron-strings of the Brown regime. No sooner were they cut than the toddling infants walked straight over the precipice hand in hand with the sapient Alexaieff. And it was a genuine precipice, for before long the British government came back from its grouse shooting and began to ask questions. The mice had been playing and had even begun nibbling the cheese. But with one sweep of its hand all that was changed. A fleet of British boats dropped anchor in Chemulpo Harbor and the same question that had been asked at Port Hamilton ten years before was repeated in even more persuasive accents. The Russian government suddenly awoke to the fact that in place of a statesman they had placed a braggart and blunderer in Seoul and [page 376] that their toy financier was making himself the laughing stock of all sensible people. There is one good thing about Russia, that she gives her diplomats large discretion but punishes them in proportion to their misuse of that power. De Speyer was doubtless given discretionary power to press home Russia’s claims which were based on the hospitality shown the king, but when the Russian Minister backed up his blundering effort by the statement that such was the will of the Czar and the latter began to be smiled at therefore, the Russian government turned upon the disconsolate de Speyer that shoulder which leans against the pole and he forthwith faded. The height of his braggadocio measured the depth of his fall and the fall was made doubly grievous by the enthusiasm with which the Korean government accepted his offer to remove Alexaieff and the Russian military officers. It also meant de Speyer’s removal from Seoul and when Matunine had been succeeded by Pavloff a new line of muscovite indirection had to be devised which was neither of Waeber nor de Speyer stamp, neither as statesmanlike as the former nor as bluffly and honestly black-guardly as the latter; something halfway between, where machiavellianism holds sway.

But whether thus or so, Dr. Brown came back into a considerable part of his former power. He still had complete control of the Customs revenue, and the government engaged to employ no one else in the treasury department. It is much to be regretted that the British government did not insist that he be given all the power he had before. Nothing could have been better for Korea, It would have rapidly cleared up the corruption that was gnawing at the vitals of Korea; the war just ended would never have been fought. Everybody would have been better off, especially Koreans.

But in spite of all, Dr. Brown held on with great tenacity and with good hope of bettering the condition of Korea. Though his plans were narrowed in one direction he compensated for it by enlarging them in another. He evolved a scheme for the establishment of a complete system of lighthouses all about the coast of the peninsula; [page 377] and it is notorious that the west coast of this country is one of the most dangerous for navigation in all the Far East. He began right by putting aside a million and a half yen to finance the scheme. At the present time there are ten lights completed and working, three at Fusan, one at Port Hamilton, and the remainder scattered along the west coast at strategic points. Two others are being built on the west coast. Preparations are being made to put three at Kunsan. The apparatus for eight more has been ordered. Specifications are completed for six besides these and over and above all this eighteen additional sites have been selected for future installation of lights. Seventeen special signal stations are to be erected. Ten automata gas buoys are to be fixed at important points and a light ship is to be anchored in the mouth of the Yalu. This is a plan which if carried out will put the Korean people and the traveling and trading world still more deeply in debt to Dr. Brown.

Beside all this, he was given control of the construction of the new Y300,000 palace in Seoul. The work is going on apace and bids fair to result in a building of great beauty and serviceability.

One of his latest achievements is the repairing of the road between Seoul and the foreign cemetery at Yang Wha-chin. This was an arduous and costly piece of work and one for which the foreigners in Seoul will always be grateful.

You can scarcely look about anywhere in Seoul without seeing evidences of his public spirit. He was long the president of the Seoul Union and an active supporter. He showed great interest in the work of providing a site for the Seoul Young Men’s Christian Association and both in time and money has contributed generously both to this and to many other public institutions in Korea.

Such are some of the facts in regard to this public spirited and incorruptible official who has given the best twelve years of his life to Korea and who were be not removed would still have much to do for her renovation. It remains for us to ask under what conditions this [page 378] removal takes place and what effect it will have upon the whole question of Korea’s future.

 The first of these questions will require no long answer. The Japanese have acquired the power to work their will in Korea. Since the day they drew up their treaty with Korea in 1904, guaranteeing her independence they have been attempting to absorb every profitable asset of the Korean government. It has been one continuous and consistent course of absolute selfishness unrelieved by a single attempt to do anything directly for the welfare of the Korean people. Here again we have a striking case in point. The Japanese government has no official in its whole realm that can begin to handle the position as Dr. Brown has done and can do. If in their vanity they think they have they will eventually discover their mistake. But this has little weight. Here is a definite and profitable asset of the Korean government and must be wrenched from them as other things have been. Justice, education, enlightenment, these are things that Japan has no thought of giving Korea except in the most incidental sort of way. There is not a single note of helpfulness in their entire policy as illustrated in the acts of the past two years. They want the Customs department and they will have it, irrespective of Dr. Brown’s long and priceless services.

But it is not only the money they want. Their vanity is doubtless hurt because an important resource of the Korean government is still outside their grasp.

It is worthwhile asking in what essential particular this attempt to get the Customs out of Dr. Brown’s hands differs from that of Mr. Kir Alexaieff. After examining the case pretty carefully we have been compelled to decide that there is only one main difference and that is that whereas in the former case the British government demurred, in this case it acquiesces. The justice of the two cases is the same. The injury to Korea in case of acquiescence is practically the same, for there is little doubt that Kir Alexaieff was as capable of handling the service as any Japanese is likely to be. The meat of the matter lies in the terms of the Anglo-Japanese alliance in [page 379] which, as we have said before, every-one’s interests are guarded except those of Korea. For the sake of personal gain Great Britain has sold Korea to Japan. England has a treaty with Korea in which, according to international law, she regards Korea as a coordinate power. It is all well enough to smile and shrug the shoulders but so long as right is right and law is law so long will it be true that in handing over Korea to the Japanese without so much as consulting the Korean government, Great Britain has stained her ermine. How long has it been since Anglo-Saxons have lost the desire to see fair play and have begun to damn the underdog? There is many a Britisher in Korea today who knows that given half a chance, the Korean would make a good citizen, a steady, worker, an honest, intelligent man. But these are no days for the exhibition of mere feeling. Sentiment has become synonomous with sentimentality and the days when rugged justice and impartial sympathy moved the makers of British policy are apparently past. Dr. Brown himself is proof enough of what could be done in Korea if the people could be given a little good advice and firm but sympathetic control. The two years he was in power he did, single handed, enough to show that with a few more to back him and to help work out his plans Korea could become a thoroughly respectable government. Russia knocked that in the head once, and now Japan, instead of enlarging his powers fourfold, as she ought, is securing his removal and with his removal one of the last straws at which the drowning nation can grasp. Byron sung for captive Greece and England heard and answered. But Greece was once a mighty power, you say. Ah, there’s the trouble. Yet, do you drop your alms into the palm of him alone who once was strong and rich? Do you stretch forth your arm and rescue from the grasp of violence that man alone who once was able to defend himself? Is chivalry at last dead and weakness no longer its own sufficient plea? It seems so.

But enough of this and more than enough. As Dr. Brown leaves Korea he carries with him the esteem of all [page 380] those who love justice and sympathy and fair play. He has left behind him monuments that cannot be thrown down. In history he will be known as the last man to work unselfishly and untiringly for the best welfare of the Korean Empire.

# How Yi Outwitted the Church.

A Legend of Medieval Korea.

 It was centuries ago in the Korean middle ages when Songdo was still the capital and Buddhism held sway over the land. Yi was the older of two brothers and lived in fear of having another brother, for the law of the land was that if a man had three sons one of them must take the tonsure and become a monk. It was still two years before he could marry and if during that time another brother should be born he would have to leave the home life which he loved and go away to the lonely life of a hermit monk. Every fiber of his being protested against this living death but fate was inevitable and the brother was born.

Within a week of this event the abbot of a neighboring monastery sent word through two of the monks demanding that Yi forthwith appear and take the tonsure. He feigned sickness for a time but another and sterner summons came and at last the open threat of the hierarchy in case of further delay. His father did not want him to go but feared the anger of the abbot who practically had the power of life and death in the district. The law forbade the killing of any animal, even a flea, but if a man went counter to the will of the priesthood he would suddenly disappear and his place would know him no more.

There was no other course but to comply, and the young man made ready to start. He might he compelled to don the cowl of a monk but he would never be one at heart, and if an opportunity came he would cast off [page 381] the church and return to the world. With this in view he bade farewell to his family and started out for the monastery. He was in company with one of the brotherhood and as they trudged along up the valley leading to the mountain monastery his companion explained to him some of the mysteries of the cult and tried to arouse an enthusiasm for the new life into which the youth was entering. But it was like blowing a dead fire. There was no answering spark.

In the course of the remarks the monk told of the miracle of bodily translation that occurred each year at old Halla Mountain on the island of Quelpart where a monk ascended alone to a lofty ledge and from that point was suddenly snatched up to the abode of the saints without experiencing physical death. The young man began to listen more eagerly and before the narrative was done a look of deep contentment as well as of determination came into his face. He had determined to use this curious phenomenon as a door of escape from the monastic life.

He was something of a materialist and the stories of goblin and fairy obtained no credence with him. If the monk annually disappeared from the mountain side it must be from some natural rather than supernatural cause. He would fathom the secret and use it for his own purposes. For two long years he patiently bided his time going through the mummeries of the monastery chapel with what patience he could command. Each year the great miracle was duly witnessed. The monk ascended to the lofty ledge, a cloud shot down from the mountain top and enveloped him but when it drifted away on the wind the man had disappeared. Long and deeply he thought upon this problem and the longer he thought the more convinced he was that there could be but one solution. He determined to put it to the test.

It must be remembered that in those days the monks of Korea, while strict in their duties from the outside standpoint, were not by any means cut off from the good things of life. They lived in high luxury off the fat of the land and their course of life was not at all adapted to [page 382] wean them from thoughts of earth. Thus it happened that on the third year of Yi’s novitiate none of the older monks volunteered to be the recipients of the unspeakable honor of translation. They made various excuses more or less plausible and the abbot did not feel able to order any one of them to immolate himself; yet the reputation of the monastery must be upheld. Not to provide a candidate for translation would bring the institution into very bad repute with the people. Our hero suddenly developed a great enthusiasm for the ritual, spent hours in holy contemplation, always in a spot where the abbot would be sure to see him.

He had his reward. The abbot called him into his private room and with a most pious aspect began dilating upon the glories of translation. Yi drank in every word and even trembled in his eagerness to do honor to the power which wrought the wonder. The abbot smiled to see how easily he fell into the trap. Before he left that room he had received the nomination and was on the high road to unearthly honors.

The time for the great event was still some months distant and during that time he was the recipient of all sorts of honors. People came from far and near to look into his face, the face of a man who was to pass from the present life to the future one through another gate than that of death. He bore their homage modestly and turned aside their flattering congratulations with a word of quiet dignity which awed them.

The day approached and the monastery was astir with preparations for the pilgrimage to the distant mountain, in which all the monks and hundreds of the common people participated. But strange to say, the only thing Yi did by way of preparation was to secure a package of tobacco and a short stemmed pipe which he hid beneath his clothes. Evidently he had notions of his own about the conditions of life in the future state.

The great company arrived at the foot of the mountain late in the afternoon and went into camp. The miracle would be performed the following morning at day break. The place where they stopped was infested by [page 383] poisonous serpents and it was only by pitching their camp within a ring of fire that they could be safe.

As night fell the young man Yi appeared to be strangely moved. Motioning for no one to follow he walked a short distance from the camp and seating himself upon a rock in the darkness he began the wierd chant which is always the accompaniment of death. All night his passionate cries sounded across the desolate valley and the monks listening in the darkness thrilled with superstitious fear.

But all this time the young man was engaged in another and very different manner. With flint and steel he lit his pipe and puffed away with all his might between the intervals of his dirge and every mouthful of smoke he made to pass through his garments until they were covered wiith little brown spots of nicotine and thoroughly impregnated with the sickening odor of stale tobacco smoke. When this was finished, he returned to the camp, lay down apart from the other monks and slept.

With the first streak of dawn the whole encampment was astir. The monks and the people threw themselves on the earth before the young man and blessed him and begged him to use his kindly offices in the land of the hereafter and secure them the favor of the gods. The time arrived and the young man sprang out upon his steep path up the mountain, followed by the wondering eyes of the assembled company.

As he neared the ledge where the wonder was to occur, the thought flashed through his mind. What if his theory were not correct, and the supernatural were indeed true? But true or not it made little difference, for anything would be better than the living death of a monastery. He took the final step and from the fatal ledge looked up at the sky and down at the hushed crowd of watchers who were gazing up at him. An instant later the sun was darkened and glancing up he saw a thick cloud like a puff of smoke from a cannon’s month shooting down toward him from a cleft in the peak which towered above him. He stood perfectly still. The cloud enveloped him and out of its white substance [page 384] there glided the scaly folds of an enormous serpent. The serpent wound about him and he felt himself lifted rapidly through the air. He made no resistance for this was the very thing he had anticipated. As he was drawn into the fissure in the rock he heard the faint echo of a shout which arose from those below and he almost smiled to think what those people would have thought had they known what sort of translation he was going through-

The serpent deposited him upon the floor of the cave and prepared to devour him as it had devoured many a monk before. Yi lay still and calmly awaited developments. The serpent threw forward its head in the act to seize him but drew back again and seemed to hesitate. It threw its head from side to side and seemed to be trying to lash itself into a fury but every time it approached to seize the man something prevented it. Yi began to crawl slowly backward toward the opening of the cave and the serpent with head flat along the floor watched him with glittering eye.

“Well, old fellow,” said Yi the crafty, “you don’t like tobacco smoke, eh?” and with that he pulled out his short pipe and proceeded to light up. Soon the cave was filled with the floating fumes of nicotine and the vanquished reptile crawled away into the darkness and disappeared.

Yi made his way down the opposite side of the mountain and after a year of wandering he turned up at his father’s house, giving out that he was a distant cousin. His father doubtless was in the secret but he never told and the monks even if they suspected him of being the genuine Yi dared say nothing of course for then the reason for the people’s deep reverence for them would be done away. Thus it was that Yi outwitted the church.

# Korean Bronze.

To THE EDITOR :

 Permit me to make a correction in the article on so-called ‘‘Brass ware” in your September number.

[page 385] All the metal table ware in Korea of a yellow cast is bronze of a very superior quality. Brass is made of an alloy of copper and zinc or copper and lead, while bronze contains a liberal percentage of tin. The U S. government standard for statue bronze is 90% copper, 17% tin and 3% zinc.

The natural color of bronze is toward the orange, the beautiful green effect is reached chemically. The natural color of brass is toward the lemon. The most prized color in Korea is more toward the white, owing to a greater percentage of tin in the composition.

In substantiation of the statement that the Korean bronze table dishes are of superior quality, it is only necessary to cite the export of copper. The Japanese export Korean copper in considerable quantities, and take out of it a paying quantity of gold and silver.

M. C. Fenwick.

# Places of interest in Korea.

 At a time when Korea is being visited by larger numbers of tourists the Review takes the liberty of reprinting this article from the pen of the late Mrs. D. L. Gifford, originally published in the Korean Repository. The railroads already built and projected make all these places easily accessible, some of them being directly on the railway line.

 In a country of much natural beauty, inhabited by a people whose traditions and history extend over a period of five thousand years, full of kaleidoscopic changes where-by at every turn small tribes were absorbed by larger, and weaker governments overthrown by stronger, till there emerged one kingdom embracing the whole, the places of interest can but be numerous, but we are struck by the almost entire absence of anything held sacred to the memory of real valor or true virtue while the religious character of the natives is revealed in the superstitions attached to nearly every spot of historical or natural interest.

[page 386]

## White Head Mountain.

 The best known landmark in Korea is White Head Mountain the highest peak of the Ever White Mts. on the northern frontier of Korea. It does not derive its name alone from the fact that it is covered with snow during ten months of the year, but also from its white limestone formation. It is believed further, that the flora and fauna are white and that the animals of the ferocious species are here harmless. This mountain is the head of the range represented as a dragon trailing its length through the whole length of the peninsula. As the dragon is believed to exert an influence over the waters, under the simile of the dragon’s head, it is fitting that this mountain should be the source of the Yalu and Tumen rivers, which have their rise in the lake high up among the mountain peaks. The circumference of this lake is said by an authority quoted by Dr. Griffis to be ten English miles, but the Koreans believe it to be twenty five. Its altitude is twenty five hundred feet above the sea, while that of the peaks among which it nestles is from ten to twelve thousand feet. The Korean estimate of the altitude of the lake is forty-four miles. In their quaint manner of expression they state it as many a day’s journey from the base of the mountains to the lake, while no one has been able to carry a sufficient amount of provisions for the long and tedious climb to the top of the surrounding peaks. The bed of the lake is thought to be the crater of an extinct volcano The sands on the shore are beautifully white. The lake is not designated by any name other than “Great Lake.” The mountain is heavily timbered up to the height of the lake. Some of the trees compare in size with those of the Pacific slope in America. The variety is considerable, several of the indeciduous kinds predominating. Some of the species of trees found here are unknown is other parts of the peninsula. The foliage in these forests is said to be so dense as to exclude the sun’s rays. Unlike almost any other mountain in Korea of even primary importance, there are no Buddhist temples on White Head Mt. which accounts [page 387] in part for the scant and unreliable information to be obtained regarding it. The mountain has a deity of its own, a white robed goddess, who in times past was worshiped at a temple built for her, where a priestess presided over the sacrifices. Tradition tells us that it was on the slopes of this mountain, 3000 B. C, when the earth was yet very young and Methuselah was only an infant, that Dan Koun the first ruler in the peninsula was miraculously born.

## Kou-Wol-San.

 In the western part of the province of Whang Hai is Kou-wol-san, one of the largest mountains of the province, on the top of which is a fortress in extent equal to the walls of Seoul. The interior of the fortress is heavily timbered. On the mountain are twenty-four Buddhist temples built in the days of Korai, when Buddhism was more popular than at any other period in the history of the country. On this mountain is the cave where Dan Koun is said to have laid aside his mortal form without dying, when he resumed his place among the spiritual beings. With some surprise we find his grave in the southern part of the Ping An province in the Kang Tong magistracy. To reconcile the tradition of his transformation with the fact that his grave seems to testify to his having been buried, we must remember the custom the Koreans followed in those ancient days when mysterious disappearances were so common, of burying some article of clothing which had been worn by the individual or perhaps something which he had been accustomed to use more or less constantly, as, in the case of a certain noted warrior, his riding whip was interred in lieu of the body.

## Diamond Mountain.

 Keum-kang-san, popularly known as Diamond Mountain is located in the eastern part of Kang Won province. It is not a single peak, but the name is applied to a group said to be twelve hundred in number, a part of the main range running the whole length of the peninsula. [page 388] Diamond Mt. is renowned even in China for its beautiful scenery. The Celestial says: “Let me but see Keum-kang-san and there is nothing more to be desired.” The mountains are visited annually by crowds of native sightseers, who beg their way from temple to temple as the difficulties of climbing the rugged slope, which is accomplished in some places on one’s hands and knees, do not admit of one’s carrying even a small amount of Korean cash. No criminal, they say, can make a trip through these mountains in safety, but will inevitably at one dangerous point or another lose his life, The sight-seer sacrifices before he enters the mountains, praying for protection from harm on his perilous expedition. In some places the ascent is made by means of ropes and ladders provided by the priests. There are one hundred and eight monasteries in these mountains, where the priests are said to lead busy, happy lives. The mountains are heavily timbered to a considerable height, beyond which there are only stunted shrubs. The foreign estimate of the altitude of the highest peaks is not above six thousand feet. The idea, current among Koreans, that they are covered with eternal snow arises from the white appearance of the rocks, as they are seen from the distant valley below. These rocks, probably limestones though in some part, of the mountains there is beautiful granite, have been formed into many fantastic shapes, no doubt through the agency of the mountain spirits cooperating with the elements, till one can find here represented anything ever known in the works of nature or art. Flowers are believed to bloom throughout the four seasons. There are eighteen water-falls of some considerable importance. Here is found the largest cave in Korea, more than one hundred li in extent, having openings on opposite sides of the mountain. The one on the eastern side is in a perpendicular cliff overlooking the sea. The cave is spacious, presenting a landscape with hills, valleys and streams.

## Pyeng Yang.

 We find much of historical interest centering around Pyeng Yang, the seat of government in the days of Dan [page 389] Koun, the Son of Heaven, who reigned in person from 3000 to 2000 B. C. Afterward, from 1100 B. C. till 200 B. C. Ki-ja and his descendants held their court here, and built a wall around the city, which still exists. Ki-ja was the originator of the system by which the taxes were collected for the government, by taking the whole crop of the central plot of a square divided into nine plots, this central plot being cultivated conjointly by the eight families who farmed the surrounding eight plots exempt from any other tax. The field which now lies between the ancient wall and the more modem one of Pyeng Yang is still known as “Ki-ja’s tax plot.” The grave of this ancient civilizer of Korea is just outside the north gate of the city. Dr. Griffis calls the Ta Tong, on which Pyeng Yang is located, the Rubicon of Korean history. It has been the scene of many of the decisive battles from the time of Ki-ja and his descendants till the present day. For several centuries during the early part of the Christian era Pyeng Yang was the capital of Ko-korai, one of the three kingdoms into which the peninsula was formerly divided. During this period hordes of Chinese were several times repulsed although on one occasion their land and naval forces combined numbered one million men. Finally the fall of the kingdom was predicted by the entrance of the nine tigers within the city walls, by the waters of the Ta Tong becoming blood, and by the picture of the mother of the first king of Ko-korai sweating blood. The city witnessed two terrible battles at the time of the Japanese invasion about the close of the sixteenth centurv. In the first of these two battles the Japanese were victorious; but in the second the Chinese and Koreans defeated the invaders, who left two thousand of their number dead on the battle field. Thirty years later Pyeng Yang was taken by the Manchus on their invasion. With what the city has suffered in these closing years of the nineteenth century we are all familiar.

## Kiong-Chiu.

 Kiong-chiu in the south eastern part of Kyeng Sang province, though now a place of small importance, was [page 390] the capital of Silla from the beginning of the Christian era till the tenth century, when the three kingdoms in the peninsula were welded into one. By the sixth century Silla had advanced beyond her rivals Ko-korai and Paik Chai, and Kiong-chiu became a city of wide influence. The relations between Silla and China were close and the civilization of the little kingdom seems to have been not far behind that of her great neighbor. Kiong-chiu was a center of learning, arts and religious influence. It was the home of Chul Chong the greatest scholar and statesman Korea has ever produced. Representatives from Silla met with those of many countries at the Court in China and it is said that to the day of its destruction, treasures from India and Persia were preserved in the towers of Kiong-chiu. The architecture of the city was imposing, and among the buildings of greatest magnificence, were many temples and monasteries. Intercourse between this city and Japan was frequent, and the latter sat, an apt student, at the feet of her instructor in civilization, arts and sciences. After Silla lost the ascendency in the peninsula, and Korai became the one kingdom, Kiong-chiu was still regarded a, sacred city because of its temples and monasteries, which were carefully preserved and kept in perfect order. It was left for the Japanese on their retreat from their second invasion in 1596 to lay the magnificent old city, to which they owed so much, in ruins.

## Song-Do.

 Songdo, in the northwestern part of Kiung Kie province was the first capital of united Korea. From the tenth century for four hundred years it was the seat of a government remarkable, especially during its later years, for its dissoluteness. Buddhism flourished, and inside the city walls were temples. Priests often played important parts in the affairs of the government. Even Songak-san, the guardian mountain of the capital, rising from the rear of the city is said to have assumed the appearance of a man in priestly garb. The audience room in the palace was called the place of the full moon; but the full [page 391] moon must decline, so as a sign that the kingdom had not yet attained to its greatest glory the wall around the city was built to represent the moon in its first quarter. The last king of the Wang dynasty was responsible for the murder of Chien-mo-chu which was committed on the Seun-chook bridge outside the east gate of the city. Time has not yet erased the blood stain from one of the stones of the bridge. The deed and the indelible witness are known throughout the kingdom at the present day. Upon the fall of the dynasty Soag-ak-san wept audibly. The Buddhist temples inside the city were destroyed because of the pernicious influence the priests had exercised, which had really led to the overthrow of the dynasty.

The inhabitants of Song-do have never been willing to acknowledge the present dynasty, and to this day the citizens, except the unimportant Sang-nom, wear huge hats such as we see in Seoul worn by the countrymen. They have never forgiven providence for the fall of their dynasty and refuse to look toward his dwelling place. They declare themselves still without a sovereign.

Song-do has for centuries been a commercial center. It is said that a large proportion of the inhabitants are traders who have their homes often in distant parts of the country.

In the neighborhood of Song-do is a water-fall of some considerable importance. The height of the fall, as given me by a Korean, is four thousand foot! It is at least sufficient to produce a spray which rises to the height of twenty five or more feet.

## Kang Wha.

 Kang Wha, one of the three large islands over which the dominion of the King of Choson extends, though only the second in size is of more historical interest than either Ul-lung-do or Quelpart. It has an area of 169 sq. miles and is fertile and thickly populated. It belongs to Kiung Kie province. The mountains are well wooded and picturesque. On Ma-yi-san is an ancient altar forty five feet in diameter at which it is said Dan Koun [page 392] worshiped. Equally accessible from Song-do and Seoul, Kang Wha has been the refuge in time of danger for the kings of Korai and Choson, and the place of safety for the archives and royal library. The royal residence is in the city of Kang Wha situated on a hill, from which a fine view of the mainland and sea is to be had. About the middle of the thirteenth century the king fled from Song-do to this island before the invading Mongols, where he was kept a prisoner while they over-ran the country and set up a government under Mongol officials. One hundred and fifty years later, when the founder of the present dynasty became king, the last ruler of Korai was sent a prisoner to Kang Wha. In the early part of the seventeenth century when the Manchus entered the country the queen and palace ladies took refuge on this island. The king made a treaty which he broke as soon as the Manchus were over the border. Returning with larger forces, provided with boats and cannon they took Kang Wha, and once for all the king was brought to terms and yielded allegiance to the Manchu dynasty in China.

In 1866 the French burnt the city of Kang Wha in retaliation for the murder of French priests during the persecutions of the Christians, which occurred from time to time, beginning with this century till the present king came to the throne. In the city they found many valuable books and manuscripts, also large stores of ancient armor with other military supplies.

While mentioning places of interest, we would not omit to speak of the mountains on which the history of the reigns of the early kings of Choson are said to be preserved. They are four in number located in Kang Wha island and in Kyeng-sang, Chulla, and Kang-won provinces. An accurate record of events and of the actions of the kings were made by historians to whom the work was committed, each of whom made four copies which were preserved on these mountain tops by trustworthy keepers to be opened for perusal only after the dynasty has passed away. It seems that the writing of these records was discontinued through the action of a treacherous king who, curious to see what had been written [page 393] about himself gained possession of the record, which he found to be not very flattering. He had the historians put to death, and since that time though the office of historian, one of considerable dignity, is still continued, it seems to be merely complimentary. The principal duty of the lonely keepers on these mountain tops, while waiting for a dynasty to expire, is to occasionally expose to the sun these mysterious, musty volumes.

# News Calendar.

 The Foreign Office requested the Finance Department to appropriate 3.000 yen for the traveling expenses of Yun Chi-bo, to enable him to proceed to Mexico to inspect the condition of Korean emigrants but Adviser Megata does not sanction the expenditure.

 Syen Hyeng-taik, clerk in the Law Department, was selected to have charge of Min Pyeng-suk on the journey to Kokunsan Island , his place of banishment. Mr. Syen demurred, and his resignation from office was immediately accepted

 Formerly sixteen hundred policemen looked after the wellbeing of Seoul. Some months ago half of these were dispensed with for the good of the service. Recently the number was again diminished by about one hundred.

 A sort of compromise was effected with the native teachers whereby they returned to the schools. Their demand for increase of salaries has not been withdrawn, neither has it been granted.

 A private school has been established in Sam Wha district with two hundred and seventeen pupils in attendance. The common Korean branches are taught in the lower grades but the advanced class is receiving instruction in politics, economics and law.

 The Seoul Young Men’s Christian Association commenced active Fall work on the 2nd instant, at which time a public meeting was held and addresses given by Dr. J. S. Gale and Hon. Yi Wan-yong, Minister of Education.

 The Sam Wha prefect notifies the Home Department that the Japanese commander is compelling him to sell a small island in the southern part of his district. The Home Minister is asked for advice.

 Pak Sang-kin, of Brown University, has recently returned to Korea after an absence of nine years in the United States.

 The Home Department is asked to send immediately the newly appointed magistrates to South Choong Chung province, robberies are said to be very numerous.

[page 394] E. H. Harriman and party after an audience with His Majesty, a garden party at Mr. Megata’s, and various other social functions, departed from Seoul on the 4th instant by special train for Fusan, here they were to meet the specially chartered steamer Ohio III and proceed on their homeward journey.

 The acting governor of Pyeng An province reports to the Home Department that on a certain small island in his district there are about forty houses, about twenty of which the Japanese demand to be removed immediately because of military railway necessity. An appeal is asked to the Japanese Minister.

 Mr. Pak Chai-soon, after taking up the duties of Foreign Minister, received all the Foreign Ministers at 3 P. M. on the 4th instant.

 The contract having expired by which the Chinese language teacher was employed, the Educational Department in renewing the same was confronted with a statement showing the salary to be insufficient, and an increase from 110 to 120 yen per month is asked. The cabinet will agree, and the Foreign Minister is asked to affix his seal to the agreement.

 The Finance Department has been notified by the Educational Department that in the Japanese Language School an additional Japanese has been employed as a school keeper, with a salary at forty yen per month.

 A number of men with a coffin approached within one hundred feet of the tomb of the late Taiwung Kun outside the West Gate and there dug a grave and made an interment. The tomb-keepers objected to the desecration and as a result of the objection received very severe injuries. An investigation revealed the fact that Pyeng Yang soldiers were responsible for the outrage and justice is soon to be meted out to them.

 The former secretary of the Korean Legation in Japan has been appointed kamni of Chemulpo.

 Complaint is made that Japanese subjects have erected a white flag on a hill just opposite the tomb of the late Crown Princess outside of East Gate.

 Mr. Yi Chi-Yong, the Home Minister, has resigned his office and retired to the country for health reasons.

 Tens of the thousands of graves were on the tract of land between South Gate and the Han river recently demanded by the Japanese. In cases where the owners were not forthcoming to remove the graves Japanese coolies opened the graves and collected the coffins and their contents into a heap and burned them. The authorities were not at that time seeking Korean approval.

 Mr. Pak Chai soon, the Foreign Minister, has asked the various foreign representatives to meet with him every Tuesday for the purpose of discussing diplomatic matters.

[page 395] The Korean Acting Minister to Washington calls the attention of the Foreign Department to the unpleasant fact that the Legation expenses have remained unpaid for several months, and he asks that his government’s honor be sustained by forwarding the necessary funds.

 The II Chin-hoi informed the government that more than one hundred thousand Koreans had been living on a distant island in Tumen river for many years without a governor. The government is requested to select a competent man from the inhabitants of the island to be their governor. The matter was discussed in the Cabinet meeting by the Home and Prime Ministers, but without definite results:

 The Kamni of Pyeng Yang reports to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce that four Japanese and three Koreans have asked for a franchise for establishing in Pyeng Yang an electric street railway, electric lights, water works, a slaughter house and a fish market. The kamni asks the Department to forward instructions to him about these matters.

 The Prime Minister has sent a circular letter to all the Departments, calling attention to a decree issued by His Majesty several months ago calling on all officers appointed by decree or proposal to prepare memorials concerning the reforms they demed necessary. Up to the present time the request has not been observed, and the Prime Minister expresses great sorrow for the officials, and calls them to at once observe the decree and make efforts for advancing the country’s interests.

 Two police inspectors, Yi Sea-yong and Om Syek-woo presented their resignations, assigning old age as a reason why they could not attend to the duties of office The resignations were accepted.

 From the river district the Home Department continues to receive numerous requests for payment for the houses said to have been grabbed by the Japanese.

 In Sam Rim village a Japanese soldier entered the home of a Korean and hit the wife of the owner. On being appealed to a passing Japanese gendarme arrested the soldier and marched him away.

 On the 1st instant Mr. Yi Chi-yong accepted appointment as Minister of the Home Department and from that date undertook the duties of the office.

 The governor of Kang Wun province, Mr. Cho Chang-pil, has resigned, and the former Korean Minister to England, Mr. Min Yung-ton, has been appointed to the place.

 The Vice Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. Yi Yong-sun, has been appointed governor of South Pyeng An province. Colonel O Pa-yeng has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the Department.

 The leader of the so-called “ighteous Army”or insurgents in Kang Wun province, Mr. Won Yong-pal, has been captured and brought up to Seoul and turned over to the War Department.

[page 396] A copy of the new Rusian-Japanese treaty was furnished the Korean Emperor by the Japanese representative in Korea through the Foreign Department. His Majesty’s special attention was called to what was considered to be a guarantee of the permanent peace of the East.

 Monsieur A. Monaco, Italian Minister to Korea, accompanied by Madame Monaco and their son, departed from Korea on the 16th inst. on leave of absence which will be extended for some months. An audience was granted by His Majesty before departure. The interests of the Italian Legation will be cared for at present by the British Legation.

 During the absence of Minister Hayashi in Japan, the Secretary of the Japanese Legation, Mr. Hagiwara, is made chargé de affairs.

 Yi Chai-kak at the head of the Korean Red Cross Society, informed all the Departments that the hospital recently completed by the Society would be opened to the public from the 15th instant. In each letter a number of tickets were enclosed which could be given to the sick poor to acquaint them with the willingness of the hospital authorities to freely treat the needy.

 The Finance Department has been asked by the Law Department for funds with which to print the newly promulgated laws.

 The Korean Cabinet has several times refused to accept the proffer of Y 1,500,000 as a loan from the Japanese to the Korean government to meet Imperial expense. The Minister of Finance has also sent a communication to the Japanese Legation declining the offer.

 Because of manoeuvres carried on by the Japanese forces outside of West Gate, Seoul, on the 9th instant, the commander requested all traffic in the vicinity to cease, that there might be no danger of injuring travelers.

 Twenty- nine prisoners from the Supreme Court and fifty prisoners from the City Court were recently released by special decree. No prisoners were released who had been charged with making wrong use of Royal taxes.

 From various districts in North Kyeng Sang province come reports of the continued daily increase in the number composing the so-called “Righteous Army.” The governor of the province has been ordered by the Home Minister to immediately suppress the Army.

 Nurse Rice has recently arrived from England to augment the staff of St. Luke’s Hospital, Chemulpo.

 Mr. and Mrs. Donham returned to Seoul on the night of the 6th by train from Fusan after a visit of several months in America.

 Caterpillars have attacked the fir trees in Kangwha and the hillsides are being stripped bare.

 Snow fell at Gwendoline, in North Korea, on the 20th instant.

 It is said that one of the officials connected with the Korean Legation in Washington has been asked by the Foreign Office to proceed to Mexico to investigate the condition of Korean emigrants.

[page 397] Robbery and violence continue in parts of Kang Wun province even after the arrest of the leader of the Righteous Army.

 Mr. Cho Chung Hea was recently appointed chief of the Ceremonial Department.

 The kamni at Fusan complains that the Finance Department has neglected to pay the salaries of the Fusan police since last March, and that lately the police are neglecting their duties.

 Mr. Yi Chi-yong, the Home Minister, has dismissed seventeen magistrates in various districts for neglect of duty, and has filled the places with other men.

 Chung Poong si, formerly prefect of Chasan, becomes the secretary of the Home Department.

 Mr. Yi Taik has been appointed vice-governor of Seoul.

 The report of the killing of Chai Choon-wha in Kang Nyeng district by a Japanese subject having reached the Foreign Office, the latter has asked the Japanese Minister to detect, arrest and properly punish the murderer.

 It is said that Mr. Yun Chi-ho will return to Korea from Hawaii instead of proceeding to Mexico, because of the limited amount furnished him for traveling expenses.

 The Il Chin-hoi has asked the Home Minister to dismiss the governor of Whang Hai province and the magistrates of Antong and Chun-ju, avering that they have been squeezing money from the people and manifest hatred toward members of the II Chin-hoi.

 Mr. Yi Keun-hong has been appointed Vice Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

 A number of scholars came up to Seoul from the country and sent in a memorial asking His Majesty to remarry. Notwithstanding their mission they were dispersed by Japanese gendarme.

 Three hundred members of the II Chin-hoi in Ham Kyung province are said to be working in the Japanese transport service and in railway construction.

 The Yeng Ju prefect reports the rice crop in that district seriously injured by frost on the 1st instant.

 The resources of the various provinces are to be inspected by assistants of the Financial Adviser.

 Representatives have been appointed by the II Chin-hoi to investigate each Department of the government. Preliminary thereto each Minister has been asked to furnish a copy of the rules governing his Department.

 At the request of Mr. Hagiwara, Japanese Acting Minister, the kamni of Masanpo has been dismissed.

 The Educational Department asked graduates of the Chinese language schools to appear at the Department on the 12th instant for the yearly examination.

[page 398] On the 12th instant the officers of the Educational Department received their salaries for June, July and August.

 The Cabinet meeting on the 17th decided that at the close of the period of mourning for the late Crown Princess the color of Korean clothes should be dark, either black, dark green, drab, blue or purple; and it was also decided that at the same time all Korean officials should cut their hair.

 The Korean Minister to Japan asks the Educational Department to forward the money to meet the expenses of Korean scholars in Japan, amounting to $3,023 70.

 The Prime Minister furnished thirty names to the various Departments, showing those who had passed the official examinations and were eligible to receive official appointment.

 The Korean Consul in London asks the Foreign Department to send without delay the money to defray his office expenses which have remained unattended to for several months.

 A special decree releases Min Pyeng-surk, who had been sentenced to banishment for three years.

 Pak Chen-soon, Foreign Minister, sent a reply to the Japanese Legation, protesting against the terms of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, saying that it is contrary to Japan’s agreement with Korea, and giving notice that he would not abide by the terms of this new agreement.

 Thirty students in the Finance Department have been studying the new weights and measures. Having now become proficient their places will be taken by others.

 A number of candidates have been selected by the Educational Department to be sent to Japan to fill the vacancies in the number of Korean scholars in that country.

Yi Chai-ik secretary of the Foreign Department, has been appointed kamni of Masanpo.

 Three more police inspectors have resigned because of old age, and their places have been filled by young men.

 A petition comes from North Pyeng An province asking that the governor be retained for a long period of years on account of the beneficent way in which he has conducted his office.

 Because of the Korean Emperor’s indisposition General Hasegawa failed in having an audience on the 6th instant.

 It is announced that the Seoul-Wiju railway will commence running regular passenger trains on November first, and the custom of issuing passes to the traveling public will cease.

 Temporary absence of the Editor and the late arrival of mail by steamer has considerably delayed this number of the Review, for which humble apology is made to our readers. For the same reasons the November and December number may also be somewhat delayed. .

[page 399] The Prime Minister proposes to His Majesty that the palace must be closed to all suspicious characters; that officials should cut their hair and appear without the top-knot and that a regular time daily should be fixed when officials would be received in audience.

 The governor of North Kyeng Sang province sent a telegram to the Home Department complaining that a so-called Japanese treasurer insisted on putting his seal beside that of the governor on all taxes, and the Home Minister is asked to tell him what to do. A later telegram says the governor has turned over his seal to the Taiku prefect and asked him to take charge as acting governor, evidently because of his dislike of what he considers Japanese interferance.

 It is said that some seven or eight hundred Korean householders in Chemulpo have come to Seoul to file a protest against their houses being pulled down over their heads by the Japanese.

 On the twenty-first instant Mr. H. V. Morgan, American Minister, and Mr. W. D. Straight, Vice Consul General, started on a railway trip to Wiju and the north.

 Prof. H. B. Hulbert has resigned his position in the Korean Middle School and with his family has gone to America for a sojourn of a few months.

 A ceremony to mark the conclusion of mourning for the late Crown Princess was held on the night of the 25th instant. From the 26th dark clothes and black hats became the fashion once more.

 Military stables are to be built on the eastern slope of Namsan , and farmers have been notified to gather their crops immediately.

 Sir John Jordan, British Minister, has notified the Foreign Office of his expected departure for home about November 10th, after the arrival of his successor.

 To facilitate the building of triumphal arches for the Japanese celebration on November 3rd the Korean government has granted permission to cut pine trees wherever desired.

 Experiments with American cotton seed in Korea having proven successful beyond expectation, the cotton association has arranged to establish thirty seed cotton farms in various sections of Korea. The Korean government is said to have consented to grant a subsidy for three years to assist in getting the industry firmly established. There seems to be no reason why in the not distant future Korea should not become an exporter of cotton, instead of importing thousands of bales as at present.

 Dr. L. R. Cooke, of the Imperial Household, has been decorated with the Fourth Degree of Pal Kwai. Dr. Cooke departed for England on furlough on the 29th instant.

 Prof. Coolidge, of Harvard, a friend of Minister Morgan, has been spending some time in Korea, and accompanied Mr. Morgan on his recent trip to Pyeng Yang and the north.

[page 400] The Pa Chen prefect reports to the Home Department that the Japanese Railway Bureau asks him to furnish five hundred coolies for work on the railway. He says that during the spring and summer he had supplied several thousand coolies for work on the railroad, and if they are now again taken from the necessary work of caring for their crops he greatly fears there will be trouble.

 On account of the depredations of the Righteous Army service on some of the interior postal routes was suspended for a time. Facilities for sending and receiving mail in the interior of Korea have never been of the best, and to have that service interrupted by having two or three postmen waylaid and killed certainly seems to afford occasion for drastic measures to be taken with the perpetrators of the crimes.

 The Treasury Department has complained to the Foreign Department that Chinese merchants have been surreptitiously purchasing the royal ginseng, thus materially reducing the profits. After this representation the Foreign Office laid the whole matter before the Chinese Minister, asking his assistance in compelling Chinese subjects to abide by treaty stipulations.

 The acting governor of Pyeng An province reports to the Home Department that the Japanese commanding officer has used various means to compel him to order the demolition of fifty eight houses in order that a military road may be constructed. Having exhausted all his own resources he now asks the central government to deal directly with the Japanese Minister with regard to the matter.

 The arrangement whereby all mail for Chefoo and other parts of northern China are despatched from Seoul to Shimonoseki by the Japanese postal authorities irrespective of whether or not a steamer may be due to leave Chemulpo direct for Chefoo in a few hours, seems to be a matter calling for investigation or explanation. When Chefoo is but twenty-six hours distant from Chemulpo it certainly should not be necessary for mail to be specially addressed distinctly stating that it is to be sent via Chemulpo in order to get quick depatch for Chefoo. Our own inquires at the Seoul Post Office elicited the information that no Chefoo mail was sent via Chemulpo unless specially directed.

 Wolves are reported to be very numerous and fierce in the vicinity of Syen Chyun, and there has been no concerted plan for capturing them. Recently some of the natives announced that a bounty of twenty dollars would be paid for every wolf captured. It would seem that with this incentive hunters would soon bring in enough wolf scalps to insure future immunity from their depredations. A man not a hunter is reported to have recently captured a wolf which bad seized a child. He claimed the bounty.