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**SOME NOTES ON FATHER GREGORIO DE CESPEDES, KOREA’S FIRST EUROPEAN VISITOR**

By RALPH M. CORY

A Paper Read, in Part, before the Society on 16th June, 1936

[page I]

INTRODUCTION

Shortly after my arrival in Chosen I asked who had been the first European to visit this country. The replies included mention of the shipwrecked Dutch sailors, Captain Basil Hall, the French missionaries and even the crew of the “General Sherman”! This divergence led to my further investigations into the question and the preparation of these notes.

These notes are by no means definitive and I hope that some other may find it possible to add to our knowledge of Father de Cespedes. It has been impracticable to make a search for possible sources of information in Japanese records of the Korean invasion and, morever, it is doubtful that should any such data exist, it would contain any record of the priest’s own impressions of Korea,—the primary object of this research.

Only two of his letters written from Korea have been discovered and these contain only meager impressions of the country. It is possible that other letters written during Father de Cespedes’ stay may be found in the mass of un-catalogued documents and manuscripts in the old libraries of Spain, should they be spared the ravages of civil warfare. It is also possible that additional information may be found in the numerous documents relating to the Jesuit missions in Japan belonging to the library of the Kyoto Imperial University at present under reconstruction after the disastrous fire of a few years ago.

Where, for example, may be found copies of the “two letters I wrote from the island of Tsushima”? I have so far been unable to obtain a copy of an extract from a letter of Father de Cespedes written from “Goquinay” (Gokinai) in 1587. This letter was written six years prior to his visit to Korea, however, and would obviously contain no information relating to this country. My request to the seminary [page II] at Goa for any available data regarding Father de Cespedes has failed to elicit any reply. Other information might be found in Japanese family records in districts where he labored. The records of the So family of Tsushima have been purchased by the Government General of Chosen; they may possibly contain some mention of Father de Cespedes’ two visits to that island.

In spite of the disappointments mentioned above the quest itself has been a satisfying reward,—as my hunting friends agree,—particularly so in the contacts with men and institutions through whose generosity and cooperation the completion of these notes has been made possible.

To the Reverend Georg Schurhammer of the Society of Jesus, in Rome, I am particularly indebted for much data contained in the archives and histories of that distinguished Society, and for photostat copies of pertinent source material Dr. Max Kuenburg, S. Rector of Sophia University (Jochi Daigaku), Tokyo, and Father Laures of his faculty, placed at my use the ponderous but fascinating “Bibliothe-que de la Societe de Jesus” in the university library.

The Reverend Leon Pichon of the Societe des Missions Etrangeres, of Seoul, has generously furnished much useful material, has indicated other possible sources, and has added immeasurably to my indebtedness to him by his generous gift of Profillet’s three volume “Le Martyrologe de l’Eglise du Japon”,—a mine of biographical data. His own trenchant study on “Le Prehistoire de l’Eglise en Coree” has been of great value. The Reverend Dorotheus Schilling, O. F. M., Rome, has assisted in obtaining useful material; while the British Museum and the Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon, have furnished copies of pertinent documents.

After commencing my investigations I found that Mr. Masayuki Yamaguchi, teacher of history at the Keijo Middle School, had published an ably written brochure in Japanese on Father de Cespedes’ visit to Korea. Mr. Yamaguchi has a discriminating sense of historical values and an enthusiasm for getting at the “root of the matter”; he has read and [page III] criticised the draft of these notes and has kindly prepared the list of Japanese proper names forming Appendix VII.

To the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society I am greatly indebted for the financial grant which made possible the purchase of the copies of source material used. In particular, the Reverend Charles Hunt, during his presidency of the Korea Branch, has given generously of his time and encouragement, and has patiently criticised the draft of these notes.

Very little of the source material used was in English and a number of friends have generously assisted by translations. Mr. George R. Loehr of Yenching University, Pei-ping, has translated much Spanish and Portugese material. The Reverend Walter J. Coleman of the Maryknoll Mission furnished translations from the Italian, while the Very Reverend John Ed ward Morris of the same mission, and the Reverend Henry J. Drake, S. S. M., of the English Church Mission, have translated useful Latin material.

Several interesting problems arise from the visit of Father de Cespedes to Korea. Did repatriated Korean prisoners who had been converted in Japan engage in propaganda in this country? What was the family name of Vincent Caoun? Did Father de Cespedes come into contact with Koreans other than prisoners of war? How extensive were his travels in this country ? It is hoped that others may be interested in attempting to find answers to these problems in official and family records both Korean and Japanese.

[page 1]

**FATHER GREGORIO DE CESPEDES**

Early Years.

Gregorio de Cespedes, Korea’s first European visitor, was born in Madrid in 1551. Nothing is known of his boy-hood. We may readily understand, however, some of the influences which led him, at the age of eighteen, to enter the Society of Jesus.

Sixty years before, in 1491, was born another Spaniard with no small claim to our consideration, Ignatius de Loyola. On September 27, 1540, Loyola received papal sanction for the establishment of the company of Jesus in the Bull “Regemini Militantis Ecclesiae”. On April 22, 1541, in the Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls (of Rome) he and his companions, among them Francis Xavier, made profession of their vows, thus constituting the Society of Jesus, whose motto became “Ad majorm gloriam Dei”. The rapidly expanding and far flung missionary activities of the new Society became a challenge to the spirit of adventure as well as to the zeal of youth.

It was, moreover, an age of discoveries, of new intellectual forces, and of renewed spiritual vigor. Lands hitherto unknown were being opened to exploration, to commerce, and to missionary enterprise. Is it any wonder then, that the young Gregorio de Cespedes should feel the influence of these forces and unite himself with the Society of Jesus ?

The Reverend Georg Schurhammer, S. J., has very kindly furnished a few citations regarding Cespedes from the Jesuit archives. In 1569, when Cespedes was eighteen years of age and the Society only ten years older, he entered upon his novitiate in that Society at Salamanca. In 1571, after a novitiate of two years he made profession of his vows at Avila and continued his studies. We are told that these included three years of Latin grammar, two and one-half years of canon law, and five years of logic and theology, all followed with but mediocre success. [page 2]

In 1574 we find him at Goa, which had been captured by the Portugese in 1510 and was now the capital of Portugese empire and commerce, and of Jesuit missionary activity in the Far East In Goa Cespedes continued his theological studies and was admitted to the priesthood in 1575. We are told that he was a young man of mature judgment, possessed with good preaching ability, but that his health was not robust.

Following his admission to the priesthood Father de Cespedes continued his studies, heard confessions, and was engaged in routine ecclesiastical duties until early in 1577, when he was sent to Japan. (Luis Frois, S. J., DIE GESCHICHTE JAPANS). Father Schurhammer, however, states that Father de Cespedes was ‘‘sent to Japan in 1576”. This discrepancy of dates may doubtless be explained by assuming that the order transferring him to Japan was issued in 1576 and that his arrival there did not occur until the following year. At any rate Profillet \* states that he arrived in Japan on July 4, 1577, and we first hear of him at Omura in the Province of Hizen.

The Jesuits in Japan.

Before continuing the account of Father de Cespedes’ career let us turn to a brief consideration of the introduction of Christianity into Japan.

Although considerable confusion exists among both Japanese and European historians regarding the date of the Portugese “discovery” of Japan, the year 1542 was “generally accepted by the missionaries subsequently in Japan as the correct one”. (Murdoch, Vol II, p. 33.) The rest of the story is best told in the following quotation from a letter of St Francis Xavier written from Cochin on January 20, 1548:

“While at Malacca I learned great news from some Portugese merchants, very trustworthy people. They

\* Le Martyrologe de L’Eglise du Japon, Tome III, p. 37.

[page 3]spoke to me of certain great islands discovered some time ago; they are called the Islands of Japan. Our Holy Faith, they say, could there be more profitably propagated than in any other part of the Indies, because the Japanese are very desirous of being instructed, which our Gentiles of India are not. With these merchants came a Japanese called Angero who was in quest of me; so that these merchants spoke of me to him. Angero came with the desire of confessing to me, be-cause having told the Portugese of certain sins of his youth and asked them how he could obtain pardon from God for such serious sins, the Portugese counselled him to proceed with them to Malacca, where he would find me, and he did so; but when he reached Malacca I had departed for Maluco; so that he embarked to return to Japan. When they were in sight of these islands (Japan) a great tempest, in which they were like to perish, drove them back; he then resumed the way to Malacca and found me there. His joy was great and afterwards he came again and again to be instructed. As he spoke Portugese tolerably well, we could understand—I, the questions he asked, and he, the answers I returned. If all the Japanese are as eager to learn as Angero is, they are of all nations newly-discovered the most curious..... All the Portugese merchants who have been to Japan tell me that if I go there more will be done there for the service of the Lord than among the Gentiles of India, the Japanese being a people of great sense. What I feel in my soul makes me think that I, or another of the Company, will go to Japan before two years, although the voyage is full of perils”.\*

Murdoch states that in addition to receiving instruction in the Christian religion “Angero” (in Japanese, Yajiro) also instructed Fathers Xavier, Torres and Fernandes in Japanese.

\* Murdoch, History of Japan, Vol II, p. 37-38.

[page 4] Yajiro was baptised in the cathedral at Goa on Whitsunday, 1548, by the bishop and remained with the missionaries until in the summer of 1549, when, accompanied by Fathers Xavier, Torres and Fernandes he set sail in a Chinese pirate junk for Japan.

On August 15th, 1549, the party stepped ashore at Kagoshima, and there began the missionary endeavor that was to bear such astonishing fruit during the less than one hundred years of its existence. As interesting as they are, the details of this missionary enterprise are not germane to the subject of these notes. In spite of opposition the work grew and a number of local rulers, or daimyo, and their followers adopted the Christian religion, and new missionaries were frequently arriving from Goa.

Father de Cespedes in Japan.

As already indicated, Father de Cespedes arrived in Japan on July 4, 1577, and was first mentioned at Omura, near Nagasaki, where he remained at least until sometime in 1578, for I have found a copy of an undated letter written by him from that place at some time during 1578. This letter, the text of which may be seen in Appendix I to these notes, contains a graphic account of a battle between Christian and anti-Christian forces which took place near Omura in February of that yean The foregoing would seem to refute the statement of Frois\* that Father de Cespedes removed to Kyoto (known to the Jesuits as “Meaco” i. e., “miyako”) in 1577.

Quoting from the the Spanish archives of the Society of Jesus, Father Schurhammer states in a personal letter that in 1579 Father de Cespedes was in Kyoto, that he had made good progress in the Japanese language and was hearing Japanese confessions. Although he was still considered young ana inexperienced he was reported to have been of

\* Die Geschichte Japans.

[page 5] exemplary virtue and was particularly fortunate in his ability to make himself agreeable to the Japanese people.

In Appendix II will be found an extract from a letter written in 1579 by Father de Cespedes from Kyoto, containing an account of missionary progress there as well as an all too optimistic expression of pious hope in the anticipated conversion of Oda Nobunaga.

In 1581 we find Father de Cespedes at Wakae, the seat of the Christian daimyo Simon Ikeda, ana in 1583 he is again reported in Kyoto.

In 1585 he was Superior of the Seminary in Osaka and we learn of an interesting conversation during that year between him and the man who was later to become the leader in the persecution of the Christians, Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Following the death of Oda Nobunaga in 1582, this peasant- born genius had undertaken his consolidation of control of the Empire; in 1585 he had been appointed Kwanpaku (Regent and later, in 1591, assumed the title of Taiko (Prince).

It was as “Cambacudono” and “Taicosama” that he was known to the Jesuits;—these titles will be met with in subsequent citations in these notes.

According to Murdoch (Vol. II, p. 213) Hideyoshi visited the seminary accompanied by a number of nobles and held a long and familiar conversation with Father de Cespedes. From this account we may safely assume that this was not the first meeting between the two. “You know”, Hideyoshi is reported to have said, “that everything in your law contents me, and I find no other difficulty in it except its prohibition of having more than one wife. Were it not for that I would become a Christian at once.”

On October 30, 1585, Father de Cespedes despatched to the Father Provincial of India a lengthy account of the conditions surrounding missionary work in the Osaka region and, in particular, news of the Christian noblemen, most of whom were already known to the Father Provincial A full translation of this letter forms Appendix III to these notes. [page 6]

Proof of the fact that the missionaries were not wholly cognizant of certain realities of Japanese politics is found in the fact that Hideyoshi is referred to as “the king” and his consort as “the queen”.

It was in 1587, while still in Osaka, that he baptised the wife and several members of the household of Hosokawa Tadaoki. We shall hear more of this nobleman later.

From 1589 to 1593 he is reported to have been in Nagasaki and in Arima. Father Schurhammer’s notes indicate that Father de Cespedes had by this time gained remarkable fluency in the Japanese language, that his health had improved, and that he had been found lacking in the qualities requisite for a successful Father Superior. From this we must assume that with his language ability and his facility for making himself agreeable to the Japanese he was more successful in parochial and evangelistic work.

In a letter of January 18, 1588, from Arima, (Appendix IV) Father de Cespedes, among other things, writes of the Christians in Shimabara, and of the conversion of four bonzes (Buddhist priests) in Mie.

At this point it is pertinent to our story to note two of the men who played influential roles in Father de Cespedes’ visit to Korea.

In 1583 the Jesuits had baptised Konishi Yukinaga, a young officer in the service of Hideyoshi. Upon his baptism Konishi assumed the name “Augustin” and it was by this name that he is commonly mentioned in Church histories.

All of Konishi’s household subsequently embraced the Christian religion. His daughter, Marie, was married to So Yoshitomo, Daimyo of Tsushima. In 1590 the latter was in Kyoto where he met Father Valignani and four Japanese nobles who had left in 1582 on an embassy from the Christian daimyo to the Pope. So was so deeply impressed with the accounts these travellers gave of the Christian religion that he asked for baptism at once and enthusiastically promised to convert the entire of Tsushima upon his return to his fief. Although he had already received some instruc- [page 7] tion in the new religion from his wife and from Konishi and his conversion appeared to have been from motives of the profoundest sincerity, So made a sorry spectacle a few years later in his repudiation of both his faith and his wife.

While the young Konishi was advancing in the favor of Hideyoshi another young officer was likewise finding favor and advancement in the same service. Kato Kiyomasa, a cousin of Hideyoshi, born in the same village as the leader, had entered the latter’s service at the age of fifteen. He was a staunch adherent of the Nichiren sect of Buddhism; a devotion sometimes attributed to his jealousy of Konishi and the latter’s espousal of Christianity.

The Invasion of Korea.

We need not be concerned here with the causes leading up to the invasion of Korea, or of its progress. It is sufficient for our purpose to note that the quarrel was fundamentally one between Japan and China and that the involvement of the peninsular kingdom resulted from that country’s refusal of passage to Japanese forces over the most practicable (from the Japanese point of view) route to China.

Contrary to the opinion of a number of Church historians the invading forces included only a small proportion of Christian converts. Nor do the facts bear out the statement found in both ecclesiastical and secular histories that Konishi Yukinaga and Kata Kiyomasa were the two leaders of the expedition. According to Murdoch : \*

“So far as there was any supreme command in the first Korean campaign it was held by Ukida Hideiye, Daimyo of Bizen, Bitchu and Mimasaki, whom Hideyoshi had once adopted as a son. But as a matter of fact, the chief of each division was left with a comparatively free hand, and acted to a large extent on his own initiative.”

This confusion of the relative importance of these two leaders arises from the fact that Konishi’s divison was largely

\* History of Japan, Vol. II, p. 137

[page 8]Christian\* and consequently the source of most of the information reaching the missionaries, and that the rivalry between Konishi and Kato resulted in the withdrawal of the missionaries from Korea.

Although the accounts of the progress of the invading armies from the landing at Fusan on May 24th, 1592, to the capture of Seoul on June 12th, and the subsequent advance into northern Korea make interesting reading, it is sufficient to cur purpose to remember that the Japanese troops evacuated Seoul on May 9th, 1593, and that Konishi’s division took up quarters in a chain of camps extending from Torai to Urusan in Keisho-nando.

Cespedes in Chosen.

It has already been noted that Konishi Yukinaga’s division of the invading forces included a number of brigade commanders who, like their leader, were Christians and many of whose soldiers had likewise embraced that religion.

In “THE CHRISTIAN DAIMYO” (page 191) Steichen states that “Konishi, acting in concert with the other Christian daimvos, invited Father de Cespedes to come and console them in their exile”. A slightly differnt version is given BY DALLET (“HISTOIRE DE L’EGLISE DE COREE,” VOL. I, P. 2) who states that the Christian leaders in Chosen had, under the leadership of Konishi “entreated the Superior of the Mission in Japan to send a priest” Other accounts state that the request for priests was made direct to Father Pedro Gomez, Superior in the Province of Bungo and Vice Provincial of the Society in Japan, from Konishi.

\* The HOTAIKO SEIGAI SHINSHU quoted in translation as a footnote to page 317 of Murdoch (op. cit.) states that Konishi,s division consisted of 18.700 troops under six leaders, as follows : Konishi 7,000, Arima 2,000, So 5,000, Omura 1,000, Matsuura 3,000, Goto 700, With the exception of Matsuura, all of the above commanders were Christians. Kato’s division included three brigades; a total of 20,800 troops.

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Therefore “toward the end of 1593 the Vice Provincial of the Company of Jesus sent to them Father Gregorio de Cespedes and a Japanese brother named Foucan Eion. The priest and his companion were forced to pass the winter in the island of Tsushima’’ (Dallet, Vol. I. p. 2).

Dallet errs in stating that the two missionaries had to “pass the winter in the island of Tsushima.” In the first letter written from Korea by a European, Father de Cespedes states that “We remained in that island for about eighteen days” and, further, that “on the day of St. John the Evangelist (December 27) we left..... and..... soon reached Korea.” Therefore they must have arrived in Tsushima about December 9. Since the passage from Tsushima to the Korean mainland can be made in about four hours by sailing vessels, Father de Cespedes and his companion must have landed in this country on December 27, 1593,—doubtless in the afternoon.

Guzman and other historians state that they arrived in 1594. From the evidence available, however, it would seem that 1593 is correct.

The Japanese forces evacuated Seoul on May 9, 1593, and withdrew to the southern coast The request for a priest must have been made shortly after the Christian troops were established in their new quarters, i. e., in 1593. Since Dallet indicates that the two Jesuits were sent ‘‘toward the end” of that year, and we have Father de Cespedes’ own statement that they left Tsushima on December 27th after a stay of about eighteen days, it becomes clear that the two missionaries must have arrived in 1593 and not in the year following.

The error of a year in the date cited by a number of Church historians has doubtless arisen from the erroneous statement that the two missionaries spent the winter in Tsushima, instead of about eighteen days, and also to the fact that none of the works consulted appear to have made use of Father de Cespedes’ own letters indicating the date of the departure from Tsushima. Moreover, the first reports [page 10] of the presence in Korea of the two missionaries would ob-viously not have reached their confreres in Japan until 1594, and mention thereof recorded in accounts of events occurring in that year.

It is a matter of keen regret that the only two letters written from this country by Father de Cespedes (translations of which form Appendix V) record no impressions of the country or its people other than a brief mention of the intense cold and of the rough passage across the Straits of Tsushima, —two features of Korean life apparently still unchanged. Obviously, however, he was so fully occupied “with going from fortress to fortress, contending against disorders of every kind, reforming abuses, confirming Christians for the administration of the Sacraments, and baptizing numbers of pagans” (Dallet, op. cit) that no opportunity arose for evangelism among the Koreans. Morever, his ignorance of the language and his attachment to the invading army would have prevented him from coming into any effective contact with Koreans other than prisoners of war.

Supplementing the two undated letters of Father de Cespedes, a few citations from Church historians are of interest, in spite of some amusing errors,—among them being Dallet’s statement that the two missionaries reached the fortress of Comangai “after a somewhat long voyage, full of dangers.” As pointed out above, the distance between Tsushima and the Korean mainland may be covered by sailing vessels in four hours at most.

\*Mr. Masayuki Yamaguchi has identified ‘‘Comangai” as 熊浦 (now 熊川) in Keisho-nando

No further details regarding Foucan Eion are available.

Crasset (Vol. III, p. 200) states that So Yoshitomo’s wife, Konishi’s daughter, the “Princess Marie,” “was overcome with joy when in 1594 (sic) Father Gregorio de Cespedes arrived at Tsushima on his way to Korea. He was not content with having the Princess fulfill her religious duties, he addressed himself also to the pagans, who until that time had never seen a missionary, and not without success, for he had [page 11]the satisfaction of administering baptism to some twenty noble personages and to a large number of others”. Charlevoix (Vol. IV, p. 247) also states that “there he had many spiritual conquests’’ while Dallet (op. cit) likewise attests to the success of the two missionaries in that island : “There they baptised a large number of pagans, among others the four principal counsellors of the Lord of Tsu-shima.”

The following account of the stay in Tsushima and the visit to Korea, translated from the Spanish original, is quoted from Vol. XII, Chapters 27 and 37, of Guzman’s “HISTORIA DE LAS MISSIONS:”

“In the same year of 1594 Father Gregorio de Cespedes went to the Island of Tsushima and to Corea, because D. Augustin and the other lords and knights who were there sent to ask Father Peter Gomez to send someone to confess them and preach to them. The Father, arriving on the Island of Tsushima, was received with much comfort by Dona Maria, daughter of Eh Augustin and mistress of that territory, and because while staying there the weather turned out in such a way that he was not able to go to Corea for several days, he found occasion to receive the confession of that lady and of all of her household who were Christians, and to preach to the Gentiles and leading men of that city, because up to that time they had not been preached the law of God on account of the war which had broken out in Corea. Because after the King of Tsushima had become a Christian in Meaco, during the days that the Father stayed in that place, there were baptised about twenty leading persons, without counting more common people.

“The weather having quieted, the Father left for Corea and arrived in a few days at the fort of IX Augustin, and although he was not in it his brother Vincent, who had remained in his stead, received them. But he returned in two days, accompanied by the King of Tsushima and other lords and knights. The King express- [page 12] ed the thanks of those in Tsushima who had been baptised, and begged the Father to go to the fortress where his men were quartered, as there were many who wished to listen to preaching and receive Holy Baptism. The Father sent his companion to instruct them, while he in the meantime received the confessions of Don Augustin and of those of his fortress, promising to go later to baptise them himself.

“On being notified that they were ready, he left for that place and baptised a nephew of the King of Tsushima, with a few knights. The former was present at all the discourses in order to more fundamentally inform himself of the facts of his salvation. The Father and his companion had much to do, as all these Christians had neither heard Mass nor sermon nor confessed themselves since they had left Japan for the war in Corea. Thus, in order to satisfy the desire of all, it was necessary to labour not only during the day, but also a great part of the night.

‘‘Of the twelve fortresses which Taicosama com-manded to be built on the coast of that Kingdom, the three most important ones were in charge of Christian lords and commanders.

“The first among all was where D. Augustin resided. There were in it the Lords of Arima and Omura, Hirado and Goto and Amacusa. As in this fortress the majority of the persons, or almost all, were Christians, there were more particular comforts and benefits which they received from the homilies and sermons and with the saying of Masses for them and receiving their confessions, than ordinarily.

The second fortress was under the command of the son-in-law of Don Augustin, King of Tsushima, who was called Darius Tsushima-dono. In this place much fruit was gathered, because the King very much desired the conversion of his people, and as he had in his company the leaders of the Island, when the year 1595 [page 13]came, almost all were already Christian and were seeking to know very fundamentally all that related to their salvation. Besides the ordinary homilies and sermons which either the Father or the Brother delivered, they were very much helped by the booklets of ten chapters, in their own language, in which were summed up the substance of our Faith and Christian religon. Thus by reading them they were better able to retain in their memories what they had heard in the homilies.

“The third fortress was in charge of the King of Buzen, IX Simon Kuroda, and of his son Cainocamidono. On account of the good opportunity which they then had to be free of any occupation, they were able to have fifteen consecutive days with the Father and his companion in that fortress communing in regard to the things of their souls and questioning concerning all the doubts which they felt Wishing to inform themselves very much to the point concerning many particular things in the law of God, not only those which were obligatory, but also those which helped them to their good, they listened to a sermon each day, and two on some days, one in the morning and another in the afternoon. So special were the liking and feeling which Our Lord communicated to D. Simon Condera for His law and Divine Mysteries, that he did not not wish other matters to be discussed. In order to meditate on them at his leisure, he withdrew each day at certain hours, which were set aside for this purpose, to read his books of devotion. He also gave command that during this period he was not to be disturbed in any way. He observed it with the greatest punctuality the whole time that the Father remained in Corea. Yet withal, being such a great lord and such a leading soldier and commander, and busy in affairs of war, never did he abstain from fasting all the days ordered by the Church, without counting others which he added on account of his devoutness, all of which he accompanied with the secret [page 14] disciplines which he practised. By this example, his son and the servants of his house did the same.

“In another fortress which was between the one of D. Augustin and that of Condera, resided another gentile, Lord of the region of Jimo, of which he was in charge. He was called Hicujidono (Kikuchi), a very prominent leader, not only on account of his rank, but also because of his income, which was very great This knight wished to enter into friendship with the Christian lords of Jimo and in order to confirm it, tried through the mediation of D. Augstin, to marry his son and heir to a daughter of King IX Protasio. On understanding that such could not occur because his son was gentile, he persuaded him to listen to the sermons. This knight commenced to listen to them at the beginning, in order to fall in with the wishes of his father, but later he came to have such a liking for them, convinced as he was of the truths, that he determined to become a Christian, although that had at no time anything to do with the marriage. Father Gregorio de Cespedes baptized with him one who was a man of great understanding, and who promised to do the same with all of his people, on returning from Corea to his domain which was in the Kingdom of Chicungo (Chikugo).

“There was a knight, a native of Bungo, who, being in the war in Corea, and taking pity on the many creatures who were dying destitute of their parents, took it upon himself to baptize them because, since he could no longer make their bodies whole, they should not lose their souls. Thus all those whom he saw in probable danger of death he immediately baptized. For this purpose he had a servant of his always carry a bottle of water hanging from his belt and by these means he sent to heaven more than 200 souls. If the rest of the Christians had paid attention to this, they would have ren-dered unto our Lord many similar services.” [page 15] In the hope that the Annual Letters of 1594, 1595, and 1596 might possibly contain further accounts of Father de Cespedes’ stay in Korea or descriptive references to this country, I asked the assistance of Father Schurhammer. In a letter from Rome of October 12, 1935, he wrote that the Annual Letters of those years “say nothing of Cespedes visit to Korea” and that “Guzman used the Spanish archives of the Society of Jesus, now lost, for his book.”

Turning for a moment to Crasset (Vol. I, p. 657) we find that through the zeal of Konishi and with the aid of Father de Cespedes “all of his (Konishi’s) subjects became Christians in the year 95.” Crasset also states: “that which contributed greatly to their conversion was the spiritual books which he (de Cespedes) had given them to read, principally the one on Christian doctrine which he had composed in Japanese.” We find here a confirmation of the statement previously made that the Father had acquired an unusually fluent command of the Japanese language.

Charlevoix (Vol. IV, p. 247) states that “It was apparently the custom in this country to expose in the streets children whom it was impossible to nourish, for I find that one of the occupations of the Christian soldiers and officers was to baptize these little creatures whom they found at the point of death, and a single gentleman of Bungo himself baptized more than a hundred.”

As already pointed out, his pre-occupation with his duties to the Japanese troops as well as his ignorance of the language unquestionably prevented Father de Cespedes from meeting any Koreans and carrying on propaganda among them. The evidence at present available appears to support this thesis,—vide the following passages from Dallet (Vol. I, p. 4) :

“During his stay in Korea in 1594 Father die Cespedes did not see any natives except the prisoners of war who were sent to Japan to be sold as slaves.

“The letters written at that time to the Father General by the Jesuits in Japan prove that it had been [page 16] impossible for him to enter into relation with the people of the country.

“In effect, the policy of the Koreans was to isolate the Japanese by completely laying waste the country around the forts which the latter were occupying. A large part of the inhabitants had fled into the northern provinces, while the others retreated before the invaders and, at their approach, sought refuge in the forests and mountains.

“After the departure of Father de Cespedes the Japanese army remained in Korea for more than three years more, but the zealous missionary was unable to return and no other Priest was sent there.

“The Japanese Christians were unable to come into contact with the inhabitants. Moreover, the inate hatred of the Koreans for everything foreign and the dislike of a vanquished people towards its conquerors certainly defeated all attempts to proselytize.

“The Koreans taken to Japan as prisoners of war were, therefore, the only ones of their people who had an opportunity to know the Christian Faith.”

In an excellent article in the REVUE HISTORIQUE DES MISSIONS on the “Pre-History of the Church in Korea,” Father Leon Pichon of the Societe des Missions Etrangeres, Seoul, points out, however, that in addition to tradition among Christian converts the Christian scholar, Jean Tyeng Iakyong, asserted that Christianity existed in Korea about two hundred years prior to the historic baptism of Li Seng-houn in Peking in 1784. Two hundred years prior to that date would have been 1584,—eight years before the Japanese invasion. This phrase “two hundred years’’ must therefore be taken as an approximation. According to Father Pichon, Charlovoix and number of other writers, including Monsignor Bruguiere, Monsignor Luquet, Baron Henrion and Hue state that Cespedes did make at least a few converts among Koreans not taken prisoners to Japan. [page 17]

No evidence has yas yet been adduced to support these alle-gations and Father Pichon suggests that old public and private archives in Korea may yet be found which may throw some light on this problem.

The Withdrawal from Korea.

The following passages from Guzman (Vol. XII, chapter 37), derived from the Spanish archives of the Society of Jesus, explain the circumstances which forced the two missionaries to withdraw from Korea :

“The devil was regretful of the fruit which was being gathered in Corea to the beuefit of the Christians and gentiles who were there, so he attempted to impede the work by raising against the Commander, D. Augustin, a great storm, which put all of them in very grave danger. This was done by means of a great enemy of IX Augustin, the Commander Kato Kiyomasa, who, because of the envy which he always had of the former’s victories and successful enterprises, went around searching for opportunities to discredit him in the eyes of Taicosama and to cause him to fall from favour. Thus it seemed to Kato Kiyomasa that this was a fine chance to obtain what he desired, by giving an account of how IX Augustin, against the orders of Taicosama, was keeping Fathers who were preaching the law of God in Corea. Because D. Augustin was a person of such public prominence and of such an honourable position, he would furnish occasion for the rest of the lords to do as much, thus they would lightly regard the commands of Taicosama.

Augustin heard what Kato Kiyomasa was wishing to do, causing very much anxiety to himself and to all the Christian lords and knights; because that gentile, by painting the case to his manner and taste, and being able to prove how the Fathers were staying there, would very probably cause Taicosama to change his attitude. What with his anger and sudden temper, he would bring [page 18] about some demonstration causing much damage to D. Augustin and also to the whole Christian community. But D. Augustin, being very brave, and a very good Christian, comforted them all by saying that he was trusting greatly in our Lord, because since he was doing these things in His service, He Himself would get them out of the difficulties, as he had already experienced on many other occasions. So it happened, as we shall tell later.

“It seemed best to all these knights that the Father and his companion should thereupon return to Nagaski, so that if Taicosama should send to make some investigation, he should not find them in Corea. It then came about that in a few days, Taicosama sent for D. Augustin, ordering him to arrive at Fushimi to discuss certain affairs relating to Corea. D. Augustin being one day in friendly conversation with him, as he was very discreet, began to tell how the ship from China had arrived at the port of Nagasaki during the year 1595, and that he had been very anxious to know the reason why it had not come during 1594. Thus in order to inform himself well and to give to His Highness a full and truthful account to this affair, he had sent to Nagasaki for a Father who was a friend of his and requested him to go to Corea, because, as the Fathers understood the the Portuguese better, they also knew more in detail their intentions and designs. On account of this he gave Taicosama reasons why the ship did not come that year. Taicosama was very satisfied and pleased with the diligence that D. Augustin had displayed and in this manner closed the door in case Kato Kiyomasa or anyone else should speak to him, they would not be believed. But as all knew how much Taicosama esteemed IX Augustin, and how he considered the others enemies and jealous of the victories of the latter, so when Kato Kiyomasa heard how well D. Augustin had gotten on with him and the good “way-out” which he had given [page 19] to the coming of the Fathers, he (Kiyomasa) did not utter a word in order not to stir up Taicosama against himself, instead of gaining favour.

“Father Gregorio de Cespedes, on returning from Corea with his companion, arrived on the Island of Tsushima, where he heard the confession of Dona Maris, daughter of D. Augustin and mistress of that terriory, with all her household, and baptised another fifty gentiles. He was not able to stay there long, because on that Island were the ministers and officials of Taicosama who were anxious to replace those in Corea. Her husband had sent Dona Maria two very small captive boys, withal very noble, because one was the son of the Secretary of King of Corea. Because they were so hand-some, he pitied them and said that in no wise would he consent that they be captives, but that she should give them to the Church as its sons. She sent the elder one, who was the son of the Secretary, in the company of the Father, to the seminary, to be brought up there, while the other because he was smaller, she kept in her house, with the purpose of sending him later, when he should reach the proper age.”

Steichen’s version of the affair differs slightly in details from that of Guzman :

“After a stay of two months in Korea, Father Cespedes had to leave suddenly. Kato Kiyomasa, who had become more and more hostile to Konishi, had accused him to the Taiko (Hideyoshi) of having invited foreign preachers to come to the camps of the Japanese army. Konishi hastened to inform the Taiko that he had made the Jesuits come to Korea in order to learn from them news of the vessel from the Indies that had long been expected. The Taiko was content with this explanation, without pushing his inquiry further, but Konishi, fearing the malevolence of his enemies, counselled Father Cespedes to retire to Tsushima to the house of his daughter Mary, the wife of So Yo- [page 20] shitomo. Father Cespedes left immediately and went to the Island in question. So’s wife profited by the presence of the missionary to have some fifty persons of her household baptised. When after some time Cespedes departed thence, Mary confided to him two young Koreans of distinction, whom her husband had sent her as prisoners. Father Cespedes brought these two children with him, and had them educated with the other pupils of the College.”

Steichen is obviously wrong in stating that the two Jesuits remained in Korea for only two months. We have already noted that they arrived in this country on December 27, 1593. In his account of their withdrawal from Korea, Guzman (op. cit) states that “in a few days” (i. e., after their departure) Hideyoshi had ordered Konishi to return to Fushimi “to discuss certain affairs relating to Korea.”

NOW, IN HIS “NIHON YASOKAI SENKYOSHI GESPEDES NO TO-SEN” Mr. Masayuki Yamaguchi states that Konishi returned to Japan on June 8, 1595 (April 30 according to the Japanese lunar calendar),—this date being that given in TOKUTOMI’S “KINSEI NIHON KOKUMIN SHI,―CHOSEN EKI.”

Instead of two months, therefore, the two missionaries remained in Korea for about a year and a half.

At this point another problem arises. Did Father de Cespedes or other missionaries subsequently come to Chosen? With one exception the sources consulted fail to mention any subsequent visits to Chosen of missionaries from Japan. Charlevoix, however, states (Vol. IV, p. 434), that “in 1597 there were 128 Jesuits in Japan, of whom 46 were priests............2 were in Korea.” It is hoped that further research among the Annual Letters may reveal information on this interesting point.

We know definitely that Father de Cespedes was not in Chosen at least in the early part of 1597; in a letter written from Arima on February 26, 1597, he described the famous [page 21] martyrdom of the twenty-six which occurred at Nagasaki on February fifth of that year. This letter (Appendix VI), written with that tragedy very vividly fresh in his thought, concludes with the wish : “........ I beg to you to petition to God for me the crown of martyrdom..........”

Finis Coronat Opus.

The crown of martyrdom was denied to him, however, and he continued his ministry in the province of Buzen “..........where the Church founded by his efforts prospered for many years........” (Profillet Vol. III, p. 37). The dai-myo of Buzen, Hosokawa Tadaoki, had always professed a great personal admiration for Father de Cespedes, although he had never adopted the Christian religion (Steichen, p. 270). Profillet states that Hosokawa was subject to frequent changes in his attitude toward the missionaries and their converts and only awaited the death of Father de Cespedes, for whom he had a high regard, to expel all Christians from his domains.

The following excerpt from a letter written by the Father on March 12, 1602, to Father Pedro Chirinos, Rector of the Church of the Jesuits at Manila, indicates this apparent friendliness of the daimyo toward the missionary :

“Your Reverence will receive full information about this kingdom through letters which the Superiors will write to you from Nagasaki, for which reason you will excuse me if I give here only a brief account of the things of this kingdom of Buzen in which I am now staying, and where our affairs proceed with more prosperity than in other parts of Japan.

“In fact, although the lord is a gentile he has excellent qualities and shows me great extraordinary affection, supporting me in my purpose as if he were a Christian, which he is not very far from being, as he has good understanding. Many times he listens to our good talks and sermons on Our Lord, which give him such good dispositions that God has given us much con- [page 22] fidence in his future conversion, which would open a great door for the conversion of various kingdoms.

“May God do this as He can. All his vassals, and especially the nobles, are friendly to us and a good number of them now are Christians, with the consequence that the two Brothers are always busy while two other preachers are giving instruction in our Faiths Few days pass without my baptizing people. May God be praised.”\*

The exact date of Father de Cespedes’ death is not known. The following account is quoted in translation from Profillet (op. cit):

“It was in 1611 that Father de Cespedes died of apoplexy on returning from Nagasaki to his residence at Kokura. His death was instantaneous and after saying two or three times: ‘Deo gratias’, he gave up his soul to God. He was almost sixty years old and had spent thirty-four years in his ministry in Japan.

“Yetsuo-dono (Hosokawa), who had declared that after the death of Father de Cespedes he wished neither Christians nor churches in his dominions, did not even permit the burial of the Father in his territories, and the venerable body was taken to Nagasaki................”

where, according to a letter of May 20, 1936, from Carl O. Spamer, Esquire, American Consul at Nagasaki, it was “reported to have been buried in the Shuntoku-ji (a Buddhist temple) in Sakurababa-machi.” In 1614, when the Tokugawa government issued its proclamation of expulsion against the missionaries, his grave is supposed to have been secretly moved to some place at present unknown.

Aside from our interest in him as the first European visitor to Korea, Father de Cespedes has a further claim upon our consideration through his connection with the Korean martyr, Vincent Caoun (Kwon ?).

\* Translated from Spanish. Photostat copy of letter furnished by the British Museum.

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We have already noted that upon his return to Japan Father de Cespedes took with him a Korean captive boy, apparently about thirteen years old. The boy was baptized Vincent, was educated by the Jesuits, and became an able catechist, both among Koreans and Japanese. In 1614 he was sent with Father Jean Baptiste Zola to Peking in an attempt to effect an entry into Korea through the northern frontier. They remained in China for seven years but were unable to enter Korea and were finally recalled to Japan in 1620. Caoun continued in his duties as catechist and, on December 22, 1625, was arrested at Shimabara together with Father Zola and several others. During his imprisonment he was admitted into the Society of Jesus by his fellow prisoner, Father Francis Pacheco, the Father Provincial Caoun and his companions were burnt at the stake at Nagasaki on June 20, 1626.\*

And so, as one result of Father de Cespedes’ visit to Korea, each priest in Japan now reads in his lesson for Matins on June 20th:

“ Amongst these brothers they especially declare that Vincent Caoun was second to none in steadfastness and faith so that he could not be drawn away from the love of Christ, neither by tortures nor prayers nor inducements.”

\* Profillet, Vol. I, p. 80, 293-306, 389-394.

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Appendix I.

Letter written by Father Gregorio de Cespedes from Omura, 1578. Translated from Portugese.

From : “Cartas que os Padres e Irmaos da Companhia de Iesus escreue rao dos Reynos de Iapao & China aos da mesma Companhia da India & Europa, desdo anno de 1549 ate o de 1580.” Impressas com licenca & approuacas do Ordinario. Em Euora por Manoel de Lyra. Anno de MD XCVIII.

Photostat copy of letter furnished by British Museum.

“On the 19th of February, Rinzoji, a great enemy of Christianity, came with six or seven thousand men and encamped one league from Omura to capture the fortress of Don Bartolome, to kill him, and to pillage his land.

“It was the will of Our Lord that in Kagi, which was the first place he attacked, the Christians killed 400 of his army, pursued them after he broke camp, and killed many, among them being fourteen prominent persons. We have heard that many of his wounded soldiers are dying, and it is estimated that the dead reach one thousand. The gentiles say that such deaths can only be caused by poison that the Christians have put in their weapons, because nearly all the wounded died. This defeat has greatly humiliated such a proud and arrogant enemy of Christianity. They also say that while many of the enemy were fighting against the Christians in Kagi, they saw some of the gentiles in a place surrounded by seven mountains swarming with people on horseback and on foot fighting gallantly to defend the Christians. Those who saw this fight say that they were much astonished to see so many people fighting, and that it was they who killed so many of the enemy. We don’t mind hearing that such a thing, although untrue, is being reported among the gentiles, since it greatly helps the good opinion about our Holy Faith. We think that Our Lord will [page 25] do much more for the Christians whom He redeemed with His Blood.

“Regarding conversions, thanks be to God, we never lack work, because each day new gentiles come to us to find life and salvation. Since Easter I have baptized 130 people, and one of these days, with the help of God, I hope to baptize fifty more people living in two places, and who have already been instructed in the Christian faith.”

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Appendix II.

Extract from a letter written by Father Gregorio de Cespedes of the Company of Jesus, from Japan (Kyoto) in the year 1579. Translated from Italian.

From : “Alcune lettere delle cose del Giappone paese del mondo novo dell’ anno 1579 insinio al 1581.” Rome, Zannetti, 1583, 8vo.

Other editions : Brescia, 1584 ; Milan, 1584 ; Venice, 1585.

Photostat copy of letter furnished by the Reverend Georg Schurhammer, S. J., Rome.

“In these last two years there have been converted to our Holy Faith some 14,000 souls and of these nine or ten thousand are in these parts of Meaco where I now make my residence.

“This people, as they are in comparison with the rest of Japan more noble and well civilized, so also appear much more Christian and fervent, considering it the highest sign of nobility to be distinguished in the observance of the Divine Precepts and they act with such fervour and devotion as to give cause for great admiration, because insofar as I have seen and tested they appear in their manner of living to be more like monks than secular people. They show great judgment and are naturally affable and amiable, qualities which are of great spiritual profit to them after their conversion.

“The Christians of these parts of Meaco, counting the above mentioned new ones together with those there were before, would amount in all to about fifteen thousand, with whom we are three Fathers and five Brothers in residence. Just now we are engaged in opening the best gateway for conversions that has thus far been available to us, because Nobunaga, Lord of these places of Meaco and also of other adjacent kingdoms, is becoming every day more and more [page 27] attached to the things of our Holy Religion in such a manner that there is great hope for his conversion and, if this Prince is converted, there is no doubt but that immediately the greater part of his kingdom will follow him for they all reverence and fear him. Our Lord already has granted him such a disdain and horror of his idols, Kamis and Hotokes, that he makes no account of them at all and he destroys their temples, which were the most sumptuous of the whole of Japan, he never ceases to speak evil of their priests, known as Bonzes, and on the contrary to praise and commend the purity of our Faith, and he derives much consolation in hearing sermons and lectures on these matters. Only a few days ago, Father Organtino with Brother Liorenzo (Lawrence), a Japanese, went to visit him and while a great number of important people were standing awaiting audience, as soon as he learned that these two of ours: had come, he had them come in and did them greater honour, getting up from his place he came to sit beside them and ordered that the gentlemen who stood outside might see how he honoured them; and with great affability he treated with them in interesting discussions for three hours.

“On that occasion he said to Lawrence that he wished to dispute with him in regard to the laws of God, and that he should therefore answer without fear even if he seemed to speak in anger. In the coarse of the argument he proposed various doubts which the Brother satisfied so that the King seemed to be convinced of the truth and with a loud voice he said to the gentlemen who were standing there, “Come to my rescue, for I am worsted”, and furthermore, ‘‘Hasten all of you to become Christians with your wives and families.” To which all replied that they would be glad to do so. Then Nobunaga requested that our Brother preach a sermon in which he would treat of the fact that there is only one God and that this God after this life will reward the good with eternal glory and punish the evil with eternal pain. Which matters he wished to be discussed, not so much according to respect for him for he [page 28] had already heard them and could stand it, but rather for his companions as he wished that they should hear these truths. The Brother gave his discourse with much eloquence and spirit, in accordance with the great talent which our Lord has conferred on him in these matters, and thus all were in admiration, and Nobunagra said many things in praise of him showing him particular signs of love.

“A son of him who is heir to all the estate and who already rules two of the kingdoms of it, has given even more clear indication of the intention to be converted. This man, every time that our men visit him, desires to hear something of the Faith and always is satisfied. During these last days he said to Father Organtino that he desired that all his subjects become Christians and that he was already half-Christian and in sign of this he gave a patent for the free preaching of our Holy Law in all his states, giving full permission to all to embrace it Similarly he gave a site that is very convenient and beautiful in his own city for the construction of a Church, but since on the following day he set out for a war, this latter affair could not be put into execution. We understand, however, that in the field where he now is he maintains his good intentions because recently one of his secretaries wrote us that he (the Prince) had asked him to become a Christian saying that he would do so soon.

“For the past two months I have been visiting the Churches of the Kingdom of Kawachi. My companion Cosmoe is such a good worker that he preaches every day four or five and even sometimes six times with much fruit both for the Christians and the Gentiles. In this city of Sacai, which is one of the principal ones, there was great attendance at the sermons; and two days ago I baptized a doctor (medical) who is much known and esteemed as a man of great learning and of rare judgment and well acquainted with the laws of Japan. This individual, after he was moved by the preaching to convert himself to Our Lord, set about persuading his relatives and friends that they should [page 29] come and hear about the true way of salvation which he had just found; and we hope that our Lord will use him as an instrument for converting this entire city.

“In a land which is called Noccu (?), the Blessed Lord has this year worked many miracles of five blind persons who after being baptized immediately received their sight and of a leper who, being already consumed with the disease, asked counsel of a Christian friend of his as to what he should do to be cured and the latter persuaded him (because our Church was somewhat distant) to go every day, with great faith, to visit a Cross which was erected in his house to the God of the Christians. After having made the third visit he was cleansed and healed of all his leprosy as if he had never had it and so with great satisfaction he betook himself to the Church and after being instructed he received baptism. Many other miracles were performed at this time which I omit to mention lest my letter become too lengthy.”

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Appendix III.

Copy of a letter from Father Gregorio de Cespedes to the Father Provincial of India, from Osaka, October 30,1585. Translated from Portugese.

From : “Cartas de Iapao” (Segunda parte das cartsa de Iapao escreuerao os padres & irmaos de Compan hia de Iesus).

Photostat copy of letter furnished by British Museum.

“In all these places, by the divine mercy, much harvest has been reaped. I believe that the total number of those baptized this year will be over 3,000 souls, all of whom are from the domain of Ucondono Justo. In this city of Osaka, where Chikuzen-dono resides, Our Lord wished to choose many chief lords for his Holy Faith. The most important of them is called Chikuzen-dono who has in Ise an income of more than 250,000 bags of rice and more than 6,000 soldiers under his banners.

“Another important lord is Toxoirixu of Chikuzen-dono called Conderaquansioye, who has in Arima an income of about 60,000 bags of rice. Another one, called Maquinuira Chobyoe and who is the head of the Vocanarixuo, has in Omi an income of 25,000 bags of rice. Setamanoizo, who is another convert, has in Omi an income of about 12,000 bags. I might add some more important lords, but I shall not mention them, as it does not seem to be necessary. In this church of Osaka about 200 people have received baptism and all of them are soldiers. Owing to these good results we have great confidence that Our Lord will arrange things in such a way that His Holy Church will be well established here in Japan.

“Now we wish much peace and quiet in order that the lords who were recently converted may become zealous and enter into the joy of their salvation so that through their reformed lives and their example the other people [page 31] will be moved to listen to our sermons and come to know the Creator. The continuation of war would be a great inconvenience since it would not give them the time to come to us even if they wished to deal with the things of such importance as their salvation. The old Christians do not let themselves be overcome by anybody; they behave well and are full of fervor and obedience to the Fathers.

“As I know that Your Reverence will be glad to have news of the lords and nobles whom you knew, I shall speak of them.

“Yuguin-dono, the lord of Kawachi, died in a battle that took place in the kingdom of Owari with an army of Chicuzen-dono, which was destroyed. In that battle died two another prominent nobles, the lord of the kingdom of Minno, his son, and his son-in-law Seogen-dono. Among the dead there were also Sechun-dono, Sentoriorixu and Yosuke Pablo, the son of Hirado Leon, whom Your Reverence knew; and about one month ago Hirado Leon himself died of illness after receiving the sacrament With the death of Yuki-dono that family came to an end. His wife Maria is well with her sons and is staying now at her father’s. Tango-dono Yasemi is now at the service of Ucondono, and all in the house are in good health, and keep themselves good Christians. After the death of Aguequi, Saga-dono, who was on his side, was obliged to escape from Saga and is now an exile in Yamato, where he has been living this whole year without being able to return to his estate, which he has lost hope of recovering. Mancio is in a good position, since he was helped by the lord of Yamato, who gave him an income of 400 bags of rice without the obli-gation of serving in the war. His father Sampaco, who is in good health, is always in the church, and now he resides here in Osaka and has become a religious man. Tango-dono and the other lords of Kawachi were expelled from that kingdom and scattered in various places with great loss to his estate. Of all of them, the one that is in the best position is Tangodono who, being a warrior, is at the service of one of [page 32] the nephews of Chicuzen-dono, lord of the kingdom of Omi, which gives him an income of 8,000 bags each year. The Christian chiefs and soldiers of the kingdom of Kawachi, having been scattered in various places, are now as a body without soul; however, there are some among them who per-severe in the faith. Of the churches of Saga, those of Okayama and this one in Osaka, were burned during the war. The Christians of Yabaxingata and of Bunda, their sons and other noble Christians, are all well, but there has been some change in their conditions. Those of Sakai, Re-oqueloim Sosai, and the others are well. Riuza and his son Yakiro enjoy a magnificent position, having entered into the good favour of Chicuzen-dono, who honours them and raises them in position day by day. He has appointed Riuza, Daicuan of 14,000 bags of rice in Kawachi; has appointed his son Augustin chief of all the sea forces and lord of the Kondoshima island, Muro harbour, and another two or three harbours, all of which will give him an income of 20,000 bags. He deserves to receive such favour because he is a good Christian and a true son of the Church, which he helps with many and large alms. He has a great desire to place all his property and his life at the service of God and the Church, and he shows himself very compassionate towards the poor Christians. Chicuzen-dono has elevated him to such high position in recognition of the great victories which he gained at the head of his army, and his heroic deeds. Ucon-dono Justo is a rare example and his virtue grows day by day, and the splendor of his life is such that we may say that it was through him that God has illuminated all the lords, who, as I said before, were baptized. In fact it was through his conversion and his advice that many came to here our sermons, and notwithststanding his being such a great noble, as Your Reverence knows, and although very busy with worldly affairs, without neglecting his obligations of state, he continually seeks for occasions and means for conversing with his vassals in order that they may come to know the Creator. Moreover, he speaks so well and so logi- [page 33] cally about the things of God that none of our Japanese brothers surpass him. His life is a cause of astonishment among the gentiles; all respect and love him, and Chicuzen- dono says that his pure life cannot be imitated by other men. He loves him, and speaks with him many times, and considers him the man he can trust the most His father Dario is well, and not inferior to his son in virtue; the same I may say of Taralemon, his wife Justa and his elder son.

“This is all I may say regarding the Christians that your Reverence met here. Regarding those whom I left in the kingdom of Ohashi and Mino (about 600 or 700) we know that they are well and continue to believe in our faith, although they are left to themselves as I have not visited them during the last few years, that is, since the death of Nobunaga, on account of the wars raging in the kingdom.

“I recommend myself to the Holy Sacrifice of Your Reverence.

Osaka, October 30, 1585, From Your Reverence’ unworthy son and servant of Christy, Gregorio de Cespedes.”

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Appendix IV.

Letter written by Father Gregorio de Cespedes from Arima, January 18, 1588. Translated from Portugese.

From: “Apparatos para a Historia Eccleziastica do Bispado de Jappao, 1583-1593”, a manuscript forming a part of the “Historia de Japan” by Luis, Frois, S. J. Signature of MS: 49-IV-57-57. Only two copies extant; one in the Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon, and the other in the private library of M. Paul Sarda, 7 Grande Allee, Toulouse.

Manuscript copy of letter furnished by Senhor G. A. Almeida e Silva, Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon.

“We left Arima after completing the renewal of our vows which took place on Christ’s day, to reap the spiritual harvest that we hoped for in the land of Andoku Shimabara, which is the most important in Takaku. By the mercy of God, and thanks to the assiduous work of the four brothers who were with me and who preached in various places, the crop was abundant

“While the preachers gave instruction in the Christian faith, I assisted them in administering the Holy Baptism. Then we went to the fortress of Andoku, the commander of which is a nobleman, an uncle of the Daimyo of Arima and brother of the governor of Arima, who became a Christian three or four years ago during an illness which put him in danger of death. While the governor was suffering from his illness, and when almost crushed by pain, upon hearing of the blessing of baptism, he wished to be baptized. When he recovered, wars and other obstacles supervened, but he remained a Christian notwithstanding He continued staying in the fortress with his sons and vassals, all gentiles, from whom he did not differ much spiritually on account of his weak will and the little that he had heard about Christianity. However, Our Lord moved him so that on Christmas [page 35] eve he brought his nine year old son to the church at Arima to have him made a Christian.

“The boy was baptized by the Father Vice-provincial, and was called Mancio.

“After arriving in his territory he was again instructed in the Christian faith; and many a time he listened to all the sermons and all the addresses made on Christianity to his vassals. This changed him much and he assured me that he was beginning to feel a Christian, and thanked God for having lengthened his life so long.

“I baptized two of his daughters and all the women of his house, besides eighty men in his service.

“While we were there he treated us well, showing us much attention and making us many friendly gifts. We talked much on Christianity, he promised me to be very diligent during his life, which he has been until now.

“When the people of Sakuma established themselves in that place as masters, in thankfulness for the favours that they were said to have received from Hachiman, whom they consider a god of war, following their victory over Takanobu in Shimabara where he died, they erected in his honor a beautiful temple, which was placed under the care and protection of the commander of the fortress and some bonzes.

“Following this baptism, and on account of Andoku- dono’s fervor, and that of the new Christians, we went to Shimabara and after our instructions in the Christian faith, there was so much zeal among the people that after staying in that land eighteen days, I baptized 1,665 souls. These people showed so much understanding of God’s things that I felt great consolation in seeing them enter the true door.

“As it was near the new year, we returned to Arima. During this time the Japanese are very busy with their houses and families, so that we thought it convenient to leave them for the time being, and resume our work with them eight or ten days after the first moon of the new year.

“1 have confidence in our Lord that the time will soon [page 36] come when the devil will be completely conquered and banished, which I think will be easy as we have already baptized all the heads of the families and the men that have a good name in the three places mentioned above. Those who are still to be baptized are common people with whom there will not be any difficulty.

“In the town of Mie four bonzes were baptized. One of them, before being baptized, came to see me and told me that he was going to become a Christian because he understood well the truth of our Holy Law and the falsehood of the Japanese sects, which he was going to shatter with his own hands, and make firewood of them. And so he did, because after he was baptized, he went to his house and returned with two men loaded with pagodas and fulfilled his good intentions before his old parishioners and, reducing the pagodas to pieces, we warmed ourselves with them, as it was a very cold day.

“After leaving Mie, we learned that the other bonzes, moved by such an example, did the same thing with their idols. Nor was it less consolation for me the great many confessions I heard during this time, from which the old Christians of Shimabara will receive great help.

“On account of the wars and persecutions which, during many years, these Christians suffered at the hands of the daimyo of those territories (and which still now, for the good judgment of God, are banished), it was not possible to be admitted to them during the last thirteen or fourteen years, with the consequence that the people living there could not be visited by the Fathers and receive their help. But now, as it is possible to go there, we can see that the faith and perseverance shown by these fathers have deserved from God the joy of this new light, with which Our Lord has wished to illuminate that land, in order that the gentiles living in it may open their eyes and know their Creator.

“The bonzes of Shimabara, who were always our worst enemies, and the enemies of Christianity, and who trium- [page 37] phed in those places with great arrogance and pride, thinking that they would never lose the domination that they had over those people, will now feel their hearts mortified and will suffer in seeing themselves crushed and despised by those who, until lately, worshipped them with veneration. These bonzes, having now lost their parishioners, and having no means to sustain their lives, have decided to remove to, and earn their living in the kingdom of Sakuma. They are now trying to sell their religious places and objects, since they cannot take them away with them.

“Brother Vicente spoke with one of their most important men, and tried to persuade him to listen to our reasoning, so that they might know where the truth was and understand why the people of Shimabara were becoming Christians ； however, as this man was one of the devil’s supporting pillars in that land and was not worthy to have his name written in the Book of Life because of his haughtiness ana pride, he answered that even if he had listened to us he would not believe and that he was already too old to become a Christian.

“In all these three territories we have already fixed upon good places to build churches, and we trust in Our Lord that with some quiet we shall obtain good results.”

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Appendix V.

Two letters written by Father Gregorio de Cespede from Korea. Undated, but presumably written during 1594 or early in 1595. Translated from Portugese.

From : “Apparatos para a Historia Eccleziastica do Bispado de Jappao, 1583-1593” by Luis Frois, S. J., Signature of MS : 49-IV-57. Only two copies extant; one in the Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon, and the other in the private library of M. Paul Sarda, 7 Grande Allee, Toulouse.

Manuscript copies of letters furnished by Senhor C. A. Almeida e Silva, Biblioteca da Ajuda, Lisbon.

“From the island of Tsushima I wrote two letters, from which you will have known of the results of our voyage to Tsushima, and the first crop which, with the grace of God, we have reaped by baptizing twenty important persons, among them the four councillors of Tsushima-dono

“We remained in that island about 18 days and celebrated Christmas in a harbour called Vannoura (Waninoura). We stayed in a poor thatched-roofed house, but there we were given the help of God, since the governor of the surrounding harbours, who was there at the same time, following letters written to him by Maria, (mistress of Tsushima and daughter of Augustin), came to visit us and brought to us some presents. He also wished to hear us speak of the things of God, which I did, and on the same Christmas night, after hearing our sermon, he was converted and I baptized him together with four prominent persons. In order that we might decorate with dignity the altar in the house where we were staying, he ordered clean boards brought to cover the walls, which enabled us to adorn that place, to the great joy of more than one hundred Christians who were there. I spent all night hearing confessions. I also baptized the owner of the house, a 70 [page 39] year old fisherman, a good, simple man, who insistently asked me to grant him the benefit of salvation as, according to what we said, there was no other path leading to salvation outside our Holy Law.

“Four days before Christmas we left the harbour for Korea with a group of more than sixty boats, but before the break of day the wind blew in such a way that we were obliged to change our course. The night being very dark we did not know where we were going, and the waves were so high that we could not use our oars, so we put up sails and went where the wind carried us, in danger of being thrown on a sand bank, of which there are many around the island. However, it was the will of God that at day break we were back in the same harbour from which we had started. Two or three other boats returned with us, fifteen or twenty reached other harbours of the island, others returned to Japan, some drifted on the water in great danger for three or four days until they reached Korea. We did not know how many craft were lost

‘‘Finally, on the day of Saint John the Evangelist (December 27, 1593), we left for the second time, and by the help of God we soon reached Korea, We could not reach Komangai immediately, which was ten or twelve leagues from where we landed, but on the following day we rowed up to the foot of Komangai fortress.

“My Japanese brother and companion soon disembarked, and I asked him to go and see Vicente Heiemon in order to decide what we should do, Vicente immediately sent a horse to the beach with instructions that we should go to him. His brother-in-law, Sakoyemon, was the first to come to see us at the boat, and I with him landed. He took me to his house and kindly invited me to eat. To that house came Vicente with a brother of Augustin, who was already coming to look for me.

“With them I went to the fortress, where I shall be lodging until the return of Augustin who left three days ago for a place six or seven leagues away from here.

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“When he comes back the Brother will visit him, and we shall know then his wish about ourselves, and with the grace of God we shall then begin to confess these Christians, many of whom have already come to visit him. The first to come to me was Sebastian, son of Don Bartolome de Omura, sent by his brother Don Sancho, who came to me himself sometime later.

“Sumoto-dono and Don Juan de Amakusa also followed and visited me. Don Protasio Arima-dono asked his brother Don Sancho to visit me in his stead, and sent me a present of some food. Up to now I haven’t visited anybody, nor shall I send the brother, but I shall meditate during Augustin’s absence. Regarding events in Korea, peace does not seem to be heading towards a conclusion, because the great Chinese leader Yequequi, who began to make overtures of peace, seems to have promised more than the Chinese wished to concede, and the consequence has been that the peace negotiations have been resumed with a more important leader called Xequiro, who has, according to reports, the same rank in China as Quambacu-dono in Japan. He is now in the fortress of Feanjo (Heijo) where Juan Naito-dono, a very noble man, son of the king of Tamba and whom he sent as a Japanese hostage to Peking, was kept for a long time.

“A few days ago Xequiro sent one of his principal chieftains to Augustin, with a message saying that as the peace between Japan and China was a matter of great importance, he did not think it convenient that it should be concluded between chieftains of inferior rank, and that he himself, who has the same rank as the Quambacu-dono of Japan, would take it upon himself to negotiate and conclude it For this reason he again sent Yequequi here with instructions to wait three or four days longer, and that instead of Juan Naito-dono, who went to Peking, he would keep this lord here until the above mentioned Juan Naito-dono’s return upon the conclusion of the Chinese treaty. This is what he wrote in his message, which makes [page 41] us hope that peace will be signed to the satisfaction of Japan. The message also says that the Chinese showed him much attention and honored him and, moreover, that he has sent a letter written by Guichibioye Ambrosio, a vassal of Augustin, written in Peking, and addressed to Juan Naito-dono, whom he know to be in Heijo, saying that he is treated well and with honor and that he hopes that peace will be concluded.

“Toranosuke, the arch enemy of Augustin, is staying north of here, about fifteen leagues away. He has made some attacks upon the Koreans, one of them in a certain place where, according to reports, there were more than one thousand monasteries of bonzes, and where, he had heard, there was great wealth and an abundance of food. However, when he arrived he destroyed everything, burning and demolishing all, and according to reports, to check the impetuosity of the Japanese, one hundred thousand Chinese had come down. The leader of these Chinese is in correspondence with Augustin, and he has offered himself to go to Japan as a hostage, if Quambacu-dono orders all the Japanese now in Korea to return to Japan.

“The fortress of Komangai is impregnable, and great defensive works have been erected there which are admirable, considering the short time in which they were completed. They have built high walls, watch towers, and strong bastions, at the foot of which all the nobles and soldiers of Augrustin, his subjects and allies, are encamped. For all there are well built and spacious. Houses with stone walls are built for the chiefs.

“For one league around there are various fortresses, in one of which is Tonome-dono Pedro, Augustin’s brother; in another Tsushima-dono Dario, son-in-law of Augtistin, who is married to his daughter Maria, of whom I have spoken before. In another fortress there are the principal lords of the four kingdoms of Japan, called Shikoku, and in another are the people of Sakuma, who are now the subjects of Augustin, and the sons of the King of Bungo [page 42] banished from his kingdom, while Quambiye-dono is with his son somewhere else.”

SECOND LETTER BY THE SAME FATHER GREGORIO DE CESPEDES.

“When I wrote the previous letter, Augustin had not come back yet, for which reason I had not seen him. He returned the other day and upon hearing that I had arrived, sent me a message, of welcome saying that being late he could not come immediately to see me. He came the next day, and we met in the fortress. I delivered to him the letters and after he read them, we spoke at length and, expressing pleasure over my arrival in Korea, he told me that as many gentiles came here from other fortresses to visit him, it was not convenient that I should be down where all his allies have their houses and temporary habitations, but that I should be lodged in the upper part of the fortress with Vicente Heiemon-dono, and that the Christians who wish to visit me and be confessed should go there, so I am now living with the said Vicente in the highest part of the fortress, which is not a small desert for the Christians that have to come up, as it is a very high and craggy slope. When I have to go down for some confessions at night, it gives me much work, and when I go back I ride a horse and rest many times on my way.

“The Christians come to confession little by little, so that we have much to do from now to Easter. It would be a great consolation for me to have another father for a companion, but I shall be patient since it does not seem that this wish may now be realized and, with the grace of God, we shall go on until all have been confessed.

“Augustin comes some times to visit me, as do Don Protasio, Don Sancho de Omura and Don Juan de Amakusa, who are most important person.

“Of the nobles the first that came to be confessed was Don Sancho de Omura, with his brother Sebastian who, being young, gives a good example to all the army and [page 44] everybody praises them, and with reason. Following his example, the first that came to confess were his soldiers. Many other nobles also have confessed and so I trust in God that in the same will do the greater part of the people.

“In this fortress of Komangai there are Augustin, all his allies and their subordinates, that is, Arima, Omura, Goto, Hirado, Amakusa, Sumoto, etc. All have their houses at some distance from the sea, and up in the fortress there are Yoseichi-dono, Augustin’s brother and Vicente Heiemon-dono on the look out.

“The day after may arrival here, Dario Tsushima-dono, Augustin’s son-in-law, sent me his greetings, and two or three days later he came to visit me, and so began our friendship- Around his neck he wore a precious rosary which was sent to him by his wife, Maria. He is a very noble young man and of very good understanding and character. The same night he asked me insistently to send the Brother to his fortress to preach to many of his servents who wished to hear sermons. I sent him the following day, and after preaching for three days, Tsushima-dono himself came to me from his fortress in a light craft and asked me to go with him and baptize. Among those who wished to be baptized were his nephew and thirty nobles. The following day I baptized ten more people. It was a great pleasure to see the gladness shown by all and the fervor with which they began to translate and learn the prayers. They asked me for some Christian badge and I gave each one a rosary, which made them very glad.

“During two or three days that I was there Dario gave me a graceful and affectionate reception, treating me well, inviting me to splendid dinners, during which he himself brought the meals, always sitting on a lower place than mine, and always giving me the place of honor. Above all I was astonished to see the beautiful things he has; they surely did not seem to be of temporary use but looked as if they were intended to stay there all one’s life He had many war objects and golden screens; not even his father- [page 44] in-law could equal him, and it is he who has brought the most soldiers. When I returned he wished to accompany me, but I would by no means consent so he sent me as his representatives, his nephew and other important persons.

“By the sermons that his people heard, he also acquired more understanding, and he asked me to leave the Brother with him that the latter might preach regarding confession. He himself wished to confess, which he promised to do soon. He ardently wishes to have some fathers in his kingdom, and told me that if the army returns to Japan, I may rest assured that if fathers will not be wanting in his kingdom, there will not be any difficulty in Christianizing all the kingdom, and that those who are already Christians fervently wish to have their own wives, sons and families baptized.

“It is therefore necessary to make preparations now in order to furnish the kingdom of Tsushima with men since with the help of God all the country must become Christian.

“Augustin was greatly rejoiced that such result should be attained. The Brother has not arrived yet because, besides preaching on confessions to Dario, other important persons who will come here to be baptized, are listening to his sermons on catechism.

“The cold in Korea is very severe and without comparison with that of Japan. All day long my limbs are half benumbed, and in the morning I can hardly move my hands to say mass, but I keep myself in good health; thanks to God and the fruit that our Lord is giving, I am cheerful and I don’t mind my work and the cold.

“All these Christians are very poor, and suffer from hunger, cold, illness and other inconveniences very different from conditions in other places. Although Hideyoshi sends food, so little reaches here that it is impossible to sustain all with them, and moreover the help that comes from Japan is insufficient and comes late. It is now two months since ships have come, and many craft were lost [page 45]

“An understanding regarding peace is not reached yet, and those who should come to conclude it never arrive. Many suspect that this delay is nothing but a trick in order to keep the Japanese waiting until summer, when ships of the Chinese armada may arrive, and an army by land.”

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Appendix VI.

Copy of a letter of Father Gregorio de Cespedes of the Company of Jesus written in Japan in the territory of the Lord of Arima on February 26, 1597, to Father Diego Lopez de Mesa of the same Company in Mexico.

Translated from Spanish.

From: ‘‘Historia de la Provincia de las Islas Filipinas” by Father Francisco Colin, Father Provincial of the Company of Jesus in the Philippines.

Photostat copy of letter furnished by the Reverend Georg Schurhammer, S. J. Rome.

“The Peace of Christ, etc.

“We greatly rejoice in the increase of your Province, as well in the quality of the subjects, as in the much fruit of souls, that is being gathered, especially with the conversion of Cinalva, already irrigated with the blood of Blessed Father Goncalo de Tapia, of whom I have some relics. Blessed be God, Who thus everywhere fructifies and so well knows how to cultivate His plants and new vines, irrigating them with the precious blood of His servants, as has already been seen here in Japan and experienced with the deaths which have taken place of twenty-six glorious Martyrs, as I shall relate below.

“The State of Christianity and of the Company in Japan in the year 1597 :

“At present in this Vice-Province of Japan there are 135 of us of the Company, of whom 48 are Priests and 18 are Brethren, from Europe, while 69 are Japanese Brethren. We are divided into a College and a Novitiate, along with a seminary and four other Rectoral Houses, one of which is in Meaco, another in Nagasaki, a third in Omura and a fourth in Arima. At these latter Houses gather at certain times those who live in [page 47] the residences, which in all number sixteen or seventeen houses. At present I am in the residence of Shimabara, where I have more than fifteen or sixteen thousand Christian souls, with one Father who assists me. Since the strength of the Christian Community is in this seacoast region we are all distributed around here, without counting four Fathers and five Brethren who are hidden in the region of Meaco, undergoing the persecutions of the tyrant Quambacu, who now is called Taica Steadily he discloses more and more the string of his heart and the hatred which he bears for our Holy Law.

Last year Bishop Don Peter Martinez, of our Company of Jesus, came to Japan and visited the tyrant on the part of the Viceroy of India, in order to discuss with this him, so that he might dissemble with us, permitting us to remain in Japan, although hidden. The tyrant showed much pleasure at the visit, received the Bishop and the embassy well, sending them off with honour.

“Iniquitous Reasons for the Persecution of the Christian Community, and Martyrdoms in Japan in the year 1597:

“But it happened that at that time a ship of Spaniards from the Philippines arrived in Japan, half-wrecked and battered, carrying much wealth. When the news was given the tyrant, stirred by covetousness, he sought reasons to rob the ship, saying that they were sailing in Japanese waters without his letter of permission and that he had heard that the Spaniards were people who went about conquering kingdoms, as they had done in New Spain. Furthermore it seemed, he continued, that they had come to Japan for the purpose of commerce, but on seeing his country, they in reality wished to conquer it; that the Franciscan Friars, who had come to visit him on the part of the Governor of Luzan, to whom he had given permission to remain here, with this condition, that they should not preach our Holy Law, he said that they must be spies of the Spaniards, coming under [page 48] the cloak of a visit and, according to what he had heard, they made Christians against his orders. For these reasons he determined to consider as confiscated the whole of the cargo; which he seized, being of very great value. He decided to let the Spaniards free with their lives, but as lor the Friars, because they preached our Law, against his command, he ordered them to be killed with others who were Japanese and had become Christians. At the beginning, guards were placed not only at the house of the Friars of Meaco, but also at that of those of us who were in the same city of Osaka, saying that the tyrant had ordered all to be killed. At this, our Fathers and Brethren prepared themselves with great joy to die in such a good cause. Many very prominent Christians joined our number with the same determination. Among them were two sons of the same Governor of the Court of the tyrant, who went to bid farewell to their father, who even though a gentile and using as much influence as possible, was not able to dissuade them, as they insisted on dying as true Christians, in the company of the Fathers. Thus they joined the latter and it was to the praise of the Lord to see the great fervour which there was in all the Christians, great, as well as small, men and women, all preparing themselves-to die for the love of God.

“Affairs being in this stage, one of the chief governors which the tyrant has, and his most private one, who favours those of the Company and knows of our hiding-place, went to the tyrant and advised him to moderate his justice, saying that as he had ordered the members of the Company to be killed, it was not to his honour after having received the Embassy of the Viceroy, which the Bishop had brought the preceding yean To which the tyrant answerd that it was thus : he had not ordered us to be killed, only those who had come from Luzan. With this we lost such an excellent opportunity, although Our Lord did not wish that we should be entirely deprived of such good fortune, because He per-mitted three Japanese Brethren of our Company to be arrested before the tyrant had softened his sentence. After- [page 49]wards, there was no one who was able to pay the price. Fortunate were these, the Friars and other companions, as they led the way, winning such a precious crown and leaving all the living with much envy on account of such a good example

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‘‘Martyrdom of Those in Japan :

“These glorious Martyrs were in all, twenty-six, the six Religious of Saint Francis, one of whom came in the lost ship and insisted on staying in the same house of the Friars when guards were placed around them. He was going into orders in New Spain and was so fortunate that he took them in Japan at the Altar of the Holy Cross, from where he went to chant his Mass in glory. Three others were Japanese Brethren of our Company; the remaining seventeen were secular Christians. After their arrest, the tyrant ordered their left ears to be cut off. This having been done, they were led through the streets of Meaco, and of many other leading cities of Japan, with great public heralding. Thus they were brought in the midst of winter more than two hundred leagues, as far as the port of Nagasaki, where, by order of the tyrant, all twenty-six of them were crucified and then had spears thrust into them. Thus they offered their lives to their Creator in the day of glory of Saint Agueda, the fifth of February, 1597. These saints died with great fortitude and rejoicing. No sign of suffering could be noticed among them; on the other hand, only an entire will to suffer for the love of God. So much so, that some sang Psalms, while others preached from the Cross marvellously, with great love.

“Blessed Martyr Paul Miki:

“Especially one of our Brethren named Miki Paul, who was one of the best preachers which we had in Japan, who sang as a swan at the time of death, uttering words of such great charity and love of God, that he caused all those who were standing there watching that spectacle to wonder. It is said that there were over four thousand persons then pre- [page 50] sent The names and reason which were placed in writing at the place where they were killed, were, that the tyrant had commanded that justice be executed, to some, because they were preachers of our Law, to others, for having made themselves Christians against his command, and that in the future, all should obey him because on finding anyone practising the same crime, he was to suffer the same punishment. In this mariner the tyrant believes that he will put fear into us and cause us to obey him through terror. But as it is more important to obey God than men, the unfortunate man is misled. Thus with the example of these saints, we are all very much strengthened and comforted and the weak Christians have received our courage so as never to show cowardice in whatever emergency, even giving their lives willingly before renouncing our true Faith. Blessed be God our Lord, that he thus has deigned in our time to irrigate this His vineyard with the blood of so many of His servants. Now surely we have certain hopes of plenteous fruit to come, for which it will be necessary for many hundreds of labourers to come and all will have to know well how to bring in this harvest.

“Within this past year again there have been baptized more than eight thousand souls, among them many leading lords under disguise, who in their time will act as strong support of this Christian Community. Also, in a year, more than sixty thousand souls will have confessed themselves. Many particular things had I to write you of these glorious martyrs, but shall refer you to the report which the Father Vice-Provincial is sending to our Father-General, which report the other Reverend Fathers will enjoy with you. Enclosed I shall send you the names of all the holy martyrs, together with the order in which they were placed on the Cross. Now we shall hope for another good opportunity, because the tyrant, having heard that the justice which he executed as a means of terror and of fright for those of us who remain alive, had brought us strength instead; so it may be that he will still further harden himself in his evildo- [page 51] ing and will send for us to finish with us. May it please God that my sins will not hinder me, but that on the other hand the Lord in His infinite mercy may give me grace, so that with most exquisite torments I may give my life on this occasion, because of the love of Jesus Christ, who with infinite love gave it for all of us. If you should hear news of such an end for me, believe me that you will have a good friend in heaven, who will await you so that we may for ever have joy before God. I have written very much in detail, especially to comfort you. I beg of you to repay me in the same coin, not letting an opportunity pass to write me at length. If I should live, I shall be a better correspondent than heretofore. In the Holy Sacrifice and in your prayers, I beg of you to petition God for me the crown of martyrdom, if it to be for the glory of His Majesty.”

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Appendix VII.

A List of the Less Familiar Japanese Proper Names Occurring1 in the Notes.

Mr. Masayuki Yamaguchi, teacher of history at the Keijo Middle School, has kindly prepared this list of the less familiar Japanese proper names occurring in the text of these Notes as an aid to any who may wish to search in Japanese records for further information regarding Father de Cespedes. No attempt has been made to include in this list proper names familiar to students of Japanese history.

The preparation of this list has been made difficult by the fact that the sixteenth and seventeenth historians of the missions in Japan romanized proper names into Latin, Spanish or Portugese form pronunciations, in many instances, peculiar to local dialects of the periods “Langasqui”, Vozaca” and “Meaco” were easily identified; it was less easy to identify others. “Bougen” was identified as “Buzen” when it was remembered that the original records were hand written and that the “z” was obviously mistaken for by printers.

Personal names presented greater difficulties since, in several instances, the missionary records consulted indicated baptismal names only. preceded by “Don” and followed by “of..........”, so that it has been impossible in every case to trace the correct family name of the person mentioned.

Amacusa 天草

Amakusa, Don Juan de (天草ノ 大名) 大村嘉前

Andoka, fortress of 安德

Andoku-dono 安德殿

Aquequi 明智光秀

Cai-no-cami-dono 甲斐守殿 (黑田長政)

Cavachi-Kawachi 河內

Chikuzen-dono 羽柴筑前守秀吉 [page 53]

Chobyoe, Maquinuria (head of the “Vocanrixuo”) 牧村長兵衛

Comangi 熊川

Condera-quansioye (of Arima) 小寺官兵衞

Condera, Simon 小寺 (黑田孝高)

Daicuan 代官

Darius 高山圖書

Don Bartolome 大材純忠

Hachiman 八幡

Heiyemon, Vincente 平右衛門 (菅平右衞門尉違長)

Hirado, Leon 平戶 レイオン

Jimo 下(九州)

Kondoshima 小豆島

Komangai 熊川

Mancio 滿所 (伊東祐益)

Meaco 都 (京都)

Mie 三會

Miki, Paul, the Martyr 三木

Minno, kingdom of 美濃國

Muro 室

Naito-dono, Juan 內藤殿 (如安) Prostasio, Arima-aono 有馬睛信

Quanbioe-dono,—Simon Condera

Riuza 小西隆佐

Rinzoji 龍造寺隆信

Sacai 堺

Saga-dono 三箇殿

Sakoyemon 菅作衛門

Sakuma 佐久間

Sebastian, son of Don Bartolme ae Omura 大村親家

Sechun-dono 左近殿

Sentoriorixu 三年寄衆

Seogen dono 將監殿

So, Yoshitomo 宗義智 (跗馬殿)

Sumoto-dono 洲本殿 (脇坂安治)

Takaku 高來 [page 54]

Tamba 丹波

Taralemon 次ヲ見ヨ

Terayemon 寺右衞門

Tonome-dono 小西主殿

Toxoirixu of Chikuzen-dono 年寄衆

Tsushima-dono, Darius 宗義智

Ucondono, J us to 高山長房

Vannoura (Wani-no-ura) 鰐浦

Xequiro (Chinese leader) 石老 (石星)

Yakiro 彌九郞 (小西行長)

Yequequi (another Chinese leader) 沈惟敬

Yoshichi-don (Konishi’s brother) 小西與七郎

Yosuke, Pablo 與助

Yugin^dono 瀧川左近將監ᅳ益

Yukidono 結城山城守忠正

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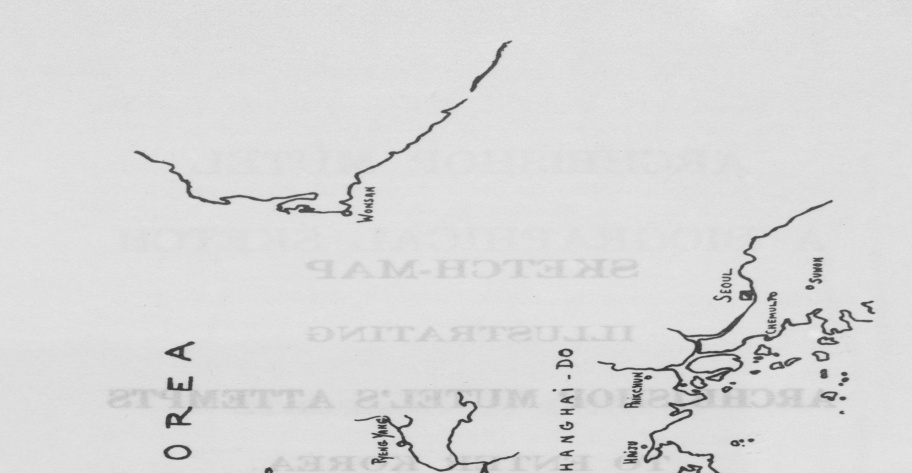
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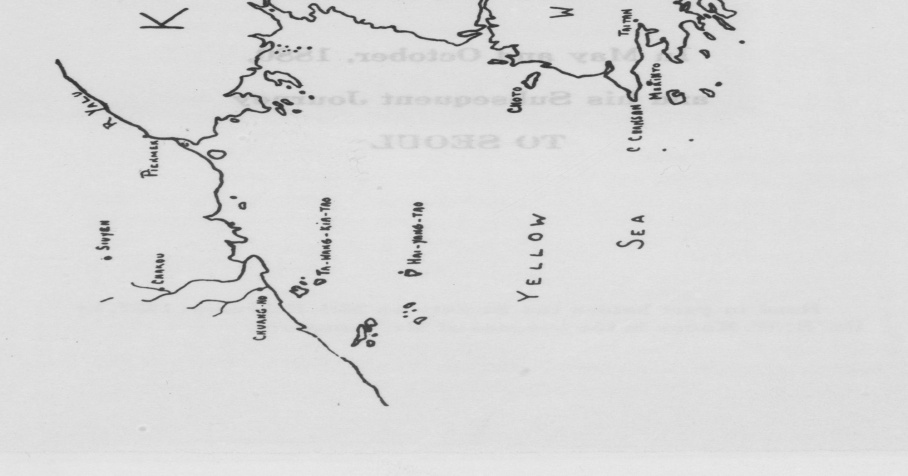
**ARCHBISHOP MUTEL A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

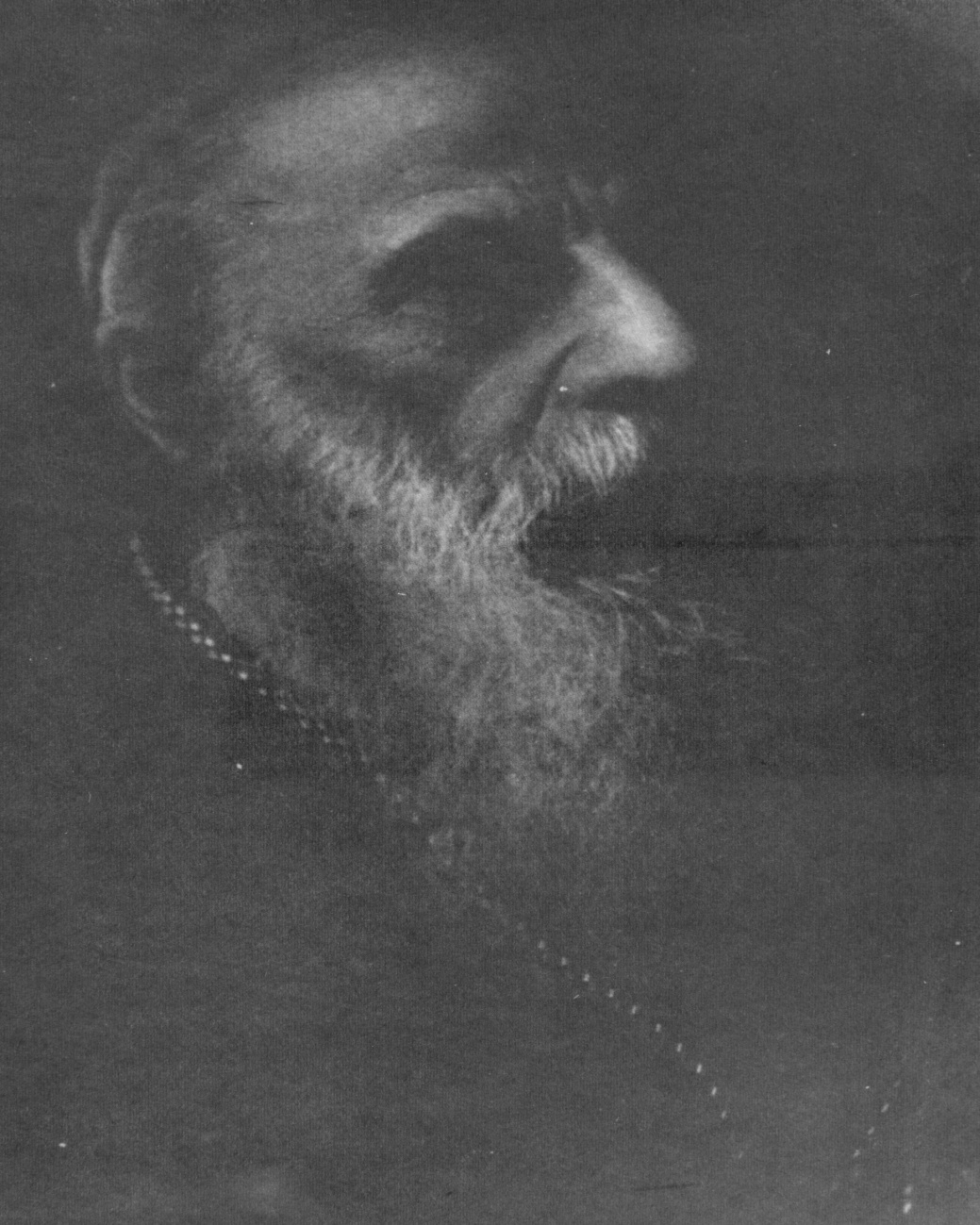
BY G. ST. G. M. GOMPERTZ

Read in part before the Society on 26th February, 1937, by Dr. E. W. Koons in the absence of Mr. Gompertz.

SKETCH-MAP ILLUSTRATING ARCHBISHOP MUTEL’S ATTEMPTS TO ENTER KOREA

In May and October, 1880, and his Subsequent Journey TO SEOUL





[page 61]

INTRODUCTION

It is hoped that the following brief memoir on the life and work of Archbishop Mutel in Korea will interest not only those who knew the grand old man—to use an over- worked phrase in its fullest significance—but all who would see something of Korea through his eyes in the earliest days of foreign intercourse. Archbishop Mutel’s life in Korea covered the epochal period 1880-1933. He came secretly and in disguise before the country was opened and, at his death, was among its greatest figures. He belonged to that small but renowned company of pioneers and organisers who brought order out of chaos and transformed the life of the whole people : Avison by his great medical institution, Underwood by his Christian educational centre, Mutel by a strong and united Church.

The Roman Catholic is the oldest and still the largest of the Christian Churches in Korea. Many who oppose its tenets or dislike its practices would agree that it continues to exercise a certain primacy in missionary work; and none would deny the self-abnegation and heroism of its first missionaries and martyrs.

It would be an understatement to say that martyrdom was still in the air when Archbishop Mutel entered Korea. The torturings and butchery had only ended by reason of their own success. The country was terrorised; Christianity was proscribed and driven underground if not quite extirpated. For ten years all missionary work had been at a standstill, and could only be resumed under conditions of secrecy resembling the meetings in the catacombs during the Roman persecutions.

The qualities of fortitude and resolution which such times demanded characterised Archbishop Mutel all his life. He was first and foremost a survivor of that stern period of persecution which Christianity has everywhere known; his [page 62] spirit, tempered by hardships and adversities, remained indomitable.

The Faith that he held was absolute, untrammelled by the least questioning. The right action was clear: it remained only to do it, and with his whole force. Yet his discretion never failed; among all the shifting currents of an eastern despotism in full decay, he held firm to his purpose, shunned every slightest deflection therefrom. The foundations of the Church in Korea must be rock-steady— that was his chief concern; and it precluded expediency. His relations with the Court, high officials, and foreign representatives in Seoul were the pleasantest imaginable— for he possessed the true courtesy and personal charm of a “Grand Seigneur” and bore himself with equal majesty and graciousness―but he eschewed obliquity and dubious alignments, asked neither fear nor favour.

One other outstanding characteristic must be mentioned, his unsparing devotion to duty. For the greater part of his life—at least until the appointment of a Coadjutor in 1921 — Archbishop Mutel conducted lengthy visitations of his Vicariate, accepting the lot of a plain missionary and spending many hours daily in administering the Sacraments. His tours were marked by a simplicity that suited the country and his mission; there were no speeches, receptions or celebrations : a father came to his children—that was all. Besides these more strictly pastoral labours, there were all the obligations of his office and the great work of directing the Mission. The scrupulous way in which the Archbishop carried out the least of his religious duties impressed all who knew him, and the greater the task, so much the greater was his care and devotion.

And so to sum up : we have to review the life of a great prelate and more, a dominating spiritual force in Korea during nearly fifty years. Apart from the Archbisop’s own diaries, which require much fuller treatment than circumstances of time and place permit, materials are scanty : a biographical memoir by Bishop Larribeau, a few extracts [page 63] from the diaries, and some letters and reminiscences—that is all; yet it may suffice for the rough sketch, the few vivid glimpses, here attempted. If this essay is tendencious, or a mere panegyric, it fails of achievement; the aim has been to combine quotation with bare facts and let both speak for themselves.

Thanks are due to His Excellency, Mgr. Adrien Larribeau, Vicar Apostolic of Seoul, who has graciously permitted the writer to utilise his own work, much of which is incorporated verbatim, together with other materials published by the Society des Missions Etrangeres de Paris. The use of footnotes has, so far as possible, been avoided, but a list of the chief authorities consulted will be found at the end of the memoir.

Their traces that remain still bear witness that they were truly holy and perfect men who did battle so stoutly, and trampled the world under their feet.

Thomas a Kempis

“Of the Imitation of Christ” Chap. XVIII.

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**ARCHBISHOP MUTEL, A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Gustave Charles Marie Mutel was born at Blumerey in the province of Haute-Marne, about halfway between Paris and Switzerland, on 8th March, 1854. Besides Gustave, there were three other children in the family, an elder sister and brother, and a younger brother born eight years after him. Though comparatively well-to-do farming folk, his parents lived laborious days, cultivating their own land, a mode of life which precluded the children from idling away their time. Instead, they joined in the work, and Archbishop Mutel to the end of his days recalled with pleasure the times when he used to help his father in the fields—both before going to college and later during the vacations.

The three boys received a good education, partly at the college at Joinville, of which their uncle was Principal, and partly at the “Little Seminary” at Langres, the chief town in the province. In particular Gustave showed himself a serious and intelligent scholar and quickly won a high place in the estimation both of the masters and his fellows. During the three years, 1870, 1871 and 1872, which he spent at the Little Seminary, his comrades grew to like and respect him; indeed it is impossible not to feel that he already stood out head and shoulders from the others, and there is evidence that his masters placed unusual reliance on his character and ability. On leaving, he was appreciatively described as a most distinguished scholar (“clerc fort distingue”). It was this quality of pre-eminence that was to characterise his whole life.

During his years at the Little Seminary, there were no fewer than a dozen missionary vocations, and it was as one of these—the e1ite of the school—that Gustave proceeded to the Seminary of the Foreign Missions Society at Paris. His example was not lost on the younger brother who followed [page 65] him through the same college and Little Seminary, but a future of quite exceptional promise was cut short when the latter suddenly died at the age of eighteen, while studying for the priesthood at Innsbruck University.

Gustave entered the Paris Seminary in 1873 and was ordained priest on 24th February, 1877. That he made his mark during those four years of intensive study and prayer is evidenced first by his being designated “Socius” to accompany Fr. Rousseille to Rome and second by his recall to Paris in later years to be nominated a Director of the Seminary.

On being ordained, Fr. Mutel learned that he was destined for Korea. Two other missionaries, Frs. Doucet and Robert, had sailed a month earlier for the same Mission, and were still on their way to join Frs. Blanc and Deguette, the only missionaries then in the country.

It is here necessary to turn aside and briefly sketch the history of Catholic missionary work in Korea from its official inception in 1831 up to the time of Fr. Mutel’s departure in 1877.

In 1831 Mgr. Bruguiere was appointed first Vicar Apostolic of Korea, but while still on the way to his Mission, he was suddenly taken ill and died in October, 1835. The following January, however, Fr. Maubant succeeded in entering Korea, crossing the frozen river Yalu at night and disguised in Korean mourning costume. A year later, in January, 1837, Fr. Chastan followed; and, after another year, the two were joined by Bishop Imbert, second Vicar Apostolic. All three missionaries entered by the same route and in similar disguise; since Korea was yet a closed country, hostile to foreigners and bitterly opposed to Christianity. After nearly two years of work, during which time they made some three thousand conversions to the Faith, a fierce persecution broke out In August 1839 Bishop Imbert was betrayed, and sent word to his two colleagues to give themselves up, hoping thereby to save the Korean Christians. [page 66]

The three missionaries were imprisoned, tortured and finally martyred on 21st September, 1839.

Nothing daunted, further missionaries entered the country six years later, in October, 1845, this time by boat from Shanghai. Bishop Ferreol, Fr. Daveluy and Fr. Kim (a Korean) were the first to arrive; numerous others followed. The succeeding twenty years were marked by steady growth of the Mission. Fr. Kim alone met martyrdom, soon after his arrival; but several of the priests, including Bishop Ferreol, died on the field, due largely to the severe hardships they had to undergo. Yet there were always others to fill their places. Local persecutions broke out from time to time, but the work continued without intermission until February, 1866, when Bishop Berneux, fourth Vicar Apostolic, was suddenly arrested in Seoul, and soon afterwards, in and around the same city, Frs. Beaulieu, Dorie, de Bretenieres, Pourthie and Petitnicolas. All six missionaries were imprisoned and tortured, and met their martyrdom on 8th and 11th March. Bishop Daveluy (Coadjutor) was the next to be taken, while Frs. Aumaitre and Huin surrendered themselves at his instigation, in order to save the Korean Christians. The three were cruelly martyred on 30th March.

The persecution continued throughout the country for several years, thousands of Korean Christians meeting mar-tyrdom as resolutely as their pastors. Of the latter only three out of the original twelve made good their escape to China - Frs. Ridel, Feron and Calais.

Ten years later the situation was little changed. The actual persection might have died down, but the proscriptive edict remained in force; the chief persecutors lived yet and same state of hostility to the foreigner obtained. No western power had yet made a treaty with the “Hermit Kingdom”.

Fr. Mutel was thus called to a glorious heritage. The missionaries of his Society had twice set out to spread the Faith in this strange and almost unknown land; twice their efforts had ended in failure, though crowned with martyr- [page 67] dom. But there were known to be many thousands of Korean Christians yet living, preserving their Faith in the greatest secrecy and deprived of the Sacraments and all spiritual direction. These awaited a fresh dawn, and the Society, together with the whole Church, longed to renew the work.

The following is Archbishop Muter’s own brief account of the reopening of the Mission in the years immediately preceding his entry into Korea :

“After the persecution of 1866 Korea was without mis-sionaries for ten years. Several expeditions attempted to re-establish the Mission, but failed. At last, in May 1867, Bishop Ridel succeeded in sending two missionaries into the country- While one of these, Fr. Blanc, was engaged in visiting the scattered Christians at Komeui-ko (I-Chun, Kang- won Province) in the greatest secrecy, the younger, Fr. Deguette, fell mortally ill His companion wanted to return and help him, but the dying man sent him word as follows : ‘We are here for God, Who will not leave you to labour alone. I await a miracle. Stay where you are!’ God worked the expected miracle; the dying man returned to health and was able to take the field in his turn. The arrival of the mission- aries revived the courage of the Christians, but only a few thousand were to be found at first Many others had been lost sight of during the persecution, and were for years unaware of the return of the missionaries. When computation became possible, it was ascertained that one half of them—that is to say, more than 10,000 had disappeared, victims of violent persecution or utter destitution.

“In September 1877, Bishop Ridel rejoined his two mis-sionaries, together with a new reinforcement — Frs. Doucet and Robert; but at the beginning of 1878 some letters sent to him from Europe were seized at the frontier; the messenger was put to torture and everything was discovered. The Bishop was arrested and thrown into prison among thieves. Expecting death daily, he was conducted to the frontier, China having demanded his release at the request [page 68] of the French Minister at Peking. This was the first act of clemency on the part of the Korean government towards the missionaries; the following year Fr. Deguette’s arrest, which was likewise protested by China, provided an occasion for its repetition. But the ancient barriers protecting Korea from the outside world were not to fall till much later; the state of persecution lasted until 1886; and it was necessary to smuggle entry into the country and, once there, to remain in hiding.”

Before leaving France, Fr. Mutel received an important commission. The Foreign Missions Society was anxious to further the cause of the beatification of the French and Korean martyrs, and to this end required him to become conversant with the necessary procedure. The examination of a similar cause was just then taking place in Tonkin— another classic field for martyrs—and it was considered advisable for Fr. Mutel to stay there for some months on his way to Korea and see for himself how matters were conducted. This delay was to cost him dear, for his eventual arrival at “Our Lady of the Snows” at Chakou, the Manchurian mission-post from which the new expeditions to Korea were to start, took place a short while after the departure of Bishop Ridel with Frs. Doucet and Robert, all bound for Korea; and he was obliged to remain there for three long years, awaiting the opportunity for a fresh expedition, which at that time required long and careful preparation. Early in 1878 news came through that Bishop Ridel had been arrested in Seoul and cast into prison. Fr. Mutel longed to be at his side but feared there was now no hope of early entry to the cherished mission-field.

It was a situation of agonizing uncertainty and a severe trial for the eager young missionary, forced to remain an onlooker at Our Lady of the Snows. Were they on the eve of another savage persecution like those of 1839 and 1866? Would the Superior be subjected to torture and martyrdom ? And would the four other missionaries be able to elude a thorough-going search? [page 69]

Most of these doubts and fears were set at rest when Bishop Ridel was liberated at the Manchurian frontier. “Rejoice, dear Father Coste,’’ wrote Fr. Mutel on 8th July, “Bishop Ridel has been restored to us! It is a great step forward, the greatest no doubt to date, but the future is not free from anxiety. What is to become of our colleagues ?”

Fr. Mutel was far from inactive at his temporary post He set himself to study the Korean language as well as the written Chinese character, and was able to give some help to Fr. Coste, who was then engaged on the production of the earliest Korean French Dictionary at Yokohama.\* A further task was to copy out the letters received from the missionaries in Korea, for who knew but they might soon be numbered among the martyrs ? His writing was done in an unheated room, where, as he told in later days, it was often necessary to thaw his pen at the candle-flame. As soon as he had sufficient knowledge of Chinese, he devoted much of his time to the Christians in the congregation of Our Lady of the Snows, and for exercise would go out shooting. He told how the report of his gun used to waken the rabbits, and how on one occasion a bold young rabbit “paused to look back mockingly at the hunter, then scampered off shaking its ears.” His memory of these days remained vivid, and it was delightful to hear him tell of them with his habitual charm and simplicity.

But at the time he could find little satisfaction in his various occupations. He longed to press on to his appointed Mission and take his share of the trials and hardships he knew awaited him there. The letters he wrote at the time continually harp on this theme. To Fr. Coste he wrote on 19th June 1879 : “........The couriers for Pienmen left this morning in spite of the rain. The rendezvous is fixed for the 24th. May they bring back good news―I am burning with impatience to enter Korea........”

\* There is extant in Seoul a manuscript of this Dictionary entirely written in Fr. Mutel’s hand.

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Meanwhile Fr. Deguette was seized and conducted to the Manchurian frontier―just as Bishop Ridel had been the previous year; and the time was judged inopportune for a fresh expedition. Further delays ensued, but at length Bishop Ridel decided that the attempt should be made by Frs. Mutel and Liouville in the spring of 1880. The story of this expedition is best given in Fr. Mutel’s own words :

“Tuesday, 11th May. Monseigneur (Ridel) accompanied us to the port as well as Fr. Guillon. Fr. Liouville set out with them on horseback; as for me, I had to make the trip in a small cart, and in order to be as little behind the others as possible, I left somewhat in advance. At 7 o’clock I said goodbye to Frs. Richard and Deguette, then got into the cart. A good number of Christians were there to bid us farewell, and little by little the dear steeple of Our Lady of the Snows receded. I had lived in its shadow for close on three years. About a mile from the village, the cart overturned, out luckily there was no serious damage; in less than five minutes everything was in order again and we resumed our journey. At 10 o’clock we were overtaken and then soon left behind by Monseigneur and our colleagues on horseback. The weather was threatening and towards mid-day rain began to fall. Happily the others must have arrived by this time, but we still had about eight miles to go before reaching our destination. Eventually, at 3 o’clock, we arrived at Chuang-ho, and stopped at a pawnbroking establishment run by the local Christians. It had been arranged that we should go on board our junk that very evening, but the rain had made the roads so bad that it was almost impossible to carry our baggage there, so we were glad to accept the hospitality offered by the Christians and spend the night with them.

Wednesday, 12th May. This morning the weather was fine with a northerly wind. After breakfast, we asked for the Monseigneur’s blessing and were soon on our way to the boat We covered the short distance on horseback. Monseigneur and Fr. Guillon accompanied us as far as the junk, as well as two of the local Christians. Our baggage had already [page 71] been taken on board and it seemed they were only waiting for us to weigh anchor. But the tide gradually fell and we did not budge, for the boatmen were not yet ready. However, we installed ourselves in the cabin, then went back on shore. From all sides we were assailed by a fetid odour of salt fish, which somewhat discomforted us. At mid-day we were served with millet instead of rice and a single plate of dried fish - which boded ill for the future; luckily we have with us some provisions supplied by the Christians of Tang-pou. The afternoon passed waiting for the next tide. We were assured that we should leave during the night. In the evening the sailors were all on board and finally the captain arrived; he paid us a visit and promised that all would be done for the best He bore with him a small case containing lamp, pipe and other accessories for smoking opium; on being told that the smell of this drug disagreed with us, he replied that he would smoke far enough away not to incon-venience us.

“Thursday, 13th May. We left during the night as we had been told. This morning our boat is fast on the mud outside the channel At 10 o’clock the tide began to rise and at 11 all got ready for our departure. The wind still blew from the north, and once the anchor was raised we were soon at sea, being tossed about by the waves. The better to stand the motion, we went down to our cabin and stayed there like gallant fellows. On poking our heads out at 2 o’clock, we found that we had cast anchor at a small port, Ta-wang-kia-tao, a Chinese islet one hundred li from Chuang-ho. Three of our sailors landed and Fr. Liouville and I accompanied them at their invitation. We sought to regain on the hills the appetite which had already left us, and later returned to the beach. There an old man ap-proached timidly and spoke to us; all the neighbouring villagers who had been watching; from afar, gradually became emboldened and surrounded us; finally they invited us to their village for awhile, and as they were so insistent, we went along to smoke a pipe there. The conversation was [page 72 ] trivial: What is your name? your age? your country? Whence do you come? Whither are you going? They asked us whether we were going to trade in Korea. These people appeared very unsophisticated and kindly. It one lived among them for a little while, it seemed to me, they could be successfully evangelized. There are about eighty families on the island, scattered among five or six villages. Some of the inhabitants are cultivators, but the majority are fishermen. At present they are drying cod-fish on the beach. We returned to the seashore reading our breviaries; everyone followed and seemed much astonished at seeing us praying in this manner. At length our sailors came back, and while they were engaged in refloating our boat, we ate oysters, of which numbers were to be found on the rocks.

“Friday, 14th, May. The wind continuing contrary, we remained at anchor

“Saturday, 15th May. We left at last this morning, although there was only a slight breeze and that not very favourable; by evening we were in sight of Hai-yang-tao, the last Chinese island we shall see.

“Sunday, 16th May. Feast of Pentecost We were not so happy as to be able to celebrate Holy Mass, nor could we even console ourselves by assisting at it; so we united our intention with that of the whole Catholic Church, recalling especially the Feasts we had witnessed at Our Lady of the Snows. The mountains of Korea could already be seen in the distance—we were heading for the Promised Land. At about 10 o’clock a little bird came and perched on the boat, and spent a good part of the day there. The wind is scarcely perceptible and we are barely moving We had a small extra for dinner—the cook killed our first fowl, and served up a fairly good soup; for once the cup of millet and the dried fish were left on one side.

“Monday, 17th May. We are close to the coast of Korea but a southerly wind persists and it is impossible to make way against it; so we make for Choto to cast anchor there, arriving at 2 o’clock. [page 73]

“Tuesday, 18th May. The day fixed for the rendezvous, and we are still more than a hundred li from Merinto! The south wind continues to embarrass us. Our sailors went ashore to look for wood and vegetables, and soon returned, for they found some ready-made faggots on the slope of the mountain, and thought it a simple matter to carry them off, poor pagans that they are. Towards evening the anchor cable broke owing to friction with the side of the boat, and left the anchor at the bottom of the sea. Our captain thus sustained a loss of 100 strings of cash.

“Wednesday, 19th May. Still the south wind blows. We redouble our entreaties to the Blessed Virgin to obtain a favourable wind. During the day many Korean boats put out to sea without troubling about us. At about 2 o’clock a Chinese junk came up from the south and anchored close by Two men came on board our boat and we remained hidden in the cabin during their visit, It appears that this junk is fishing along the coast for sea-slugs and is being pursued by the Koreans. I don’t know whether our boatmen are themselves afraid of trouble, but we always seem to weigh anchor and leave in spite of a head-wind. We had to tack about all the evening. At nightfall we found ourselves pretty close to the land; we could distinguish a yamen on the shore with a tower rising close by. We spent the night at anchor.

“Thursday, 20th May. We continued tacking south. At 10 o’clock the wind suddenly dropped, and at 2 o’clock it rose again, this time from the west We travelled at good speed. A heavy sea was running when we came opposite Cape Chansan, but once we had rounded the cape, the waves grew less and fine weather returned. At nignt-fall we went up on deck to have a look at the land. The mountains were wooded right up to their summits and were a magnificient sight at this time of year, when everything is green. Soon we located the island of Merinto, our rendezvous, which we reached at about 8 o’clock. We were counting on meeting the Korean boat there, for the wind had blown consistently from the south, but tbere was no sign of [page 74] it Indeed, there was not a single Korean vessel to be seen, only two Chinese junks which were spending the season there, fishing for sea-worms. We cast anchor not far from them.

“Friday, 21st May. This morning we had a visit from a Korean who, it appeared, was trying to sell fish. He was inquisitive to the point of prying, but did not discover us. While chatting with the captain on deck, he suddenly and without warning lifted the matting covering the entrance to our cabin. I was still in bed and could make him out quite plainly through the cracks; but he was not in such a good position for seeing me, and perceived nothing. I quickly turned my back, while at the same time the captain prevented him from repeating his action and asked him to go and sell his fish somewhere else. About thirty fishing-boats were rocking on the waves all round the two Chinese junks. In the course of the morning our men went ashore and informed us on their return that there were many more inhabitants than we had thought at first sight A number of families were settled there, and some of the people had asked our sailors all sorts of questions : ‘What have you come here for ? You have no merchandise on board. You are not trading. You must surely be on some secret business.’ Our men got through it all as best they could. Other people said : ‘You’ve got some Koreans on board’, and when the sailors denied this, ‘then from what country do the men on your boat come?’ they asked. This was certainly a random question, for no one there had yet seen us. It had been arranged that we should hang a white shirt to the stern of our boat as a signal to make ourselves known to our Korean friends. The people on the island had noticed this and asked what it meant; they were told that it was merely left out to dry. We are obliged to remain hidden owing to the island and other junks being so close. Fr. Liouville, who would be given away by his long beard, is condemned to stay in the cabin the whole time; as for me, I put on Chinese dress ana can thus appear on deck sometimes without danger. [page 75]

“Saturday, 22nd May. Fifth and last day of the rendez- vous. We have not yet found the Korean boat which was to come to meet us. Last night seemed quite favourable but nothing came. During the day some Korean boats were to be seen here and there, but all .sheered off, not a single one approaching us or making any sign. We hope that the coming night the last for the rendezvous, will be more fortunate. Perhaps our Koreans came the first day, and, not finding us here, went off to take shelter in some coastal port, intending to come back later. However that may be, we have judged it prudent to remove our signal, the shirt, since it is quite dry by now! It has been replaced by a white towel From a distance this looks the same, while allaying the suspicions of the people near at hand. This evening, as night was falling, a small boat manned by five or six people, looked to be making for us. Certainly these were not our Christians and the captain had his suspicions that it was a magistrate’s boat and told us to conceal ourselves. For want of a better method, we each crouched down in a corner of the cabin and awaited events. We were in God’s keeping. The captain had the entrance to the cabin closed, and everyone sat down on the cover while he received the visitors. We heard the opening words of the conversation that ensued: ‘How many men have you on board?’ ― ‘Nine,’ replied the captain. As this was the number of men on deck, the inquirers were inclined to believe that he was telling the truth. After this, there was so much noise on deck that we were prevented from hearing any more. After a quarter of an hour’s palaver, the Koreans climbed on board and we heard them passing to and fro overhead for a long while. Eventually they went away and the door of our prison was opened. The captain came down to see us and seemed quite dismayed. ‘There was nothing to say to them; it was most embarrassing—we had no reply to make!’ That was all, but he repeated it for five minutes. At last the Christian who is accompanying us came to render an account of the visit. The Koreans had announced that they were delegates from [page 76] the Magistrate of Pieceu-long-kang, and pointed to the blue flag flown from their boat as proof of their mission. This is as nearly as possible the conversation which followed :

‘What have you come here for?’

‘In order to trade.’

‘What are you trading?’

‘European textiles.’

‘Where is your merchandise?’

‘We haven’t any this time.’

‘Then why have you come here? Obviously not to sell textiles.’

‘We have come to find out what articles are most in demand among Koreans and we shall return at the eighth moon with a cargo.’

They seemed to believe only half what the captain told them and climbed on board our boat, all talking together. After looking all over it, they turned their attention to the signal-towel, on which they expected to find some clue. They examined it minutely, but found no characters written thereon, and could not think it a rallying sign. Of course they quite forgot to visit the one place that should have been suspect―the cabin where we were hidden. This ingenuousness seemed to us the more astonishing by reason of their calling, and we could not see it otherwise than as a special intervention of the Divine Providence. Whom God protects is indeed well guarded!

The Koreans, while they were departing, enquired of our men whether they expected to sail on the next day, given a favourable wind, and added that they would keep a watch on us until we were a long way off. The crew are all in great fear and I think they would leave immediately if there were the least bit of wind. An old seaman came down into our cabin and held forth for a long time, proving to us that it was impracticable to stay here any longer. ‘What a misfortune,’ said he, ‘if they had discovered you!’‘Possibly they would have seized us, but what had you to fear?’ we replied. [page 77]

‘How we should have lost face,’ said he, ‘why, we should never have dared to go back to Chuangho!’

We tried to reassure them, but fear is not a rational process. In the meantime the Korean boat did not go away as yet She was at this moment near the other Chinese junks, which in their turn received a visit from the Koreans. Our men were afraid that they might be inclined to return the same evening, and wondered how we could best be hidden. The captain made us roll up our beds and stow away our books and other suspicious objects; then he re-moved two or three planks in the cabin, slid a mat to the bottom of the hold and showed us his hiding place with an air of satisfaction. ‘Once you’re in there,’ he said, ‘I shall have no fear of their finding you.’ We were about to go down into the hold when the Korean boat made off and returned to shore. For the time we were safe. I enjoined the men not to be afraid if they saw a boat coming towards us during the night; our Christians might well be arriving at last That night we went to sleep fully dressed, fearing some new alarm.

“Sunday, 23rd May. This morning we were wakened by the sound of the gong. It is the 15th day of the Moon, and besides our men possibly want to set the fashion. They have made a great display of bunting on deck; one of the flags is white and has written on it the following words: T’ien hoou cheng Mou.―Queen of Heaven, Holy Mother. Is not this homage offered to the Blessed Virgin? Yesterday’s fears are somewhat allayed, but the captain declares that he will leave as soon as the wind is favourable. We reminded him of his contract which bound him for two more days, but he replied that he couldn’t stay here any longer. Then we proposed that he take us to Ta-t’sing-tao, to spend only one night there, after which we would consider him discharged from his obligation, whether our boat came or not Ta-t’sing-tao was the place which had been fixed as a rendezvous in previous years, and we thought that our Christians might perhaps have sought refuge, and be awaiting us [page 78] there. But the captain refused to carry out this arrangement, maintaining that the locality was even more dangerous than Merinto, that it was under the administration of the same Magistrate, that letters were exchanged daily between the various Customs posts, that if we went to another locality we should certainly be followed there and watched, and that he would never agree to do so even though he were offered all the money in the worlds It is clear enough—we cannot insist But today there is only a gentle breeze from the west, scarcely enough to permit of our leaving. At midday the whole crew were served up with a kind of vermicelli made of flour, in place of the millet. We were the first to do justice to it, and had barely finished when three Korean boats, bearing blue flags just like the one that had visited us yesterday, were reported near the two Chinese junks; probably our turn would come later. We were told to stow away all our belongings and go down into the hold as quickly as possible. While we were carrying out these instructions, an infernal racket was set up on deck. Before resigning myself to descending into the hold, I poked my head out to see what was going on, and only then realised that the anchor had been raised and the sails set All this had been accomplished in less than three minutes, and already the island had begun to recede. I did not presume to blame our men; yet perhaps if they had made the best of matters, this second visit would have passed off as harmlessly as yesterday’s. I asked the Christian who was accompanying us to keep a look out and see if any Korean boats appeared to be following. Several of them seemed to be tacking in the same direction as we were, but gradually these all dispersed, some to the south and others towards the land, where they stopped and lay at anchor. So this is the end of the matter, and now we must go away from our dear and much longed-for Korea. Naturally our hearts are heavy, especially when we think of our brave colleagues in the interior who have such great need of help and succour! And then the boat sent to meet us [page 79] …has it been captured or prevented from setting out by some fresh misfortune? “Far from being discouraged at their lack of success, the missionaries began making fresh plans, but there was further unavoidable delay. Not until October was it possible to set out on a new expedition. The following is the brief account Archbishop Mutel wrote in later years of this voyage and his first experiences in Korea :

“This time we were kept at sea for eight days by bad weather, and the day fixed for our rendezvous had passed by the time of our arrival But our provisions were exhausted and we had to land somewhere in Korea, cost what it might Our junk approached the shore and, under cover of night, landed a Christian Korean, the scholar Thaddeus Kwon, who was acting as our guide. That night he walked forty kilometres in order to reach a Christian pottery-works, and returned next evening bringing with him enough rice to last for one day and the news that a Korean boat would join us the same evening. Apparently the boat sent from Seoul to meet us had been plundered by some pagans, who had carried off all the Korean clothes intended for us.

“Our junk set sail once more and cautiously proceeded up an arm of the sea. Towards ten o’clock at night the water became so shallow that further progress was impossible and we cast anchor. Soon afterwards a small boat came alongside, bringing a sack of rice for our Chinese and some Korean garments—contributed by the potters—for ourselves; one of them had given a shirt, another trousers, and by this means two complete outfits had been got together. Hastily and at random we donned our new costume. My share included a pair of trousers which, in addition to being very dirty, bore a huge stain of oil or grease on one leg. Good Martin Kim had thus deprived himself on my account!

“The little Korean boat bore us away; and our Christians, without slacking their oar, drew from beneath a board a small bottle of Korean wine and some persimmons; we [page 80] found everything delicious. About midnight we reached the vicinity of the pottery works : we were safe! Men were waiting for us on the shore, and soon our modest baggage was unloaded and we were led to the most substantial house in the village, which had been reserved for us. It belonged to the Christian Pak Seung-to, uncle of Fr. Mark Pak. This pottery works was called Pai-ma-tang and was situated on the sea-shore, near the market-place Taitan in the sub-prefecture of Changyun in Whanghai Province. Knowing that we were not yet accustomed to eating ordinary Korean rice, our Christians had overcome the difficulty by preparing chicken with the rice. But we were now in the early hours of Friday, 12th November. The circumstances were surely such as to free us from abstinence, but we were over-joyed at having arrived in Korea and did not know how to thank God for His protection, so we decided to leave the appetizing chicken and rice and content ourselves with a very frugal, meal. Our good Christians, who had doubtless been waiting for us since before midnight, were more mortified by this than we ourselves.

“The large boat having failed us, it was impossible to reach Seoul as had been arranged. We had to remain where we were. Our confinement was rather strict, since the coming and going of strangers was a continual source of danger. But the Christians kept good watch and we did not put our noses outside except at night-time.

There was a second small pottery works about twenty li away in the mountains. In turn the Christians came to see us and hear Mass. At the end of a month they proposed taking Fr. Liouville, to their own village, Keuk-naki, and establishing him there, and so it was done; he went there for Christmas. In 1881, at the feast of the Epiphany, I went to see him and also to take my leave of him, for I had received in the meantime instructions from Fr. Blanc to proceed to Paikchun in order to meet Fr. Robert, who should pass this place on his tour. It was a two-day journey for me, dressed in mourning costume and travelling by chair. [page 81]

There was always a room set apart for me at the inns, and as soon as I entered and took off the large hat which shielded me, I had to turn my face to the wall. When fatigued by one position, I had to change from one side to another in such a way as to keep my face hidden all the time. To be brief, the journey was safely accomplished, and by the evening of the second day I had arrived and installed myself in the little village of Toltari, another pottery works, situated about ten li west of the town of Paikchun.

“Some days later I had the great pleasure of meeting Fr. Robert there. He had left Paris only three months before me, but had had the good fortune to enter Korea three years earlier Speaking Korean fluently and thoroughly inured to the country, he made endless journeys, visiting the Christians. After some days together, he left to continue his work.

“There remains with me the recollection of a case which was then brought to him for judgment. A young married couple were at odds, and no one could establish harmony between them. The husband appeared first and recounted his grievances in full; whereat the Father said brusquely : ‘Doubtless the reason is that you beat your wife!’ ‘Oh, no,’ said the other, ‘I have never beaten her.’ ‘Well, since she is so ill-tempered, perhaps you would be well advised to beat her a little!’ ‘But when she is beaten, she is worse still.’ (So he must at least have tried it!) The wife was sent for; she sat down in a corner of the room, turning her back on her husband, and unbosomed herself in turn. The young couple could not be made to listen to reason. In the end, the Father has a sudden inspiration : sending for the parents, he bade them instal the young couple in a separate part of their household. And I heard that after this was done, peace returned as if by magic. As so often the case in Korea, it was all a matter of dissension between the wife and her mother-in-law.

“I was still at Toltari on the afternoon of 19th March, 1881, when a Christian arrived with the news that Fr. Liouville had been arrested in his village. [page 82]

“He had been visiting a sick person in the neighbourhood and the precautions which the Christians took to conceal him must have attracted notice, for two days later the Magistrate’s retainers from Haiju appeared in the village, searching for a thief whom they believed to be hidden there. Attempts were made to throw them off the scent, but in vain. Fr. Liouville was in the act of hearing Confessions for the feast of St Joseph, next day. In a twinkling all suspicious objects were stowed away and the Father was hurried off to a little house standing apart from the rest There he found some dirty old clothing to hide under, and remained still as death. In the course of the search, one of the retainers reached the house and, opening the door, noticed this bundle which seemed of no interest He lifted the covering and recoiled in fear at seeing his prize. Quite unabashed, Fr. Liouville asked the retainers if they had received orders to arrest him. The latter scratched their heads at this but declared that he was a fine capture. However, two of them went off to the town to ask the Magistrate’s advice, while the remainder guarded the prisoner. Soon the news spread that there was a European in the village, and people from all over the neighbourhood came to see this phenomenon. The next day was the feast of St Joseph, and Fr. Liouville told the retainers that he must celebrate Mass, and asked them to keep guard on the door to prevent the crowd of pagans from invading the room; and so it was done, the retainers at the back of the room hearing Mass and kneeling as piously as the Christians.

“The two messengers returned on the following day bringing word that the Father should be set at liberty. Whether they were acting on the Magistrate’s advice or were afraid of compromising themselves by reporting such an important capture will never be known.

The Father could not remain there; furthermore the villagers must disperse, since the Christians were still in danger. The following night he left and hid in the only Christian household of a village ten ]i distant Two days [page 83] later the house caught fire at the time of the evening meal, and he had to flee stil farther away.

“As for me, after hearing about the capture of Fr. Liouville, I judged it wise to make myself scarce. The Christians also wished me to leave but did not dare to tell me so, Moreover it was the only means of saving their village, since refugees from the other were already arriving and information might be given against them. I did not know where to go, but my advisers assured me that Seoul was the safest retreat. So I set off for Seoul—three days’ journey in mourning costume and travelling by chair.

“While passing through the Sai-mon Gate into Seoul, I glimpsed through the hangings of my chair an array of large cutlasses in a weapon-rack in front of the guard-room, and shivered. Twenty minutes later we arrived at our destination—a house in the Inseung-pou-chai quarter in the southern part of the city—and I was forthwith installed in a small and very secluded room. I was safe!

“Soon I heard about the trials Fr. Liouville was under- going in the course of his wanderings after his adventure in Whanghai Province. I sent him some Christian bearers with a chair, to bring him to Seoul He arrived without mishap at the end of ten days. “We both occupied the one small room, and, what with the board which served as an altar and the indispensable articles crowded beneath it, there was barely room to lie down. We had to place the mats which served as our mattresses in such a way that they overlapped for about a third of their width, and lie side by side as if we were in the same bed. In the daytime we had to converse in an undertone and stifle our laughter; but we did it all with right good will!

‘‘ There were at that time three missionaries in Korea besides us new-comers―Fr. Blanc, acting Vicar Apostolic, and Frs. Doucet and Robert; but these were all up-country and far away. The Superior soon sent us his orders : Fr. [page 84] Liouville was to go up-country to the Christians of Syou-syen in the district of Chungju and I was to remain in Seoul.

It therefore became necessary for me to find a less confined dwelling place. Hearing of a dilapidated house for sale near the Little West Gate, I said goodbye to Fr. Liouville, who would be off up-country in a few days, and left our jolly but untenable quarters to instal myself therein. Repairs were under way and the whole place was thronged with workmen when I arrived, so I had to spend the daytime immured in the house. Even this seemed likely to arouse suspicion among the slaves in neighbouring households, who had access wherever they pleased, and it was deemed wiser to send me elsewhere for a few days.

“So I took refuge in the house where Mgr. Ridel had been arrested three years previously. After being confiscated, it had been sold to the family of Peter Yi In-yeng, half of which was Christian. It was there that I baptized a child, who was later to become secretary-interpreter to the French Consul, in the arms of his yet pagan grand-father.

On returning to my new house in two days, there was a fresh alarm. The Chief of Police had appeared on top of the neighbouring City Gate with quite a band of his retainers and had scrutinized our house—or at least so we believed―in leisurely fashion; after which he descended by the wall, as though to examine it still more closely. We believed ourselves lost Yet nothing happened. I learned afterwards that the Chief of Police had been charged with the duty of repairing the Gate and had simply come to carry out an inspection. But how the good fellow frightened us !

“It was at this time that I received word of the Christians I had left in March. The village of Toltari had not been disturbed, but the little town of Paikchun, on the contrary, had suffered persecution. There were only three Christian families in the place, and before my departure these had begged me to fortify them with the Sacraments, as they already feared some misfortune would befall them. I accordingly visited them the night before leaving for Seoul, [page 85] and scarcely had I taken my departure than the Magistrate arrested the two leading Christians, Paul Yi the doctor and the aged Francis Pang. Especially the former―who related all this to me—was put to torture, and the marks were still evident on his legs. In order to force him to apostasize they had subjected him to bending of the bones. I asked him if it had been very painful and he replied, ‘It was terrible, but fortunately the intensity of the pain made one lose consciousness quickly—otherwise it would have been unbearable.’ Thus the Magistrate laboured in vain, but he confiscated the Christian’s house and all his property and drove him out of the town. He even had all his books burned in front of him, but Paul interrupted him and, pointing to his breast, cried : ‘Magistrate, you can burn them, for they are here,’ He reached Seoul with his old father, his wife and three children. Formerly in easy circumstances, he had lost everything.

“He set up as best he could in the capital, but being unknown and without any practice, he suffered adversity and even starvation for a time. He told me later that when he had nothing left in the house, he made all his family kneel down and recite the ‘Our Father’ together to ask God to provide their daily bread; and he declared that on each occasion some unexpected customer turned up, and they were able to buy provisions for the day with the money received for medicines. God has since blessed him with a return to his former prosperity.

“Scarcely had I spent fifteen days in my new quarters, than I was told that I must leave. The slaves of the neighbouring houses were whispering among themselves that some suspect was hidden in our house, and everything might be found out I fled at midnight, conducted by the aged catechist, Kim Ok Chai, but he got bogged in a pool of water and failed me as a guide. He had been too frightened to light his lantern! While passing through the City Gate in order to reach Mowha-kwan, I had another sight of the famous weapon—rack — without much more assurance than

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on the first occasion. I was welcomed by the family of Peter Sung, with his wife Susan Won and daughter-in-law Mary Kim, and stayed with them during the two summer months, comparatively at ease, though not entirely free from anxiety. The new house—which our Superior, Fr. Blanc, jocularly called the Palace of Thorns—had to be sold at a loss and another founds A small house was discovered in the vicinity of the royal palace, in the Nongpo-an quarter, and seemed suitable. I moved in at the end of September, and from it witnessed the revolution of 1882, concealed but far from reassured.’’

Korea at this time was passing through a period of acute internal stress. For centuries the country had been riven by the intrigues of rival political factions and disorganised by frequent conspiracies against those in power; to this prevailing state of near-anarchy a further complication was now added. Korea’s immemorial isolation from the rest of the world was threatened ; foreign powers were knocking at the gates; and the air was thick with every kind of rumour. It was not surprising that a broad and to some extent genuine cleavage should exist on the question of introducing overdue reforms and establishing relations with other countries. The traditional elements, though strongly entrenched, had been weakened by the retirement of the notorious Tai Won Kun, who had been Regent from 1864 to 1873 and had ordered the persecution of the Christians in 1866. On the other hand a really liberal and progressive party had begun to form under the leadership of men of high rank who were in office and consequently had the ear of the King.

While the reactionaries, therefore, and particularly the Confucianist literati, were doing their utmost to stir up disorder and prevent adoption of a more forward policy, the King and his advisers were cautiously moving in the direction of reform and innovation; the issue could perhaps have been quickly decided if the powerful Min faction, better known as the Queen’s party and family, had thrown their weight behind the progressives. But unfortunately for [page 84]

Korea, the Mins, though bitterly opposed to the Tai Won Kun and his followers, with-held their support; the reformers were thus forced to seek alliance elsewhere, and prejudice their whole case by an attempted coup d’etat in 1884; after which the situation rapidly crystallized, the Queen and her party turning to China for assistance and revealing their essential Conservatism, while the radicals—as they now were—enlisted the aid of Japan.

During 1881, while the position was still obscure, the country was seething with unrest The literati of several provinces presented numerous petitions urging complete sup-pression of Christianity and a strengthening of the barriers against foreign intercourse. The more exigent were arrested and exiled, but on 12th June the King promulgated a new anti-Christian edict―it was to be the last―clearly with a view to conciliating reactionary sentiment, in which he acknowledged that, despite the efforts of his predecessors, the “evil” persisted, and enjoined a more sincere following of the teachings of Confucius, Mencius, and other sages, since this would undoubtedly cause it to disappear without any further steps being necessary. Later in the year, however, a conspiracy against the King and government was exposed, and its leaders— supporters of the ex-Regent— beheaded.

In April 1882, Fr. Mutel was joined in Seoul by Fr. Blanc. Later, during July, his hopes were raised by the news that negotiations with the French Government were in progress; but nothing eventuated. It was a severe disappointment, and Fr. Mutel did not disguise his view that more firmness on the part of his countrymen would have achieved the desired end—without any necessity for summary action—and brought about religious toleration into the bargain.

Meanwhile, however, Seoul was thrown into confusion by the Emeute of 1882. Fr. Mutel’s experiences are best given in his own words :

“Following the treaty signed in 1876 between Japan [page 88] and Korea, Mr. Hanabusa was sent to Seoul as Charge d’Affaires, accompanied by a guard and some officers as instructors for the Korean soldiers. They lived extramuros, in the Mowha-kwan quarter, in a pavilion called Chun-yun-chung not far from the monumental gate later known as the Independence Arch.

“In 1882 a mutiny broke out among Korean soldier mal-contents who had not been paid for some months. The sacks of rice which were occasionally distributed among them were half-empty, whereas the troops drilled by the Japanese received their pay regularly―inde irae. Moreover, it was Sunday 23rd July, and not a drop of rain had fallen as yet The Japanese were to blame!

“Towards five o’clock in the evening some Japanese from the Legation were walking quite unsuspectingly in the town when the crowd began to riot and throw stones at them. The Japanese wisely turned back to their Legation, but on the way two or three were struck down and killed. The rest re-entered the Legation and barricaded the gates. The crowd tried to break their way in but could not do so. They then set fire to the building. The Japanese destroyed all secret documents, etc. and hid the rest at the bottom of a dry well; then, placing the Minister, Hanabusa, in their midst, they rushed out with drawn sabres. As soon as the gate was opened, the crowd ran away in fright, some even falling into a nearby pond. The gallant Japanese wasted no time in futile self-defence, but made for Chemulpo, which they reached the same night Seizing some boats, they stood out to sea and were picked up next day by a steamer.

That very night rain began to fall. Well had it been said that the Japanese were to blame!

On the morning of the 24th the rebel soldiery invaded the royal palace and, finding Min Kyen Ho, who was in charge of the government store-houses, inside, murdered him there. They even menaced the King, laid hold of the Queen Min and dragged her to the palace gate. Some wanted to tear her to pieces on the spot, others to conduct her to [page 89] the central square of Chong-no with more ceremony. While they were arguing about this, a loyal follower of the Queen, Yi Yong Ik, took her upon his back and carried her off, none knew where. (He was a made man from that day on; in time he became a Minister and was all-powerful about the year 1900). Shortly the rumour spread that she had been killed! The soldiers then scattered through the city, demolishing the houses of the great and pillaging here and there.

“The poor King could do nothing but appeal to his father, the famous Regent, who had been in retirement for ten years and was a personal enemy of his daughter-in-law, the supposedly-dead Queen. However, he came to the royal palace and endeavoured to subdue the mutineers. To this end, doubtless, he spread through the city—on the evening of the 25th—the rumour that the pedlars (at that time a powerful guild) were flocking from all over the country to the defence of the King, and that they were even then in the act of breaking down the East Gate and invading the capital Panic broke out!

“In a twinkling every house was empty; all sought refuge on Nam-san, which was soon white with people. I heard that our neighbours were digging holes in the ground and burying their valuables. In spite of my protests, the mother-in-law of my servant, Paul Kim Ye San-i, thought it was not safe to stay in the house and fled like everyone else. But she returned in half an hour, having been unable to force her way through the crowds Her teeth chattered with fear to such an extent that she was unable to eat any solid food for two days. About midnight a report spread that the pedlars were not arriving that night, but had camped ten li from the gates and would enter on the morrow.

“Next morning—not the least sign of the pedlars. But the crowd had had such a fright that they were seized with rage. A search was made through every quarter of the city and some poor men who were connected with the guild were killed in front of the royal palace. My house was only a hundred and fifty metres away, under the very walls of [page 90] the palace, so I knew all about it. Through cracks in the gate, which we kept carefully closed, I was even able to view the fine fellows trooping past, armed with enormous rusty cutlasses. The armories had been pillaged and everyone had turned soldier. We slept with one eye open, for especially in this quarter of the town the least incident would have led to our discovery. One night I had just gone to sleep when I woke with a start at the sound of a violent blow struck on the gate. I thought my last hour had come. I got up and went outside into the courtyards My servant was walking up and down, calmly reciting his Rosary...... Some children, throwing stones at a dog, had made a bad shot and hit the gate That was all.

“We were not always so serene. Among the supposed suspects―everyone at this time was suspect—was found a Christian; the Rosary he had on him made recognition easy. He was placed under arrest Our little flock was thrown into confusion. In my house everyone was overwhelmed. While bringing in my table of rice, my servant told me that if only I would leave the city, all danger would be averted. ‘But’, I replied, ‘I should be arrested before taking a hundred paces!’ He knew that well enough, and dissolved into tears. I leave you to guess whether my rice went down well! But, as ever, God took care of us.”

That Fr. Mutel’s fears were well-grounded may be judged by the following extracts from his letters written at the time, which present a vivid picture of the perilous situation in which he and his Christians found themselves :

“(24th July) …Amid a wild outcry and the beating of drums, the mob surged through the streets before the Min family’s palaces, which had all been plundered and destroyed. Whoever fell into their hands was mercilessly done to death. Meanwhile the lightning flashed and the thunder rolled, and the rain streamed down, that there was a truly infernal uproar. Filled with terror, we all remained indoors.

“(4th August) …Now rumour has it that the Regent is really intent on starting a persecution of the Christians in [page 91] order to divert everyone’s attention. Yesterday I had almost decided on flight, but today we recognize that this would have been a false and over-hasty move, which might have brought matters to a head. We remained, and up to now everything has been quiet. It looks as though the Regent intends to leave us alone this time. Some people make out that the King and the old Queen-mother have dissuaded the Regent from starting a persecution.

“The worst of it is that the robbery and plundering and destruction have by no means come to an end. The most complete state of anarchy obtains. The King has; in effect, been deposed; the Regent is powerless; and other Ministers have been murdered. The four thousand soldiers—real scoundrels these—no longer recognise any officers or obey commands. The mob is armed and the entire populace roars approval at every fresh outrage.”

Continuing Fr. Mutel’s narrative :

“The Regents return to power had been triumphant His enemy the Queen was dead and the customary national mourning was proclaimed. Black shoes and hats were replaced by white ones. Poor men observed the rite by pasting a sheet of paper on the crown of their black hats.

“There remained the diplomatic question. On the 15th August the Japanese returned in force; on the 20th they were received at the palace. The suzerain country, China, could not remain indifferent; she sent a fairly strong body of troops, commanded by a general, who camped outside the South Gate about this time. Negotiations proceeded. Meanwhile, the Chinese general, as protector, paid a visit to the Regent in his palace. The latter returned the visit the following day, but scarcely had he entered the camp than he was surrounded, by order of the general, placed in a chair and sent on board a warship at Namyang, a little to the south of Chemulpo. He was then taken to Pao-ting-fu, where he remained a prisoner for some years. Doubtless the Chinese thought he was the author of all the trouble. This was on the night of the 26th August From the morn- [page 92] ing of the 27th the rumour began to spread that the Queen was not dead at all, but still living; so the white hats began to disappear and the black ones to take their place! She had wisely remained in hiding at Chang-ho-won, two days’ journey from Seoul, whither she had been secretly con- ducted. On the 12th September she re-entered the palace in triumph. This was the same Queen that finally fell a victim to the Japanese conspirators on the 8th October, 1895.

“After these events my life resumed its normal course. It was somewhat closely confined. We took the precaution of not letting even the Christians know our place of residence; and if by chance they found out where it was, they were forbidden to come at all frequently, which instructions they duly observed. The catechists alone kept us in touch with our small flock. When required to administer the Sacraments, I would make my way after nightfall on the previous evening to the Christian’s house which had been selected as our meeting-place. Next day I heard Confessions and, by the second day, having celebrated Mass before daybreak, I would be either installed in a new meeting-place or back in my own house. I visited sick people after nightfall If it were necessary to pass through the Gates, which at that time were kept closed from eight p. m. to one a. m., I waited for them to open in the morning, and, after ministering to the sick person, returned to my house well before daylight But later I went out even in the daytime, if neces-sary.”

In addition to the care of the Christians in Seoul, Fr. Mutel had been assigned the two provinces, Kyungkeui-do and Whanghai-do, and it became his custom to tour these districts during the autumn. Later, he included a third province, Kangwon-do, in his circuit Many years afterwards, in November 1930, Bishop Larribeau was engaged in a Confirmation tour of this same district, and received a letter from Archbishop Mutel containing the following passage:

Above all, I hope you will not have any snow for your [page 92] crossing of the high mountain! There is a magnificent view for you to admire from the summit I can see it yet as I write, having twice made the descent in lovely weather, once on horseback and once on foot. I wonder if motor-cars now run easily down those rugged slopes! The first time I did it—in the autumn of 1882―I went full out all the way down. It was quite amusing, but next day my legs were in such a mess that I couldn’t get up from my mat. Good old times, gone past recall!”

Besides his ordinary work, Fr. Mutel was intent on carrying out his special commission : to advance the cause of the martyrs. The process had been opened and the first sitting held in May 1882, but further progress was obstructed by an unfortunate combination of circumstances. In little more than a year, however, Fr. Mutel was able to report that forty sittings had taken place and much testimony had been sifted.

Fr. Mutel had quickly become adapted to the Korean mode of life. His robust constitution withstood privations and hardships, resisted disease. Perhaps the most insidious foes which the missionaries had to counter derived from the truly appalling lack of sanitation then obtaining in the larger cities. A good description of conditions in Seoul at this time is given by Mr. H. A. C. Bonar, who visited the capital at the end of March 1883 :

“…The main streets are in their present condition quite passable for carts and other wheeled vehicles, but we saw only two or three of the former. As for the side streets, they are in a condition of filth and neglect difficult to imagine. Along the middle of the street there often runs a small stream of thick black mud, and on each side are continuous pools, into which the latrines of the houses open; dung-heaps in many instances occupy more than half of the road; other gutters run across the road and are perhaps covered over with rotten boards or large uneven stones, or not at all. The sight of many of these streets is most disgusting; not the slightest attempt at drainage or sewerage [page 94]is made and the air is poisonous with the offensive smells. Add to this a long row of blackened wretchedly built houses, a number of dogs, horses and bullocks’ skulls lying about, and one may have an idea of some of the streets of the capital of Korea. We were told that for a month or more the streets had been cleaned somewhat; it is difficult to conceive what existed before this attempt was made. A small stream runs through the city from west to east, but the little water in it is stagnant and is hardly to be seen among the heaps of rubbish thrown into it…”

As for the quarters in which the missionaries had to live and work, they were little more than mean hovels built of clay and stone, devoid of light and air, and often infested with vermin, and in the last stages of dilapidation. In the evenings, when the fires were lighted, the chimneys poured their smoke into the streets, while inside the houses the fumes and foul air were almost insupportable. A further trial was the food, which often nauseated the missionaries, consisting for the most part of pickled and salted fish and vegetables. Rice was somewhat of a luxury, and filled rather than sustained; while eggs and chicken were not often procurable. The martyr, Fr. Pourthie, had looked forward to a time when “our hosts will have something to offer us besides seaweed soup and decayed fish”, and even those who found the unusual food less distasteful were not immune from the internal disorders to which it frequently gave rise. Typhoid and dysentery were endemic in Korea, together with every kind of skin and parasitical disease, and the missionaries, with lowered powers of resistance, often fell sick.

And finally there was the discomfort and danger of going abroad. The mourning garments they were forced to wear consisted of a large umbrella-shaped hat of coarse white material, reaching down almost to the shoulders; a long cloak of grey unbleached hemp; and a hempen screen, about twelve inches long and six inches wide, stretched on two short sticks and held up before the face. It was an irk- [page 95] some enough costume at the best of times; and in the rainy season, when the roads were deep in mud, or in winter, when snow ana ice added to the difficulties of progression, even getting about the streets of Seoul must have been an arduous business.

In spite of all restrictions and difficulties, however, Fr. Mutel derived abundant satisfaction from the busy life he was leading. It had been worth the long wait in Manchuria to be afforded such ideal scope for missionary activity. He lived, as he said, in the very shadow of the palace, secure yet braced by the constant threat of arrest and punishment He worked unceasingly, administering the Sacraments to the Christians who flocked to the meeting-places in spite of persistent fear, giving daily proof of their loyalty and devotion. The example of the martyrs was a perpetual source of inspiration to him as to them, for many still lived who had been present at the executions and themselves witnessed heroic fervour and renunciation.

During these years of work and anxiety Fr. Mutel acquired a deep understanding of the Korean mind, as well as an unrivalled knowledge of Korean habits and customs. His familiarity with the written Chinese character gave him a deserved reputation as a scholar; his style of speech, too, was that of the literati and noblemen; and he possessed a dignified, even a majestic, bearing which singled him out from his colleagues. Small wonder then, that he had won the respect and affection of the Korean Christians to whom his life had been devoted, and that there was general regret when he was recalled to Paris early in 1885, to become a Director of the Seminary of the Foreign Missions Society.

His appointment “by unanimous vote of the Missions in Japan and Manchuria” was doubtless a great honour and he received congratulations from all sides, not least from Bishop Blanc, who had succeeded Bishop Ridel as Vicar Apostolic on the latter’s death in Paris the previous year, and now disclosed that he had for some time past been intending to nominate Fr. Mutel as Pro-Vicar. But the one [page 96] thought uppermost in Fr. Mutel’s mind was that he would have to leave his cherished work in Korea, perhaps forever; and he was broken-hearted. On the 8th April he wrote Fr. Coste as follows:

“The news you send me with some diffidence is only too true. Enough of congratulations and regrets at my leaving —in either there is risk of self-deception. Let us then merely say, as sincerely as possible : Fiat voluntas tua! After the first shock and upset, came concern—yes, and tears as well It seems to me that a missionary should not be sent to Korea if he is to be recalled, or recalled once he has been sent there. Well, there’s nothing to be done about it except obey. I leave in one month’s time. Meanwhile, please pray for me, as I feel the parting will be especially bitter.”

And so indeed it was for all concerned, whether French or Korean. In the years that followed, his name was constantly on their lips; there was no forgetting the stalwart young priest who had laboured among them with such assurance and been their loved and trusted friend.

“…I had to take a German steamer to Nagasaki”. he wrote, “still wearing Korean clothes, for I had no others. The metamorphosis took place on arrival, and when the good Korean who was helping me had to cut my long hair, he began crying his eyes out, and I was weak enough to follow suit You will understand that I was parting—it seemed likely forever—from a country which I loved and from Christians with whom and for whom I had worked and suffered......”

Great changes had taken place in Korea since 1880. Treaties had been signed, with the United States in 1882, with Great Britain and Germany in 1883. A number of foreigners had visited the country; some even were resident in Seoul such as the U. S. Minister and his Secretary, the British Consul-General, and the Foreign Office Adviser. A Government Hospital had been founded, and a Post Office opened. [page 97]

Yet the disturbances known as the Emeute of 1884, which broke out in December, showed that the country was still very far from setting down to a new era of orderly progress; it had rather entered a difficult and prolonged period of transition, the opening of which was signalized by poli- tical assassinations and spasmodic fighting between the liberal group backed by Japanese troops on the one hand, and the Chinese and Korean forces on the other, terminated only by the withdrawal and flight of the former from Chemulpo.

It was therefore hardly surprising that the missionaries did not yet consider it politic to emerge from hiding and abandon their habit of secrecy. But there was a general feeling that they were at last on the threshold of religious liberty. By December 1884 matters were sufficiently advanced for Fr. Mutel to write that, if the missionaries were even then to reveal themselves, the Korean Government would be more embarrassed than anyone else. The following year saw the beginnings of Protestant missionary work, and after the Treaty with France had been signed early in 1886 Bishop Blanc decided that the time had come for the Catholic missionaries to appear openly, even though the Treaty had caused general disappointment by failing to provide for their security.

From Nagasaki Fr. Mutel took ship to Marseilles, calling first at Formosa, where he met a young Lieutenant in the French Army who was later to become famous as Marshal Joffre. Years afterwards, in 1922, they were to meet again in Seoul during the latter’s Far Eastern tour.

Arrived in Paris, Fr. Mutel took over the Secretaryship of the Council and was made specially responsible for the Missions of Japan, Korea and Manchuria. He instructed the young seminarists in liturgy and dogma, and impressed everyone with the conscientious and zealous way he carried out his duties.

An ordered, disciplined life is often the condition for inner freedom. At heart Fr. Mutel remained devoted to his [page 98] late Mission; his chief joy was to receive news from Korea and hear of the great events unfolding, now that the Church was emerging into the light of day. Manifold works were being inaugurated : an orphanage, a home for aged people, a school for catechists, and the installation of the Sisters of Saint Paul, which he himself was able to arrange by negotiation with the Mother-house at Chartres. He kept in close touch with every development.

On the 21st February, 1890, Fr. Mutel received a telegram announcing the death of Bishop Blanc in Seoul Though deeply grieved at the news, he could not help wondering whether this might not perhaps be the signal for his recall to the Mission he longed to serve. In Korea likewise everyone’s thoughts turned to their beloved Fr. Mutel―surely he would return to them at such a time.

They were not to be disappointed. In August Fr. Mutel was nominated titular Bishop of Milo and Vicar Apostolic of Korea. The news was everywhere received with jubilation, though the Paris Seminary expressed much reluctance at parting with so useful a member of their staff. As for Fr. Mutel himself, he was at once overjoyed and overwhelmed. His happiness at rejoining his fellow-missionaries in Korea and sharing their life, their trials and successes, was qualified only by his concern at the heavy responsibility which would now devolve upon him. That he should serve God as a missionary in Korea was his one desire; it was henceforth to be the consolation and reward of his life.

The consecration took place at Paris in the Seminary Church on the 2lst September, 1890, in the presence of Fr. Mutel’s aged father, his brother and many other relatives and friends, as well as the two hundred and fifty seminarists. Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, officiated, consecrating the new Bishop of Mysore at the same ceremony. Immediately afterwards Bishop Mutel wrote to the missionaries and Christians of Korea, conveying his blessing and the assurance that henceforth he belonged wholly to them and to the country he held so dear. “...... I rest my hopes in the [page 99] Divine Compassion, of which I have received so many and such precious tokens, and the intercession of our Martyrs, in whom, after God, I place all my trust I hold it my duty to express this sentiment in the device I have chosen, which is: Florete Flores Martyrum…” A few days later Bishop Mutel ordained a number of young seminarists, two of whom had been selected for his own Mission and would accompany him to Korea. They embarked at Marseilles on the 14th December, after Bishop Mutel had spent a short time in Rome, and broke their journey at Singapore, in order to visit the Seminary at Penang, where some twenty Koreans were preparing to enter the priesthood. On the 19th February, 1891 they touched at Fusan, leaving again on the following day, and at length reached Chemulpo early on the 22nd. Their reception and the triumphal entry to Seoul, which took place on the evening of the 23rd, can be well imagined. The new Bishop made the journey by chair, and as he came in sight of the river Han, he beheld an immense concourse assembled on the far side to welcome him. Concealment had indeed been thrown to the winds; everywhere about the new residence, blazoned with the device : Florete Flores Martyrum, there were crowds and rejoicings. The contrast bet ween his first arrival in 1880 and his return in 1890 was almost too poignant—indeed, in after years he could never speak of the latter without emotion.

The number of missionary priests in Korea was now twenty-one and there were nearly eighteen thousand Christians. No Korean priests had yet been ordained, but forty were being prepared either at Penang or in Korea. No churches were yet built, but a magnificent site had been obtained for a future Cathedral within the walls of Seoul, and many other plans were on foot. Although he had followed these developments so closely, together with the concurrent changes in the social and political life of the people, Bishop Mutel was amazed to see the transformation which had taken place during his five years’ absence. Not only had the face of things changed; the entire outlook had [page 100] altered, for the Christians and missionaries above all, and the, country was in a state of ferment.

Dislike of innovation coupled with long-standing discontent at the rapacity of officials found expression in sporadic risings, culminating in the Tong Hak revolt of 1893-4, which precipitated the Sino-Japanese War. The Tong Hak sect had continued in existence, despite its suppression in 1864, and now became the focus for an anti-foreign revolutionary movement of such proportions that the Government was unable to offer effective resistance; an attack on Seoul was threatened, together with a general massacre of foreign residents. A great many native Christians were either murdered, or sought refuge in flight, and for a time three of the missionaries in southern Korea were in grave danger. The following is an extract from a letter written by Bishop Mutel at the height of the crisis, but before actual outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War : (Letter dated 15th June, 1894)

“.... Our Korea is at the moment going through a crisis, which would prove dangerous for any European power; yet here, as I hope, it will pass off without any specially serious, consequences. About thirty years ago, a sect was formed in the country which adopted as its badge the name of Tong Hak, i. e. Eastern Learning, in contradistinction to Catholicism, or Western Learning, and even at that time made rapid strides. This sect originally consisted of a number of scholars who were too proud to own that the Truth could come to Korea from abroad, and combined thus against the Catholics and their missionaries, the only foreigners Korea had yet seen.

“For a long while this sect was limited to a purely philosophical and learned society, but of recent years its members have felt called to purify the country from the foreign elements which were gaining a footing on Korean soil A further aim, less open, but no less real, is the overthrow of the reigning dynasty and their own rehabilitation by another, whose supporters should bear the name Chyung. [page 101] This revolution is foretold by a prophecy, according to which the Yi dynasty will not last longer than five hundred years, and this period came to an end in 1892. With the spring of 1893 the Tong Haks began their political campaign and openly published their revolutionary aims. From the southern provinces, where the party has its strongest support, they converged on the capital, threatening to expel all foreigners. With their arrival in Seoul, however, much of their bravado evaporated, and in the end they dispersed without accomplishing their object.

“During last winter the political agitation continued, especially in the province of Chulla, and the almost forgotten scholars were joined by other dissatisfied sections of the populace, those without position, the workless, and finally the general mass of the people, weary of the extortion practised by the magistrates. Orders were sent to the Governor to nip the revolt in the bud, but he promptly applied to Seoul for military support. A body of eight hundred soldiers were sent him by sea on the 6th and 7th May, and landed at the small port of Kunsan at the mouth of the Kun-kang. The rebellious populace had expected that a commission of enquiry would be sent to treat with them; when they saw that the revolt was to be put down by force, they rose en masse, and the soldiers refused to proceed without reinforcements. Four hundred men with cannon and munitions of war were accordingly sent down by sea in support Meanwhile there had already been skirmishes between the military and the insurgents, with varying fortune and some casualties on either side.

“About the 10th May a French warship, the cruiser ‘Forfait’ arrived at Chemulpo. The Commander and his officers came to Seoul and were granted an audience with the King. The former had orders to put to sea again within a few days, but on learning that there were some missionaries and numerous Christians in the disturbed province, he advised his Admiral accordingly and received instructions to remain in port.

[page 102]

“Up to the 28th May I was without news of our three missionaries in Chulla-do. I had persuaded myself that the actual situation was far less grave than one would suppose from the agitation it had caused in the capital but felt only partially reassured. Moreover, I wanted to obtain the latest news for the officers and men on the cruiser, so I telegraphed to Fr. Baudounet, who was living in the town of Chunju : ‘Quid de bello? Entisne in periculo? Responde hodie!’ I received his reply the same evening: “Bellum magnum; adhuc non sum in periculo’, and forwarded this information to the Admiral and Commander without delay They considered it advisable to stand by and continue offering their protection.

“A few days later, news came that the Tong Haks had taken possession of Chunju. Circumstances had thus quickly taken a serious turn. What had become of Fr. Baudounet? A letter arrived the day before yesterday, advising that he had fortunately been able to escape in time and had taken refuge with a Christian community in the mountains not far from the town. The other two missionaries were undisturbed, though not free from anxiety. May God protect them and their Christians! The latter are in mortal terror, having several times been menaced by the Tong Haks. The pagan inhabitants besides are scarcely more secure, and in many districts all cultivation is at a standstill.

Later. Further letters from our three missionaries in Chulla-do advising that they have so far been spared and that all danger is past,”

The merest show of force served to evict the Tong Haks from Chunju, and Fr. Baudounet was able to return to the town after an absence of only two weeks; but the position of the missionaries continued to be precarious. Bishop Mutel accordingly sent instructions to them to withdraw on Seoul; and two succeeded in reaching safety. The third, Fr. Jozeau, was murdered near Kongju on the 29th July by Chinese soldiers, both China and Japan having by this time become involved. [page 103]

In spite of the disordered state of Korea, the work of the Mission went steadily forward. In 1891 a Seminary was built at Yongsan, near the place of martyrdom; twice in later years it had to be enlarged, and finally a second Seminary was founded. Altogether sixty-four Koreans were ordained by Archbishop Mutel, and from the first he allowed no discrimination between them and his own countrymen. Without an intermediate stage they were placed in charge of mission posts after being ordained, shown every confidence, and treated indulgently—yet firmly when occasion de- manded. That this was the correct policy did not make it any the more easy to carry out; that it succeeded so admirably is a tribute to the Archbishop’s tact and judgment Not only did it make early provision for the indigenous Church of the future; it enabled gaps to be filled in the administration of up-country districts during a period of extremely rapid growth, with the number of conversions running to four and five thousand annually.

In 1893 the first church was built in the suburbs of Seoul, and work was soon begun on the Cathedral The activities of foreigners were still severely restricted : their residence outside a few Treaty-ports was forbidden and they were not allowed to set on foot commercial or other undertakings in the interior. Gradually a more liberal interpretation of these restrictions was adopted by the authorities, and permanent mission-posts were established in a few of the larger towns such as Fusan, Taiku and Pyeng Yang.

Naturally it required a great deal of circumspection to carry out the policy which such times demanded; but the new Bishop soon showed that he possessed in unusual degree the qualities of sagacity and discretion which were to make his years of office such a pronounced success. As he himself admitted : “After my day you will doubtless have more zealous Bishops, but probably none that are more wary.” By refusing to take risks he may have retarded the progress of the Mission, but he ensured its absolute security. Convinced of the necessity of laying sure foundations, he left [page 104] nothing to chance, acted always with moderation and sound judgment, and won the unbounded confidence of his mission-aries and people.

In particular Bishop Mutel saw to it that good relations were maintained with the Court, but solely with a view to safeguarding the interests of the Church. He asked for no special favours or privileges, while frankly setting the aims of the Church above all else. He refused, in spite of repeated solicitations from high quarters, to become involved in political disputes, and gave his unqualified support to the ruling authority, except where it threatened the security of the Church.

During the early years of his Vicar-ship, the Korean Court was a hotbed of intrigue. The venality of officials had long plagued the country, and now, with the arrival of the foreign concession-hunter, bribery more than ever became the recognized method of securing advantage. The King was surrounded with political and commercial schemers, ranging from Ministers of State and foreign Ambassadors to obscure Court officials and private adventurers.

From all such Bishop Mutel stood apart His distinguished appearance and familiarity with refined Korean speech cloaked no unworthy motive, were applied to no ulterior end. He wished only to pay due respect to the Sovereign and remain on friendly terms with high officials and legations. The favourable impression created by such obvious sincerity may be judged from his own brief note on his audiences with the King :

“The first time that I was granted an audience, Queen Min―later assassinated—was still living. Korean custom did not permit of her being present, but still less did feminine curiosity allow her to be entirely absent! While I was conversing with the King, standing face to face with him, I could see the Queen’s blue dress through slits in the intervening partition, and once, when I had forgotten what I had to say for the moment, I distinctly heard her asking her waiting-maids; ‘What’s that he said?’ [page 105]

“The King was pleased to have me relate in detail the infinite precautions we used to take when entering and remaining hidden in the country, and laughed good-humouredly at the particulars I gave him. When I recounted my adventures during the revolution of 1882, I thought I noticed a rustle of interest behind the partition. At the almost inevitable mention of the martyrs—I forget how it came about —the King said quickly: ‘Oh, as for that—it was not my doing!’ And indeed it was his father, the Regent, who had been responsible. This terrible Regent himself once sent me some small gifts and the message that he regretted what he had done to the Christians, and that he had been deceived!” Perhaps the most romantic episode in Archbishop Mutel’s long life was the secret conversion of the Regent’s wife, and his clandestine interviews with her during the years 1896 and 1897. His account of the matter is given below :

“In 1866 the Regent’s wife — the mother of the King- begged Bishop Berneux, some weeks before his martyrdom, to celebrate Masses for the prosperity of the kingdom. At the very time that her husband was beheading thousands of Christians, she was secretly studying her catechism, in preparation for her baptism. As soon as I returned to Korea as Bishop, she asked me to baptize her, for she had long been a Christian at heart. But it was impossible to grant her request; for in spite of her great age, she continued the household stewardship and was responsible for preparing the superstitious sacrifices.

“In the Spring of 1896, on the pretext of her great age, she at length resigned the office of mistress of the household, which then devolved upon her daughters-in-law. She be- came for good and all ‘jubilata’! She repeated her wish to be secretly baptized. It was the 11th October, and the place selected was the very humble dwelling of one of her Christian servants, Mary Ri, outside her palace but close to it

was the first to arrive after nightfall Soon afterwards the Princess arrived, carried in a chair resembling those used by the palace-women. The bearers did not know [page 106] her or suspect anything. I hid myself behind the door of the only room in the house, and when the Princess got out of the chair she was greeted as an aged relative, A pagan palace-woman accompanied her on foot When the door closed again the obeisances became deeper and more respectful. Then I was presented. Her dress was quite simple, so too was her manner; her vision was somewhat dimmed, but her hearing was very acute and her mind alert We had much to say to each other, but it was necessary to come quickly to serious business. I examined her on the prayers, which she recited as one long accustomed to them, and on Christian doctrine, with which she was quite familiar. She had been duly prepared. I baptized her as solemnly as place and circumstances permitted; a Christian, the daughter of the young King’s nurse, Susan Won, acted as Godmother. During the ceremony we heard the chair-bearers, somewhat the worse for drink, wrangling over some cash in the courtyard. Only the lattice of the door and a thin sheet of paper separated us from them.

“As I poured the baptismal water over Princes Mary’s forehead I saw what I have witnessed a thousand times—a face lighted up with a feeling of inexpressible joy. Afterwards I administered Confirmation, and this time it was her Christian servant who acted as Godmother. Further delay spelt danger. I took leave of the Princess and hid myself once more behind the door; the chair was brought forward to receive the visitor and bear her to her palace. When she was at a suitable distance I also came away.

“Next day the Princess sent someone to thank me and tell me that everything had passed without mishap, and to ask dispensation from abstinence, which she was not free to observe.

“A year later, on the 5th September 1897 to be exact, Princess Mary sent word to ask me to go and hear her Confession, also, if possible, to give her Holy Communion. This time it was decided that I should go and see her in her palace. I left in a chair at about nine p. m., bearing the [page 107] Blessed Sacrament hidden in my bosom. I was admitted by a side-gate and taken to the Christian servant’s room. When the chair had gone away, I was conducted across several courtyards to the apartments of one of the palace-women who was in the secret. On the way I nearly ran into the night-watch, which went the rounds of the palace precincts all night long, less it would seem to catch thieves than to give warning that a watch was being kept The watchmen were armed with staves fitted with movable rings and each time their staves hit the ground there was a hellish din. I was made to take shelter nearby and, as soon as the watch had passed, I resumed my way. It was a humorous thought that I was now smuggling myself into the very palace of the Regent, and on his account rather than on my own, as had formerly—thanks to him—been my wont I was made welcome at the house of an aged palace-woman; there also I found the one who had assisted at the baptism. I placed the Blessed Sacrament on a small table which had been prepared in advance, lighted a candle, and then mounted guard to wait for the Princess.

“At about half-past eleven I heard a noise in the adjoining room, and got up. The mother of the King had arrived, borne on the back of a slave; her attendants being asleep, she had availed herself of the opportunity to come unnoticed to the apartments where I was awaiting her.

“There were salutations and a few words of conversation; then the Princess asked me to hear her Confession. I did so, and after this, the prayers before Communion were read aloud to her. It was past midnight when I put on my surplice and stole, and brought forth the Blessed Sacrament I can yet see the Princess Mary kneeling to receive Communion and opposite her the Christian servant between the two pagan palace-women, all bowed and as if in ecstasy.

“Such was the First Communion of the King’s mother, eighty years of age, in the early moments of the 6th September 1897. It was also to be her last Communion. [page 108]

“I interrupted her thanksgiving for a few moments in order to take my leave and retire. I was never to see her again.

“Towards the end of the year she fell ill; for a few days her condition improved sufficiently for her to commend herself to my prayers and beg me, if possible, to make some sort of advance to the aged Regent, who was likewise very ill, in order to try and save his poor soul. I did not hear that she was any worse but on the morning of the 9th January, 1898, I was informed that she had died the previous evening.

“It was utterly impossible for me to approach her during her last hours. She knew this and was resigned to it in advance. But she had arranged with the Christian servant for the latter to remain with her until she died, and to suggest pious thoughts by means of ambiguous phrases previously agreed upon; and thus it was done.

“I considered it my duty to ask the King (Emperor since the 12th October 1897) for an audience in order to offer him my condolences and inform him myself that his mother had died a Catholic However, he had already learned this as a result of some indiscretion, and, fearing to hear such a thing mentioned before the Court, he replied that he could not see me then owing to the press of affairs at the beginning of the year, but would send for me later.

“I made similar advances to the Regent, in the hope of carrying out the dead Princess’s wishes. He thanked me effusively for my action but replied that, as he was on bad terms with his son, the Emperor, a visit on my part at such a time of serious political disturbance would be likely to harm both of us. Possibly this also was nothing but a pretext.

“I was obliged by my state of health to spend two months in Shanghai, and it was there that I heard of the Regent’s death, which took place on the 22nd February of the same year, 1898. Simultaneous State funerals were held for the Prince Regent and Princess Mary, his wife; but they were entirely pagan. Beyond the general prayers of the Holy Church, Princess Mary, after her death, had only the [page 109] humble portion of the poor: some few Masses asked for her by her Christian servants.”

Of all Bishop Mutel’s varied duties, none gave him more satisfaction than his up-country visitations. He would set off, usually in the autumn, on extensive tours, during which he worked as a plain missionary, hearing confessions, examining in doctrine, baptizing confirming and administering the Last Sacraments. The journeying was arduous: at times on foot, often by pony, or—least comfortable method of all—by chair or palanquin. A considerable distance, frequently over mountainous terrain traversed by bridle paths, had to be covered nearly every day. The “kongso” or meeting-place was usually an ordinary Korean dwelling, temporarily vacated by its owner. A board fixed to the wall served as an altar; and in fine weather, when a large number of people had assembled, the congregation overflowed into the courtyard. The work was unremitting, often continuing well into the night, and the food and lodging the poorest imaginable, usually consisting of rice or millet together with a few saucers of pickled or salted vegetables, and, for bedding, a mat on the floor and the coverlet forming part of the baggage. Finally there was little or no privacy throughout the stay at the kongso, which was continually thronged with people, men, women and children.

But in spite of the complete lack of comfort and pretentiousness, Bishop Mutel loved this work and found in it abundant spiritual consolation. There was, too, the practical side : questions of administration, facilitated by personal knowledge of the districts involved; the establishment of new mission-posts, and continual progress in many directions. However late he worked, the Bishop never failed to recite the Matins and Lauds of the succeeding day, and, as he declared so often, his supreme joy was the last pipe smoked before turning in, while chatting with a confrere.

During the early years of his Vicar-ship, the tendency was to seek out the Christian communities which had been set up in the mountains after the persecution of 1866; but [page 110]later more attention was given to the larger villages and towns, where there were fewer Christians but more chances of evangelization. Naturally journeys to the former localities were protracted and laborious—often taking as long as ten or fifteen days. But Bishop Mutel was tireless, and every year that passed saw one or other part of his immense Vicariate toured with such thoroughness that the most remote Christians were brought into contact with their Bishop.

Far better than any generalized description, the following extracts from Bishop Mutel’s diary during 1896-1897 will serve to give an impression both of the work and the way it was carried out :- \*

“Friday, 23rd October. We did not leave until 9:30 due to delay in hiring the ponies. Fr. D. accompanied me and the catechist, Joseph Cho, followed, mounted on the baggage pony

“24th October. Left at 9 o’clock. After travelling some forty li, we stopped at an inn for lunch. Towards 6:30 we reached an arm of the sea, where some Christians were awaiting us with two boats. It took an hour to cross the water. The whole village, headed by Fr. G., were assembled on the far side to receive us.

*\* In the autumn and winter of 1896-1897 Bishop Mutel toured the southwestern part of his Vicariate, especially Chulla-do. The whole trip lasted over three months, from the end of October to the end of January, during which time a large number of mission-posts and kongso’s were visited. The work of the ministry was unusually heavy, due to the large number of Catholics in the region―about eight thousand.*

*The following extracts from Bishop Mutel’s diary have been selected with a view to giving an impression of a typical up-country visitation and are not intended to present an exact record or itinerary. Consequently, many place names and other details—for example the number of baptisms, confessions, etc, which were usually noted down―have been omitted; while there has been a fair amount of editing and condensation. The whole account in its original form ran to some twenty page s of close print and has here been reduced to about one third.*

[page 111]

“26th October After recrossing the arm of the sea, we skirted the beautiful Haptek watercourse, irrigating the fine plain we were traversing. A short while before our arrival we saw on our left the village of Sinli where Mgr. Daveluy lived and where he was seized in 1866; and later, on either side, two villages which were entirely Christian until then. Nowadays—alas!—everyone in them is a confirmed pagan. The poor souls were quite terrorized by the persecution. Soon our cortege was enlarged by a company of Christians who had come to meet us, and we were over a hundred strong by the time we arrived at Yangchon, to be greeted by the sound of the church bell.

“28th October. Towards 11 o’clock we reached the ferry, and were in the town of Kongju by noon, our way passing: beneath the San-Syeng fortress, which is in a truly magnificent position. I sent my card to the Governor and asked to see him, but he sent back word that he would receive me later. The Christian, Mathias Kang, arrived during lunch, and shortly afterwards one of the Han-san prisoners, who had been bailed out by Kang. He seemed so wretched that I gave him some alms; and his wife and child rejoined him here. At about 2 p. m. I went to the Yamen and was very affably received by the Governor. He had thought I was Mgr. Blanc, who had been a neighbour of his in the Naktong quarter of Seoul and had met him occasionally. I did my best to put in a good word for the prisoners, but he told me their fate depended less on him than on the Minister of Justice, who will not listen to anyone. He offered me tea and a cigarette. I left the town by the gate leading to the ferry where poor Fr. Jozeau was murdered by the Chinese, and was shown the place of execution, the site of his tomb, and even the place where he was first buried.

“29th October. Just as we were leaving, some Christians arrived from a nearby village, bringing fruit and wine. They had come last night but, on finding thai I was already in bed, had returned home and walked the ten li again in the morning As we approached Fr. V.’s residence, Chris- [page 112] tians came from every direction to meet us, and before long Fr. V. himself with a large company. After stopping for a few minutes at a village where there were numerous Christians, we resumed our way to climb the final pass. A hundred Christians escorted us, the whole company strung out along the winding mountain path. Towards 5 o’clock we reached Toi-chai, situated in quite a large valley amidst the mountains. The church and priest’s residence were easily distinguishable by reason of their tiled roofs.

“31st October. The work of administration begins— hearing confessions all day.

“1st November. Mass at 7:30 followed by Confirmation. Christians came in crowds from places as much as fifty and sixty li distant for the Feast (All Souls’) and our rooms were crammed to overflowing all day long.

“2nd-12th November. Administering the Sacraments at Toi-chai and a number of villages and kongso’s in the same district.

“13th November. Left at 8. Route precipitous—sunken valley—wild crags. Before nightfall we reached Syeng-pul, where Frs. B. and V. took refuge at the time of the Tong Hak rising. Not far off was the cave in which they hid for fifteen days.

“21st November A Christian, John Ra, is threatened with the loss of the hill on which are his ancestral tombs, as well as those of some other Christians. He submitted a formal complaint to me, which I sent on to the local Magistrate. In the evening an express messenger arrived from Ra, all out of breath, with news that the hill was about to be desecrated. A certain Paik had made his appearance, accompanied by some of the Magistrate’s retainers and a number of pedlars, and was quite determined to inter his father’s body on the hill. On offering resistance, Ra had been hit over the head and obliged to yield to brute force. I sent some twenty Christians with a note in my own hand, and they were lucky enough to get the band of invaders to listen to reason; the latter withdrew, pending the Magis- [page 113] trate’s decision. Unfortunately the Christian who had taken the complaint to the town returned crestfallen, not having been able to deliver it

“22nd November. Administering the Sacraments all day. Towards evening we heard that Paik had himself gone to the town and obtained from the Magistrate a warrant for John Ra’s arrest the interment on the hill being reserved for litigation. Lies count for nothing with pagans: the warrant for Ra’s arrest states that he armed himself with a sword and used violence to prevent the burial, whereas Ra is the one who has suffered injury—and is quite badly hurt about the head and face.......... Next day we sent a servant to present our cards to the Magistrate and explain the whole affair to him.

“29th-30th November. Journeying to Chunju. We walked along the southern and western walls, where a great deal of destruction had taken place during the Tong Hak rebellion in 1894. A number of houses were in ruins.

“1st December. After an exchange of cards, we went to pay a call on the Governor at about 3:30. A rather commonplace interview ensued, the Governor shouting at the top of his voice—no doubt to give himself more confidence. On leaving, we paid a call at the barracks, where the entire provincial garrison of four hundred soldiers were stationed—all equipped in European style. We had to wait a long time for the table of wine which the two commanders wished to set out in our honour.

“3rd December At about 2 p. m. we climbed a small hill overlooking the town, from which we could see every detail to perfection. The town is square in shape, though slightly larger from north to south. The north-east corner is uninhabited, containing only some pavilions where archery is practised A river flows from south to north, at some distance from the walls however. The population was estimated at thirty thousand before the time of the Tong Haks, as many living outside the walls as inside, but must [page 114] now be anpreciably lower. The town is encircled by mountains on every side but the north-west, where there is a river-valley. We had arrived by this route.

“5th-6th December. Two very tiring days due to the large number of Christians to whom we had to minister.

“7th December. Today we fell in with a band of otter- hunters, carrying on their traditional calling and living largely at the expense of neighbouring villages, under the pretext of being Government hunters—which of course is a complete falsehood......

“9th December. Left for the next kongso, forty li distant First a big mountain, then the town of Changsu, and at length the new community of Pem-yeng-teng, a village comprising some twenty houses. There are Christians in fourteen or fifteen and Rood hopes of converting the rest Great fervour and devotion to the Faith—we should have a score of adult baptisms here. W have a large room, newly done up, and a still larger one for the women; but the walls are already crumbling due to the cold weather and the wind is up to his old tricks all through the house

“11th December, Last night there were eighteen adult baptisms and two more tonight, and, besides, several catechumens have come forward for instruction. There are great hopes throughout this district.

“12th December. We left by the same road. In the neighbouring villages everyone, man or woman, was outside to see us pass. This evening two brothers, both getting on for sixty, came from thirty li distant to make their avowal of the Faith, and—more remarkable—the elder had previously done his best to prevent his son studying Christianity.

“13th-15th December. Three days of ministration. About two hundred confessions heard and twenty adults baptized.

“16th December. More than a foot of snow fell during the night and we had to work round a mountain to reach the [page 115] next kongso, where the Christians from six small villages round about had assembled to receive the Sacraments. Ten years ago the village was entirely pagan, but now there are Christians in all but a single household. In 1887 the recent converts had to undergo a real persecution at the hands of the soldiery; but now the Christian are masters of the position.

“18th December. Last day here. The kongso house is quite well built and serves as a school, but the room is rather small and dark.

“19th December. Departure. After travelling thirty li, we reached the town of Chinan, where we lunched. It was thawing and the roads were very slippery. All the way Christians from the nearer villages came to meet us. We made a detour to avoid a mountain whose slopes would have been dangerous, and night had fallen before we reached the kongso. There a Christian fresh from Seoul told us that a formidable plot against the King has been discovered and a hun-dred people arrested, including several close relatives of the Minister of Justice.

“21st December. Weather cold. Baptism of a lad aged fifteen who was well prepared ana seemed very frank and charming. I gave him my own name.

“22nd December. On our way down the mountain we stopped at a village where Fr. B. administered the Last Sacraments to a sick person........ Later, at the inn, we were met by Christians from Chunju and twenty li farther away, and still more came to meet us in chairs or on horseback........ Letters from Seoul: there has been a plot right enough, but it is no clearer than that A letter from Fr. R. advised that Augustine and Kim Kyeng have been falsely accused and arrested, but some Christians had already told me this and added that Fr. R. had been able to obtain their release, so there was no cause for concern.

“23rd December. The Christians wanted to defray the cost of a chair, so we had to resign ourselves to getting a leg-ache. After twenty li our cortege had become quite [page 116] considerable: five or six horses or donkeys and nearly two hundred Christians. Fr. L. met us on the way, and at length we reached the church at Syou-ryou, where Fr. V. has been since Monday, administering the Sacraments.

“24th December. Today we heard about two hundred confessions. It is impossible to satisfy all the people, many of whom have come a great distance for the Feast About six hundred Christians were present, of whom four hundred recived Holy Communion, half at Midnight Mass and half at the morning Mass

“26th December. Left with Fr. L. for the next kongso, about thirty li distant There we found aged Christians and some irregularities: the son of one catechist and the father of another have got a bad name for themselves. We gave the best advice we could. A woman received the Sacraments for the first time since 1866.

“30th December. It snowed all night but was fine in the morning. ........ After travelling twenty li, I had to get into a chair sent by the next kongso. The bearers had great difficulty in progressing due to the snow and mud To bed at eleven o’clock after hearing confessions.

“31st December. Only a few Christians here. The kongso house is new and damp so we had to spend the night elsewhere. We wished each other a happy New Year and Fr. L. wanted to treat me to a small glass of Mass wine. This year I am at least dispensed from New Year’s Day calls, but my heart is with all my family—both temporal and spiritual in their good resolutions.

“4th January. Roads pretty bad. Two mountains, one of which was very steep, so that we had to put on Korean shoes to avoid slipping during the descent I have aching limbs and a touch of fever tonight Weather very warm.

“5th Januarys Southerly winds blowing in gusts and rain all day. The village is a small one and the Christians who have come here to receive the Sacraments are much put out at having to stay in it. [page 117]

“7th January. Left at 8:30. Once more we had to resign ourselves to travelling by chain In spite of yesterday’s rain the roads were good and we crossed the pass in no time. On our way we noticed a Miryek in the form of a sage, three or four metres high. Today’s journey was about one hundred li during which one hundred torches were burned. The neighbourhood is well wooded and tigers are common. Not far away a Christian child aged thirteen was killed by one, and similar tragedies are not infrequent.

“8th-9th January. Hearing confessions till late at night Extremely tired.

“11th January. The alarm-clock failed us, so we did not get up until 6:20 a. m. While Fr. L. was celebrating Mass, I had the unusual opportunity of watching the sun rise and checked my watch by it Old Ryu, aged eighty-eight is still living, and came to say good-bye after receiving the Sacraments. He travelled here on foot―over ten li across a pass—and is returning the same way.

“15th January. Several showers of cold rain. Roads muddy and difficult Lunch at 3 p. m. at the town of Tai-in. Raining―room cold and rice full of grits. Left at 4:40. My mapu and the Christians accompanying me had a quarrel with the inn-people, who refused us torches. Later on someone told me that the mapu had been injured and was being detained by a, petty Magistrate. Fr. L. went back with my servant to see what was going on, and soon fell in with the mapu, who had lost his hat and headband, but had secured some of the staves with which the inn-people had beaten him, and was dragging along an individual he had succeeded in capturing. Soon after reaching our destination, a messenger arrived and offered explanations and excuses for the incident at the inn.

“17th January. My servant set off, taking with him our cards to present to the Magistrate, for he has to explain the affair at the inn. Cold rain and, towards night, snow. My servant returned, having seen the Magistrate, who was a trifle indisposed, but promised to look into the matter.

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“18th January. Bitterly cold and we did not leave till about 11. At Chun-pul there was a rather fine Buddhist monastery. Fr. B. was awaiting us at an inn twenty li from Chunju and we had to proceed by the inevitable chairs.

“21st-22nd January. Confirmations. A fairly heavy snowfall—we shall have difficult roads and cold weather for the return journey.

“23rd January. Started at about 9 a and by 5 p. m. we had reached the kongso at the foot of Mt. Kyeiryong-san. Many confessions and baptisms—the whole village of twenty-five households is more or less Christianized, but they complain of ill-treatment by the Magistrate. I had thought the latter friendly, but he does not seem to set much store by my visit, for he has gone away to his country house, although (or maybe because) he knew when I should be passing through.

“25th January. Departure for Seoul, via Kongju and Suwon, the whole journey occupying over three days.

“28th January. Weather still cold. On reaching the ferry, I found Fr. D. there, returning from Sori-san. I reached my house at about 4 p. m. From the time I passed through the South Gate, I had the satisfaction of seeing the cross surmounting the Cathedral—the scaffolding around the steeple had been removed that same morning.”

During the years that intervened between the Sino-Japanese War (1894-5) and the Russo-Japanese War (1904-5), the progress of the Church in Korea was checked only by disturbances incidental to the disorderly state of the country. It was natural that Christians should ask the advice and assistance of their pastors when oppressed by the civil authorities, ana inevitable that the latter should resent interference, especially from an alien source. Furthermore, there were always a number of individuals who used a nominal allegiance to Christianity for their own ends and sought to implicate the missionaries in private squabbles. Bishop Mutel was frequently obliged to apply to the relevant authorities in Seoul for the redress of all manner of abuses and griev- [page 119] ances, and, however gracious his reception, was seldom able to obtain complete satisfaction. For one thing, he did not possess the patience necessary for oriental methods of diplomacy―he was direct and forthright where success could be attained only by suppleness and persistence; for another, the central government exercised little effective control over the provinces and could only ensure enforcement of its authority by despatching police forces or troops, measures which were at once costly and liable to produce worse disorders.

In May 1901 a serious uprising occurred in Quelpart, and some hundreds of Christians were massacred in the riots and mob-action that ensued. It was a time of grave anxiety for the Bishop and the whole Mission, while the two missionary priests on the island were in great danger until finally rescued by some French warships sent to their aid. Mr. W. F. Sands, Foreign Adviser to the Korean Court, who visited the island shortly after the outbreak, summarized the causes of the trouble as follows in a letter to the “Korea Review’’ in August 1901 :—

“The facts of the matter are that the Catholic Mission in Quelpart has had an extraordinarily rapid growth in the past two years, and where before that time there was hardly a Christian in the island, at the time of the massacre there was hardly a village which had not a certain number. The official servants and yamen-runners, who before had exacted what they pleased of the people, found that this was no longer possible with those who had become Christians. The priests stood between them and oppression...... It is possible that many people joined the Mission who had not its best interests at heart, because of the protection they received. This, however, is common an occurrence in every mission throughout the East, and is so well known to you gentlemen in your mission work that no comment is necessary.”

Two years later serious disorders broke out in Whanghai Province in northern Korea. Here again the same causes were at work, and the actions of irresponsible individuals [page 120] gravely embarrased the Mission and led to friction with the civil authorities.

Bishop Mutel greatly regretted such incidents and absolutely condemmed provocative behaviour on the part of his followers. Considering their pagan background, their many years of persecution, and the human tendency to “get one’s own back”, it is perhaps surprising the Christians in general showed so much restraint. For not only had they been granted freedom to practise their religion; they were backed by strong missionary bodies, and the Catholics in particular were tremendously proud of their Bishop and his nation-wide prestige.

A great change came over the situation with the close of the Russo-Japanese Wan The gradual Japanization of the country saw the introduction of improved methods of law enforcement and the eradication of many glaring injustices and corrupt practices. Bishop Mutel had always set his face against any interference on the part of his missionaries with the civil administration, against “playing at being Magistrate” as it was called, though there were occasions when action of some sort seemed imperative unless local abuses and tyranny were to proceed unchecked; with the establishment of more effective legal and police control, he now forbade any connection with civil or political affairs and himself refused to intervene except where a case had some general import As time went on, his contacts with officialdom became purely formal.

With the reduction in size and importance of the foreign colony, which was another effect of the Russo-Japanese War, Bishop Mutel was able to withdraw progressively from such polite formalities as were still observed. In 1910 Korea ceased to be an independent State even in name, and the official functions which had been such a feature of life in the days of the archaic Court and the foreign Legations finally came to an end. Henceforth a few official calls and an occasional reception given by the Governor-General would mark the limits of social obligation. [page 121]



There had been some ten thousand Catholics in Korea at the time of Bishop Mutel’s first arrival in 1880; by his return in 1890 the number had risen to nearly eighteen thousand; and by 1904 there were close on sixty thousand. Bishop Mutel realised that it was time to share the work with others and successively arranged for the German Benedictines to take up teaching work in Seoul in 1908; for a division of territory in 1911, the four southern provinces forming the new Vicariate of Taiku under Bishop Demange; and for further divisions in 1920 and 1927, when the German Benedictines under Bishop Sauer and the American Mary-knoll Fathers under Bishop Byrne respectively took over administration of the four northern provinces. More than sufficient work remained in the Vicariate of Seoul, for the five central provinces constituted an enormous territory which it was Bishop Mutel,s constant aim to treat more and more intensively.

By the year 1920, in spite of the interruption of the Great War, during which over a third of the French missionaries were recalled, there were nearly sixty thousand Catholics in the Vicariate of Seoul alone; and Bishop Mutel petitioned the Pope to allow him a Coadjutor. On Bishop Devred being assigned to this post, Bishop Mutel made over a great part of the work of the Mission—and all the honour and glory thereof―to the younger man, on whom he placed the greatest reliance. Himself he withdrew more and more as he was able to find time for the life of solitude and prayer he preferred.

The year 1920 also marked the thirtieth anniversary of Bishop Mutel’s consecration as Vicar Apostolic. The occasion was duly celebrated in the presence of seventy priests, of whom thirty were Koreans, ordained by the Bishop himself. In the following year Bishop Mutel was created a Roman Count and Assistant to the Pontifical Throne.

The next few years were a time of unusual happiness and toil, for once more Bishop Mutel was able to devote [page 122] much of his attention to the cause of the martyrs. It will be recalled that the process had been opened in 1882, the first session taking place on the 11th May; altogether one hundred and twenty-one sessions were held, Bishop Mutel presiding over the first eighty-six. The only circumstance preventing closure of the process was the continued inaccessibility of the State archives, which were known to contain valuable testimony in the form of records of the judicial procedure relating to the martyrdoms. However, in May 1899, Bishop Mutel finally abandoned hope of obtaining further evidence and authorized official termination of the process. The completed documents were accordingly sealed and despatched to Rome.

With the annexation of Korea by Japan in 1910, there seemed again some hope of being allowed to consult the archives, and at length, through the good offices of the Chosen Government-General, Bishop Mutel was granted access to them and permitted to study and transcribe as desired. Thanks to his knowledge of the Chinese character, the Bishop was thus enabled to translate in full the indictments, reports of trials, sentences and decrees of the Courts of Justice during the persecutions of 1839, 1846 and 1866, together with the Royal Edict of 1881 and other particulars bearing on the suppression and persecution of Christianity. He would set off early each morning, taking with him his lunch, and spend the entire day laboriously deciphering the Chinese text, returning in the evening when the Hall of the Archives was closed for the night He had become a schoolboy again, he remarked, and it made him feel younger every day.

His work provided much valuable evidence for the final General Congregation in Rome, which was held on the 18th March 1924 in the presence of His Holiness Pius XI, and created a very favourable impression. In the following May it was announced that the Beatification of seventy-nine out of the eighty-two martyrs whose cause bad been under examination would be proceeded with; and the celebration [page 123] took place at St Peter’s in Rome on the 5th July, 1925, both Bishops Mutel and Demange assisting.

The ceremony began at 10 o’clock with the reading of the Papal proclamation, in the presence of the Cardinals of the Sacred College of Rites and a large assembly of clergy. At its completion, everyone rose; the paintings representing the martyrdoms were unveiled; and the bells of the Basilica pealed forth to announce the glorious Beatification of the Martyrs of Korea. Solemn High Mass was then celebrated. At 6 o’clock in the evening, the Sovereign Pontiff entered the Vatican Basilica in full panoply, accompanied by eighteen Cardinals. After adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the hymn of the martyrs was sung, followed by the Orison proper to the new Blessed, intoned by Bishop Mutel; and the proceedings came to an end with Benediction, also celebrated by Bishop Mutel, and presentation to the Pope of a beautiful reliquary containing relics of the martyrs.

On the following day Bishops Mutel and Demange were granted an audience with the Pope, and presented to his Holiness a precious souvenir of great historical interest: the original letter―a fine piece of Chinese calligraphy comprising over thirteen thousand characters on silk—sent to the Bishop of Pekin in 1801 by the Korean scholar Alexander Wang, petitioning aid for the Church of Korea.\*

The account of the Beatification of the Martyrs has been given in some detail for the reason that it marked the great triumph of Bishop Mutel’s life. He had worked for this almost above all else from his earliest years as a missionary; it was his greatest ambition thus to glorify God and ennoble the Church of Korea; and he was filled with happiness at its consummation. Some idea of the way he had identified himself with the cause may be gained from the following letter which he wrote at the time for publication:

\* Excerpts from this letter, together with an account of its composition, discovery and the execution of Wang, will be found in Dallet’s “Histore de l’Eglise de Coree”, Vol. I. pp. 200-208.

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“I have been a missionary to Korea since 1877, and for thirty-five years Bishop and Vicar Apostolic of this country which I love with my whole soul. I have known, and know, the children, the grand-children and the great-grand-children of the martyrs of 1839 and 1846. I have dwelt in the towns and villages where many of these confessors of the Faith were born, lived and were arrested by their persecutors. I have visited the prisons and courts which were the scenes of their sufferings and their heroism. I have knelt on the soil which was watered by their blood: in the mud by the Little West Gate and upon the sands of Sai-nam-te. I have endeavoured to walk the hills and valleys where passed the Blessed Imbert, Bishop of Capse, and his two missionaries, the Blessed Maubant and Chastan, whose apostolate prepared the way for the Bishops and Priests executed in 1866.

“Today I see these martyrs of nearly a century ago raised to the altars of the Church, offered to the veneration of the entire world by the representative of Jesus Christ Their triumph is the great happiness of my life. My God, I render thanks from a full heart for this very great joy, this glorious halo with which the Korea Mission is crowned......”

The two Bishops were on their way back to Korea in 1926 when they received a telegram announcing the death of Bishop Devred, Coadjutor. It was an occasion for Bishop Mutel to manifest that perfect trust and resignation which marked his everyday life; Bishop Devred had been as his own right hand—for six years the work of the Mission had been left almost entirely to his direction; but Bishop Mutel had no time for vain regrets. The news came after he had retired for the night, and he remained awake for only a few minutes. Thereafter his one idea was to get back and resume his position at the helm.

In 1925 Bishop Mutel was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, and in 1926 he was created Archbishop. He let it be understood that these distinctions were not a [page 125] matter of indifference to him, more especially as he saw in them an honour for the Church of Korea.

On the 1st May 1927 Mgr. Larribeau was consecrated Bishop and Coadjutor; and next day the Archbishop’s golden judilee was celebrated. In a brief address Bishop Demange outlined the half-century of work and achievement that was being commemorated : first the brief delay at Tonkin and the longer period of preparation in Manchuria; then the life of seclusion, which the missionaries of that time were compelled to lead—of concealment during the day and work for their Ministry during the night; and finally the return to take command, since when none but God knew what work had been accomplished for the Church which had suffered such persistent persecution. The flourishing state of the Mission was manifest to all: a strongly constituted native clergy; Christians in such numbers and organization that three separate Vicariates had become necessary; churches and residential buildings; schools, orphanages, etc.; the whole crowned by the glory of the martyrs recently beatified. It was an enduring monument.

Nearly six years remained to the Archbishop, and they passed tranquilly enough; The perils and anxieties of earlier times had been succeeded by a period of steady expansion and consolidation. The Benedictine Abbey at Wonsan had just been opened and an increasing number of German and American priests were arriving to take over the work of evangelization. The impression that Archbishop Mutel made on all who knew him during these last years was deep and lasting. Even to appearance, he was august and saintly, a commanding figure, a great presence; while to those who lived and worked with him, had experience of his courtesy and kindliness, and saw how he was ruled by faith and discipline, he set an inspiring example. A few words of frank appreciation, written by a colleague after his death, convey something of the charm of his personality, without which this memoir would be incomplete : [page 126]

“……Everyone felt drawn to him, those who had not met him by what they had heard; those who knew him to enjoy his company and conversation once more. Right up to the last his mind remained active, his gestures lively and his whole bearing expressive. The ‘mot juste’ was ever at his command; yet he was always simple, never commonplace. All of the many visitors he had came away with a vivid and always favourable impression; naval officers, travellers and missionaries, all repeated the words of the Principal at Langres : A most distinguished Bishop.

“……He accepted the great constraints and afflictions of daily life with resignation, and was always pleasant and cheerful in converse. His missionaries might enter his house at any time of the day—he was at their service. If he were reading his breviary, he would close it smartly forthwith, and put himself at their disposal His profound charity showed itself thus naturally in much of his behaviour, which was always marked by forbearance, delicacy and tact;—by humility, too, for as often as his work permitted, he took pleasure in caring for such of his missionaries as were ill, rendering the least service without hesitation. How good he was, and understanding of human weakness, always ready to excuse others! How simple, too, and affable, even to the younger members and servants of the household, asking rather than commanding them, wanting as little as possible, and greatly appreciating their smallest services! The effect of all this — and the portrait is far from complete ― was to make him a personage truly great in his simplicity. No one made any mistake about it: priests and lay Christians alike experienced towards him feelings of affection and veneration whose depth and sincerity could hardly be exaggerated.

“It would be a serious omission to leave out mention of the great love which Mgr. Mutel always had for the ritual of worship. His faith always showed itself most strikingly therein. He celebrated Mass with incomparable dignity and [page 127] mastery, and arranged all ceremonies with great care, out of respect for their significance.”

In March 1932 Archbishop Mutel entered his eightieth yean His health remained good and his spirits were excellent; but as the year wore on, those around him noticed that he was somehow not quite his old self. But the work of the Mission continued. On the 17th December Archbishop Mutel ordained two deacons and five priests, bringing the total number of Korean priests ordained since 1896 up to ninety-three, all in the Vicariates of Seoul and Taiku. He presided at Midnight Mass on Christmas Day, and his intonation of the Last Blessing was specially remarked. His voice was strong and true as ever, but more than usually significant, for, as he later told from his death-bed, he had felt quite sure that it was the last occasion on which he would pronounce the Pontifical Blessing, and he had put his whole soul into it.

The Foreign Missions Society of Paris has allotted to each of its Missions certain hours on days fixed throughout the year, during which the priests of the appointed Mission take it in turn to pray before the Blessed Sacrament By this means the Society ensures a continuous intercession of God by its members all over the world. The time prescribed for the missionaries in Seoul was every Thursday morning, when each priest spent half an hour in the Cathedral, taking part in the ‘‘perpetual prayer”. To Mgr. Mutel had been assigned the period from 9 to 9:30 a. m.

Thursday, the 12th January, was bitterly cold (-18°C.) with a north wind. Devotion to duty, as remarked earlier, was a great characteristic of Archbishop Mutel, and it was a matter of course for him to go to the Cathedral at the appointed time. He remained long in prayer, despite the extreme cold. On returning to his room, he mentioned that he had caught a chill and thought he might have influenza, like two of his priests.

The next day he was worse, but would not change his usual routine. On Saturday the 15th his breathing had be- [page 128] come laboured and some anxiety was felt by his colleagues. A doctor was sent for and diagnosed severe bronchial congestion.

Still faithful to his rule, and not wishing to put anyone out, the Archbishop presided at supper as usual, but would only partake of a little soup, and retired to his room immediately afterwards, thus breaking his invariable custom of spending some time in recreation with his priests in order to ensure their own relaxation. He found himself unable to breathe when lying down and rose at midnight, passing the remainder of the night in his arm-chair.

On Sunday morning he celebrated Mass, but with great difficulty, being convinced—as he revealed later—that it was his last Mass, and wishing to offer one more Mass for the benefactors of the Mission and the souls entrusted to his care. Afterwards, his condition grew rapidly worse, and he was obliged to take to his bed. The Sisters of St Paul were called in for day and night nursing; but in spite of their care and the closest medical attention, pneumonia set in, and his suffering increased.

From the beginning of his illness, Archbishop Mutel had no illusion as to the outcome. He felt himself mortally ill, and repeatedly urged that he be given the Last Sacraments without too much delay. He summoned his Confessor and reviewed the whole of his long life with the frankness and simplicity of a child.

On Tuesday the 17th January, Archbishop Mutel renewed his profession of faith in the presence of all the clergy of Seoul as well as a number of catechists and other religious and received the Sacred Viaticum and Extreme Unction from the hands of his Coadjutor, Bishop Larribeau. Thereupon, in as loud a voice as his difficult breathing permitted, he blessed God for all the graces he had received, and especially this last―precious above all—of having time to prepare himself for his last journey. Then he bade all present adieu and gave them his blessing. [page 129]

Archbishop Mutel expected his end would come more quickly than it did, and it was almost a disappointment for him to continue living through the remainder of the week. He offered up his suffering for the conversion of sinners and pagans, rather than for himself—if indeed that thought ever occurred to him. Those around him said: ‘‘Monseigneur, say: ‘My God, I offer it to Thee’,” and his usual reply was simply: “Yes, yes (Bien, bien),” as though it were a matter of course. But one day his suffering was more severe, and he replied to the same suggestion: “Ah, yes―and many times over (Oh oui! a la 36 eme puissance!),” so that all present were deeply moved. His last night— from Sunday the 22nd to Monday the 23rd—was particularly distressful, and he obtained no rest at all At three o’clock he was unable to remain in bed any longer, even though he was not lying down, and got up by himself to sit in his armchair. “You are suffering a good deal?” said Bishop Larribeau. who was with him. “Yes, indeed; how hard it is to die! (Oh oui! Comme c’ est dur de mourir.)” He returned to his bed before six o’clock and did not leave it again. At half-past nine it was all over. His agony had been very short, and he had fully retained consciousness until almost the very end.

The body was re-clothed in the pontificals and carried to the Cathedral crypt, where, in spite of the cold, prayers were offered up continuously until it was time for the funeral to take place, on Tuesday, the 26th, at half-past nine.

As soon as news of the death began to spread, expressions of sympathy began to pour in from every quarter, testifying to the universal esteem in which the Archbishop was held. For many years he had been profoundly revered by all Christians, without exception, and all hastened to pay their last respects.

The sentiments of Catholics for their Bishop were largely shared by all those who had known him, even though they were not of the same Faith: English and American Protestants, Korean and Japanese pagans. His Excellency the [page 130] Governor-General, who had made frequent enquiries and presented a basket of flowers “to rejoice the Monseigneur’s eyes,” sent condolences as soon as he received word of his death, and was officially represented at the funeral Other members of the Government-General were present at the ceremony, in spite of the intense cold (-20°C.). as well as the French Consul—in full-dress uniform—the British and American Consuls, and numerous members of the foreign community of Seoul.

After Mass, celebrated by Bishop Demange, and the five ritual Absolutions, the procession to the cemetery took place, Bishop Larribeau acting as chief mourner, accompanied by Archbishop Chambon, Bishops Demange, Blois, Gaspais, Sauer, Breton, and the Apostolic Prefect of Pyeng-yang, seventy-three priests, and the Christians of the three parishes of the town, as well as many representatives from other parts of the country. The whole procession was more than half a mile in length, and the route to the cemetery extended over five miles. The spectacle was truly impressive and worthy of the great prelate it commemorated, who himself had been such an impressive figure. In the words of his friend and successor:

“His body lies among those of his colleagues, whom he knew one and all, in the place chosen by him; but we doubt not that his soul already has its reward.”

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Societe des Missions-Etrangeres. Lettre commune. No. 66.

Beatification des martyrs de Coree. pp. 147, frontis. Paris 1926

Note : The results of Archbishop Mutel’s researches in the Korean Strate archives were published by the Societe des Missions- Etrangeres as follows :

Documents relatifs aux Martyrs de Coree de 1839 et 1846. pp. vii, 145. … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … Hongkong 1924

Documents relatifs aux Martyrs de Coree de 1866. pp. iv. 167, map. … … … … ... … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … … Hongkong 1925

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ANNUAL MEETING

May 31st, 1937

The annual meeting of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was called to order at 4:50 P. M. at the Seoul Union, the President Mr. Hugh Miller presiding, about 60 members and guests being present.

The minutes of the 1936 Annual Meeting were read and approved.

President Miller presented his report which on motion was accepted with thanks accompanied by hearty applause.

Mr. Miller reported that since the departure on furlough of Mr. Thomas Hobbs, the Treasurer : the had himself served in this capacity and that he had prepared a report which Dr. W. M. Clark was asked to read. Dr. Clark read the report which showed a very satisfactory state of the financial situation of the Society. The report was accepted with thanks. See report.

Dr. Clark presented the report of the Librarian including a number of suggestions for rules governing the use of the library. After a few questions, the report including the suggested rules was accepted and adopted. See report attached.

Dr. E. M. Cable, Chairman of the Nominating Committee read the report of that Committee nominating the following as officers and counsellors for the coming year:

President Dr. W. M. Clark

Vice-President Dr. M. M. Lee

Recording Secretary Dr. H. H. Underwood

Corresponding Secretary Mr. Ralph Cory

Treasurer Mr. Thomas Hobbs

Librarian Mr. Norman Whittemore

Counsellors Rev. Charles Hunt

Dr. E. W. Koons Mrs. C. I. McLaren

Nominations from the floor were called for and as none were forthcoming, it was moved and seconded and carried that the secretary cast a ballot for the nominations as made [page 134] by the Committee. This was done thus electing all the nom- minees. Messrs. John and James Uuderwood were proposed as members and elected.

There being no new business the Chairman introduced the speaker of the afternoon, Mrs. J. L. Boots. Mrs. Boots spoke on Korean Music and Musical Instruments, giving a brief sketch of the history of Korean music as introductory to her discussion of Korean instruments. The lecture was illustrated with photographs of various Korean instruments.

The retiring Chairman called on the newly elected President, Dr. W. M. Clark to take the chair which he did and after making a few remarks expressing the thanks of the Society, to Mrs. Boots for her excellent paper, to Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Underwood who had served refreshments before the meeting be declared the meeting adjourned.

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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Report to the Annual Meeting on May 31, 1937

The current year has been one of the most interesting years we have had in the history of the Society. Our season opened with Dr. Cable reading: a paper on Uuited States and Korea relations, but this paper is not yet ready for publication. Then we had the unique experience of having a paper read on the life of one who went in and out among us for many years This paper on Archbishop Mutel was prepared by Mr. Gompertz and extracts read from it by his father-in-law, Dr. Koons. This in itself was an unusual experience.

Today we are to have a paper read by Mrs. Boots on Korean Musical Instruments. This paper has been wanted for many years, and we are indebted to Mrs. Boots for having been willing to prepare it.

I think few of us realize the amount of work involved in the preparation of these papers. Much has to be done before a sentence can be committed to paper.

We are grateful to all those who have added to their re-sponsibilities by undertaking to prepare these papers and thus making it possible for many now and the oncoming generations to know something of the civilization of the Hermit-Kingdom. Dr. Gale once wrote that Korea was the last custodian of the civilization of the wonderful Chinese people and it is good for us to know what it meant to the people of Korea. We are living in a new worlds Old things are passing away very rapidly. I would like to urge upon the younger folks especially to have as a hobby some phase of this old world for investigation and study and to put the results in such a form that they will be available for all English speaking students.

The Japanese are making available a good deal of material in Japanese that will be helpful to those making studies of the civilization that conserved much of the best things in life for this Far East. [page 136]

During the years I have been a member of the Society, I think I have held all the offices of the Society and now I am at the end of the route and out I go. I thank you all for the pleasures you have given me.

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THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITI’EE REPORT

The members of the Publications Committee for the past year were the Reverend Charles Hunt, Chairman, Mr. Hugh Miller and Mr. Ralph Cory.

During the year Volume XXVI “Korean Astronomy” by Dr. Carl Rufus was published.

Volume XXVII is in the press. This volume will be a large size one, containing Mr. Ralph Cory’s paper on “Gregorio Cespedes”, and Mr. St. G. Gompertz’s “Biographical Sketch of Archbishop Mutel”. It was hoped that this volume would have been in your hands at this meeting, but owing to lack of type at the press and other causes there has been a delay in the publication. Volume XXVII should be ready for distribution at the end of June.

The Council gave permission to the Publications Com-mittee to republish such volumes of the Transactions as are out, or almost out, of print, but time has not allowed these reproductions to be made up to the present Such necessary reproductions will be made as soon as possible.

Dr. Cable’s paper which he read in two parts should be ready for the press this year. This paper on “Korean-American Relations 1866-1871” will be illustrated with some valuable photographs secured in America through the kindness of Dr. Hulbert in co-operation with Dr. Cable and at the expense of the Society.

We are hoping to publish as soon as possible Mrs. Boots’ Paper on “Korean Music”, and the following papers promised to the Society, but not yet presented to the Society.

“Corean Costumes” by Mrs. Crane.

“Dolmens” by Dr. Koons.

“Corean Drama’’ by the Reverend Charles Hunt.

“Butterflies in Corea” by Bishop Cecil Cooper, or Mr.

Snyder.

“Corean Medicine” by Dr. Borrow. [page 138]

“The Art of Nak Yang” by Mr. G. Gompertz, in cooperation with Dr. G. Paik who has already given us paper on Nak-Yang, although the paper is not yet ready for publication.

We are grateful to the Press of the Korean Y. M. C. A. for the excellent work done in connection with the printing of the Transactions of the Society.

CHARLES HUNT

Chairman of the Publications Committee.

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REPORT OP THE LIBRARIAN

to the Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch

May 31, 1937

The work of the librarian for the past year contains much of interest to those who desire to see the library of the Korea Branch of the R. A. S. made more accessible to the general public. During the term of Mr. Whittemore as librarian, he was able to add a great many valuable books to the library.

Your librarian has endeavored to carry forward the work that Mr. Whittemore was doing but has. emphasized the securing of missing numbers of the transactions of the Japan and China branches, the binding of many transactions and the better cataloguing and organization of the library. The work has entailed a great deal of correspondence. Some forty letters have been written in the past few months and progress has been made in completing the cataloguing of the magazines. This work would have been impossible had it not been for the efficient and intelligent work done by Miss Frampton and the credit for the increasingly satisfactory condition of the library is largely due to her efforts.

It became necessary to move two sections of the bookcases in order to cut a door through the wall of the Board Room. These two sections, however, were moved to one side of the room and minor repair made at the expense of the C. L. S. In this connection it should be noted that we need three additional bookcases. The former book space was entirely inadequate when we began to arrange the magazines so as to make them accessible. The C. L. S. has supplied three bookcases of the same type and finish which the Society should buy at this time. These bookcases are offered to us at ¥80, which is below the cost price.

22 volumes have been rebound at a cost of ¥22.95 and 9 additional copies are being bound at the cost of ¥11.30. All of the important magazines and transactions should be [page 140] bound as rapidly as possible so as to protect the books and make them accessible. About ¥50 has been spent on transactions from Japan and about the same amount is being spent for transactions from China. In addition, considerable money has been spent for work in cataloguing and indexing. The council ordered some time ago that the librarian should prepare and print a catalogue of the books. Such a catalogue is at hand in manuscript form prepared in 1928 but a great deal of work is yet necessary in the way of reindexing according to proper subjects before an up-to-date catalogue can be printed and, in order to facilitate this, we shall probably have to stop the borrowing of books from the library until the work is done. A number of letters have recently been written asking for the return of books that have been out for some time.

The suggestion has been broached that the small Library of the Federal Council might well be turned over to the Royal Asiatic Society and this seems to be a good suggestion in case the Royal Asiatic Society is willing to take over the books and include them in its library. This matter might well be discussed at the Federal Council meeting in September.

The librarian submits herewith a suggested list of rules for the conduct of the library and asks that they be approved.

We may summarize our suggestions as follows :

I. That ¥80 be appropriated to buy three additional bookcases.

II. That ¥250 be appropriated for the ensuing year.

III. That the Council approve the policy outlined above :

1. Of securing complete sets of the transactions of the Japan and China branches ana publications of special interest in other Oriental lands.

2. Of continuing the work of indexing and preparing for the publication of a catalogue. [page 141]

3. Of the rebinding of as many magazines

as possible each year.

4. Of approving the rules suggested covering the issuance of books from the library.

A list of recent accessions to the library are as follows :

“Thriving Chosen” Presented by:

Rev. W. M. Clark, D.D.

“Report on Administration

of Chosen” Presented by:

Government General of Chosen

“Transactions of the Asiatic Purchase

Society of Japan.” Vols.

47; 43 pt 2; 44 pt 1, 2;

45, pt, l, 2; 46 pt. 1

‘‘Undiplomatic Memories” (Sands)

“Japan and the United Presented by:

States” (Treat) Rev. N.C. Whittemore

“Story of Nations: Japan”

(Murray) Presented by:

“Korean Conspiracy Trial” Rev. N.C. Whittemore

“Transactions of the Asiatic Purchase

Society North China

Branch:” Vols. Old Se-

ries: Vol. 1 pt. 3; 2, pt.

1; New Series: Vol. 2; 5;

9; 12; 14; 16 pt. 2; 17 pt

2; 18; 19 pt 1; 20 pt 206;

21 pt 1-2, 5-6; 22 pt 6;

24. Extra Volumes 1, 3,

4, 5, 6.

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. CLARK,

Librarian

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RULES FOR THE LIBRARY

1. Members residing in Seoul may keep books for one month only. For each additional day, the fine is ¥ .05.

2. Out-of-town members may keep books for two months only. For each additional day, the fine is ¥ .05.

3. If it is necessary to keep books longer, the librarian

must be asked for permission.

4. Books may be renewed on expiration of the allotted

time.

5. Not more than two books may be taken out at a time, unless special permission is granted by the librarian.

6. The keys may be obtained from “Information” in the C. L. S. offices, and the books given to him to be dated and the cards placed in the box. He must also be given returned books.

7. Magazines may not be taken out of the Board Room except when they are bound and numbered as ordinary books,

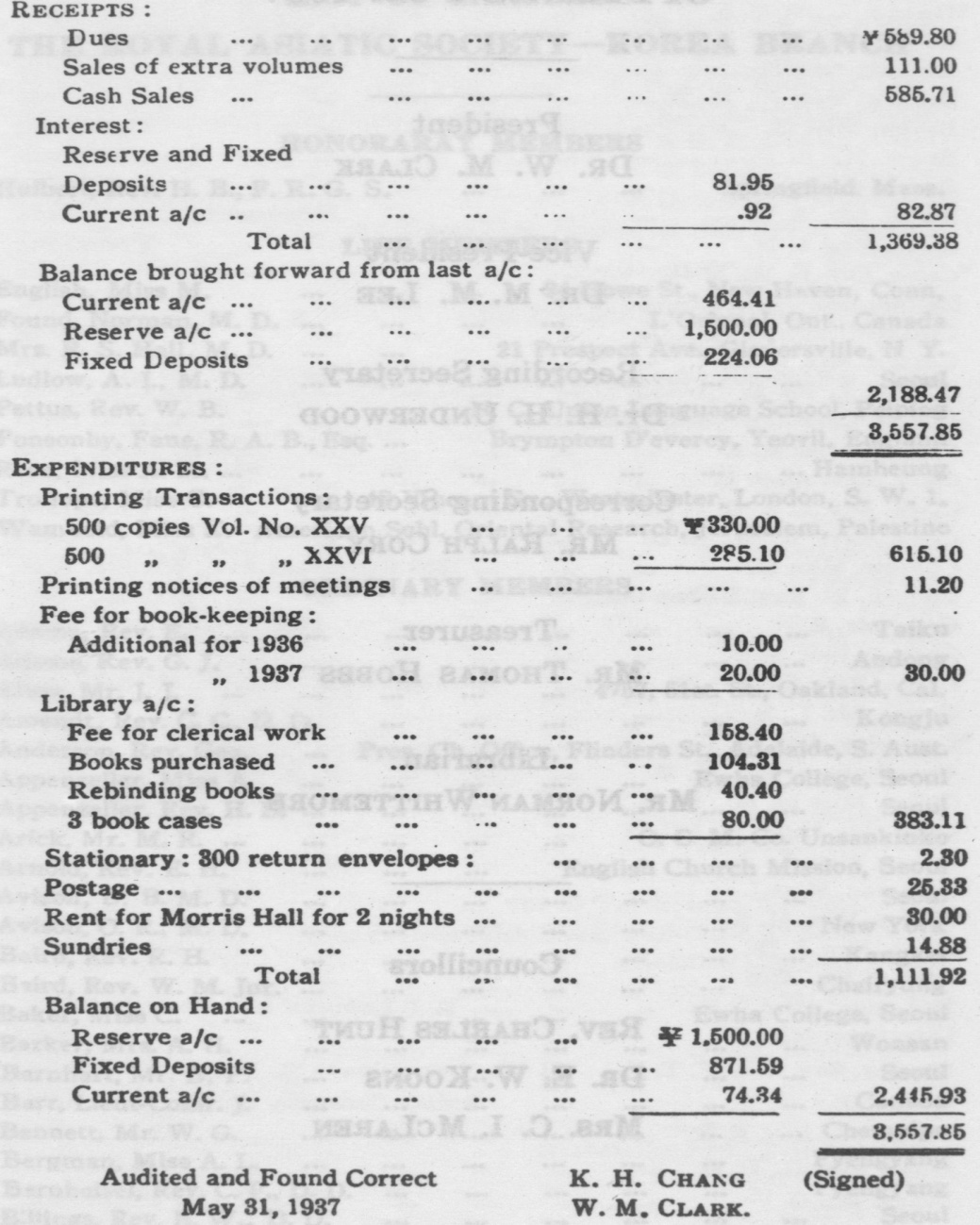
8. Please be careful to return books and magazines to their proper places after reading them, or else place them on the desk and the librarian will replace them.

9.A complete index will be found on the desk. Kindly make use of it. [page 143]

KOREA BRANCH OF ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

Cash Statement

June 1st 1936-May 31st 1937



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Councillors

REV. CHARLES HUNT DR. E. W. KOONS MRS. C. L MCLAREN

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Evans, Mr. G. … … … … … … … … … … … … … … O. C M. Co., Unsankinko [page 147]

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Journal Asiatique 13 Rue Jacob, Paris VI.

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104 South Fifth Street,

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Geographical Journal Royal Geographical Society,

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