

Corea

FROM FAR-OFF COREA.

AMBASSADORS WITH STRANGE NAMES. REPRESENTATIVES OF TAH CHOSUN TO MEET PRESIDENT ARTHUR.

The special ambassadors of His Majesty, the King of Tah Chosun, arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel at 7 p. m. yesterday, and were assigned to rooms on the Broadway side of the second floor. As they filed through the corridor they were regarded with much curiosity by the few who saw them. The Koreans resemble the Japanese more than the Chinese, but they have a complexion and general appearance distinct from either. Short in stature, they appeared still shorter than they were, owing to their dress, which comprises an ample flowing skirt coming within a foot of the ground, and having flowing sleeves, the sleeves and skirts not being of the same color. Loose white trousers are worn beneath the skirt and on their heads were broad-brimmed hats of dark color and having high conical crowns. The members of the party are Min Yong Ik, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary; Hong Yong Sik, Assistant Minister; So Koang Pom, Secretary; Yu Kil Chun, Pyon Su, Ko Yong Chol, Hyon Heung Thek, Chen Kyong Sok, attaches; Perceval Lowell, Foreign Secretary; Woo Li Tang, Chinese Interpreter, and Tsunejiro Mirjaoka, private secretary to Mr. Lowell. There are also with the party, as escort, J. C. Bancroft Davis, First Assistant Secretary of State; Lieutenant Mason and Ensign Faulk, U. S. N. The embassy of the commercial treaty entered into last spring between the United States and Corea in consequence of the commercial relations between the two countries. General Foote was sent as Minister to Corea and this embassy is the return of the courtesy. The members of the embassy are all of high rank, the Minister being the son of the Queen and the Vice-Minister the son of the Prime Minister. The party arrived on September 2 at San Francisco, where they spent five days, being entertained by General Schofield, the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce, besides going to see various manufactories and inspecting the Mint. At Omaha they were met by an officer sent by General Sheridan, who entertained them in Chicago. They left Washington yesterday morning. To-day at noon they will be presented to President Arthur in his rooms at the hotel. They have been extremely anxious to see the President and have avoided public receptions until they should have delivered their messages of good will to the President. This afternoon they will go by boat to Boston where they have been invited to attend the Foreign Exhibition and to visit various factories and places of interest. They will return to this city and stay a few days and will afterward make a two months' stay at Washington before returning to Corea.

Mr. Lowell, who while travelling for pleasure in Japan was asked to accompany the party, said last evening that the Koreans were much pleased with the country and the people. They had abandoned chop-sticks and had adopted American table manners and style of living. Though they admired quite ready to adopt it themselves. "Coraa is a hermit nation," Mr. Lowell continued, "and its people and language are as different from Chinese and Japanese as Russian from German or those from French. I know of only two persons, German from French. I know of only two persons, Korean. There has until recently been a death penalty enforced against any foreigner entering the land. It is still on their statute-books, though the late treaty nullified it. They have had only two foreign embassies—at China and Japan, ago. They have carried on little outside trade, and that has been with China. The products of the country are rice, tobacco, hemp and a little tea. They have rich gold and silver mines, but they are not well worked. Mining machinery and agricultural tools are needed. The only means of travel in the country is by horses or the 'kogo,' a chair swung on a pole and carried by two natives. The Koreans are quite civilized, and educate their children carefully. The religion is Buddhist principally. The officials of all grades are in the highest class of society. Even the police-men belong to the high class and go around the streets wearing spectacles. There have been a few French missionaries in the country, but they had to steal in and keep in hiding. The Chinese have generally respected the Koreans wish for seclusion, and though the river that separates the two countries is often crossed by Koreans, it is seldom by Chinese."

The United States steamer Dispatch has been placed at the disposal of the Korean Embassy by the Secretary of the Navy.

A TRIP TO COREA.

By the terms of the Korean government was obtained to visit the Royal Palace, which was rapidly dismantled, and all the grounds and buildings were left in ruins. The structures are more ruined than the pyramids, and when completed, contain about 100,000 people. All these are supported by the earth, and of course the expense of such an establishment has been a great drain upon the resources of the country. There were many fine buildings, and some very pretty pleasure resorts of various kinds. The principal building is a reception-hall, where the King is accustomed to receive the various officials from other lands. I was especially interested in seeing the traces of the fighting which took place there in December last between the Japanese and the Chinese soldiers, and in which about thirty of the latter were killed. It was there also that several of the highest officials were killed, as they came during the night of the 4th in obedience to the summons of the King. It is because the spirits of these murdered men were supposed to haunt the place, that the King and his court removed to the palace, where he now lives.

On Monday following (Nov. 5th) the T. Wan Kun (father of the King) returned from China. It was three years since he was seized by the Chinese troops and taken by force to China. He was brought back with a Chinese military escort, and in great style. He had been Regent of the country for twelve years, and was a man of great energy and influence. He was the author of the persecution of the Christians, in which upwards of 10,000 were headed. He was opposed to foreigners, and has objected very strongly to the opening of the country. The King went out to meet his father at the

Government to teach Christianity. But I was told by the best authority that private teaching could be done now, and it would not probably be long before all restrictions were removed.

I was pleased to find that the translation made by Rijutei was very good, and a suitable basis for missionary work. I spent a part of the time at Seoul in preparing a list of Scrip-ture names in the Korean characters for general use. In this way it is hoped to secure uniformity among the various missionaries at work in that country. I called upon Mr. Mollendorf, and was surprised to see the freedom with which he conversed in regard to his views and plans. He was dressed as a Korean official, and calls himself a Korean official of the Government he always said "we" or "us," and yet he had been dismissed from the service some time before. When I asked him what he thought would be the result of the Tai Wan Kun's return, he replied that until the present time it had been considered improper to teach the father of the King on account of a feeling of filial piety. But, he added with marked emphasis, "If the Tai Wan Kun does not behave himself, we will cut off his head, filial piety or no filial piety."

In regard to the need of some better medium of trade, he said that his plan was to ignore the present treaties and prohibit the exportation of gold. Then the Government should take the gold and purchase at the mint in Asake a silver coinage suitable for exchange with other countries. But in Corea he thought the Chinese system of coinage was best, and he would repudiate the present currency (it was issued by his advice) and then issue a new and more debased coin, which should have a face value of five cents, but its actual value would be much less, and so there would be a large profit to the Government.

This is sufficient to show the character of the man who has been the dictator in Corea for the past two years, and while he came from a Protestant country, has been helping the Jesuits and opposing the other missionaries. It is plain to be seen that the country could never prosper with such a man as chief adviser, and it is to be hoped very different man, a new, and it is to be hoped very different man, has taken his place. The latest papers give an account of the final interview of Mr. Mollendorf with the King on the eve of his departure for Germany.

I met at the house of Rev. Mr. Underwood several young Koreans who have been studying English but a few months, and yet were able to converse very readily. They are now in various positions under the Government, and are rapidly rising to influence and power. With such new blood coming into the places of trust, the future of Corea is full of hope, and gives promise of being very different from the past.

An interview was arranged with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and by some mistake the interpreter did not appear, as expected, and I went to the office alone. The Minister, Kim Yung Sik, arose as I entered, with an expression of inquiry upon his face as to my exact personality. No one present seemed to understand English, and so he looked at me and I looked at him. Then one of the attendants at which I shook my head. He then said "American?" and I nodded assent. Kim Yung Sik added "Loomis?" and I nodded once more. At this he bowed very smilingly, and added "All right," and gave me his hand. When all were seated, a young man came in who was called an interpreter, and began by the query "When did you arrive, and how long will you remain?" After this followed a series of questions "How is your health?" "Have you had a pleasant visit?" "How old are you?" "How long do you expect to remain?" &c. and they seemed quite surprised that I was not Tea was then served and cigarettes offered, and they seemed quite surprised that I was not in the habit of using either. We had some conversation in regard to the students who had been in Japan, and he expressed thanks for the kindness they had received. He said the Government had no funds.

parture we had a delightful communion service, which was the first ever held in the country. Dark as is the prospect now, it is not as forbidding as was Japan but about a dozen years ago. There is no question but what Christianity is destined to spread very rapidly in that land, and the time of its complete triumph will simply depend upon the energy with which the work of evangelization is carried forward.

I met at Seoul, Captain Miller and two officers of the United States man-of-war Marion. This vessel was stationed at Chemulpo, and on my return I spent two nights and one day on board. The captain is a zealous Christian, and my visit with him was one of peculiar pleasure. We need many more men of the same class.

My return to Yokohama was prosperous in every way. The change of climate had been a decided benefit, and it is suggested that Corea would be a good sanitarium for the missionaries in Japan. The climate of Corea is invigorating, and will sustain hard work, while it is not so here.

—The head of the Catholic mission in Corea claims \$30,000 converts. But the priests go in disguise and conduct their labors in secret. It is reported that there are no visible results in the uplifting of the people.

Mr. Henry E. Benoit, of Canada, started for Mayumba, Africa. This French colony, and he goes to preach in the French language. He will be one more added to the Bishop's list.

Various small notices and advertisements, including mentions of the 'Catholic mission' and 'Mayumba, Africa'.

## FROM FAR-OFF COREA.

## AMBASSADORS WITH STRANGE NAMES.

## REPRESENTATIVES OF TAH CHOSUN TO MEET PRESIDENT ARTHUR.

The special ambassadors of His Majesty, the King of Tah Chosun, arrived at the Fifth Avenue Hotel at 7 p. m. yesterday, and were assigned to rooms on the Broadway side of the second floor. As they filed through the corridor they were regarded with much curiosity by the few who saw them. The Koreans resemble the Japanese more than the Chinese, but they have a complexion and general appearance distinct from either. Short in stature, they appeared still shorter than they were, owing to their dress, which comprises an ample flowing skirt coming within a foot of the ground, and having flowing sleeves, the sleeves and skirts not being of the same color. Loose white trousers are worn beneath the skirt and on their heads were broad-brimmed hats of dark color and having high conical crowns. The members of the party are Min Yong Ik, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary; Hong Yong Sik, Assistant Minister; So Koang Pom, Secretary; Yu Kil Chun, Pyon Su, Ko Yong Chol, Hyon Heung Thek, Chen Kyong Sok, attaches; Percival Lowell, Foreign Secretary; Woo Li Tang, Chinese Interpreter, and Tsunejiro Mirjaoka, private secretary to Mr. Lowell. There are also with the party, as escort, J. C. Bancroft Davis, First Assistant Secretary of State; Lieutenant Mason and Ensign Faulk, U. S. N. The embassy was sent by the Korean Government in consequence of the commercial treaty entered into last spring between the United States and Korea to establish commercial relations between the two countries. General Foote was sent as Minister to Korea and this embassy is the return of the courtesy.

The members of the embassy are all of high rank, the Minister being the son of the Queen and the Vice-Minister the son of the Prime Minister. The party arrived on September 2 at San Francisco, where they spent five days, being entertained by General Schofield, the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce, besides going to see various manufactories and inspecting the Mint. At Omaha they were met by an officer sent by General Sheridan, who entertained them in Chicago. They left Washington yesterday morning. To-day at noon they will be presented to President Arthur in his rooms at the hotel.

They have been extremely anxious to see the President and have avoided public receptions until they should have delivered their messages of good will to the President. This afternoon they will go by boat to Boston where they have been invited to attend the Foreign Exhibition and to visit various factories and places of interest. They will return to this city and stay a few days and will afterward make a two months' stay at Washington before returning to Korea.

Mr. Lowell, who while travelling for pleasure in Japan was asked to accompany the party, said last evening that the Koreans were much pleased with the country and the people. They had abandoned chop-sticks and had adopted American table manners and style of living. Though they admired the American style of dress they were not quite ready to adopt it themselves. "Korea is a hermit nation," Mr. Lowell continued, "and its people and language are as different from Chinese and Japanese as Russian from German or German from French. I know of only two persons, those at the Japanese Embassy, who can speak Korean. There has until recently been a death penalty enforced against any foreigner entering the land. It is still on their statute-books, though the late treaty nullified it. They have had only two foreign embassies—at China and Japan, the latter established about seven years ago. They have carried on little outside trade, and that has been with China. The products of the country are rice, tobacco, hemp and a little tea. They have rich gold and silver mines, but they are not well worked. Mining machinery and agricultural tools are needed. The only means of travel in the country is by horses or the 'kogo,' a chair swung on a pole and carried by two natives. The Koreans are quite civilized, and educate their children carefully. The religion is Buddhist principally. The officials of all grades are in the highest class of society. Even the policemen belong to the high class and go around the streets wearing spectacles. There have been a few French missionaries in the country, but they had to steal in and keep in hiding. The Chinese have generally respected the Koreans wish for seclusion, and though the river that separates the two countries is often crossed by Koreans, it is seldom by Chinese."

The United States steamer Dispatch has been placed at the disposal of the Korean Embassy by the Secretary of the Navy.

China. It was three years since he was seized by the Chinese troops and taken by force to China. He was brought back with a Chinese military escort, and in great style. He had been Regent of the country for twelve years, and was a man of great energy and influence. He was the author of the persecution of the Christians, in which upwards of 10,000 were beheaded. He was opposed to foreigners, and has objected very strongly to the opening of the country. The King went out to meet his father at the gate of the city, and a fine opportunity was afforded to see all there was of royal pomp and splendor. He was borne in a chair carried on the shoulders of about a dozen men. He wore a silk scarlet robe, and is quite fine looking. He is thirty-three years of age, and has a slight moustache and beard on his chin. Fresh earth was strewn in the street before he passed, and a large retinue of soldiers preceded and followed in his train. No one was allowed to approach the King, and it was considered a great breach of propriety for any foreigner to be mounted in his presence. The crowd surged about the chair of the Tai Wan Kun so closely that it was impossible to see his face. But the people were very kind and respectful, and in all cases gave foreigners the precedence. There was no shouting or noise of any kind, and the great throng of people were very orderly and quiet.

On Wednesday following, Dr. Allen's teacher reported that two men had been executed, and their bodies were lying in the street near by. The men had been engaged in a riot three years before, and were only just discovered and arrested. It was reported that one more was either tortured to death or had committed suicide in prison. The sight of their naked bodies, with heads, hands, and feet chopped off, was most horrible and sickening. I have seen the worst battle-fields of the war, but it did not seem so perfectly dreadful. The people shunned the locality, and nearly all the houses in the vicinity were closed. In accordance with the custom of the country the bodies were not removed until the third day. The English Consul General sent a request to the Foreign Office to have the bodies removed at once, but the reply was that the men were criminals and must be treated according to the laws of the country. It is said that a dull sword is used in the process of beheading, and it requires a considerable number of strokes before the head is cut off.

The next day I visited a man living just outside of the city, who had been to America and was now engaged in raising foreign fruits, vegetables, horses, sheep, swine, &c. He was very proud of his stock and productions, and showed them to us with great pleasure. The grain and vegetables were doing well, but the growth of animals was not so successful. He told us that he had supplied seed to more than 300 persons during the past year, and in this way he expected to improve the value and variety of the productions of the country. He served to us by way of refreshments some young beets, radishes, and Korean wine. The following morning two Koreans who could speak Japanese came to me to be taught Christianity. They had read and heard something about it, but were puzzled to understand the person and character of Christ. They had no idea of God, and the word Gospel was a mystery. It was pleasant and interesting to teach these men, who evidently yearned for something that would give them hope and joy beyond the cares and trials of this troublesome life. They came to me secretly, as they were afraid it might cause them trouble if their object was known. As yet no permission is given by the

cession "How is your health?" "How old are you?" "How long do you expect to remain?" &c. Tea was then served and cigarettes offered, and they seemed quite surprised that I was not in the habit of using either. We had some conversation in regard to the students who had been in Japan, and he expressed thanks for the kindness they had received. He said the Government had no funds for the support of any more students abroad, and apparently did not regret the departure of the students from Japan. He was evidently very conservative, and more in sympathy with Chinese than Japanese views and policy. He said he hoped that I would enjoy my stay in Korea, and when I rose to depart expressed a wish that I would call again. He then with his attendants accompanied me to the door, and with another shake of the hand I bowed and bid him good-bye.

The same day Dr. Allen called upon the Tai Wan Kun, and was very kindly received. When he learned that the Doctor was an American, he remarked "All Americans are good." He enquired particularly in regard to the Hospital, and said it was a good thing. He said he had changed his mind in respect to foreigners, and now regarded them as his friends, and the friends of his country. He asked the Doctor how long he would probably live, and requested some medicine for rheumatic troubles. As the Doctor left he took out a gold watch, and pointing to the hour of 2 P. M., said I will call upon you to-morrow at that time. At five minutes past two the next day he appeared in his chair, and with his train of attendants. He had many inquiries to make about foreign things, and was very cordial and friendly. The next day he sent a present of some eggs, fruit and mushrooms. It is uncertain what course the Tai Wan Kun will pursue in the future, but at all events he seems to have returned to his country an entirely changed man.

It is plainly evident that Korea is greatly in need of men of ability and character to guide the affairs of State. Those who were the most prominent in office in December last were killed, and the Progressionist leaders either fled or were put to death. Nearly every one of the men now in power are persons of inexperience in the management of governmental affairs, and with no other qualification than simple rank affords. But rank does not depend upon ability or merit, and is bought and sold for money, and the officials hitherto have often sought to promote their own ease and pleasure rather than the welfare and happiness of the people. Men of the lower class were not eligible to office, and so the officials have perpetuated their power, and to a great extent become weak and effeminate, and without the energy and ability necessary for places of trust and importance. It is the present policy of China to maintain complete control of Korea. A telegraph line is already completed between Chemulpo and Seoul, and is being extended on to Peking. This is built by the Chinese, and it is said without consulting the Koreans at all. It is also reported that hereafter a number of the most promising young Koreans will be sent each year to China for an education. Of course this means an increase of Chinese influence and power. The only hope of the country is in securing some competent men who can guide them in their present political difficulties, and help them safely out of their financial distress. It is to be hoped that the man who has been selected (Judge Denny of Oregon) will accept the place.

While the country is unattractive, and the difficulties are many, the missionaries are hopeful and happy. On the Sabbath before my de-

I first saw Gough in the Summer of 1844: he was a woman's highest, holiest office. Well thank God for having called her to a true speechless couch in Philadelphia, she may full career, and as she sits to-day beside that Mary has been the good angel of his wonderful courtship lasted about a fortnight, and was were married, Brother John told me that they were in the Boylston farm-house where they God in his heart. Sitting with them one evening not ten dollars in his pocket, or the grace of took him on trust to save him, when he had comb of Boylston. The brave Christian girl sion to Christ; and his marriage to Mary White

The head of the Catholic Korea claims \$30,000 converts. It is reported that the Catholics go in disguise and convert one more added to the band. Feb 13/72

Henry E. Benoit, of Canada, had for Mayumba, Africa. This each in the French language. one more added to the band. Feb 13/72

— The head of the Catholic mission in  
Corea claims \$30,000 converts. But the  
priests go in disguise and conduct their  
labors in secret. It is reported that there  
are no visible results in the uplifting of the  
people. *Corea Feb 10 '76*

TUSCAN, Corea, May 2.—The expected arrival of Com-  
modore Shufeldt in Corea is awaited with intense feel-  
ing. It is generally understood now that Li Hung  
Chang's recent letter to the Corcan leader counselled  
submission to all moderate demands from America.

---

—Mr. Henry E. Benoit, of Canada,  
has started for Mayumba, Africa. This  
is a French colony, and he goes to preach  
and teach in the French language. He  
will be one more added to the Bishop  
Taylor band. *Feb 13 '76*