

Appenzeller, Henry G. and Scranton, William B. "Our Mission in Korea," Gospel in All Lands (July, 1885): 328.

Rev. H. G. Appenzeller writes from Chemulpo, Korea, April 9:

The missionaries to Korea arrived in Japan on the morning of the 27th of February last. The Mitsu Bishi (Three Diamonds) Steamship Company runs boats to Korea once a month, On March 23 the first one left since our landing in Japan and we took passage in her. She was well filled with passengers. The chief attraction was, not the Korean missionaries, but the Korean Embassy. This Embassy came to Japan to apologize to that government for firing upon her troops in the riot in Seoul last December. Having performed the duty imposed upon them, they now returned home.

The Embassy was composed of So Sho Woh, the president, Bok Sai Yok, and Herr von Möllendorf. Their quiet dignity and complacent feelings of importance were noticeable, but there was an absence of anything that savored of childish curiosity. Two hours passed quickly by and we were called to dinner. Mrs. Appenzeller and Myself were seated at the same table with and opposite the Embassy.

They showed their appreciation of foreign food by taking the whole bill of fare, from "ox-tail soup to tooth-picks." But, alas! The sequel! The two Koreans had cabins opposite us and in less than an hour it was painfully evident that foreign food on shipboard did not agree with high official dignitaries from the Hermit nation. They had their meals served in their rooms the rest of the journey to Kobe, where they left our steamer.

We reached Nagasaki March 28, and were met on the boat by Bros. Long and Kitchin, of our mission. Nagasaki is a charming place, has a good harbor and splendid scenery—the Switzerland of Japan. This was the last stopping place where warm-hearted missionaries gave us a hearty welcome, took us to their homes, and kindly provided for our personal comfort. We left Nagasaki March 31 for Korea, stopped at two small islands on the way, and arrived at Pusan, an open port on the southeastern coast of the country, on the morning of April 2.

At 8.15 A. M., sitting on the deck of the steamship, I made the following note: Before me to the south is a small Korean village. The walls of the houses are built of mud, about eight feet high, and the roofs are straw thatched. Each house is surrounded by walls of the same material as the roofs, giving the whole an appearance similar to the ground. This accounts for my failure to recognize the village at once and the extent of it.

To the right a little later I discovered another settlement, stuck in on the side of a bare mountain, the houses looking more like large bee hives than the houses of human beings. Encouraged by my success in finding villages, I continued the search and was rewarded by seeing two more along the coast to the north.

At 9 o'clock we went ashore, called on Mr. W. N. Lovatt, the collector of the port, and soon after started for a walk of three miles to Pusan (Fusan), the old Korean village. The road is a mere path of sufficient width for two to walk side by side. We ascended two steep, rugged bills, looked upon cultivated patches of land here and there, saw a man plowing, which at once called to mind the picture seen of plowing in the Holy Land, met groups of fine, broad-shouldered, robust men in holiday attire doing absolutely nothing, saw women washing clothes in a brook by beating them with clubs on the stones, noticed the women invariably turning their faces from us, which is in keeping with their spirit of seclusion—they must not see the face of any man save their husband.

The ground, such as is cultivated, seems to be very good, but the indifference and absolute idleness of the men is the most fruitful source of the poverty and misery of the land. In times of famine, single men, not having wives to support them, perish in great numbers.

We left Pusan the next day for Chemulpo. The day was cold, rainy, disagreeable. This kind of weather continued the rest of the voyage, so that the speed was slow and the sea-sickness long and severe. We came round the southern extremity of the peninsula, up the western coast, entered the mouth of Han river at noon Sunday, the 5th inst., and at 3 p. m. dropped anchor at this port. The river here is wide and shallow so that we had to go about three miles in a sampan (small boat propelled by scullers) to get ashore. We landed upon terra firma as yet untouched and unimproved by the hand of man.

A hundred dirty, ragged, bare-headed coolies made for the luggage in the boat, all the while using their lungs very freely. Though here but a few days, the incessant yelling of the people raises continually the question of the Psalmist, "Why do the heathen rage?" Mrs. Appenzeller first stepped from the sampan upon the bare rocks. Where to go? What to do? were questions that needed immediate attention, as it was beginning to rain. There are no hotels here kept by Americans or Europeans, but hearing of a Japanese one. I motioned to a coolie to carry our baggage, and off we started. The rooms at the hotel are comfortably large, but might be warmer. When we sat down to the table it was to eat foreign food well prepared and palatable.

Politically the country is still unsettled. There are disturbing elements at work at the capital, and until they are rooted out, and the weak, disordered government made strong, we may expect little progress and much discord in "the Land of the Morning Calm."

[We came here on Easter. May He who on that day burst asunder the bars of death break the bands that, bind this people, and bring them to the light and liberty of God's children.](#)¹

Rev. Wm. B. Scranton, from Nagasaki, April 23:

Within a day or two of Mr. Appenzeller's departure, I learned that an American gentleman had just returned from Seoul. I accordingly called on him to learn what I could.

Mr. T. was in Seoul at the time of the outbreak and revolution last December, and has been there much of the time, if not all, since then. The business firm with which he is connected are in constant and close relations with the Korean refugees—heads of the advanced or progressionist or pro-Japanese party—who were in power for a few days only in December last, but are now forced by the opposing party, who at present hold the power, to remain exiles in Japan.

These refugees are acknowledged by all, whether the speaker is in a political, civil, or clerical capacity, as being among the most enlightened and broad-minded of the Koreans, if they are not most probably the most advanced. I have heard several times the expression used "They are the brains of Korea in Japan."

I have seen much of them and heard more regarding them all, besides having the highest in rank as my personal instructor. I can use no higher words expressing the pleasure I have in knowing them, than to say they are all perfect gentlemen in both manners and address, very agreeable socially, and bright, quick, and eager in learning.

¹ *ARBFMEC* for 1885, 235-237.

In case of any change in Korean affairs, mob violence is likely to be the order of the day, and foreigners are, with difficulty, protected. This is not because the government is unwilling to stand to its treaties, but because of its inability to control its own people, an inability much increased when two other elements are added for harm in the shape of Japanese and Chinese troops, each jealous of the other. The Koreans hate the Japanese from of old. And they are unable to distinguish between Japanese and western foreigners, as the former quite generally take to foreign clothing.

The danger is so great to the United States representatives—or at least their safety so uncertain—that a United States vessel is constantly at the port, ready to act in an emergency.

During my stay in Yokohama I have been doing my best at the Korean language ever since the first two weeks. Through the kindness of the Rev. Henry Loomis, of the American Bible Society, I have had instruction from one of the refugees from Korea.

To introduce you to him I will quote a paragraph from Rev. Mr. Loomis concerning him: "Pak Young Hio, aged 25. Prince of the highest rank, married a daughter of the former King, a niece of the present King; was Ambassador to Japan in 1881; in the new cabinet was made Minister of War and Commander of the Northern and Southern armies."

His services to me he renders for his country's good, as they express it, and of course will receive nothing in pay. I have, however, with my mother, been interesting him in English in the afternoon, for his Korean services to us in the morning.

I have begun to flatter myself that I see a little into the language, though from the almost entire lack of textbooks, we have to do all the book writing and dictionary making ourselves. The only books on that language from which we can learn are in French, so we have to do double translating. I feel confident of soon being able to get sufficient insight for our first needs.

There is, of course, a liability to outbreaks in Korea at any moment. I suppose during these trying days of overturning old customs and prejudices, and setting up new ones, it will be for many years to come in Korea, as it has been in Japan, until the leaven that is hidden shall pervade all parts of the country.