

Robert S. Maclay to John F. Goucher, July 2, 1884. From Seoul.

John F. Goucher Papers, Mission Research Library, Union Theological Seminary Library, New York.

It affords me very sincere pleasure to write you from the capital of Corea. Accompanied by my good wife, I arrived here safely the evening of June 24th ... The prospects of Christian work in Corea are as good as could reasonably be expected. It is true that many difficulties confront us but the way seems to be sufficiently open for the Institution of our proposed Mission to Corea. Great prudence will be necessary on the part of those selected to commence the work... the chief source of danger will be the weakness of the Corean government... The country is poor and likely to remain so until a radical change in the policy of the country is introduced. The present attitude of the government of the country is favorable to the introduction of the desired changes... It is becoming evident to all that the Gospel is the only remedy that can reach the root of the Corean difficulty. Neither commerce nor civilization can lift this people from the low condition into which they have sunk. The power that elevates them must be divine. I called today (July 3rd) on an influential member of the Corean government, and as assured by him that the government would favor our enterprise. I expect to have another interview with him on the same subject, and shall keep you informed of the negotiation. Meanwhile let us thank God for the progress already made, and pray earnestly that all difficulties may be removed and have our work placed on a satisfactory basis.¹

¹ This is the first letter of a Protestant missionary from Seoul. See "Letter from Corea," *GAL* (Jan., 1885): 32.