

H. N. Allen to F. F. Ellinwood, October 8, 1884, From Seoul.
Horace N. Allen Papers, New York Public Library, New York City.

I left Shanghai for Corea about a month ago. I looked at Fusan and Chemulpo, but found them of little missionary importance. Fusan is a Japanese town, Chemulpo distinctively a foreign settlement. I came right on to Seoul, a day's journey. I may say that I have been received with "open arms" by the foreigners everywhere here. Our minister General Foote, when he found that I was an M. D. and would not commence any preaching or like work till the proper time came for it, gave me a most cordial welcome. To prevent any trouble he of his own accord formally appointed me physician to the legation (with no salary). He notified our government of the same and an audience with the King of Corea, telling him of my aiming and intention to buy property. The King asked if I were a missionary and got for answer "He is physician to the legation." General Foote also said that he had the private assurance of the King that soon, probably in the spring, mission schools and medical work would not only be accounted but quietly encouraged, and he was of opinion that Corea would make more rapid strides in religious matters than in Japan. He is not a church member and has told the same to the King, but at the same time he urges our religion as a means of elevating the people.

Mr. von Möllendorf refused to see Dr. Maclay of the M. E. Church in Japan, but I had letters to him and he had me to dinner and promised to help me all he could. I may just say however his bubble has been pricked. He misstepped his ground and has him stripped of all his offices saving only that as head of the customs. He has no influence now and the Coreans wish to get rid of him. It is a good thing for us, for he is more opposed to missions than Coreans themselves. I have this on the best authority. ...

Transcribed by Sung-Deuk Oak