

THE KINGDOM OF COREA.

Remarkable Country Described by A. Curt's Bond.

Why an army should fight for the possession of Corea can never be guessed at by the unlucky American who has tried to travel through that remarkable country. It is the most remarkable nation in the world—for its inconveniences, and the most original in its administration.

Not only the most searching and exasperating examination made by the custom officers, but the pedigree of the amiable visitor is taken, a record of his life and his intentions, where he is going and how long he has money enough to remain.

In the treaty ports on the coast where strangers land, if they land at all, wealth makes its great display. At such places Japanese and Mexican dollars are circulated with a limited freedom that almost amounts to familiarity.

Away from the coast this kash is the only money that circulates. The natives have no confidence in anything else. This necessitates the purchase of a few hundred pounds of copper disks at the seaports, and then the traveler must hire a half dozen ponies—there are no horses—to carry sufficient money to meet the expenses of his trip.

Now it is the custom in Corea to pay everybody for all work done every night, a custom that has doubtless grown out of the universal distrust each individual has for each other individual.

Then the balance of the night he has to sit up in the midst of firearms and see that the faithful attendants don't steal what is left. So taking one consideration with another, traveling in Corea has its trials.

For many years no stranger was able to get beyond five hours travel away from the coast, and the interior was therefore a terra incognita. The reasons for this were various.

When the caravan was started each man was loaded down with 10 pounds of kash. After they had marched five hours they would wait on the traveler and deliver themselves somewhat in this strain: "We are five hours' journey from home; if turn around now and go back our day's work of 10 hours will be completed by the time we get home, and we have 10 pounds of kash to pay us. If we go on another five hours we will be an entire day's journey from home, and as we only have money enough for one day with us how shall we get pay for to-morrow? Being unable to answer this inquiry satisfactorily, they would all turn about and retrace their steps.

These local peculiarities interfered slightly with free intercommunication.

The climate, if one remains long enough to test it, will be found uncertain. It may be balmy and delightful at sunrise and hailing like a cyclone at noon; it rains when it feels like it, and nature never takes the trouble to warn by as much as a cloud; it just turns the water on and floods everything, while there is apparently a clear sky and a cloudless horizon.

Nature joins the rulers to make life as much of a burden as possible for the population. In such a climate fancy gardening is out of the question, and the delicacies of the season are entirely unknown.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

grow tobacco, wheat, rice, ginseng, hemp, millet and cotton, and were it not for a provision in the Constitution they could raise potatoes, but it seems that about the time the wise men built the grand structure of laws under which this nation has remained quiescent for about 6,000 years the potatoes acted badly; they failed in some manner to meet the views of the ruling classes, and so they were boycotted. It was solemnly announced that the devil had a hand in their misconduct, and the unavoidable deduction was that anyone who encouraged them by raising or eating them was in sympathy with the devil, and therefore should be promptly put out of the way.

The cattle, ponies, dogs, pigs, sheep and goats are very many; every native is the possessor of some of these creatures, but what the practical purpose of possession is I never was able to see. The cattle and pigs are to be eaten by the ruling classes only; and there are a string of frantic laws on this prohibition that makes every subject of the Crown liable to some awful penalty, boiling in oil or lead or something of that sort, if he or she transgresses the restrictions and enjoys a round of beef or a flip of bacon. The sheep and goats are killed only as sacrifices on stone altars, and with an accompaniment of sad music—their conception of sadness—which sounds to the American ear much as does the dinner gong of a Coney Island hotel.

The Government is remarkable, among other things, for having gone one step further in its regulation of internal affairs than any other Government ever saw the wisdom of doing. The country is especially rich in minerals, there being almost inexhaustible veins of gold, silver, copper and coal. The Government recognizes this happy condition, forbidding all descriptions of minings, and with the exception of one small copper mine worked for the purpose of providing a portion of the mineral necessary for their coinage, the balance being purchased from China, none of these deposits are disturbed. All the gold and silver used by them is imported from Japan and China, no coal is used, and as the supply of wood is not great, that also is imported. The wildest flights of my fancy were never able to reach even the probable cause of this unwillingness to open up the wealth of the nation, and the inquires I put to the natives who could understand me were invariably met with a frightened look and the general appearance of horror at such an encroachment or questioning on a subject too sacred for contemplation.

The King of Corea bears the same relation to the Emperor of China that the Khedive of Egypt does to the Sultan of Turkey; he is the vassal of the Chinese ruler, and this fact, much to his disgust, is set forth in every public document that is promulgated, and is proclaimed to the world far and wide with the lack of modesty and consideration for which the Chinese nation is noted.

Notwithstanding the encroachment upon the dignity of this high official, he is surrounded by an exhaustless ceremony that accounts for the extravagant estimation in which he is held. He is very holy, so holy, in fact, that when people speak of him they simply say him, and when they want to be very subservient they say it, but they never say Li Hsi, the name under which this gentleman suffers. This name is apparently only given to him to use in public documents, for no one ever has the temerity to use it in addressing him, and it is never mentioned aloud anywhere in this Kingdom. If any subject wishes to practice on it he goes under ground and does it by himself; to utter it above ground is sacrilegious and the offender is cut up into eight pieces, and a piece sent to each province.

Then there is another interesting law to further sanctify the head of the State; this law provides that any person who touches the King with any implement or weapon of metal shall have some horrible thing done to him. It is impossible for me to say what the punishment is connected with this, because the punishment for each offense, as enumerated in the criminal code, becomes progressively worse as the crimes are described, and as boiling oil is the most merciful of the entire lot, it does not make much difference what the other are.

On the face of it this law about touching the King with a metal weapon appears to be all right, but it has a boomerang element about it that worked disastrously a few years ago. The famous Tieng-tseung-Tai-Ouang, an early century ruler, was taken sick with an abscess on his neck, and cried loudly for relief. All the great doctors of several nations thereabout were gathered together and agreed that all there was to be done was to lance it, but that this would be touching the royal person with a metal weapon, and as this law was explicit in the penalty for such an offense, and there was no ruling power in existence that had the power to change the law, the doctors all, singly and collectively, refused to be dropped in molten lead for the mere purpose of saving the life of the ruler, and so Tieng-tseung-Tai-Ouang died in horrible agony.

This inconvenient law also prevents the King being shaved, and as the true Oriental is too much occupied with the thoughts of the welfare of his people to do anything for himself the Kings of Corea wear full beards. On the other hand, for the King to touch anybody is considered such an extraordinary honor that very serious obligations ever after rest upon the person touched. The most formidable of these is the necessity for wearing forever a brass plate over the spot touched, but the subject is exempt from wearing more than one plate over the same spot if the King happens to touch him twice in the same place. The King's wives are living castanets when they walk.

It is worthy of mention that while a King's name is sacred during his lifetime immediately upon his death it becomes common property and is banded about with the most reckless freedom. As soon as the present ruler dies his successor will put up monuments to him all over the country and they will be plastered with Li Hsi. All his present subjects will then criticize his good and bad actions, and will sneer and applaud as they feel disposed. No penalty is attached for libel on a dead ruler. Doubtless the reason is because every known penalty has been attached to libels on a live one.

The law courts of Corea are permanently as exciting as the recent strikes were temporarily. The only difference between the witness and the principal in a Corea lawsuit is that the principal frequently gets off unscathed, while the witness is invariably maimed and frequently crippled for life. The principals show their cleverness by declining to testify in their own behalf, for as each witness comes forward he is warned by the Judge of the terrible penalties of committing perjury, and to still further impress it upon him his legs are beat with clubs, his body is cut by cords being drawn rapidly back and forth across it, his shoulders are dislocated, or he is suspended by the arms from the ceiling. The Judge addresses him very kindly and says something to this effect, "Now you see what we can do, and what we will do if you don't tell the truth in this case, and if you want to escape it, you want to tell all you know, and tell it honestly. Truthfulness is one of the most beautiful attributes of Corea character."

No salary is paid the officials, but in view of this economical plan for conducting the Government no restrictions are placed upon those in office in their exercise of blackmail and extortion. It is noticeable that all the officials occupy elaborate residences and they live in comparative luxury. The Seng-ei-tsieng, a Minister answering to our Secretary of State, receives a salary equivalent to about \$1,000 per year.

At one time, tradition says, there were books published in the Chinese language which were more or less read and seemed to hold out some promise of imparting a reasonable amount of information and intelligence to the people, but the Government very soon learned of this, and, while they shrunk at the thought of prohibiting literature entirely, they made it a law that books should thereafter be printed upon marble, and so at this day, if some daring Corea should want to translate "The Heavenly Twins" the story would be engraved on slabs of marble, each two slabs having a piece of velvet between them to prevent friction, and so the six hundred odd pages in that delectable book would make a Corea farm look like a graveyard if anyone cared to read it through.

The Corea language consists mostly of vowels, there being 11 in their alphabet, and, therefore, the words are short and not unpleasant in sound. The nouns have nine cases and verbs 11 moods. There are 13 diphthongs and 14 consonants. No one thoroughly knows the alphabet or language. There are no newspapers, no railroads, no steamboats, no telegraphs, no postoffices; only the very highest people are able to write; no one else is able to read. Their religion is Confucian; they have great regard for the devil, and really fear him more than they rely upon Confucians. They regard snakes as holy in some way, and salaam whenever they meet one. Snakes lead about the only happy life

to be found in Corea. The upper classes frequently wear clothes, and the lower classes occasionally try to imitate them upon some grand occasion, but grand occasions that are sufficiently so to call for such a marked change in the national costume are limited to the death or accession of a ruler. There is a severe law against polygamy. Paper is the only article of merchandise manufactured, and every citizen makes whatever implements or utensils may be necessary for use.

Corea, in its own language, means chosen. Of course anyone who chooses it is welcome to it.—New York Mail and Express.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

To the School Teachers in the Public Schools of Pennsylvania:

The Pennsylvania Forestry Association offer prizes of fifty dollars for the best, and twenty-five dollars for the second best essay upon "The Practical Value of Forests to the Surface of the Country," prepared by teachers in the public schools of Pennsylvania.

The conditions under which the prizes are to be awarded are: 1st—Each essay must be presented at a county teacher's institute, or (in cities where institutes are not held) at an organized assemblage of teachers, and the merit of the same passed upon in such manner as the institute or other organization decides.

2d—The County or City Superintendent is requested to forward to the Pennsylvania Forestry Association as soon as possible a list of those who contributed essays, giving names, addresses and schools with which the writers are connected; and also the two essays which have been endorsed as specially meritorious or recommended for competition for the prizes.

3d—A Committee will be selected by the Council of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association to pass upon the essays received from the various County and City Superintendents, who will decide which of these is entitled to the first prize of fifty dollars and which to the second prize of twenty-five dollars.

4th—The competition will be open to all essays presented as above indicated which are received by the secretary of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association on or before March 31st, 1895. It is intended that, as far as it may be practicable, all persons who have been, are, or shall be, teaching in the public schools of Pennsylvania, between April 1st, 1894, and April 1, 1895, may become contestants.

5th—It is expected that the names of each essayist and as far as possible excerpts from essays will be printed in Forest Leaves, the organ of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and the essays winning the prizes will also be published in Forest Leaves, but no restrictions upon publication of essays in local papers are made.

The sole desire of the Association is to encourage the study of and interest in tree-growth, and none should be deterred from entering into the contest because of modesty or diffidence. The purpose has been to open the subject to all in the broadest manner possible. A concise, well-thought-out essay will be as apt to win a prize for its practical features as a composition of greater length, abounding in elaborate phraseology or presenting rhetorical perfection.

Teachers everywhere in the State are requested to enter the contest. The subject is a practical one, and, by keeping their eyes open during the Summer vacation, teachers will find innumerable facts on every hand bearing thereon, which "he who runs may read" and write about.

JOHN BIRKINBINE, President. J. T. ROTHROCK, Secretary.

According to an eminent authority there are many forms of inebriety, illustrations of which may be found in all our cities where they are treated at the hospitals. Besides the various forms of alcohol, ether intoxication is frequent and cocaine drunkenness is becoming more common. Cocaine is more speedy in its effects than alcohol or morphine and there is usually at first increased mental and bodily vigor, but when the breakdown comes it is complete. Then there are people who drink caudé cologne, lots of them. Dr. Norman Kerr, the greatest living authority on the subject, also contends that there is a craving for tobacco often so irresistible that when indulged to excess it partakes of the character of inebriety.

Notes from the Pennsylvania Experiment Station.

Mangels and Sugar Beets Compared with Silage.

In Bulletin No. 26 of the Station, Professor H. J. Waters and R. J. Weid report the results of a comparison of the yields of digestible matter produced by mangels, sugar beets and silage corn when grown under similar conditions, and also a comparison of the merits of roots and silage for the production of milk and butter.

On fairly good upland clay limestone soil, made rich enough for a fair crop of corn or beets, and under reasonably good field culture, the following results were obtained:

Table with 3 columns: Green Subst., Dry Matter, Digestible Or. Silage Matter. Rows include Yield of corn per acre and Increase of corn over roots.

In other words, as much digestible organic matter was produced by one acre of corn as was secured from almost two acres of beets.

Similar although very much less striking results were obtained at the Maine State Experiment Station in a comparison of several classes of forage crops, and involving in each case two years' work. At the Ontario Agricultural Experiment Station silage corn gave second highest yield of digestible material per acre as the average of two seasons comparison of six types of forage crops. Both of these Experiment Stations are out of the corn belt, and a less favorable showing for corn was to be expected.

The Wisconsin Experiment Station reports the cost of one acre of sugar beets from a two-acre field, without charging rent of land and using no fertilizers, at \$53.80.

The Ohio Experiment Station grew sugar beets at a cost of \$31.36 per acre in 1890, and \$38.84 in 1891, making no charge for fertilizers or rent of land.

The average cost per acre of sugar beets, when grown on a commercial scale in California, as reported by seven large growers, was \$48.85.

At the United States Sugar Beet Experiment Station, Schuyler, Nebraska, the cost per acre in 1892 was \$49.78, exclusive of fertilizers and rent.

In special cases these figures may be considerably reduced for both crops, but it is believed that the relations between them given above is approximately correct for average conditions.

In a feeding trial involving two lots of five cows each and covering three periods of twelve days, 100 pounds of digestible matter in the silage ration produced 131.92 pounds of milk and 7.21 pounds of butter, while an equal amount of digestible dry matter in the form of roots produced 137.36 pounds of milk and 6.53 pounds of butter—a difference in the butter produced 10.4 per cent. But when the two lots of cows were fed alike on a combined ration of beets and silage, the silage lot produced, per 100 pounds of digestible matter consumed, 139 pounds of milk and 6.79 pounds of milk and 6.46 pounds of butter, thus showing an apparent superiority of the cows constituting the silage lot. When this is taken account of it leaves a net gain in feeding value of the silage over the roots of 5 per cent.

Similar results were obtained at this Station in 1890.

These results are also in accord with those of trials extending over four years, and involving in two experiments twelve cows each, and in two, sixteen cows, at the Ohio Experiment Station. Below is given a summary of their results:

Table with 4 columns: Matter contained, Beet ration, Silage ration. Rows include Pounds of milk produced per 100 pounds of dry matter contained.

The average of all Experiments points to the conclusion that, when compared upon the basis of digestible matter, silage is at least as effective as sugar beets or mangels for the production of milk or butter.

The annual reports and quarterly bulletins of the Station will be sent, free of charge, on application. Correspondence on agricultural subjects is desired.

H. P. ARMSBY, Director, State College, Centre Co., Pa.

"There is danger in delay."

Since 1861 I have been a great sufferer from catarrh. I tried Ely's Cream Balm and to all appearances am cured. Terrible headaches from which I had long suffered are gone.—W. J. Hitchcock, Late Major U. S. Vol. and A. A. Gen., Buffalo, N. Y.

Ely's Cream Balm has completely cured me of catarrh when everything else failed. Many acquaintances have used it with excellent results.—Alfred W. Stevens, Caldwell, Ohio. Price of Cream Balm fifty cents.

Mrs. Putnam, Ferrisdale, Mass., says:



"That Bearing-Down Feeling" and dizzy, faint, gasping attacks left me as soon as I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I am like one raised from the dead. I was sick with womb troubles so long I thought I never could get well."

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