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### Korea.

WHAT is God about to do in Korea? It is neither China nor Japan with which Korea has to do. He who is King of Kings, and to whom the natives are but as a drop in the bucket, controls the movements of nations, and will bring His own purposes to pass. It may be that, as frequently in the past, the breaking up of the evil is a preparation for a harvest of blessing, and if so, this is the church's opportunity. Prince Albert's advice to young young men is seasonable, "Find out God's plan in your generation and beware how you cross it, but fall promptly into your place in that plan." Korea, has been so long shut off from all intercourse with other countries, that she has been called the "Hermit nation." It is only twelve years ago, in 1882, that three of her ports were thrown open by treaty with the United States, but these twelve years have been eventful. Already six missionary societies are operating in these treaty ports, and at other ports, and the field is one of exceeding promise. As great and violent changes may take place within a short time, the united prayer of the Church should be, that all things may be so ordered as to hasten the evangelization of this interesting people.

Korea is a peninsula on the north-east coast of China—as to proportions somewhat like Italy and about the same size. It is picturesque and mountainous. A range of mountains runs from north to south, nearer the eastern coast, dividing the country into two watersheds, each of which is fruitful, producing all classes of cereals from wheat in the north to rice in the south. The pine and bamboo grow together. There is also great mineral wealth—gold, silver and coral,—although her resources have not yet been extensively explored. It lies between 34° and 42° N. Lat. thus giving a variety of climate not unlike that of our own American continent.

The population, numbering about 12,000,000 is distinctly Mongolian. Waves of people from the north, in past ages, mingling with Chinese refugees who found an asylum from their own despotic government, pro-

duced a mixed race, of which all that can be said is, that they have Mongolian characteristics. The government is Paternal—an absolute monarchy, having some constitutional method, but in no sense representative. Annual tribute is paid to China, and the authority of Peking is recognized in Korea's foreign policy. Chinese is the language of the Court, and of the educated classes, their own language being only used by the lower classes, yet it is said to be more flexible than the Japanese and less cumbersome than the Chinese. The people are like other orientals very polite but utterly degraded—women living a secluded, neglected, intolerable life of ignorance, poverty and oppression.

In the 4th century Buddhist emissaries reached Korea and for many centuries Buddhism was the religion of the country, but gradually it gave way to Confucianism, and now but very few Buddhist temples remain. About a century ago Roman Catholicism was introduced and made rapid progress, but was chequed by the succession to the throne of a hostile dynasty. Persecutions followed in which many lives were sacrificed—it for a time seeming probable that the Christian name would be blotted out of the country. There are yet, however, about 50,000 Roman Catholics remaining who are little better than Confucianists, on account of the unchristian compromises of the Catholic Church in heathen lands.

The first Protestant Missionary who assailed Korea, was Rev. John Ross, who whilst laboring in Manchuria, learned the language, and with the assistance of a native translated the New Testament into Korean, 5,000 copies of which were printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society and sent inland. This took place in the year 1873, twenty-years ago, and some years after, missionaries found native communities reading the Ross version of the New Testament and waiting for one who could teach them. From these communities were afterwards gathered valuable native helpers, such as the noble Kim family and Evangelist Paik. The first resident missionary was Dr. H. N. Allen of the American Presbyterian Church. He had been laboring in China, and went to Seoul (pronounced, Sole) the capital of Korea in 1884. Soon after his arrival there was a riot in Seoul, in which Prince Min Yong Ik was seriously wounded, and Dr. Allen treated him so successfully that he won great favor at Court, which resulted in the establishment of a royal hospital of which Dr. Allen was made superintendent. Soon other missionaries followed and to-day the American Presbyterian Church has over thirty missionaries there.

The Episcopal Methodist Church of the United States was next on the ground, and has already a staff of considerable strength. Other societies followed, until at the present time six or seven societies are on the ground.

Canadians have a special interest in this field because