

far shown itself so tolerant of Christianity, even if it has not seized it with the eagerness with which it has adopted our civilization, may not league patriotism with its native faiths in opposition to the faith of Jesus Christ."

Dr. Leonard, a missionary secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, writes thus of Corea, now virtually a dependency of Japan:

"Seoul, the capital of Corea, contains a population of 250,000, and is much the largest city in the kingdom. It is situated about thirty miles from Chemulpo, the nearest seaport, and is surrounded by volcanic mountains, some of which are quite Alpine in outline and altitude, and some are nude of vegetable life from summit almost to base. The roads leading from the city are over mountain passes or through narrow defiles, the widest of which leads to the river Han.

"Corea has been known for centuries as the 'Hermit Kingdom,' because she has until recently refused to have any relations with foreign nations. During much of her history she has been tributary to, if not a vassal of, the Chinese Empire, and in her subordinate condition necessarily had political relations with her superior. But with Western nations she had no intercourse, until forced to open her doors by the arbitrament of war, less than a quarter of a century ago. In harmony with her policy of seclusion she built all her cities inland, including her capital. Until since she has been holding some commercial intercourse with the outside world, there were no towns on her extended sea-coast, and even now there are but few.

"So far from building cities on her coast or northern boundary, a policy of desolation has been pursued on all her borders. Along the sea-coast no sign of life was allowed for centuries, lest seafarers might be tempted to land and enter the coun-

try. Along the northern boundary a wide stretch of land was proscribed, and no one was permitted to make permanent settlement upon it, and it became a hiding-place for criminals and outlaws from both Corea and Manchuria, her northern neighbour. The seclusion policy led not only to the building of the capital city inland and amid mountain fastnesses, but also surrounding it with a substantial granite wall.

"About five hundred years ago, when the city was supposed to be in danger from a foreign foe, a wall six miles in circumference, running in a zigzag line up and over the mountains on the north and south, and across the narrow valley on the east and west, was erected. The wall is from twenty-five to thirty feet high, and was completed in the short space of nine months. It was doubtless a formidable defence when only bows and arrows were used in warfare, but in these days of heavy projectiles is utterly valueless. As no repairs have been put upon it for many years, it is becoming quite dilapidated at some points, and will ultimately disappear. The material in it will go far in rebuilding the city in 'the good time coming,' when through the Gospel of Christ the Coreans shall be happily elevated to the plane of a Christian civilization.

"It is quite impossible to give to one who has never seen this city a just idea of either its plan or architecture. Except some of the principal streets, that seem to have been originally intended to follow straight lines, the city seems to have been built without a plan. Boston, it is said, was originally built along cow-paths, which accounts for the tangle of streets in its older parts that so confuse the uninstructed stranger. But Seoul did not have the advantage of even the cowpath, with its graceful curves, as a guide, and so the streets run every whither, with sharp angles, abrupt endings and irregular widths. The streets, except