

of the legation, where American and English periodicals and newspapers come every month, and a little further up the same street there is a clubhouse, where one can, if he will, get a Vermouth or a Manhattan cocktail, and can amuse himself with billiards in company with players from a dozen different parts of the world.

MINISTER J. B. SILL.

I think our minister spends the greater part of his time in the reading room. The fact is, I never saw him in the club, and I don't know that he frequents it. He is more of a student than a club man, and his life has been spent in teaching school. He is now sixty-three, and he was born near Buffalo. His father died when he was eleven, and he had to look out for himself. He got an education and in some way drifted to Michigan. He was now for a time superintendent of the Detroit schools, and then for ten years was the head of a female seminary. For some years he was connected with the University of Michigan, and he went fresh from school work to Corea. During his youth he had distinguished himself as a farmer, being the champion raker and binder of the neighborhood in which he lived, and when he was appointed as minister to Corea, he concluded that he would benefit the country by improving its stock. He bought a bull and several cows in California, and took them over with him on the steamer. I don't know whether he expected them to go along as a part of his personal effects, but I was told in Yokohama, Japan, that when he arrived there the steamship company charged him \$800 for extra baggage. At any rate he took his cattle to Corea, and was surprised to find there a better grade of beef than that which he had carried over six thousand miles of sea. He is rewarded, however, by having good milk and butter, though in case he remains in the country, the extra baggage bill will make his coffee cost from this item alone about a dollar a day. I was in Seoul at the time Mr. Sill arrived, and I called at the legation only a few hours afterward. An absolutely naked Corean boy was swinging on the gate, and I found the house turned upside down with the minister's effects. During my stay the minister was presented to the king, his majesty giving me the honor of an audience the same day. Mr. Sill made a very good impression and his majesty told him that he was glad that the President had sent such a distinguished scholar to represent him in Corea. The king spoke at this time in the highest terms of Dr. H. N. Allen, the secretary of the legation, who had acted as minister during the interim, and who, by the way, has done more for America and American interests in Corea, than any other foreigner.

THE KING'S CLOSEST FRIEND.

Dr. Allen is today the most powerful foreigner in the country. He is a modest retiring young man of about forty years of age, who was sent out to Asia as a missionary doctor, and who, after spending a short time in China, went to Corea. At this time the missionaries were held in low esteem by the Coreans, and they were working hard to get a foothold. About twelve or thirteen years ago a great rebellion occurred, in which Kim Ok Kiun and others seized the king, and in which the conspirators nearly killed one of the king's family, Prince Min Yong Ik. He was almost cut

to pieces with swords, and his life was despaired of, when Dr. Allen was called in. He appreciated the situation. He knew that he would be charged with killing the prince if he failed to cure him and that the prince's chances of life and death hung upon a hair. Dr. Allen, however, concluded to risk it on his own skill and Prince Min Yong Ik's vitality. He sewed up his wounds and nursed him for days. Inch by inch and atom by atom he drew the prince away from the grave, and finally made him a well man. This gave Dr. Allen a great reputation throughout the whole land. He was called to prescribe for the Corean nobles, and during the years of his mission in Corea he actually turned in to the mission funds \$5,000 a year, which he got from his outside practice. The king and queen took his advice on many matters of foreign policy, and when they sent their embassy to Washington he went along as their confidential foreign adviser. He stayed with them for some time in Washington, winning friends everywhere, and afterward went back to Corea as our secretary of legation. Today when any matter of interest to foreigners is to be carried through in Corea Dr. Allen is always appealed to. Through him the missionaries have found access to the best classes of the country, and their work is not confined to the coolies, as it is to a large extent in China. Dr. Allen has not been connected with the missions in any official way for years, and his work has been practical and diplomatic rather than religious. He is a man of high education, a born diplomat and thoroughly efficient in every respect.

OUR AMERICAN GENERALS IN COREA.

There are a number of Americans connected with the Corean government. General Clarence Greathouse is the foreign adviser to the king, and his majesty consults him on all matters of foreign policy. His salary is, I believe, about \$12,000 a year, and he has a magnificent establishment, with numerous servants. He spends a great deal of his time in the palace, and he is connected with many of the modern reforms. Not long ago the king gave him a rank, and I believe he has now the right to wear a gold button under his ear. He is a California man, who was at one time owner of the *Examiner*, and who went to Japan some years ago as consul general to Yokohama. He is a fine lawyer, a man of good education, and one of the best story-tellers in public life. General William McE. Dye, who went over to Corea to reorganize the army some years ago, is still in the service of the king. He took part in the late war in this country, and then went to Egypt, where he served with great distinction in the army of the khedive. He has now been in Corea about eight years, and during that time his hair and beard have become as white as snow. Another American connected with the army is Colonel F. J. H. Nienstead, who aided in drilling the troops, and who is now at the head of the king's imperial school. He is a bright fellow, and, like the other Americans who are connected with his majesty, seems to be willing to wait for his salary without very much fuss about its non-payment. I suppose this matter has been changed now, and the foreign loan which the king has made, or is trying to make, will enable all of the official salary debts to

be promptly paid. When I was in Corea, however, the king owed the American officials about \$60,000 dollars, and nearly every foreigner in his service was from one month to a year behindhand.

HE BLUFFED THE KING.

The only American who was paid up promptly at this time was the king's electrician, Mr. Thomas W. Power, a young Washington man, who was just about completing the putting of an electric light plant into the palace. His majesty is very much afraid of assassination. He has two great palace cities, each of which contains between five hundred and a thousand acres of buildings, and which are about two miles apart. Mr. Power had put two thousand and incandescent lights into these palaces, and hundreds of them are kept blazing from five o'clock in the evening until six o'clock in the morning. His majesty does all of his business at night, and he never sleeps in the dark. He goes almost crazy if he doesn't have light, and his situation is really so dangerous that he can't afford to do without it.

The light plant which has been put in is one of the finest in the east. It came from America, and was so well put up by Mr. Power that one of the dancing girls could have run it. The Coreans, in fact, had been managing the machinery for several weeks, and the officials thought that the light was complete, and those to whom the king had handed the money for Mr. Power held it back and refused to give it to him. He protested and waited for a few days. They showed no signs of paying his salary until, at last, one night when the king was in the midst of his state business with his officials about him, the lights went out. Couriers were at once dispatched to the plant, and the Coreans in charge were asked what was the matter. They could not tell. They pointed to the machinery. It was running beautifully, but there was no light. Mr. Power, I was told, had merely disconnected the dynamo by taking out a hidden screw, which left the wheels running as usual, but which produced no light. The king was enraged at his officials, but not at Mr. Power. He knew nothing about the salary having been kept back, but he simply told the high Corean noble who had charge of this department that if the light was not at once produced his head would be chopped off. This would also necessitate the cutting off of other heads; and within an hour Mr. Power's money was in his hand, and he had a lot of Corean nobles on their knees about him, begging him to use his magic and bring the light to the king. He held off for a time, but was finally persuaded, and having turned the Coreans out of the light plant, he inserted the screw, and presto! the palace blazed with the rays of electricity. There was no trouble after this about Mr. Power's salary, and he steadily grew in influence. He had charge of the king's armory and repaired his Gatling guns. He was about to build an electric railroad from Seoul to the Han river when the present rebellion broke out and everything stopped.

THE MISSIONARIES.

There is a large colony of missionaries in Seoul, and there are missionary stations at the leading seaports of the country. The field is taken up almost entirely by the Presbyterians and Meth-