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*Foreign Office, December 21, 1882.*

**D**ESPATCH from Her Majesty's Minister in Japan forwarding a Report on Corea.

Sir H. Parkes to Earl Granville.

MY LORD, *Tôkiô, September 25, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a Report which I received this morning from Mr. Aston, containing the information he has collected at the places on the east coast of Corea visited by the squadron under the command of Admiral Willes, namely, Wönsan (Gensan), Pusan (Fusan), and Port Hamilton.

In order that I may not delay the transmission to your Lordship of this interesting Report by the mail of to-day, I venture to forward it without remark. Wönsan and Pusan, as your Lordship is aware, are two of the ports which are believed to be opened to foreign trade under the new Treaties with Corea; and the importance of soon selecting building sites for the use of British subjects at those ports is clearly shown in this Report. The existing limited trade which is carried on there by Japan is fully described by Mr. Aston, and also the predominant share in that trade which is already enjoyed by British merchandize. The Commercial Returns which he mentions as Inclosures are in Japanese, and shall follow as soon as they are translated. But I am able to add a copy of the Municipal Regulations of the Japanese Settlement at Pusan, which, like that of Wönsan, is administered, as Mr. Aston observes, under the exclusive control of the Japanese Consul, and without any interference on the part of the Corean Government.

It is very satisfactory to notice the friendly manner in which the squadron was everywhere received by the Coreans.

I have, &c.,

HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure 1.

Mr. Aston to Sir H. Parkes.

*"Iron Duke," at Port Hamilton, September 13, 1882.*

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following notes of information collected during a visit to the Corean ports of Wönsan (Gensan), Pusan (Fusan), and Port Hamilton, in ships of Her Majesty's squadron, under the command of Admiral Willes.

I arrived at Wönsan in Her Majesty's ship "Swift" on the 22nd August. The only other

ship then in the harbour was the Japanese gun-boat "Banjokan," or "Iwakikan," which had been sent here a fortnight previously for the protection of the Japanese Settlement, and had also brought up the new Consul, Mr. Soyeda, formerly stationed at Pusan.

Admiral Willes arrived at Wönsan on the 24th, and the Japanese Consul and the Pusa called on him the same day. The Pusa is the chief local magistrate. He resides at Tôkwön, a town of about 300 houses, situate two or three miles inland. The Pusa and his suite wore the greyish hempen garments which in this country denote mourning. He informed Admiral Willes that the whole nation had gone into mourning for a year for the Queen, who had died in consequence of the shock to her feelings caused by the proceedings of the rioters at Söul. The whole population at the other places visited was in mourning, and the acts of the rioters were spoken of with disapproval.

Admiral Willes returned the Pusa's visit on the 26th, and was entertained by him at a dinner in the Corean style. Both these interviews were of the most friendly character.

During the stay of the squadron at Wönsan the ships were visited by many hundreds of Coreans, the dress and appearance of many of whom showed that they did not belong to the lowest class. A large number were merchants, and a few "Nyangpan," or Samurai. Leave was freely given to the offices and men of the squadron, but it was thought prudent not to allow them to visit the native town of Wönsan.

The ships were tolerably plentifully supplied during their stay with cattle (10 to 12 dollars a-head), fowls (1 dollar per dozen), and eggs. Fish and vegetables were also procurable in small quantities.

At the time of our arrival no news had been received from Söul later than that of the attack on the Japanese Legation, but the Panchalkwan subsequently informed me that 3,000 Chinese had landed at In-chhön, that an American ship was also there, and that the Japanese Minister was at the capital. No important changes were made in the local staff of officials at Tôkwön or Wönsan in consequence of the events at Söul.

A German ship-of-war visited Wönsan on the 25th July, and the Commander exchanged visits with the Pusa.

The United States' ship "Monocacy," which visited this port in June last, left again without anchoring or communicating with the shore.