

No.

AMERICAN LEGATION,
SEOUL, KOREA.

July 2nd. , 1905 .

My dear Henry :-

We are in Korea at last , Morgan and Dixey and myself , and after a strenuous week as befits the servants of Theodore Rossevelt we are beginning the second ^vround a little better equipped for things in general than we were ~~a~~ seven days ago .

We had our first audience with His Imperial Majesty last Monday and it was wonderful to behold . There have been few like it I'll warrant . Much ado beforehand , the preparation of speeches and the like , and ~~all~~ the correspondence with the Foreign Office and the Chamberlains and all the rest . The Emperor sent a guard of honor consisting of ~~ab~~out twenty underfed and ~~y~~ weatherbeaten men , whose uniforms had seen better days , but a long time before , and about whom the plumes were the only respectable items of wearing apparel . They were officered by a couple of Captains of Police , moth eaten beard effects in faded blue , hollow chested and sallow . There was a special ~~c~~-hair for Mr. Morgan and we , Paddock the Secretary of Legation , Dixey and myself all had green covered conveyances of our ^rown and the Military attaché , or rather the Commander of the Legation Guard , in another creation the like of which the Chinese officials disport in ~~t~~ the Land of my adoption .

I had been unpacking things and typewriting so that I left for the Hotel to dress about half an hour before we were due at the Palace . My Boy had been ill , and was not about and as is usual in the effete East he had packed all my things when I left Tokyo . In consequence I knew where nothing was and had to call in all the Korean servants and start them on a still hunt through my trunks to find white neckties and gloves and all the rest of the necessary paraphenalia . The result was that I was clothed but not dressed and arrived at the Legation

just as the procession^S was getting under way . That of course ~~wa~~
 was very bad form . There was a Korean Palace Official in
 his gold clothes walking along besides the Minister's chair,
 the Buglers were tootling and all was serene and most impressive,
 while I, my tall hat over one eye , my necktie around my ears
 and my coat on any old way rushed by in a rickshaw . That upset
 things a little for you see the Palace is just next door and the
 sentries at the gate were already saluting as I hurried in
 to find my chair . Luckily I got in and by making the coolies
 run , a most undignified thing for the Rising Young Diplomat
 on his first sight of Royalty , I was inside and past the
 startled sentry folk before the rest had been able to get well
 inside the door, and brought up a very bad last with my
 face dripping, and bowed my way in past the Lord High Chamberlain
 and all the Generals in the Korean Army, and as it is mostly
 Generals, there were a good many . That was done and then we
 waited . Dixey was the greatest thing you ever saw ? He was
 clad in the white coat and heaven blue breeks of the
 Boston Cadets . I don't wonder that those people could
 have produced I492 when they have such lovely clothes . You might
 think that Dixey was a Lieutenant Colonel or something of
 the sort but he's not . He was only a high private and was clad
 as such . Of course though he had a sword . That was borrowed
 from the British Legation . There had been a Major of a
 Scotch Regiment there who had gone on to Manchuria and luckily
 he had left one of his weapons, otherwise Dixey would
 have been obliged to get a Korean sword from the Prison
 Keeper who had bought the thing as a curio . He had found a
 belt that the Captain of the Marine Guard had been wise enough
 to have on hand and this arayed he went into the Palace .
 Morgan was also clad in gold clothes, a heritage from
 Petersburg where the secretaries are obliged to wear a uniform .
 Paddock and I were in evening dress . The Koreans were much
 impressed by the fine turn out and the Baby Prince , The Omelette
 as he is called being a son of Lady Om the Number One
 Concubine / ~~xxxxxx~~ could not take his eyes off the brilliant
 costume . The Marine Officer was jealous . The Young Prince had

been brought in, shook hands all around. He was by far the best of the Outfit and had truly regal manners. He is a bright youngster of about ten years and seems to promise much better things than the real heir, who is a man of thirty and quite dotty.

After much to do we were ushered into the Imperial Presence. The Emperor and the Crown Prince and the Chief Eunuch had draped themselves tastefully around a table at one side of the room and behind them stood the Chamberlains and Ministers of the Household. The Emperor had on the mourning dress of grass cloth and was capped by one of the little winged things that you see in the old Chinese pictures giving Court Scenes in the time of the Mings. He seemed very much interested in every thing particularly in Dixey's uniform. Mr. Morgan gave him an autograph letter from the President which contained a lot of hot air and which I had been holding with both hands / all swaddled in Imperial Yellow silk, and tied with a fine silk cord.

Then the Minister went on with the speech, the Interpreter in blue and gold and pigeon's egg trimmings standing by with head lowered. This was great. The Emperor dawdled with the letter and sniggered at Mr. Morgan. The Crown Prince drooled and smiled foolishly. Then the Emperor got hold of the President's letter and looked that over, Morgan talking on in the meantime and the rest of us standing at attention. Out in the Hall the Eunuchs were holding the Baby Prince on their shoulders so that he could see what Pa and the Foreigners were doing. We could hear him asking questions every now and then in a heavy stage whisper. When the speech was over the Interpreter translated it and at all the nice parts about the ties that bound the two Nations and our great interest in His Majesty's health, the Emperor smiled all around and seemed much pleased. Then he replied in a few hackneyed words and asked us each a question in turn. How was Paddock and whether Dixey and myself had had a pleasant journey. We of course told him that anything else in

travelling toward his dominions would have been impossible .
 Then we bowed ourselves out as we had come in . Once before the
 throne and once after , in the middle of the Hall and once again
 at the doorway . That was all except the sweet champagne after
 we went into the antechamber again . Never was placed better
 named than that room for it is there that all the
 Japanese demands are presented and the poor monarch has to fork
 out a good deal of his hard squeezed wealth .

We toasted the Ministers and all the ^h Generals and then
 the Young Prince came in again and we talked to him and asked
 him about the man of war he used to ^{run} up and down the ver-
 andah . With this we bid them all farewell and went home with
 the guard tootling as before .

You see the ^a Place is right next door and so when we
 reached our own ^{yard} we could look back and see the Emperor
 on his side porch rubbering over to see how we got out of
 our ^{chairs} . Of course we paid no attention . Later the ~~little~~
 little Prince was held up again by the Eunuchs and he too had
 a look at how we ^{paid} off the guard of honor , ten dollars
 per and finally went into the office . That finished the
 audience but I had a lot of work to do and so could not
 change and later in the day we capped the climax by ^{receiving}
 the German Minister on the front lawn , Morgan and Dixey, and
 myself in evening clothes and watching that very lively man
 tear up our sod as he careered wildly about on a China
 pony .

Can you think of any country in the world where
 such things could happen I can't . Don't say anything about
 the high private's uniform for there might be some criticism
 and it was really an admirable scheme for it impressed the
 Koreans as nothing else could have done .

Well Henry I wonder what you are doing these days .
 You have not told me what your plans are for the ^{summer} or
 thereafter , so you see that you are not the only who can
 kick at not being completely informed on the doings of the
 other fellow . Hope that everything went off splendidly and
 that the future ^{looks} looms bright . Yours ever

Walter H. C. [Signature]

Louis my age
 17 cases
 on the telephone
 and you can judge them from records
 1 Kuala Dixey. see you send to Paris.