The Letter of Credence from the Emperor of Japan, presented by His Special Ambassador Marquis Ito, to the Emperor of Korea.

Between the time of my declaration of war against Russia, a war fought for the preservation of my Empire and for the maintenance of the peace of the Far East, and the signing of the Treaty of Peace, a period of twenty months elapsed. During these hostilities Your Majesty and her citizens and subjects of Korea have been one in your sympathies, in your joy and your sorrow with Russia and the citizens and subjects of Japan.

I have, therefore, especially dispatched to Your Majesty Marquis Hiranumi Ito, President of the Privy Council, to report to Your Majesty the glorious restoration of peace, and to express to Your Majesty my sincere wish that both Korea and Japan shall prosper and that the relations between the two countries shall be more intimate and the bonds of friendship more closely unite them.

It is with regret that I express to Your Majesty my belief that it has been because your Empire has had no force sufficient for its self protection that the peace of the Far East has been frequently disturbed. It is for this reason that the Korean Japanese Protocol was signed last year, placing in the hands of my Government the responsibility for the defense of Your Majesty's dominions. It is essential that the friendly relations now existing between the two Empires should be confirmed and I have instructed my Government to make certain arrangements with that idea in mind. I assure Your Majesty that the safety of Your Majesty and of Your Majesty's Imperial House will be safeguarded by my Government.

I hope that Your Majesty will, after considering the situation in World politics and the welfare of your country and your people accept my good advice.

I wish Your Majesty and your Imperial Family good health.