

**THINGS KOREAN; A
COLLECTION OF SKETCHES
AND ANECDOTES,
MISSIONARY AND DIPLOMATIC**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649094110

Things Korean; a collection of sketches and anecdotes, missionary and diplomatic by Horace N. Allen

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HORACE N. ALLEN

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Things Korean

A Collection of Sketches and Anecdotes
Missionary and Diplomatic

By

HORACE N. ALLEN, M. D.

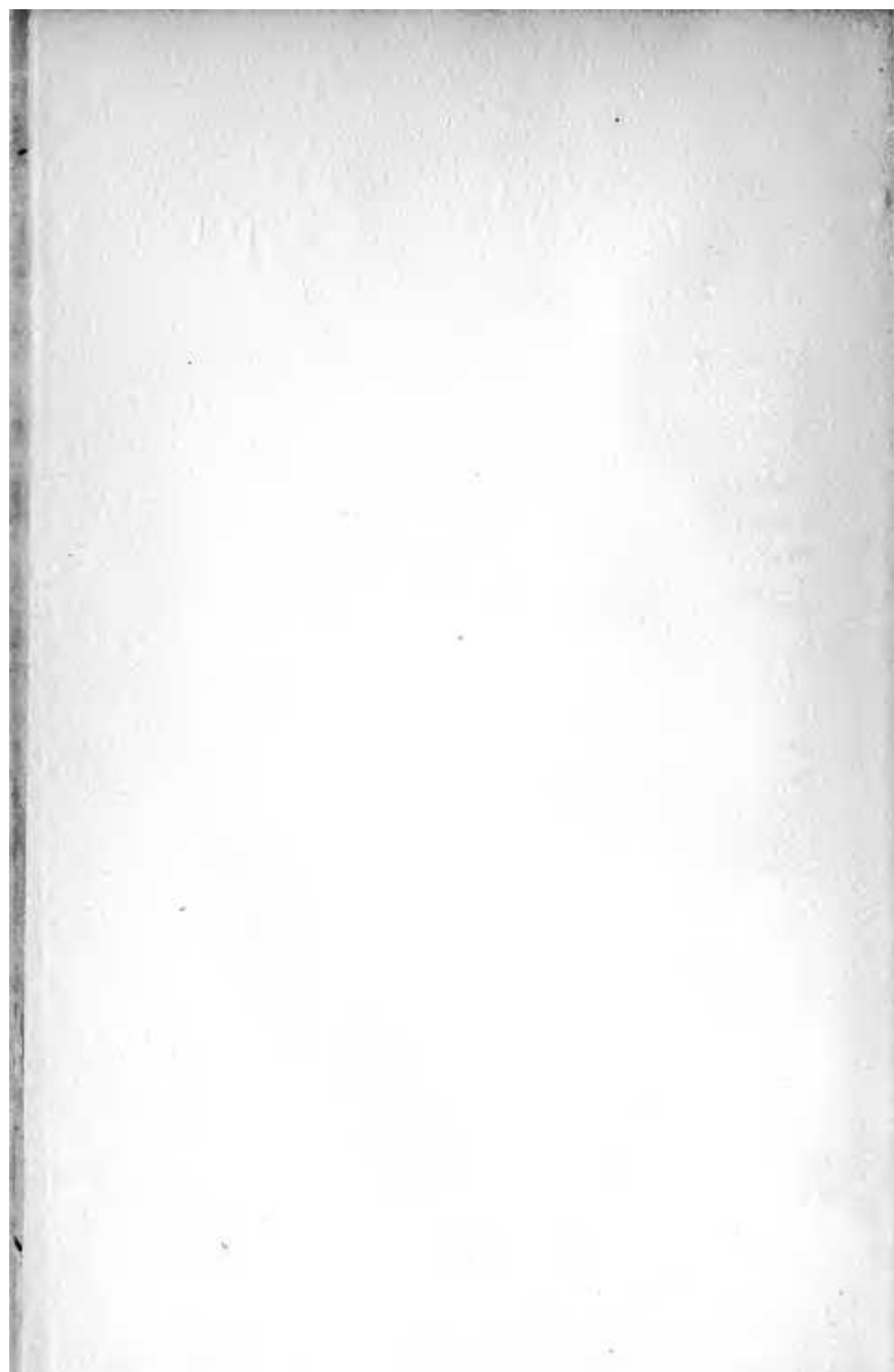
Late Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Korea

ILLUSTRATED



NEW YORK CHICAGO TORONTO
Fleming H. Revell Company
LONDON AND EDINBURGH

1903



PREFACE

THERE are incidents in the lives of each of us that are of more or less interest to others. Often some of these incidents are of general public interest.

Twenty-two years' residence in China and Korea, including practically the whole period of the latter's diplomatic intercourse with the outside world, would seem to indicate an experience fruitful in incidents of general interest. This is my excuse for thrusting a new volume upon a public already burdened with books.

The writer spent a year in China as a medical missionary, three years in Korea in the same capacity, three years in the Korean service, and fifteen years in the diplomatic service of our own government, beginning as secretary of legation and ending as minister plenipotentiary.

The aim in writing this book has been to exclude the personal as much as possible, and to gather up the most interesting and illustrative bits descriptive of experiences had during this rather interesting period, together with entertaining accounts of the quaint people with whom these years were spent.

The poor Koreans are now in desperate straits and it has been suggested that this work be devoted to exposing their wrongs in an effort to turn public sentiment in their direction. Such a course does not

seem to be advisable at this juncture,—rich as are the supplies of materials at hand. Opposition on their part seems at present to be unavailing if not suicidal; they can only make the best of existing conditions.

The sad feature of the case is that we deserted them in their time of need and ignored the solemn agreement we had entered into with them as an inducement for their abandoning the centuries-old position of exclusion and non-intercourse and emerging into the dazzling glare of treaty relations.

Our treaty with Korca of May 22, 1882, in its first article, makes the following promise :

“ If other Powers deal unjustly or oppressively with either government, the other will exert their good offices on being informed of the case, to bring about an amicable arrangement, thus showing their friendly feeling.”

We paid no heed to this solemn pledge at the critical time of the Portsmouth convention and must accept the odium attached to such violation of sacred covenants.

Present conditions, and our own mistakes, are sufficiently alluded to in the concluding chapters entitled American Commercial Intercourse; Diplomatic Incidents, and Political Changes.

It is the wish of the writer that, while fully indicating his earnest sympathy with and kindly sentiments towards the Koreans, this little book shall be non-controversial, entertaining and instructive, and of such general interest that no single page may be

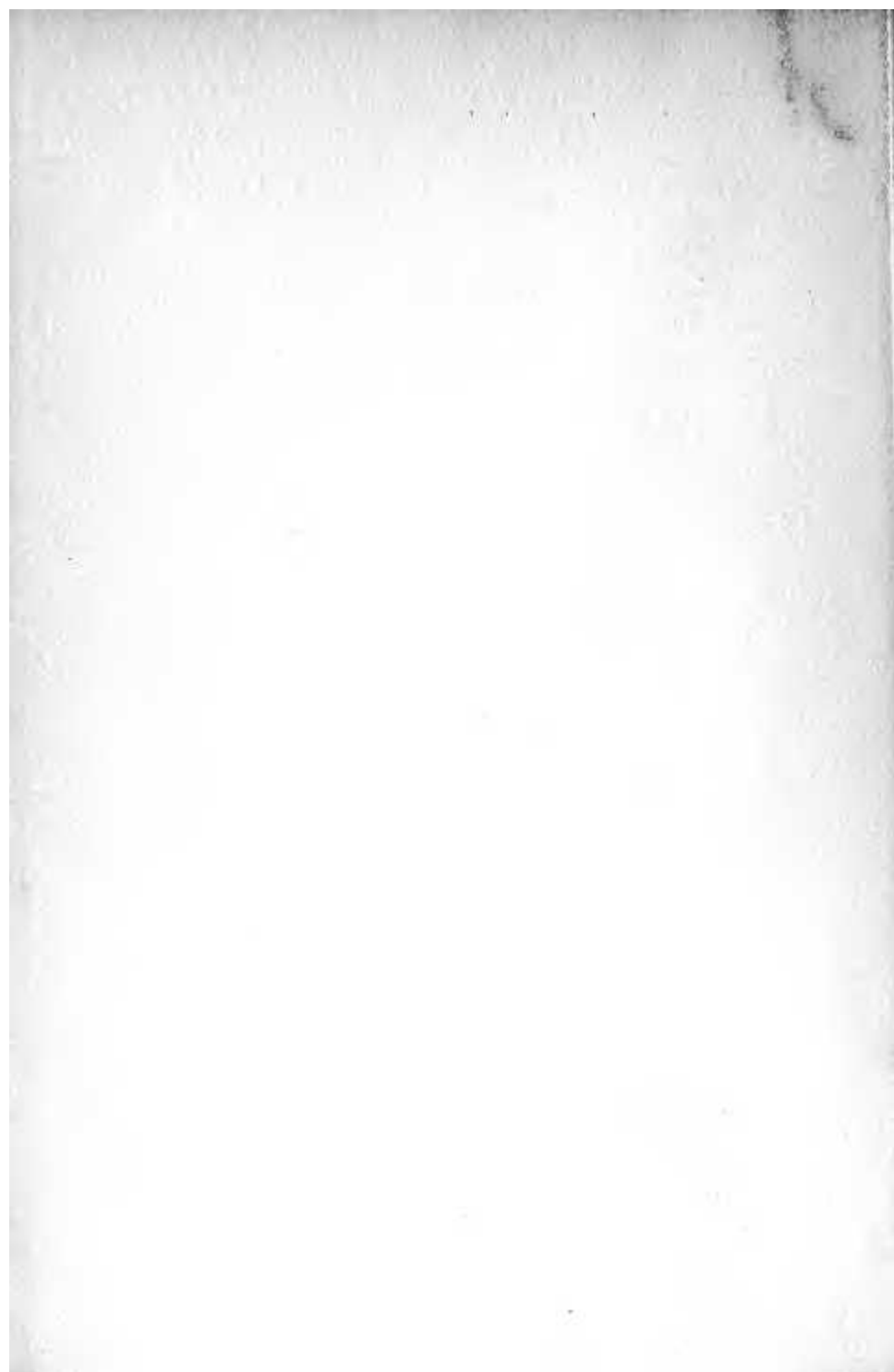
PREFACE

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found dull or tedious. Actual conditions in Korea at present as well as in China, are detailed in recent books, notably those by an English observer and writer of note, Mr. F. A. McKenzie, and by the well known American traveller and author, Thomas F. Millard.

HORACE N. ALLEN.

Toledo, Ohio.



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