

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.

Call to Prayer for Korea

The situation in Korea continues to cause anxiety. An account is given in a pamphlet entitled, "The Korean Conspiracy Case," copies of which have been sent to the Boards and Societies of Foreign Missions in North America and to the Continuation Committee. The trial before the Appellate Court is still in progress as these words are written. As far as we can judge from the very meager cabled dispatches to the secular press, it is being conducted in a less objectionable manner than the first trial before the District Court, but a balanced account has not yet been received. It is possible that the situation may materially change for the better within a few weeks. Quite apart, however, from the cases of the individual Koreans who are under trial, and even if they should be acquitted of the specific charges against them, there are wider and more far-reaching problems, including an apparent estrangement between the Japanese Government in Korea and the missionary body. Many Japanese are apparently becoming convinced that the American missionaries in Korea are inimical to their interests and that in some way they must be curbed and their influence over the Korean Christians broken. This idea is being widely disseminated by the vernacular press in Japan and a highly unfortunate feeling is resulting. However just may be the intentions of the Japanese Government and people, the present administration in Korea appears to be interpreting its problem in terms

of the supposed military necessities of the Empire in occupying an exposed frontier. Whatever defense may be made of this, it opens a grievous prospect to the unhappy people who are thus subordinated to a war policy, and to the missionaries whose influence is considered an obstruction to the military purposes for which the country is held. In these circumstances, the Committee of Reference and Counsel issues the following:

CALL TO PRAYER FOR KOREA.

Conditions in Korea urgently call for the prayer of faith—the prayer that prevails with God. Korea has, for a quarter of a century, been one of the most open, the most promising and the most fruitful mission fields of the world. It has been the theater of almost unparalleled missionary activity and success. The policies and the methods adopted by the missionaries evidently have been wise and have had the endorsement of the most enlightened leaders and representatives of the Japanese Government, including the late Prince Ito. The blessing of God has rested upon the labors of His servants. Tens of thousands have been converted and have given unmistakable proof of the genuineness of their faith by the uprightness of their lives, and by their willingness to suffer the loss of all things for Christ's sake.

A situation has developed between the Japanese military police and the Korean Church which has greatly disturbed the missionary body and the Church, and which is calculated to work a serious injury to the cause of missions, so dear to the hearts

of millions of Christians in the United States, in Canada, in Great Britain, and on the Continent. Stricken and helpless, distressed by fears within and troubles without, with her old religious beliefs shattered and her new faith called in question, Korea stretches out her hands and appeals to Heaven for the help that seems to be denied from human sources. The Committee of Reference and Counsel by unanimous action and representing the Missionary Boards and Societies of North America therefore issues a call for intercessory prayer:—

That our brethren, native and foreign, may not be unduly anxious, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving may make their requests known to God.

That they shall see that none render unto anyone evil for evil, but always follow after that which is good, one toward another and toward all, proving themselves blameless before Christ, the Judge of all men.

That they may be speedily delivered from all their afflictions, but while in the midst of them may be strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory unto all patience and long-suffering with joy.

That all anger, wrath and malice may be put off, and that they shall put on a heart of kindness, lowliness, meekness and long-suffering, forgiving their enemies, and being filled with that love which passeth knowledge, the peace of Christ ruling in their hearts to the which they are called in one body.

That the blessing of Almighty God be upon the

Emperor of Japan and upon those in high places who carry out the Imperial Commands, to the end that during his illustrious reign, righteousness, mercy and peace shall extend to every individual subject and to the remotest bounds of the Empire.

We suggest that this call be privately distributed among the officers and members of the Boards and Societies of Foreign Missions, the relatives of the missionaries in Korea, and such other individual friends of the cause as are known to be interested in the situation and to be disposed to unite with us in prayer that all concerned may have the guidance of God in this time of anxiety and special need.

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