

Concerning Corea.

Mrs. Elizabeth Greathouse, who, bowed with sorrow over the loss of her very dear and only son, Gen. Clarence R. Greathouse, has recently come to Versailles to spend her closing days among the friends of her early life, still retains her bright, active mind and an accurate memory, despite her 81 years, and talks most interestingly of life and customs in far-away Corea.

Mrs. Greathouse accompanied her son in all his journeys in the Orient, first when he was U. S. Consul-General to Japan and afterward during his service as Advisor to the Korean King, which office Gen. Greathouse held at the time of his death. She has enjoyed exceptional privileges and was accorded high consideration in these Eastern countries.

When she came to America in January the King appointed Mr. Chang, a high official of the Korean court, to accompany Mrs. Greathouse all the way to Versailles and to see that she was comfortably situated here. In order that his peculiar garb should not make them conspicuous while traveling in America the King ordered Mr. Chang to cut off his cue (a great sacrifice for a Korean) and don the English attire. Mrs. Greathouse's nephew, Le Grand Rucker, meeting her at San Francisco, she dismissed Mr. Chang in that city, thus depriving the people of Versailles of the pleasure of seeing an Oriental nobleman.

TUEN PAK MAY VISIT HERE.

However, we may have one in our midst next summer, for Mrs. Greathouse has invited "Tuen Pak," the son of a Korean courtier, to visit her here in July. Tuen Pak is now attending one of the big colleges in the United States and will return to Corea in the summer. Mrs. Greathouse received a letter from him several weeks ago, but as it was written in the Korean tongue she has sent it to her former interpreter at Seoul to be written out in English for her. At the same time she sent a letter, via Seoul, to Mr. Pak at his Eastern college, urging him to visit Versailles. It will take over two months for it to reach Mr. Pak.

Mrs. Greathouse liked living in Corea very much. "Indeed, I find myself growing very homesick for Seoul," she said. "Versailles seems quite strange to me after an absence of so long a time, and so many of my friends have passed away."

Of the late Korean Queen, concerning the manner of whose terrible death so many and conflicting stories have been circulated, Mrs. Greathouse said: "She was a smart woman—the very brightest and smartest in Corea. Her face was bright and intelligent, and she had great force and decision of character and was amiable and considerate in manner. I remember very well the last time I saw her. I had been invited to the palace for dinner and an audience, and we were seated at the table—I here and Mrs. Dr. Allen there, and a high official of the kingdom next to me. And right between us was the Korean door, made of paper, you know, consisting of two wings, which part and push back. The door parted, and there stood the Queen in the opening. She nodded and smiled at me, and the official, catching sight of her, proposed that we should drink her health, for the champagne had just been brought in. And we raised our glasses, but the doors closed softly, and then they opened again, and she reached through and took my hand and greeted me warmly, for we were much attached to each other, and indeed she was quite a pet of mine. In the room with her I could see her husband and her only son, the present Crown Prince. The Queen beckoned to them and they came forward and shook hands with me and made tender inquiry of my son."

THE MURDER OF THE QUEEN.

"About twelve days later the horrible news of her murder came. It has never been determined exactly how it was accomplished. But it is certain that she was taken from her sleeping room in one of the palaces, which are strung along up a slope, one beyond and above the other, and right there, outside of her own room, she was butchered in a horrible way, hacked to pieces with their sharp blades, and then they carried her poor body off to

forest down beyond the palaces, and burned it, so that all the King could gather to entomb and revere were some little fragments of charred bones, scarcely more than the bones of your hands. They started in to have a great investigation, and while the deed was undoubtedly performed by Japanese there was no doubt but the Korean guards of her chamber were faithless, as no alarm was given. But it was rumored that the inquiry was approaching certain high officials of the kingdom and it was suddenly checked. Many things happen that way in Corea.

"And now things are going on in the same old way there. It is openly charged that high officials accept bribes for securing subordinate appointments to their proteges, and enrich themselves in that way. The King is tolerant and peace-loving. He does not interfere. But the poor little Queen would not have it, and whenever she heard of such things she insisted that they should be investigated. Many believe that is why they wanted to get her out of the way. She was a decided impediment to dishonesty and intrigue."

THEY FEAR THE POWERS.

"At present the Korean people are very apprehensive lest some foreign power should gain sovereignty over them. China, Japan and Russia are looked upon suspiciously. There are some who think that all the signs point to Russia's gaining the upper hand over the little kingdom. When my son was stationed at Yokohama we saw much of the aristocracy of Japan, and I remember well the annual chrysanthemum party, when the Empress and all the ladies of her court appeared for the first time in European costumes, ordered from Paris, the gown worn by the Empress being a trailing white silk brocade. They all looked very pretty, but I



MRS. ELIZABETH GREATHOUSE
From a photograph taken in 1888
she removed to Japan.

could not help feeling that she would look even more charming in her own graceful Oriental dress. The following is a list of her possessions in their native land. It was the universal opinion that it was much prettier than the European gowns."
Mrs. Greathouse brought with her from Corea many valuable pieces of handiwork and curiosities. The handsomest of the furniture was an inlaid desk and a table, and countless thousands of various squares and diamonds of various native woods are dovetailed into a magnificent whole. The desk, quite large, has nineteen drawers and numerous other sliding compartments.