

THE HEADQUARTERS OF

# The Korean National Association

519-521 HEWES BUILDING  
MARKET AND SIXTH STREETS

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., U. S. A. May 20, 1919

Prof. Harry P. Judson  
University of Chicago,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:-

The Korean National Association hands you here-  
with a copy of the Proclamation of Korean Independence of  
March 1, 1919, issued at Seoul, Korea, and a copy of  
a pamphlet entitled "Korea's Appeal for Self-Determination",  
and another pamphlet called "Japanese Diplomacy and Force  
in Korea".

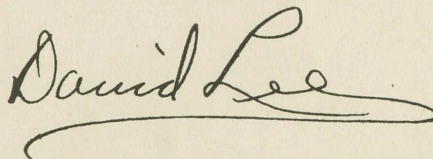
The Korean National Association, with a member-  
ship of 1,500,000 and representing 20,000,000 of Koreans  
in and out of Korea, appeals to you for your sympathy and  
support in the struggle for liberty, justice and freedom  
now being waged by the Korean people.

The independence of Korea was lost through the  
violation of most solemn treaty obligations on the part of  
Japan and in defiance of the wishes and aspirations of the  
Korean people.

Japan has pursued in Korea a policy of ruthless  
suppression - economic, political and religious - with the  
avowed determination of exterminating the Koreans as a  
distinct people and of amalgamating them with the Japanese.  
The suppression of the Korean language has been attempted  
by forbidding its teaching. Thousands of acres of the best  
land in Korea have been appropriated to Japan's use in  
fraud of the rights of Korean owners. Participation in  
government has been denied and the religious convictions  
of the Koreans have been violated through compelling them  
to worship the spirit of the Japanese Emperor.

Korea demands justice under a new world order  
and presents her case to the world in the hope and conviction  
that justice will be done her. Sooner or later, Korea must  
be free.

Yours very respectfully,



General Manager.







# The Proclamation of Korean Independence.

"We herewith proclaim the independence of Korea and the liberty of the Korean people. We tell it to the world in witness of the equality of all nations and we pass it on to our posterity as their inherent right.

"We make this proclamation, having back of us 5,000 years of history, and 20,000,000 of a united loyal people. We take this step to insure to our children for all time to come, personal liberty in accord with the awakening consciousness of this new era. This is the clear leading of God, the moving principle of the present age, the whole human race's just claim. It is something that cannot be stamped out, or stifled, or gagged, or suppressed by any means.

"Victims of an older age, when brute force and the spirit of plunder ruled, we have come after these long thousands of years to experience the agony of ten years of foreign oppression, with every loss to the right to live, every restriction of the freedom of thought, every damage done to the dignity of life, every opportunity lost for a share in the intelligent advance of the age in which we live.

"Assuredly, if the defects of the past are to be rectified, if the agony of the present is to be unloosed, if the future oppression is to be avoided, if thought is to be set free, if right of action is to be given a place, if we are to attain to any way of progress, if we are to deliver our children from the painful, shameful heritage, if we are to leave blessing and happiness intact for those who succeed us, the first of all necessary things is the clear-cut independence of our people. What cannot our twenty millions do, every man with sword in heart, in this day when human nature and conscience are making a stand for truth and right? What barrier can we not break, what purpose can we not accomplish?

"We have no desire to accuse Japan of breaking many solemn treaties since 1636, nor to single out specially the teachers in the schools or government officials who treat the heritage of our ancestors as a colony of their own, and our people and their civilization as a nation of savages, finding delight only in beating us down and bringing us under their heel.

"We have no wish to find special fault with Japan's lack of fairness or her contempt of our civilization and the principles on which her state rests; we, who have greater cause to reprimand ourselves, need not spend precious time in finding fault with others; neither need we, who require so urgently to build for the future, spend useless hours over what is past and gone. Our urgent need today is the settling up of this house of ours and not a discussion of who has broken it down, or what has caused its ruin. Our work is to clear the future of defects in accord with the earnest dictates of conscience. Let us not be filled with bitterness or resentment over past agonies or past occasions for anger.

"Our part is to influence the Japanese government, dominated as it is by the old idea of brute force which thinks to run counter to reason and universal law, so that it will change, act honestly and in accord with the principles of right and truth.

"The result of annexation, brought about without any conference with the Korean people, is that the Japanese, indifferent to us, use every kind of partiality for their own, and by a false set of figures show a profit and loss account between us two peoples most untrue, digging a trench of everlasting resentment deeper and deeper the farther they go.

"Ought not the way of enlightened courage to be to correct the evils of the past by ways that are sincere, and by true sympathy and friendly feeling make a new world in which the two peoples will be equally blessed?

"To bind by force twenty millions of resentful Koreans will mean not only loss of peace forever for this part of the Far East, but also will increase the ever-growing suspicion of four hundred millions of Chinese—upon whom depends the danger or safety of the Far East—besides strengthening the hatred of Japan. From this all the rest of the East will suffer. Today Korean independence will mean not only daily life and happiness for us, but also it would mean Japan's departure from an evil way and exaltation to the place of true protector of the East, so that China, too, even in her dreams, would put all fear of Japan aside. This thought comes from no minor resentment, but from a large hope for the future welfare and blessing of mankind.

"A new era wakes before our eyes, the old world of force is gone, and the new world of righteousness and truth is here. Out of the experience and travail of the old world arises this light on life's affairs. The insects stifled by the foe and snow of winter awake at this same time with the breezes of spring and the soft light of the sun upon them.

"It is the day of the restoration of all things on the full tide of which we set forth, without delay or fear. We desire a full measure of satisfaction in the way of liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and an opportunity to develop what is in us for the glory of our people.

"We awake now from the old world with its darkened conditions in full determination and one heart and one mind, with right on our side, along with the forces of nature, to a new life. May all the ancestors to the thousands and ten thousand generations aid us from within and all the force of the world aid us from without, and let the day we take hold be the day of our attainment. In this hope we go forward.

## THREE ITEMS OF AGREEMENT

"1. This work of ours is in behalf of truth, religion and life, undertaken at the request of our people, in order to make known their desire for liberty. Let no violence be done to anyone.

"2. Let those who follow us, every man, all the time, every hour, show forth with gladness this same mind.

"3. Let all things be done decently and in order, so that our behaviour to the very end may be honorable and upright."

The 4252nd year of the Kingdom of Korea 3d Month

Representatives of the people.

The signatures attached to the document are:

Son Byung Hi, Kil Sun Chu, Yi Pil Chu, Paik Long Sung, Kim Won Kyu, Kim Pyung Cho, Kim Chang Choon, Kwon Dong Chin, Kwon Byung Duk, Na Long Whan, Na In Hup, Yang Chun Paik, Yang Han Mook, Lew Yer Dai, Yi Kop Sung, Yi Mung Yong, Yi Seung Hoon, Yi Chong Hoon, Yi Chong Il, Lim Yei Whan, Pak Choon Seung, Pak Hi Do, Pak Tong Wan, Sin Hong Sik, Sin Suk Ku, Oh Sei Chang, Oh Wha Young, Chung Choon Su, Choi Sung Mo, Choi In, Han Yong Woon, Hong Byung Ki, Hong Ki Cho.



# The Proclamation of Korean Independence.

We solemnly proclaim the independence of Korea and the liberty of the Korean people. We call it to the world in witness of the equality of all nations and we pass it on to our posterity as their inherent right.

We make this proclamation, having lost of us 2,000 years of history, and 20,000,000 of a united loyal people. We take this step to insure to our children for all time to come, personal liberty in accord with the awakening consciousness of this new era. This is the clear leading of God, the moving principle of the present age, the whole human race's just claim. It is something that cannot be stamped out, or stifled, or gagged, or suppressed by any means.

"Victims of an older age, when brute force and the spirit of plunder ruled, we have come after these long thousands of years to experience the agony of ten years of foreign oppression, with every loss to the right to live, every restriction of the freedom of thought, every damage done to the dignity of life, every opportunity lost for a share in the intelligent advance of the age in which we live."

"Assuredly, if the details of the past are to be recalled, if the agony of the present is to be relived, if the future occasion is to be avoided, if thought is to be set free, if right of action is to be given a place, if we are to make any way of progress, if we are to deliver our children from the painful, shameful heritage, if we are to leave blessing and happiness intact for those who succeed us, the first of all necessary things is the clear-cut independence of our people. What cannot our twenty millions do, every man with sword in hand, in this day when human nature and conscience are making a stand for truth and right? What barrier can we not break, what purpose can we not accomplish?"

"We have no desire to accuse Japan of breaking many solemn treaties since 1895, nor to single out especially the teachers in the schools or government officials who treat the heritage of our ancestors as a colony of their own, and our people and their civilization as a nation of savages, finding delight only in beating us down and bringing us under their heel."

"We have no wish to find special fault with Japan's lack of fairness or her contempt of our civilization and the principles on which her state rests; we, who have greater cause to reprehend ourselves, need not spend precious time in finding fault with others; neither need we, who require so urgently to build for the future, spend needless hours over what is past and gone. Our urgent need today is the setting up of the banner of ours and not a discussion of who has broken it down, or what has caused its ruin. Our work is to clear the future of defects in accord with the urgent dictates of conscience. Let us not be filled with bitterness or resentment over past agonies or past occasions for anger."

"Our part is to influence the Japanese government, dominated as it is by the old idea of brute force which thinks to run counter to reason and universal law, so that it will change, act honestly and in accord with the principles of right and truth."

"The result of negotiation, brought about without any conference with the Korean people, is that the Japanese, indifferent to us, use every kind of partiality for their own, and by a false set of figures show a profit and no loss."

"Ought not the way of enlightened courage to be to correct the evils of the past by ways that are sincere, and by true fighting and honestly feeling made a new world in which the two peoples will be equally blessed?"

"To bind by force twenty millions of peaceful Koreans will mean not only loss of peace forever for this part of the Far East, but also will increase the ever-growing suspicion of four hundred millions of Chinese upon whom depends the danger or safety of the Far East—possibly strengthening the hatred of Japan. From this all the rest of the East will suffer. Today Korean independence will mean not only daily life and happiness for us, but also it would mean Japan's departure from an evil way and exaltation to the place of true president of the East, so that China, too, even in her darkest hour, would put off her fear of Japan aside. This thought comes from no sinister resentment, but from a pure hope for the future welfare and blessing of mankind."

"A new era wakes before our eyes, the old world of force is gone, and the new world of righteousness and truth is here. Out of the experience and travail of the old world arises this light on life's matter. The darkness is lifted by the ice and snow of winter away at this same time with the breeze of spring and the soft light of the sun upon them."

"It is the day of the restoration of all things on the full tide of which we set forth without delay or fear. We desire a full measure of satisfaction in the way of liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and an opportunity to develop what is in us for the glory of our people."

"We awake now from the old world with its darkened condition in full determination and our heart and our mind with right on our side, along with the forces of nature, to a new life. May all the answers to the thousands and ten thousand questions and all the fears of the world aid us from within."

## THREE ITEMS OF AGREEMENT

- "1. The work of ours is in behalf of truth, religion and life, undertaken at the request of our people, in order to make known their desire for liberty. Let no violence be done to anyone."
- "2. Let those who follow us every man, all the time every hour, show forth with gladness this same mind."
- "3. Let all things be done decently and in order, so that our behavior to the very end may be honorable and upright."

The 4525th year of the Kingdom of Korea 24 Month

Representatives of the people

The signatures attached to the document are:

Seo Byung Il, Kim Sun Chul, Yi Pil Chul, Park Long Gue, Kim Won Kye, Kim Pyung Cho, Kim Chang Choon, Kwon Dong Chin, Kwon Byung Duk, Na Long Whan, Na In Hye, Yang Chan Park, Yang Han Moek, Lee Yoo Dal, Yi Kap Sune, Yi Manng Yook, Yi Seung Hoon, Yi Chong Hoon, Yi Chong Il, Lim Yei Whan, Park Choon Seung, Park Hui Do, Park Toek Wan, Shin Hong Sik, Shin Suk Ku, Oh Sei Chang, Oh Wan Young, Chung Choon Se, Choi Seung Mo, Choi In, Han Yong Woon, Hong Byung Ki, Hong Ki Cho.



7

## Korean Students' Missionary Society of America

PARKVILLE, MISSOURI, U. S. A.

March 20, 1919.

We, the Korean students, representing the Korean Students' Missionary Society of America, sincerely and earnestly appeal to the Christian people of the United States of America for your deepest sympathy and earnest prayers on behalf of Korea our native country.

For today is the most critical moment in Korea. The life of the nation is at stake and Christianity is being trodden upon under the power of darkness. Korea has declared its independence of Japan and Japan utterly denies it. Korea is bleeding today at the point of the Japanese sword. While the Peace Conference is being held in France the world doesn't seem to comprehend that a nation of twenty million inhabitants is being brutally subjugated. We hope that you have heard what is going on now in the Far East. The following is some of the tragic news we have received through the special cable reaching the Chicago Daily News from Peking, China:

“The Japanese are committing brutalities equal only to those committed by the Germans in France and Belgium. They are attempting to place the blame on the missionaries. Probably it will never be known how many persons have been killed in the last two weeks, but the total must be very large. Soldiers are said to have cut off the hands of the school girls for holding up manifestoes. Many innocent persons have been bayoneted by the enraged soldiers. Christian churches have been wrecked and missionaries have been insulted. Some have been treated so badly that it is feared that their lives may be endangered. It is believed that an attempt is being made to drive them out of Korea. The situation demands the world's notice and inquiry.” Late reports indicate that probably 10,000 Koreans have been already massacred by the Japanese in cold blood in two days.

Oh! let us ask you, fellow Christians and friends, how would you feel, if your beloved country were garrisoned with foreign troops; if the Revolutionary War of 1776, in which the United States asserted their independence of Great Britain, had been unsuccessful; if the lives of your loved ones and your fellow-countrymen had been lost and properties despoiled by an invading army; if your president were deposed and imprisoned by an alien power; if your churches were wrecked and the Christians were mutilated and murdered in cold blood by the enraged enemy soldiers for being patriots for their fatherland?



“Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? Who will rise up for me against the evil doers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?” Will the civilized world today tolerate such crimes and let that helpless and innocent nation of twenty million souls suffer them now and forever? Shall Christian civilization be stamped out of existence by this imperial Japan once and for all in the Far East? Will the Christian nations of the enlightened West idly stand by and allow them to blaspheme against the Church of Christ and let the fruits of their labor of the last half a century go to dust? If Korea's national hopes are denied by Japan, and if Japan remains an autocracy and continues her world empire policy, what effect will it have on Asia and upon the possibility of a world democracy? Will not the Peace Conference in France set this oppressed nation free from the Prussians of the Orient? Should not the accepted principles of freedom and national rights laid down by President Wilson triumph not only in Europe but in all the world? Will not the government of the United States exercise its influence to fulfill the time-honored treaty of 1882 of mutual assistance, between Korea and America, at this opportune time? Will not the Churches of America be glad to see Satan rather than the missionaries and Christianity be driven out of Korea?

“The Korean nation accepts only one solution—self-government, but is willing to accede to advisory control by Japan until such time as a League of Nations may deem it capable of absolute autonomy. Purporting to represent the voice of twenty million persons, speaking in the name of justice and humanity the independence manifesto on which the movement was based, declares:

“We are no mean people. We have forty-three centuries of history as a distinct, self governing nation. It is our solemn duty to secure the right of free and perpetual development of our national character, adapting ourselves to the principles of reconstruction of the world. We believe the independence of Korea worthy of universal consideration and approval. We shall live to be free; we shall enjoy heaven given happiness. Justice is with us. Righteousness is leading us. All citizens, men and women, young and old, have risen from the gloomy dungeon to push their way to freedom. Our forefathers inspire us and the world supports us.”

Will you not, fellow Christians and friends, pray for us, sympathize with us and help us to obtain the right and freedom of our native country? Will you not give practical expression to your sympathy by writing to your Congressman and Senator at Washington urging that the United States come to the rescue of this shamefully down-trodden but liberty loving nation?