

## EARTHQUAKES IN COREA.

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[Read January 26th, 1888.]

In Dr. J. Macgowan's paper on earthquakes in China, read before this Society last year, he speaks of the absence from the Korean annals of all reference to earthquakes in that country, from which he concludes that Corea is comparatively exempt from seismic action. He quotes a letter from the Prefect of Chemulpo to Mr. E. H. Parker to the effect that earthquakes are so infrequent and harmless that records are not kept of their occurrence.

The following list of earthquakes in Corea prepared from the standard histories of that country, the *Tongkuk thong-kam* and the *Kuk-cho pong-kam*, shows that Dr. Macgowan's statement is not strictly correct, but it lends at the same time strong confirmation to his inference that Corea is comparatively exempt from seismic action. Counting as one those which took place within a few days of each other, only 27 earthquakes have been recorded during a period of over 1,800 years (B.C. 57 to A.D. 1766) which is covered by the histories just mentioned. Even this number is perhaps too large, for where thunder is mentioned at the same time, it is possible that nothing more than the quaking of the earth from this cause may have been intended. Of the whole number, only two seem to have been at all severe. In A.D. 719, houses were destroyed, and 100 persons lost their lives, and in 1518, an earthquake occurred which is described as severe, and lasting four days.

Taking the 10th, 11th, 12th, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd as the cold, and the others as the warm months, fourteen earthquakes

occurred in the former and thirteen in the latter, but of course these numbers are too small to have any scientific value.

During the earlier part of Corean history, earthquakes are recorded in each of the three kingdoms, Silla, Kokuli, and Pèkché, into which that country was then divided. After the union of the country into one kingdom under the name of Chōsen, we may assume that the earthquakes recorded took place at or near the present capital.

Ten of the whole number recorded belong to the period of forty-seven years from A.D. 1338 to 1384 inclusive, which seems therefore to have been a time of unusual seismic activity—*i.e.* if anything like a careful record has been kept.

## LIST OF EARTHQUAKES IN COREA.

Date.	Place.	Remarks.
A.D.      CHINESE MONTH & DAY.		
142... 9	Kokuli (Jap. Kōrai)	
299... 11	Do.	Thunder at the same time.
616... 11	Chōlla-do	
637... 2	Do.	
637... 3	Do.	
681... 5	Silla (Kangwōn-do)	
717... 3	Do.	
717... 4	Do.	
719... 3	Do.	Houses destroyed, 100 persons
972... 2	Kokuli	[killed.
{ 1134... 5...29	Kwang-ju (near Sōul)	Accompanied by a bloody rain.
{ 1134... 6... 1	Kokuli	
1153... 3... 7		
1159... 11... 15	Do.	Morning.
{ 1338... 6... 3	Do.	Two shocks, the latter at night.
{ 1338... 6... 12		
{ 1338... 6... 19		
{ 1338... 6... 23		
{ 1338... 6... 24		
1338... 8... 20		
1339... 5... 3	Do.	
1339... 9... 11	Do.	
1343... 3	Do.	On two days in the month.
1345... 1... 30	Do.	
1362... 11... 13	Do.	
{ 1366... 10... 5	Do.	Great thunder.
{ 1366... 10... 8	Do.	
1374... 11... 8	Do.	Great rain and thunder.
1384... 5... 10	Do.	
1518... 5	Do.	Lasted for four days—not at the capital.—A severe earth- quake.
1556... 5	Do.	Rain, hail, and earthquake.
1643... 5	Do.	
1681... 5	Do.	