

will admit such contentions. As a matter of fact, there is evidence to show that woman has not always occupied the subordinate position that she occupies to-day. In the earlier stages of social development society was wholly communicative. Scholars tell us that after man emerged from the state of savagery, and when organized communities began to be formed, woman generally held a position of equality with man and sometimes was even regarded as his superior. This is known among students as the period of the "matriarchate." The influence of the matriarchical form of society lingered amongst the nations for many centuries. "Woman was then the leader and ruler in this kinship organization, and was highly respected, her opinion counting for much in the household as well as in the affairs of the tribe. She is then peacemaker, and judge and discharges the duties of religion and worship as priestess.

"The frequent appearance of queens and women rulers in antiquity, and the power wielded by them even when their sons were the actual rulers, which was the case in Egypt, for instance, was the outcome of the Matriarchate."

The influence of the Matriarchate was perceived in all the social relations of the ancient peoples. Tacitus, in his "Germania," says: "The Germans believe that within every woman dwells something noble and prophetic, therefore they honour woman's opinion and follow her advice."

According to Herodotus the women of the Scythians took part in battles.

Women of this period were in no way inferior to the men physically, either in weight and size of brain or in bodily stature. In some parts of the world to-day women are in no way inferior in physical strength or build to the men; while there are races

in which the women are superior in these respects. With the ushering in of the Patriarchate man becomes the head of the family and woman is gradually thrown down into a lower position until she becomes simply a chattel. The Old Testament part of the Bible bears ample witness to the degradation of woman. According to the Bible woman is the source of all evil and this is an idea that is still propagated by illinformed and thoughtless teachers of religion. Marriage in Old Testament times, even among the Jews, was a purchase of the woman. The chastity demanded of her was not demanded of the man.

In Gen. 31:14-15 Leah and Rachel declare that they had been sold to Jacob. "Are we not counted of him (Laban, the father) strangers for he hath sold us and hath quite devoured also our money."

In Deuteronomy, 24:1-4, it is clear that if after marriage a man took a dislike to his wife he could divorce her; simply because he disliked her. The penal laws promulgated by Moses were sometimes very harsh toward woman, while sparing the man.

The ten commandments are addressed exclusively to men and woman is enumerated among various articles of man's property. According to the Jewish conception a woman is not a member of the congregation. In religion and politics she is a mere cipher. The truth is that the teaching of the Old Testament is responsible for much in the low and degrading ideas of woman which have been and are still held among religious and even Christian people.

One would have expected a different tone in the New Testament. So far as our Lord Jesus Christ is concerned we know that He gave woman her proper place. In its essence Christianity stands for the rights of woman. Unfortunately some of the apos-