

alone they have had intercourse. They have schools and colleges; they understand political economy; they have an immense coast and inland commerce; they understand agricultural pursuits equal to any people in the world; they build houses, and temples and immense stone bridges; they have a great navigable canal system, reaching through almost the entire length of the country; they make silks, satins, and cotton cloth; they are elaborate carvers of ivory, wood, etc.; they make beautiful bronze castings, and exquisite chinaware; they are industrious and frugal to the last degree.

The marriage relation is recognized and honored in China. Polygamy is allowable, though not very generally practised. With them marriage is rather a civil contract than a religious rite or ceremony. No public register is kept; no certificate of marriage given. The parties pledge each other in small cups of wine, and perform together a whole ritual of prostrations before the open heavens and also before the family penates. There is a great deal of form and ceremony, according to the rank of the parties. In taking a secondary wife, or concubine, forms and ceremonies may be omitted, she taking her place in the family with as little ceremony as a hired servant would in America. Under certain circumstances divorces are allowable, but they are not frequent. If a man marries when poor and afterward becomes rich, he may, not for any cause, put away the wife who shared his years of poverty. It is not considered respectable for a widow to marry again, and if a young girl loses her betrothed before marriage it is considered highly meritorious in her to remain unmarried all her life. Sometimes a young lady bereaved of her betrothed husband before the consummation of marriage publicly commits suicide, in order to make her widowhood perpetual and to remove herself beyond the temptation to marry another. An instance of this self-sacrifice occurred during my residence at Fuh Chau. There is no practice of personal courtship in China as with us here. Older heads make the selections of life partners for the young and inexperienced boys and girls, as well as arranging other details. Betrothals are often made while the children are quite young, and sometimes conditionally even before they are born. The married woman is subject to the will of her husband, and sometimes to the control of her husband's mother. The faithfulness of married women in China to their husband's will compares favorably with the practice of the same virtue by the women of Europe and America. Husbands are not generally so chaste as the wives. Female prostitution exists in all parts of the empire, and is especially prevalent in large cities and in all sea-port towns. This class of women is usually confined to some particular quarter of the city or to boat-population. Poor people often sell their female infants to this class of panders to human depravity, and the poor girls are brought up to perpetual bondage to the will of their villainous masters. Infanticide of female children is practised in all parts of the empire, in some sections to an alarming extent. Proclamations are sometimes issued warning the people against it, not only because it is a crime, but also because the girls are becoming so scarce and expensive that the common people cannot afford to marry, and public morals are endangered.

The people of China are noted for their industry and frugality. Every man has something to do. Few people walk the streets simply for the exercise, or to see the sights. There are no railroads, no horse-cars, no stage-coaches. All land transportation, especially in central and southern China, is done by the bone and muscle of human beings. Merchandise, house-furniture, and building material are all packed on men's shoulders. In his habits of living the ordinary Chinaman is exceedingly economical and

Marriage relation.

Marriages arranged by relatives of the parties.

Filicide.

Industrious and frugal.