

accompany that of her husband to the other world.

You will be surprised to hear that many of the poor degraded women are themselves the most opposed to doing away with this horrid practice. Some of the old women especially, are enraged with me for the stand which I have taken against it. When they are now told that if their husbands die first they will not be put to death they get very angry. Some who used to be friendly will not now speak to me because I am getting this cruel practice stopped.

But many women welcome Christianity as the means of freeing them from their darkness and misery.

When we came to this island every woman wore around her neck the instrument of death, but when they become Christians they put it away."

In that Island now there are many happy Christian homes, and it is such blessed work as that you are doing when you send missionaries to turn them from darkness to light.

### HELPLESS GODS.

I once read a story about an idol in China. When it was first made, it was carried through the streets followed by a great procession. There were bands of cymbals, gongs, and flutes. There were flags and streamers and clouds of incense all about the huge image, which was carried on the shoulders of men.

The procession went on finely for some time; but, suddenly something happened. What do you think it was? Why, this great god, which was made of clay, was carried by men who were a little unsteady, and they contrived to pitch him into the gutter and knock off his head. Some of the people were very much frightened and troubled by it; but others could not help laughing at the poor god that couldn't take care of his own body.

In heathen lands, too, they have so many gods that they are apt to think anything at all strange or mysterious must be a god.—*Sel.*

### A GREAT FLOOD IN HONAN, CHINA.

A terrible story comes to us from China.

Our young people have read in their geographies of the great river Hoang Ho, or Whang Ho, or Yellow River, so called from its color owing to the large amount of earthy matter in the water. It is a very long, large stream, and is looked upon by the Chinese as almost sacred.

In some places, especially in the Province of Honan, it runs for hundreds of miles across level fertile plains. The mud carried down in it from the mountains here settles to the bottom and fills up the river bed. This makes the water flow out over the country. To prevent this the people have built dykes or banks of earth and stones to keep the river in its channel. As the river bed fills up with mud these banks are built higher, and in some places the bottom of the river as it flows along is higher than the level of the country on either side.

### ONE NIGHT

a few weeks since when the people were quietly sleeping, never dreaming of danger, the banks for three or four miles suddenly broke and the mighty stream poured forth its waters over the country. Towns and villages by hundreds and people by thousands were swallowed up by the rising flood.

The first thing that awakened thousands from sleep was the water rushing in at windows and doors or covering them in their beds. There was no escape for they had no boats and the water was all around them. Nothing could they do but die.

The size of the country that is covered with water is supposed to be equal to a place one hundred miles long by one hundred miles wide, and it was very thickly settled.

It is supposed that

### THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION

of people were drowned, or one-seventh of the whole population of the Dominion of Canada. And millions more who