

## CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

**R**EPLYING to the charge made in the Parliament of Religions, that missionaries had excited sedition in China, a prominent citizen of British Columbia, who has spent much time in China, said to a *Herald* reporter:

"Notwithstanding the fact that the Chinese still hate the Christian religion, and that many missionaries have made mistakes, there is no denying the truth that Christianity has done a world of good in China. Through this influence the position of women there has unquestionably been improved. Women were treated in a horrible manner in former times, and are grossly mistreated still in some of the interior portions of China. Girls were confined to the homes of their parents, and were only allowed to do handiwork. They were treated with contempt by everybody, especially by their own brothers. The girls were never sent to school, did not know how to read and write, and were kept in ignorance all their lives. If they possessed natural feet, they were degraded by being compelled to do the lowest menial labor. When it came time for the girl to be married she was never consulted on this most important incident in her life, and was not even told the name of her future husband. This custom still prevails. Then she had to obey every wish and endure all the abuse of her husband without uttering a word of protest. Custom forbade her to eat with him, for she must first wait on him and his relative, and then she could retire to a corner and eat a most meagre meal alone. And the Chinese husbands were devils. They beat their wives and choked them whenever they pleased, and that was quite frequently. To beat a wife was fashionable. Not only that, but some Chinamen considered wife-beating a necessity. Why? Well, if a man did not beat his wife occasionally, no matter how much he might have become attached to her, he would be held up to ridicule in the community and singled out as one who was ruled by a petticoat. And you can readily see what Americans call a "henpecked husband" would be a poor, miserable man in China while such a custom prevailed. Sometimes a Chinese woman, growing tired of her husband's ill-treatment, would commit suicide. The husband would go into all the agonies of grief, but his sorrow was not on account of any love he bore his wife—it was only because he would have to spend money in buying another one. The Chinese woman never complained under cruel treatment, one reason being that she had been reared to believe it her fate. Such had been the custom for thousands of years. Catholic and Protestant missionaries have done a great work in educating the Chinese in the direction of social and family life, and the result has been a won-

derful improvement in the condition of women in many portions of the Celestial Empire. The wife of a rich Chinaman, even now, is considered as an ornament, who never learns anything, and therefore knows nothing, and as she never leaves the house she is ignorant of all the pleasures and amusements of the outside world. Intellectually, she is no more a companion for her husband than a piece of insensate stone. But one improvement brought about by civilization is that she is not so cruelly treated as in former times. She is kept busy in light needlework. Yes, Christianity threw the first ray of sunshine into the Chinese wife's home."

—*The Living Church*.

## CAPE BRETON ISLAND.

**C**ANADIANS are gradually being made to realize that they have a country with a history. Many people in Canada do not realize how vast their own country is, and some in the east scarcely grasp the idea that they belong to Canada at all. People in the maritime provinces often speak of a man from Ontario as a man from Canada. By degrees, however, books are being written which call attention to the history of the different parts of the Dominion, and the more their history is known the better understanding will be arrived at regarding Canada itself. Its history naturally began in the east, and extended itself westward—naturally so because the eastern coast formed the first landing place of voyagers from the Atlantic. The furthest eastern point of the Dominion is Cape Breton Island, a wild, rugged land, yet replete with historic interest. It is associated with the French, the English, the New Englanders, the Puritans, and the Scotch. The name of Louisburg is known to every reader of history. Once it was a proud and strong fortress, and was owned alternately by French and English, until at last the latter obtained final possession of it. Remains of the old fortress are still to be seen, looking out quietly upon the sea, as if reflecting upon the busy activities which once moved within it.

This interesting territory has been brought into prominence lately by a well written, and equally well printed and illustrated, book of some four hundred and twenty pages, called "Cape Breton Illustrated." It is fully and beautifully illustrated—the illustrations being of the same kind as that of "Ingonish," which, through the kindness of the publishers, we are enabled to present to our readers.

The capture of Louisburg in 1744 by the New Englanders will ever remain one of the most curious pages of history. That a few landsmen from Boston (then but a small pioneer town), themselves unskilled either in war or navigation, should have organized an expe-