

no children to live for, and am already old ; when my husband finds himself in Hades he will have no one to take care of him, and may be exposed to dangers from the fox demons of the nether world. It is better, then, that I should die before my lord, so as to receive him on his arrival and protect him." Having made up her mind, she went into the adjoining room without apprising the sick man of her benevolent intentions, took opium and died. Her husband asked after her, but was put off with excuses. In a very short time, however, he died too.

(6) The concubine of a late commander-in-chief, who was only thirty-one years of age, on hearing of her husband's illness, journeyed night and day till she reached his bedside, just in time to be present at his death. She showed her determination not to survive him, and, although her friends used every possible means to dissuade her from her purpose, she committed suicide the next day. The magistrate and gentry have presented a petition to the Viceroy, in which they ask that permission may be granted for the erection of a monument to the lady's memory. His Excellency dwells upon the meritorious and coveted conduct which she exhibited in nobly sacrificing her life through grief for the death of her lord.

The first great reason for honoring women is, according to the foregoing documents, *suicide*! Such cases form probably the greater half of all the decrees of honor to women. The second reason is, having lived as a widow, refusing marriage to the fiftieth year. In many cases she had not been married at all, but had been engaged as a child, and her affianced, whom she had never seen, died before the engagement could be fulfilled. To live in mourning all her life long, or a lifelong death, is considered the highest virtue. The third reason for public honor is filial devotion shown all her life to her parents or parents in law. The climax is reached when a piece of one's flesh is surrendered to make medicinal broth for one's parents, a survival of cannibalism. A mandarin's daughter, shewing signs of leprosy, was fed on a slave girl, bought and butchered for the horrid feast. This filial piety and marital fidelity as displayed by the Chinese, when great enough for memorial arches, are to us a horrid travesty or a diabolical crime. A most competent observer has said : "The Chinese by their social system kill their women, and then sometimes adorn their graves."