

October I called upon one member whose husband was away in Kyoto. The wife came to the woman's meeting at least twice lately. A week or so after, I called again, wishing the husband to regulate my watch. I found he had returned one day, and the wife had left the next for Kyoto. It seemed strange, yet family business might have necessitated it; so I thought nothing more about it. In one of our walks, about a week later, Kato san (my interpreter) asked if I had heard anything about Mrs. Y. I had not. Then the following story was unfolded: Both Mr. and Mrs. Y. had lived in Kyoto. Both had been married before. Mrs. Y.'s first husband lost his property and got into trouble. Mrs. Y., out of compassion, and because he had spent so much upon her, "sold her body," as the Japanese say, for 100 yen, and went into the service of her purchaser to take care of geisha girls, or those who dance and sing for the entertainment of guests. They are not considered immoral, need not necessarily be so, but they live an exposed life that takes the bloom of virtue and honor from their name even among Japanese.

Soon after entering upon her service Mrs. Y. ran away from her master, and came to Kofu to hide herself. Whether or not Mr. Y. saw her in Kyoto I do not know, but there is a probability—anyway they met here. Subsequently they became interested in Christianity, and must have given satisfactory assurances before being received by baptism. I have visited them regularly, always considering them intelligent beyond the average, especially the husband, but of him I saw very little. I took him to be an educated gentleman.

The story is, that the former master's wife ran away, and he placed the matter in the hands of the police. The police in Kofu were communicated with, and in their search for the missing wife they found Mrs. Y. This information being given in Kyoto, the former master sent two men, who, guided by the police, went to her home and took her away publicly. She was seen riding to the river in a jinrikisha, preceded by one and followed by the other.

Everybody seems perfectly helpless in the matter. The Japanese think it a pitiful, disgraceful thing, but that there is no means of help. The first husband is living in Yoko-