

would avoid reproach. The girl does not see her future husband until after the ceremony, the whole affair having been arranged by a professional "go between," a woman whose income depends upon her reputation for making successful matches. After marriage the wife is confined to her apartments and is not even allowed to look out on the street without permission from her husband. He rarely holds any conversation with her, and regards her as quite beneath his notice. The woman in Korea is mainly useful to provide for the wants of the man. Marriage is merely a bargain and virtue is expected only from the wife. She must be faithful under pain of death; her part is to care for the children, to rise early, to get to bed late, to keep the fields, gardens, house and stables in order, and, in short, to be a woman of all work. The dress of the lower order of native women consists of a very loose pair of trousers of native cloth or Manchester sheeting, reaching to the ankles, and fastened round the waist by a cord. Over this is a petticoat of the same material, reaching to the calf. On the shoulders is a jacket with sleeves, which covers the chest. The women plait their hair into long braids which are worn around the head. The female Korean, to the Western eye, is hideous, even in childhood. The boys, on the other hand, are often very handsome, as indeed are a few of the men. A Korean, until he becomes engaged to be married, wears his hair in a queue, without any head covering, but after that important event, which takes place as early in life as his parents can conveniently arrange for, he has his head partly shaved, and his hair twisted up into a knot on the top of his head, and can wear one of the numerous hats for masculine adornment.

There are more than twenty gods popularly worshipped by the Korean people. Ancestral worship, too, is common. More than a century ago Roman Catholic converts from Japan and China carried their religion into Korea. The Government became alarmed at its progress. Persecution arose. Four thousand martyrs perished. After this Romanists from Spain and Portugal tried again to effect an entrance and made many converts, but persecution again destroyed all traces of their work. The Buddhist priests are forbidden, on pain of death, to enter Seoul, owing to their once having stirred up a rebellion in that city. Only a small proportion of the people are Buddhists. This religion, as practiced in Korea, is of a very debased type. The lower orders of the people, with the exception of those who are Buddhists, believe only in the power of evil, and have no conception of a beneficent deity. Devils are supposed by them to inhabit certain withered trees; and, in order to propitiate them, passers-by throw stones at the tree, or tie pieces of colored rag to its branches, and when in trouble they place offerings of rice and wine in a little house put up at the foot of the tree.