

see, not a nice carpet, chairs and tables, but instead of chairs, a bed with two hard pillows, a box in one corner containing clothes, standing on it a brass cup for all the ladies to drink out of. But this would not be all, for under the bedstead and elsewhere are hens, chickens and perhaps dogs. Now this house which I have described is not that of a poor man, but a Zenana of one of our richest merchants. The ladies in this room can neither read nor write much, and for what little they can do they have to thank the kind wives of your missionaries.

No. 3. They are very fond of Jewelry, and wear, besides rings on their wrists, arms and ankles, a ring through their nose and ears, and cover themselves with gold and silver chains. They are never allowed to go out of the house, except to worship some idols, then they are carried in a sedan chair, without any windows, to the temple; there they get out and sacrifice, then come back in the same way, no one having seen them. We worship many gods in India; for the Hindu religion alone, there are 330,000,000, in fact there are many more gods than there are people. There are three that everybody worships, and they are Brahma, the creator, Vishnu, the preserver, and Sisa, the destroyer. You will be surprised to hear perhaps, that we do not love our gods; but we worship them because we are afraid they will do us harm.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.)

The Chinese in California.

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Just when the first Chinese came to California is not known, but in 1849, when gold digging began, there were many here. They came to make a fortune, that they might live at ease in China the rest of their days. They were fully determined to succeed, and show many good qualities in trying to do so. With all their wickedness and vices, they are active, industrious, determined, and quick to learn our way of doing things. We read that in some cases, wishing to learn a trade, they committed some crime, or pretended to have done so, confessed it to the officers, and of course were sent to the penitentiary. Here a trade was learned which was taught others of their countrymen when freedom was obtained. As household servants they are highly prized by some; others object to them, saying children are not to be trusted with them.

Their ideas of right and wrong are very young to say the least. With the most of them their word cannot be depended on at all. An oath means nothing; a Chinaman swears to whatever pleases himself, or someone who controls him.

In dress, as in other things, the Chinese keep to the old customs that they were used to in their own country. The loose coat with big sleeves, the very large pantaloons, white stockings, and their own peculiar shoe, and the hair in a cue, was the fashion for the men three hundred years ago, and is the fashion to-day. The women part their hair in front, comb it down very smoothly and knot it on the back of the neck much as is sometimes the fashion with us. I heard of a Chinaman who married an Irish girl. Shortly after, he went to a barber to have his cue cut off, saying,—"wife, she pullee." I don't know that this story is true, but I have heard that there are not a dozen in Los Angeles who have their hair cut short and dress as American men. This you see is very few in a population of 5,000. In San Francisco there are 27,000; in the whole state of California 75,000; and in all the United States 110,000. As a rule, the men do not bring their wives with them to America, so there are very few homes.

Girls are bought in China from very poor parents who do not care much for their daughters, and sold to Chinamen here as slaves, the same as in British Columbia. Christian men and women are doing what they can to save these girls, and place them in Rescue Homes, as they are called, where they are trained for Christian home life. This rescue work is difficult and would be dangerous were it not that some policemen are found willing to risk a little and help. Does it not startle you to think that in these Christian cities, in this Christian land, there is slavery; and that kept so cunningly out of sight that many of the victims wear out their lives as slaves? I heard a heart-rending story the other day about a poor girl, but it would take too much space to relate. This led me to think how many such stories there are that never reach our ears. A lady who is much interested in the Chinese mission work here, and who gave me much information, took me one day to visit a mission school. There were fourteen pupils, six of whom belonged to a Christian family, whose home I afterwards visited; I was surprised to be shown into a neat little parlor, like our own parlors.

At the school we met a former missionary to China, now living here, who gives all her time to the work in Chinatown. She remarked that it was not very safe for her to be there, as a slave-girl was missing, and the Chinese were casting threatening looks on her, thinking she helped the runaway as she had so many others. In this case she was innocent, someone else had done the good work. However the work here is not considered dangerous, while it is thought so in San Francisco. Even visitors always go with a policeman to visit Chinatown there.

-A. F. R.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH.)