

childhood, and so far as the girl is concerned there is no way of breaking the engagement. She belongs to her future husband's family, and is expected to have no will of her own in the matter. The man may, for what he considers a sufficient reason, refuse to marry the girl; but she, no matter what sorrow and abuse it may involve, has to endure to the end. If a man wishes, he may divorce or sell his wife, but she never her husband. The husband may have as many wives as his purse will allow. A widow is looked upon as wanting respect for her first husband if she marries again. Even if a betrothed man dies before marriage, the woman is expected to live unmarried until her death.

One great source of suffering to the women of China is the binding of their feet. It is an injury to them, not only physically, but morally. The feet are bound in childhood, but the bandages have to be worn throughout life. If only physical suffering and inconvenience were involved, the consequences would not be so serious. But, alas! the bandages coil themselves about the very soul, they stamp cruelty upon the heart of the entire family, and they inculcate immorality in its most insinuating forms. My sisters, if we would loosen the bonds from those poor feet, we must do so by example as well as precept. You may smile at this, but it is true. Very often when the foreign teacher attempts to point out the sinfulness of the practice, she is met with the reply "foreign woman bind her waist." They do not understand the difference between a neat, close fitting dress and a tight one, as they wear all their garments so very loose. If we would exert the influence we wish over these women, we must discard corsets and everything approaching them.

Dear sisters, let us be laborers together in the work of uplifting our sisters in this Eastern land, both by our prayers and in such ways as may be possible to each.

Yours, in His name,                      RETTA GIFFORD, M.D.

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### JAPAN WORK.

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[Instead of a letter from one of the missionaries in Japan this month, we think our members will be gratified with the following from Yoshida O Yu San, one of the graduates