THE CANADIAN MISSIONARY LINK.

her mother teaches her nothing except to sweep and prepare the rice and curry. Perhaps at the age of five her affianced comes to claim his bride. At first she is pleased with the lights and the noise and the crowd, but when night comes and she is put into a palanquin with this big man whom she has never seen before, to be borne around the streets all night, she is frightened. Do you wonder? Would not your little girl be afraid? And this must be carried on five nights. The little one is all worn out and becomes cross. If she happens to fall asleep some one will come along, give her a shaking and make her sit up. She is glad when it is over and she can go back to her play and idleness, for she remains with her mother until she is twelve or thirteen years of age. During this time she is expected to make occasional visits to her mother-in-law's. This is always looked forward to with a great deal of dread, for she generally is treated very unkindly by all in the house. She must not meet her husband; if she sees him coming she must run and hide until he goes out again, or she would be considered very rude. When she is about thirteen another ceremony is held and she is given to her husband. She has never been to school. She never will go to school. She cooks his rice. She waits upon him. She follows several feet behind him when walking on the street, if she is allowed to go out at all. She always addresses him "Sir," and he calls her "child." Never call each other by their names, that would be recognizing them too much upon the same level. They worship everything. They often paint the stone with which they grind their rice, bedeck it with flowers, make a nice cake and offer to it (they afterwards eat the cake), all the while praying that their husband may not die. In this stone is their hope. Oh Christian women, arise and do something for your degraded sisters! Make something of them! They are capable of it! Don't, I pray you, let them die in ignorance! What if this man had died when this little girl was but a child? Even before she has ever lived with her husband, she is a widow, and has brought this awful misery upon herself by some dreadful sin that she has committed in some previous state. They believe universally in transmigration of souls. She never can marry. Those among the higher caste must dress in the plainest of white cloth, have their heads shaved and after fourteen are allowed but one meal a day. She is hated by everybody. She is cuffed about and often kicked unmercifully by strong men. Words fail me to express the suffering of her whole life. During a feast she must keep in the back yard, for none must see her face, else some harm would befall them, I know the mothers, who have granted the request asked in the beginning of this letter, feel like weeping. Christ wept, why should not we? Christ loves them. Cannot we? The picture that I have tried to bring before you is a true one. It is really existing to-day. Oh, sisters, are we doing all we can to relieve the sufferers? I will close by telling you of an incident told me by one of our Bible women. For a long timeshe had been visiting a widow and telling about Christ's love for her. One day as she was about to go the widow stopped her. She said "I have been praying a long, long while." "What have you been praying for?" "I have been praying that when I am born into this world again my husband won't die." "To whom did you pray?" "The sun." Poor ignorant woman. How hard for her to grasp the truth. Pray for us that we may have patience to tell the story over and over again until they do grasp the truth. Your's in Christ, FLORENCE LORIMER.

Cocanada, India, May 2nd, 1892.

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