

FANNIE.—“But surely the natural grief for the loss of near and dear relatives is not to be regulated by mere outward forms.”

MRS. F.—“Chinese etiquette regulates everything in that ancient land, even to the manifestation or suppression of grief; and while with almost burning heart the husband may lay away the tender, faithful wife, who, for a quarter of a century or more, has been the sunshine of his heart and home, it would be deemed a degradation to himself to shed a tear or evince one sign of grief. So in stolid silence, without even a parting kiss or tender pressure of the hand, he must see the light of his eyes depart, and give no sign.”

PEARL.—“Do Chinese ladies and gentlemen visit or travel together, or must they go separately and the attendants of each be of their own sex?”

MRS. F.—“When ladies of the better class go abroad, they usually ride in closely curtained sedans, borne by men; but when they walk short distances, it is generally at night, and they go closely veiled, with one or more female attendants walking on either side while one carrying an oiled silk lantern, precedes her mistress, and keeps a sharp look-out ahead. It is, however, only on very rare occasions, that a young or pretty Chinese lady of the better class, ventures out on foot, and then only for short distances. Chinese ladies are emphatically ‘helpers at home.’”

ANNIE.—“Of what form and material are ladies garments made?”

MRS. F.—“Wherever it can be afforded the Chinese of both sexes dress in silk or silk crepe: and the wealthy make large use of very costly furs imported from Russia and Siberia. Blue is the favourite color of the ladies who dress, morning, noon and night, in long, loose, richly embroidered robes reaching from the neck nearly to the ankle. Full silken trousers are gathered closely around the ankle; and over these a daintily embroidered skirt laid in plaits, and confined at the waist by a very marvel of jewels and exquisite needlework in the form of a girdle. The sleeves are wide and handsomely trimmed with satin, velvet or fur, according to the season. They are folded back, in ordinary indoor wear, but are brought down so as to completely cover the hands, in lieu of gloves, whenever the wearer is in the presence of other gentlemen besides her husband and or father. Almost incredible

quantities of jewelry, in the form of rings, ear-rings, chains, bracelets and bangles, are worn by all classes, the quality of course varying with the rank and wealth of the owner.

“The higher class press the feet of their female children from infancy, so that a tiny satin slipper less than four inches long, is often worn by a woman who is already a wife and a mother. The compression of the feet is a very painful operation, but probably less injurious to health than tight-lacing, which is utterly unknown to Chinese ladies, as are various other abominations practiced by ladies in Christian lands.”

LUCY.—“How is the hair worn, and what is the general appearance of the ladies?”

MRS. F.—“The hair of unmarried females hangs down in long braids; but all married women twist it toward the back of the head, and fasten it with bodkins of silver or gold; while the beautiful arched eyebrows for which Chinese ladies are noted, are fashioned, from childhood by the hands of the mother or her maids. Many of the Chinese women are very handsome in youth; and their dress, is on the whole, modest, becoming and convenient—much more so than ours.

“Neither lady or gentleman is completely dressed without a fan; and the male attire must include also, a pipe, tobacco pouch, flint and steel, and sometimes a pair of chop-sticks. The fan and pipe are carried in the hand, while the other accoutrements are attached to their under belt.

“In hot weather, the labouring classes of men take off their upper garments altogether, and go about in their loose trousers only; but they usually wear sandals made of strong leather; and with, umbrella-shaped hats to shield their shaved heads from the torrid sun. They also have queer-looking overcoats made of a species of flax, which effectually turn off the rain, keeping the whole person and clothing comfortably dry.

“The garments of men, like those of the women, are all loose and wide sleeved; and those of rich and poor, do not differ at all in shape, but only in material, the rich wearing silk and fur, the poor, dried cotton. Among the rich, the upper garment is frequently gathered in folds around the waist, by a beautifully embroidered girdle; and in winter, all classes pull