

them the married woman, though in the power of her husband, is known to enjoy a remarkable degree of independence, to be treated by him with consideration, and to exercise no small influence upon him. In several cases she is stated to be his equal, and in a few his superior.³

Westermarck takes exception to the statement that a people's civilization may be measured by the position held by the women, especially if you consider the earlier stages of culture. The Chinese proverb, "A wife is like one's clothes; when the clothes are worn out we can substitute those that are new," represents a lower treatment of women than that accorded to them among such primitive tribes as the Veddahs, the Mincopis, the Bushmen, or the Kaffirs.

Among the primitive tribes the status of woman varies from that of complete subjection to that of superiority. She may be the property or slave of her husband, being divorced or sold at his pleasure as in Fiji; she may be treated with respect as in the Canary Islands; be given approximate equality as in the Caroline Islands, in Nicobar, or among the Omahas; be consulted in all important bargains as in the Mexican tribes, among the Todas, or the Puget Sound Indians; be the decider of war or peace as among the Cherokees; be the ruling factor as in the Marianne group of Melanesia; be the divorcer as in Central East Africa if her husband

³ "The Origin and the Development of the Moral Ideas," Vol. I, p. 638.