

but from heaven, said the wondering courtiers as he left the palace. Thus the friendship of those in power was secured and mission work has gone on prosperously ever since, there being now fifty-eight missionaries laboring in the country ; but it would take many papers to write a history of the mission, and at present I only mean to tell you something about Korean women and girls.

A Korean regards his wife as far beneath him both in position and in intellect, and has comparatively little intercourse with either her or his daughters. Among the poorest classes and on the farms the hardest work is done by them, and after preparing and carrying the meals to the fields they get as their share what is left when the men are satisfied. In the towns it is considered very immodest for a woman to be seen on the street. Those who find it necessary to go out cover their whole persons with a large cloak, so that they are invisible and look like a mass of moving clothes ; but by a strange custom these poor prisoners are allowed a little liberty each evening, as at a stated hour a bell is rung, when all the men must hurry indoors and leave the streets clear for the women to peep out and enjoy a little fresh air. If they should meet a belated man it would be as much as his life was worth to look at them, so he is careful to cover his face with his large fan.

It would seem, however, that even this small degree of liberty is only allowed to the lower and middle classes, for it is said that the wife of a wealthy Korean never leaves her husband's house from her marriage day till she is carried to her grave.

Even the best Korean houses are very small, dark and comfortless. The ceilings are usually too low to permit a tall person to stand upright, the rooms are only about six feet square, ceiling, walls and floor are covered with paper, the tiny windows are filled in with paper instead of glass, a thick quilt is the only bed, and a box or two the only furniture. The occupants sit on the floor, which in winter is heated by a fire running beneath ; and as the women's apartment is generally the one farthest back from the street, there is little to vary the dreary monotony of their lives.

Some few of the women could read ; but there were no schools for girls till the missionaries came, so they only learned if their mothers could teach them ; but they are all taught to sew very nicely, and can make stitching as fine and even as any machine. A good deal of skill must be required to make a lady's dress, as the following description of one sent to America will show. It consists of a red skirt with a broad white band, the strings of which are brought round to the front and tied in a bow, and a pretty silk waist in which purple, green, red, dove-color, yellow, red, pea-green, white, blue and red stripes are joined together in the order named and