

classes. Jealousy, misery, contention, and often suicide, follow in its train. Under such circumstances, the blessings of a Christian home, where woman is loved and honored, cannot exist. The fact is not concealed from the little girl that she brought no joy to the home. She is constantly made to feel that her lot is one of servitude.

In China the suffering of women is intensified by the inhuman and almost universal custom of foot-binding. The suffering this imposes to a large extent crushes out the natural joyfulness of childhood and youth. It begets the spirit of fretfulness. It is the fruitful source of disease which torments through all subsequent life. It often leads to the confirmed habit of giving way to violent passion, which affects both mind and body. Sickness and often death are by the people attributed to excessive anger. The idea of female education is foreign to the thoughts of the people. It is difficult for persons living in England or America to understand the intense ignorance of those kept their whole life in the seclusion of a Chinese home. Women are found who have never been out of the gates of their native city, and probably will not be until they are carried to their graves.

Ignorance and superstition are closely allied, and powerfully and reciprocally act upon each other. Faith in witches, fortune-tellers, dreams, fear of evil spirits, and the ghosts of the dead, fill the mind with forebodings, and influence the thoughts and actions of every class.

Idolrous ceremonies are blended with the actions of every-day life. The wretchedness and spiritual destitution of China's vast throng is beyond the power of words.

The suitableness and power of the Gospel to fallen men there has been verified in the case of thousands, who are now rejoicing in all the freedom of the sons and daughters of God. More than twenty years ago a man living in the north of China heard the Gospel for the first time. He had been an opium-smoker for twenty-five years, had squandered his property, and a speedy death, without a ray of hope, seemed inevitable. He knew his danger, but felt powerless. When he heard how our Saviour when on earth healed the sick, cast out devils, cleansed the lepers, and raised the dead, hope kindled in his heart. He resolved to trust in Jesus. He prayed day and night, as he expressed

it. His prayers were answered. He never used opium again. He became an humble and consistent Christian, and for many years has been a valued helper in preaching the Gospel to others. When this man's sad and cheerless wife saw the power of the Gospel in the salvation of her husband, she began to study and to pray, and found the Saviour precious to her soul also. For years she has been a sunny Christian, and as a Bible-woman has brought joy and help to other hearts. —*Illus. Miss. News.*

THE INFLUENCE OF A NURSE.

The home into which the late Lord Shaftesbury was born was such as to discourage the growth of true piety. His father was an able man, and of keen sense, but engrossed in public life; his mother, daughter of the fourth Duke of Marlborough, was a fascinating woman, and attached, after a certain manner, to her children, but too much occupied with fashion and pleasure to be very mindful of their religious training. Occasionally his father asked him a question from the Catechism, but for the rest he was left to grow up in the cold, formal religion of the time.

But there was in the household a simple-hearted, loving Christian woman named Maria Millis, who had been maid to young Ashley's mother when at Blenheim. She loved this gentle, serious little boy, and was wont to take him on her knee, and tell him stories from the Scriptures. Throughout his life, it seems to us, can be traced the effects of these teachings, which, growing with his growth and strengthening with his strength, ripened into a firm and intelligent but childlike faith. She taught him the first prayer he ever uttered, and which, even in old age, he found himself frequently repeating. He promised Mr. Hodder, before his fatal illness, to put this prayer into writing, but he was never able to fulfil this promise.

Lord Lawrence says:—"Christianity, wherever it has gone, and nowhere more so than in India, has promoted the dignity of woman, the sanctity of marriage, and the brotherhood of man. Where it has not actually converted, it has checked and controlled; where it has not renewed, it has refined; and where it has not sanctified, it has softened and subdued."