

procession. Every village has a grave-yard where the dead body are interned. The pastors or church elders have to deliver a funeral message which provide a comfort to the bereaved family.

*c) Changing the custom concerning marriage:*

The marriage custom is not changed completely, but there is some marked change when Christianity came. The child-marriage practice is now vanished. Since early period, endogamy and monogamy are strictly maintained. Insofar as an endogamy was concerned, girls and boys were compelled by their parents to marry against their will. Now Christian parents do not compel, but rather love marriage is practised. Marriage ceremonies were always associated with drinking zu (rice-beer) which was now supplanted by tea and bread that served at some interval.<sup>10</sup> Since Christian-era began, the couple has to wear a decent dress adopting the western model, and the marriage rites and solemnity are also performed by any competent pastors at the altar of the church under the framework of Christian doctrine. Traditionally, if a husband dies at an early age, then the younger brother was bound to marry the widow of his elder brother. Now this levirate marriage is no longer practised. In comparing to the traditional marriage, the Christian marriage is more standard and disciplined. Everything in the ceremony is organised within the purview of the Church-discipline.

*d) Raising the position of women:*

In pre-Christian society, women had no right in religion and society. They were not allowed to go to the sacrificial places, for instance 'boizol,' nor to

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<sup>10</sup> Interview with Hakthangthoi of Zion, Haflong, on 21st May, 1997.