







HINDUISM FROM EGYPT.

When we compare modern Hinduism with the religion of Vedic times we can trace scarcely a connecting link. Indeed the contrasts are quite startling. There is scarcely more difference between the Christianity of modern Britain and the old Druidic religion of the ancient Britons. This difference is both in outward ceremonial, and in doctrine and teaching.

The modern Hindu uses images, the ancient did not. The modern has priests, and temples, while their ancestors had no priestly class and sacrificed in the open air. They offered sacrifices of men and animals, which the orthodox Hindu abhors. The triad of the Brahmins is wholly unknown to the Vedas, as are also the gods most worshipped, Pilliar, Rama, Krishna, etc. The gods of the Vedas were personifications of the powers of nature, the worship of the moderns is of demigods, heroes and incarnations. The doctrine of transmigration which is the central citadel of the moderns was not dreamed of by the fathers. The system of caste which is the strongest fortification of Hinduism was utterly unknown.

The worship of the linga which is the natural accompaniment of idolatry, is not hinted at in those sacred repositories of the wisdom of the fathers. The doctrine of penance is a new thing, and the esoteric teaching of salvation by faith, as developed in the Bhagavat Gita is not found in the old religion.

These ten points which make up the sum and substance of modern Hinduism, differentiate it completely from the Vedic cult, and prove it to have been an importation from without, and not a development from within. Nor is it difficult to discover the source of the importation. Take the cardinal doctrine of metempsychosis: this was held in Egypt many centuries before it appeared in India. And the curious thing about it is that the peculiar Egyptian form of it was that in which it first showed itself in the plains of the Panjab, not successive births for all, but for the specially wicked a birth in the form of some animal or plant according to the particular crimes of which the sinner had been guilty. This can be easily seen in the Institutes of Mann. It was left for Gautama to elaborate the fully developed form of the doctrine, which was again stolen by the Brahmins when they wished to banish Buddhism.

The system of caste with its theoretical four divisions precisely what had prevailed in the land of the Nile many generations before Joseph married the daughter of the priest of On.

The obscene linga worship, with its esoteric explanations is precisely the phallic worship of the land of the Pharaohs, from whence it had spread to Greece and to Palestine.

Modern Hindus try to trace the Triad in the Vedas, but there is not a shadow of the idea there. Vishnu was a minor deity and Rudra was only connected with Sivan in the common trait of devilism. There is no trine grouping even, whereas in Egypt all the gods were arranged in threes, there being a chief three, Osiris, Isis and Horus, who were also represented as one. To complete the parallel the Hindus assign the same three elements to the triad and the same three colors as the Egyptians, and the stories or mythology of the two are parallel, especially the emasculation and dismemberment of Horus and Siva.

The use of images and building of temples might have come from the Babylonians or almost any other people, but Egypt is the mother of all idolatry, and the temples of India are close copies of those in Egypt. It is a great honor to the Hindus, that when nearly the whole of mankind, beside themselves, were sunk in idolatry they kept free from it, and held a comparatively pure religion for many centuries, until they came down into the fertile plains of the five rivers, when luxury "idleness and fulness of bread," made them wish to be like their neighbors, and they yielded to the sensuous charms of image worship. They had just borrowed the art of writing from the West and where better could they look for guides in religion than to the learned people who had conferred such a boon as letters. The Egyptian temple had a holy place and a small most holy place which was the shrine. The face was to the east, and before the holy place was a colonnade or open court with high pillars, an outer-wall running around the whole. At the entrance was a pyramidal tower with oblong base, and truncated top, adorned with sculptures of the gods and incidents of their mythology. The entrance was through this

tower. Any one can see the resemblance to the ordinary Hindu temple. It is true there is some likeness to the Jewish temple planned by God, but this is because certain forms symbolize certain truths of religion naturally, and the fact that the heathen Egyptians used them was not a sufficient reason why the Jews also might not have the benefit of them, and the Hindus too for that matter. But the latter did not discriminate and took the bad with the good. We can give more details in another number.

ORDINATION AT ATCHUVALY

On the 19th inst. there was a gathering of Christians at Atchuvally in connection with the organization of a new church, and the ordination of a pastor, Mr. Joseph Sanders. The exercises commenced at 3 1/2 P.M. the correspondence in the case being first considered by the Ecclesiastical Association. After this the candidate for ordination related his experience, and was then examined in Theology by Pastor Rice and in the Bible by Pastor Ilinatambu. This sermon and exegesis also having been favorably reported upon it was decided to proceed with the ordination. After an intermission during which the pupils of the Boarding School at Uduppitty arrived, and many citizens of the neighborhood came in, the special services began at 5-30. The new members having agreed to the confession of faith and covenant, the organizing prayer was made by Rev. J. Walton of the Wesleyan Mission. A sermon was then delivered by Dr. S. W. Howard, on Eph. 4: 11, in which he laid stress on self government as Scriptural, and on the local church and church universal being the only two kinds known to Scripture, while the pastor who is also a teacher is the only spiritual officer in the local church and the evangelist in the church as a whole. The ordaining prayer was offered by Pastor Nathanael and the right hand of fellowship was given by his classmate Pastor Charles Sanders of Karative who was ordained last December.

The charge to the new pastor was given by Rev. T. S. Smith, the charge to the people by Pastor Stickney of Uduppitty, of whose church the new organization was a branch.

The new church which is the sixteenth connected with the American Ceylon Mission starts out with a membership of twenty two and pays more than half the pastors salary,

STELLAR PHOTOGRAPHY.

Artistic operations have resulted in a projected photographic atlas of stars have now begun. The first photograph from the Cape has already reached this country and will doubtless soon be introduced to the scientific world through the medium of the Royal Astronomical Society. The plate takes in a square portion of the southern heavens less than four times the apparent diameter of the moon; it would be hidden by a shilling held at arm's length, and contains about 50,000 stars.

Three hours' exposure of the plate were necessary for the result, thus yielding sufficient testimony to the excellence of the instruments used and the skill of the staff employed, for to the uninitiated observer it would seem no light thing to keep the camera continuously directed for so long a time to exactly the same point in the heavens. —London Times.

CYCLONE AT MAURITIUS.

A terrible cyclone swept over the island of Mauritius on the 29th of April causing the loss of thousands of lives and great destruction of property. We extract the following from the long account printed in the Ceylon Observer. On Friday morning the wind began to blow with some violence, but as no warning had been received from the observatory it was thought to be only a strong breeze. At 11 A.M. the following telegram received from the observatory was posted at the railway station and at the Post Office. "At 11 A.M. barometer at sea level 29.538 inches, wind North East by East at rate of 52 miles per hour in the squalls veering slowly to Northward. The velocity will probably not exceed 56 miles an hour, strong gale. Will telegraph every hour."

However the wires being broken no more telegrams were received. People began to be alarmed. The Railway manager had it announced by a bell-man that the train would leave town at 1:30 P.M. All the passengers hastened to the station, but the wind was so strong, and there was so much uncertainty about the state of the line, that they did not dare start the train. At this moment the sea overflowed the wharves. A dozen barges loaded with sugar and rice sunk in the harbor. The ships dragged their anchors.

All at once there was a complete lull, the rain ceased, the wind fell, the sun appeared. The lull

lasted about an hour and a half. Suddenly the wind began to blow again with increased violence from the opposite direction; from N.E. it had changed to S.W. Solid buildings were blown down; planks, shingles, tin roof, flew about in all directions. The hurricane lasted about one hour and a half and in that short space half the town was destroyed, the plantations were uprooted and most of the sugar mills were blown down; most of the ships in harbor were on shore.

Within three days over 1200 deaths had been registered, and over 500 wounded received into the hospital at Fort Louis.

Whole villages have disappeared; thousands are without bread, homeless, in the open air. Whole families have disappeared, crushed under the ruins of their dwellings. There is not a Mauritian family but is in mourning, there is not a family which is not ruined. Three quarters of the sugar houses are overthrown; the plantations are destroyed. The splendid crop is reduced to zero for some estates and to less than half for those whose miles are still standing.

Government is supplying free rice to the natives and has sent a dispatch to London applying for assistance in the shape of a loan of £500,000.

A BRAMHIN GIRL.

The Harvest Field gives an interesting account of the recent conversion of a Bramhin girl in India. She had studied in a mission school in Negapatam and for one year helped to teach the infant class. Then for a year she was kept at home by her father. She Sunday she found on the veranda of the Wesleyan Mission House at Mannargudi. It seems that when she found she would not be allowed to be a Christian she determined to run away and telling no one, made her own plans. She made for herself a boy's cap, and having saved a little money of which she had received for teaching, she took her father's cloth and cane, and walked a mile to the Negapatam station and took the midnight train as a boy. Straggling at Nanganagham she walked in the dark nine miles to Mannargudi where Mr. and Mrs. Findlay had a few months before gone from Negapatam to reside. She inquired for a Christian teacher whose wife restored her to feminine dress and took her to the Missionary. She said "God gave her courage and she was not afraid." The Missionary told her that being only 14 she was a minor, and her father must be informed and give his consent. It was some days before the parents got the word and they then at once came to see her. They argued with her for hours, but she declared that she would rather die than worship idols. Finally their hearts softened and they consented to her going to a Christian school in Madras, and they themselves went with her to the station where she started for Madras in the care of a Christian widow. In Madras she was baptized and named Sarah. Her Christian fold and is rejoicing that "God gave her courage."

Madras, 9th May, 92.

Sir, We have sultry weather here at present, and the sanitary condition of the place is somewhat improved. The numerous and insidious house tax is doomed to be abolished or is already abolished. But our higher authorities are perhaps not aware that there are two other evils, which retard or obstruct the peaceful civilization of our paddy-fields by our poor. One is the tax called "Honnawadich" of exacting one fortieth part of the gross produce of a field, for the use of the unpaid Native Headmen; and tax or payment of Rs. 2.50 for each "Ammoon" of paddy land, called the "water-rate," said to be taken for irrigation purposes. But this latter tax is levied on all lands here, even on lands which do not require any artificial aid, in taking up water to their paddy-fields. We see no reason for retaining these two taxes, and these two also should be abolished along with the old, much hated paddy-tax. We earnestly invite the attention of our wise Legislators to the existence of these two evils.

Two days ago, a very worthy and esteemed native medical man, named "Gostan Arachy" passed away very quietly, at the ripe age of 95 years. He was a pious Christian, who lived in the midst of very many Indians. The funeral was attended by many Singhaless and Burgher gentlemen and a host of Moors, Malays, Tamils and other nationalists. We sincerely condole the family of the deceased at the irreparable loss that they and the country at large sustained at this good man's removal.

Some young men of "Honnawadich" headed by a rare genius of their hamlet, have commenced training for a comedy in which the principal characters are being made to act some parts off. Singhaless females are averse to dancing and public exhibitions of themselves in theatricals and comedies, but, these instances show, that the European spirit of civilization is spreading amongst the masses of our native population.

Several very atrocious murders were committed here recently, the accused are most all arrested and are in custody, and the investigation of these cases are being made by our energetic Native Police Magistrate. We hear that our new chief of the Ceylon Police Force is an able and very excellent officer of Police. We beg to suggest that he should visit these scenes of murders, and inquire into the causes of these serious crimes and adopt such measures, as to prevent them for the future.

Mr. J. Madlar is a very fine fellow, and he is desired to go to a Ferozh District as a punishment for his insubordination. We regret to learn, that another very worthy Madlar, is asked to resign his office for some fault or other. So you see, sir, that our Native Headmen are all in hot water here at present, on account of the searching enquiries of our able and energetic Assistant Government Agent here, who seems to be the right man in the right place. We trust that if the Government will prolong the term of usefulness here for some months, till he clears our Province or District of all its rubbish and encumbrances.

X. Y. Z.