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JAPAN'S STATUE OF THE LORD BUDDHA.

The charge of idolatry is so frequently brought against pious people in the East that otherwise intelligent westerns have permitted repeated asseverations to overrule good judgment. A Japanese is said to have written home that one of the commonest forms of Christianity was couch-worship, as he had seen several pious men kneel down and worship their beds night and morning. Still others have described Europeans as setting up images of their great men, whom they revered with sacred honors annually, hanging garlands of flowers upon the images and adoring them as the Chinese do their ancestors. Such honours are usually paid in the East to divine personages only, and the Lord Buddha is kept ever in view of the people in Budd-

hist countries in this way, just as Jews and the Virgin and saints are by Roman Catholics. Christendom has never erected such a memorial to the founder of its religion as Japan has in the image above depicted. It is of colossal size and impresses the spectator with a sense of majesty and peaceful repose that no mere picture can ever suggest. The posture is that of contemplation or occult meditation—real prayer, in fact. The posture of the limbs and hands should be noted, and the eye of Siva, the "single eye" of Matt. vi. 22, is represented on the forehead. Ceylon has a colossal upright statue of the Lord Buddha in the attitude of teaching, hand uplifted. Another series of statues, recumbent, represent the approach of death. One at Dambulla is 47 feet long.