

splendent with jewels. Approach, rest, and tarry here."

The image now formed, he places it on the ground and presents water to it. He has also other offerings, which we see him spread before it. Then, kneeling and folding his hands, he prays :

"I offer thee water from the Ganges to wash thy feet. Praise to thee, Siva ! I bring thee water to wash thy hands. Smell this sandal-wood. Take these flowers and leaves. Accept the incense and flame. Consume this offering of mine."

Now he offers flowers all around the image, beginning at the east. As an act of merit he repeats the name of Siva as often as he can, keeping account on his fingers. Now he bows, folds his hands, strikes his cheeks, and, finally, we see him gather together all the flowers and throw them into the water.

He takes the image in his hands and prays to it to bless him for the day ; and then he throws it away. If we should go to find it, only the soft mud is there, crumbled in pieces.

He has finished his morning prayer ; and, filling his vessel with water, he walks away to his house, satisfied, and even proud, of his faithful devotions.

And we—as we turn thoughtfully away—shall we not remember the words of the Lord Jesus :

"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do : for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them."

A little Hindu girl in a Christian mission-school in Calcutta, was asked by her teacher if she bowed down to the idol of the house at home, and she answered, "Yes, when mother tells me I have to, but I go away immediately by myself and fold my hands and look up and say, 'O God, I have sinned, but please forgive me. I could not help it, because my mother will beat me if I do not obey her.'"

INDIA AND ITS PEOPLE.

India is in the south of Asia, and the people are under the control of the British Government.

There are in India about two hundred and sixty millions of people.

The people of India have dark skins, but European features.

The women and young girls wear over the head and shoulders a snow-white covering.

The men and boys wear white robes and caps, or turbans.

The people of India are fond of music, and all sing.

Most of the people of India are idolators and worship many idols.

The Hindus are early risers, and the first thing they do is to repeat the name of Rama several times.

The religious teacher of the Hindus is called a *guru*, and they are very careful not to offend him.

The children of India are generally respectful to their elders, obedient to their parents, and well behaved in public.

The Hindu eats with his fingers. The right hand is used for this purpose, the left being stretched out as far as it will go, being unclean.

Sometimes wealthy Hindus, in order to lay up for themselves a large store of merit, plant a grove, or build a rest-house for travelers, or dig a well on a public road.

A traveler in India usually carries with him a small brass vessel and a long strong cord with which he can draw water from a public well to quench his thirst.

The monkey is regarded by the Hindus as sacred, yet it is esteemed a misfortune to hear the name of this animal mentioned in the morning, as that portends hunger.

If a man of inferior caste were to touch the Hindu while eating he would immediately rise and not take another mouthful, even throwing out what he might have in his mouth.—*Little Missionary*.