

for the same purpose as myself,—that *we* knew better, and could afford to smile at the whole affair. At the foot of the idol sat, cross-legged, an old Brahman, the family Priest, who received the offerings of the worshippers who kept pouring in, and who, immediately after presenting the offering, prostrated themselves, pressing the forehead against the floor in front of the idol. It was a strange sight. Young Bengal and old Bengal were before and around me. Here was young Bengal represented by these young men crowding and chatting around me in the centre of the square, without one atom of reality or faith in their hearts; and there was old Bengal represented by that old Pundit in the recess at Doorga's feet, and by the streaming crowd, chiefly women, entering, offering their gifts, prostrating, and then passing out to make room for more. The one had no faith in a living God, the other had faith in a dead idol,—the one knew the Truth, but would not worship it; the other thought that a lie was the Truth, and in lowliness worshipped. God have pity on both!

Kali, I have said, is Doorga in another form. She came for a different purpose, lived a different life, and is worshipped at a different festival and under a different form. Dr. McLeod, in *Good Words*, describes a visit to Kalighat (the Ghat, or landing place, of Kali) from which Calcutta, or Kalighata derives its name, and I therefore do not say anything about it, save this—that repulsive as it was when he saw it, he did not see it at its worst. I saw it at the Kali Poojah; and of all the caricatures of worship ever presented—of all the irreverence and unseemly riot ever displayed, I don't believe anything ever surpassed this, unless it be in connection with Shiva worship in some of the localities where European influence has not penetrated. Shiva worship, which is just the deification of productiveness, and has ended in becoming a deification of lust and prostitution, especially in the South of India, is abomination pure and simple; and it tells an awful tale concerning the moral condition of India, as well as affords an awful corroboration of the truthfulness of Paul's picture in the first chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, when we are told that there are more temples to Shiva in India than to all other deities together.

My holidays were chiefly spent in a trip up to Darjeeling, the great Sanitarium of Bengal, situated on the side of the Himalayas, at an elevation of 7000 or 8000 feet above the sea. I went up for several reasons. (1). I had been "down" with fever, and still felt weak and wanting in vitality. The fresh air of the hills was just what I needed. (2). I wished to make enquiries concerning the aboriginal Hill Tribes, with a view to the establishment of the Aboriginal Mission, which, you will have learned from the *Church of Scotland Record*, the India Committee have resolved to establish. (3). A new Union Church to be for the use of all evangelical clergymen was to be opened, and the Deputy Commissioner had written to ask me to go up, spend as long as I could with him, and, as representing the Church of Scotland, preach the first sermon in it. So I went, and never was I more delighted with any of the journeys I have ever made. Not only did I get put up to a few "wrinkles" in India travelling—not only did I witness natural beauty on a scale of grandeur compared with which all that I had ever previously seen had only been seen in microscope; but the spiritual converse was most refreshing in its richness of Brotherhood and Love. Conceive of a scene such as this:—A church newly dedicated to the service of God in the heart of these mighty mountains at the foot of the second loftiest peak in the world; a few christian men and women surrounded by hundreds of the wild untutored men of the hills; the Lord's Table surrounded by Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and, for aught that I know, representatives of other denominations, making visible the true union of all who are united unto the Lord Jesus; a Presbyterian clergyman (myself) preaching from the Word, an old Baptist missionary, whose work has been abundantly acknowledged by the Master, consecrating the elements by prayer, and stirring up our remembrances of Calvary by exhortation; and