

kept these words in his heart ; and when I afterwards had been for years at the college, and the hour of his death approached, he wrote me that I might tell him, before he died, what my resolution about my future state of life was. I answered, that I was determined, if it pleased the Lord, to follow, what I thought my calling to the mission. I was then seventeen years of age. My father, answering to this, exhorted me to look carefully on the ways of God with me ; not to presume to guide my own fate ; but as he had no objection to my determination, he wished me the blessing of God to it. Alas ! this was his last letter : the last words of which were—" May the Lord finish his work." He soon after died, and thus took my promise, to be a missionary with him before the Heavenly Throne."

A review of the charge, delivered by Dr. Middleton on the occasion alluded to, will best serve to exhibit to our readers the actual condition, with regard to its religious state, of the country over which he was so soon to preside as the first protestant bishop. After having dwelt, in the happiest possible strain, upon those topics of congratulation, and encouragement, which were peculiarly adapted to the circumstances of the party, to whom he more immediately addressed himself, the archdeacon proceeds to give a summary description of the field of duty on which Mr. Jacobi was about to enter.

" The remote region, which you have selected as the theatre of your exertions, does indeed loudly call for the labours of pious and disinterested men. Amidst all the darkness which still envelopes the heathen world, the superstitions of Hindostan are calculated to excite in the mind of the philosopher, as well as the christian, in a peculiar degree, emotions of pity and horror. Very far removed from a state of barbarism, retaining even the vestiges of ancient science and refinement, gifted with faculties, which culture might elevate to the proudest eminence of intellectual attainment, mild in their nature, and humane in their deportment, the Hindus present the most lamentable spectacle of religious depravation, and serve to demonstrate how weak and wretched is human nature in its most favored circumstances, unblest with a knowledge of the true God, and of his reasonable service. You are doubtless well acquainted with the religion of Brahma ; you know the practice of exposing infants, or offering them to the Ganges ; you are not ignorant that the widow, perhaps in the prime of life, places herself on the pile of her deceased lord, or, according to the superstition of a particular caste, is buried alive with him ; you have read of the awful scenes of Juggernaut, where the country for miles round exhibits the bones of voluntary victims slain beneath the wheels of a car of an idol ; you have contemplated with disgust the variety of tortures which the deluded devotee inflicts on himself in order to merit the favor of his gods."

You will find the Hindu possessed with inveterate prejudices in behalf of his own superstition :—he will tell you of its remote and inscrutable antiquity, of the mystic sanctity attached to his sacred books, and of the austerity and excruciating penances of Fakirs and Devotees :—you will find him imputing a high degree of merit to self-immolation, and other practices which Christianity forbids :—the appalling spectacles, and thrilling rites of his own faith have deeply impressed his imagination ; and to the almost total want of religious observances among the Christians around him, he will naturally oppose the powerful associations which his mind derives from the celebration of a hundred festivals in the year."

" Perhaps, however, the most formidable impediment to the favourable issue of your undertaking will be found in the consequences which follow upon conversion. The loss of caste is among the most alarming punishments, which social ordinances