

paper, which has reference not only to the physical and external circumstances of Benares, but also to its highest moral relations. While I look with profound regret on much of the past history of India, I look forward to its coming history with strong hopes and confidence. The sacred principles of progress, which have raised the western nations of the world to that high position of civilization and greatness which at present they occupy, have already reached India, and begun to operate upon its inhabitants. The great changes manifestly taking place in the material and social condition of the people of India, are more than equalled by the changes wrought in religious sentiments and habits. What the telegraph and railroads, and canals, and bridges, and metalled roads are accomplishing, physically, in opening up the country, and developing its immense resources, christianity and education are effecting, intellectually, in uprooting error and superstition, in imparting right notions respecting virtue and religion, and in elevating the people generally. The most conspicuous and decided illustration of this is undoubtedly visible in some parts of Bengal, particularly in Calcutta, and other cities and towns in which the society called the Brahmo Samaj exists. This society now numbers several thousands of adherents, who are, for the most part, men of education and intelligence, and is, next to christianity, the most formidable assailant of idolatry in India. It is, also, professedly a stout opponent of caste; but, in practice, its members are not so much released from its bondage as from that of idolatry; nor are they such unequivocal adversaries to its authority as to the authority of the numerous gods of the land. In Benares and its neighborhood, Bengalis or *natives of Bengal* exert but little influence, except upon their fellow-countrymen of Bengal residing there; for they are regarded, by the Hindustani population, as foreigners, although holding the same religion; and their sentiments and projects are looked upon