



INDIAN DHOBY, OR WASHERMAN.

DO men wash in India? O, yes; and the man you see opposite is the Dhoby some of the Wesleyan Missionaries in Bangalore employ to wash their clothes. You see on the donkey the bundle of clothes he is taking to the tank to wash. Donkeys are very, very much despised in India, and as a consequence are invariably miserable-looking creatures. They are used almost exclusively in the Mysore by dhobies and others to carry burdens. You never see them attached to any kind of vehicle; and to ride one would be considered a very undignified thing. The late Rev. J. Stephenson, an excellent Missionary who lived a number of years at Toomkoo, and died in India four years ago, once bought a

donkey for his little boy. Well now, when the natives in Toomkoo saw Mr. Stephenson's little boy riding his donkey they were very much shocked, and came to nonstrate, and persuaded his father to sell it. They said that if he continued to let his son ride the donkey, he would lose their respect; and that would never do for a Missionary, would it?

You would laugh to see the dhoby washing. He has no *patent machine* or *tubs*, and they don't use *patent soap*, or washing powder; but they go to the tank and stand up to their knees in water, and after rubbing the clothes with common soap, they batter them on a big flat stone. But don't they make holes in the clothes, and knock the buttons off? They do indeed; and sometimes they do even worse things than these. One day last year, whilst preaching in a village near Shemoga, I saw a native wearing one of my best India gauze vests. I knew it at once, because of the initial-(S) in front. Upon inquiry I found that the dhoby had lent it out to be worn for several days by this dirty, unwashed rascal, and for his kindness

received a quantity of rice. It is not very nice to think of your clothes being worn by other people in this way, is it? And yet such a procedure is not at all uncommon. If you were to write to the Missionary ladies, they could tell you some strange things about the washermen. They form a caste among themselves, and I am thankful to say that some of them have been converted, and received into the Christian Church. The Rev. T. Hodson, Chairman of the Mysore District, has lately written the life of "Old Daniel" of Goobbee, which, when printed, will interest you all very much. "Old Daniel" was a dhoby, and was converted to God many years ago. After a consistent life amidst much trial and persecution, he passed away to his rest in 1875, leaving a good testimony that he is now with Jesus.—J. C. S.