

sidered fit to engage in all religious duties.

AMY--Dear me! what important creatures their boys are. What becomes of the girls?

MAMMA--The girls are regarded as an expense, and not being so useful as boys, they are not welcome. When the parents do not wish to raise the girl baby, it is allowed to sleep itself to death with opium in its mouth, or it is put in a basket, and set afloat on the river Ganges.

AMY--What cruel people they must be.

MAMMA--They do not mean to be cruel. A woman's life in India is a very wretched one at best, and this is often the easiest way, they think, of sparing her future suffering. However, they do not put their girls to death now so often as they used to do.

AMY--Why do they not?

MAMMA--The country is now ruled by the English. It is a crime to put girls to death, and punished by law, when the guilty parties are found. Christianity has also shown many of these people the sinfulness of such practices, and led them to live better lives.

AMY--If the girl lives what does she do?

MAMMA--She plays with her doll, goes to school, is richly dressed and loaded down with jewelry. Indeed, she has a pretty good time until she gets married.

AMY--How old is she when she marries?

MAMMA--Between eight and eleven. She is sometimes betrothed several years earlier. As soon as her father selects a husband for her, she puts on a veil, has the ends of her fingers dyed pink, and retires to the *zenana* or place where the women live. Here she is educated for married life.

AMY--What does she learn?

MAMMA--Cooking and religion. The Hindu is very particular about his food, and no one, however rich he may be, must prepare it and serve him but his wife. His religion has much to do with this. After she learns how to cook and serve food properly, she learns many verses from their sacred book, the histories of various Hindu gods, dialogues and stories.

AMY--Must she learn all this whether

she wants to or not?

MAMMA--Yes; she is not considered ready to be married until she knows these things well. She has no voice in the matter, but must marry whenever and whomsoever her parents direct. If the man dies, before or after marriage, she is a widow, and though she may still be a little girl, she dare not marry again. Her fine clothes and jewels are taken away, she is abused and neglected, and must spend the rest of her life in hard work and sorrow.

AMY--What a dreadful time she must have. Is there no escape for her?

MAMMA--None, until the Gospel teaches them better, and so brightens and blesses their lives. Some have been helped through its influence; let us pray that many more may feel its power and be led in the true way. --*Sophie S. Smith in the Missionary World.*

HOW TO BECOME HAPPY.

Many young persons are ever thinking over some new ways of adding to their pleasures. They always look for chances for more "fun," more joy.

Once there was a wealthy and powerful king, full of care and very unhappy. He heard of a man famed for his wisdom and piety, and found him in a cave on the borders of a wilderness.

"Holy man," said the king, "I come to learn how I may be happy."

Without making a reply, the wise man led the king over a rough path till he brought him in front of a high rock, on the top of which an eagle had built her nest.

"Doubtless," answered the king, "that it may be out of danger."

"Then imitate the bird," said the wise man; "build thy home in heaven, by trusting in Jesus, and thou shalt have peace and happiness."

"Mother," said a dear little child one cold night, waking up as her mother went through the chamber, "I asked God to take care of some poor child to-night, and I told Him to-morrow I would try and hunt her up and help her, too."