

the idol speak thus to the pundit. In this manner some years passed.

One day, having gone to the Bazaar on some business, during his absence Gopi Nath suddenly died. On his return finding him dead, he began to fear that the suddenness of the death might cause people to accuse him of having poisoned him out of avarice. Alarmed at the thought he ran away from the place. Not knowing in his fear and confusion which road he took, he arrived at the banks of the Ganges, where some Brahmans, returning from pilgrimage, were resting and preparing their evening meal. Some were kindling fire, others were kneading flour, some were offering up rice to the gods, and one among them lay sleeping. Just as Ram Krishn Panth approached, a black snake coming out of his hole crawled up to the sleeping Brahman, and was about to bite him when Ram Krishn Panth seeing it, sprang forward and killed the snake with a stick. The Brahman awaking, trembled at the thought of his danger, and being much pleased with Ram Krishn Panth, said to him, "I thank you very much that you have saved me from the jaws of death. Whence did you so fortunately come here?" Then he told him his whole story, of the famine, the death of his parents, of remaining with Gopi Nath and his sudden death.

The Brahman, Narayan, hearing of all his misfortunes, said "Do not be anxious; I am a great priest in the temple of my own village; come with me; I will make you my disciple and teach you the rules and manner of worship." Hearing this Ram Krishn Panth was much pleased and quite prepared to go with him. Having finished cooking they ate their evening meal, and not caring to stay in a place where so frightful a danger had presented itself to one of their number they got into a boat and proceeded on their journey. At last they arrived at Narayan's own village on the banks of the Ganges where was a very great temple to which Brahmans and Hindoos of high rank, came from great distances and made great offerings, when Narayan also received large gifts. He repeated for them numberless incantations, and began to teach Ram Krishn Panth the forms of worship, wonderful stories of the idol of that shrine, and of lust and evil kinds of pleasure which were neither fit to hear nor to speak. Hearing them Ram Krishn Panth's mind became filled with evil fancies and he began to think thus: "If the gods and goddesses did such wicked things where is the sin of it?" And thus think-

ing, his mind began to run on to all sinful ways. At last one day having gone to the Bazaar he saw a crowd, and thought to be some show he went near and saw a Christian minister preaching, and heard him say, "Whether Hindus or Moham medans, Jews or English, we are all sinners, because we have broken God's law and disobeyed him all our life. This is sin." He then told them about Jesus Christ coming into the world to save sinners. Ram Krishn Panth hearing was very angry and said, "This is all false. Jesus Christ is only the God of the English as Ramchandra is of the Hindus." The minister answered, "Be not angry my brother. Try my words by the touchstone of wisdom and see if they are true or false. It is known of Ramchandra that he only became incarnate to kill Rawn, and by killing him what gain was there to men as sinners? It is necessary that a Saviour came to destroy sin, not to kill sinners. Now think who is such a Saviour Ramchandra, or Jesus?"

Many more good words the Christian minister spoke, and then gave many books to the people. Ram Krishn Panth received two books, which he carried home and told everything to Narayan, who said, "Never go near him again or you will lose caste." Hearing this Ram Krishn Panth did not show him the books; but as he had opportunity he read them with much thought, and the story of Jesus Christ's sufferings to save sinful men made a very great impression upon him. But those thoughts were scattered by an event that happened at that time. A great queen who came to the temple with her sick son in the hope that by worship and offerings he might be healed, made this promise. "If my child recovers I will offer great gifts to the temple, and to the priests, and in the eyes of the idol" will place two diamond jewels of great value." So there were great ceremonies at the temple and Ram Krishn Panth's mind was distracted by the queen and her attendants, so that he forgot to think about the Lord Jesus.

The queen's child by change of air and water began to recover, but she believed it was by the incantations of the priests and hastened to fulfil her promises. She gave great gifts to the temple, and to the Brahmans, and in the eyes of the idol placed two precious diamonds. When the report of this got abroad, crowds of people came great distances to see the diamonds, and Ram Krishn Panth who constantly saw them and heard the people talking about their value, began to be