



A PARSEE TOWER OF SILENCE

Photo. by Clifton & Co.

The Parsees found their way to Bombay from Surat, to which they made their way from Gujarat, their place of settlement after leaving Persia. They are a thoroughly capable, energetic and intelligent race who have, by these qualities, gained a foremost place amongst the trading and commercial peoples of the Western Presidency. The money they have gained has been freely spent in worthy charitable objects. Their dead are neither burned nor buried, but left exposed till denuded of flesh by vultures in the "dakhma" or Tower of Silence, which is generally erected in a solitary place and on an eminence. A "dakhma" may be compared to a circular gasometer is formed in the centre of the tower, and when the corpse is stripped of its flesh, generally within an hour, the pit bones are moved into the pit where they crumble into dust. Parsees believe that, from a sanitary point of view their plan excels that of burial or cremation.

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The longer I live the more certain I am that the great difference between men, the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant, is energy and invincible determination—a purpose once fixed, and then death or victory. That quality will do anything that can be done in this world; and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities will make a two-legged creature a man without it. —Buxton.

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The Independent Scot.

Two Scotch fishermen, Jamie and Sandy, belated and befogged on rough water, were in some trepidation lest they should never get ashore again. At last Jamie said:—"Sandy, I'm steering, and think you'd better put a bit of prayer." "I don't know how," said Sandy, "If ye don't I'll chuck ye overboard," said Jamie. Sandy began:—"Oh, Lord, I never asked anything of ye for fifteen years, and if ye'll only get us safe back I'll never trouble ye again, and—" "Whist, Sandy!" said Jamie, "the boat's touched shore; don't be beholden to anybody."