

Other Men's Bibles.

Christ, According to the Brahmins.

AMONG thousands of mortals a single one perhaps strives for perfection, and among these so striving perhaps a single one knows Me as I am. Earth, water, fire, air and akasa (the spirit of ether), Manas (mind), Buddhi (soul), and Ahaukara (spirit, egoism), is the eight-fold division of my nature. It is inferior; know that my superior nature is different and is the Knower; by it the universe is sustained; learn that the whole of creation springs from this too as from a womb; I am the cause. I am the production and the dissolution of the whole universe. There is none superior to me, O conqueror of wealth, and all things hang on me as precious gems upon a string. I am the taste in water, O son of Kunti, the light in the sun and moon, the mystic syllable OM in all the Vedas, sound in space, the masculine essence in men, the sweet smell in the earth, and the brightness in the fire. In all creatures I am the life, and the power of concentration in those whose minds are on the spirit. Know me, O son of Pritha, as the eternal seed of all creatures. I am the wisdom of the wise and the strength of the strong. And I am the power of the strong who in action are free from desire and longing; in all creatures I am the desire regulated by moral fitness. Know also that the dispositions arising from the three qualities, sattwa (goodness, light), rajas (passion, burning), and tamas (indifference, darkness), are from me; they are in me, but I am not in them. The whole world, being deluded by these dispositions which are born of the three qualities, knoweth not me distinct from them, supreme, imperishable. For this my divine illusive power, acting through the natural qualities, is difficult to surmount, and those only can surmount it who have recourse to me alone. The wicked among men, the deluded and the low-minded, deprived of spiritual perception by this illusion, and inclining toward demoniacal dispositions, do not have recourse to me.

Four classes of men who work righteousness worship me, O Arjuna; those who are afflicted, the searchers for truth, those who desire possessions, and the wise, O Son of Bharata. Of these the

best is the one possessed of spiritual knowledge, who is always devoted to me. I am extremely dear to the wise man, and he is dear unto me. Excellent indeed are all these, but the spiritually wise is verily myself, because with heart at peace he is upon the road that leadeth to the highest path, which is even myself. After many births the spiritually wise findeth me as the Vasudeva, who is all this, for such an one of Great Soul (Mahatma) is difficult to meet. Those who through diversity of desire are deprived of spiritual wisdom adopt particular rites subordinated to their own natures and worship other Gods. In whatever form a devotee desires with faith to worship, it is I alone who inspire him with constancy therein, and depending on that faith he seeks the propitiation of that God, obtaining the object of his wishes as is ordained by Me alone. But the reward of such short-sighted men is temporary. Those who worship the Gods go to the Gods, and those who worship Me come unto Me.

From chapter vii., Bhagavad Gita, an Indian Bible, dating about 5,000 B. C.

The Planet Mars.

According to the latest reports from London there is something going on in Mars just now which greatly excites astronomers. So far as laymen may penetrate these mysteries, it seems that some shining specks, quite unlike anything ever seen before, have been discovered, and that the stars are exceptionally favorable to the hypothesis that Marsians are trying to signal to us. The only other conceivable theories are that these specks are the effects of an aurora, or of forest fires on a gigantic scale, but scientists appear actually to regard these as less probable than the first explanation. The mere suggestion of such a thing sends a thrill of fascinated expectancy through the whole academic system of Europe, and men of weight are already reviving the old schemes and propounding new ones by which an effort at sending back an answering signal through space may be made.

Is it possible that the prediction of Madame Blavatsky, in the Secret Doctrine, that something would occur before the year 1897, which would completely overturn all the theories of material science, may prove to have a fulfillment in this direction?