

long as she is spared to bestow maternal care upon it—where all the children are equal, and where the unrestricted and affectionate intercourse of brothers and sisters mutually tempers and perfects their several characters and dispositions.)

This account of the domestic state of the Chinese will give you a new view of the greatness of the work to be done by the gospel. It is destined to change and renovate the entire social state and disseminate its holy and purifying principles through all classes. While you rejoice and thank God for the great blessings you enjoy, you will not be more earnest in your effort to send the Gospel to those who have it not. And especially will not all mothers, wives and daughters, as they owe to the Bible the enjoyment of their social comforts and domestic happiness, be excited to increased exertions to send this blessed Bible to their sisters in heathen lands, who know nothing yet of its elevating and happy influences.

INDIA—HINDU CHRONOLOGY.

BY REV. J. M. JAMIESON.

The Hindus divide time into four ages, denominated *Yuga* or *Yuga*. Of these three are the *Satya*, the *Treta*, the *Draupadi*, and the *Kali* *Yuga*. They are said by the Hindus, to comprise four million, three hundred and twenty thousand years—the age they have assigned to the world. Three of these ages are supposed to have passed since the creation; and of the fourth, which is the present, and is to consist of four hundred and thirty-two thousand years, four thousand nine hundred and fifty-two have elapsed. At the expiration of this age, all things terrestrial are to be destroyed. In the *Satya* *Yuga*, or Golden Age, vice was unknown. White-robed innocence associated with the virtuous sons and daughters of men unshelled. Celestial spirits rejoiced to leave their regions of light and glory, to tabernacle on earth. Such was the pristine state of the world for one million and seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand years. To this succeeded the *Treta* *Yuga*, comprising one million two hundred and ninety-six thousand years. Then the *Draupadi*, consisting of eight hundred and sixty-four thousand. The present is the *Kali* *Yuga*—an age fruitful of all wickedness, in which virtue can nowhere thrive, and from which truth has taken a long flight. "The ages are no longer reversed, nor the gods propitiated. The sceptre has fallen from the hands of the Solar and Lunar races, and the sons of Brahma are thrust aside by the unclean *Sudar*. The white-faced descendants of the demon *Ravana*, who waged war with *Rama*, for the empire of *Ceylon*, have sprung up from beneath the black ether, and are to agitate themselves, and make their antiquity appear greater than that of any other nation, knowingly extending their chronology far beyond the truth. It does not bear the least resemblance to either nature or reason. Like the most of their science, it is mere assertion, and seems to have been designed by the priesthood to strike the minds of unenlightened laymen with awe, instead of leading them to the truth.

Inmured in the gloomy caverns and consecrated groves of *Saltetic* and *Erubant*, and surrounded by their gods and goddesses overshadowing them, they cut loose their imaginations from the realities of time, and soared in wild delirium far beyond the limits of probability. Touched by their magic wand, time became nothing, the hero god, and the suppliant devotee the subduer of heaven and earth. Invention took the place of fact, fable of truth, and superstition of religion.

"A thousand great ages, or a thousand times the four *Yuga*, say the Hindu poets, are a day of *Brahma*, a thousand such days are an hour of *Vishnu*; six hundred thousand such hours make a month of *Yeshu*, and a million such periods, or two quadrillions, five hundred and ninety-two thousand trillions of years are but a second of *Brahma*." Such rhapsody is a fair specimen of the absurdity of Hindu chronology. Nothing more repugnant to reason was ever invented by the most fabulous of Nature's untutored sons. The three passed ages of the Hindus must be discarded as wholly mythological. The present is the only one which contains any historical truth. Its commencement is generally fixed by European chronologists subsequent to the flood, or about seven thousand years before the Christian era, and into this period must be brought all the events of Hindu history.

To the Christian chronologist it is no small consolation to be able to find in the histories of all nations, however fabulous, many gems of truth, borrowed from the inspired record. He takes delight in girding himself to the task of clearing away what is fictitious, and reconciling systems, which to superficial observers, seem the most contradictory, with this

standard. Every truth, whether historical, scientific, or religious, is consistent with every other truth. Hence, although obscured by the superincumbent rubbish of age, whenever it is discovered, it adds new lustre to the source of all truth.

Happily for the cause of truth, there is a striking similarity between the Mosiac and Hindu accounts of the creation and deluge.

Nama, which is translated *morning on the water*, is said to have flooded on the world of waters before the creation, and thus produced the manulane egg, from which *Brahma* created the heavens and the earth. *Mena*, the son of *Adama*, who is the Hindu *Adam*, is said to have succeeded *Nama*, and means the first. Five minutes, or ages, are said to have succeeded the first *Mannu*; but there is scarcely anything recorded of them. Of the seventh, who is supposed to be the *Noah* of the Bible, much is written. In his reign it is said the whole human race was destroyed by a flood, except himself and seven ages, with their wives. In the *Shagwata* it is written, "The demon *Hapogicia*, having polluted the *Veda* from the custody of *Brahma*, while he was engaged at the close of the sixth *Mannu*-epoch, the whole race of men became corrupt, except the *Rishu*, and *Satgurata*, who reigned in *Drautia*. This prince was performing his ablutions in the river *Kritamala*, when *Vishnu* appeared to him in the shape of a small fish, and several augmentations of bulk in different waters, was placed by *Satgurata* in the ocean, whence he thus addressed his amazed votary. "In seven days all the creatures who have offended me shall be destroyed by a deluge, but thou shalt be preserved in a capacious vessel, to be suitably formed; and there shall be all kinds of medicinal herbs, and excellent grain for food, and together with the seven holy men, and your respective wives, and joints of all animals, enter the ark without fear; and shall thou know God face to face, and all thy questions shall be answered." Saying this he disappeared; and after seven days, the ocean began to overflow the coasts, and the earth to be flooded by constant showers, when *Satgurata*, in-shedding on the Deity, saw a large vessel moving to the waters; he entered it, and *Vishnu*, in appearance of a serpent, to the instruction of *Vishnu*; who in the form of a vast fish, suffered the vessel to be tied with a great war-scepter, as with a cable, to his measureless horn. When the deluge had ceased, *Vishnu* slew the demon, and recovered the *Veda*, instructed *Satgurata* in divine knowledge, and appointed him the seventh *Mannu*, by the name of *Vairavata* or sun-born."

There can be no doubt but the above story has reference to the deluge of *Noah*, and that it was derived from the Bible. The eldest son of the seventh *Mannu* was *Bahenku*. He is said to have been the first sovereign prince of a kingdom in India, before the Christian era, and that of *Ham*, who flourished about twelve hundred years before the Christian era, fifty-seven princes are said to have reigned over the Hindus. To the ages and rule of these princes, periods are assigned far beyond the course of nature. Some of them are said to have reigned twenty-seven thousand years. But fortunately for us, while the time of each reign has been thus exaggerated, their number has not been augmented beyond the appearance of reality. Modern chronology, however, taking the basis of this favourable feature of the royal genealogies, strike off some thousands of years from each reign, and reckoning thirty years for a generation, bring the fifty-seven princes within a period of about two thousand years. This mode of reckoning brings the Hindu chronology to correspond with the authentic chronology of the Jews, the Chaldeans, the Egyptians, and Greeks, and is perhaps, as near the truth as we can approximate.

Between the time of *Ham* and the last prince of the Solar race who flourished near the commencement of our era, the Shastras give fifty-six reigns. Fifty-six years before Christ the celebrated *Ikshvaktiya* ascended the throne, and it was, probably while his successor was sovereign of India, that our Saviour became "a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief." He was the founder of the present Hindu era, which is in general use. The last Hindu sovereign of whom we have any account, flourished about the year of our Lord 3000. A short time after this, their mighty empire became subject to the fierce followers of the False Prophet, and their glory departed, never to return.

The Hindus, however, are still proud of their assumed antiquity. Comparing their chronology, our divines are astonished and amazed, though their eyes, and hearts, and mighty empire, have long since passed away, and their incarnations no longer descend from heaven to deliver them from their oppressors, they still boast of a literature, sacred books, and stupendous miracles, which bear the semblance of infinity. What, they say, is your little pocket Bible in comparison with our ponderous shastras? It is but yesterday, ours are eternal. What is the story of your six days, compared with that of our *Vishnu* and *Ram*? Where was your religion a hundred years ago? If you have the time to tell us, why did you not let us hear of it sooner? Your Bible does not inform you if God is white or black, or describe his shape. It can be read through in a few days. The longest life is too short to read even a title of our shastras. I sometimes reply to such objections as follows—Suppose you wish to visit Calcutta, and ask me to furnish you with directions for the way. But instead of complying with your wishes, I write you a long dissertation on my own size, and shape. What would you think of it? God did not reveal his word to satisfy our idle curiosity, but to direct us in the way of heaven.

This pride of antiquity, and contempt for the simplicity of truth, is one of the greatest obstacles to the spread of the gospel among the Hindus. Our preaching is literally foolishness to them, and our doctrine a stumbling-block. They have no love for truth in any shape, and know nothing of its power. It is, however, forcing itself on them in various ways, and will,