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A HINDU IDOL.

One of the most popular of the many idols worshipped by the Hindus is that of Ganesa, the god of wisdom. It is partly in the shape of a man and partly in the shape of an elephant. The children in the schools are taught to worship it, and it is adored by all who wish to become acquainted with Hindu learning and so-called wisdom. The images of this god are found not only in the temples and schools, and at the corners of the streets in the cities, but under trees on country roadsides.

But multitudes of the Hindus are now learning that the beginning of all true wisdom is the fear and worship of Jehovah, the only living and true God, and many are the changes for the better which are now taking place in idolatrous India. A few of them are thus stated by the Lucknow Witness:

"Should Carey and Thomas visit to-day the scene of their life-labors, it would seem to them a stranger land than when, in 1793, they first touched its shores. Then a letter twelve months old from England was new; now steam has brought London within thirty days of Calcutta, and the telegraph has reduced the distance to minutes. Then clumsy boats, the ox-cart, the palanquin, and the pony, were the only aids to travel; now the railroads of India carry annually more than sixteen million passengers. Her sacred Ganges is ploughed by Government steamers, while twelve thousand miles of wire carry messages for her people. Then the whole interior was sealed, and its roads almost im-



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passable; now it is all open and surveyors are everywhere. Then no native thought of learning English; now it is hardly a barrier to a professor going among the educated classes there that he speaks English only, while in the counting-houses of every large city may be found hundreds who read the language readily.

"Then it was with difficulty that children could be hired to attend Christian schools; now staunch Hindus contribute

to the support of these schools. Then, if natives could be induced to take Christian books as a gift the missionary rejoiced in his success; books are now sold. Then the education of women was looked upon with terror or utter contempt; to-day the education of the girls of India receives more attention than did that of the boys thirty years ago. In Calcutta eight hundred women are regularly taught in their zenanas by the ladies of the Woman's Union Missionary Society; and many a young Brahman secretly imparts to his wife daily what he learns at the schools.

"Then the dozen or fifty fathers-in-law of a Kulin Brahman quarrelled for the honor of supporting him; now he can be compelled to support his wives. It is not fifty years since the high-caste widow of India coveted the funeral pile; now, though at very long intervals we hear of attempts at suttee, its condemnation is almost universal, while the most intelligent look back upon it as we do upon the human sacrifices of the Druids. It is not sixty years since an order was issued by the Indian Government that missionaries must not preach to natives, nor allow native converts to do so; now the officers of the Government vie with each other in praise of the work done by missions."

Every scholar should pray for his teacher every day, should give something in the class-offering every Sabbath, and should attend the church services every Sabbath.