

animals which now dwell upon it have lived during the same space of time, passing through an infinite number of changes, being insects, birds, beasts, or men, according to their good or bad actions. So that, according to this foolish belief, *you* have lived *somewhere* much longer than you thought you had, and may have been a bird or an elephant for thousands of years for aught you know. They say that, at certain times, men who have previously lived under countless forms of animals, and have acquired an immense stock of merit, at last obtain almighty power and infinite wisdom. These beings are called Buddhus, or sages, and go about teaching men for some time, and are then reduced to nothing. They say that the last one lived about 2,500 years ago; his name was Goutama, and he was the son of an Indian king. They still pray to him, and to everything or anything connected with him. They worship the prints of his feet, the trees under which he rested, the books which are said to contain his discourses, his priests, images of him, and, above all, parts of his body, which they say was preserved when the body itself was burnt on an immense funeral pile, in the presence of *sixty thousand princes and seven hundred thousand priests*. Where such numbers of princes and priests found kingdoms and temples it is not easy to conceive. Of the relics of Goutama, that which is considered by far the most valuable, is a piece of ivory, which they believe to be *one of his teeth*. It is preserved with great care, in a place called Kandy, in the interior of Ceylon. It is kept in the "Palace of the Tooth," in great style. The case containing it is made of gold, sparkling with precious stones, and in a room hung round with cloth of gold, and guarded by soldiers. There are, however, many thousands of well-shaped buildings, called Dagobas, to be found wherever the Buddhists are, which are supposed to contain some part of the body of Goutama, such as a little bit of bone, or even a hair. Inside of them, there are also to be found little images of gold, to which offerings are made. The buildings are solid, with the exception of a small room in the middle, in which the articles are kept. These buildings are of different sizes, some of them very large and lofty. A few of them in the island of Ceylon are nearly as high as the pyramids of Egypt! A priest generally lives near the building, and every morning and evening he goes and sweeps the courtyard very clean in which the dagoba stands, and arranges sweet-smelling flowers around its ledge. The largest and