

other just as trivial excuses. That is the sort of thing that discourages one here. I made the "keeping of the Sabbath day holy" one of the particular points in the lesson on the Creation, which we took up not long ago, but understanding and doing are two different things. One thing that is very much against the work here, is that the stores are all kept open till nine o'clock Sabbath morning, and it is not very long since they were kept open all day.

They pay on the Estates every alternate Saturday, and the Sabbath following pay is always a day of feasting and an unusual amount of cooking is done.

"Both black and white Creoles as well as Coolies are very superstitious. Every little thing is a sign of something to happen. For instance, I heard a woman say the other day that she wouldn't under any consideration allow a broom to be used in her house after six o'clock in the evening, as it was a sign of death."

LETTER FROM MRS. MORTON.

TUNAPUNA, TRINIDAD, B. W. I.,

March 17th, 1887.

My Dear Friends:

The weeks and months glide by so rapidly, and find us always so busy, that we might almost be excused for thinking that we have no time to write, but it may be the better way to look upon the writing as an important part of our work and to steal a little leisure, as I am doing to-day, with the happy assurance that you never weary of hearing things, either old or new, in connection with your work among the heathen.

Driving along one day with one of our helpers, I met a man carrying a clay idol, about a foot high. I knew it to be Ganesh by the shape, the lower part resembling a man, but with four arms and the head of an elephant. I stopped the carriage and said, "Allow me to see *Ganesh Is*"—(his honor Ganesh—pro. Gan—ess) and asked where he was going with it. The man said he had taken it to the house of the person who had engaged him to make it but he was not at home. I said, "Will you let me have it?" He answered, "Yes, if you give me something for my trouble." "How much is it worth?" "A half shilling." I gladly gave him fifteen cents thinking it a very

cheap god at that, and Ganesh and I drove on to Tunapuna. Before evening, however, he was somewhat maimed, being made only of clay, lime-washed, with a little coloring here and there. Finding him so frail I carefully bandaged the broken leg and placed him on a high shelf where he would be seen without being handled.

Many intelligent Hindus who join in idol-worship say, "We do not worship the idol itself, but through it we worship the Supreme God; and if it be true that the idol is nothing yet our worship, if sincere, will be accepted;" but had they any knowledge of the Supreme God they would see how dishonoring it is to talk of worshipping Him through a clay image in which, to quote from a Hindi tract, "*Ganesh Tested*," "two shapes (of a man and an elephant) are so mingled that men might well run from it and beasts fear it." From the same tract, published at Allahabad, I gather the following: That Ganesh is styled "Son of Shiva," and "lord of the universe;" that is, he was born of Shiva and his wife Parvati, an immortal god, dispenser of happiness and misery, and the fulfiller of desire, and by worshipping him men's desires are satisfied and their work made successful.

There are several contradictory explanations of his peculiar figure; one account is that when he was born all the gods great and small came to look at him; one of them, however, kept his gaze averted because of his evil eye which caused destruction to any one upon whom it fell, Parvati, not aware of this, and being very proud of her son, gave Shani hard words, and asked why he was not looking at him. Then Shani looked angrily at him and immediately his head fell off. Parvati was about to kill the god in revenge, but Brahma forbade her and told Shani to go to the forest and cut off the head of the first animal he found sleeping with its head to the north. This proved to be an elephant, so he brought its head and joined it to the trunk of Ganesh. His mother, being far from satisfied with the arrangement, Brahma promised her that he should be worshipped more than any of the gods.

There are other accounts of the birth of Ganesh that are too shameful for us to repeat, but we may notice that while an elephant has two tusks he is generally represented with only one. One explana-