

the priests." Some live in monasteries, others work in the roads and in the fields. Some are married, whilst others live in a state of celibacy. They are consulted by the common people as to the exact time, after the breaking up of the snow, that the land should be tilled; they are supposed to be able to discover springs, produce rain, and drive away demons. In the winter, the most of them resort to the monasteries for the purpose of performing their religious ceremonies.

The learning of the lamas in Lahoul is not of the most profound character. Reading and writing, and the ability to recite portions of their religious books, are their chief acquirements.

They manage to get through a wonderful amount of prayers—or at least of recitals of the same prayers—which they say, however, not by steam, but by water-mills. Every lama may be seen carrying his little prayer-mill; and the more pious he is, the more frequently he may be seen turning his mill.

The Buddhism here is not unlike the Buddhism of India and China, except that it has rather a higher moral tone. Their code of morals are—first, Thou shalt not kill any living thing; second, Thou shalt not take what is not given to thee; third, Thou shalt not commit adultery; fourth, Thou shalt not speak evil of another; fifth, Thou shalt not talk nonsense; sixth, Thou shalt not slander; seventh, Thou shalt not covet; eighth, Thou shalt not plan injury; ninth, Thou shalt not lie; tenth, Thou shalt not entertain heretical ideas. When the chief lama comes into the province from Lhassa, he is supposed to shed blessings all around. As giving is considered to be a great act of merit on the part of the giver, the common people load such a visitor with numerous gifts. Not wishing, however, to burden himself with these articles, the lama arranges a sale by auction, and the donors gladly buy their own gifts at a high price.

Nearly every place in the district is supposed to be haunted by evil spirits, and the natives beat drums, and make all kinds of strange noises in order to get rid of them as they think.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF MISSION WORK IN TIBET.

The work was commenced in Lahoul in the year 1855 by two brethren who had studied for some time at Berlin. These brethren were commissioned to proceed by way of Western Tibet into Mongolia. After making an unsuccessful attempt to get it through, they resolved to try and reach it through India. This they did, but no sooner had they passed through Lahoul and Ladak than, on reaching the borders of Chinese Tibet, they were stopped. The Chinese authorities refused them wood, water,