

fervidly; thy Brahmapootra grandmother laid large ones and had discovered the art of suction of the same, long ages ere thy tender birth."

To guard against a too probable *naïveté* of proselytism and save much trouble beforehand, the shrewd old king, a profound Pali and Sanscrit scholar, who had been a Buddhist priest and had spent twenty years in the ascetic and studious retirement of a monastery (rather a formidable theological curriculum by our western standards!—from which, it is true, he had emerged most uncommonly sharp-set), thought it well to begin at the very start with a weighty and politely caustic delimitation of functions for the new English "Mees." These unsubstantial creatures could sometimes develop an amazing toughness and importunity in their little gossamer evangelical ineptitudes! Little did he dream what surprises awaited him! In this case he had no need to fear any superfluous importation of soft religious coal from English missionary mines into his oriental Newcastle. The new English governess was quite a new sort of governess and English-woman. She knew as well as he did that "the powerfulness of truth and virtue" was the soul of the Buddha's life and teachings, as well as of the Christ's, and of every other founder's of any high religion that ever lived. She had nothing but a very intelligent reverence for the *religion* professed by His Majesty. The very considerable trouble he came, as we shall see, to have with her, arose solely from His Majesty's *practice*, which offered a piquancy of contrast with the pure heights of his theoretical faith such as no Christian could have surpassed.

For unlike Gautama Buddha, who had exchanged a throne for a monk's cell, S. P. P. M. Mongkut had taken leave of the rigours of his monastery, where he had written an admirable treatise showing that his great master's sole aim had been the salvation of men from "the blindness of all selfish and carnal passions," to blossom out into a most astoundingly polygamous oriental despot, capricious, sensual, avaricious, inordinately greedy of power and praise. The