

upon them as if they had come from another world. Generally they were treated with kindness; but there was one place where many Brahmins lived, and these men saw that, if the poor Hindoos believed what the strangers taught them, their own gains would be destroyed. They therefore persuaded their people not to listen to their preaching. "But, if," write the Missionaries, "they would not hear our words, they were compelled to take a lesson from our boots." This, you will think, was a very strange way of teaching the Truth; but it answered the purpose, as you shall hear.

The Brahmins had made the people believe that their temple, and the large open court around it, were so holy that, if any person went in with shoes or sandals upon his feet, the blood would instantly stream from his nose and mouth, and he would drop down dead. No one, therefore, entered into the sacred place, or thought of doing so, without first putting off his shoes. As the Missionaries had not been there, they knew nothing of all this; and, being curious to see the temple, walked boldly into it. But no sooner had they entered than a number of Brahmins ran quickly towards the spot, and began to threaten and curse them in a very violent manner. The Missionaries were not to be driven away by angry looks and empty words; they remained, therefore, and tried to show the Brahmins the falsehood and folly of their superstitions.

While this was going on, the people gathered together, and came as near as they dared. There they stood, with their necks stretched out, and their eyes fixed upon the Missionaries; for they all believed what the Brahmins had told them; and they expected every moment to see the men who had been so bold as to walk, with their shoes on, into the holy place, fall bleeding and dead to the ground. But they looked in vain. At first they wondered; and then, one after another, they began to doubt; until at length, when they became sure that no harm would happen to the strangers, they cried out, "Our Brahmins are all liars! They have fed us with nothing but lies! These wear boots of cow leather. They have entered the court with them on, and they have suffered no harm!" Soon the whole of the large village was in an uproar, every-body was thinking and talking about the lies of the Brahmins. The Missionaries knew that this was the time for them to show the people the way of Truth; the same evening, therefore, they met a great crowd of them, and preached to them the Gospel.—*Church of Scotland Juvenile.*