


"GOOD MORNING ROUNDTHE WORLD."

6. Among the dark Hindus that bide in Bengal,
In Bombay, the Punjauh, in the Deccan and all,
Where rules the Nizam,
Or in ancient Assam,
They all touch their foreheads, and cry out "Salam!"
7. With his hand on his heart the polite Persian neighbor
His body inclines with the lightest of labor.
The greater his friends,
The lower he bends,
And "Peace be upon you!" the blessing he sends.

ST. NICHOLAS.

FIELD STUDY FOR JUNE.

INDIA.

UR subject this month brings before us the needs of a people who are, like ourselves, subjects of Queen Victoria. Their country, situated in the south of Asia, in form may be described as a great triangle, its base resting on the Himalayan Range, which forms a protecting barrier from the wild Tartar tribes on its northern boundary, and the apex running far into the ocean, to which must be added Burmah, on the other side of the Bay of Bengal. It is about half as large as Canada, with a population of 282,000,000, more than four times that of the United States.

In the year 1600 Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to a company to trade in the Indies. Shortly after a settlement was made at Enrat, on the west coast. In 1757, while Canada was being wrested from the French, the British conquered Bengal. They have since added one province after another and now control the whole country. However, many of the native states keep their own rulers, having at their court a British resident or advisory consul. There are over a hundred and fifty provinces and states. Ninety-eight distinct languages are spoken and a very large number of dialects. With fifteen or twenty different races, and this diversity of language, there is little national feeling. They have no name of their own for their country. India is the English name now officially adopted in the Queen's title "Empress of India." We are inclined to think of India as a land of wealth. The name suggests gold, precious stones, rich silks and muslins of wonderful fineness. In reality there are more extremely poor people than you can conceive of, who are living in a state of semi-starvation, never having enough to eat.

The British government has done much to improve the condition of the people, putting an end to the wars between the States, using means to relieve the periodic outbreaks of famine. Long lines of railroad

have been built, connecting provinces that are not likely to suffer from scarcity at the same time. These are often called "famine railways." As we write news is arriving of famine in Northern India that is likely to cause great distress. It has been the policy of the English to interfere as little as possible with the religion of the people. They have established schools and colleges, but the Bible is not taught.

The lot of a Hindoo woman, whether she is rich or poor, is very hard. She is not allowed to learn to read. Married before she is ten years old, if she belongs to any but the lowest caste, she is after this shut up in the zenana, or apartment set apart for the women. This imprisonment is so complete that missionaries often meet old women who have never seen a tree or a flower growing! Of the millions of gods and goddesses worshipped, the Goddess Kali is one of the seven or eight principal ones. She is, I verily believe, the most blood-thirsty and horrible character worshipped anywhere. You could not look at her picture without shuddering. She is most frequently represented as a woman having four arms, holding in one a sword, in another a human head by the hair, her tongue protruding from her mouth, with a necklace of skulls, and all smeared with blood. And this is the special deity of the women and children! Think of it this month as you put the little sisters and brothers to bed, and teach them to ask our loving Father to care for them through the night; and pray for the sad hearted mothers and the little children, that they may speedily hear the story of Jesus. They are so glad to hear it. They have been taught that the gods do not care for women, that their only hope of salvation is that after death they may live in one or another of the lower animals and at last possibly be born as men. So they exclaim, "Does your Jesus love women? Can he save us?"

E. A. D.

QUESTIONS FOR JUNE.

- What is the subject for this month's study?
In what respect are its people like us?
Will you describe their country?
What of its size and population?
How did it get into English hands?
How do some of the native States manage to keep their own rulers?
How many provinces or states? How many languages?
Why have they so little national feeling?
What do they call their country? What is the Queen called?
What does the name India suggest to us?
What is the real condition of the people?
What has the British Government done for India?
What are "famine railways"?
What is the latest news from Northern India?
What has been the policy of the British government in regard to the religion of India? Is the Bible taught?
Describe the hard lot of a Hindoo woman?
Have the people of India one God or many?
Will you describe the goddess Kali?
Whose special deity is she?
What must you teach your little sisters and brothers to do this month?
Do the women and children of India want to hear of the true God?
What question do they ask?
What have they been taught to believe about themselves?