

# The Indian School Guardian

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## A YOUNG IDOLATER.

WE give in this number two pictures of mission scenes in India. Here you see a little boy being taught by his mother to pray to a stone bull. The god Shiva is said to ride upon a bull, and therefore all the followers of Shiva worship it. Is not this like making a polite bow to a horse, instead of to the gentleman upon its back? In all parts of India images of the bull are found. They are often very large, more than twenty feet long, and sometimes not more than half an inch. Incense is burned before them; flowers put upon their breasts; garlands and strings of bells round

their necks; and the people walk three times round them.

Some devout people consecrate bulls to Shiva. These are stamped with a seal that all people respect, and turned loose. They go in and out of the temples and people's houses at pleasure, help themselves from the baskets of grain and other things in the open shops, no one daring to interfere with them, and get so bold as to be dangerous.

Oxen are used for riding, drawing carriages, common carts, ploughs, harrows, etc., as horses are in Canada. But the followers of Shiva do not work their oxen on Monday. This is their day of rest.