

as a fish drew the ship over the waters, and killed the demon, and saved the holy books. His second incarnation was a turtle, to make the drink of immortality. The third was in the form of a bear; the fourth was in a Man-Lion; the fifth in the form of a Dwarf. He then appears as Krishna and Buddha. The tenth is yet to be known.

Idolatry is universal among the Hindus, and every month has its special worship. April, October, and January are the most sacred. Singers go from house to house, chanting hymns to the gods. The girls buy rice and flowers, with which they worship little ponds of water dedicated to Siva. Then they worship the Cow, pouring water on her feet, and putting oil on her forehead. Sometimes they make a vow to feed some Brahmin well, for a month. They bathe their idols with pious care every day, and offer them food.

May has some religious ceremonies peculiar to itself. The month of June is devoted to the worship of Juggernaut, which means the Lord of the Universe. July is celebrated for the famous ceremony of moving the car of Juggernaut. These cars are in the form of a pyramid, built several stories high, sometimes they are fifty feet high.

The month of August is celebrated for the nativity of Krishna; whose birth resembles the Gospel in this, that the Tyrant whom he came to destroy, sought to kill him, but a heavenly voice told the father to fly with the child across the Jumna; the tyrant, like Herod killed the infants in the village.

In this month also is a feast upon which no fire must be kindled or food cooked; and on which the cactus tree, and serpents are worshipped.

In September the worship of Doovga, wife of Siva is held. A Brahmin sits before the image, with flowers, holy water, and incense. He sings or chants hymns in honour of the goddess. Trays laden with rice, fruit and other kinds of food are near the image, or given to the Brahmin. Goats and sheep are then sacrificed to an idol on an altar in the yard of the house. When the head of the victim falls, the people all shout, 'Victory to Thee, Oh! mother.' Lamps are waved before the idol, and the Brahmin reads something from the Sacred Books. Then follows a dinner to which the poor and low caste people are invited.

October, November and December there are fewer ceremonies. In January a good deal of religious bathing is done. This month the Brahmins go from house to house, reading and expounding the sa-

cred books. Krishna is worshipped in February.

The month of March is devoted to ascetic exercises, especially to the one of swinging suspended by hooks. On the day before, the swinging men thrust iron or bamboo sticks through their arms or tongues. On the next day they march in procession to the swinging tree, where they are suspended by hooks, and whirled round the tree, four or five times.

Some very religious people will have a Brahmin come in the morning to wake up the idols, wash and dress them, and offer them food.

In Trinidad, often the old people cannot carry out all the worship that they once did in India; the grand temples, the wealth, and leisure of the high caste classes are needed, to have it just as it is in India. It is touching, sometimes to see old Hindus, trying to go on with their own ceremonies, so well remembered, this life in a strange land, so unlike their own wonderful India.

Many of the young Hindus grow up careless, and are indifferent to any religion. I have sometimes stood and wondered how a people, with such bright keen minds can worship such senseless, horrid idols. Men who can readily speak six or seven languages, who are qualified by education, and mental ability to occupy offices of importance, as Judges, Lawyers, Inspector of police, and many other situations of respect and responsibility, can believe in, and worship such things, as the sacred books, and horrid idols of the Hindus; it is almost too much for human credence; but it is a sad, stern fact that millions of Hindus do believe these doctrines, and worship such idols.

Their religion and their caste have kept them back, in the race of progress. They have no religion to unite them in the bonds of brotherhood. Their God and their religion have encouraged licentiousness, greed, cruelty, and supreme selfishness. They have no trust or confidence in each other, and we see that a mere handful of white people can control, and govern the vast population of India. Christianity can lead those people to an infinite Friend, a perfect Father and a divine Providence, and so make possible for them a new progress, and give to that ancient and highly endowed race, another chance in history.

The Hindoo mind is singularly pious, and singularly immoral. What they want is evidently moral power, for they have all intellectual ability. The offensive quality which has made them slaves for Tyrants for two thousand years, will