

gained was augmented by the purchase of land, and the protection of territory. In this manner the way was paved for Clive's great success. The English supported Muhammad Ali in the crisis. Through their interference the empire was snatched from the Hindus. The Mughal emperor still retained his title, but, in sooth, India became an arm of the British empire.

It was some time before the victors understood, in a degree, this fanatical people, the mainspring of whose actions is caste: a social organization, including calling and religion; a brotherhood that makes each man a formalist. This is instanced by a Hindu being born to his caste, whether it be one of the four fundamental divisions: the Priestly, the Warrior, the Trading, or the Laboring; or one of the thousand into which these are subdivided. Wealth cannot effect a change of caste. The higher class considers the lower unclean. The outcast from one division forms a caste, in turn ostracizing his erring brother. Imagine the degradation of the lowest! Yet, caste holds and binds throughout it all. The 20,000,000 Priests, or Brahmins, occupy the highest position. Their inferiors attribute all they possess to Brahmin benevolence. These dignified men are the reasoners and lawyers. They bless, curse, teach, and govern. Hinduism, a union of their old Vedic faith with Buddhism, and, on the other hand, the old rites of the non-Aryan peoples, is their religion, and that of 207,000,000 out of a population of 294,000,000. Since the Pax Britannica the warrior is unemployed. Agriculture has no charms for him, and it is not without degrading the traditions of his caste that he must needs take to it. In general, the traders are usurers; each man a Shylock. One finds the majority of the laboring class on the plains and on the hillsides. This class exhibits the greatest unprogression. The men are strong, temperate and conservative, using the tools of their ancestors, and employing the same crude methods.

To drink intoxicating liquors is a religious crime, but to smoke is to be a Hindu. The pipe is passed from mouth to mouth. Seated tailor-fashion, the Indians dine off the floor, and, in compliance with their religion, they dine without shoes. There is a class of unclean things, the mention of which arouses the deepest indignation of a Hindu. To the majority, the eating of meat is as terrible as cannibalism is to us. Report went through India in 1857, a year of great ferment, that the cartridges distributed to the native troops were greased with the fat of pigs, animals alike unclean to the Hindu and