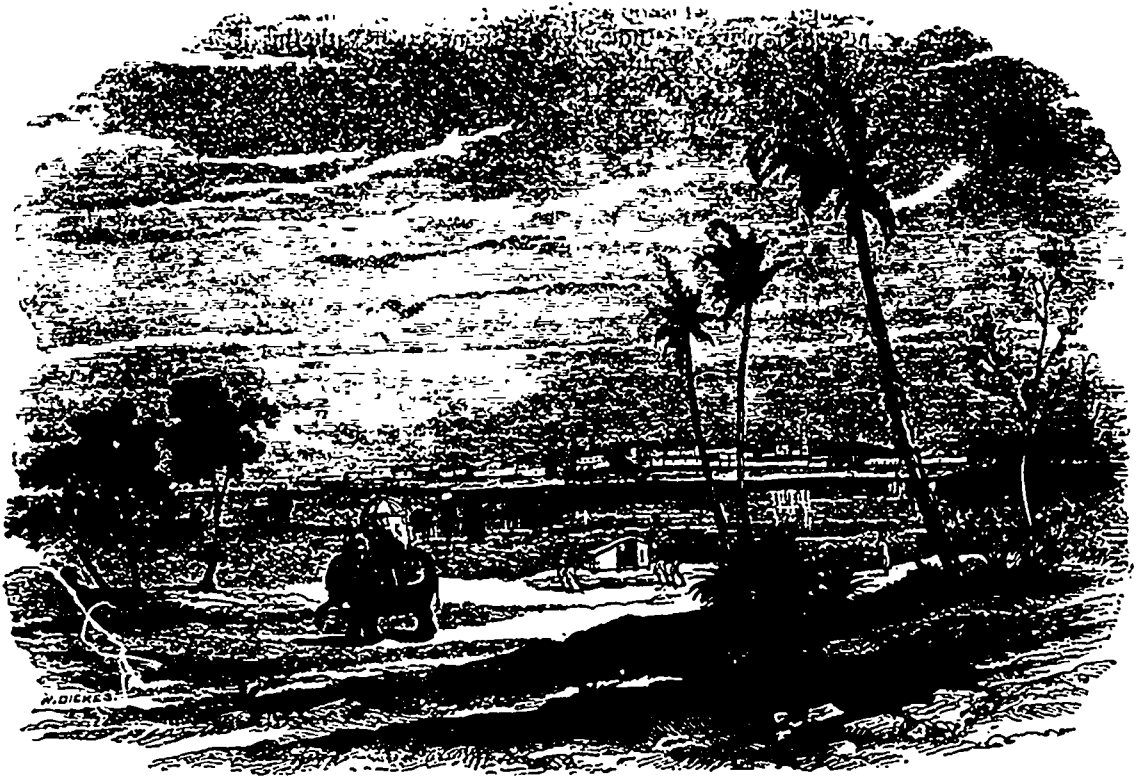


Young People's Department.



CITY OF MADRAS, INDIA.

INDIA.

HOW strange it would be to see an elephant moving in and about our cities as is the case continually in India! But there the climate is hot and that is what elephants like. There are many things done in India that would seem very strange to us in Canada; but we must remember that the people there think us just as strange as we do them, and yet India has learned a great deal from the English people who have lived there, and her people have been greatly improved by the English government that is over them. Remember they are a mighty people, amounting to about one-sixth of the human race, and yet England controls them all, whatever their politics, whatever their religion. They belong really to the same race as ourselves, and are progressive and intelligent. They have learned from the English people to publish newspapers. The first newspaper published in India in the native language was published by missionaries in 1822, and you will always find that missionaries do the best they can for the people. They not only teach them about Christ, but they teach them to be civilized and industrious, and the English government in many places all over the world owes a great deal

of its influence and power to the work of the Christian missionary. There are now in India about 450 native papers and magazines, and these are gradually breaking down the cruel and barbarous customs of the people.

And some of those are very bad. Did you ever hear of the Thugs? They were people who were allowed to commit murder and rob whenever they liked, because it was their religion to do so. These Thugs were a disgrace to India for two thousand years. A man was a Thug because his father had been one; and then he might rob and kill as much as he liked, and he was never even tried for it. This has been stopped. Christian England stopped it. If a man robs or kills he must suffer for it, and it won't do for him to say, "What, punish me? Why, I am a Thug!" Christian law says, "If you do wrong you must be punished, whatever you are."

And then again you have often heard of the unhappy condition of women in India. They live a very sad and a very lonely, ignorant life; but under their own laws they were very much worse than they are now. If a woman's husband died, she, poor woman, had to die too. When they burned the husband's body, they burned her too, alive. Though perhaps strong, and young, and