

thought it a great occasion, for they came dressed gala fashion, and decked with all their jewellery. The fabled old nursery-rhyme celebrity was a joke to them; for, besides 'rings on their fingers and rings on their toes,' they had rings round their wrists and ankles, and rings in the under parts of their ears, and other rings depending from the upper lobe of the ear. In fact, all these parts of the body seem to be regarded by them simply in the light of small conveniences furnished by nature as pegs to hang jewels on. Then behind stood row upon row of the citizens, not 'kursiwalas,'—that means those who, by position and caste, are not considered entitled to sit on a chair.

"And so, sharp at six o'clock, when few of the good folks at home dream of leaving their beds, the examination began. I was present shortly after five o'clock to see everything put in order, and was somewhat amused by the display of motherly pride and solicitude exhibited by a Mussulman woman, not unlike what one might expect in a rustic village at home. On the previous day I had given orders to the boys to wash their faces and hands, and come, if possible, with clean clothes. That this very necessary order had not been unheeded, was shown by the fact, that this good lady came leading young hopeful up the playground, rating him soundly all the way, and explaining, for our enlightenment, that, although the dress the urchin wore bore marks of dirt, we were not to fancy it old, as it was bran new, but the lad had hannelled it by rolling in the dust. We assured the good woman that the dress was very good, and creditable to her taste, and sent her away half pacified, although still muttering threats against the offender.

"Well, we had first our Bible lesson (Luke, 15th chap.); and the boys explained the parable—its lessons of human guilt and repentance, of divine mercy and forgiveness—in a style that must have been rather new to the idolaters present; who, however, sat and 'made no sign.' All this was in Urdu."

(In a letter of the same date, written by Mr. Martin, and giving an equally favourable account of the examination, he says:—"A few months ago not one of these boys had the slightest acquaintance with the word of God, but now many of them read with ease and with evident delight the story of redeeming love; and the facility with which they can take a passage and express its meaning in their own language, shows that they are not a whit behind our Scottish boys in ready apprehension, and decidedly they are superior in fluency of utterance.")

"Then followed in order the senior English classes, the Urdu geography and arithmetic, and the Hindi mental arithmetic. The varied incidents of these examination hours I cannot attempt to detail, although some of them were sufficiently instructive and amusing. How the old natives, who all their days have believed that the earth is a flat plain, divided in two by a mountain of enormous height, on which grow trees, bearing as fruit all manner of jewels,—how they opened their eyes, I say, to hear urchins, who six months ago knew nothing but the art of playing among dirt and eating chupaties, affirm confidently that the earth is round, and establish it very smartly by several proofs! But what chiefly interests a native is numbers; and answers as to population and geographical measurements most of all elicited their approbation. Then one old nabob would turn his eyes, glazed and blear from opium-eating, upon another old nabob, nod his turbaned head, setting all the jewelled rings a-dancing, and croak out, 'Bahut achcha! babut achcha!' (very good! very good!)

"The Hindi mental arithmetic was also a source of great interest. The natives are themselves rather expert at that sort of thing, and I have instructed the pundits to arrange the classes and teach them in the English competitive fashion. The eagerness with which the little fellows gave out their answers—poking their pointed fingers into the pundit's very nose, and the rapidity to which they usually gave their answers to somewhat difficult questions, were evidently a great source of delight to the natives present, no less than of amusement to the English. Thus two mornings passed away; and when all had been examined, we had a distribution of little prizes to the best boys in each class. Captain Phillips, in Major Rickards absence, kindly undertook this duty, expressing at the same time the gratification which the appearance and progress of the boys had given to