

### MOTI LAL, THE BUNYA.

BY OUR MISSIONARY, REV. N. H. RUSSELL

For the Children's Record.

The particular bunya or merchant in this picture is a very respectable and hard-working young man in Mhow, India, from whom we missionaries have bought many yards of cloth, spools, yarn, stationery, etc.

Most of the wealthy men in our large cities belong to this class.

Their wealth is not all acquired by honest trade, but is largely made up by usury and sharp practice, aided by the improvidence and ignorance of the people. Few people in India but are in the clutches of the bunya by borrowing money from him. At famine times these men do not hesitate to combine and raise prices, nor does it ever enter their



Moti Lal, the Bunya.

Besides his small shop in the Bazaar, about 5 feet by 10, and stuffed with goods, he carries a pack round on his back and sells from door to door.

These buyers are shrewd business men, and are gradually getting all the wealth of India into their hands. To give you some idea of their wealth, a merchant who not 20 years ago was only a poor young man carrying a pack on his back, spent last year upon his son's marriage over \$100,000.

heads to give away food to help their starving neighbors, even though grain may be rotting in their granaries.

In religion the bunyas are mostly Jains, reverencing life more than all else, and seeking to gain salvation by works. Their ideas of salvation are very strange, being similar to annihilation. They do not believe in God.

Their chief religious act is to attempt to preserve life; but only of animals, they have