

civilized as the Englishmen it they would only do what is right, without respecting what their neighbors do, or what has been established by mere traditional custom. While we were leaving this village, an old man made this remark, 'If it be the will of God that we should all be equal by virtue of your religion, His will be done.'

"I was surprised to hear the tradition regarding the first man and the first woman among the Santals. The first man they called Pabu Haram, and the first woman Pileba Buri, which two phrases in their language mean 'the first old man' and 'the first old woman.' The phrases 'old man' and 'old woman' they apply to their parents; so that those phrases mean nothing less than our first parents, who, they believe were the ancestors of all people that lived on this earth.

"The next day, that is Tuesday, I accompanied Wooma Charn Babu to another Santal village, about a mile and a half to the north-east of Govindpur, known as Jiramudi. I was there struck with the natural intelligence of a Santal woman. We were talking about sin and death to the people that gathered round us, some of whom were women. One of the women understood us quite well, and remarked that we were all sinners, although her own people were not such great sinners as the Bengalis. Somehow or other (not by reading McCaulay, I dare say) the Santals have the idea that the Bengalis are, as a nation, very deceitful; and they are, as a rule, afraid of us.

"Very early on the next morning, Kangali Babu and I started for Telkupi, a place about fourteen miles to the south-east of Govindpur. They had a *mela* or fair at Telkupi, in connection with a Hindu religious ceremony. Telkupi is on the river Damudar, which river is to the Santals as sacred as the Ganges to the Bengalis. The Santals come to bathe in that river once every year, when they throw in a bit of bone of their deceased friends, if any, or else acquire a great amount of sanctity, and return home taking with them some trinkets from the fair. The Bengalis, too, regard it as a sacred duty to go and bathe in that river. So that we saw a

large concourse of men and women, both Bengalis and Santals at the fair. There are a good many very ancient temples, all built of stone, at Telkupi. The architecture is rather ingenious, and the carvings not very uncount. Some of these temples contain the image of Siva, but others of some deity very much resembling the representation of Buddha as found elsewhere. But the image of Ganesh, a Hindu god, is carved at the entrance of each of the temples, thus showing an admixture of the Hindu element in them, if they are at all Buddhist. The priests know nothing about the origin of these temples. The Hindu Rajas of the neighborhood, one of whom keeps up the worship in them, do not profess that they were erected by their own ancestors. The vicinity of the Parashnath Hill, with its well-known Jaina temple, together with the fact that the religion of the Jains is a strange mixture of Buddhism and Hinduism, leaves very little doubt about these being Jaina temples.

"We reached Telkupi at about 12 o'clock, and it took us about two hours to prepare our breakfast and get ourselves refreshed. We took our station a little way off from the din of the festival, and sat down under the shade of a mango tree. The first batch that came to talk with us was a *Chhetri* family. They said they had never heard of such a religion as Christianity. They were all respectable looking men, and were decently dressed, but they could scarcely read a sentence of the Bengal Gospel I asked them to read. I explained to them the folly of their religion, which they came to understand, and then spoke about Christ and the meaning of his religion. They called nothing in question; but they were amazed to hear an account of His life—taking for granted the facts recorded, simply because they were contained in a printed book. I offered them a few biscuits, which they made no hesitation of accepting; but they would not partake of our water, just because they saw it had been brought by a Santal—and besides, the female members of their