

became almost universally a mere worshipper of its symbol, with ceremonial and customs that had lost all significance, and prayers whose meaning had long since been forgot.

Until late years, their very priests, who must learn the Zendavesta by heart before they can be admitted to their calling, were ignorant of the old Zend tongue in which their sacred books are written, and, scrupulous to the letter in the observance of their rites, were ignorant entirely of the loftiest teaching of their master, and even of the significance of the ritual they practised. These things now are changed, and the old pure teaching, though with many tedious, sometimes disgusting, ceremonies, is resumed, and the simple creed, "There is one God whom all must worship," is dear to the Parsee's heart not only for its universality, its wide-embracing scope, but from the fact that now for thousands of years, through success and through suffering, through changes of country, home and language, his fathers have adhered to the worshipping of Ormuzd and the honoring of fire.

THE DISTANCE OF THE SUN.

ONE of the most celebrated methods of measuring the distance of the sun is derived from a combination of experiments on the velocity of light with astronomical measurements. This is a method of very great refinement and beauty, and although it does not satisfy all the necessary conditions, it is impossible in this lecture to avoid a brief reference to an investigation so remarkable. The principle of this method is easily enunciated. Though the velocity of light is stupendous, yet it has been possible to measure that velocity by experiment. The best determinations indicate that a ray of light would flash over a distance equal to seven times the circumference of the earth in a single second of time (300,400 kilometres). A ray of light would travel from Southport to London in about the thousandth part of a second. The dimensions of the solar system, are, however, so consider-