

**The Children's Record.**

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**GANESH, THE HINDO LORD OF HOSTS.**

The Hindu god Ganesh, or Ganpati, in some parts of India called Puliar, is always represented as having an elephant's head and a very fat body, and sometimes as having many hands. He sometimes has four, and sometimes eight, female attendants, some of whom have peacock feathers to drive off flies; others offer him various gifts, and all wish to serve him. The umbrella over his head is to shield him from the sun and rain.

Many stories are told of the way in which he came to have an elephant's head. One of them is as follows: One day his mother, Parvati, went into her private room, and placing her son Ganesh at the door, told him to allow no one to come in. Soon her husband, who has many names, such as Shiva, Mahadev, and Shankar, came and was about to enter her room. Ganesh told his father that his mother had forbidden anyone to enter. Because the boy opposed him, Shiva got angry and cut off his son's head. When Parvati came to know it, she was wild with grief. So to console her, Shiva said: "Do not cry; I will give him the head of the next living being that comes along." This happened to be an elephant. So the great god Shiva cut off the head of the elephant, put it on his son's body and restored him to life. Then he said to Parvati: "Now, what a fine son you have. The elephant is wisest of animals, and your son shall be the god of wisdom." Ever since then Ganesh has been worshipped as the god of wisdom. In every Hindu school there is an image

of this god, whom the school children worship daily. At the top of every copy which the school children write, are the words: "Shri Ganesh," that is, "The Blessed Ganesh."—*Little Missionary.*

**CASTE IN INDIA.**

In India there are four times as many people as in the United States. The Hindus form the larger portion. Among them the people are divided into what is called *castes*. Some are gardeners, others are tailors, others are shoemakers, and there are many different kinds. These different castes do not associate with each other any more than their business compels, and those who do one kind of work are unwilling to do any other kind. This being divided into castes is much in the way of their receiving the Gospel. Let us pray for them.

**A LITTLE BOY'S RESPONSE TO THE HYMN "I WANT TO BE AN ANGEL."**

BY NEWMAN HALL.

I want to live to be a man,  
Both good and useful all I can,  
To speak the truth, be just and brave,  
My fellow men to cheer and save.

I want to live that I may show  
My love to Jesus here below;  
In *human* toils to take my share,  
And thus for *angel's* work prepare.

I want to live that I may trace  
His steps before I see His face;  
And follow him in *earthly* strife  
Before I share His *heavenly* life.

Lord! grant me this to live and serve,  
And rever from Thy laws to swerve;  
Then, after years of service free,  
In ripe old age to go to Thee.

But should it be Thy loving Will  
To call me early, Lord, fulfil  
In fewer years Thy work of grace,  
Each day prepared to see Thy face.