

India has been merciful, mild and benign, compared with that of its Mohammedan rulers, who previously swayed the sceptre; and it has been more likely to benefit the people than the partial and temporary rule of other European powers which it has in a great measure superseded. But though open to English commerce, India, by the decree of the East India Company, was closed to Christ's Gospel. For many years it discouraged every effort that was made to evangelize the Hindus, and even prohibited Christian missionaries from settling in the country so long as it was in its power to do so. In the midst of numerous difficulties and discouragements, however, the Church, Scottish, London, Baptist, American, Wesleyan and other Missionary Societies, have done much towards spreading the light of the Gospel among the dark, benighted, teeming millions of India.

After these introductory remarks we are prepared to follow Mr. Caine's admirable descriptive account of this great Indian Empire, beginning with the busy seaport on the west coast, Bombay.

Bombay has been called "The Eye of India." It is the largest, most populous, and enterprising city in the Empire. More than half the imports and exports of all India pass through its custom-house. Nine-tenths of the persons entering or leaving the country do so at Bombay; it is without exception the finest modern city in Asia, and the noblest monument of British enterprise in the world. The traveller, eager for the wonders of Agra, Delhi, or Benares, is too often satisfied with a couple of days spent in driving through its spacious streets, neglectful of the wonderful life of this great city and seaport, seeing nothing of its institutions, its arts and manufactures, or the interesting peoples who make up its population of 800,000 souls.

The various government buildings, though handsome in elevation, have no details of interest, containing merely a succession of offices for the use of the clerks connected with the different departments. The finest building in all Bombay is the new railway station and offices of the Great India Peninsula Railway, completed in 1888, at a cost of £300,000. Its great dome, surmounted by a huge figure of Progress, dominates the whole city, and is conspicuous from every open space.

The markets of Bombay, like those of every Asiatic city, are full of picturesque interest to a European visitor. The best time to visit the market is in the early morning, about seven o'clock, when the flower and fruit stalls are at their best, and the fresh fish is being brought in from the bay. In the Castle and Arsenal are stored every kind of warlike material and ordnance, sufficient to furnish an army of ten thousand men at a day's notice. The