

THE Methodist Magazine.

SEPTEMBER, 1892.

INDIA: ITS TEMPLES, ITS PALACES, AND ITS PEOPLE.*

IX.

BHOPAL is the capital of the native state of the same name. It is surrounded by a stone wall two miles in circumference, within which is a strong fort. The streets, bazaars, mosques, and temples of Bhopal, are remarkably picturesque. The population of the state is 950,000, of which more than three-fourths are Hindu. The ruler of Bhopal is a woman, and the throne descends in the female line. The Begam is the only female potentate in India. She is an able and vigorous lady. She has an army 3,000 strong. She has power of life and death in judicial matters, and her territories are not under the jurisdiction of British courts. Her mother stood bravely by the British rule during the Mutiny, and the loyalty of the present Begam is unquestioned.

Sanchi is a small village, round which are scattered some of the finest Buddhist remains in India, including eleven so-called "topes." These topes are solid mounds or domes of brick, erected to celebrate some important event, or to enshrine a relic to the great Buddha, or of some notable Buddhist teacher or saint. They were generally plain structures, but surrounded by rails and gateways of the most elaborate sculptured decoration. They date from B.C. 250 to A.D. 300, and their inscriptions and sculptures furnish an ancient pictorial history of India as complete as that possessed by Greece or Rome. The tope of Sanchi is a huge dome of bricks laid in mud, 106 feet in diameter, and forty-two feet high.

Indore, Holkar's capital, is a modern city of about 75,000 population, mostly Hindus. The Kahan River runs through the town, and is kept well filled with water by an embankment. There

* *Picturesque India.* By W. S. CAINE, M.P. 8vo, pp. 606. London: George Routledge & Sons. Toronto: William Briggs.