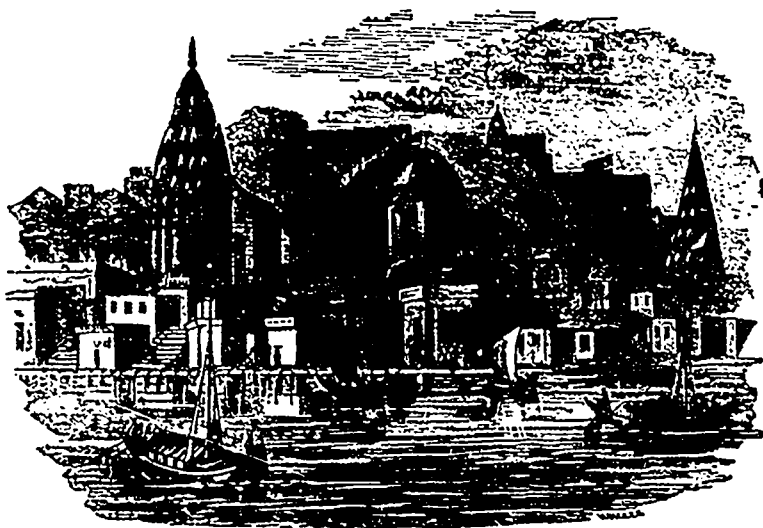


## Young People's Department.



BENARES. A HINDOO SACRED CITY.

### BENARES.

**U**PON the north bank of the River Ganges, where there is a beautiful bend of the river stands the ancient city of Benares. There is something very interesting about this city. It is older than the days of Solomon. Ships used to bring to Solomon ivory apes and peacocks. Some of these most likely came from Benares. It is what is called a sacred city for the Hindoos. It has had at one time as many as 3,000 Brahmin monks, and it is full of idols. It is something like Athens when St. Paul visited it. It was easier to find there a god than a man. And there are endless temples in Benares. One of these temples is sacred to the monkey! Inside this temple are as many as a hundred chattering, grinning monkeys, jumping over one another's heads, climbing up the pillars and frisking round the altars. It would be rather a strange thing to go into a church and find it full of monkeys. This gives an idea of some of the queer things which our missionaries have to work against.

But this city is said to be very beautiful. At least it looks so as you see it from the Ganges. It rises from the river's bank in the form of an amphitheater. Some of the houses are very high, and are of a deep red color, and usually adorned on the outside with pictures of all kinds of animals; but the streets are very narrow, so narrow that in some places two vehicles cannot pass one another. It is full of religious beggars, some of whom have crippled limbs and withered bodies caused by their own doings for the sake of their religion.

Natives of India from all parts come, if possible,

to die in Benares. They consider that happiness is insured to them forever if they can only die there. Before they die they think they wash away their sins by bathing in the sacred Ganges. If they can only manage to live in Benares they seem to think it does not matter what they do. When a missionary once accused his teacher of lying he said, "What does it matter, do I not live in Benares?"

A Church of England Mission was established in 1817, and some of the people have been converted to Christianity. An orphanage was established there by Rev. Mr. Leupolt at a time when a large number of children were left orphans after one of the dreadful famines that often kill thousands of people in India. By this means a large number of children were trained to be Christians.

If you have anything to do, do it at once and be done with it. It won't worry you then. We are told of a boy that drooped so in health that his mother thought she must have the doctor to see him. The doctor could find nothing the matter with the boy. But there the fact was, he was pining away, losing his appetite, creeping about languidly, and the mother was distressed. The doctor was non-plussed.

"What does your son do? Has he any work?"

"No; he has only to bring a pail of water every day from the spring. But that he dreads all day long and does not bring it until just before dark."

"Have him bring it the first thing in the morning," was the doctor's prescription.

The mother tried it and the boy got well. Putting it off made the job prey on the boy's mind. "Doing it now" relieved him.

Boys and girls, do it now!