

## THE HOME OF THE HINDU.



HE sun on the wing of morning, gliding up from the east, until he smiles above the lofty ice-capped Himalayas, beams joyously down upon India, the home of the Hindu, the richest jewel in our imperial diadem; an empire with a wonderful diversity of people and of climate.

This country extends south from the Himalayas to the island of Ceylon, and east from Baluchistan to China. The northern mountain chain forms two walls, the southernmost rising perpendicularly to the plain 20,000 feet, contains Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world. In the lap of these mountains the mammoth rivers Indus and Brahmaputra wend their opposite courses some thousands of miles. The sun sees his reflection in these rivers, and in the historical Ganges. The 150 millions of people on the smiling plains, and the inhabitants of the irregular tableland of the south, and of mountainous Burma, in the west, are likewise cheered by his rays.

Rich, indeed, and voluminous is the history of this peninsula, that was old and matured when Alexander the Great invaded it, in 327 B.C.

The Indian people comprise three races: non-Aryans, the earliest inhabitants; the Aryan race, who came from Central Asia, and the Scythians, or Tartars, who first came in prehistoric times, and in great hordes, between 126 B.C. and 400 A.D. The Muhammedans entered the country in the 7th and 8th centuries. In the 12th century the Prince of Ghor subjugated the north. The Slav dynasty still ruling at Delhi, continued to be harassed, and fell, eventually, to Barbar and the Mughals. Through the usurpation of members of the imperial line after Shah Jahan, 1628-1658, and through the invasions of the Persians and Afghans, this most opulent empire the world has ever known, retained naught but its name, its energies having been exhausted. Eager to regain their ancient sway, the Hindus rebelled, backed by an enormous army. A crisis was inevitable. It came and passed, and neither of the Oriental races was victor. The spoils fell to an alien nation.

Vasco de Gama had discovered a waterway to India in 1498. The English obtained a foothold on the soil after defeating the Dutch, who enjoyed the monopoly of Oriental trade. Later the British drove the French from the Karnatic. The advantage thus