



I have seen not only a man, but a woman, in India, with these great square irons around their necks, each perhaps two feet in length, and two feet in breadth. These they put on for the purpose of fulfilling some vow they have made. For instance, if a mother has a very sick little boy, she will say, "Now, Swammie, if you will cure my little boy, I will have a square iron put on my neck, and wear it all my life."—After this vow is made, if the little boy gets well, the mother thinks that Swammie has cured him, and to fulfil her engagement, as I just said, she will have one of these irons put on her neck.

Other devotees throw themselves from the tops of precipices, and are dashed to pieces; some bury themselves alive in holes which their own relatives have dug; some bind themselves with ropes or chains to trees until they die; some keep gazing so long and constantly at the heavens, that the muscles of their neck become contracted, and no aliment but liquids, can pass into the stomach. Annually at the festival of Siva, people perform horrid ceremonies upon themselves. Some throw themselves down from a height upon iron spikes, or upon bags of straw which have knives in them. Some dance on the

fire; some have their tongues bored through with an iron, and then put living snakes through the aperture. Some have their breasts and arms stuck entirely full of pins. Some sit all night by the temples with lamps, whose pointed extremities are attached to wires, which are fastened to the feet of their foreheads. Some swing through the air by two great hooks, which are passed through the tender parts of their backs, as you will perceive by the picture on the first page.

### Missionary Lectures to the Young

BY THE REV. C. H. BATEMAN.

We have on several previous occasions quoted largely from Mr. Bateman's Lecture on Africa to the little boys and girls in London. In the present number we continue these interesting lectures. We have already seen that almost the whole of Africa, so far as known to us is given to the Prince of darkness, and how little of it as yet is won for Christ. This we go on, and will tell you somewhat more of what Mr. Bateman said about missionary efforts now making to still further the Gospel of Jesus:—

"The first Missionaries," he said, "that ever went to Africa, were there by the good people called Moors, and the part they chose to labor in was the South, amongst the ignorant