

minor gods and goddesses are all but innumerable. Heavenly bodies, various productions of the earth, beneficent rivers, the mysterious wind, the cloud-capped mountain, the spreading banyan, the sacred ox, the gamboling monkey, the noxious reptile, stocks and stones, mean and miscellaneous things, fair or foul, angel or demon, through hope or through fear, find a place in the

pantheon. The Hindu makes to himself graven images, the likeness of anything in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth, and bows down to them and worships them.

"India is the land of pilgrimages. It has numerous cities and shrines and streams of reputed sanctity; and for the sake of penance, ablution or some ceremonial observance, multitudes of people are perpetually on the move. At the annual festivals, in honour of popular idols, thousands of pilgrims throng to the temple service. Many of these are weary wanderers after rest. Waters of sacred rivers are regarded as efficacious for the cleansing of moral pollution; and, as the most magnificent river, the Ganges, is thought to be specially potent for the purifying of the soul. As a means of salvation, or for the accumulation of merit, a Hindu achieves immense feats of devotion. Think of a pilgrim, starting from the source of the Ganges,



A BRAHMIN WOMAN.

traversing the river to its mouth, measuring the same distance on the opposite bank, and getting back to the starting-point at the end of six years!"

When nearly the whole of India and Ceylon was brought under British rule, a brighter day dawned upon the country than it had ever seen before. With all its faults, the British Government of