

most tedious and difficult journey of nearly three weeks from the coast. The kindness and attention which awaited his arrival at Tamatave suffered no diminution by the way. An escort of more than a hundred men was appointed by the Government for his service, and at every halting place provisions in abundance were supplied, with the best accommodation which the places could afford. To the efficient services of a native chief, Izaro, he was much indebted, both for personal comfort and for the order and management of the numerous company of bearers. Every consideration for his safety was carefully attended to by this chief. Frequently during the journey, too, messengers from the capital had been met, bringing letters and expressions of welcome from the Prince and his friends; and, on approaching the last stage, these messages, with other modes of attention, became more frequent. It was the wish of the Queen that his reception should be as respectful as possible. For this purpose the visitor was requested to wait at a distance from Autainanario, until preparations were made for properly conducting him into his capital. A palanquin was then prepared for his use, covered in part with a velvet cloak, and three chiefs on horseback rode beside him, with a numerous retinue in attendance. In this style he was escorted to the house which had been prepared for his residence. A present from the Queen was soon announced, which proved to be a fine bullock, with a vast provision of poultry, eggs, and other things, the principal portion of which Mr Ellis requested Izaro to divide amongst his attendants. The house proved to be exceedingly commodious and comfortable, with many of the conveniences of European life. In all that is to him of deepest interest, Mr Ellis states that his hopes are more than realized; but the general state of the country is much the same as for some time past, except that greater quietness and more apparent cordiality exist between different parties. *New-York Observer.*

#### HOOK SWINGING ABOLISHED IN INDIA.

Hook swinging, we learn by the last Indian mail, has been put an end to by authority. The magistrate of Poonah, acting under instructions from Calcutta, had just promulgated an order prohibi-

ting this, with other practices equally barbarous, throughout the zillah under his jurisdiction. It is freely admitted by those who most approve of these interdicts, that the time has been when to issue them, however desirable, would not have been safe. But, since those days, so great an advance has been made by Indian opinion, that it may be a question, which have improved the most,—the native population or the British residents. At all events, the benevolent interposition of Government in arrest of acts such as at home are offences when committed upon brute beasts, is equally approved by the one and by the other. "Hook-swinging" has been too vividly depicted in the wood-cuts accompanying our Missionary periodicals to need that we should describe what has undoubtedly been one of the most popular practices at fairs and religious festivals. Along with this barbarous usage has been prohibited another sanguinary act of self infliction less familiarly known to English readers. A man runs his sword right through the fleshy part of his leg, and, drawing it out, sprinkles the blood on the entrance of the temple. For this feat he receives large free will offerings; and the right to perform it was vested, as a valuable privilege, in some fifteen families, to each individual of which it came round once in six or seven years. the men themselves, however, long ago declared that they would be glad to discontinue the practice, if only their incomes could be assured to them. This horrible custom, in like manner with others has been declared unlawful by the representative of Government in the districts where it had been in use to the present time.—*New York Observer.*

#### A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER IN CHINA ARRESTED.

The Treasurer of the Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in England has received a letter from the Rev W. C. Burns, in China, giving an account of his arrest by the native authorities, while prosecuting his missionary labors. It appears that he was distributing books at Chaou-Chow-Foo, when he was suddenly arrested on a false report. The magistrates treated him kindly, and he was sent on to Canton, and speedily released on condition of certain merchants becoming security for him; but he has reason to fear that two of his companions are still in confinement.—*New York Observer.*