

„ They are, however, a lively, laughter loving race, and in the sudden transition and free expression of their sentiments show a strength of feeling and correctness of thought little to be expected under such a garb.”

The question, *who can they be?* expresses the author's curiosity, and is not ill calculated to awaken that of its readers.-- Unlike other Indian tribes, they do not congregate in villages, but follow strictly the pastoral life, each family living separately in his own morrt,* or dwelling. In each of the morrts is a building larger and superior to the rest, standing apart from them, and surrounded by a wall. This building is ostensibly the dairy; but the Todas attach a sacred feeling to it, and would not permit a stranger to enter it, on the grounds that it contained a deity, who would be provoked by intrusion. Captain Harkness, however, persevered, and although they affected a great mystery about their religion, he was not satisfied until he penetrated the sanctum of their worship. What he saw there is worth transcribing.

“ After some trouble, I managed to open the door, by rolling it over on its side into a groove or niche made on purpose to receive it. It consisted of one piece of heavy wood, six inches in thickness, but as may be supposed from what has been mentioned of the door way, small as its dimensions as to height and width.

“ On looking into the interior of the temple, I observed the partition wall, as described to me, dividing the space within into two apartments; and in the centre of it, and exactly in a line with the first door-way, another opening, but of similar dimensions without any door. Within the inner apartment, and opposite to the two door ways, I thought I saw a shining object, much resembling the small idols commonly seen similarly placed in Hindoo temples.

“ With some difficulty I passed through the outer portal, and entered the first apartment, which I found to be about ten feet

* Equivalent to our word *Home*.