

# THE MISSIONARY

AND

## SABBATH SCHOOL RECORD.

Vol. IX.

MARCH 1, 1852.

No. 3.



### Hook-Swinging.

Among the Hindoos, there is a class of people called Yogis, or Devotees, who inflict great evils upon themselves. Their object is the same with that of the Synyasi, which is to root out every human feeling. Some live in holes and caves; some drag around a heavy chain attached to them; some make the circuit of an empire creeping on their hands and knees; some roll their bodies from the shores of the Indus to the Ganges.

The Rev. Mr. Hoyer, a missionary in India, in one of his late letters, says, that an Indian Devotee has spent more than nine years on a journey from Benares to Cape Comorin, that is from

the 27th to the 7th degree of North latitude. The whole journey is made by rolling on the bare ground, from one side to the other, about three miles each day. Other devotees swing all their life time before a slow fire; some stand between two fires; some hold up one, or both arms, until the muscles become rigid, and their limbs become shrivelled into stumps; some torture themselves by hanging from the limb of a tree, with their head downward, till their hair reaches the ground; some stretch themselves on beds of iron spikes; some wear great square irons on their necks, as seen in the engraving on next page.