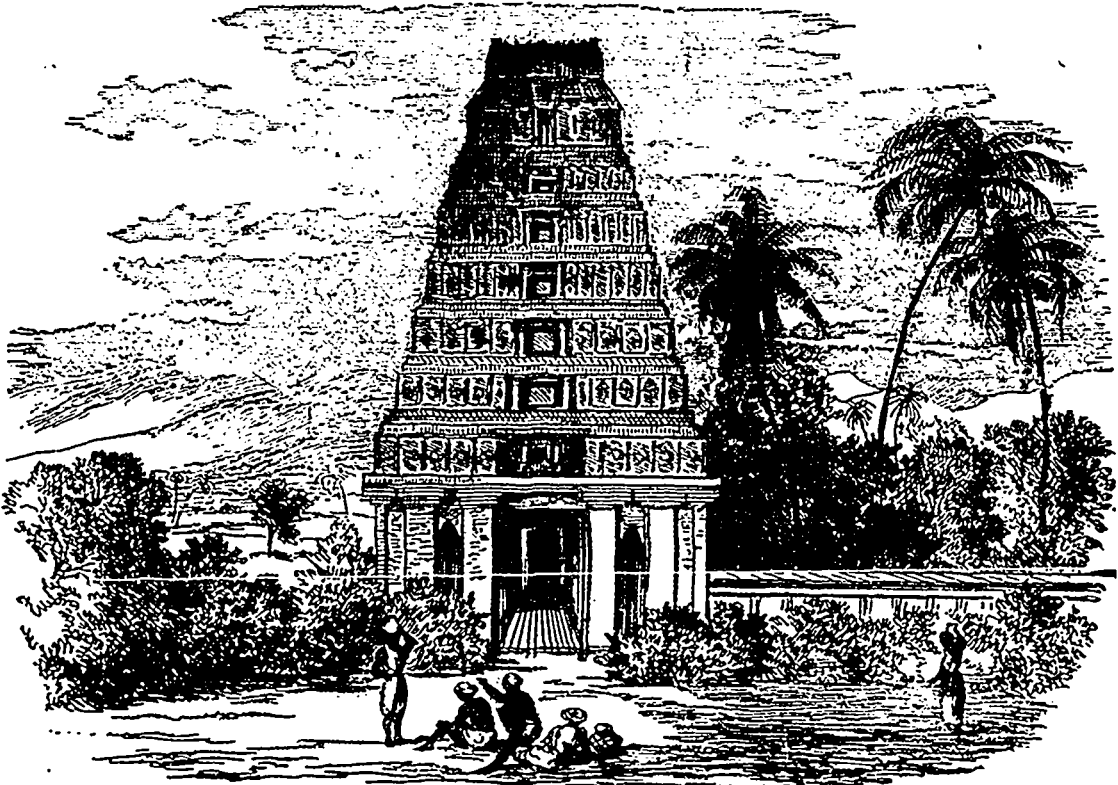


Young People's Department.



TEMPLE TOWER, SOUTHERN INDIA.

TALES OF SOUTHERN INDIA.

THERE are many stories told of the towers and temples of India. On the southeastern coast of Southern India there is a town called Trichendore, and it is dedicated to the worship of the god Su-bra-ma-nian—a long name. They tell this story of him:

Once upon a time there was a wicked giant named Suran, who tried to make people think he was very good. Siva, the great ruler of the skies, chose him to be emperor of all the gods. But Suran was really very wicked, and when he found himself king of all the gods he forgot that he had been trying to be good, and so became very bad! He began to quarrel with all the gods, and made them very unhappy. They got together and talked about their troubles, and made up their minds to tell Siva what this cruel Suran was doing to them. Now, this Siva, who was himself one of the great gods of

India, had a single eye in his forehead, and when he heard of the bad things that were being done by Suran he was so angry that six tongues of fire fell from this eye, and these six tongues of fire formed themselves into a child who was called Su-bra-ma-nian. And this was a curious child, for he had six faces. When he had grown up Siva gave him weapons of war and a large army, and told him to go and fight with the wicked Suran. He did this. He met Suran, and a great battle was fought. Suran was beaten, and Su-bra-ma-nian gained a great victory, and the place where this took place was called Trichendore, or the "City of Victory."

This story, we are told, is believed by people in all parts of India, and many of the towers and temples which are built there are founded upon stories something like that of Suran. We are glad that missionaries are now in India telling a better story than that—the story of the Son of God, who was born of the Virgin