

peared. While this hot wind blows during the summer, missionaries and Europeans in general avoid exposure to it as much as possible, seldom venturing out of doors after ten or eleven o'clock in the morning or before four or five in the afternoon.

By the month of June the heat has become intense. About this time, to use the phrase commonly adopted in India, "the monsoon bursts." All over the empire there is intense anxiety to hear of the approach of the rains. A marked change of temperature follows this advent. The thermometer will perhaps fall fifteen to twenty degrees at the first downpour.

The whole landscape, which has been utterly desolate for three months, and which at last looks as if it had been sprinkled over with ashes, becomes in a few days clothed in the richest green. Vegetation of every kind springs into wonderful activity; the birds seem filled with new life; multitudes of frogs come from no one knows where and revel in every pond and puddle to be seen in the level fields. During the next three or four months India is a beautiful country, clothed everywhere in the richest green, and filled

with every form of active and joyous life. The rain does not fall constantly, but one or more showers may be expected every day. The evenings and mornings are delightful, and in no land do the clouds present a grander spectacle than when banked up against the western sky at sunset, with great billowy edges upturned toward the setting sun and glowing in the rich light with which its evening rays bathe a tropical landscape.

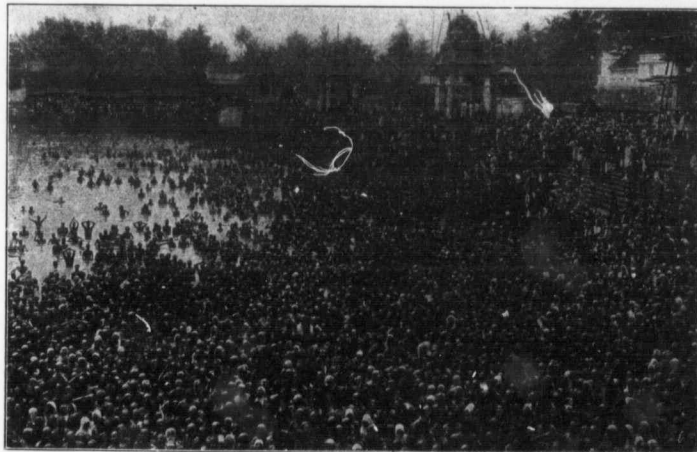
The climate of India is not so great a foe to life and health as is generally supposed. Very much of the ill health of Europeans in India can be traced to their defiance of the simplest laws of health, by persistently following a course of life in the tropics which would be barely within the limits of safety in the higher latitudes of Europe and America. The feverish haste which attends the lives of most persons in the Occidental world cannot be transferred to the quiet and calm environments of life in India, but the average European and American can live his three score years and ten in India and enjoy health and cheerful spirits if he adapts himself to his environment.

## An Exhibition of Idols

ONE of the most striking features of the Methodist Jubilee in India, was the exhibition of trophies, which Rev. T. B. Bradley thus describes in the *Christian Advocate*:

"The primary object of this exhibit was to present to the eye some of the most striking external evidences of the power of the Gospel to break the shackles of both hoary custom and false religions. Here were collected, from various parts of India, all manner of discarded articles which could illustrate the transforming and renewing power of the Christian religion. One hall was completely filled with such objects of interest.

indifference, furnishing a marvellous exhibition of the mighty triumphs of the Gospel in this land of heathen altars. There was Ram, the great warrior, recognized and adored by all Hindus, with the rescued Sita at his side; Kali the destroyer, her tongue still coated with a representation of blood, ragged mute and helpless; Krishna the comely profligate, conqueror of the hearts of millions of women in this vast land, exercised his charms in vain; Parvati stood disconsolate, and Surja, representing the rising sun, looked only on the splendors of Christian conquests; Ganesh with his elephant's head and many hands sat powerless, while Shiv, even with his share in



From "India and Christian Opportunity." By permission.  
Waiting to See the Golden God at Kumbhakonam, India—"As Sheep not Having a Shepherd"

"The most striking and impressive of the trophies were the idols. Including large and small there must have been over a hundred of these, varying in height from three feet to six inches—large idols which had held an honored place in temples, and small images which had occupied sacred nooks in homes of the people. There was the real graven image cut out of marble and stone, there was the deftly moulded idol made of brass or other metals, and there the rude figure of wood—all speaking of those who are like unto them.

"The chief gods of the Hindu pantheon sat there in dumb

the Hindu trinity, was unheeded; Amba, mother, claiming to prosper her devotees and protect their children, appealed mutely and in vain, and the imperturbable Buddha dreamed on, not knowing that his kingdom and philosophies alike were in India relics of a bygone age.

These images, and many others, spake volumes to those who saw and understood. Nor were the idols mere curiosities, for most of them had received years of devotion and adoration from a misguided people. Hindu shrines or temples had in some cases yielded their most sacred treasures to