



695. SHAWL-WEAVING IN INDIA.

itants as the whole of North America. About three-fourths of the people are *Hindoos*, who worship an imaginary god called *Brahma*. They also worship the River Ganges, and pilgrims travel long distances to bathe in its waters.

700. The *Hindoos* are divided into four classes of different ranks. These classes do not intermarry, eat together, or associate with each other; and one must always remain in the same rank or *caste* as his parents. The *Brahmins* are the highest caste.

701. Many English people live in India. Some come here to trade; others are officers and soldiers, sent by the British Government to preserve peace and order and to govern the country. Others, again, are missionaries, who have gone to India to teach the natives the Christian religion.

702. The people of India use elephants to carry heavy loads, and they sometimes ride on their backs. They also ride in an odd sort of conveyance called a *palanquin*, which is a covered seat placed on poles, and carried by men, who use the ends of the poles as handles.

703. *Calcutta*, the capital of India, is a great commercial city, situated on the lowlands near the mouth of the Ganges. *Bombay*, on the west coast, is a large city, connected with *Calcutta* by railway. *Madras* is a large city on the east coast.

704. *Benares* is a sacred city of the *Hindoos*, containing over one thousand idol temples. It is visited every year by crowds of pilgrims, many of whom come here to die. There are also many sacred bulls and monkeys in the city, which the people regard with great reverence. *Delhi* and *Lucknow* are large and noted cities.

705. The *Island of Ceylon* is a part of British India. It produces all kinds of spices; and in its dense forests are many elephants, lions, and tigers. This island is also noted for its costly gems and for the pearl fisheries on its coast.

BURMAH, SIAM, AND ANAM.

706. These countries, situated in the south-east of Asia, have a hot, moist climate, and a very luxuriant vegetation. The products are rice (which is the chief food of the people), cotton, indigo, various spices, tea, sugar, and tobacco.

707. In the dense forests are sandal-wood, rose-wood, and many kinds of palms. India-rubber, gutta-percha, and varnish are made from the gum of certain forest trees. The bamboo is used by the natives for many useful purposes.

708. Among the wild animals are the elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, buffalo, and monkey.

709. The people are nearly all idolaters, and the idol temples are the finest buildings in the country. Missionaries from our own and other countries are trying to teach these people the religion of the Bible.

710. *Siam* is the most important of these countries. The inhabitants live chiefly along the valley of the *Meinam*. They have customs which would appear exceedingly strange to us. In the presence of the king every one must lie flat on his