

crushing beneath its ponderous wheels the wretched victims devoted to destruction, to propitiate their bloodthirsty deities. Then may be seen devotees with iron hooks thrust through their flesh, swinging in the air amid the deafening shouts of the mad-dened throng, who regard the act as highly religious.

"Hinduism," says the Rev. Dr. Lathern "is the central fortress of civilized heathenism. The world has no other such closely compacted system of error. Hoary with age, it challenges attention on the ground of its great antiquity. Its temples are magnificent, and its ritual adapted to the popular sense. Millions of priests avow their belief in countless millions of gods, and all are pledged to the perpetuation of these false religions. Rising height above height, like the ranges and ridges of the Himalayás, the shadows of this stupendous and embattled structure seem to darken the day, and its proud spires to pierce the skies. Hinduism numbers 160,000,000 of adherents, and is one of the mightiest of earth's idolatries. One of the most eminent of modern missionaries, when first confronted by this towering and frowning citadel of error, realized keenly the sense of his own weakness and the utter insufficiency of human resource. A feeling came over him, such as he might have had if he had undertaken to cut down the primeval forest with the blade of a knife, to level the Himalayas with a pickaxe, or to empty the Ganges with a teacup. 'What field on the surface of the globe can be compared to Hindustan, sunk beneath the load of the most debasing superstitions, and the cruellest idolatries that ever polluted the surface of the earth, or brutalized the nature of man?'"

"Temples," continues Dr. Lathern, "are a prominent feature of Hinduism. Benares alone boasts ten thousand splendid fanes. India is a land of superb and stately structures. The Seringham pagoda was erected at a cost equal to that of St. Paul's. There are several groups of religious buildings in the Tanjore district, each one of which involved an expenditure equal to that of an English cathedral. Hindu temples, however, have little resemblance to the churches of Christendom. They seem to have more in common with the Hebrew temple at Jerusalem—court within court, terrace rising above terrace, and a diminished central site for the main sanctuary. The space occupied by a popular idol in India is usually flanked by extensive enclosures, comprising several acres. But as you pass through court after court to the hideous gloom of the contemptible sanctuary, the buildings diminish in size and elaboration.

"But what shall be said of the idols, in a land that is wholly given to idolatry? In addition to more exalted divinities, the