

following statement, which maintains that the support of idolatry has not been, entirely given up, but still exists to a very large extent :—

“In a late article, the *Madras Christian Herald* speaks of the Government patronage of idolatrous shrines in India, as something belonging to the past. A similar expression of opinion meets us in various quarters. It is quite erroneous. There are now 8292 idols and temples in the Madras Presidency, receiving from Government an annual payment of Rs. 876,780. In the Bombay Presidency, there are 26,586 temples and idols under State patronage; receiving grants to the amount of Rs. 305,875, to which, add the allowance for temple land, and we have a total for this presidency, of Rs. 698,593. The entire patronage of the Hon. Company, for all its territories, amounts to Rs. 1,712,586, between 17 and 18 lakhs paid annually in support of idolatry. We have no time at present to do more than just notice this error, but we hope to return to the subject shortly.”

The *Bombay Guardian* states in another Number :—

“Nothing can be more erroneous, then, than the idea which seems, to some extent, to have got possession of the public mind, that Government patronage of Hindu idolatry is a thing of the past. It exists; and to an enormous extent. There are no less than 26,589 temples and idols receiving the support of Government in Bombay Presidency alone. This figure is immense. The churches and chapels, the places of worship of all kinds, in the whole of Great Britain, are less in number than the idolatrous shrines receiving aid from Government in the Bombay Presidency. It is not the amount bestowed in aid that expresses the magnitude of the evil; it is the number of idols patronized. Everywhere, in every nook and corner of the land, there are shrines, the worshippers in which are well aware that Government aid is extended to them. Everywhere we find the people referring to the fact, that there is this connexion.

“There are a great many shrines in the land that would soon go to decay and be abandoned, if the responsibility of maintaining them rested with the people themselves; they do not care sufficiently about them to be at the expense of keeping them up; but this expense is met by Government either giving money

directly from the treasury, or lending its authority to insure the collection of the sums required. Government has the credit of giving a great deal that does not probably appear in the financial accounts of the Company.

“We do hope that the English public will soon awake to a perception of the facts of the case, and no longer indulge the pleasing hallucination, that the Government patronage of Hindu idolatry is a thing of the olden time. Even the *London Times* seems to partake the common misapprehension. We know that there are gentlemen, in the service of the Honourable Company, to whom it is a source of deepest pain, that they should be obliged to have pecuniary transactions with Hindu idol shrines. Complaints, for instance, are sometimes made to magistrates, that the Poojari of a certain temple, enjoying support from Government, does not perform the daily worship and ablation of the idol; and, in these cases, it is the duty of the magistrate to summon the offender, admonish him for his neglect of the idol, and compel him to perform the diurnal pooja.”

The following instance of reported participation on a late occasion, in heathen ceremonies, is published in the same paper :—

“It is stated, without comment, by the *Pooné Observer*, that a couple of sheep were sacrificed the other day, in honour of the successful conveyance of a locomotive engine to the top of the Bhoire Ghaut. The sheep were brought up on the engine, and were then offered in sacrifice.”

The nature of the surrender by Government of the support of the worship of Juggernaut, is thus explained :—

“On the last day of his Indian administration Lord Dalhousie signed a minute, by virtue of which, the last link that bound the Company to the ear of Juggernaut was ostensibly severed. Long before, the Government had given up the revenue it derived from the pilgrim tax; but the annual contribution in support of the idol, its priests, temple, festivals, &c., had continued to be paid. What was the device by which this last link was severed? It was to invest a sufficient sum of money in a piece of ground, the annual produce of which would be equal to the sum that had been yearly paid in support of the idol; and to make over this land in perpetuity to the administrators of the temple. Opinions