

widest part, is a mile and a half in breadth. The native part of the city is to the north, and it exhibits a striking contrast with the part inhabited by Europeans. It is extensive and populous. The streets are narrow, dirty, and unpaved. Some of the houses are built of brick, with two stories, and flat-terraced roofs; but the greater number are mere mud cottages, the sides of which are formed of mats, bamboos, and other frail and combustible materials; hence, we sometimes hear of fires by which thousands of these slight habitations are consumed in a few hours.

By a census recently taken, it was ascertained that in Calcutta and its suburbs there are 500,000 inhabitants; and it is supposed that within a circle of five miles radius, there are 500,000 more. Of this million of human beings, 650,000 are Hindoos, 300,000 Mussulmans, and the remainder consists of people of various nations. Armenians, Jews, Arabs, Parsees, Mugs, Chinese, Malays, with Europeans and their descendants. Including the Indo-Britons, and a few Greeks and Armenians, there are about 10,000, or one in a hundred of the whole population, nominal christians, of whom about two-thirds are Protestants, and one third Roman Catholics. The number of persons entering into the city every day, from the surrounding country, has been ascertained to be 100,000; and the writer of these lines was assured, many years ago, by a friend who had long resided there, that the greatest thoroughfares of London were far less crowded than the streets and bazaars of Calcutta. It is however, at the great annual festivals, reference to which has so often been made in our pages, that the vastness of the population is most strikingly apparent. Missionaries, who have been present on these occasions, describe the impressions produced on their minds by the immense concourse of human beings then congregated, as quite overwhelming.

At the feast of Doorga Poojah all the Hindoos assemble, and at the feast of the Mohurram all the Mohammedans;—and if these two festivals should happen

to occur at the same period of the year, as they sometimes do, it is impossible to convey any adequate conception of the scene. Thousand on thousands, myriad on myriads, pass in procession through the long streets of the magnificent city, all mad upon their idols, or worked up to phrenzy in favour of their prophet, presenting at once the most melancholy and the most heart-stirring spectacle upon which the eye can rest.

CITY OF PEKING.

PEKING, the capital of the empire of China. Its name signifies the Northern Court, to distinguish it from Nanking, the Southern Court, where the emperor formerly resided. This capital forms an oblong square, standing in a fertile plain, and is divided into two cities, one inhabited by Chinese, the other by Tartars. These two cities are nearly 14 miles in circuit, the walls are 28 feet high, 24 thick at the base, and 12 at the top; and there are spacious towers at 70 feet distance from each other. The gates are high, and well arched, supporting buildings of nine stories high; they are nine in number, three in the south wall, and two in each of the other sides. The middle gate, on the south side, opens into the Tartar, or imperial city, which is surrounded by a wall of large red polished bricks, 20 feet high, and contains the imperial palace and gardens, the public offices, lodgings for the ministers, the eunuchs, artificers and tradesmen belonging to the court. The streets are amazingly thronged, and to an European it is a curious sight for not one Chinese female is to be seen among them. All the great streets are guarded by soldiers, who patrol night and day with swords by their sides, and whips in their hands, to chastise those who make any disturbance, or take them into custody. The temples and towers of Peking are so numerous, that it is difficult to count them. Provisions of all kinds are plentiful, they being, as well as the merchandise, brought from all parts by canals from the rivers. Population 2,000,000.