

## ANNUAL REPORT.

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THERE is a striking truth conveyed by these words of the Prophet,—  
“*Where there is no Vision the people perish.*” And when we read them,  
our minds turn to the many millions of our race, who are sitting in the  
valley of the shadow of Death—the slaves of debasing and cruel super-  
stition, and utterly ignorant of “*the more excellent way.*”

We pity them in their miserable bondage; we pray and long for the  
coming of that time when the light of the truth—“*the day-spring from  
on high shall visit them;*” when “*the Lord shall arise upon them, and His  
glory shall be seen upon them;*” and we rejoice in the anxiety manifested,  
and the efforts made, by the people of God, to send the glorious Gospel  
to them.

All our sympathies are awakened in their behalf, when we read  
such a statement as that made by the Rev. W. Ward, of the Serampore  
Mission:—

“That many mothers, in fulfilment of a vow, entered into for the purpose of  
procuring the blessing of children, drown their first born in the rivers of India.

“When the child is two or three years old, the mother takes it to the river,  
encourages it to enter, as though about to bathe it, but suffers it to pass into the midst  
of the current, when she abandons it, and stands an inactive spectator, beholding the  
struggles, and hearing the screams of her perishing infant.

“At Sangar Island, formerly, mothers were seen casting their living offspring  
amongst a number of alligators, and standing to gaze at these monsters quarrelling for  
their prey, beholding the writhing infant in the jaws of the successful animal, and  
standing motionless while it was breaking the bones and sucking the blood of the poor  
innocent.”

Or when we read in the narrative of Claudius Buchanan, the  
expressive observation:—

“We know that we are approaching Juggernaut, and yet we are more than fifty  
miles from it—by the *human bones* which we have seen for some days strewed by  
the way.”

And we think that surely no duty is more imperative than that of  
sending the Gospel to these benighted lands, that such atrocities may  
be done away with, seeing that it is because there is no Vision, that  
thus the people perish.

Statements like these make a deep impression, for they come to us  
upon authority which we cannot question; they are, besides, new to