

A MARTYR'S PRAYER.

"Oh, Lord, we rejoice in persecution, as Thou has taught us; and as thou knowest it is harder to live a martyr life than to die a martyr death, grant us grace to offer this smaller service acceptably when Thou shalt call upon us. Should any, like Peter, deny Thee in the hour of trial, oh, Lord, wilt Thou turn and look upon him, and by that look call him into the life of witness with the power with which thy disciple of old was called."

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Six weeks after this prayer was offered at a public meeting, the petitioner died for his faith in the recent massacres of native Christians in North China.

—*Woman's Missionary Friend.*

HINDUISM—What a strange religion it is which leads men to be so indifferent to the welfare and even the life of human beings, and yet so scrupulous in their care of dumb animals. In Hinduism animals are more sacred than men. A correspondent, himself a Hindu, tells the following story in the *Madras Mail*: "The wife of a Brahman youth died of fever. Her parents and other relations would not so much as approach her or touch her in the last moments. None of her relations would consent to convey the body to the place of cremation! and had it not been for the timely help rendered by a member of the Social Reform Association, and a few others, the poor husband would have been put to the worst inconvenience imaginable in the matter of his wife's funeral. If we turned our eyes at that moment in another direction, we should have beheld another spectacle—the funeral procession of a dead sacred bull. While the human corpse was comparatively—shall I not say shamefully?—neglected, hundreds of people might be seen flocking round the cart laden with the remains of the bull. The previous night, on the other side of the main canal, the sacred bull was run over by a train and killed on the spot. So, from early morning, preparations were made to give his holiness—the bull—an honorable burial, and in due time a big procession with the necessary accompaniments of tom-toms, etc., conducted his body to the grave.—*The Missionary Herald*

RELATIVE GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY.—Sir Charles Elliott, at one time lieutenant-governor of Bengal, in a recent address in England, says:—"While the general population has grown by twenty per cent., and the number of Christians of all denominations by sixty per cent., the increase of Protestant Christians has been one hundred and forty-five per cent." Such a statement from so eminent an official ought to silence detractors who talk of "the fruitlessness of foreign missions."—*The Missionary.*

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