

racks, banks, and Government offices. In this far-off place are two subscribers to this MAGAZINE.

Dr. Lathern thus describes the religious aspect of Ceylon:—

"Buddhism has been a perpetual blight and no blessing to Ceylon. For ages it has been the dominant faith. There has been ample time for the fullest experiment. No region could be more favourable or fitting for its development. It signally adapts itself to each surrounding scene. Floral offerings are the special demand for Gautama's service of worship; and in this island everlasting spring abides. Flowers are in constant bloom. Ceylon is 'the resplendent,' the fairest 'gem of the Indian Ocean,' and 'the brightest pearl on the brow of India.' From central peak to the border of its snow-white coral, the land is pencilled in lines of soft and exquisite beauty. Language fails to depict the charm and fascination of scenery and climate. In the midst of mingled grandeur and loveliness, perfumed by the fragrance of cinnamon groves, Buddhism has erected its stately temples. Through gorgeous grounds, avenues of palms and other tropical foliage, the worshippers pass into the spacious sanctuary of idolatry. Yellow-robed priests chant the doctrines of their national creed. But metaphysical subtleties are not comprehended by the mass of the people; and even moral inculcations have but little practical influence upon their hearts or lives. Men and women place bright garlands upon the altar, and bow before images of hard and hideous form and feature. There is no power to regenerate and save. A stanza of Heber's hymn written in the early days of missionary enterprise, still tells the sad story:—

'What though the spicy breezes
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle;
Though every prospect pleases,
And only man is vile;
In vain, with lavish kindness,
The gifts of God are strewn;
The heathen in his blindness
Bows down to wood and stone.'

Our smaller cuts illustrate some of the trades and occupations of the vast and varied population of that land. The hill tribes of the Himalayas are a much more vigorous and warlike race than those of the plains. In the portrait of Her Highness the Begum of Secunder, we have a type of the ancient ruling dynasty—astute, keen, crafty, cruel. Many of them are now pensioners of the British Crown, and their quondam subjects find the rule of their conquerors much more just and beneficent than that of their native princes.

The Kootub Minar is a tall shaft of stone, two hundred and thirty-eight feet high, and is said to be the highest column