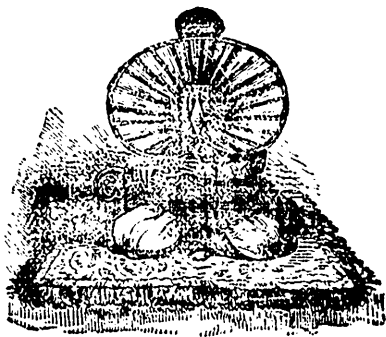


earthquake, which was very frightful to all who saw it.



The tooth looks more as if it belonged to an elephant than a man. It looks like nothing more than a very yellow piece of ivory; but when on great occasions the priests exhibit it to the people, carefully placed on golden lotus leaves, thousands throng to see it, making the most adoring gestures, and filling the air with their shouts. Wouldn't you like to help teach these people how foolish such things are.

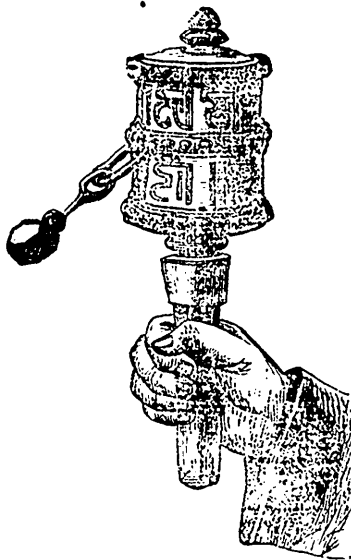
HEATHEN PRAYERS.

A great many persons who feel the need of prayer do not like to take the trouble or the time to pray. They want some blessing, but they do not want to kneel down humbly and ask for it. Some of the heathen have invented a way by which they hope to get the benefit of prayers without much effort on their own part. They have machines that do the praying for them. Jesus Christ taught his disciples that men are not heard for their much speaking; yet millions of persons do not believe this. They fancy that the oftener a prayer can be repeated the more effect it will have; and they suppose moreover, that it is not necessary in praying to think about the petition offered. All that is needful, as they imagine, is that the request be presented to the god as many times as possible. So they make these praying machines, having a hollow

space inside of a drum, which is so fixed as to revolve like a wheel. In this space they crowd as many printed or written prayers as possible, and then set the drum whirling. Every turn is a prayer, and of course they count up very rapidly.

The picture on this page represents the hand-machine. It can be carried where ever the owner goes, and he can keep it whirling while he is riding, or talking, or trading in the market. The Llamas, or priests, of Thibet, as well as the people when they pass their temples stretch out their hands and set these cylinders spinning. In some parts of Thibet the wheels are arranged with a crank so as to be turned by water-power; and in this way the praying goes on day and night, while the people are working or sleeping.

A missionary in the interior of China, who had seen some of these praying machines in use in Thibet, sends to *China's Millions* an account of two prayer-meetings he had attended. The first one was among the heathen, and he describes it thus:



HAND PRAYING MACHINE.