

structed by government at the expense of the people, to convey the filth away, yet they are the nastiest things possible, containing the carrion of dead dogs, bandy-coots, rats, and stagnant water, from which proceed an impure air, thus causing persons to fall victims to an early grave.

The houses of the natives are so rudely erected as to exclude the atmosphere from entering in. In fact, the residences of the natives are not houses, but dungeons, or dark cellars, not adapted for rational creatures to live in, but for beasts in the field. Go to their houses and see; although the gracious God has given them light to enjoy, they shut out the light and air from their rooms. Can you see any thing in them? No; you must have a torch, or light, to guide your way into the different apartments, otherwise you will butt your head against a wall, or beams, and thus endanger your neck. You will not see anything in their houses but swarms of noisy, singing misquitos, or innumerable poisonous scorpions creeping on the floor, or taking up their abode in the hollow of the bamboos, used as rafters to their houses. The natives of the pettah build such places for their habitation.

My object, however, in bringing before you this lecture is not so much to describe the houses of the pettah, and its suburbs, as much as to point out to you the bad morals that prevail among the people of the place.

In speaking of the character of the people of the pettah, I shall give a few of the bad practices observed by them; by which you will unhesitatingly know, and form a model of, their character.

1. *Lying* is a most common practice among the Hindoos of the pettah; for they think that by telling lies only they will gain honour and fame in this world. Go to a draper, and ask him to give you a pair of cloths, he would then show you some of the musters that he has; and when you have fixed your choice, and ask him to let you know

the price thereof, the draper would first look at your dress, to find out whether you are a man of wealth or not; and if he thought you rich, he would then state the price of the cloth to be double as much as the cloth was worth. When you tell him you cannot give so much for it, he will swear by his *lingum*, (or his god,) that the real price of the cloth is so much; when you tell him that you will not give him that amount, he will willingly agree to give the cloth for a much less price than he had sworn to. This is an illustration of the lying which is very common amongst the Hindoos of the pettah.

2. *Egotism* is greatly nourished among the people of the pettah. In places where half a dozen persons are assembled, you hear nothing but the great deeds of deception which their forefathers have played, of their ancestors' wealth, and all sorts of nonsense.

3. *Drunkness* prevails nearly among all classes.

4. Another of the bad customs is the carrying on of injurious feasts.

I take, for an example, the feast just now celebrated by the Hindoos in general, but especially at this place by the people of the pettah. By the observance of this feast people become wicked. It makes them unfit for everything relating to this world, and the world to come. The people of the pettah would buy a whole hell for themselves by the heavy expenses of the observance of their feast, rather than give a single cash for better purposes, such as the erection of public schools, or institutions for the improvement of the young, or for the improvement of their roads for their own comfort.

In conclusion, I beg to say, it is not my intention to degrade the people by telling you that they are so and so, nor to hold them up to contempt and ridicule; but my aim is, that you, my honoured fellow-students, may keep yourselves afar from those follies which the people of the pettah encourage and assist. I pray you avoid committing