

lose the knowledge of the true God. We are sure there is scarcely a child who reads this Magazine but will see how well idol worshippers deserve the name of "fools," a name given to them by that God who has taught us to deplore their sins, far more deeply than we despise their weakness. You must remember that there is something about a false worship far too awful merely to be smiled at. In Hindostan, for example, where gods are far more in number, they are a'so worse in character than men. The religion of the people, consequently, debases and pollutes their minds, instead of leading them to holiness. We shall mention a few of the vices of the Hindoos—vices, all of which are practised by every one among them, who has the opportunity and the temptation. Habitual falsehood and deceit, pride, tyranny, disobedience to parents, covetousness, gambling, ingratitude, perjury, cruelty, and revenge, often ending in secret murder—these are some of their leading vices, all of which are patronised by their false gods. It is said that in the single province of Bengal, ten thousand children are destroyed every month, and private murders of grown up persons are frequently committed over all the land; and all this among a people without natural energy of character, and not given to war, but thoroughly debased and ruined by a false religion.

#### I N D R A .

The three chief gods of the Hindoos referred to above, are Brahma, Vishnoo, and Shiva. Shiva is the detestable deity already mentioned as the destroyer. Indra, they say, was produced from Brahma, and is called the king of heaven. "His character is of the dark kind," says Dr. Marshman; "fearful, envious, and even thievish." He is represented as standing in great awe of the Brahmins, that is, of the priests among the Hindoos. A very child may see that these priests have invented this notion for the sake of their own power over the wretched people.

They say that once Indra laughed at some little Brah-