

The kitchen and "offices" are in the "compound," or enclosed ground to the side or rear of the house: and here the large staff of native servants, nearly all men, obtain accommodation. Shrubs of much beauty and variety, mingled with feathery palms and acacias, render the compound attractive, and frequently a garden is formed, with soft lawns and beds of flowers. But unless it is plentifully watered by artificial irrigation, its appearance is anything but inviting.

India presents one of the most important mission fields in the world. With a civilization and a literature going back to long before the time of Christ; with its highly cultivated Brahmin



A BOMBAY BRAHMIN.

caste and a vast substratum of human wretchedness, it presents at once extraordinary difficulties and remarkable facilities for the diffusion of the Gospel. While the proud Brahmin looks down from the heights of a lofty scorn on his conquerors, who were naked savages at a time when the ancient pundits of India were then learned sages, yet now, as in the days of the personal ministry of our Lord, the common people, weary with waiting for a healer of their woes, hear gladly the Word of Life.

The Hindus, or original natives of India, whether professedly Buddhist or Brahmins, are pagans, and consequently idolaters. They build splendid temples to the honour of their numerous gods, in which are set up idols of gold, silver, brass, wood and stone, frequently of the most hideous and repulsive form.

To these idol shrines are brought offerings of food, fruit and flowers; and although the gods cannot appropriate the offerings, the priests in attendance, who live in ease and indolence, can; and thus the simple people are deceived. On the occasion of their great festivals, when the people congregate to the number of tens of thousands, the sin and folly of these miserable idolaters are most apparent. Then may be heard the wild and frantic shouts of the multitude as they drag along the car of Juggernaut,