

You often hear of India and its cruelties, and of all lands there is none where more cruelties are committed. Here are 133 millions of idolaters, serving no fewer than 330 millions of gods. It is on the north of this country where the river Ganges flows. It is worshipped by the Hindoos, who fancy that if they can bathe in it, they will wash away their sins, or if they can die with their feet in it, they will go bright and glorious to heaven. Great numbers of pilgrims visit it every year.

On the western coast of India is the temple of Juggernaut, about which your friends can tell you. Once every year thousands of people go up there to worship. A great car is dragged out, in which the idol rides, and the poor infatuated people often throw themselves beneath its wheels, and are crushed to death. The whole plain round the temple is covered with the whitened bones of the idol's victims. To the south of this is a part of the country where a people live who are called the Devil worshippers. They have temples to his honor, and offer to him many sacrifices. There are several Missionaries in India, but very few in comparison to the wants of the people. To the north of India is THIBET. There they worship what they call the Grand Lama. He is a human being, but receives the same worship as a god. He is said to be possessed of everlasting youth, and sits upon a sort of throne in a temple dedicated to him, and to which the people are admitted. He has vast numbers of priests, who delude the people sadly. He does appear always to be young, but the way it is managed is this: whenever one lama gets too old, he is removed by the priests, and another set up in his place. In this way they have kept up a succession for some hundred years. Very little, if anything, is being done for the heathen there.

To the north again of this is CHINESE TARTARY, and still further,

ASIATIC RUSSIA and SIBERIA. In these a mixture of superstition exists. There are Buddhists, members of the Greek Church, Mohammedans, and followers of Confucius, a Chinese philosopher. There have been Protestant and Catholic missions in all these parts, but the former are at present stopped.

Look now for CHINA. In that country is to be found just one half of the heathen world, above 300,000,000 of people. They all speak the same language, and are under the same government, so that the Bible printed in their language, can be circulated through, and read by one half of the heathen world. Dr. Morrison, of whom your friends will tell you, translated it some years ago, and we are now full of hope that ere long it will be made known to all the people.

Hitherto China has been closed against us, but owing to favourable openings arising from the late war, we have now part access to it. A few Missionaries are placed in the positions allowed to them, and a large number of tracts have been spread amongst the people. The people in religion may be divided into three classes:—There are those that follow the State religion, which is that taught by Confucius, a philosopher who lived in China about the same time as Jeremiah lived in Palestine. In their religion there are innumerable gods acknowledged, and many sacrifices offered. Then there is the Buddhist religion which is like that in Thibet; and then the Taouists, another class of superstitious idolaters.

The Roman Catholics had Missionaries here some hundred years ago, but they are now forbidden the country. In consequence of the strict laws shutting out Europeans and Christians, the Protestants have never been able to get a footing in the heart of this great empire: but now the way is open, and we are doing all we can. South of China are BURMAH and SIAM, and other countries, all interesting,