

with suspicion. But even here the Brahma Samaj has a branch society, which is slowly exerting an influence similar to that which the parent society exercises. Such an influence, wherever it exists, although not all that christians desire, yet, so far as it goes, is, to a large extent salutary. It is mixed up with error, but nevertheless, contains many noble principles, the operation of which upon the hearts and consciences of the natives cannot fail to raise them far above the degraded social and spiritual condition in which, for ages, they have remained. Better, far better, that all India should attach itself to the Brahma Samaj than its inhabitants should blindly persist in the worship of Siva, and Krishna, and Ram, and should continue benighted by the fatal errors which such worship sanctions. While it is a fact, that Hinduism is still kept up by the people generally in the temples at the sacred wells and tanks, on the ghats, and in the holy streams, with enthusiasm, yet it is, I believe, indisputable, that there are thousands of persons, in this city alone, who are not satisfied with their rites and devotions; and, although, for the sake of appearance, they do as others do, they have no faith in idolatry. Furthermore, there are some who have entirely abandoned it, except under certain circumstances, when the necessity of their position has got the better of their convictions, and who, nevertheless, have not outwardly embraced a better creed, nor have any immediate intention of doing so. This is an age of temple building, in Benares and in all this part of India, such as has not been known, perhaps since the period preceding the Mahomedan rule and succeeding the decline and extinction of Buddhism in India; and yet, it is an age of uneasiness, anxiety, and alarm, amongst all ranks of rigid Hindus. These latter know well that they are erecting temples in vain, and that while they are contributing to the outward splendor of their religion, its inner life is being gradually undermined and destroyed; for the thought constantly

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