

ing upon the sky, we refer to a remark of a Hindu B. A. "See," said he, "what do you think of this for a bride? We know it's wrong, but what are we to do. Ah, how true it is--"We are the same our fathers have been."

In all the Madras Presidency there is only one prominent man who dares to endure persecution for the sake of enlightening his countrymen in regard to the heartless intrigues, natural horrors and appalling crimes which accompany *child-marriage*. This man, K. Veerasalingam, Pandit, is devoting his wealth to the alleviation of the crying misery of the wretched child widows and is endeavouring through press and platform to convert to his views the ignorant masses and the learned pandits who are "really fools through the inspiration of the demon of customs."

English education and Western thought may be gradually undermining the ancient customs but the external aspect of Hindu society is about the same. Even those who know that eclipses are *not* caused by the great snake swallowing the moon—even these are careful when they see the shadows to observe all the prescribed fasting and bathing, giving and praying. The people of India still bow down to stocks and stones and the country is still swayed by vile charlatans and ignorant priests.

The battle has long been waged. The outer walls of the fortress of Hinduism—idolatry and caste—have long been bombarded. But the inner walls, the pantheistic philosophy and the primary conception of God as a "*cold distinctionless impersonality*" (to which conception together with the conclusions derived therefrom may be attributed many of the prevailing contradictions and cruel customs)—these must be assailed and conquered ere India can be won for Christ.

" 'Tis time new light should dawn
From new revealings to a race
Weighed down so long."

What is the need of the hour? Men, men who are able to study the situation, to grasp it, men of brave hearts, keen minds, and above all of unflinching faith in the power of the Gospel of Jesus, our Lord.

MABEL E. ARCHIBALD.

Chicacole, India, Jan. 16, 1900.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the ATHENÆUM

Sir:—A few weeks ago every student in college was looking forward to March 16th when Acadia and Dalhousie were expected to meet again in forensic contest, and the fact that there will be no Inter-collegiate Debate this year is doubtless a source of regret to a large