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FRIDAY.....NOV. 23, 1880

India - Ancient and Modern.
 The ancient religion of India, taught in the holy Vedas, by Manon, before it was corrupted by the Brahmin priesthood, admitted but one God—Him who exists by himself, who is in all, because all is in Him, He being without visible parts, eternal, the soul of all things, and whom none can comprehend. The mighty attributes of Deity, omnipresence and omnipotence, are ascribed to Him, also the creation of the earth from an infinite void, and its launching into space. The Hindoo theologians distinguished God in two situations—in the first he is Zeus, God not operating, not revealed—Narayana, him who moveth upon the waters." In the second situation, Zeus becomes Brahma, God revealed and operating. According to this antique faith, matter is subject to the same laws of existence and decomposition as vegetables and animals; after the period of life comes the period of dissolution—everything decays, all returns to chaos; the harmony of worlds is at an end; earth, air, water, and light mix and become extinct. It is the Pralaya, the destruction of all that exists; but there is a germ, which purifies itself by repose till the day when Brahma comes to develop it, to give it life, the creative power; and to produce the worlds which commence little by little to form, to grow, and to operate, followed by the same repose and the same regeneration. These doctrines lie at the basis of the modern theory of Evolution, now so generally accepted by scientists. Also in complete harmony with modern science this ancient theology declares the period of adition and reconstruction of worlds to correspond to the period of 4,320,000 human years. The Pralaya, or epoch of dissolution, is of equal length. The sacred books declare that the germ of matter is fecundated by Brahma himself; Nature develops the elements. As the night of Brahma approached its end, before proceeding to create this world, according to the Vedas, the Lord resolved to people heaven with beings born of Himself and sharing His attributes. So the angels sprang from His thought, and hastened to arrange themselves about His throne. But scarcely had this happened when the inferior angels, who had been assigned the most distant heavens, rebelled, with Vasuki at their head. Being chased from heaven into hell, they were named "Rakshasas," the cursed, says the Baga-veda Gita. When Zeus unrevenged became Brahma, operating and creating, three persons revealed themselves in him the Trimourti—Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva—or the creating, the preserving, the transforming principle. Brahma formed man and woman out of the dust of himself. He named them Adima and Heva, and gave them for a home the island of Ceylon. Here for a time they were quite content, but at length the man grew restless, and persuaded the timid Heva to explore the country with him outside their garden domain. When they reached the limits of the island and beheld a beautiful unknown land looming up beyond a narrow sea, and which they might reach by a rocky isthmus path, Heva rmonstrated against their going further, instead wept and prayed, and pleaded the commands of her Lord, but watching her up in his arms, Adima boldly set out on the narrow path, and as his foot touched the new country, their peaceful island home receded from their vision like a mirage. Adima gave himself up to ecstasies of despair, but Heva kuelled and prayed; and God had mercy on them. Such is the Vedic rendering of our Bible account of the fall of man.

The Vedas also recount the history of the patriarch Adijaris, offering up his only son; a legend agreeing in almost every particular with the Bible narrative of Abraham, the "father of the faithful."

The Vedas declare the souls of men to be emanations from the soul of Brahma. In the hour of the decomposition of the body, they are reabsorbed into the Divine Essence, and this reabsorption is called Nirvana. The Hindoos do not admit the eternity of punishment

—with them the guilty, after expiating their crimes in hell, undergo several transformations, and re-enter the spiritual nature of Brahma after being thus purified of their transgressions. The Hindoo religion teaches its votaries to propitiate an offended deity with offerings, by prayers, fastings, abstinences, bodily mortifications and mutilations, rich gifts to the priests, and pilgrimages to the sacred river Ganges, or other holy places. The Fakirs are a species of fanatics, who mutilate themselves horribly, supposing thus to please God.

The theology of the Vedas is the terrible *ovum* whence issued Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism. Though pure and simple in its inception, it has become a tissue of horrible and corrupt superstitions in the hands of the Brahminial priesthood, who ruthlessly degraded the people in order more effectually to rule them. It was the Brahmins who created the famed castes of India—themselves, greedy and aspiring priests, being always high, or first caste; exclusion from all caste being the severest penalty known to their laws. This system of caste, an iron despotism, which makes progress impossible while it exists, is clung to by the Hindoos as if it were an open sesame to paradise. They humbly themselves to their British masters, and submit to any exactions, but if the English Lord, possessed by a brief fit of philanthropy, attempts to disregard the strict laws of caste, to succor a Pariah, an outcast, to abolish the car of "Juggernaut," great is the outcry, maddening the natives, to revolt, burn, kill, ravage, and fight to the death.

According to the account of a recent French traveler, nothing can exceed the horror of the self-tortures inflicted by the Fakirs, when this car of Juggernaut, containing the hideous image of the God Siva, makes its annual progress. To prostrate themselves in order to be passed over by the sixteen wheels of this car is the commonest form of torture. Another festival of monstrous superstition is the "Nag Panchmi," or feast of serpents at Bombay. The Hindoos worship the serpent as they do Siva, the destroyer, and at the season of the year when the cobras are most dangerous, they celebrate this festival, decking their houses with flowers, praying for deliverance from the bites of serpents, and offering rice and sugar in the temples, where one of the grand ceremonies is feeding the cobras with buffaloes' milk, of which they are very fond, by means of "Sapralalala," of snake-charmers.

But though India is now steeped in superstition though British masters crush her pride and humble her dignity in the dust, though sunk in apathy, servile and passive, yet India has a past grandeur, more ancient than any other land the sun shines on. Happily for modern thought all vestiges of her glorious achievements are not yet obliterated. She has still her manuscript, till her ruins, still her Sanskrit tongue. And savants say: "It (the Sanskrit) is a language more copious than the Greek, and more exquisitely refined than either," also, that the Sanskrit is the parent stock from which came the Greek language as well as the Latin; and that ancient India is the parent of civilization. Instead of Egypt being the fountain of learning, Meves, her founder, obtained his lore and laws from the institutions of Manon in India; hence the Justinian Code, the Pandects, the Code Napoleon, the Common Law of England, Pythagoras and Plato, the Samian Sage, and the Prophet of Mecca, all drew from this fountain.

An extract from the ancient books of some of the precepts of Christa, the Hindoo incarnation of Vishnu, may give the reader some notion of the wisdom which pervaded the philosophy of the prehistoric era in which the Vedas were written:

"Men who have no self-command are not capable of fulfilling their duties. Pleasure and riches should be renounced when not approved by conscience.

"The wrongs we inflict upon our neighbors follow us like our shadows. The knowledge of man is but vanity; all his best actions are illusory when he knows not to ascribe them to God.

"Love of his fellow-creatures should be the ruling principle of the just man in all his works, for such weigh must in the celestial balances.

"He who is humble in heart and spirit, is loved of God; he has need of nothing more.

"As the body is strengthened by muscles, the soul is fortified by virtues.

"As the earth supports those who trample it under foot, and rend its bosom with the plow, so should we return good for evil.

"Science is useless to a man without judgment, as a mirror to a blind man.

"If you frequent the society of the good your example is useless; fear not

to dwell amidst the wicked for their conversion.

"When we die, our riches remain behind; our relatives and our friends only follow us to the tomb; but our virtues and our vices, our good actions and our faults follow us to the other life."

Chivalry had its origin in India, and the magnificence of fabulous wealth created perfect elysiums of sensual enjoyment. When those who now rule her as conquerors were a mere horde of savages, the luxurious and learned Hindoos dwelt in stately palaces, cultivated high art, and sought to solve, with subtle analysis, the highest problems of metaphysics and mathematics. And the moderns have yet to excel the grandeur of her architecture, the splendor of her material life, and the profundity of her intellectual researches.

A lethargy rests upon the descendants of this ancient people, deep as the sleep of exhaustion. Let us hope they will one day resume the energies that have fecundated the world, and prove their right to the title of "Children of the Sun and Moon."

Seisorkintanus.
 The butterfly never goes back on its grub.
 It is a young man who knows how to spell "companys."
 The air on the Mexican plateau is said to be quite a tonic to the weak-lunged—platensmic, as it were.
 The girl who bangs her hair often makes the wife who bangs her husband.
 Much as he loves roast beef, John Bull is continually getting into an Irish stew.
 A bonnet is sometimes said to have a saucy look. Something like a hood-wink, you know, and therefore a blind.
 Have you hunted up your ulster?—*Boston Post.* Can't find the ticket, say nothing about the ulster—*New Haven Register.*
 The first opera performance we recall was that wherein the morning stars sang together. It was a matinee, you will observe.
 One of the saddest things of Lieutenant Selwaika's Polar expedition is the fact that its leader is going to lecture about it.
 This paper is down on all rings.—*Exchange.* What is the matter with the engagement ring? Or the ring of the dinner bell?
 Student of history—"Yes, George Washington was the Father of his Country. Old man Washington was the father of George."
 The mince pie is a little backward this year, and fears are entertained that the early frosts have injured the vines.
 "Give me the hand that will never deceive me," sings the poet. He wants the cards stocked so as to bring the four aces into his fist.
 The young woman who witnessed her young man carried away by a balloon saw her beau of promise in the sky.
 The Brooklyn *Eagle* tells a story of a man who threw up his hat and yelled "imrral" when his wife was hanged. Few men would have been so honest.
 Even the wisest is sometimes a fool. For example, the philosopher who wore his spectacles when asleep that he might recognize the friends he might see in his dreams.
 Wonder what baby would think it worth his while to go through the wear and tear of growing up, if he knew that he were to become a freight brakeman or a druggist's clerk!
 The ladies wear their hats very large this season and their bonnets very small. As usual, they wear their bonnets in the street and their hats at the church.
 A Boston lawyer advertises: "Divorces legally and promptly obtained upon the lowest terms and on installments." An installment divorce must be only an aggravation, we should think.
 The pass of Thermopylae that Leonidas and his fellows held was probably like all other passes—issued upon condition that they assumed all risk of accident and damage to person and property.
 The man who died game was never known to quail.—*Boston Transcript.*
 No; but woodcock his gun at the wrong time, and now he is an angel without a shooting jacket.
 The tall poets should chip in and erect a monument to the man who invented the names of the month. Where would they be if he had not put in September to rhyme with remember?
 The Walla Walla *Watchman* says: Northern Idaho voted strong for annexation and we hope the day will come when Washington will be a grand State, with the Blue mountains and majestic Columbia on the south, 40th parallel on the north, the Pacific ocean on the west, and the Rocky mountains on the east, as her boundary lines, with Yakima City for its capital, Seattle, the New York, and Walla Walla the Chicago, of the far distant West.
 Diptheria, prevalent at Columbus, Klickitat county, W. T., in the family of Mr. Helm.

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