

One of the most abominable festivals ever celebrated is just now ended: it is the annual festival of the Holey, and always lasts 4 or 5 days. A part of the ceremonies is the worship of Shree, which was performed on the night of the 11th inst, large holes having been dug by the road side, in which fires were made. A plain English description of the general character of the festival cannot be given. The following sentences which I have thrown together in easy Latin, will give a faint shade of this black and abominable piece:

*Senes, jermos atque pueri, - omnium aetatum omnes
et Brahmanes et qui in infernis habitant, vestitus rubro et
flavo colore maculatis amicti, turba promiscua progredi-
entur. Hi colores sic enim audiui) monstruosa atque
viride semen designant! In feminas quo fute apud eas
videntur, agram pigmento rubro commistum, per syrin-
gem epistam inspiciunt. Nocte, multorum agmine facti,
spurcificos versus cantantes, formulasque voces obscenas, in
quibus praecepta membri (scilicet generationis) virilis et
libris nomina ore rotundo edentes, per vias publicas
cedunt! Per quinque dies et noctes, omnia sive dicta sive
facta, ad stuprum et flagitia habent incitamenta!*

— Et, hac et pars istius execrabilis Hindorum Super-
stitionis quae, ut aiunt quidam, viam ad Deum et celestia
demonstrat!!

I have both in Sanscrit and Mahatta a short description
of this festival from its institution: but were it to be
sent, I am persuaded you would throw it into the fire.

The Jemima which left England 20 August, ar-
rived here 10th instant. She brought nothing for us. The Rev.
Mr. Clow, minister of the Scotch Church here, is come out in
her. I was in hopes of seeing another missionary.

Sir Evan Nepean is about returning to Europe;
when Mr. Elphinstone will succeed him in the Government.
I have heard that Mr. E. is not as liberal in his views respecting
missionaries as Sir Evan. May I suggest to you whether it wo-

not be politic for you to present him (to be delivered by me)
a copy of some standard work from the Conference Press, as a
kind of introduction; - for in India you can never go
into the presence of a great man, British or Native, empty-handed.

If you should decide on sending anything,
the better.

Monday 22. March. Several days ago
I was, wishing to have an interview with the
not being at home, I sent him a note requesting
might be permitted to wait upon him. According
at the Fort Church, an Aid-de-Camp came to say
he at the Gov^t House after Divine Service. I went
handsomely and obligingly received. I stated
heard of His Excellency's intention of having him
- cumulated on me to wait on him; and in the name
in India with whom I am connected, as well as
our most grateful acknowledgments for the favour
had pleased to take of our Mission at its com-

pletion I had since enjoyed under
and at the same time to express my regret at the
privied of His Excellency's immediate countenance
- cency was pleased to answer in the following very kind
his opinion that we deserved to be countenanced and
of our proceedings, and was pleased at noticing the
had pursued, by which none of those unpleasant
were anticipated; and he was happy to assure me
- gle charge of impropriety alleged against our Mis-
- most be full a very high regard for the Missionaries
- most I most cordially wished us all success in our

His Excellency, that my brethren in the
Mission would consider themselves both honoured
favourable an expression of His Excellency's senti-
sider ourselves in duty bound to remember his atten-
After a few cursory remarks on either side, I with
accompanying me to the door, and shaking hands in
manners.

On this subject I shall offer no remarks
own opinions.

Not having any thing particular
requesting your continual interpositions at a time
and remaining, Respected Fathers and
Yours in

P.S. February 18, 1819. I drew on the Treasurer
Bills for 150/- for £. 150. - - sterling

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