called Pran Prátisht’ha, or *the endowment of animation*,  
by which he believes that its nature is changed from  
that of the mere materials of which it is formed, and  
that it *acquires not only life, but supernatural powers*”  
(Conder, p. 655).  
 The pagans of ancient date narrate certain instances  
in which their idols spoke. The Romish writers affirm  
the same of some of their images. This will be a real  
and undoubted instance of what they less credibly pretend to.  
 But its speech is not its only marvel. It causes all  
refusers of worship to be put to death. What is meant  
by causing them to be slain is not very apparent. It  
may signify one of two things. Either—  
 1. That it passes sentence on them, and bids its  
executioners carry the sentence into effect.  
 2. Or itself effects their death, by a sword in its  
hand, or by treading them underfoot. Thus, in the  
Inquisition at Madrid, there was an image of the Virgin,  
which, on the touching of a spring, opened its arms and  
cut to pieces with a thousand knives the unfortunate  
being whom it embraced.  
 There will be some, then, who will worship neither  
the Wild Beast nor his living statue. The elect of  
God will stand firm against the terrors presented, and  
be slain. In the dread alternative, “Adore or die!”  
they will choose the latter. Men before this prodigy  
worshipped idols: how surely, then, will they bow before  
this strong delusion!  
  
 16. “And he causeth all, the small and the great, and the rich  
and the poor, and the free and the slave, that they should give  
themselves a mark upon their right hand, or upon their forehead.”  
  
 With idolatry has constantly been connected some  
mark on the person. It will be so in this day when idolatry  
is come to the full. It is made imperative on all. No