

been killed by many. "Therefore, said he, to me, already grown wise, of what use are the Vedas?" (p 75)

The father was struck by his son's wisdom and asked him various questions which the boy readily undertook to answer. He treated of physics, morals, and theology. "The corporeal air, or gas, called *udāna*, determines upward."—"He who has distributed food with a pure mind is then (at the time of death) gratified even without food. He that has not spoken untruth, nor caused a breach of amity, the faithful believer, meets a happy death. Those who have been intent on the worship of gods and Brahmins, the fair, the charitable, and the shamefaced, die happily." "Those who have not given away water, nor distributed food, endure, on the approach of death, burning thirst and hunger." A terrific description follows of the pangs and sufferings of wicked and irreligious men inflicted by the officers of Yama. The false witness, or perjurer, has his portion in a hell called *Raurava*. "There a hole is dug to the depth of a man's knee for sixteen thousand miles. It is filled up with burning coals to the level of the ground. The officers of Yama cast the wicked man on that ground, thus blazing with fire. Scorched and burnt by the terrific flames, the wretched man has no rest, but runs frantic over the place, the soles of his feet being at every step scalded and bruised. Day and night he thus goes on, alternately setting and taking off his feet. When he has gone over eight thousand miles in this way, he is released from the torment, but only to enter another infernal region for the purging of his sins." After these sufferings he is allowed once more to experience terrestrial life. But he has to begin as a worm, an insect, a cricket, or a musquito, and rises gradually to be an ox