

plantation, by his people, who are Klings, from the neighbourhood of Madras. *There are one hundred and fifty of them in his employ, and for the purpose of indulging their fondness for theatrical exhibitions, they have subscribed largely, and procured very costly and rich dresses for their representations during the holidays.*

On the appointed evening we repaired to the plantation, where two large fires were made on the lawn, to throw light on the performances. The night was dark; and after the arrival of the company, a large white cloth was hung up between two stakes, sufficiently high to conceal the performers. After a long delay the curtain was raised, and the performance began. The actors were brilliantly dressed, a cap resembling very nearly the ibis, figured among the Egyptian antiquities, was worn, and many massive ear-ornaments; these dresses showed brilliantly by the light of the fire, which also brought out in relief the surrounding shrubs and trees from the dark and indistinct background, producing a pretty effect. The performance was a kind of opera. The music consisted of a drum, cymbals, and castanets, which accompanied the monotonous recitative. The plot was explained to me by Mrs. Balestier: the subject was "the results of misplaced friendship."

A rich, hospitable rajah, entertains a guest, who is desirous of obtaining his only daughter in marriage, and thus securing to himself the riches of his host. His suit is not favourably received, upon which he enters into a plot to ruin and debase the rajah and his family. *For this purpose, after insinuating himself into the rajah's confidence, he betrays him, and makes false accusations to a Brahmin against him. The Brahmin at once proceeds to force the rajah to confession, tortures his daughter and domestics, and obtaining in this manner what he believes a confirmation of the accusation, strips him of his wealth and power, to confer them upon the false-hearted accuser.* At this point of the plot, on account of the hour, eleven o'clock, we were obliged to stop the performances, but we understood that if they had been allowed to go on, the opera would have continued for three days and three nights. However much the story may be prolonged, the plot generally closes with the triumph of the good, and affords some instructive moral. There were many accompaniments to this performance, such as the mode of applying the tortures by a Brahmin, and the performances of a clown, who showed much cleverness, particularly in the mode of mimicking a European in his dress and manners. The music was thought by several of our gentlemen to resemble the Spanish, from which, however, it could not have been derived. In truth, these very operas, if so they may