

be called, may have been enacted some two thousand years ago, or long prior to the dawning of civilization in Europe; and the contemplation of this probability served to give additional interest to the exhibition.

The Klings are but transient visitors to Singapore. They come, as before remarked, from the neighbourhood of Madras, remain for two or three years, obtain a little money, and return. Their wages, and that of labourers and servants, are but four dollars a month, out of which they feed and clothe themselves. The cost of doing so, however, amounts to little; for they subsist almost entirely upon rice and sugar, if they can obtain them, and go nearly naked. Some of them are artisans, in which case they receive the usual daily wages, the amount of which may be understood from the fact that half a dollar a day was paid in the squadron to calkers.

At Singapore, we met with a Gentoo of the Brahminical caste, who had been sent thither by the Indian government, for some defalcation. Although of the same complexion as the other Hindoos we saw at Singapore, his features were very different from theirs. The great distinction was in the facial angle, which by some of us was thought to be fully equal to ninety degrees, and in the mouth. His lips were quite thin, and the lobes of his ears extraordinarily large, although not perforated. This I was informed was characteristic of the Brahmins. It was somewhat remarkable to find a person of his high caste, transported to a convict settlement; for they generally affect to lead very pure lives, and by the commission of any open immorality are exposed to the loss of caste.

From the information we obtained at Singapore, from good authority, the burning of widows still takes place in Hindoostan, notwithstanding the enactment by the British government, abolishing the practice. The only difference is that it is done privately; and, according to the Brahmin, it always has been continued among the upper classes. Hook-swinging and walking on burning coals are also practised; and our missionaries have witnessed them in Singapore. Credulous people have strong inducements to undergo the ordeal, for afterward, it is believed the deity will protect them from all harm. It is said that the former is practised also in China.

According to the Brahmin, the Gentoos at Singapore are of the fourth caste, called Seedros. There are no Brahmins to the east of Singapore, and neither they nor the other higher classes willingly leave their native country, for they forfeit their caste by so doing. This Brahmin was said to be worth upwards of two hundred thousand dollars, but was living in a miserable tenement near the temple, which