

broader than one of the common cots used by the natives. The deceased was supported in a sitting posture by two men, close to the pile, and some more billets of wood, with four or five bundles of dry bushwood and reeds, lay ready for use. The whole of the ceremonies observed on the occasion, were such as are usually gone through, and as have been described so often in books. The widow was dressed in a robe or sheet of bright red silk, and had her hair hanging loose and dishevelled, and stuck through with many wooden combs; her forehead was painted with yellow ochre, or orpiment, and she had no other dress or ornament whatever. From the by-standers we

learned that her husband was a common washerman, and that it was not expected by any one that she would have resolved to burn herself, especially as she had a child three years old, and as her relations had offered to maintain them both, if she would consent to live. I shall not take up your time by detailing the many ceremonies that were performed. The body of the husband was placed on its right side, and in due time she ascended and lay down by its side, facing it, and literally locked in its arms. So short was the pile, that the by-standers were obliged to bend the legs of both very much, to enable the pile to contain them. During all this 'dreadful note of preparation,' from first to last, the widow preserved the utmost, the most entire fortitude and composure, or rather apathy—and was unmoved, even at parting with her child. In her processions round the pile, she was supported and hurried round through the crowd, by many men who held her by the arms and shoulders, and made the populace give way. From this we at first concluded her to be intoxicated, but were afterwards convinced of our mistake, by seeing the steadiness of nerve, and perfect composure, with which she sprinkled the corpse of her husband, and mounted on the funeral pile entirely unassisted and alone. We stood within six or seven feet of the pile, and could not be mistaken. The remaining billets of wood were now laid on the bodies with a scanty handful of dry reeds here and there. But the point to which I wish especially to draw the attention of your readers is that thick, strong ropes, thoroughly soaked in water, were previously tied round the bodies of the living and the dead, in many places, to preclude the possibility of escape, and in seeming anticipation of the dreadful scene that followed. One Bramin only was present at the ceremony, and as soon as all was prepared, he offered to the widow's child (in the arms of another) a lighted brand. The child drew back in affright, when they seized its hand by force, and applied the fire to the head, and afterwards to the foot of the pile. The shouting and noise of the crowd had been incessant from the beginning, but at this instant it was incredibly loud." The writer here gives details which are too horrible to quote. He concludes as follows:

"A kind of incredulous horror at what was passing, had till now riveted us to the spot; but the scene became too shocking, and we quickly retired. I ought to observe that the utmost indifference, without any symptom of the remotest compassion, prevailed among the whole of the spectators, not excepting the mother and sister of the widow, who were pointed out to us among the crowd." —The London Times, of 1810.

THE POET ON WALL STREET

I remember, I remember,
The house where I was shorn;
The hallowed place where little lambs
Came peeping in at morn;
The playful bears and friendly bulls
Who wisely counseled me,
And where I bought at 88—
And sold at 23.
—Christian Work and Evangelist.

Village Lady (to rustic laborer)—
"And where is your sailor son now?"
Laborer—"Well, I don't rightly
mind, mum, if he be gone to Gibraltar
in the Jupiter, or to Jupiter in
the Gibraltar, but it be somewheres
in them parts."—Punch.

Suffragette—"We believe that a
woman should get a man's wages."
Married Man—"Well, judging
from my own experience, she does."
—Tit-Bits.

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