

HINDOO FEMALE EDUCATION

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Hindoo female education by Priscilla Chapman

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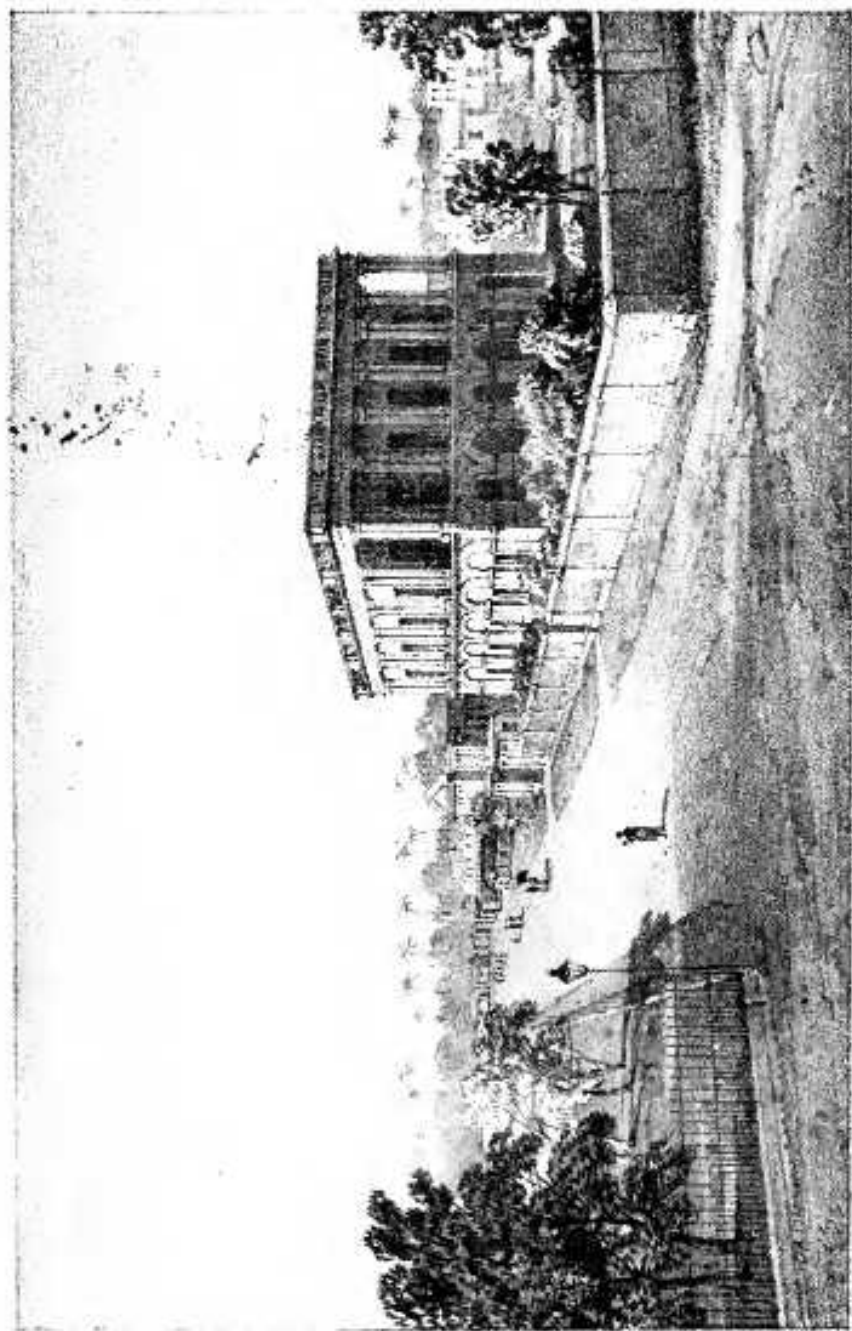
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PRISCILLA CHAPMAN

**HINDOO FEMALE
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CENTRAL SCHOOL.

P R E F A C E.

It was an appeal to the ladies of Liverpool in 1821, from the Rev. H. Ward, Baptist Missionary, which first excited attention to the degraded and neglected state of the females of India. The most limited insight into the state of the Hindoo Female population, brings to view so much misery and wretchedness, that it is impossible for the Christian mind not to feel impatient that the moral condition of the many millions of females existing in our dominions in the east, should be well understood, that they may promptly receive their share of sympathy from those possessing the means of ministering to their necessities. It will be shown that the difficulties in the way of benefiting the Hindoo female are great; but in exact proportion to their very formidable character, exertion and assistance become the more urgent.

The attempts which have been making for the last seventeen years, to introduce Christianity and education among the Native Females of Hindos-

tan are here described ;—though progress in the work has been slow, and success very limited, it will be evident that real good has been done, and that the way is now opened and prepared for more extended efforts.

Had it fallen to the lot of any European to penetrate the abyss of female degradation, the best of feelings would forbid the recital ; it is rather to the obvious consequences of the neglect they suffer, and to their unhappy exclusion from all the precious gifts of God which we enjoy, that attention is directed :—whilst the manners, customs, and superstitions of the people are noticed, as explaining the sources of existing evils.

The Society for Promoting Native Female Education in China and the East, has already prominently brought this subject to the consideration of the Christian public, and affords valuable assistance to the cause.

The efforts of European females are alluded to with a humiliating consciousness of how few there are, who can speak upon the subject ; we feel thankful, however, that an example of singular devotion, to the promotion of this cause especially, is before us—Mrs. Wilson, who was first led to embark for India, by Mr. Ward's appeal. After seventeen years unceasing labor, she continues to find the Lord's blessing resting upon, and extend-

ing her benevolent designs. It is the result of Mrs. Wilson's endeavours in the two institutions in Calcutta, designated the Native Female Orphan Refuge and the Central School, which this sketch principally embraces.

Such Institutions or Schools as the Author is acquainted with, are mentioned; but in the absence of correct information from the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, in both of which, schools for native females have been formed, our notices are confined to the state of the work in Bengal.

The profits that may ensue from this little work, will be devoted to the benefit of the Female Orphan Refuge, and the Central School.

* * * *Communications in furtherance of Hindoo Female Education to be addressed to P. C. at the Publishers'.*

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