

**DR. SCUDDER'S TALES  
FOR LITTLE READERS  
ABOUT THE HEATHEN**

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Dr. Scudder's tales for little readers about the heathen by John Scudder

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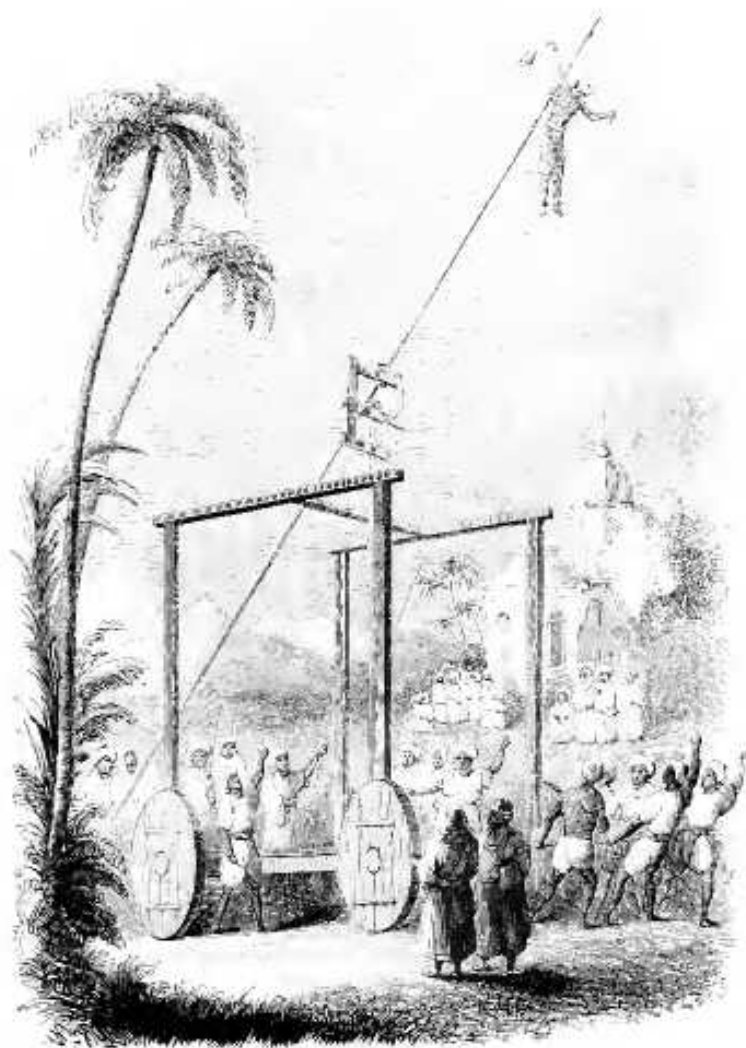
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THE following work, so far as the Hindoos are concerned, is principally a compilation from the writings of Duff, Dubois, and others.

Should the eyes of any Christian father or mother rest upon it, I would ask them if they have not a son or a daughter to dedicate to the *missionary* work. The duty of devoting themselves to this work of Christ, or at least, of consecrating to it their money, their efforts, and their prayers, is the great duty to be perseveringly and prayerfully impressed on the minds of our children. A generation thus trained would, with aid from on high, soon effect the moral revolution of the world. Blessed will be that father, blessed will be that mother, who shall take any part in such a training. And I would add, too, blessed will be that pastor, and blessed will be that Sabbath-school teacher, who shall come up to their help.

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CHAPTER I.

GENERAL REMARKS.

MY DEAR CHILDREN—When I was a little boy, my dear mother taught me, with the exception of the last line, the following prayer:

“Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray the Lord my soul to take;  
And this I ask for Jesus' sake.”

Though I am now more than fifty years old, I often like to say this prayer before I go to sleep. Have you ever learned it, my dear

children? If you have not, I hope that you will learn it *now*; and I hope, too, that when you say your other prayers at night, you will also say this. I think that you would be glad to see how this prayer looks in the Tamul language—the language in which I am now preaching the Gospel, and in which I hope that some of you will hereafter tell the heathen of the Saviour. The following is a translation of it:

ஸ்ரீஸோ நான் கீர்த்தனை கொள்ள மயக்கேற்றேன்  
 கந்தனோன் உயிரை க்காப்பாற்றியுமயம மன்றகேற்றேன்.  
 அங்கக முன் னே நான் செத்து விட்டால்  
 கந்தனோன் அந்நாமத்தை யோத்துக்கொள்ள மன்றகேற்றேன்  
 சீவநயம் சீ யெழுவின சிவத்த மாகக்கேட்கேற்றேன்.

I wish that all the little heathen children knew this prayer; but their fathers and mothers do not teach it to them. Their fathers and mothers teach them to pray to gods of gold, or brass, or stone. They take them, while they are very young, to their temples, and teach them to put up their hands before an idol, and say, "Swammie." Swammie means Lord. As idolatry is the root of all sin, these children, as you may suppose, in early life become very wicked. They disobey their parents, speak