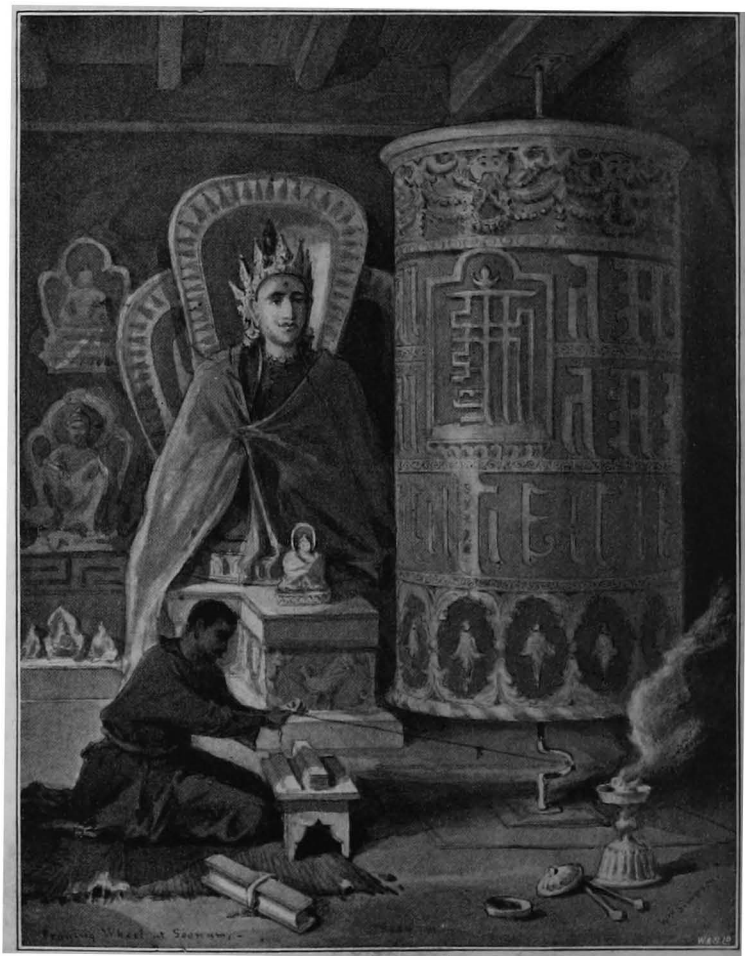


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LARGE PRAYING-WHEEL AT SOONUM.
From a Sketch by the Author.

THE
BUDDHIST PRAYING-WHEEL

A COLLECTION OF MATERIAL BEARING UPON
THE SYMBOLISM OF THE WHEEL
AND
CIRCULAR MOVEMENTS IN CUSTOM AND
RELIGIOUS RITUAL

BY

WILLIAM SIMPSON

R.I., M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., HON. ASSOCIATE R.I.B.A., ETC.

'Instruct the planets in what orbs to run,
Correct old Time, and regulate the Sun ;
Go soar with Plato to the empyreal sphere,
To the first good, first perfect, and first fair !
Or tread the mazy round his followers trod,
And quitting sense call imitating God ;
As Eastern-priests in giddy circles run,
And turn their heads to imitate the Sun.'

POPE, Essay on Man.

London
MACMILLAN AND CO., LTD.
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1896

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'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it.'—Ps. xix.

'That day, as other solemn days, they spent
In song and dance about the sacred hill;
Mystical dance, which yonder starry sphere
Of planets, and of fixed in all her wheels
Resembles nearest, mazes intricate,
Eccentric, intervolvèd, yet regular,
Then most, when most irregular they seem;
And in their motions harmony divine.'

Paradise Lost, Bk. v.

'He, who hath the power,
Had with another sun bedecked the sky.
Her eyes fast fixed on the eternal wheels
Beatrice stood unmoved.'

DANTE, Par. Canto i.

'Weave a circle round him thrice,
And close your eyes with holy dread,
For he on honey dew hath fed,
And drank the milk of paradise.'

COLERIDGE, Kubla Khan.

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