

The Daily Review.

Towanda, Pa., Monday, March 1, 1880.

EDITORS:

S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD.

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Hindu Almanacs.

The Hindu year is reckoned by three calendars, according to the sun, moon, and stars. The religious festivals which are strictly observed by the Hindu, occur according to the lunar division. These divisions render the arrangement of a calendar very complicated. While the native merchant does his civil reckoning by one calendar, he must at the same time perform his religious ceremonies according to the aspect of the moon, and arrange his festivals and other occupations by the position of the stars and planets. The ceremonial calendar is a matter of great value to the Hindu, who regards the observance of the religious fasts as the most important part of his life. The dates of these festivals and the rules for their observance constitute the greater part of the almanac. On the twenty-fourth of April, "earthen water-pots and fans are given to Brahmins for the coming Summer, that the names of their deceased ancestors may feel comfortable during that season in the heavens." On another day the rules declare the observance of a domestic duty, that "all the lamps in the house shall be washed, cleaned and placed in a row, and offerings of incense and flowers be made to them." Feasts are prepared and eaten by the household in honor of the lamps. On the day before the full moon a pile of wood is lighted before each house and offerings of cake and cocoanut are made.

The third section of the Almanac relates to the stars. The firm belief universally prevails among the Hindus that both good and ill luck is occasioned by the position of the stars: and no matter of any importance can be undertaken without first consulting the Almanac with reference to the heavenly bodies. There is a table of auspicious days and marriages, and on no other day than that set down can the ceremony be performed, in the Hindu mind, with any regard for future domestic happiness. Other tables are arranged for different calculations, and one enables a person to calculate his fortune from the position of the moon at his birth.

All this seems to be folly, and the calculations the work of mere chance. They are not, however, but are the result of certain fixed rules. Some of the prophecies are, at the same time, amusing and absurd. They have no association of ideas and things. One prophesy declares "destruction to potentates, asses and earthen pot-makers," and another bodes "ill luck to flies but happiness to their idols." All this, however, is law to the Hindu, who regards his Almanac as the embodiment of truth and science.

Recent Russian dispatches state that the Grand Duke Nicholas is implicated in the late plot against the Czar's life. The University of St. Petersburg has been closed and it is reported that twelve hundred arrests have been made including a number of students, of persons suspected of complicity in the conspiracy. Great excitement prevails in the capital over frequent acts of incendiarism and the people are in constant alarm for the safety of the country.

The manufacture of paper bricks is said to be carried on extensively in the West, and especially in California, where the best fibrous material is provided. The quality of the bricks renders them well adapted for building purposes. The Chinese make the soles of their shoes of paper similarly prepared.

The Winter which was brought to a close yesterday has been unexampled on each side of the Atlantic. Throughout

Europe the cold has been intense and the inclement weather protracted, while the Western Continent has enjoyed the easiest and mildest Winter known for several generations.

Mr. William H. Vanderbilt has, it is reported, just sent to the Treasury \$5,500,000 in United States four per cent bonds for registry. He had previously registered \$26,000,000 in this security.

An attempt to break up a religious meeting at Seward, Nebraska, resulted in the fatal shooting of two of the aggressors and the arrest of eight.

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