

## THEOSOPHY IS A HUMBUG.

### THE OPINION OF A CONVERTED HIGH-CASTE BRAHMIN.

ST. LOUIS, May 16.—The Rev. Narayan Sheshadri, D. D., and son, of Bombay, India, are now in St. Louis. The doctor is a native of India. In the course of a long interview with THE TIMES'S correspondent he said:

"I was once a high-caste Brahmin. I am a Christian now. I was converted to Christianity in 1843 under the Scottish Presbyterian missionaries of Bombay. Then I received a theological education in the French-Scottish Institution of Bombay, as it was then called, now Wilson College, so named in honor of the late Rev. Dr. Wilson. I became a missionary after receiving my degree as Doctor of Divinity. For many years I labored among my countrymen at Bombay. For the past twenty-five years I have labored in the dominions of his Highness Vizam, a native Prince, where I founded a mission and laid out a Christian settlement. Starting with two Christian converts twenty-five years ago, it now contains 2,000. I came to the United States on account of my falling health, and am accompanied by my son, Yeshwant Rao. I landed in San Francisco April 15 and have traveled slowly East."

After some general conversation he was asked: "What is theosophy?" He replied: "Consider the literal meaning of theosophy—Theos, God, and sophia, wisdom—God-wisdom. Theosophy, my dear Sir, is a humbug, and theosophy is Buddhism, it is atheism. There is absolutely nothing in theosophy at all. Its followers deny the existence of a God. Practically, it is Buddhism, greatly deteriorated in spiritual quality. Now, it seems to me that Col. Olcott, who, I believe, is now somewhere in the East, takes a great delight in cleaning up Buddhist priests, and in sending them to England and the United States to convert the people to theosophy or Buddhism. I saw Mme. Blavatsky once. I think she was a horrid woman, but a great juggler. You can obtain a complete exposure of Mme. Blavatsky's juggleries by sending to the publisher of the *Southern Christian*, Madras, India, for a pamphlet published by him."

Then the doctor voluntarily introduced a subject of interest to the hundreds of thousands who heard the converted Hindu lady, Pundita Ramabai, lecture in this country three years ago in behalf of the child-widows of India. Said he: "Just before sailing for America, I visited Pundita's school at Poona, where she has forty-five high caste child-widows, ranging in age from fourteen to twenty-six years. I examined her pupils, and I find they are making satisfactory progress in the rudiments, as well as receiving Christian instruction."

"But, Doctor, it is said in this country that Pundita Ramabai has converted the money raised here to her own uses."

"I cannot believe that; the school is there, and Pundita is accomplishing a noble work. She will conduct the school for ten years as an experiment. The pupils are all child widows."