

HOLY GANGES.

On the banks of the sacred River Ganges there are many cities; but to the Hindu, the holiest of all is Hardwar. Here, above all other cities, he comes with his family to wash away sin. The crowd is thickest at the Har Ki Pauri, the Steps of God.

Mingling with the thousands of ordinary Indians who press towards the sacred river are the Sadhus, the holy men, whose matted hair and scanty clothing do not detract from their dignity - though even a holy man is allowed a smoke.

The Sadhus live in the hills and jungles; only on special occasions do they come to town - and this is indeed a special occasion. The twelve-yearly festival of Kumbh, the most auspicious of all; for every Hindu who bathes at the Steps of God during this festival has all the sins of the past washed away, and can start life afresh.