

**"MOTHER GANGES" -** Crowds of the faithful attend annual Hindu festival of the great River.

**-India-**

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**Picture.:-** Thousands of Indians make this annual pilgrimage to the banks--

--of Mia Ganga - Mother Ganges, the sacred river of India. Tramping rough roads, Hindoos walk for many miles to this festival of Chait--

--Fuja, carrying with them food for the journey, and fruit, flowers and vegetables as offerings to the Great Mother Ganges.

Zealous worshippers prostrate themselves in the dust as they approach the river banks, believing that by doing this they will--

--obtain complete forgiveness of their sins.

Low murmurs of muttered prayers rise--

--from the vast crowd. Ablution in the sacred waters is an essential part of this ancient rite and--

--men, woman and children reverently bathe and pray to be made clean in--

--mind and heart. The offerings are also immersed in the waters and blessed before being taken back and--

--eaten. Faith and belief are great rocks for human nature to cling to. The world would be poorer without them.