

Attack on Sri Jagannath temple at Puri

A rumour has broken out here since the last two weeks that a gang of gypsy like men and women, bringing with them rice-boiling earthen pots, forcibly entered into Sri Jagannath temple at Puri. At that time the sacred food for the Lord was being carried. The guards of the temple prevented them. But they disobeyed and tried to approach the idol of Lord Jagannath. Then a combat took place with the guards in which one of the attacking gang died all of a sudden. Others, throwing rice from their pots, making the sacred food of the Lord unholy, threatening that they would burn the wooden idol of Lord Jagannath and paste the ashes on their body, came out of the temple. A lot of criminal activities occurred there in a moment. But the rumour does not say whether they are arrested by the police and any case has been filed in the court against them. And we have not known if any government report has come out by this moment. If there is any truth in this event, then there is danger for Lord Jagannath and no follower of Jagannath has come out to save Him. This is quite a wonderful thing that Kalipada Babu has not even gone to Puri to rescue Lord Jagannath from the attack, nor any other preventive measure has been taken yet. We hope that we can be able to communicate the truth in the coming week. (Utkal Deepika, 12th March, 1881, p. 42)