

Now in the natural order of enquiry we must, in the first place, look for the *cause* of this convulsion. The honor of our country is more concerned in this investigation than in any other to which the painful subject can lead us. For the uppermost question in a sensitive and candid mind *must* be, and *will* be till it gets an uncontestible answer, "Have we as a people done any thing to deserve the chastisement?" Have we been cruel to the helpless and insulting to the subdued? Was our government of the soft Bengalee so imperious, arrogant and oppressive as to be at last unbearable? Were our exactions so extortionable, and our contempt for their religion so undisguised that they could be borne no longer? As the worm is said to turn on the foot that treads it, so in history we may find examples of the meekest races and the most abject creatures being roused into resistance when the last of their slender privileges has been invaded, or some crowning act of insult has been offered to their faith. And such crimes have been laid to the charge of England by the Ultramontane journals of France and Belgium. This was their very taunt, that we had been treading upon what we took to be a worm, and found, as we deserved to find, that it had a scorpion's sting. The writers in those infamous papers scarcely looked with pity upon those poor creatures that fell among the thieves and murderers. They have learnt a lesson, I suppose, from the parable of the Good Samaritan. They remember, no doubt, that it was the priest and the levite that left the bleeding traveller to die, and as the champions of sacerdotal dignity they are still careful to disclaim for their party the heretrical honors which such sympathy and relief are supposed to win. They were too indignant with wicked England to feel a pang of pity or to utter a single note of lamentation over that scene of lust and murder, which, whatever the cause, however great the provocation, has in this nineteenth century stained the human character with an infamy that never was surpassed.