

are gorgeous, is as a country very poor. Her native manufactures have been killed. The bulk of her people are small cultivators, whose income is estimated at little more than seven dollars a year per head for the whole population. This is starvation point, and the people are brought below that point by the taxation. England takes no tribute in a direct form, nor do her officials steal as they did in the days of Warren Hastings; on the contrary, remarkable purity reigns in her administration. But the burden of taxation required to maintain a great army of occupation, to keep up a civil service on an enormously expensive scale, every member of it being paid exile price and pensioned besides, to build military railroads, to maintain all the other apparatus of conquest, and to supply the means of Imperial aggrandizement, is enormous; and it is increasing every year. Under its steady and unrelenting pressure the ryot is being ground down more effectually than he could be by irregular exaction; and his outlook is now desperate. 'I again state here,' says Mr. Hindman, in his article on the Bankruptcy of India, in the *Nineteenth Century*, 'what I have stated before, that this taxation so increased is levied from a people who are becoming poorer, and consequently is becoming more and more crushing in proportion to their means. Whenever the Government examines into the circumstances of a particular district, there this same appalling fact is found, that so far from becoming richer, the ryots are losing what little means they had, and are falling fast bound into the grip of the usurers.' In regard to the district of Cawnpore, Mr. Halsey says, 'I assert that the abject poverty of the average cultivator of this district is beyond the belief of any one who has not seen it. He is simply a slave to the soil, to the zemindar, to the usurer and to the Government. On the first symptom of scarcity in this

province lately, thousands immediately died or came upon the hands of the Government.' There is a chorus of witnesses testifying the same thing as to different districts. Whether it was four millions or only a million and a quarter of these wretches that died in the late famine, nobody can exactly tell.

Twenty millions sterling England drains away from poverty-stricken India. Then, in a great famine, she gives back one sum of £400,000, and calls upon the world to witness her immense generosity. The Indian Government provided relief, no doubt. But out of whose pocket? Out of the pocket of the Hindoo.

The ryot being able out of his hunger and nakedness to yield no more to the British taxgatherer, the Government would be bankrupt were it not for the opium trade. Eight millions sterling a year are raised by forcing poison, physical and moral, on the Chinese. The opium trade is not merely a trade licensed by Government, it is a government trade. Semi-civilized but paternal, the Chinese Government struggles to save the bodies and souls of its people by keeping out the hellish drug: the British Government forces it in at the point of the bayonet and has compelled the Chinese Government to permit its importation by a special clause in the treaty of Tientsin. English Christians appeal to the Indian Secretary, Lord Salisbury, who professes to be pre-eminently Christian and High Church, against the continuance of the iniquity. Lord Salisbury tells them that the traffic 'is questionable in principle, but is bound up with our finance.' All the wars with China have been opium wars, though under the pretext of 'national honour.' In the hideous annals of conquest, there are things more ferocious, there is nothing more deeply vile.

What are the relations between the dominant and the subject race? Is the presence of the Englishman ex-