

coolly looked on the murder of a just one. This tumult Lysias could not understand. The speech had been in Hebrew, and the Roman was not linguist enough for that; and so, concluding that this polished prisoner must be a more than ordinarily accomplished criminal, ordered him to be brought into the barrack room and to be examined by torture, in order to extract a confession of guilt. This barbarous method for the discovery of truth not only prevailed, in ancient times, as to criminals, but also as to witnesses. As to accused persons, it was not peculiarly Roman, for it was practised in England less than two hundred years ago. Our cheeks must flame when we talk of "British justice," and when we read of the disgraceful trial of Peacham, in the reign of James I., that "Most High and Mighty Prince James, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith," etc. (for further particulars, see our English Bibles). Peacham was indicted for high treason, on account of some passages found in a manuscript sermon locked up in his desk, which he had never preached, nor in any way published, and in a memorandum attached to some interrogatories upon which he was examined occurs the following statement: "Upon these interrogatories Peacham this day was examined before torture, in torture, between torture, and after torture; notwithstanding nothing could be drawn from him, he still persisting in his obstinate and insensible denials and former answers." To this paper is set the name, among others, of Francis Bacon (State Trials, II., 871). To the honor of the English law it was decided, in the case of Felton, who assassinated the Duke of Buckingham, that "he ought not by the law to be tortured by the rack, for no such punishment is known or allowed by our law." In Scotland the torture was in use until the union of the two kingdoms, and was only finally abolished by Stat. 7 Anne, c. 21, s. 5. Do not, therefore, let us harshly blame Claudius Lysias and the Roman law, of which he was a humble and loyal officer. We have first to settle the account with our own English chancellor and truly great inductive philosopher. After this the pendulum of popular feeling swung far the other way, so that it is now difficult to find a prisoner guilty, even on his own confession without torture, and we have fresh in our minds instances of guilty persons being pronounced innocent, even after their own confession of guilt. So far has the