

borne case affords a double illustration of this. The civil trial gave the power of interrogating the Claimant, and his claims collapsed in consequence. Out of his own mouth came his condemnation. If so direct and conclusive a result is attainable in a civil trial by direct examination of the person interested, why should a criminal trial be conducted on a plan which seems to assume that the accused person knows less of the case than the witnesses? The theory is that a man in law is innocent until proved guilty, and the routine of a trial makes the Court uphold this presumption. The true theory should be, that the guilt or innocence of the accused is not assumed, but that the truth is to be investigated, and that the accused, if innocent, has a vital interest in its prompt discovery, and if guilty, the State has a vital interest in a speedy conviction; the result, either way, being most surely, most quickly, reached by direct interrogation of the accused. Another satisfactory feature in this case, is the singular evidence it affords of the profound confidence of the lower orders in the administration of justice. The mob cheered the Claimant up to the day of his conviction, cheered his erratic, not wholly sane counsel, Dr. Kenealy; but the verdict given, the decision was accepted without question, and their demonstrations proved how complete is the trust of even the mob in the equity of that ancient process, "Trial by Jury."

The rule of England over India associates the highest civilization with disasters incident to barbarism, and reveals how slight is the hold the ruling power has over the governed. There, in spite of British prestige, British troops, British power in government and in commerce, some score millions of British subjects are slipping away from their allegiance. A nation, in extent of population, is falling under the sceptre of that great King whose subjects never rebel. The shadow of death now falls over a people as numerous as all the dwellers in the British Isles. Myriads who till the most prolific soil in the world, a soil yielding four harvests each year, are dying for lack of food. In 1770, a like ca-

lamity occurred, and the horrible famine in Orissa, when one million died of starvation, is too recent if not too terrible to be forgotten. The present distress arises from a long drought over an area of 88,336 square miles, inhabited by 31 millions of Hindoos, living in 128,000 towns and villages. Throughout this area, the whole mass of the population have proprietary rights over the soil, the system of land tenure being what may be broadly termed communistic. The infinite and intricate subdivision of the land, held subject to a small rental to the State, has produced a social condition which has reduced humanity down to the lowest condition. Life can be supported on an income of five cents per day, so that with a revenue of twenty dollars a year, the owner is saved all necessity to work. All the virtues tend to make a people prosperous and self-reliant and independent of the minor accidents of life; the instinct of the bee and the ant are there unknown. The moth lives not more heedless of the morrow than the Hindoo, nor is its tenure of life less precarious than his. Nature, which civilized man controls, against the more terrible operations of which he provides, in this region has two aspects—the bountiful, which is abused by lazy dependence upon its provisions; the terrific, which comes ever and anon to sweep out of existence whole multitudes. During the famine, close upon a million persons will have to be fed daily by the authorities, and public works executed to facilitate transport of food at a cost of \$600,000, the entire cost of which will fall upon the Government of India. That Government has already been the means of incalculable blessing to the great peninsula, and the present extreme trial will doubtless only rouse to extreme exertion those energies which have been so well devoted to the people's good.

The story of the relations of the British Crown with the Ashantees is a very trite one. With a change of name it would tell equally well the history of every case in which a conflict has occurred between the power of Great Britain and any barbarous tribe or State. First on the scene comes the merchant adventurer, which in this case