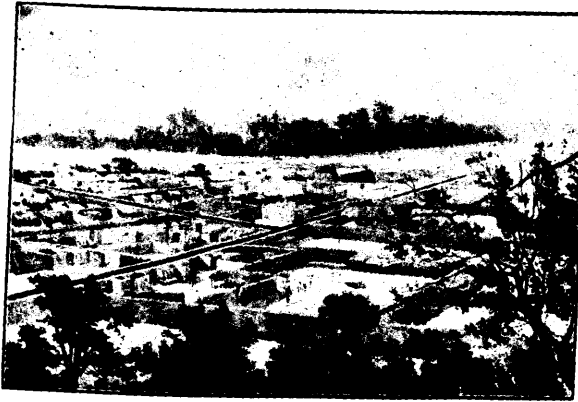


every corporeal and spiritual impurity. Naturally in this year of plague and famine in India, the Hindu devotees

a number of huge compounds of oblong shape, surrounded by walls made of red mud. At the top of these compounds there is usually a covered space within which the hideous rites of Benin's religion are performed. In the road leading past the compounds stood crucifixion-trees, on which the remains of victims could still be seen."

It goes against the grain with every Briton to think that an English battle ship had its place, as is seen in our next illustration, among those that shelled the town of Canea, whose people had risen to throw off the yoke of the accursed Mussulman massacre-monger.

It was a critical moment and that England's Premier took the course he did as being the lesser of two evils can well be believed, but how much more in consonance with every British sentiment would it have been had the destructive shells from the Barfleur's well-handled



VIEW OF BENIN FROM ONE OF THE SACRIFICE-TREES.

have assembled in even greater numbers than ever.

Most of our readers will have heard of the expedition which England sent out a few months ago to inflict punishment upon the Chief of Benin, a dusky sovereign of a section of North-West Africa, who last year treacherously massacred a small body of Englishmen and their 200 native servants, who had gone on a peaceful mission to the Chief. The punitive expedition was eminently successful. It fought its way through jungle, swamps and bush, and coming to Benin, summary vengeance was meted out to one of the most barbarous savages to be found even in the dark continent. One who was with the expedition writes:

"Benin is indeed a city of blood, each compound having its pit full of dead and dying. Human sacrifices were strewn about on every hand, and our road was lined on each side with more than sixty victims hanging on the great crucifixion-trees. A large open space served as the native burial-place. Here the bodies were left to decompose in the sun."

"The city consists of

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THE GOLGOTHA, BENIN.