

Kumbhakonam, in the Tanjore District, Madras. Three men were charged before a bench of magistrates with having committed a common assault. There were no less than four hearings, and six magistrates took part in deciding the question, of whom four convicted two of the accused persons, whilst two acquitted all three. But as will be seen from the judgment of the High Court on revision, which we print further on, not one of these six magistrates had heard the whole of the evidence, whilst one of the four convicting magistrates had not heard any of the evidence at all. The convicted persons appealed to the divisional magistrate, who dismissed their appeal. Finally, the case came before the High Court. In England a single magistrate would have settled the matter in half an hour, and no appeal or revision would have been possible. But, then, he would have settled it honestly and sensibly.—*Indian Jurist.*

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LAW OF WILLS.—We sympathize with the views of the *Irish Law Times* in their allusion to what appears to be a serious defect in English testamentary law: "No curb is placed by the law of England on the arbitrary power of testators. If a person is proved to have been of sound mind, and not under undue influence at the time of making his (or her) will, and if the will is correct in form, English law will not venture to set it aside, no matter how cruel, how unjust, or unnatural may be its provisions. Suppose, for instance, a man has conceived some unfounded antipathy against his wife and children—a thing that sometimes happens—there is nothing to prevent him, according to English jurisprudence, from leaving them penniless, although he happens to die a millionaire. He may give all his property to an utter stranger—to a mistress, for instance—and the law will not interfere with his will. As a text-book on Probate Law puts it, "However ridiculous or extravagant the dispositions of a will may be, still if the testator was, at the time, of sound mind, and not acting under undue influence, the will must be established." Many examples have been given of absurd and capricious wills which have been upheld by the English Probate Court. The will of an Englishman who had at different times, while residing in India, professed the Hindoo and Mohammedan faith, and who, to the exclusion of all his relatives, left the bulk of his property for the benefit of