

The time I intend to occupy on this will be most inadequate to the subject. How has the Indian Empire grown up to its present majestic dimensions? Momentous question—for there are at present nearly two hundred millions that acknowledge the sway of Great Britain in the East. To a great extent these are not savages, nor uncultured men. They had a high civilization, when Britain was inhabited by a few wild tribes. It is true, their civilization never possessed the vigour of a pure morality. In this it was, and is sadly defective; as the Sepoy revolt fearfully demonstrated. Their civilization then does not account for their submission to a power on the other side of the Globe. Does their want of military skill account for it? neither answer is satisfactory. They hate and fear the authority to which they bow, and they fear and hate it all the more for the justice which is the real secret of that seemingly mysterious power, by which they are held in lawful subjection. Nothing were more silly than to ask—if British justice be so great, why does she not retire and leave all these myriads to themselves? She cannot retire, either with honor or conscience. She has been called to India for mighty purposes. God will not let her retire till she has accomplished *her destiny* there. She has to attend as physician to a people who were sinking into the decrepitude of a worn-out civilization, with all the inherent vices of the worst forms of Paganism. God has placed her in India, to infuse the principles of *justice* and *morality* into the minds of the people. But how does she hold her place, for this mighty task among these vast multitudes? No doubt the sword is employed “as a terror to evil-doers.” But the basis of British power in India is justice. Alas! there is no honest and well read man, but will blush when he thinks of the injustice that has been perpetrated by Englishmen in India. And yet, no well-read man needs to blush when he thinks that British justice has ever nobly awoken and demanded that right should be done, when the British people came fully to know that, their servants had been false, unjust, and cruel, these servants met with due reprehension.

But, I speak not of the past—for really there is no more childish, pettish, and what may prove insane conduct, than that criticism which indulges in carping at the unjust deeds of governments, when all these have been thoroughly amended. In India