

been created not by the presence of Christian missionaries, but by the absence of Christian soldiers." It is a favorable sign of the times—a token for good—the harbinger, we trust, of the speedy introduction of a new system, religious as well as political, of managing India—to find that journal ascribing the calamities which we deplore to the neglect of the Sepoy's instruction in Christianity, and so, by implication, acknowledging this as one of the national sins on account of which we have reason to humble ourselves before God. Let us keep it, then, specially in view, while the others that have been mentioned are not overlooked in the services of this day; let us humble ourselves on account of them all, but especially on its account; and pray that from them all, but especially from it, we may be kept for the time to come.

This much for the sins that we have committed, and for the analogy subsisting between them and those charged in the text by the "angel of the Lord" against "the children of Israel." Now let us consider,

Secondly—the punishment inflicted; and here a similar analogy may be traced between our own case and Israel's. The punishment of the Israelites was that they did not obtain undisturbed possession of the promised land. Instead of being exterminated, its native tribes were left to harass and torment them—to become, in the words of the text, "thorns in their sides," and their "gods a snare" unto themselves. Our punishment has been the revolt of our Indian army, and the massacre of multitudes of our countrymen, and countrywomen, and their helpless children, in circumstances of unheard of horror; the suspension of all law and order throughout the Presidency of Bengal; the temporary triumph of rebellion there; and the threatened loss of our Indian possessions. After what has been already said on these subjects, however, we do not revert to them. Our punishment is plain enough. We all know what it is; multitudes feel it in the tenderest part; but what we wish you to notice here is its *ultimate author*, and its *intermediate instruments*.

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