

and Whitney and Belmont and others had extracted their fortunes; in the saving of human life by installation of proper fenders, brakes and other appliances as in New York city, where, in one year, the fatalities were decreased by thirty per cent.; in all of these respects the dawn of a humane and reasonable era has crept in that causes glimpses of Paradise on earth to obtrude upon our wondering vision.—*Central Law Journal*.

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They have peculiar methods of trying suspects in Bengal. One of these is called "trial by rice," says a writer in the *Wide World Magazine*. After a priest had been consulted as to an auspicious day, every person suspected and those who were usually near the place at night were ordered to be present at ten o'clock that morning. On that date all turned up. First, the people were made to sit in a semicircle, and a "plate" (a square of plantain leaf) was set before each. Then a priest walked up and down chanting and scattering flowers. These said flowers, by the way, must be picked by a Brahmin, and they must be those which are facing the sun. This ceremony over, one of the clerks went to each man, and gave him about two ounces of dry raw rice, and told him to chew it to a pulp. Then commenced what looked like a chewing match. After about ten minutes had elapsed, they were told to stop and eject it into the plantain leaf. All did so easily, with the exception of three men. In the case of these three the chewed rice had in two cases become slightly moistened, but not sufficiently so to allow of its being easily ejected, and they had much ado to get rid of it. The third man had chewed his into flour and it came out as such, perfectly dry. One of these three men promptly commenced to cry, and begged for mercy, confessing everything, and stating that man number three, who had acted as a kind of flour mill, was the chief instigator. It is a curious fact that fear, arising from an evil conscience, prevents saliva coming to the mouth, with the result described.—*Case and Comment*.