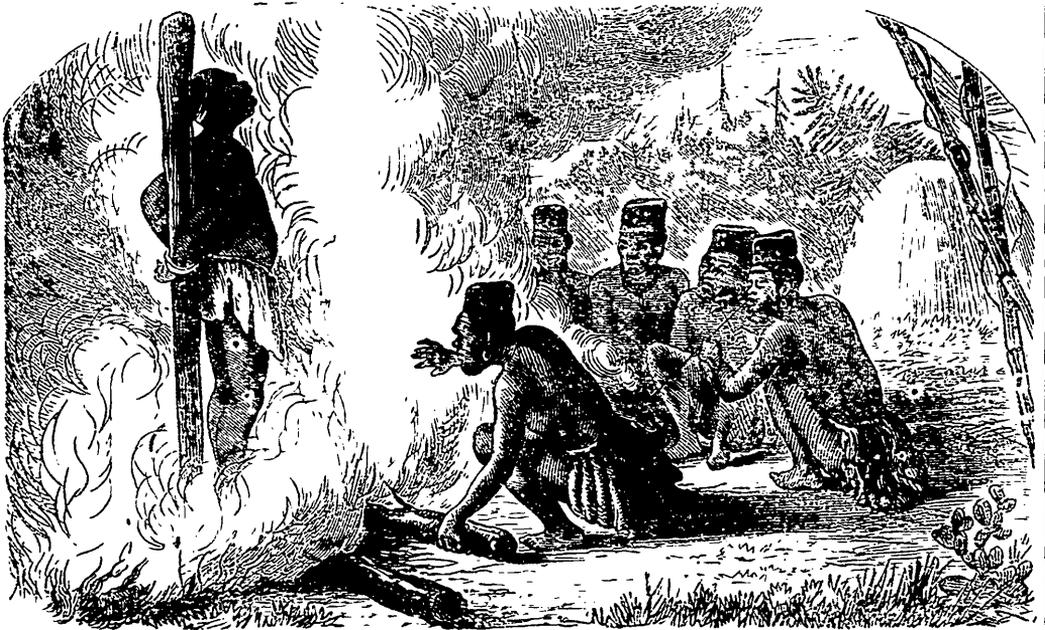


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BURNING A KAFFIR SUSPECTED OF WITCHCRAFT.

KAFFIR CRUELTY.

AMONG the Kaffirs all misfortunes, diseases, and deaths among men and cattle are attributed to the influence of witchcraft. When any untoward circumstance occurs to persons of rank, the first question asked is, "Who is the witch?" And as the person implicated is always liable to have his property confiscated, or, in Kaffir phrase, to be "eaten up," the wily doctor is sure to fix upon some one possessed of wealth. At the command of the chief a summons is issued to the suspected parties, a grand meeting is convened, and various rites and ceremonies are

performed with a view to "smell out" the culprit. When the declaration is made by the witch-doctor implicating some one present, the unhappy victim is at once seized and subjected to the most revolting cruelty, to make him or her confess the crime, and divulge all the particulars as to where the bewitching matter has been concealed, &c. Sometimes the suspected witch is bound with cords, besmeared with grease, and placed upon an ant-hill, to be tormented by the insects; at other times hot stones are applied to the feet and other sensitive parts of the body, producing the most excruciating pain, and thousands have been put to death by burning at the stake, strangulation,