

The Khasia Hills separated two plains and Mr. Scott, the commissioner of Assam, deemed it desirable to unite them by building a road across the hills. The Khasis were suspicious of the white rulers and feared their intervention, which, they thought, would lead to subjection. While the party was surveying the land for the purpose of building the road, a Bengali servant of Mr. Scott, made an indiscreet threat in a quarrel with the Khasis that Mr. Scott would take possession of the Khasia Hills and make all the people servants. This caused a rumor to spread among the chiefs that the English had come to subdue the land. A surprise attack was made upon the surveying party and Lieutenants Burlton and Bedingfield, with fifty or sixty others, were massacred. A long war ensued, and it was not until 1833 that a treaty was signed in which the Khasia Hills became a feudatory state.

Space and time forbid dealing with the numerous other hill tribes along the frontier. Suffice it to say that some of the most interesting and primitive people inhabit these mountains. With each one of these tribes, the British government is more or less concerned, and in spite of colossal blunders on the part of individual officials, has maintained a high degree of order, and has respected, in so far as it was possible, the prejudices and peculiarities of the people. It was but natural, when a Christian nation became the conqueror, that its subjects were influenced by its professed religion; but other foreign religions, such as Mohammedanism and Hinduism were also there and in the ultimate development of Christianity among the primitive people of the hills, the opposition of the Mohammedan and Hindu has been greater than that of the animistic religions.

There are also certain government officials who

sincerely object to the propagation of the Christian faith on the ground that Christianity brings with it a westernization that is detrimental to the health and welfare of the unsophisticated village folk, and to the life of the primitive tribes among the hills in Assam. The objectors forget, however, that the evil which is brought is not from Christianity, but from paganism in Christianity. The reverberations of the underworld in London, Paris, New York, and Chicago, can hardly be charged to Christianity, but rather to the pagan elements in the West.