

REVOLT IN INDIA.

From the London Weekly Dispatch.

HORRIBLE MASSACRES AND ATROCITIES BY THE SEPOYS.

Jullandee June 5.

Three men were sent two months ago when the Rajah of Kaporthella started for Hurdwar to accompany a professor of music, in the service of the Rajah, to Delhi. They have been servants of the Rajah from childhood. They left Delhi on the 26th of May. I have gathered as follows from one of them who was spokesman:—They saw no troops from Delhi to Raee, the police station houses on the road were burnt, as also a tahsill or collection house, and the villages were being plundered. At Raee there was an advanced guard of the Jheend Rajah's men. At Russelwee there was a similar party. They then came to Panneput, but met with no annoyance. Troops, &c., were moving along the road. A number of European Horse Artillery were there; very few native troops. In the evening four Europeans came to search all travellers in the caravansary. A man who had a quarrel on the road with them told them to search two Sikhs with a laden cart. On searching it, they found 4,000 rupees, a number of weapons, and silver dishes of European gentlemen, evidently plundered from Delhi. The deponents then came to Kurnaul. It was all quiet. The Putteela Rajah's people were in charge of the road. A European regiment was encamped there. They heard in Kurnaul that the Commander-in-chief had died there. In the caravansary there were some 50 Europeans, male and female, and about forty children, who had escaped from Delhi. They then came to Peplee; there they met the siege train from Phillour. A gun was in difficulty, and people were employed in extricating it. They met some of the European Lancers about 16 miles on this side. They then reached Shahabad. On arriving at Umballah, arrangements were going on for disarming a corps, and at Dourahah Serie they met the Guides corps. At Lushkuree Khan Ke Serie the men a detachment of Sikh and Panjabee horsemen. Now they proceed to state what they saw and heard themselves, for they were in Delhi a month before the outbreak took place. First only five troopers came into Delhi from Meerut. They first went to the house of (name not clear, so I omit in) an agent of the king of Delhi, near the Delhi gate inside the town. He came out and said he was in the service of the King. These would not listen to him, but cut him down, and then murdered his wife and family, and told the people to plunder the house. They then went to the houses in DuryaGunj. Peer Buksh, one of the deponents, saw the troopers go to a pink coloured house, the owner was a European; they killed him, and plundered and burnt the house. They plundered and burnt all the houses in this suburb, which is chiefly inhabited by clerks, and murdered all who could not escape. By this time other troops and infantry and townspeople joined in the work of destruction. A number of the fugitives took refuge in a building near the mosque of Aurunzebe's daughter, and began to defend against the insurgents. These were held at bay. They left people all round, and the main body went off to the Bank. There they were joined by more mutineers. They plundered and murdered wherever they found Europeans. The townspeople assisted warmly in the plunder, and the mutineers of the infantry were particularly active. The Commissioner, Mr Fraser, on hearing of the advent of the mutineers, had gone down to cut away the bridge, but was too late. On returning he met the mutineers at this place. The mutineers said to the Commissioner's escort, 'Are you on the side of the Europeans or on that of religion?' They said the latter; the Commissioner, on hearing this, drove off in his buggy. His escort remained passive. The mutineers followed and cut down the gentleman; he fired one pistol. The mutineers killed people on the road, but being more intent on the magazine, they went to it.

After arranging matters for surrounding the place, the insurgents and mutineers proceeded to the jail. One of the sentries shot a man, but when they said they were fighting for religion the guard joined them and 500 convicts were released. They then closed all the gates and went into the Fort. They paid their respects to the King; he made objections and said he had no army. He at last consented. On the second day they went to the magazine, where many Europeans had taken refuge. After some firing on both sides, the natives, such as Lascars, would do nothing, they hid themselves; the Europeans alone carried on the defence; but seeing they could do nothing against so many, they blew up the wall towards the river; some 200 or more of the rebels were destroyed by this. They however got in and destroyed as many Europeans as they could, and plundered weapons, &c., leaving only the guns and powder. Two native Infantry regiments were present. They searched, and everywhere they could find Europeans they slew them. On the third day they went back to the house near the mosque where some Europeans had taken refuge. As they were without water, &c., for several days, they called for a Subadar (deponent was present) and five others, and asked

them to take their oaths that they would give them water and take them alive before their King; he might kill them if he liked. On this oath the Europeans came out, the mutineers placed water before them, and said, 'Lay down your arms and then you get water.' They gave over two guns, all they had. The mutineers gave no water. They seized 11 children, among them infants, eight ladies, and eight gentlemen; they took them to the cattle sheds. One lady, who seemed more self-possessed than the rest, observed that they were not taking them to the palace; they replied they were taking them via Durya Gunj. Deponent says that he saw all this, and saw them placed in a row and shot. One woman entreated them to give her child water, though they might kill her. A Sepoy took her child and dashed it to the ground; the people looked on in dismay, and feared for Delhi. The King's people took some 35 Europeans to the palace; on the fifth day they tied them to a tree, and shot them. They burnt their bodies. On the fifth day notice was given that if any one concealed a European, he would be destroyed. People disguised many, and sent them off, but many were killed that day, mostly by people of the city. Matters remained pretty quiet for two days. The Durya Gunj Bazaar was turned into an encampment for the mutineers. Shops were plundered in the Chandnee Choux and Dlereee Bazaar. The shops were shut for five days. The King went through the city, and told the people to open the shops. At each gate there is a company of native Infantry. About 9,000 mutineers are assembled. No cavalry have joined, excepting from Meerut. Some 4,000 or 5,000 new men have been raised, but they are rabble. During the festival of Eed, while at prayers, there was the dust of a kafila of laden animals. An alarm arose—it was the English army; the people all rushed helter-skelter into the city. The King refused to go on the throne. The mutineers assured him that a similar massacre had taken place up to Peshawar and down to Calcutta.—He agreed, and commenced to give orders.—He appointed the following officers—Hukeem, Nussroola, Mahhoob, Alie, and one other belonging to the mutineers, but deponent knows not his name. His new levies receive 4 annas a-day. Guns are placed on the ramparts of the town. These are pronounced strong. The Sappers and Miners are mounting guns to Selimgur. The mutineers say when the army approaches they will fight, and that the native troops with the army are sure to join them.—Many mutineers who tried to get away with plunder were robbed, this has prevented many others from leaving. A tailor concealed no less than five Europeans; the deponent thinks many more are concealed. The man has been with me; he speaks frankly and without fear. He is able to narrate, evidently many a harrowing tale, but I did not wish to hear any. He seemed really to recall with dismay what he had witnessed.

A. FARRINGTON, Deputy Commissioner.

The following is from another source:—'Give full stretch to your imagination—think of everything that is cruel, inhuman, infernal, and you cannot then conceive anything so diabolical as what these demons in human form have perpetrated. On the 2nd we marched from Paniput to Raee. At this place some of the poor fugitives from Delhi met with the most barbarous treatment. We burnt four villages on the road and hung seven Lumberdars. One of these wretches had part of a lady's dress for his kummertund—he had seized a lady from Delhi, stripped her, violated, and then murdered her in the most cruel manner, first cutting off her breast. He said he was sorry he had not an opportunity of doing more than he had done. Another lady who hid herself under a bridge was treated in the same manner, then hacked to pieces, and her mangled remains thrown out on the plain. We found a pair of boots, evidently those of a girl of 6 or 7 years, with the feet in them. They had been cut off just above the ankle. We hung many other villains and burnt the villages as we came along. A man who witnessed the last massacre in Delhi, where he had gone as a spy, gives a horrid account of it, stating that little children were thrown up in the air and caught on the points of bayonets, or cut as they were falling with tulwars.'

ALARM IN CALCUTTA.

The following is a private letter from a gentleman holding a high position in Bengal, to a friend in England.

Calcutta, June 19.

My dear—, Continued mutinies and murders all over the country. More than one third of the Bengal army (Infantry), is in open revolt; and Cavalry, Regular and Irregular, Sikhs and Ghoorkas, more or less false to us. This is the 40th day since the Meerut massacre, and the 39th since Delhi was taken, and not one syllable of news from the Imperial city. This will show you how thoroughly the enemy holds possession of the entire country. Every day's Dak brings intelligence of fresh atrocities, but not a syllable about retribution. What if this outbreak had happened in Runjeet Sing's time, and he had sided against us? Why, with his force we should have been marched into the sea, if not otherwise more expeditiously disposed of. What even if Nepal had poured a few thou-

sand troops into our territory, instead of having tendered us their aid? With all that has occurred, we still ought to be thankful, for it was quite on the cards that every European in India would be murdered, and the country have to be conquered again from the sea to the Himalayas; and we are not now safe. The insurrection is spreading rapidly to the westward, and I expect to hear of its breaking out in Madras also. Thirty regiments sent through Egypt will do something to restore and maintain order, but nothing less. Calcutta has been in a state of frightful consternation, and last Sunday the people were in groups about the city, or rather, grouped in houses here and there, instead of each family being in its own, with gates barricaded, and loaded arms in every hand. The day broke with a report that the 2nd Grenadiers and the 60th had risen at Barrackpore, and were marching on Calcutta, and that the Queen's 37th had gone out to meet them.—The 37th did march at 1 a.m. in consequence of alarming reports from Barrackpore of the intention of the Sepoys there; they, however, made no move, and in the evening were disarmed to a man. This was performed only at Dum-Dum and Calcutta; the militia and body guard excepted. This 70th is the gallant and loyal regiment who desired to be sent to Delhi, and to thank whom the Governor General posted to Barrackpore the other day. Since these men were disarmed they have openly been selling everything, and deserting in parties. If the Government had taken these decided steps three weeks ago, there would have been no panic in Calcutta, but after pooh poohing all offers of resistance as politely as possible, and affirming no danger, and its full and sufficient powers to put it down at once if it should show itself—after all this to call for volunteers and to disarm every Sepoy within reach, were quite sufficient to throw the public at large, into a state of consternation, particularly as the Government had shown its own unmistakable alarm by bringing in and hurrying through at one meeting, a bill for putting the entire press, European and native, into the hand of the Governor General in Council.

On the Sunday they had in the fort, in irons, a spy belonging, as is alleged, to the King of Oude's party at Garden Reach. On Monday morning before daylight, they had his highness, and five of his principal people seized, and lodged in Fort William. That the Government will ever prove any complicity on the King's part I utterly disbelieve, though it is possible some about him may have been using his name; this, however, is only surmise. We have not been helped in this trial by the unprincipled conduct of the authorities in the matter of the Oude annexation. Throughout the entire country it has been regarded as spoilation and robbery, justified by the most audacious lying. It would be quite worthy of those who annexed and counselled annexation to take advantage of the present state of affairs, and 'fix such a guard' on the unfortunate victim as may render all claim to the promised pension wholly out of the question. If the King has really been concerned in this outbreak, who is to wonder at it? We have certainly provoked him to do his worst. We shall probably hear by the time the next mail goes out what the evidence on this point really is. At present I hear of nothing that might not have been done by others, thinking his Majesty's name would be a tower of strength. General Grant arrived here the day before yesterday, and has put forward another denial of our wish to interfere with the religion of the Sepoys. A great deal too much of this already. I presume he will remain at Calcutta to advise the Governor-General, unless things should assume even a worse appearance above. Whether we have a second soldier in high command throughout India we shall probably find out before long. Sir H. Lawrence is one; the next has to be thrown up by the convulsions of this terrible crisis. I am afraid to give even an approximate guess as the murders that have been perpetrated within the last six weeks, but they are sufficient to carry mourning into many scores of families at home; the distressing thing is that they continue; every day brings additions to these bloody lists, but, as I have said before, not a syllable of comfort in the way of hearing of retribution on the murderers; it is impossible there can have been the energy and courage the occasion demanded at headquarters, and I am very sure that if I had been Governor-General I would have had some communication from Delhi itself before the 40th day of its loss. Everyone must have known that the electric wires would be cut wherever the insurgents were in force, and the public have not heard of an attempt to keep up a communication between the principal places on the line; we just simply hear 'the Daks are cut off,' and are left to wait patiently till perfect peace shall open them again. Business has necessarily felt the present state of affairs; if it lasts much longer let Manchester look out.—The whole of the up-country trade is at a standstill. But not Manchester alone may tremble. If this crisis is trifled with much longer, the British power will be a thing of the past—it will be gone; to be renewed, as a matter of course, but under circumstances that will paralyze all progress for a long time to come, except the march of an avenging army. Perhaps our rulers at home will now begin to think that the time has come for annexing India and dis-

persing with the agency of Leadenhall-street—whether military funds, pensions, &c., are an insuperable obstacle to the amalgamation of the two armies. This has gone forth; never more shall India be safely held without a preponderating force of British troops. If the sword is forced upon us we must accept it.

The following are extracts from the diary of an officer in Calcutta:—

We all thought that the last steamer would have taken the news of the fall of Delhi, but still it is in the hands of the rebels, and still is the fate of India in the balance. Every day we hear of more regiments having thrown off their allegiance and having taken the road to join the head quarters of the mutineers. Terrible times are these. The Bengal army no longer exists. No trust can be placed in any regiment. One day a corps professes the most devout attachment to the Government—the next day we hear it has murdered all its officers men, women, and children. Not a day has passed, but we have anticipated the fall of Delhi, and the delay to us is unaccountable. Our communications since the outbreak have been very irregular, but now they are entirely cut off, both postal and telegraph. The post, when one does come in, is long overdue. Thank heaven! we have two good men in command, Sir John and Sir Henry Lawrence. They are the saviours of India. The former has kept the Punjab quiet—the latter has stood his ground manfully at Lucknow. We have also another good man in Sir Hugh Wheeler at Cawnpore, and the Governor General deserves all praise for his conduct in doing all in his power to get reinforcements together and push them on with the greatest expedition possible. I don't know what you will think of all this at home. It must affect nearly every family in England, for there are few who have not relations and friends out here. Men who were here during the time of the Cobul disasters tell me that the panic then was nothing to what at present prevails. Trade is at a standstill. The natives, too, participate in the alarm; those who have to lose, and those on the *qui vive* for gain, and there is no want of the latter. Goodness knows what has come over the Sepoys, hitherto so obedient, so patient, and so orderly. It is no longer the cartridge question, but a religious war—a call upon all good and true Mahomedans to rise in the name of the Prophet, and slaughter the Feringhee infidels. It is more a revolt of the former sect than of the Hindoos. What hundreds of thousands, in the course of time must have fallen victims in the name of religion! I suppose all the unfortunate women were murdered in the name of religion. Poor unfortunates! God help them! It is a mercy they are all killed.—But I do not suppose all the atrocities were perpetrated by the Sepoys; I imagine they were committed by the scum of the earth; that never comes forth but on such occasions of murder and rapine—whose existence most people are ignorant of. The Sepoys, I suspect, were giving their attention to the plunder that was to be picked up—but that is no excuse for them. Around about Meerut and Delhi there are two or three peculiar castes or tribes, something similar to our gipseys, only holding human life at less value, and which, in former days, gave constant trouble, but who of late years have lived in peace and quietness, and have contented themselves with picking up stray cattle and things that did not belong to them, but who have now, on the first opportunity broken out and have been guilty of all kinds of depredations. Skinner's horse was originally raised to keep these people in order about the time of Lord Lake. These men have hitherto been necessary at Meerut, Delhi and those parts as watchmen. Everyone was obliged to keep one; if you did not you would be robbed to a certainty. You will not understand this, but it is necessary to come to India to understand many things—many that are beyond any explanation that I can give at least.

12th. —Yesterday no news, but plenty of reports. Never was the country in such a state of disorder. The Company's paper is down very low; the New Five per Cent. Loan few subscribe to, and the Four per Cents. were yesterday at 20 discount, and I see by the newspapers that at Benares it was 42 discount. We must have a new loan, and you must give us the money, I suspect. Out of the treasuries alone that have been robbed I should think nearly two millions of money have been taken; and then fancy the expense of the transport of all these Europeans. You must be just about receiving the first news of the outbreak, and I hope you have sent off reinforcements from Malta overland. I think steamers ought to be sent to Suez in anticipation of your doing so.—Bombay and Madras are not safe now they are denuded of the English troops, and I expect to hear of outbreaks every day. Rebellion is catching, evidently. If you will read the papers you will see that Sir Henry Lawrence is hanging the fellows at Lucknow as fast as he can.

The 37th Native Infantry, that has just mutinied at Benares, I know very well, having been at Jhelum with them. It was a very good regiment, particularly in Afghanistan, where on several occasions it led the way to the Europeans—to the 44th, for example. The Subadar-Major, the Senior native officer of the regiment, was wounded seven times. Is it not odd that now he should forget his duty, and turn traitor?