

REVOLT IN INDIA.

EXTENT OF THE MUTINY.

The most important of the risings, which was imperfectly known at first, was that of Lucknow. It took place on the 30th, and is circumstantially described in the following official reports:—

Every day of the week the Chief Commissioner, Sir H. Lawrence, had been informed that the regiments would certainly rise at night between 8 and 9 o'clock, and as often the hours passed over without the slightest disturbance. When, therefore, the same story was repeated to the Chief Commissioner on Saturday, the 30th of May, he did not attach extraordinary importance to it, and merely took the ordinary precaution of doubling the sentries and directing every officer to be on the look out. Nine o'clock struck and the Chief Commissioner was in the act of remarking that the rumour had proved itself as unfounded as its predecessors, when shots were heard in the 71st Native Infantry Lines. The Chief Commissioner immediately mounted his horse, and proceeded to the encampment of the 32nd Queen's and then moved up to the corner of the Lucknow road with two guns and a company of Europeans, to prevent the mutineers from coming down to the city. The remaining six guns remained in position at the encamping ground, guarded by Europeans. Bungalows now began to blaze, and the firing to become hotter, when General Handscombe was killed by a shot from the 71st lines, up to which he had ridden quite close, in the hopes that his presence and speech might have the effect of bringing the mutineers to reason. Lieutenant Grant was killed at his picket—the mutineers ran at his men, some of whom turned and fled—a shot from the mutineers then wounded poor Grant, and the subadar of the guard concealed him under his charpoy. The mutineers then came up, and were told that the sahib had got away—they were not however to be deceived, and at last a havildar on the guard, belonging to Grant's own regiment, pointed him out to the mutineers, when he was bayoneted and brutally mutilated. The cantonment soon became one blaze of fire, and it was not deemed prudent to move the guns for fear of the mutineers finding their way into the city, the only means of checking them was by sending detachments of irregular cavalry through the lines. Sharp firing took place frequently between the sowars and the mutineers without much effect, however, upon either side. Lieutenant Hardinge distinguished himself greatly in these skirmishes. In one of which a mutineer fired at him within a yard, and missing him charged him with his bayonet, which went through his wrist and entered his chest, where its further progress was stopped by a bullet from Hardinge into the stomach of his assailant, which sickened him of the contest. Lieutenant Chambers, adjutant of the 13th, had a narrow escape and was wounded in the leg. This state of affairs lasted until 2 o'clock in the morning, when the fires began to abate, and two guns were moved up to each of the Residency gates, which were guarded by a havildar's guard from the 13th and some sowars had escaped conflagration. At 4 a. m. the rebels had reached the 7th Cavalry lines, at Moodkeepore, which they set on fire, and they returned to cantonments, where Sir Henry had prepared to meet them. Leaving a company of Europeans, 6 guns and a squadron of Irregulars on the encamping ground, he marched towards them with two guns, the Europeans some 200 in number, the 7th Light Cavalry, and a handful of each of the Irregular Cavalry regiments, Daly's, Gall's and Hardinge's. His force as he came along the native lines was increased by men from the 71st, 13th, and 48th, regiments, who had not joined the insurgents, amounting in all to about 500 men. The 7th Light Cavalry were sent on in advance, but on nearing the rebels some went over to them. The insurgents then retreated, and by the time the Artillery had debouched from the lines they were a thousand yards off, and could be only dealt with by round shot. One was sent at them, when they immediately turned and fled, followed as quickly as possible by the artillery and the Europeans. On reaching Moodkeepore, the force came across the body of poor young Cornet Raleigh, of the 7th Cavalry, who had only joined the regiment a day or two before, and who being too unwell to ride was left behind when the regiment was ordered to cantonments. He was lying on his face with the back of his skull blown away, so that his death must have been instantaneous. The artillery and the Europeans halted beyond Moodkeepore, but the rebels were chased by the cavalry as far as Buxetallow, some ten miles off, and they scattered in all directions. Only two or three mutineers were killed, but 60 were taken prisoners. Sir Henry Lawrence fully intended to follow them up again, but it was reported on excellent authority, that an insurrection would certainly take place that night in the city, and his force was too small to enable him to do both—follow the mutineers and take the necessary precautions for the defence of the city. Leaving, therefore, 200 Europeans and four guns in the cantonments, he moved the remainder of the force to the Muchee Blowun and to the Residency, together with two guns to each for-

tification. A good deal of firing took place in the course of the following day between the city budmashes and the police, in which the latter had by far the best of it. After 8 o'clock all was quiet, the insurgents probably being awed by the additional force thrown into the city, and by the gallantry displayed by the police. The Kotwal has been made a bahadoor, and a reward of 1,000 rupees and a sword given to him, and 5,000 rupees have been distributed amongst the police, who so nobly distinguished themselves by their courageous conduct. The murderer of Lieutenant Grant and a spy lately caught in the lines of the 18th Infantry were hanged on June 1, and six more mutineers suffered the same penalty on the morning of the 2nd.

During the following days Sir H. Lawrence was occupied evening and morning in the execution of mutineers. A gallows had been erected outside the fort, and a couple of guns loaded with grape, awed the people round the scaffold. Martial law was proclaimed, the King's brother detained as prisoner, and quiet energetically enforced. But in the meanwhile the mutineers of the 13th, 48th, 71st, and 7th Cavalry had marched towards Delhi, and were joined in mutiny by the troops at Seetapore—two regiments Oude Infantry, the 41st Native Infantry, and a wing of the 15th Irregular Cavalry, the regiments at Moordabad and Bareilly, the 18th, 68th and 29th Native Infantry, and the 28th Native Infantry at Shahjehanpore.—Two squadrons of cavalry, detached from Lucknow to Mynpoorie, under Captain Hayes, marked themselves by such a cowardly massacre of their officers as rivaled that at Meerut. These 200 men had been sent out to keep the road between Mynpoorie and Allepghur, under the command of four officers, whom they treacherously and murderously turned upon after marching 11 miles. Three of the four officers were killed, viz., Captain Fletcher Hayes, military secretary to the Chief Commissioner in Oude; Lieutenant G. D. Barber, Adjutant of the 2nd Oude Cavalry; and Fayer, assistant surgeon. The latter was first dispatched, a sowar having, with one blow of his tulwar, cut off his head as he stooped to drink at a well. The one surviving officer did not regularly belong to the party. But had volunteered to accompany it. He had a narrow escape. He was within eight yards of Captain Hayes when the latter was suddenly cut down from his saddle by one of the native officers. He was closely and hotly pursued for several miles by the mutinous Sowars, and it would appear that he owes his life to his good mare and to his being able to ride her over a stiff fence, which placed a barrier between him and most of the blood-thirsty bounds that were in chase of him. Subsequently he mounted Captain Hayes's Arab charger, which had kept him close company in his flight, and which placed him in safety when his own mare from fatigue could carry him no further.

The position has not been improved by the mutiny of the 16th Native Infantry at Futteyghur, which had distinguished itself at first by quelling an outbreak in the jail, but which afterwards followed the example of the rest. At Boudshunur also the Rampore Horse, which had been sent to keep the villages near Delhi, preferred to follow the example of the plunderers, and joined them. Thus, whilst European forces were being rapidly concentrated at Cawnpore, where the 84th Queen's had already been pushed on by dawk from Calcutta—whilst the Madras Fusiliers had reached Benares, and part of the 64th had started from Bengal to the upper Provinces—the whole of the country North and West of Lucknow was covered with large detachments of insurgents, some of whom had reached Futteyghur, and other different places along the line of road between Cawnpore and Delhi. Rohilcund was altogether occupied by mutineers. At the same time, South of Cawnpore, the insurrection which had commenced at Benares spread rapidly on both sides of the Ganges. The mutiny at Benares, of which I was enabled to give you an outline, has since been more fully described. At 5 o'clock on the evening of the 4th, the Brigade was ordered out for the purpose of disarming the 37th Regiment who were known to be disaffected, and with correspondence with people in the city. The men were ordered to appear on parade without their arms; some companies obeyed and did so, but others refused to give up their arms and commenced firing at their officers. This appeared to be the signal, for the rest of the regiment then ran to the bells of arms. The guns, however, began to pour in the grape so sharply upon them that they were glad to beat a retreat: only a few of the most determined rebels still kept up a fire from the right wing at the officers the Sikh regiment (Loodhianna) had hitherto remained quiet on parade, passive spectators of the scene, but at this crisis they loaded, by order of Colonel Gordon. An ominous change then came over them. The Cavalry (13th Irregular Cavalry) first turned, and then the Sikhs poured in a deliberate volley on the officers standing round, three of whom fell. The artillery in turn gave them a shower of grape, which sent them flying off the parade. About 100 of the mutineers were killed and 200 wounded; the rest fled, throwing down their arms. The mutineers of the Sikh regiment tried to capture the guns, and were thrice repulsed with great loss

Only a few men of the Irregular Cavalry and Sikh regiments stood firm; all the rest mutinied. Their discomfiture was complete, thanks to the bravery of 180 European soldiers who defended the guns, and charged and shot down the mutineers. Eight only, instead of 35, as reported, of these brave soldiers were killed and wounded. The lives of the civilians and their families who had taken refuge in the collector's cutchery, were saved by the presence and noble exertions of Soorut Singh, a Sikh prisoner. He it was who went among the Sikhs of the treasury guard and prevented them from rising after they had heard how the men of their corps had been cut up; and by his influence they were kept at their post until the next morning when the treasure was removed to cantonments under an escort of Europeans. The portion of the Sikh corps over the treasury remained staunch. The mutineers thus punished took the road to Allahabad, occupied by the 6th Native Infantry, a regiment recently complimented in general orders for its loyalty, and thanked for volunteering to march against the rebels. This treacherous corps joined the insurrection on the 6th, on hearing of the Benares affair, and rising upon their officers, who had been increased in number by a draught of several cadets, on account of assumed loyalty, they killed several. The list includes:—Captain Birch, for adjutant; Lieut. Innes, executive engineer; Lieut. Alexander, Oude Irregular Cavalry; Captain Plunket, Lieut. Stewart, Lieut. Hawes, Ensign Scott, Ensign Cheek, Ensign Dodd, Ensign Smith, another Ensign Smith and Ensign Way.

The Sepoys were joined by 3,000 Oude Irregulars, with whose assistance they burnt all the cantonment, plundered the treasury of 17 lakhs of rupees, and liberated the prisoners in the jail. A detachment of 200 Europeans fortunately held the fort, and kept in some Sikhs who were likewise in the works.

The result of this outbreak was for a time to stop the communication on the Delhi road.—Fifty Europeans, on the march from Benares to Allahabad, were stopped on the 7th at Jhoosee by a body of insurgents who had command of the Ganges crossing; and 25 other Europeans had been killed at the Ganges-bridge of Passarow. At the same time, East of Benares and the Ganges, the 17th Native Infantry, stationed at Azimgurh, broke out on the 3rd, and committed the usual excesses.

The Europeans, on the first alarm, repaired to a sort of fortified enclosure, but the guard on duty there refused to fight against their mutinous brethren. Lieutenant Hutchinson went forward to try and bring the mutineers to their duty, when he was shot by them. The Quartermaster-Serjeant of the regiment was also killed. Most of the other Europeans, including the ladies and children, Mr Horne, C. S.; Mr Simson, C. S.; Lieutenant Cross, Lieutenant Constable, and several others, escaped to Ghazepore. Major Burroughs, commanding the 17th, and some other officers, are missing. A treasure of 10 lakhs of rupees was in charge of a small party of Irregular Cavalry at Azimgurh, and Mr Horne, C. S.; left Ghazepore, with 50 sowars, to try and save it.

The 65th Native Infantry at Ghazepore had as yet behaved well, and it was hoped would continue to do so. Thus between Benares and Delhi the insurgents had barred the road in two important places—between Cawnpore and Delhi, and between Benares and Cawnpore. Agra it was to be feared would suffer from this state of things. There is no doubt that it has been isolated by the insurgents, for no communication has been received from that quarter since the 16th instant.

Another movement, less important in its consequences, took place a few days later in the rear of the besieging force at Delhi. The 61st Native Infantry, another native regiment of foot, and the 4th Native Cavalry, mutinied on the 8th inst. at Jullundur, marched to Loodhianna, and crossed to Phillour, where they were joined by the 3rd Native Infantry. It has not been stated whether any European officers suffered on this occasion. The regiments were pursued by a force of 200 Europeans and artillery, under Brigadier Johnson, and overtaken at Loodhianna. They hurriedly evacuated the place, having done such mischief as they could, and after nine of their number had been cut up, just outside of the town, they appear to have broken off in two or three parties, hotly pursued by artillery, cavalry, European foot soldiers, and a detachment of the 4th Sikh Infantry. Captain Farrington, the deputy commissioner of Jullundur, with a party of the Allooalea Horse, accompanied the pursuing force.

The last news of these mutineers was from a place called Malavi Kotta, off the main road to Delhi. Fortunately, Brigadier Chamberlain had reached Lahore from Sealkote. Part of his force had moved on in advance on the 6th and 7th, consisting of the 16th Irregular and a squadron of the 22nd Punjab Cavalry, the 4th Sikh Infantry, and a corps of Guides, horse and foot. The rest of the column moved from Lahore on the 9th inst., and consisted of H. M.'s 52nd, 35th Native Light Infantry, a wing of the 9th Light Cavalry, a wing of Cavalry, a wing of 17th Irregular Cavalry, 1st Punjab Infantry, a troop of European Horse Artillery, two Native Horse Field Batteries.

On the morning of the 9th, two men of the 35th Native Infantry, convicted of talking mutiny in their corps, were blown from their guns. Brigadier Chamberlain took the opportunity of telling the Sepoys that this honorable death, substituted for the punishment of hanging, was a proof that the English were desirous not to shock caste prejudices—a most consoling announcement, no doubt, to the parties concerned. It may be noticed here that 40 of the 120 mutineers of the 55th Native Infantry, taken near Peshawur, were blown from their guns in the same manner on the morning of the 9th. The execution comprised one subahdar (lieutenant), 11 naiks, (corporals,) and 22 privates. Almost simultaneously, and to prevent mischief, the 69th, 62nd Native Infantry, and a troop of Native Horse Artillery at Mooltan were disarmed on the 10th, as soon as the Jullundur mutiny became known.

To the Southward and Westward of Delhi the country round is almost all in the hands of the mutineers and plunderers. I should have informed you that the native troops at Nissar and Hansi, North-West of Delhi, lately mutinied and murdered many people, and plundered the defenceless town of Mahmi. Nine officers and almost all the other Europeans are said to have perished. Since that time the Cavalry Contingents of the Rajah of Indore (Koi-kar), and the Gwalior Contingent at Seepree, joined the insurrection, and disaffection crept down to Aurungzabad, where the 1st Cavalry of the Hyderabad Contingent rose against their officers. The extension of disorder to the Nizam's country I had ventured to foretell in my last communication. Fortunately the evil has not spread, for were the Rohilla and Arab mercenaries, banded and disbanded, who swarm in the Nizam's territory, to combine against us, they might ravage the whole of the Deccan almost with impunity.

The outbreaks at Neemuch and Nusserabad of which we had hitherto but imperfect accounts, were the origin of these misfortunes. From all that can now be gathered respecting the scenes at Neemuch, it appears that there was less life taken there than could at first have been anticipated, our loss being confined to a serjeant-major of artillery, his wife and children. The men of the 72nd Native Infantry and Gwalior Contingent were all anxious to save their officers, the cavalry alone exhibiting a ferocious spirit.

The fort at Neemuch was occupied by the 7th Gwalior Contingent, and when the cavalry, joined by a pack of unarmed plunderers, commenced the work of the day by firing bungalows and shooting at Europeans, the drawbridge of the work was raised. But after a short time the men inside, seeing the insurgents all round them, resolved to join, opened the fort gates, lowered the bridge and marched out.—There was nothing then for the officers and Europeans but to fly. The Nusserabad mutiny was more serious in its consequences, for it appears that when the men of the 15th Native Infantry seized the guns, they were in a square court, into which the officers of the Bombay Lancers charged—of course ineffectually. The Neemuch and Nusserabad mutineers, having started in the direction of Delhi, were not long in making their way up, although their progress was greatly impeded by the guns, which they were finally obliged to abandon in the deep sandy plains. Captain Nixon, who held Muttra, on the Jumna, determined to intercept them with the Buhurtpore Contingent. The troops marched with three marches, and then mutinied, forcing Captain Nixon and Captain Munbee to fly for their lives into Buhurtpore.

An attempt to bring the Malwa Contingent against the mutinous Sepoys of Neemuch and Nusserabad was attended with similar results. A part of the force (cavalry) on duty at Mehidpoor had been ordered out in the direction of Mundesore (road to Neemuch).—They mutinied and are said to have killed Lieutenants Brodie and Hunt. They then proceeded to Indore, for the purpose of plundering the treasury, and were only foiled by the resoluteness of the Indore Infantry of the Contingent, which refused to join their movement. This affair occurred on the 13th. On the 14th, the Gwalior contingents at Seepree rose against their officers, who succeeded, for fortunately, in escaping down the country, under the escort of a part of the 2nd Gwalior Regiment. Little reliance can be placed on any of the troops of the Gwalior State, the Bengal Native Infantry regiment (12th) at Jhansi and Nomgong having mutinied.

Sir Norman Leslie was killed at a place called Rohney, in the Santhal districts. Sir Norman Leslie with Major MacDonald and another officer, were seated out in the evening, when a party of desperadoes armed with swords rushed in and attacked them. Sir Norman Leslie was literally cut in two from the shoulder to the waist, and Major MacDonald severely wounded on the head. A subsequent letter says:—The murderers of Sir Norman Leslie have been apprehended and hanged, they turned out to be three men of his own regiment, one of them an old hand and the two others recruits.

The 1st Hyderabad Cavalry at Aurungzabad has been seriously punished. General Woodburn made a long march with the 25th Native Infantry (Bombay), and her Majesty's 14th,