

THE STORY OF THE GREAT INDIAN MUTINY.

BY E. W. L.

VIII.

BLOODY records are now to be rehearsed. On May 28th a torrent of blood was shed by the Hurrianah battalion and the 15th and 30th B.N.I. A little south-west of the main thoroughfare from Delhi to Kurnaul are Hansi and Hissar. These places witnessed the murder of every European who fell into the hands of the Hurrianah Sepoys. At Nusseerabad, in Rajpootana, the 15th and 30th followed the example set at Meerut, and began to murder and pillage. The 1st Bombay Lancers succeeded in rescuing some of the Europeans, but they were not strong enough to accomplish much. The mutineers, after looting Nusseerabad and its environs, marched off to Delhi. On May 30th the Lucknow brigade revolted, and on the next day the Bareilly brigade followed suit. In a few days Oude and Rohilcund (Agra and the little spot held by the British at Lucknow excepted) were under native rule.

That holy river, the Ganges, has for one of its tributaries the Goomtee. On the right bank of this tributary is built Lucknow, the Corinth* of India. The Grecian city was noted for its vice, its wealth, and its splendor—and, it may be added, for its extravagances. An ancient proverb says, "Not many ships can sail in Corinthian waters." So was it with Lucknow: beautiful—viciously beautiful. To the west stood the Residency, a number of stone buildings near by; and above the Residency was the Muchee Bowun fort. Near the Residency was an iron bridge; higher up, a stone bridge crossed the stream. On the left bank, a mile or two from this stone bridge, were the "lines" of the native regiments. Native regiments lived in "lines": villages of mud huts, with bazars and small shops in them. Sir Henry Lawrence was the Chief Commissioner; Mr. Gubbins the Financial Commissioner. Col. Inglis commanded the 32nd Foot, the only European regiment in the place; and Brigadier Grey was in command of the native troops, numbering 4,800 infantry, 2,100 cavalry, and two batteries of artillery. The odds against the British will be better seen by taking into account the whole of the Oude force: of natives, 19,200 men; of British (including one company of artillery), 800! A few civilians, merchants and their assistants, may

* Delhi is called the Rome of India; with greater applicability, I think, Lucknow may be styled the Corinth of India. The beautiful palaces of Lucknow, furnished with extravagant costliness, were the dwellings of native princes and the women of their seraglios. In marble palaces and in mud huts filthy orgies were constantly being carried on.