

time of crisis she would go into open revolt. A prudent statesman, misled into such a belief, would have, in face of these evidences of India's attitude as briefly summarised above, realised how mistaken he was in cherishing that hallucination, and taken serious account of the mighty forces that had been stirred, not, as he wished and hoped, against, but in support of the British. If he and his advisers had formed a correct estimate of that manifestation, it is not unlikely that their policy and methods in the conduct of the war might have undergone a salutary modification, their frantic ardour for its prosecution might have been cooled, the pursuit of the cruel and fantastic enterprise on which they were bent might have even been arrested.

But it was not to be. They were evidently obsessed with the idea that in spite of all the professions and practical proofs of India's adhesion to the British Throne, she could be counted on to add to its difficulties in a time of grave peril, that she was one of those weak links in the chain of the Empire on the snapping of which they reckoned for the ultimate