

the guns of this battery they raked the British right flank, and destructive was the fire. Brigadier Showers counselled Sir Henry Barnard to attack the battery. The advice was followed; an assault was made, but the British were repulsed with considerable loss. The reinforcements that had marched in that morning (22 miles had they covered)—the 4th Sikhs and part of the 2nd Fusiliers—came to the rescue; they charged the Sepoys with a fury that carried all before it. The Subzee Mundi "Sammy House" (Hindoo temple) was deluged with the blood of Sepoys who had taken refuge therein. The Delhi attacking party was badly beaten, and the Subzee Mundi hill (thus captured) was fortified, and vastly strengthened the British position. The great anniversary did not bring for the Sepoys the expected deliverance.

Already has it been said that Governors-General arriving in India have for a time to rely on the information supplied them by the local civil servants. Lord Canning was no exception. Entirely misled by high officials in Calcutta, who pooh-poohed the idea of any danger arising from the native army, the Governor-General acted injudiciously, to say the least. Sir John Lawrence, who foresaw what would result from any supineness on the part of the Government, thus telegraphed to Lord Canning: "Send for troops from Persia; intercept the force now on its way to China; bring it to Calcutta. Every European soldier will be required to save the country if the native troops turn against us. *This is the opinion of the leading minds here*" (the Punjab). This was telegraphed on the 10th of May, before Sir John had heard of the Meerut massacre. Lord Elphinstone, the Governor of Bombay, was as prescient as Sir John Lawrence. He begged Sir James Outram, in command of the Persian forces (the Persian war was over), to hasten to Calcutta. Here came in Red Tapism. Outram saw clearly enough what ought to be done, but he had to obtain Lord Canning's permission. The Governor-General's answer was non-committal. "Act on your own discretion." Sir James followed Elphinstone's advice. Havelock was still on board ship somewhere in the Persian Gulf. On May the 29th he landed in Bombay, the first news he heard being that Delhi was held by rebel Sepoys. He lost no time. Starting by sea (the railway crossing the peninsula was not then in existence) for Calcutta, he was wrecked at Ceylon, but reached his destination on June 17th.

May was well advanced before Lord Canning began to use his own eyes. As soon as those eyes were opened he acted with energy. Ceylon, the Mauritius, and Madras were called upon for troops. The Madras Fusiliers, under Colonel Neill, arrived at Calcutta on May 23rd. Without delay, they and the 84th Foot started for the North-West. A short anecdote connected with the start will prove what kind of man Neill was. Neill was at the station with a few men, but the detachment which was to form the *avant-garde* had not yet marched up, there having been some trouble in crossing the river. The station-master told Neill