

WARREN HASTINGS.



WARREN HASTINGS was born on the sixth of December, 1732. He belonged to the great family of Doyleysford, and played a very important part in the making of the greatest and most powerful empire of the world to-day—England. When Charles was King of Doyleysford, it was the custom of his predecessors to mortgage all their property, and this Charles did, keeping the manor which he afterwards sold. The last Hastings of Doyleysford had two sons, Howard who sought employment in the English government; and Pynaston, who, being a careless fellow, married early in life, but died a few years after his marriage, leaving one son, who turned out to be the famous Warren Hastings.

At the death of his father, Hastings was as yet very young, and, on account of a series of unfortunate events, he was forced to leave school at an early age with a very scanty education. He was now placed in the hands of his uncle, who also died. He was then given into the care of a Mr. Cheswick, who, not caring properly for the young fellow's career, secured for him a position in the office of the East India Company at Calcutta. Although Hastings might have been given a little more education before entering into this position, yet we can safely say that this step was the foundation of his great and victorious career. Failures and misfortunes are the high roads to success, and thus was the success of young Hastings obtained. While yet in the office of the East India Company, he showed his skill and valor by the way he settled the quarrels that arose between the French, the English and native tribes.

In the year 1764, Hastings returned to England, and, a few years afterwards, he went to India, where he made his abode, and where he performed the many great deeds for which his name is still so much honored even to-day. India at this time was composed of a number of savage and warlike tribes, as the Bengalese, and how he succeeded to keep the upper hand I will try to show you. When in India a short time he was appointed Governor of Bengal, Bombay, and Madras. Having gained this position, he originated a system of government which deduced order from chaos, and peace from anarchy. Few men of high rank to-day have had to form their own plan of government; and, even though they have the government planned for them