

simple. There was no one, as he thought, to oppose them ; they would seize the treasure-chest at Arrah, and then, crossing the Ganges, join the Oude mutineers. But there was a slip between Kour's lip and the *chest* he intended to drain.

In June, all the Europeans in Arrah, except eight brave men, took up their quarters in Dinapore. Mr. Boyle, a railway engineer, had built him a two-storied house ; it was meant for billiard-tables, and was not a residence. This house the eight Europeans fortified to the best of their ability, storing it with biscuits, water, rice and other grain. Sandbags were piled around the house, loopholes being left. A wonderful piece of luck befell Boyle and his party : fifty Sikhs came in to take the treasure-chest to Patna, and, seeing the state of affairs, they remained. On July 25th, Mr. Boyle heard of the Dinapore rising ; he and his seven companions, with the fifty Sikhs, six Eurasians, and one native gentleman, bricked themselves up in the two-storied building. On July 26th they were attacked by the mutineers, Kour Singh's people, and all the rabble that could be collected. Had this multitude simply sat on the building, it would have given way and its inmates been smothered. But they began a regular siege, and kept it up day and night. Water running short, a well was dug ; the mutineers mined, the besieged, seizing tools from their opponents, countermined. The Sepoy guns made breaches in the walls ; at night the breaches were repaired. The Sepoys offered terms, promising safety ; the besieged laughed at them.

A detachment of 400, sent from Dinapore to the relief of the little party, fell into an ambuscade at night and was nearly cut to pieces. Of the 400, fifty only escaped wounds ; and of fifteen officers, three, alone remained uninjured. The relieving force retired, pursued by the Sepoys. A Sikh brought in the news of this disaster ; but Mr. Boyle and his party did not despair.

An officer of artillery, Vincent Eyre, was steaming up the Ganges. He commanded a small force and three guns. On July 28th, at Ghazeeport, he heard of Mr. Boyle and his brave companions. He was offered and accepted the aid of twenty-five Highlanders. This raised his command to sixty men—sixty men against a host ! Not for a moment did he hesitate ; Boyle must be helped. Steam was put on, and the boat, turning down stream, arrived at Buxar on the 30th July. Eyre here found 150 men of the 5th Foot. These he requisitioned, sending back to Ghazeeport the twenty-five Highlanders who had volunteered there. Volunteers from the Stud and Railway departments raised his force to 200 men. On the 1st of August, with these men and two guns, he started for the beleaguered house. The first night this force marched twenty-eight miles, rather more than half the distance it had to traverse. News of the defeat of the 400 here reached him. Undiscouraged, he resumed his march early in the morning. The roads were bad ; bridges had to be repaired ; nevertheless, the force came within nine miles of the besieged house. The Sepoys had overlooked