

THE STORY OF THE GREAT INDIAN MUTINY.

BY E. W. L.

XIII.

THE morning after the fiercely-contested skirmish, Colonel Grant and his horsemen went out to reconnoitre. The scene of the conflict was strewn with the carcasses of men and horses, and there was one gun which the colonel appropriated. Of the enemy there was no sign. But the strategists made another attempt. The Jellalabad gunners were famed for their accurate firing; and this time the strategists ordered the Jellalabad battery to the front. The gunners fired well, but they were deficient in backbone. Brigadier Wilson headed a charge; the mutineers made a hasty retreat, but they saved their guns. The men of Delhi abandoned strategy.

On June 17th, Capt. McAndrew, in charge of the Bhagput bridge, which spans the Jumna), alarmed by a rumor, retreated within the camp. Of course he was severely reprimanded; but had the rumor turned out to be a reality, and McAndrews' force been cut to pieces, and had he escaped, who would have said a word in his favor? Temerity, if successful, is praised; witness Nelson before Copenhagen. Prudence, when the threatened danger passes harmlessly by, is censured; witness M'Andrew before the bridge at Bhagput. Hodson speedily rectified the mistake.

Reinforcements poured into Delhi. The Jullundhur brigade, which mutinied on June 7th, and the 3rd B.N.I., marched into the city on June 21st. There was no longer room within the walls for the crowd; these new comers had to camp outside, the city guns protecting them. A timely reinforcement reached the British camp two days later; 850 men came in on June 23rd, the hundredth anniversary of the battle of Plassey.

Now was the great day come*: the British rule in India was to be annihilated on this hundredth anniversary. Full of hope and fanaticism, the Delhi Sepoys came forth to do battle. Two little suburbs of Delhi, the Subzee Mundi and the Kishengunge, lie on the west. On June 17 (it may be remembered) the Sepoys had started to build a battery on a little hillock. On this height was a walled enclosure. The battery and the doors of the enclosure were destroyed by the British on the 19th. This place was near by the Subzee Mundi, and it was here the Sepoys again established a battery on the great anniversary. With

* The prophecy here alluded to did come to pass. Indian commentators (like some nearer home) twisted the prognostication into meaning the foretelling of an event which did happen. One hundred years after Plassey the Company Bahadoor expired.

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