

sionaries were wonderfully preserved, having been in the mission premises, more than a mile from the part where the mutiny began.

The Rev Dr Duff notices this outbreak at Benares, in one of a series of most interesting letters inserted in the *Edinburgh Witness* :—

“Benares, the sacred metropolis of of Hinduism, was within a hair-breadth of falling into their power; indeed, its escape seemed like a miraculous interposition of Providence. An intelligent writer in that city, in a letter dated the 14th inst., says,—‘The more I look on the past, the more I wonder at our preservation. Had any mistake occurred—had a gun missed fire, or had the villains done anything but what they did—we should all have been cut off to a man, and the whole city would have fallen into their hands.’ And when we think that all the British were saved from a cruel death, and the city from destruction, by the sudden and opportune arrival of a small company of only 180 British soldiers, with a commander animated by the spirit and energy of a Clive, the deliverance does seem markedly to be the doing of the Lord, and marvellous in our eyes. I know nothing comparable to it, except some of the miraculous deliverances recorded in the Old Testament history. Still, in the estimation of the natives, the all but desperate state of our affairs at Benares, has given a shock to their confidence in the stability of British power next to that of the fall of D.ili.”

The Rev Andrew Gordon of the Associate Presbyterian Church at Sialkat, mentions the very trying circumstances in which the missionaries were placed by being left almost unguarded in the midst of peril. He expresses, however, the comfort imparted by strong faith :—

“For the sake of strengthening the force that is moving against Delhi, and for the defence of other places where there are large treasures, magazines, &c., the European forces have been all removed from Sialkat. At first, when we heard of this about to take place, we felt very much disturbed at the thought of being left apparently at the mercy of a few hundred native soldiers, who, we felt, might rise at any time and kill us. Accordingly, the commanding officer of this station made a great effort to retain

two or three hundred European soldiers, as a kind of guard against the native soldiers rising. But these also left here last night, all but thirty. There were more than one hundred sick Europeans in the hospital here. These have also been removed, except a few who were not able. The officers have also sent away their families, with a few exceptions. The most that remain here now, i.e., of white people, are these thirty soldiers, fifteen or twenty officers, and four families of missionaries, including the Rev Thomas Hunter, who was lately sent here by the Church of Scotland. We have also been advised by some to leave, or at least to send away our families; but we have not done so yet; and we all feel rather less inclined to do so than we did a while ago. We have been much in prayer for light as to what we ought to do. We all wish to remain together under these trying circumstances. But our sick child cannot go out on a long journey without a great risk; therefore, while some of us could go, others could not. Again, it does not clearly appear to be a duty to leave before there has been actually a disturbance and danger here. The most that we can say is, that we have no confidence in the faithfulness of the native regiment at Sialkat, and that there is some danger of companies of the disbanded mutineers coming in here from other stations to plunder and do mischief, while, at the same time, the people at Lahore (the station to which people are going from this) are nearly as uneasy as we are here. Finally, we cannot avail ourselves of funds to enable us to remove. We have funds enough which will be available as soon as these disturbances are over. But just now nobody will exchange money, and nobody will lend. This one circumstance helps to make our course clear, for it is thus rendered necessary for us to remain where we are for the present.

“Thus our Heavenly Father has removed out of our reach, one after another, every arm of flesh. At first we thought a thousand European soldiers were a great protection. When most of these were marched away we thought it a good thing that two or three hundred were left, and thought with most others that Lahore must be our place of refuge. But now that we are cut off from all these we feel that there is no temptation to trust in them, and that we unre-