

of Calcutta and Govindpore. In 1704 the whole stock of the Company in Bengal was removed to Calcutta or Fort William (so called out of compliment to the King), the garrison of which consisted of 129 soldiers (only 66 of whom were Europeans) and a gunner and his crew of about five and twenty men; and in 1707 Fort William was dignified with the title of a Presidency, forming the foundation of that wonderful empire which ere long was destined to spread its authority from the Ganges to the Indus—from Cape Comorin to the Himalaya.

For nearly half a century the British at Calcutta pursued a peaceful and profitable commerce, until in 1756 the ferocious molesm Surajee ud Dowlah invested and captured the East India Company's factory of Fort William, placed Mr. Holwel and his 143 companions in a dungeon (the *Black Hole*) only 18 feet square; and in less than 24 hours not more than 24 Englishmen (and prisoners) remained of the British Presidency in Bengal;—an inauspicious prelude to the future.

It has before been remarked how the English were indebted in 1666 to the skill of an English doctor for permission to settle at Piety; in 1713 our country was again indebted to its medical skill for further privileges. Mr. Hamilton, a surgeon in the East India Company's service, having accompanied an embassy to Delhi soliciting certain privileges, a powerful opposition was met in the mogul court, and the embassy were on the point of returning unsuccessful, when it so happened that the Emperor (Ferozkshere) was seized with a dangerous illness which baffled the skill of the native physicians. Mr. Hamilton's advice was solicited, given, and successful; on being desired to name his reward, he nobly cast aside private advantages and implored a grant of the objects of the mission, which were gratefully conceded. Hamilton's remains rest without a stone to mark their interment in the burial ground at Calcutta, his patriotism and his services remembered; and although the natives of India have been indebted to England in ties of personal affection by means of the skill of our surgeons and physicians than by any other class of the East India Company's servants, they are the worst paid and most ill requited officers in the East: their lives are spent in doing good, and old age brings with it little to solace but the remembrance of the past. It is to be hoped that a Profession combining in its exercise science, extensive knowledge and christian charity will soon meet its deserts.