

THE STORY OF THE GREAT INDIAN MUTINY.

BY E. W. L.

XVIII.

THE province of Nepaul hugs the Himalayas and is to the east of Oude. Rajah Jung Bahadoor of Nepaul made a friendly offer of six regiments to the British Government. The regiments were to occupy Allahabad or Benares. The Government, not unnaturally, was inclined to be suspicious: the cities named were of far too great importance to run any risks with regard to them. Havelock had grave doubts on the matter; he suggested that the men of the Nepaulese troops sent to our assistance should place their families as hostages in the hands of the British. At length an expedient was thought of which could give little offence to the Rajah, and yet, should suspicions be justified by subsequent events, would do little damage to British interests: the Nepaulese troops were asked to defend Gurruckpore. This was acting prudently; but, of course, some were found who blamed Lord Canning for not accepting loyally the Bahadoor's offer.

Patna, the capital of Behar (south of Nepaul), is a city of 170,000 inhabitants. Ten miles west of Patna is Dinapore. A brigade, formed of the 10th Foot, the 7th, 8th, and 40th B.N.I., and a company of European and a company of native artillery, was stationed at Dinapore, under the command of General Lloyd, 70 years old and a firm believer in Sepoy fidelity. Not only were there signs of mutiny in the district, but a revolt had actually broken out in Patna. In July an incipient mutiny was nipped in the bud by Mr. Taylor, of the Civil Service, and several conspirators were hanged. Then the Mahomedans broke out; but Mr. Taylor, summoning Rattray's Sikhs to his aid, quelled the uprising on the spot. But General Lloyd's calm serenity was not disturbed. Representations were made to Lord Canning of the fears entertained as to the fidelity of the native force at Dinapore; but Lord Canning referred the question to General Lloyd, and the General believed in his Sepoys. The native troops were not disarmed, but a curious expedient was resorted to when the General was finally goaded into action. The 10th Foot was ordered to take away the Sepoys' percussion caps! This was done on the 25th of July. The caps were placed in safety, and the satisfied General went on board a steamer to lunch with some friends. His sweet confidence was rudely shaken: musket shots were heard. When asked for the caps in their pouches, the mutineers fired upon the Europeans. A volley from the 10th, however, dispersed them, and the majority of them escaped across the Soane into Arrah. Here Kour Singh, a wealthy man and one who had for years expressed the greatest friendship for the Government, supplied them with boats, and constituted himself their leader. Kour's plan was