

## THE STORY OF THE GREAT INDIAN MUTINY.

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## X.

A TALE of "derring do" is connected with the tragedy of Jhansi; it is a short sad chronicle of brave deeds and unavailing valor. Frank Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Skene and one or two peons sought refuge in a small tower early on the 4th of June. Gordon was addicted to sport; he possessed quite an arsenal of rifles, revolvers, and fire-arms generally. Moreover, he was a cool-headed man and a good shot; Alick Skene resembled him in these points; and Mrs. Skene appears to have been a courageous woman. When the fifty-five Europeans in the fort had been so cruelly butchered by order of the Ranees who had bided her time, the Sepoys turned their attention to the little tower. This little tower formed a part of the fort. The forts in India were formerly little more than a thick, high wall surrounding all or a portion of the town they protected. Thus it was that so many natives were in the fort which surrendered on June 4. The small garrison of the tower stationed itself on the roof. Gordon and Skene did most of the shooting, Mrs. Skene loading for them. The mutineers were supplied with scaling ladders, but so hot and deadly was the fire from the tower that several attempts to storm it failed disastrously. At last Gordon fell, a bullet through his forehead. Skene saw that the Sepoys could not be beaten off, the odds were too great. Thirty-seven of the mutineers had been killed and some more wounded. A high price had the natives paid for the lives of three Europeans. Skene kissed his wife, shot her and then turned the deadly revolver on himself.

In Jhansi portions only of two regiments were stationed; the balance of these occupied Nowgong. A small band of Sepoys sided with the Europeans to this extent: they protected a party of Europeans when the revolt broke out at Nowgong, and escorted them out of the place. These Europeans were then left to shift for themselves; a few of them reached Banda. The rest were either murdered or fell exhausted on the road. The other Europeans at Nowgong were shot. At Futtehpore on June 10th Mr. Tucker, magistrate, and his friends made a gallant stand against a company of Sepoys. The magistrate's house was rudely fortified; and here the stand was made—the accurate shooting of the magistrate and his party kept the Sepoys at bay. A temporary retreat on their part gave the besieged an opportunity to escape. The magistrate excepted, the Europeans profited by this chance, crossed the Jumna, and made their way to Banda. Mr. Tucker would not desert his post. The Sepoys returned; one European against a host. Sixteen Sepoys fell dead before the magistrate was