

Punjab Police to occupy Kangra. The river Chenab runs into the Indus. On the left bank of the Chenab, a few miles above the meeting of the waters, is Mooltan, considered to be the key of the country lying around the junction of the five rivers (Punjab). In Mooltan were 60 Europeans and 3,500 natives. The 62nd and 69th B.N.I. were stationed at Mooltan; as usual, their officers were confident of the loyalty of the men. A small force of 250 Punjabese and the 60 Europeans were alone relied upon by Major C. Chamberlain, who was in command. A bold front, strong language, and gentle hints of reinforcements of European troops, kept the natives in check for a season.

Cassell quotes an anecdote related by Mr. F. Cooper, Commissioner at Umrutsir: "Very early in the crisis, Rajah Sahib Dyal, an old and faithful adherent of the Government, asked the writer (Cooper) how matters looked at Peshawur. The reply was, 'Satisfactory.' 'Otherwise,' said the questioner,—and he took the skirt of his muslin robe and rolled it up significantly." Cooper saw in this act the meaning that, if Peshawur fell into the hands of the mutineers, their forces and those of their allies would "roll up" the Punjab and wrest it from the British. The Peshawur valley lies at the mouth of the celebrated Khyber Pass; the allies would have been the fierce Moslems, inhabiting the surrounding hilly country. The rajah's pantomime, it seems to me, might have been construed into meaning, "If you have lost Peshawur, it is time for you to gird up your loins and run!"

At Peshawur were stationed the 21st, 24th, 27th, 51st, and 64th B.N.I., and three cavalry regiments, the 5th Regulars and the 17th and 18th Irregulars. A Hindoo regiment was also near the place. Against these there were the 70th and 87th Foot and four batteries, say 2,000 men. Some twenty miles off were the 27th Foot, and with them the 55th B.N.I., the 10th Irregulars, and a battery. At Hotee Murdan were the Guides, natives; good men and true. The ratio of native to British troops was about as 3 : 1.

The officer commanding-in-chief in the Punjab was of the Anson type, and, like Anson, he had mighty men under him. Brigadier S. Cotton, Colonels Edwards, Nicholson, and N. Chamberlain acted; General Reid, the Commander-in-Chief, looked on more or less complacently. On May 12th a council was held. Nicholson suggested a movable column that should march from place to place, giving help where help was needed. He voted for making the British force a reality that the natives could see and feel. The suggestion was at once acted upon. The reliable Guides were called in from Hotee Murdan, and the unreliable 55th replaced them. The 64th B.N.I. were divided into three detachments and sent to occupy three different forts. News of the disarming of native troops at Lahore reached Peshawur on May 13th. The telegraph was busy between Rawul Pindee and Peshawur, Sir John Lawrence at one place and General Reid at the other. Reid was summoned to Rawul Pindee, where Sir