

There are people who contend that Lord Elgin was a shallow man, whose good qualities all lay upon the surface; but this we apprehend to have been a mistake. His career was not perhaps as brilliant or important as if he had taken part in politics in England, and it may be alleged that he refrained from entering the strife of the House of Commons from a fear of failure. It is doubtful whether he was naturally disposed to rush into the hurly-burly of active combat; but he had sufficient firmness and self-command to sustain him in almost any position in which he could have been placed, and there is no reason to doubt that the tact and grace which marked his oratory, the knowledge of men and of public affairs which made him a good administrator, and his admirable temper, would have raised him high in the home councils of the Empire. He was offered a seat in the Cabinet by Lord Palmerston at a critical time, but the office was refused, it was said, because Lord Elgin did not believe that the Government could stand, but probably because he thought he would have a better field for his abilities under Lord Derby. Lord Palmerston is believed to have been offended by the refusal, and though it has been frequently reported since that the offer was renewed, we have no confirmation of the statement. Every mark of honour, apart from a seat in the Cabinet, was, however, bestowed on Lord Elgin by the Palmerston Government, and he finished his career in the most lucrative and responsible office in the gift of the Crown. The chief reason for Lord Elgin refraining from public life in England was his poverty. A descendant of Robert the Bruce, and allied to the highest nobility in the kingdom, he was almost without income, and he sought employment abroad with the laudable object of re-establishing the fortunes of his house. He dies with his work, in all probability, but half completed. Had he lived, he might possibly have been able to take his place in the House of Lords, on a level, in point of fortune, with a portion of his peers, and to have possessed the weight in the council of his Sovereign which his intimate knowledge of all the dependencies of the Empire was calculated to secure. This was the goal of his ambition. Man proposes, but God disposes. We submit, while we grieve. He was a sincere and an enlightened friend of Canada, and many Canadians will join with us in this humble tribute to the ablest and most enlightened ruler to whom the destinies of this colony has ever been entrusted by the Crown.

#### THE CAWNPORE MEMORIAL.

During the visit of our former governor general, Lord Elgin, early in the year to the North West Provinces of India, he performed a sad yet interesting ceremony at Cawnpore. From a *Times* correspondence we make the following extracts, giving an account of the proceedings:—

After visiting Allahabad, Lord Elgin reached Cawnpore. It is no mere fancy, no result of horror at the events with which the place is ever associated, that makes men speak of this station as "accursed." It has always looked so, with its filthy mudhouses and mean shops, containing a population 70,000 people, with half-sandy, half-loamy hillocks all around, with clouds of dust sweeping along every road and eternally resting over the place. It has always been a hated station, and now more so than ever. Let me recall the dates, and outline the events of 1857. On the 6th of June of that year the siege fairly began of the small garrison who, under General Wheeler, were defended by a mud wall and ditch, the former only 4ft. high and at the whole such as the worst rider could take at an easy leap. No less than 100,000 natives filled the city and military bazaars; guns and ammunition abounded; Mussulmans served the former as well as our own artillerymen, who had trained them, and yet, after 20 days' siege, Nana Sahib and his cowards could take the place only by the foulest stratagem. Those who perished in these 20 days were buried in a well close to the intrenchment, where, when I last saw it, there were only a few simple crosses erected by the pious hands of comrades of the soldiers who had fallen. Over it has now been erected a massive Iona cross, on an appropriate basement. On the face of the cross is inscribed:—

"In a well under this cross were laid, by the hands of their fellows in suffering, the bodies of men, women, and children who died hard by, during the heroic defence of Wheeler's intrenchment when beleaguered by the Rebel Nana, June 6 to 27, 1857."

On the face of the pedestal of the cross is written:—

"Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth; but our eyes are unto Thee, O God, the Lord."—Psalm cxli.

This well was consecrated by the Bishop of Calcutta on Friday, the 13th of February.

But the most solemn service at which the Viceroy was present was two days before at the Slaughter-house Well, where from 120 to 130 of our women and children were mercilessly butchered. On Saturday, the 27th of June, 1857, the doomed garrison, under promise of protection, made over their guns and treasure to the Nana,

and at sunrise began their march to the Suttee Chowra Ghat on the Ganges, about a mile off, where the previous day three of their number had seen and approved 24 boats prepared for their reception. The Ghat was surrounded by guns concealed, and parties of Sepoys with loaded muskets. You know the story. While a quarter of a mile away, the obese Nana, with an anxiety unlike his passive race and contrasting with his foul corpulency, was hastily pacing up and down waiting for the issue; a bugle sounded, grape and shot poured into the boats, which the false crews also set on fire, and only after an hour's massacre, from 9 to 10 in the morning, did the Nana give the order to spare the women and children who yet survived. To them were afterwards added the ladies and three of the officers of the party from Futtehghur, and all were confined for a day or two in one house, and then removed to the Beebeeghur, as it was called, a slaughter-house which we afterwards levelled with the ground. Here, with clothes received from the native washermen, and fed at first on native food, but subsequently allowed meat and milk, the miserable captives spent another fortnight, till the 15th of July, when five surviving men were shot, and from 6 to dark five men were sent in by the Nana, who was in the next house, now an hotel, and ended their misery. Not ended, for next morning, when these butchers went with some sweepers to throw the bodies into the well, three or four ladies were yet alive, and two or three children ran round the well to escape the fiends, while thousands looked on and never raised a finger to save. The facts were all vouched for at the investigation conducted by Government, and are to be found in hideous detail in the "Synopsis of the Evidence taken at Cawnpore regarding the Revolt at that Station in June and July, 1857." In these months, no less than 1,000 Christians perished in Cawnpore. Only seven Englishmen and East Indians, twelve East Indian women, and six loyal natives, who were in the intrenchment, escaped the fate that overtook the rest. Remembering this, how solemn were the memories which crowded on the Christians who took part in the consecration service at sunset on the 11th of February. What was a barren desolation when I saw it, is now a smiling garden—almost a pleasure ground—in the midst of surrounding sterility. No one of the thousands of natives who crowded to witness the scene was admitted within the enclosure. Lord Elgin stood on the steps of the platform erected round the well. The monument consists of an octagonal Gothic screen, designed by Colonel Yule when Public Works Secretary, on a platform which encircles the well. The well itself within is vaulted over, and covered with a pedestal which awaits the statue Lord Canning promised to order from Baron Marochetti. Round the rim of the well and within the screen is written—

"Sacred to the perpetual memory of a great company of Christian people, chiefly women and children, who near this spot were cruelly massacred by the followers of the rebel Nana Dhoondopunt, of Bithoor, and cast, the dying with the dead, into the well below, on the 15th of July, 1857."

Beside the Viceroy stood the Commander-in-Chief, and around were all the high officials of Oude and the North-Western Provinces. The event, like the sorrow, was a national one, and "on the part of the Viceroy and the Christian subjects of Her Majesty Queen Victoria," Mr. Thornhill, commissioner of Allahabad, whose brother's bones lay below, and who, with the skill of a born-architect and the zeal of pious love, has devoted his whole energies to make the monument and grounds what they are, read Lord Elgin's memorial to the Lord Bishop, as follows:—

"Showeth,—That the present Memorial building, erected over the well into which were cast the remains of a great company of Christian people, cruelly put to death near this place on the 15th day of July, in the year of our Lord and Saviour 1857, together with two enclosures containing the graves of soldiers who died in the same year, the one situated at the distance of 60 yards to the south-west of the said Memorial building, containing a little more than half an acre of ground, and the other situated at the distance of 45 yards to the south-east of the Memorial building aforesaid, have not been consecrated. Wherefore it is desired that your Lordship should now, by virtue of your pastoral and episcopal office, assign and consecrate the said Memorial building, and the said enclosed burial-places, and separate them from all profane and common uses.

"ELGIN AND KINCARDINE."

The Bishop, his chaplain, the Archdeacon, the chaplain of Cawnpore, and others, followed by the Viceroy and all the Christians present, thereupon proceeded round the grounds, chanting that service which, always solemn, seemed clothed with a sublimity unusual when performed amid such associations. None who took part in it will ever forget it, as the full soldiers' voices rolled out the 90th Psalm in the metrical version. The Bishop's address befitted the occasion, and suggests many a reflection on the present prosperous state of our empire five years after an occurrence intended to sweep us from Asia.