

India Company, who have a large army to support their authority, composed chiefly of native soldiers or Sepoys. The religion of these Sepoys is chiefly Brahminism, a kind of idolatry which teaches them, among other things, to reverence the cow or ox, and on no account to kill this animal. The Hindoos are divided into four great castes or ranks, which are entirely distinct from each other, and hold no more intercourse than can be avoided. There are the Brahmins or priests, the soldiers, the husbandmen and the laborers. In Bengal the Sepoy soldiers have always been enlisted from among the Brahmins, or highest class, who are far more bigoted and fanatical than the others, and more liable to revolt. In the other Presidencies of Bombay and Madras, the sepoy is taken indiscriminately from all ranks.

There has long been a disaffected spirit among the Sepoys of the Royal army, and which was lately brought to a crisis by the following circumstances. During the war in the Crimea the minie rifle was found so superior to the old "Brown Bess," as our soldiers called the muskets, that the India Company determined to introduce it into their army. The cartridges (or ball and powder wrapped up in paper) for this kind of firearm, need to be greased in order to slip down the barrel, and some bad men who wished to overthrow the Government in India, artfully told the Sepoys that the grease used was that of the ox, their sacred animal. The bad men who did this, then went to the Mahomedan Sepoys, of whom there are many in the army, and told them that the grease was also that of swine, which animals you know Mahomet told his followers to hold in abhorrence, like the Jews of the old Testament. On hearing all this the Sepoys became furious. They said "The English are trying to overthrow our religion," and at length an open mutiny broke out at Meerut, a large station in North-western India. There the Sepoys suddenly turned upon their officers, who are always Europeans, murdered them in cold blood, and then inhumanly massacred every white man, woman, and child they could find. Alas! but few escaped their fiendish rage. From Meerut the spirit of revolt flew through the other stations in Bengal, and at nearly all of them similar scenes of horror took place. No pen can ever describe the frightful massacres. At Delhi, after the Sepoys thought they had done their work, fifty poor women and children were found hid in a cave, and one by one these were brought out, and butchered in presence of each other.