

pose these rebels had been natives of Algeria, and the executioners French Zouaves, should we not have been confirmed in the belief that Algeria was a doubtful gain to France?

The Sepoys were mutineers. But the people of Oude were not mutineers. They were fighting, most unwisely, no doubt, but not unnaturally, for their native dynasty. Their crime cannot be said to have been worse than that of the Scotch Jacobites, who are now objects of historic sympathy; yet they were included in the indiscriminating slaughter.

Lord Elgin was above the suspicion of pseudo-philanthropy, or of any weakness or illusion which could interfere with a rational pursuit of British interests. For that reason we shall make a free use of his testimony, as recorded in his "Letters and Diary." Visiting India, on his way to China, at the time of the mutiny, he came into contact with the spirit of sanguinary terrorism evoked among the dominant race; and the impression which it made upon him is not doubtful:

"August 21st.—It is a terrible business, however, this living among inferior races. I have seldom from man or woman since I came to the East heard a sentence which was reconcilable with the hypothesis that Christianity had ever come into the world. Detestation, contempt, ferocity, vengeance, whether Chinamen or Indians be the object. There are some three or four hundred servants in this house. When one first passes by their salaaming, one feels a little awkward. But the feeling soon wears off, and one moves among them with perfect indifference, treating them, not as dogs, because in that case one would whistle to them and pat them, but as machines with which one can have no communion or sympathy. Of course, those who can speak the language are somewhat more *en rapport* with the natives; but very slightly so I take it. When the passions of fear and hatred are ingrafted on this indifference, the result is frightful: an absolute callousness to the sufferings of the objects of those passions, which must be witnessed to be understood and believed.

and feeble from his many wounds, he was deliberately placed upon a small pile of dry sticks, which had been improvised for the purpose, and there held down, in spite of his dying struggles, which, becoming weaker and more feeble every moment, were, from their very faintness and futile desperation, cruel to behold. Once, during this frightful operation, the wretched victim, maddened by pain, managed to break away from his tormentors, and, already horribly burnt, fled a short distance, but he was immediately brought back and placed upon the fire, and there held till life was extinct." Englishmen were looking on all the time!

"August 22d.——— tells me that yesterday, at dinner, the fact that Government had removed some commissioners who, not content with hanging all the rebels they could lay their hands on, had been insulting them by destroying their caste, telling them that after death they should be cast to dogs to be devoured, etc., was mentioned. A reverend gentleman could not understand the conduct of Government; could not see that there was any impropriety in torturing men's souls; seemed to think that a good deal might be said for torturing their bodies as well. These are your teachers, O Israel! Imagine what the pupils become under such leading!" (page 199).

Subsequently, as governor-general, Lord Elgin had the opportunity of learning more of these events from sources which he deemed authentic:

"The feeling of the natives of India toward Canning was in some measure due to a similar cause. The clamor for blood and indiscriminate vengeance which raged around him, and the abuse poured upon him because he would not listen to it, imparted in their eyes to acts which carried justice to the very verge of severity the grace of clemency. I could give you plenty of proofs of this. . . . The following sentences occur in a letter written from Delhi during our recent panic by an officer: . . . 'The native force here is much too small to be a source of anxiety, and, unless they take the initiative, it is my opinion that there can be no important rising. The Mussulmans of Delhi are a contemptible race. Fanatics are very rare on this side of the Sutlej. The terrors of that period when every man who had two enemies was sure to swing are not forgotten. The people declare that the work of Nadir Shah was as nothing to it. His executions were completed in twelve hours. But, for months after the last fall of Delhi, no one was sure of his own life or that of the being dearest to him for an hour.'"

We might fancy ourselves reading an account of the reign of terror in Ireland after the rising in '98. That all this is not English, that it is utterly at variance with the general character of the English people, is certain; every candid critic of English society would say so; but no character is independent of circumstance, and if we choose to put ourselves into the circumstances of foreign conquerors, into the place of Nadir Shahs, the natural consequences will ensue. There is nothing to save us from them, any more than there was to save the Spanish conquerors of Mexico. From Egypt we shall infallibly be drawn on to Abyssinia; and in Abyssinia, if not in Egypt, there is likely to be just as bloody work as there has been in Hindostan.

Increased facilities of communication and rep-