

cision which sentenced Nuncomar to death for forgery. The latter was the chief charger against the Governor. It is generally believed that Justice Trupez, sitting as a judge, put a man unjustly to death in order to serve a political purpose; namely, to save the reputation, honor and fortune of Hastings.

The head office in London sided with the majority of the Council. In the words of Lady Macbeth they "Would not play false, and yet would wrongly win"—since the profits that Hastings made in raiding the native Princes, or as it is sometimes termed, "waging offensive war," went to the Company and not to his private fortune.

General Clavery wished to displace Hastings, and put Clavering at the head of affairs. Hastings' agent resigned for him. Clavering was to take charge of affairs until the new Governor, Wheler, should arrive. Hastings refused to resign, stating that he had not authorised his agent to hand in his resignation. The Indian courts decided in his favor. When Wheler arrived, he had to be contented with a seat at the Council board. Hastings completed his term of five years, and was then quietly reappointed. This conduct, on the part of the Company, evinced its faith in him.

Justice Impey endeavored to overrule Hastings, but the latter created a new office with an extra salary of eight thousand pounds, and thus bought him off.

In spite of Hastings' questionable administration, it was a good thing for Britain that a dependable man was at the helm in India during the war with France; otherwise she might have lost her Imperial claims in the Far East.

Mrs. Hastings' health failed her, and it was found necessary to send her to England, Hastings followed her the succeeding year, and landed at Plymouth in 1785. He posted to London, where he was gratefully received by the King and Queen. He had not been in London more than a week, when Edmund Burke announced that he had accusations to make against a certain gentleman who had returned from India not long since. As the session was nearly over his charges were placed among the first items on the order paper for the next session.

"The plain truth is"—as Macaulay states,—"that Hastings had committed some great crimes and that the thought of those crimes made the blood of Burke boil in his veins." Burke was ever known as a man of noble sentiments.

Hastings chose a Major Scott, who had been in India with him, as his defender. Scott became a Member of Parliament. He