

Great as the honor of the Victoria Cross always is, to Bathurst it was much more than to other men. It was his rehabilitation. He need never fear now that his courage could be questioned, and the report that he had before left the army because he lacked courage would be forever silenced now that he could write V. C. after his name. The pleasure of Doctor Wade and Wilson was scarcely less than his own. The latter's regiment had suffered very heavily in the struggle at Lucknow, and he came out of it a captain, having escaped without a wound.

A week later Bathurst resigned his appointment. There was still much to be done, and months of marching and fighting before the rebellion was quite stamped out; but there had now arrived a force ample to overcome all opposition, and there was no longer a necessity for the service of civilians. As he had already left the service of the company he was his own master, and therefore started at once for Calcutta.

"I shall not be long before I follow you," the Doctor said, as they spent their last evening together. "I shall wait and see this out, and then retire. I should have liked to have gone home with you, but it is out of the question. Our hands are full, and likely to be so for some time, so I must stop."

Bathurst stopped for a day at Patna to see Rujub and his daughter. He was received as an expected guest, and after spending a few hours with them he continued his journey. At Calcutta he found a letter awaiting him from Isobel saying that she had arrived safely in England, and should stay with her mother until his arrival, and there he found her.

"I expected you to-day," she said, after the first rapturous greeting was over. "Six weeks ago I woke in the middle of the night and heard Rabda's voice distinctly say, 'He has been with us to-day; he is safe and well; he is on his way to you.' As I knew how long you would take going down from Patna, I went the next day to the office and found which steamer you would catch and when she would arrive. My mother and sister both regarded me as a little out of my mind