

70,000. Plassey, which established the ascendancy of Great Britain, was fought exactly 100 years before that ascendancy, looked for a time as though it might be successfully disputed by force of the Mutiny.

Whether Suraj-ud-Dowlah, the Nawab of Bengal, who was now contesting the power of the Company, was more of the debauchee than wild beast cannot be safely determined. At all events, we have this opinion of him, furnished by Clive himself, in a letter to a member of the Indian Council: "For my own part, I am persuaded there can be neither peace nor security while such a monster reigns."

Verse LVIII.—That the chronological order of events might be preserved, the narrative had to pass from the Western coast to Bengal, and it now returns to Southern India, of which the "Northern Circars" may be said to be the extreme north-easterly portion. Peddipore the author finds spoken of by Orme only. As he was a contemporary of Clive, however, and privy to certain of the movements which he executed, some reliance ought fairly to be placed in him. The author would like to say here that it has often been the most difficult task in the world to extricate himself from the orthographical maze in which, as to the domain of geography research, placed him. Four or five variants in spelling are by no means a rarity, while the acceptance by any two writers of the same form would, apparently, be taken as evidence of imperfect knowledge of the country. Except where the rhythm of a particular line seemed to call for it, Colonel Sir Charles Wilson's monograph on Clive, "English Men of Action" series, has been the author's guide. Condore would seem to be identifiable with Peddipore.

Verses LIX to LXI, inclusive—The settlement founded by the Dutch was at Chinsurah on the Hoogly, a little south of Chandernagore. The writer of the article in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* on India asserts that "The knell of Dutch