

some men shouted, "Clear the way for the General!" With a smile softening his stern face, Havelock replied: "Right well have you done that already, my men!" A compliment so neatly expressed and so unexpected went straight to the hearts of the soldiers, and the cry was raised, "God bless the General!"

Havelock had been promised reinforcements—the 5th and 90th Foot. He needed more men, for his late losses had been heavy; moreover, cholera was claiming its victims daily. Grievously disappointed by not receiving the aid he expected, he retreated to Mungulwar. A Sepoy rising in Dinapore had deflected the services of the 5th and the 90th Foot into other channels. At Mungulwar 257 men and five guns were added to his force and, per contra, some Lascars in the artillery had to be disarmed and dismissed. News from Neill now reached Havelock: the mutineers were gathering in force at Bithoor, meditating an attack on Cawnpore. Telling Neill to keep open his communications, Havelock for the second time marched on to Busserutgunge, reaching it August 5th. This time he knew the ground well. Ordering a detachment to the left flank of the enemy, he suddenly opened a heavy cannonade on the front of the village. Surprised and bewildered, the enemy fled. But British guns, ready this time, poured in a deadly fire as the Sepoys hurried along the causeway crossing the *jheel*. Pluckily the mutineers rallied on the other side, but were soon driven off; having no cavalry, however, Havelock could not take full advantage of his victory.

But in spite of these victories, the victor was conquered; the march to Lucknow had to be abandoned for a time. Havelock's force was too weak to confront the hosts of mutineers in Oude. The famous Gwalior Contingent (mutineers) and the Nana were in that province. Havelock again retreated to Mungulwar. The troops murmured; thought scorn for a while of the brave man who dared to retreat. Yet what could Havelock do? Had he arrived at Lucknow without the loss of a single man, his force would have been too small to protect a number of women and children and escort them safely through thousands of well-armed foes to a place of refuge. His army could not have remained at Lucknow; a famine would have been the result. The men were unreasonable, but they were eager to avenge the slaughter of the Cawnpore women and children.

The men wanted a fight; a fight was ready for them. Neill required help to drive the mutineers from Bithoor. Havelock had already begun his march on Cawnpore when spies brought in the news that a large body of mutineers was at Busserutgunge. To retreat now seemed somewhat like cowardice, but the lion was roused, and to the joy of the men a move was made in the opposite direction. For the third time Havelock appeared before Busserutgunge, and for the third time the mutineers suffered a heavy defeat there. The Sepoys had had enough of Busserutgunge by this time.

Back again went Havelock, and recrossed the Ganges on August 13th. Three days later he was before Bithoor. A large force of Sepoys confronted him, in