

HAVELOCK'S LAST CAMPAIGN.

In the year 1757 was fought the battle of Plassey in India. Until that time Englishmen were scarcely respected, their property was destroyed, their factories burned, their entire expulsion from the Continent threatened ; but, when their fortunes were at the worst, Robert Clive, a merchant's clerk in Calcutta, laid aside his pen, girded on his sword, gathered together his dispirited countrymen, breathed into their souls some of his own indomitable energy, made them soldiers, made them conquerors, fought and won the battle of Plassey, and laid the foundation of our magnificent oriental empire.

The Centenary year of British Rule in India, was remembered at home. It afforded an opportunity to senators and orators for eulogising the bravery of our soldiers, the ability of our Statesmen, and the consummate wisdom which had marked the Administration of our Eastern Possessions. It was also remembered in India. A prophecy was said to have been uttered : that, at the end of one hundred years, British Rule should cease, and the Empire of India return to one of the Native races.

In that same Centenary year, in the month of May, in the City of Meerut in Northern India, at the close of a sultry Sabbath day, when Europeans were preparing for Church, the cry of fire was heard. Other sounds, the shouts of Sepoys, the clattering of cavalry, the rattling of musketry, mingled in ominous confusion. It was not fire merely, but mutiny, insurrection,—the Bengal army had revolted. One