

the 48th Foot and the Madras Fusiliers. News, too, came that other troops were on their march to Cawnpore, and Sir Hugh thought he could send back the Lucknow men to Sir Henry Lawrence. But other news came; the Sepoys at Benares and Allahabad had mutinied. Sir Hugh kept the Lucknow men; and now there were in the little fort 450 Europeans (civilians included) and nine guns. Had it not been for the women and children these 450 men could have forced their way to Lucknow; but what British force would abandon women and children and leave them at the mercy of the fiends around Cawnpore? June 6th the anticipated outbreak began; towards evening the men of the 2nd B. N. Cavalry set fire to the riding-master's bungalow, seized the treasure-chest and bolted. An aged subadhar-major made a fight for the colors and chest; he was easily beaten down. The faithful native was found next morning in a pool of his own blood, but still breathing. He was taken into the little fort and kindly treated. Some days later he was killed by a shell. The 56th joined the mutineers on June 7th; the 1st B.N.I. went off on the night of the 6th in the wake of the cavalry regiment. The 53rd B.N.I., who had shown no signs of mutiny, by some stupendous blunder were fired into while they were cooking their breakfast! Sir Hugh ordered the guns to fire upon them without any provocation. An hour before, the native officers had been called out, and with about 150 men they were marched off to the hospital as a guard. One detachment of this ill-used regiment defended the treasury against great odds for more than four hours. The rattle of their musketry was heard at the fort, but Sir Hugh refused to succor them. As for the 150 men who guarded the hospital, when that building was burnt down by the rebels, they were denied admission to the fort on account of the scarcity of food. To each was given a little money, and they were told to shift for themselves. Alas for the faithfulness of the 53rd!

The Cawnpore mutineers were preparing to march at once to Delhi. Rightly enough, they surmised that that city would be the scene of the crowning struggle between the Sepoy army and the Europeans. Everything was packed and the march begun, but Nana Sahib stepped upon the scene. Not easily did the Sepoys forego their intention. The Nana's bribes, however, were too tempting, and the mutineers retraced their steps. To be in touch with the two great elements of his army, the Nana floated a Moslem as well as a Hindoo flag; to further gratify the soldiers, he allowed them to loot all the houses, whether they belonged to natives or to Europeans; and lastly, throwing off the mask, he intimated to Sir Hugh by letter that he intended to attack the fort. This menace was carried out the next day, June 8th.

And now there were two aspirants for rajahship—the King of Delhi and Nana Sahib. Later, a third joined them, and he wished to become King of Oude.

For three weeks did the Cawnpore garrison maintain the fierce fight against a multitude of savage foes. Bravely they fought and well; but who can depict