

be added to the 800 ; but it must be borne in mind that the help given by these civilians, much valued as it was, had this drawback ; many of them were married men with families ; incumbrances, under the circumstances, which outweighed the worth of the men.

Oude had been but recently annexed. The native population had been told that the British Government heavily oppressed those over whom they ruled. The natives of Oude knew from bitter experience how grievous was the burden laid upon them by their own rajahs. It was somewhat on this plan. Rajah A called for his prime-minister B and bade him collect ten lakhs of rupees by December. B forthwith ordered half-a-dozen C's to bring him fifteen lakhs of rupees by November. The six C's commanded two dozen D's, under grave penalties, to hand them twenty lakhs before Oct. 1. The 24 D's called together 100 E's and threatened them with decapitation unless the 100 E's deposited in the hands of the 24 D's thirty lakhs of rupees on or before Sept. 1. And so it went on ; the rajah little recking the means resorted to provided he received his ten lakhs of rupees in December. (And the English system was supposed to be worse even than this !) Naturally enough, whenever they dared, the villagers rebelled against such oppression. And so the natives of Oude were already prejudiced against the British (the British system of taxation not being yet understood) ; the population sided rather with the Sepoys than with the Europeans. When the Punjab was annexed, the men thereof were disarmed ; not so had the men of Oude been dealt with. They were allowed to retain their weapons, and these weapons they were now ready to turn against the British.

The more one delves into the history of this mutiny the more one is surprised at the extraordinray fatuity of the British officers in the native regiments, and the blind trust they reposed in the fidelity of the Sepoys. In spite of all that had come to light since the 10th of May, when the Sepoys at Meerut broke out into mutiny and slaughtered all the Europeans they could catch, Brigadier Grey still believed the native troops in Lucknow would remain true to their colors. On May 30th a sepoy reported to the brigadier that that very evening the native troops would rise and massacre all the Europeans. Brigadier Grey simply shrugged his shoulders and smiled incredulously. Such a trifle was not worth reporting. But as the sun was setting on that very day the brigadier must have had forced upon his conscience the ugly fact that he was verily guilty of the blood of many of his brethren. Without other warning than the oft-repeated reports of many muskets, the murderous revolt began at twilight. The officers were at the mess house ; it was their dinner hour. Perhaps one of them, of a saturnine turn of mind and sad with gloomy forebodings, was humming to himself the last verse of Captain Dowling's famous song, thinking the while of the author's fate.*

* Captain Bartholomew Dowling, of the H.E.I.C.S., at a time when hundreds were