

that the train could not wait. "Can't wait!" retorted Neill; "we shall see if it can't wait!" The next moment the station-master was seized by the soldiers, detained as a prisoner until the detachment was in the train; and then he was set free and gave the order to the engine-driver to move on. This act on Neill's part was a bold defiance to the civil power, whose officials hardly deigned to mingle with military men even of high rank.

Benares is the sacred city of the Hindoos. In 1857, Benares held within its walls many ex-rajahs and unrecognized heirs to small States. Naturally, these were discontented and prone to scheme against the Government. And those everlasting mischief-makers, the priests, were ready at hand to fan the embers of discontent into the fierce flame of rebellion. Benares, in 1857, had a population of 300,000, the majority of whom were Hindoos. Benares was politically of immense importance to the Government; while Allahabad, near the confluence of the Ganges and the Jumna, was, as one writer puts it, *essential* from a military point of view. It was the greatest arsenal in India, containing enormous quantities of guns, ammunition, and other stores. And how were these important places defended? Within 130 miles of Benares, at Dinapore, there were three native regiments and the 10th Foot; at Benares itself were 30 European artillerymen, one Sikh, and two B.N.I. regiments. And so colossal was the foresight of the Calcutta Government that the two great arsenals of Delhi and Allahabad had not one European regiment to protect them!

At Benares, Mr. F. Gubbins, of the Civil Service, acted bravely and energetically. June 3rd, the vanguard of the Madras Fusiliers arrived; and on the next day, Neill came in with the rest. Brigadier Ponsonby was in command at Benares; it was with difficulty that Neill and Gubbins could persuade him to disarm the 37th B.N.I. Those Sepoys would never mutiny; but Neill prevailed. A parade was ordered. The 37th was drawn up between the Sikhs and the Irregular Cavalry on the left and the artillery on the right. The 37th at once began firing on their officers; there was confusion. A fatal blunder followed; the Sikhs fired at their own officers, at the artillery and at Neill's Fusiliers! But Neill's men and the gunners drove the mutineers out of the city. Brigadier Ponsonby died from sunstroke at the commencement of the fray. Not only was Neill helped by the brave Gubbins, but two fine fellows, Venables and Chapman, indigo planters, rendered valuable service. And these men, stern in judgment, decisive in action, not only kept in subjection the enormous, fanatical population of Benares, but made their power respected far around the city walls. But to effect this harsh measures had to be adopted. And very harsh they must seem to many of us now; but let us forget in what peace and security we live, and let us step into the shoes of Neill and his stern band of coadjutors. To save their own lives, to save the lives of many other Europeans, and to help save the British rule in India their action had perforce to be stern. Gallows were erected

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