

THE SEPOY MUTINY.

Terrible Scenes Witnessed by an American While in India.

"I shudder yet when I think about it," were the words which prefaced the remarkable story related to a reporter by Mr. William Bently. This gentleman, says the Pittsburg Commercial Gazette, is one of the few surviving European officers who witnessed the blood-curdling terrors of the Sepoy mutiny in India in 1857 and 1858.

"Each was killed on sight. One whom I spoke with a few moments before was Col. Finnis, the brother of the then lord mayor of London. My friend told me to look sharp and save my life. I at once galloped off. The natives, however, saw me and at once gave chase, but I escaped with only a bullet in my leg. I took refuge with the officers of the 6th carbineer regiment, and when they turned out on parade shortly afterwards I was requested to remain in their lines. I stand there all night. The massacre of the officers and their ladies continued throughout the night, and the scenes among the killed and wounded were frightful beyond description.

"These were nothing in comparison with the scenes at Cawnpore—awful scenes, which at this long distance of time I am quite unable to wholly banish from my mind when it reverts to that country and time. It was here that, by orders of Nana Sahib, Brig. Gen. Wheeler and his brave soldiers were slaughtered in trenches and fired upon by masked batteries. The Nana put to death all women found in the town after cutting their feet off and subjecting them to other outrages.

"Miss Wheeler, the lovely daughter of the general, rather than submit to the gross violence, leaped in to a deep well. The Nana at once seized upon this horrible idea, and as fast as the European ladies were massacred their bodies were flung into this well. At the edge of this famous 'Well of Cawnpore' I stood within a week after it was filled with its human contents. The stench arising from it was something that is sickening even to think of now. Over that site now rises one of the most magnificent pieces of architecture to be seen in all India. It is a fine octagon marble building around the well, without a roof, and inclosing an elaborate tomb. It is near the theater and close to the bank of the finest canal in the world the Ganges. Memorial gardens have also been laid out around the scene of the massacre and a beautiful church erected.

"Children's brains were dashed out against the walls of the building. When I reached Cawnpore the well was guarded and railed in. On the walls of dwellings we saw signs of fearful slaughter. There were tatters of clothing, clumps of hair clotted thick with blood, while the slaughter house, was smeared with blood and flesh. Thirty pairs of feet were found in one place. On the two days of the massacre, out of one hundred Europeans, at least two-thirds were butchered, and in September two hundred more were massacred.

"In the fearful retribution which followed I saw the mutineers strapped down to pieces; others were hanged anywhere; scores of them were be-

headed, and other shot down with volleys of musketry.

"I have seen the Nana, too. Before the mutiny he was one of the best men at our mess; after the rebellion he escaped, and we had several chases after him. It was thought that he was hidden in the Nepaul hills, and I have good reason to believe that he died in the jungle.

"At the siege and capture of Delhi I was present, and tormented one of the party to blow open the Cashmere gate, when Lieut. Howe, Sert, Carmichael, and two others were killed. I assisted to carry out of the ditch, where he fell mortally wounded, the brave and good John Nicholson, under a heavy fire from the walls and bastions of the city.

"At the capture of Lucknow I was employed on the engineer's staff, and with Lieuts. Donald McNeill and Vincent Eyre, of the artillery, I discovered and rescued two of our ladies from the custody of one of the rebels, who had them closely confined in a very small room. In the Rohilkund campaign and battle and capture of Bareilly, where we fought under Clyde from 5 a. m. till sunset, we lost more brave men by sunstrokes than by casualties. After the action the men bivouacked on the field and sank exhausted. Many were found to have fallen asleep in the very act of raising the food provided for them to their mouths. Scores and hundreds were found dead in the morning."

A Post-Office Money Order.

One of the reasons that induced me to have a remittance sent to Atlantic City in the way of a post-office money order was the fact that the express company or bank would demand personal identification. Almost everybody is certain of his own identity, but when it comes to some one else being certain the case assumes a different aspect, especially if a sum of money is concerned. However, this great and glorious government, in its praiseworthy desire to help a stranger in a strange land out of a bad box, will permit a friend to deposit money in one post office and let you draw it out at another. The man at the desk will ask you who sent it, providing you are a stranger to him, and when you have replied that the sender was John Smith, your brother-in-law and a good fellow generally, and that you have been expecting the order for two days, and that the folks around the hotel can no longer look upon you without suspicion, he will hand it over without a doubt that you are the person for whom it was intended. It's a nice, easy way, you see, and the bank tellers and express agents are awfully put out because they can no longer bluff strapped strangers.

"I have a little order," I said to the money-order clerk as I went back into his den. "Y-e-s," he grudgingly replied as he received it. "Is this your name?" "Yes." "Who was it sent by?" "John Doe, of Detroit." "Yes—um! o'Yull have to be identified!" "Why so? Haven't I told you who it was sent by, and didn't I receive it in this letter directed to me and deposited in a box which I rent here?" "Yes, but—"

"If this isn't my name how do I get the letters addressed to it? It is am somebody else what right have you to hand me another person's mail?" "I know, but you must be identified."

"But there isn't a person here who knows me, and I am dead-broke and far from home." "Can't help that."

"And you won't pay?" "Not unless you are identified." I went back to the hotel and asked the clerk if he would identify me. "Well, I don't know you, you see."

"But sin't I registered, and haven't I been here several days?" "Oh, yes, but you might have assumed this man's name, you see. People often do that."

"Well, come up and look over my trunk. Look at these half dozen

envelopes. Go ask my wife who I am."

"Yes, but you must excuse me. It's against orders, you know."

"Orders be hanged! I owe you \$50: here is an order for \$50. Either help me to get it cashed or I'll walk off with your bill unpaid."

He concluded to identify me. He wrote a note to the postmaster to the effect that he believed the bearer was the person named in the order, and I returned to the post office, shoved the note through the window and asked:

"Well, what do think of that?" The clerk looked at the signature, scratched his head and mused:

"Boggs, of the Gilsey House? Who in Halitax is Boggs?"

"Perhaps you want him identified?" I asked.

"I do!" he coolly replied as he handed the note back. "Can't say that I ever heard of Boggs."

Something was said about some one getting hoked if he would come out doors, but he wouldn't come. I went back and told Boggs the result and he looked at me in a vacant way and replied:

"Me not Boggs? Well, he may be right. We can't take any chances here."

Next day I went down for the mail, having determined to let the order cash itself. There was a card in the box asking me to call at the money-order office, and when I showed up the clerk said:

"Who sent you that order?" "John Doe!"

"Where does he live?" "Detroit."

"Oh—ah. I guess it's all right, but you'll have to get your money at the bank across the way."

"Are you sure I'm the man?" "You may or may not be, but we'll cash it."

He gave me an order on the bank, and I skipped across and handed it to the paying teller.

"Y-e-s," he said as he seized it, "you'll have to be identified."

"What!"

"Have to be identified."

"I'll be darned if I do! I just got that order from the money clerk, who kept me out of it three days, and I don't propose to fool away any more time!"

"Can't help it!"

"Will you come out doors?" "No, sir!"

"Will you let me in there?" "No, sir!"

I was going out, leaving the order in his hands, when Boggs came in. I told him of the difficulty, and he said to the cashier:

"It's all right—I know him."

"But I don't know you!" replied the teller.

Boggs then offered to fight him inside or outside the railing, and after we had got the Board of Directors out and a crowd around the door some one came in who identified Boggs. Boggs identified me, the teller handed over the money, and the postmaster, whom I met at the door, paralyzed everybody by calling out:

"Hello! Mr. King, did you get that money all right?"

Boggs almost taunted away, and the teller shouted for me to return, but I skipped into the crowd and got safely away.

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