## A SHORT ACCOUNT OF EVENTS DURING THE SEPOY MUTINY OF 1857-8 IN THE DISTRICTS OF BELGAUM AND OF JESSORE

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A short account of events during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857-8 in the districts of Belgaum and of Jessore by W. S. Seton-Karr

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W. S. SETON-KARR

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**Trieste** 

THE SEPOY MUTINY

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## A SHORT ACCOUNT OF EVENTS

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IN THE DISTRICTS OF

## BELGAUM

(IN THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY)

AND OF

## JESSORE

(IN THE PRESIDENCY OF BENGAL)

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### BY WALTER SCOTT SETON-KARR, ESQ. H.M. BENGAL C.S. (RETIED)

PUISNE JODGE OF THE HIGH COURT AT GALCUTTA AT ITS CREATION, JULF 1862 AFTERWARDS SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HIGHA IN THE PORIGN DEPARTMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF LORD LAWERNOF AND LORD MATO

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## INTRODUCTION

SOME years ago I was requested by the late Mr. Brand Sapte, C.B., of the Bengal C.S. (Retired), to furnish him with a short account of what happened in two districts in India during the Mutiny, in one of which I was myself stationed as Civil and Sessions Judge, while in the other my late brother, George B. Seton-Karr, held the important post of Political Agent as well as that of Magistrate and Collector.

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The narrative was intended, I was informed, to form one of a series of episodes of the Mutiny in which members of the Indian Civil Service had borne their part. Accordingly, out of my own papers, diaries, letters, &c., and out of the papers furnished to me by the widow of my brother, I drew up a short history of events, and showed how they were dealt with in Belgaum and Jessore in those years. The whole work was entrusted to four joint editors. Two of them died while the work was in progress, and the manuscript sent by me was unluckily mislaid for more than two years, and has only been recovered very recently.

#### INTRODUCTION

I have since been given to understand that the compilation referred to was intended only to include those Districts or Provinces in which outbreaks occurred, which were temporarily lost, or which were held after a severe struggle; and that no room could be found for any account of places in which, from one cause or another, no overt act of treason, no loss of life, and no actual rising took place.

No such limitation was mentioned to me by Mr. Sapte, either at the time when he requested me to furnish him with a narrative, or after he had read what I had written.

While holding that it is not possible to overestimate the splendid services rendered to the State by Civil Servants whose lives were repeatedly in peril, some of whom died at their posts, while others only quitted their stations when the jail had been broken open, the Treasury looted, and the houses set on fire, I may observe that excellent accounts of such services are to be found in Blue-books, and divers narratives written by the survivors, and already in print. And it has occurred to me that a brief notice of other Stations. where there was some discontent on the part of the native population, and a good deal of anxiety on the part of the English officials, might be worth preservation, although such places were not actually lost even for a time, and were never the scenes of outrage and bloodshed.

Belgaum, especially, was at one time in very great peril, as the narrative will show, owing to the intrigues of the emissaries of the Nana.

6

#### INTRODUCTION

Jessore is a large, populous, typical district of Bengal, and there, of course, with an unwarlike population, there was much less likelihood of any uprising of any kind.

As the survivors of the Mutiny are now comparatively few, as personal recollections fade or pass away, and as a new generation has now arisen, an account of two different places, one in the Western Presidency, and the other in Lower Bengal, may have some slight interest or value with relatives and friends, as a trustworthy memorial of an iron time.

The account of Belgaum, by far the more important of the two, has been shown to and approved by the widow of my brother, who herself shared all his perils at Belgaum, and who has survived him for more than thirty years,

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