

**VERITAS
VICTRIX**

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Veritas Victrix by William Tayler

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WILLIAM TAYLER

**VERITAS
VICTRIX**

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BY

WILLIAM TAYLER Esq.

Late Commissioner of Patents.

"I STAND HERE FOR JUSTICE."

Merchant of Venice.

London:

WILLIAM RIDGWAY, 169, PICCADILLY, W.

1878.

P R E F A C E.

It is with no ordinary feelings of gratitude that, after a painful and protracted struggle of more than twenty years, I am able to point to the impartial verdict of history, twice repeated, in final and conclusive vindication of my official administration as Commissioner of Patna during the appalling crisis of the rebellion of 1857.

An unprecedented accumulation of evidence has now established, not only the importance of the measures which I adopted, but the utter unsoundness of every sentiment, opinion and dictum recorded by Mr. Halliday.

The men whom he publicly declared to be "innocent and inoffensive" have been unanswerably proved to be determined and uncompromising traitors, whose names were in the black books of the Government. The leader whom I arrested, and against whom he maintained there was "no cause of suspicion," is now, with others of his sect, imprisoned for life in the Andaman Islands! The men whom Mr. Halliday publicly dishonoured as suspected traitors have

been since publicly honoured for their acknowledged loyalty !

My entire administration, which Mr. Halliday declared to have been a cause of "public scandal and discontent," has received the hearty and high approval of all those who witnessed my proceedings at the time, and whose lives were at stake, and the warm encomiums of a numerous body of the most distinguished statesmen, subsequently recorded ; while two of the high officials in the Supreme Government who concurred in my condemnation in 1857, have since acknowledged their error, and one, Sir John Low, has expressed in writing his deep remorse.

This gratifying evidence has been ratified by the unanimous verdict of the public press, both in India and England, and finally confirmed by the impartial testimony of two independent historians ; the one, himself political secretary to the Indian Council, with all the public records placed at his disposal ; the other, a distinguished author, who was in Calcutta at the time of the mutiny, and intimately acquainted with the facts, which he gave to the public in the far-famed "Red Pamphlet," published in 1857.

When, to escape further sufferings from the heartless persecution with which I had been visited, I determined to resign the service in

which I had laboured for twenty-eight years, I ventured to record the following words when intimating my intention to Government:—

“ That the trials which have assailed me have been allowed by an overruling Providence for some good and gracious purpose I devoutly believe; that truth and right will eventually triumph I will not allow myself to doubt, and, whether the justice of our rulers hereafter may or may not vouchsafe reparation for the wrongs which I have suffered, or recompense for the service which I have been permitted to render, I shall not, I trust, be wanting to myself in the public vindication of my name, the establishment of truth, and the exposure of the unworthy machinations, to which my sufferings are principally to be attributed.”

This prediction has, as far as public testimony goes, been fully vindicated. “ Truth and right,” as far as public opinion is concerned, have triumphed. My life has been mercifully spared to witness the results which I never doubted, and now, whether justice be done, is in the hands of the authorities, who are responsible to the Queen and the country for righteous dealing—the prevention of wrong, and the support of truth.

WILLIAM TAYLER.

L E T T E R S.

Copy of LORD DERBY'S remarks in the House of Lords, 1857.

Then there is another gentleman whose conduct has not received the sanction of the Government—I mean Commissioner Tayler of Patna. His conduct has been disapproved by the Government, but the papers appear to me to show that he had a more enlarged view of the crisis, a keener sense of the danger and a better idea of the remedy than the Government itself. (Hear, hear.)

Summary of evidence recorded at the time by residents of the Province and others.

Extract from the "MOFUSSILITE," 1858.

“ The correspondence is very extensive, and it will be impossible in our limits to note the substance of a twentieth part of it. But two or three illustrations will show its varied nature.

“ Mr. Yule, the Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, declares his opinion that if the whole country from Patna to Malda is preserved from rising, it is due to Mr. Tayler, and to him alone.

“ The Roman Catholic Bishop, writing in his own name and that of all his congregation, declares that to Mr. Tayler, and to him alone (under Providence), they attributed the safety of their lives and property, and that, therefore, he would live for ever in their hearts.

“ The Protestant Missionary, who has resided for a quarter of a century at Patna, and is known to be intimately acquainted with the natives, expresses identically the same sentiments, adding, that he thanks God he does not serve such a master as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

“ Civilians, military men, chaplains, missionaries, merchants, indigo planters—all these classes give their written testimony, and express their belief, that the preservation of Patna and Behar belongs to Mr. Tayler, declaring in most unqualified terms their concurrence with his past, and their confidence in his future, conduct.”

Letter from the REV. ALEXANDER DUFF, D.D.

Calcutta, February 18th, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have to apologise for being so long in answering the note which you so kindly addressed to me on leaving Calcutta for Patna. Let me at once say that the delay has arisen from no want of sympathy with you or your policy—quite the reverse. I avow myself one of those who watched the whole of your proceedings during the terrible months of the crisis, and noted them with unqualified approbation. According to the current phrase, I regard you as “ the right man in the right place, and at the right time,” and now that your own narrative of