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NALINI MOHAN BISWAS
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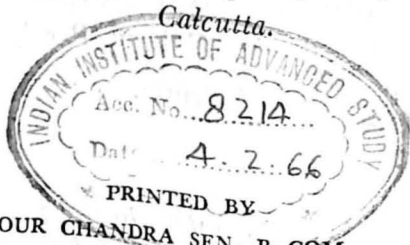
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PRINTED BY
GOUR CHANDRA SEN, B. COM.
THE SREE BHARATEE PRESS
170, MANIKTALA STGEET,
114S, Shirra CUTTA.



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PREFACE

My revered father late Tarak Nath Biswas, a great fiction and story writer of Bankim era, had collections of many rare and valuable books. During the period of his service in the registration department, those books were left uncared for in our Calcutta house ; and most of them lost, either for white-ants or friends' forgetfulness to return after reading. From two of the old histories found in my father's library, the present book is compiled.

In compilation of the aforesaid two histories the following books were referred :—

1. Taj al Muasir

Memoirs of the celebrated Mohammed Ghory ; commencing with his invasion of Hindoostan, A.D. 1191, and terminating with his death in 1206. It was written between the years 1206 and 1220, at Dehly, by Hussein Nizamy, of Nishapore. The greater part of it is in verse, and contains much Arabic.

2. Tabkat Nassiry

This work is divided into many Sections, and may be considered as a General History of the Ori-

ental Mohammedans, till the destruction of the Khalifat by Halagou Khan, A.D. 1258; to which is added an account of Genghiez Khan and his descendants. The author was Minhaje Seraje Addeen Omar al Giorjany. It was finished in the year 1258-9. This is a very valuable book, and is written in a clear unaffected style.

3. Tarikh Alufy

A General History of the Mohammedans for one thousand lunar years; viz. from the era of the Hejira, A.D. 622 to 1592. It was compiled by a Society of Learned men at the court of the Emperor Akbar, at the head of which was Molana Ahmed, of Tatta. The Preface was written by Abul Fazil, in the end of the 16th century.

4. Tabkat Akbery

A General History of India, in nine Sections, commencing from A.D. 975, and terminating with 1593. The fifth Section is on Bengal. Author, Nizam Addeen Ahmed, of Herat. Dedicated to the Emperor Akbar, about the year A.D. 1600.

5. Tarikh Ferishteh

A General History of India, in twelve Sections, commencing A.D. 975, and terminating with 1605.

Written by Mohammed Kazim Ferishte, and dedicated to Abool Muziffir Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapore, in the Dekkan, A.D. 1609.

N.B.—The first two Sections have been translated by Colonel Dow, and the third by Mr. Scott.

6. Akbar Nameh

A copious, but very adulatory, History of the Emperor Akbar; comprising a minute detail of the first forty-seven years of his reign; to which is prefixed an abridged History of his ancestors. The author was the celebrated Shaikh Abul Fazil Allamy, Secretary to Akbar. Written in the end of the 16th century.

7. Zubdet al Tuarikh

Select parts of History; being a succinct account of the Mohammedan Kings of Dehly, till the conclusion of the reign of Akbar; also an account of the Mohammedan Kings of Malwa, Guzerat, Dekkan, Cashmire, Tatta, Moulton, Bengal and Joanpore. Author, Noor al Huk Shereky; probably of Joanpore. No date.

8. Jehangire Nameh

A succinct account of the reign of Jehangire;

who mounted the throne of Hindoostan in A.D. 1605, and died in 1627. Author, Muatimed Khan.

9. Shah Jehan Nameh

A very excellent History of the Emperor Shah Jehan, written the year after his confinement by Aurungzebe, viz. A.D. 1659. Author, Mohammed bin Saleh.

10. Aalungire Nameh

History of the first ten years of the reign of Aurungzebe ; written A.D. 1688-9. Author, Mirza Mohammed Cazim.

11. Muasir Aalungiry

A continuation of the above History, till the death of that monarch in February 1707. Written in 1710. Author, Mohammed Saky Mustaid Khan.

12. Muntekhub al Lebab, or Tarikh Khafy Khan

An excellent History of Hindoostan, commencing with the invasion of Sultan Baber, A.D. 1519, and continued to the accession of Mohammed Shah, A.D. 1718. Written in 1732. Author, Mohammed Hashem Khafy Khan.

13 .Muasir al Omrah at Timouryeh

Memoirs of the nobility who flourished under the auspices of the house of Timour (Tamerlane), in India. Authors, Abd al Hy Nuaz Khan, and his son Sumsam ad Dowlah, both noblemen in the court of the Nizam, at Hyderabad. Published A.D. 1779.

14. Ryaz Assulateen

A History of Bengal, from the earliest period (of authentic) antiquity, till the conquest of that country by the English. Written in 1787-8. Author, Ghoolam Hussein Seleemy. He was Moonshy to Mr. George Udny, and resided many years at Mauldah, in the vicinity of the ruins of Gour, and took considerable pains to ascertain the dates of the inscriptions on the different buildings. He was, besides, considerable merit in giving the substance of all the books, which treated on the History of Bengal, that he had access to.

TRANSLATIONS

1. Faria de Souza's History of the Portuguese Conquests in Asia. By Captain John Stephens, 1694.

2. The Seir Mutakhereen, or, View of Modern Times: Being a General History of India, from the year A.D. 1706 to 1780; containing the reigns of the last seven Emperors of Hindoostan, and an account of the English wars in Bengal, by Syed Ghoolam Hussein Khan, a relation of the Nawab Aly Verdy Khan; finished in 1783. It was translated by a renegado Frenchman, named Mustapha, in 1786.

3. History of Hindoostan, by Dow, 1770.

4. The Ayeen Akbery of Abul Fazil, by Gladwin, 1780.

5. Narrative of the Transactions in Bengal, by Gladwin, 1788.

6. History of the Successors of Aurungzebe, and History of Bengal, by Scott, 1794.

(a) Encyclopaedia Americana.

(b) Rees' Cyclopaedia.

(c) Our Iron Road.

(d) Screw Propeller and Steam Engine.

(e) Natural Philosophy.

- (f) Mack's Chemistry.
- (g) Marshman's History of Bengal.
- (h) Mill's India.
- (i) Elphinstone's History of India.
- (j) Raynal's European Settlements.
- (k) Ewart's Geography.
- (l) Ferishtah.
- (m) Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan.
- (n) Palibothra.
- (o) Rajtoronginee.
- (p) Rajabulee.
- (q) Brihotkotha.
- (r) The Englishman.
- (s) Marshman's Civil Guide.
- (t) Chamber's Information to the People.
- (u) The Bengal Government Gazette.
- (v) Railway Contract Book, No. I.
- (w) Joggonath Choritro.
- (x) Chamber's Pocket Miscellany.
- (y) Sanders, Cones and Co's Railway Guide.
- (z) Library of Useful Knowledge.

This book commences with the first invasion of the north-west provinces of Hindoostan by the Mohammedans under the command of the king, Subuctageen of Ghizne and gradually presents the narrative of their conquests, until the kingdom of

Bengal was subdued and reigned, with some other nearby provinces.

After the death of the celebrated Haroun al Rashid in the year A. D. 809, the temporal power of Khalifs began gradually to decline ; most of the provinces, due to the discord in or weakness of the Imperial family were seized by respective governors and ultimately inherited by their descendants. They, however retained a nominal respect for the successors of Mohammed ; and, constrained by public opinion, inserted the Khalif's name in all their official writings, and acknowledged him as their lord-paramount, temporal and spiritual.

The most powerful of those princes that became independent under the Khalifat, was Ishmael Samany, governor of Maverulniher, (Transoxania) and Khorasan ; who, in the year A.D. 870 assumed the royal titles. He was the first of the dynasty of the Samanians, who reigned, in the city of Bokhara, over the provinces of Maverulniher, Khorasan, and the northern part of Persia, with great reputation for justice and humanity.

The family of Samania enjoyed their extensive empire nearly ninety years in much tranquillity and renown, and were celebrated for their justice and the mildness of their government.

Abdul Malik Noo, the seventh of that race, dying at Bokhara in the year A.D. 961, left a son, then a youth, called Abdul Munsur. On this occasion the nobles and principal officers were divided in their opinion about succession, some favouring the brother of the late monarch, and others declaring for his son. To end the dispute, it was agreed to refer the matter to Abistagy governor of Khorasan, a person distinguished by his integrity and great abilities. Abistagy gave it as his opinion, that Munsur, from his youth, being incapable of governing so extensive an empire with discretion, it would be advisable to elect his uncle to the throne, but before Abistagy's messengers reached Bokhara, the contending parties had settled their dispute, by unanimously electing Munsur to be their king; and the young monarch, offended at Abistagy's opinion, commanded him to relinquish his government, and proceed to Bokhara.

Abistagy, unwilling to trust himself in the power of an irritated prince, who was surrounded by his rivals, sent an excuse to the king, and immediately raised the standard of rebellion; but finding himself unequal to contend with his adversaries, he quitted Khorasan with a select corps of 3000

cavalry devoted to his service ; and proceeding to the south-east, he took possession of Ghizne declaring himself independent of the Samanian authority.

The first construction of railways in India by the East India Company and some other facts of historical importance have been dealt with, next.

Readers are requested to kindly overlook the shaky printing of the present volume, which is due to haste in getting it printed.

Nalini Mohan Biswas.

Calcutta,

Dated the 15th March 1947.

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CHAPTER I

THE EARLY CONQUEST OF HINDOOSTAN.

Subuctageen, who was originally a Turkish slave, afterwards became Generalissimo of King Abistagy of Ghizne.

King Abistagy died in the year A.D. 975. He was succeeded by his son Abu Issack, who died without heirs, after a short reign of one year. On this event Subuctageen, with the concurrence of the Chiefs of the army and the principal inhabitants of Ghizne, mounted the throne, and took to wife the daughter of his patron Abistagy in the year A.D. 976.

As soon as Subuctageen found himself firmly established in his Government, he resolved to employ his army in making war on the idolaters of India. With this objective, he invaded the frontier provinces of India in the year A.D. 977 ; and having acquired much plunder, took away a number of the inhabitants as slaves, to Ghizne.

The Hindoo prince, whose country had been

invaded, was named Jypaal, the son of Hypaal, of the tribe of Brahmens. His dominion extended north-west, from Lahore to Lumghan and in the south-east line, from Cashmire to Moulton ; and many of his subjects were Afghans.

In order to revenge this insult, Jypaal assembled a numerous army and advanced towards Ghizne. He was met on the frontier by Subuctageen and some skirmishing took place between the two armies ; but in consequence of a violent storm, attended by a heavy fall of snow, the Hindoos, who could not endure the cold, sued for peace ; the Raja agreeing to pay a fine of a heavy sum and to present with fifty elephants. After return to his capital, the Raja refused to pay the stipulated amount of the fine and the elephants. He sent embassies to the different Rajas of Hindoostan, imploring them to unite with him in defence of their country and of their religion.

When this news was brought to Subuctageen, he re-assembled his troops, and marched towards Lumghan. The contending armies met on the frontier ; and although the Hindoo forces amounted to 2,00,000 men, supported by a number of elephants, the Mohammedans gained an easy conquest :

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and took complete possession of the countries of Lumghan and Paishawur. The Afghans, and specially the tribe of Khiligi, who inhabited the mountains, having promised allegiance, number of them were enrolled in the service.

Sultan Subuctageen died in the year A.D. 997 and was succeeded by his eldest son Mahmood Ghazy.

Sultan Mahmood Ghazy invaded Hindoostan in the year A.D. 1001 with 10,000 cavalry, and engaged Raja Jypaal, with 12,000 cavalry, 30,000 infantry and 300 war elephants at Paishawur. The Mohammedans were again victorious, having slain 5,000 of the Hindoos, and taken the Raja with fifteen of his principal adherents, prisoners. After this, he satisfied his revenge upon some of the Afghans ; who neglecting their promise to his father, had taken part with the Hindoos.

As it was the custom amongst the Hindoos, that whatever Raja was twice defeated, or taken prisoner, should be considered unworthy to reign, Jypaal, having resigned his kingdom to his son Annundpaal, devoted himself as a sacrifice to the prejudices of his country-men, and burnt himself on funeral pile.

THE EARLY CONQUEST OF HINDOOSTAN

In the year A.D. 1004-5, the Sultan resolved to carry his arms against Raja Bajerao, whose territories were situated in the vicinity of Moultan. After having fought with great vigour for several days, the Raja found it impossible to resist further, and retired to the woods on the banks of the Sinde ; here he was soon after surrounded by a detachment of the Mohammedan army, when he fell upon his own sword. An immense quantity of plunder came into the hands of the captors when the capital was sieged by the victorious army.

The Sultan having discovered that Daoud Khan, an Afghan heretic, who then possessed the province of Moultan, and whose predecessor had taken the oath of allegiance to Sultan Subuctageen, had during the siege of Bhattea, the capital of Raja Bajerao, sent assistance to the Raja, and so the Sultan resolved to punish the traitor, with this object he again advanced towards Hindoostan the next year and proceeded as far as Paishawur, when he was opposed by an army of Hindoos, under the command of Annundpaal. A sever conflict ensued, in which the Hindoos were again defeated, and the Raja was obliged to take refuge in Cashmire.

In the year A.D. 1008-9, the Sultan again.

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advanced towards Hindoostan; and the Raja Annundpaal, having been reinforced by several other Hindoo princes, again opposed him in the plains of Paishawur. The contest had lasted for several days, when the elephant, on which Annundpaal rode, having taken fright, ran off to the rear. This circumstance induced the whole of the Hindoo army to take to flight, and 20,000 of them fell by the sword. After this victory, the Sultan, whose mind was governed by bigotry and fanaticism, resolved to proceed to the sacred territory of Nagorkote, and to destroy all the temples of the idolaters in that district.

There was, at that time, in the vicinity of Nagorkote, a celebrated fort, called Bhime or Bheem-nagur, in which the Hindoos had collected all the wealth consecrated to the idols of that and the neighbouring territories, for many centuries. The immense wealth contained in the fortress fell into the hands of Sultan; with which he immediately returned to Ghizne, and displayed to his astonished subjects such riches as were never before possessed by any monarch.

In the year A.D. 1011, the Sultan was informed, that in the town of Thannaswar, not far from Dehly,

there was an image, named Jug Soom, which was held in the highest veneration by the Hindoos ; and that crowds of people assembled there annually, from every part of India, to worship the idol. The Sultan arrived at Thannaswar before the Raja of Dehly could receive the assistance which he had solicited from the neighbouring princess. All the unimportant images were, by the Sultan's orders, broken to pieces, but the venerated Jug Soom, after having the head destroyed, was sent to Ghizne, to form one of the steps of the public mosque, that the pious Mohammedaus might have the pleasure of trampling on the object of idolatrous superstition. The Sultan also satiated by the rich plunder of the temples, returned to Ghizne, carrying with him 40,000 Hindoos of both sexes, as slaves.

In the year A.D. 1013-14, Sultan Mahmood again invaded the dominions of Pitteraou Jypaal, the son of Annundpaal, and after having plundered that province, forcibly converted a number of the inhabitants to his own religion, and returned to Ghizne.

In the year 1018-19, the Sultan, proceeded to Muttra, to this day celebrated place of Hindoo worship. From the Brahmens he met with no opposi-

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tion, but the plunder he obtained was immense ; the images are said to have been all composed of gold or silver, and ornamented with precious stones. The Sultan continued in this country for some months, plundering the inhabitants, and destroying the towns. Then he returned to Ghizne, loaded with spoils, and encumbered with captives. He had 1,30,000 cavalry with him, when he invaded Hindoostan this time.

In the year A.D. 1024-25, the Sultan led his army, over sterile deserts, into the province of Guzerat ; the capital of which he took without opposition. He then proceeded to the Island of Diu, in which was situated the temple of Som Naat, a celebrated idol, which had been the object of Hindoo worship from time immemorial. The capture of this temple cost the Sultan the lives of many of his troops ; but the immense wealth which he found therein amply repaid all his toils, and was equal in value to the whole of the plunder of his former expeditions.

The Sultan directed the venerated image of Som Naat, which was five yards in height, and contained incalculable wealth, to be broken to pieces, and its fragments to be sent to Mecca, Medina,

Ghizne and other Mohammedan cities, as a testimony of his zeal and power.

In the year A.D. 1026, the Sultan resolved to wreak his vengeance on the Jats, a tribe of Hindoos. The Sultan collected 1,500 large boats and he launched the fleet from Moultan. The Jats opposed by a fleet said to have consisted of 4,000 boats of various sizes; but, as the fleet of the Ghizinians had the advantage of the current, the boats of the Jats were unable to withstand the shock. After the victory, the Mohammedans landed; and, having set fire to the villages brought away a great number of the women and children, with whom the Sultan returned in triumph to his capital.

Two years after this event, Sultan Mahmood died at Ghizne, on the 3rd of April, A.D. 1028, and was succeeded by his second son Mohammed; but as the events of that short and unstable reign are not connected with the affairs of India, it has not been thought requisite to insert it in this abridged history.

Musaood, the first son of Sultan Mahmood, at the period of his father's decease, was Governor of Hamadan in Persia; and upon his succeeding to the throne in the year A.D. 1030, for some time

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made Balkh the seat of his empire. He was a man of lofty spirit, and great personal strength; on which account he was honoured with the title of Rustem the Second. His arrow could pierce the strongest coat of mail, and pass through the body of an elephant; and his iron mace was so heavy, that no man of his time could raise it with one hand. He was, withal, of an obstinate and fierce disposition, contemptuous of authority, and disdaining all obedience. This circumstance, in his youth, engaged him in many quarrels and greatly disobliged his father; who therefore wished to confer the kingdom on his second son, and, in consequence, detached Musood to the most distant part of his empire, previous to his last illness.

For two years, the attention of the Sultan was so much engaged by his Persian provinces, that he had little leisure to molest the Hindoos; but in the year A. D. 1033, he led his army into Cashmire, and invested the fort of Sursutty, which commanded the passes. The garrison, being intimidated, the Raja sent messengers to the Sultan, promising valuable presents, and an annual tribute, if he would desist from his enterprise. Sultan Musood was inclined to listen to these proposals, when he

received a petition from several Mohammedan merchants, who were captives in the fort, stating that they had come into that country in the laudable and peaceable pursuit of commerce ; that the Governor of Sursutty had unjustly seized them, plundered them of all their goods, and kept them in severe confinement ; they added, that the provisions in the fort being nearly expended, if his Majesty would persevere in the siege a few days longer, it must surrender to his victorious arms. This intelligence at once roused the anger and ambition of the Sultan. He gave orders for the siege to be prosecuted with redoubled vigour. The ditch was in a few days filled with sugar-canes from the adjacent plantations; scaling ladders were applied to the walls ; and the infuriate Mussulmans entered the fort, and put the whole garrison to the sword. The Sultan then ordered search to be made for the captive merchants; and having liberated them, bestowed on them the royal portion of the plunder. This act rendered him beloved by the Mohammedans, and dreaded by the Hindoos.

In the year A. D. 1034, the Sultan entered the mountainous region of Sewalic, and invested the

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supposed impregnable fortress of Hansi, which he took by storm on the sixth day. In this place he found immense treasures, which he despatched to Ghizne. He then proceeded in person to Sunput, a celebrated place of Hindoo worship, situated only forty miles from Dehly ; here although he met with no opposition, he nevertheless consigned the idols and their temples to destruction. After thus evincing his intolerant zeal, he returned to Lahore; and, having established his son Mujdood as Governor of that province, he proceeded to Ghizne.

This was the last incursion of Sultan Musaood into Hindoostan ; and in the year A.D. 1041, he was deposed and afterwards murdered, by his own subjects.

Modood, at the time of his father's decease, was at Balkh, where he was immediately proclaimed king. He soon afterwards proceeded to Ghizne; but for several years he was so much occupied by an invasion of the Siljokian Tartars, and by civil wars, that he had no leisure to pursue the conquests of his predecessors in India.

In the year A. D. 1043, the Raja of Dehly, perceiving the declining state of the Ghiznian empire, after the death by murder of Sultan

Musaood and subsequent civil war, in time of the reign of Sultan Modood, he resolved to make an effort to deliver his country from the hands of the oppressors. He therefore entered into an alliance with all the Hindoo princes of the Punjab, to attack the common enemy ; and, that no means might be omitted to rouse their zeal and animate their spirits, he declared that he had seen in a vision the deity whose idol had formerly been worshipped in the temple of Nagorkote ; and who had informed him that, having revenged himself on the Ghiznians, by the introduction of civil broils and discord amongst them, if he would advance with his army to Nagorkote, he should there find him returned to his temple, and prepared to assist his worshippers by his divine aid.

This story, having been propagated by some Brahmens, who were probably in the secret, was eagerly credited by a multitude of zealots ; these having joined the army of the Raja, he proceeded at their head towards Nagorkote, having, during his route, recovered from the hands of Mohammedans the cities of Thannasar, Hansi, and several other places. The fort of Nagorkote, being situated on the top of a mountain, and defended by a deter-

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mined Mohammedan garrison, was not to be taken by assault ; the Raja therefore closely invested it with his troops, and patiently waited the slow but certain effects of famine. At the end of four months, the garrison, finding no hopes of relief, capitulated. Previous to the surrender of the fort, the Raja had taken the precaution of causing an idol to be made of the same size and form of that which formerly occupied the temple ; and having, during the night, conveyed it secretly into the place, it was displayed, soon after their admission into the fort, to the astonished multitude, as the identical image which had been broken to pieces by the Mohammedans. This story revived the fame of the idol throughout Hindoostan, and thousand of its votaries flocked to the victorious standard of the Raja. The princes of the Punjab, encouraged by these events, attacked the Mohammedans with bravery ; and in a short time recovered possession of all the places to the east of the Indus, excepting the city of Lahore.

Sultan Modood died in the year A.D. 1049. His successors were Musaood the Second, Aly Rashid, and Ferrokhzad, whose short reigns afford nothing important with regard to India.

Ibrahim succeeded his brother Ferrokhzad, in

the year A.D. 1058. He was a prince remarkable for his strict morality, and observance of religious duties. For twenty-two years his attention was much occupied by apprehensions from his western neighbours ; but in the year A.D. 1079-80, he sent a powerful army to invade Hindoostan. The ancient city of Adjodin, situated on the skirts of the great desert was taken and plundered. The celebrated fort of Rupal was also captured, and carried away 1,00,000 of the inhabitants of that vicinity into slavery. Sultan Ibrahim enjoyed a long and prosperous reign, and quitted this mortal life in the year A.D. 1098.

Musaood III, the son of Sultan Ibrahim, mounted the throne on the demise of his father. During the reign of Sultan Musaood, his general, named Toghhan Sien led an expedition into Hindoostan ; and, having crossed the Ganges, carried Mohammedan conquests further than those of the celebrated Mahmood Ghazy.

The remainder of the reign of Sultan Musaood passed in peace ; and he died in the year A.D. 1115, after a reign of seventeen years.

Arsilla, the son of Musaood, succeeded his father, his first act of his authority was, to seize,

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and strictly confine, all his brothers. This action gave universal disgust ; and his uncle Bahram, fearing for his own safety, fled to Sultan Sinjir, who was then governing the province of Khorassan. Sinjir immediately espoused the cause of Bahram, and commenced preparation for the invasion of Ghizne.

Sultan Arsilla was defeated in a battle and Bahram was then placed on the throne of Ghizne. Arsilla made an attempt to recover his dominions, but was once again defeated, taken prisoner, and put to death in the year A.D. 1117.

Sultan Bahram Shah, was possessed of great courage and dignity. In the year A.D. 1118, he marched to Lahore, which had been seized by Mohammed Bahlim, the general of the late monarch. An engagement took place in the vicinity of that city, in which Bahlim was defeated and made prisoner ; but being a person of great plausibility, he not only persuaded the Sultan to release him, but to take him into his service, and to re-appoint him to the government of Lahore. In return for this clemency, Bahlim embraced the first opportunity of rebelling against his master. A second engagement ensued, in which the rebel was defeated, and, in his flight, fell into a quagmire with ten of his

sons, and was never more heard of. The Sultan soon after seized the family, and all the wealth of the rebel, which he had deposited in Nagore, a celebrated fort in the mountains of Sewalic.

Some years after this event, a young man, named Mohammed Hussein, a prince of the royal family of Ghor, who was married to one of the daughters of the rebel, having excited the jealousy of the Sultan, was put to death ; and this act proved, in its consequences, the ruin of the family of Ghizne. Sief Addeen Soury, the brother of the deceased, raised a great army to revenge his death. He marched directly to Ghizne, which Bahram evacuated, and unable to oppose him, fled towards Hindoostan.

Sief Addeen, having taken possession of Ghizne, resolved to make that city the place of his residence: and being under no apprehension from Bahram, he permitted the greater part of his army to return, under the command of his brother, Alla Addeen, to Ghor. But the people of Ghizne, dissatisfied with the conduct of their new ruler, took advantage of a severe winter, during which the communication between Ghizne and Ghor was completely cut off, to invite Bahram to return ; and, upon his

approaching the city they seized and delivered the prince of Ghor into his hands.

The conduct of Bahram, on this occasion, was cruel, impolitic, and unmanly. The unfortunate captive was inhumanly ordered to have his face blackened, to be placed backwards on a bullock, and led in procession through the city, exposed to the insults and abuse of the mob. He was afterwards put to death.

When intelligence of this event reached Ghor, the prince Alla Addeen burnt with rage ; he advanced with a numerous army to Ghizne ; and, having thrice defeated Bahram, invested that city, and delivered it to be plundered by his troops, and its inhabitants to be massacred, for seven days ; he then set fire to it in many places, and carried his ravages as far as to destroy every monument of Ghiznian kings, excepting the tombs of Mahmood, Musaood, and Ibrahim.

After his defeat, Bahram fled, with the scattered remains of his army, towards Lahore ; but he was overwhelmed with his misfortune, and sunk under the hand of death in the year A.D. 1157.

Khusero the First, son of Bahram succeeded his father in the year A.D. 1157, and, abandoning the

western provinces to the power of his enemies, made Lahore the capital of his dominions. He died in that city in the year A.D. 1163, after having reigned, with no great splendour, for seven years. He, however, deserved, and attained, the character of a good and peaceable prince.

Khusero the Second, ascended the throne on the death of his father, at Lahore and reigned with the reputation of a benevolent and just prince. In the year A.D. 1184, he was taken prisoner by the celebrated Mohammed Ghory, who sent him to Firoz Koh, where, in the year A.D. 1189, he was assassinated; which event put an end to the Ghiznian dynasty, and transferred the sceptre of India to the House of Ghor.

Mohammed Ghory, led an army into Moulton, and in a very short time subdued that province. Encouraged by this event, he advanced through the sandy desert into Guzerat; but Raja Bim Deo, having collected a numerous army of Hindoos, compelled the Mohammedans, after suffering many hardships, to retire to their own territories.

Mohammed, having recruited his army, invaded the district of Paishawur, bordering on Cashmire; and in a short time brought it under subjec-

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tion. Mohammed invaded Lahore, and was compelled to retreat ; but, in order to secure the final conquest of that country, he built the strong fortress of Sal Kote, between the Ravy and Chunaub, two of the rivers which inclose part of the province called Punjab.

Mohammed again invaded Lahore, and this time he brought it under subjection. When Mohammed had settled the province of Lahore, he left the government at that place in the hands of Aly, chief of Moulton and returned to Ghizne.

In the year A. D. 1191, Mohammed again marched towards Hindoostan; and proceeding to Tiberhind, quickly succeeded in gaining possession of that city, which he garrisoned with a chosen detachment, under the command of Mullik Za, and returned towards Ghizne. When he had proceeded half way, he received information that Pittu Rai, prince of Ajmire, and Chandu Rai, king of Dehly, having formed an alliance with several other Rajas, were advancing with an army consisting of 1,20,000 horse and 3,000 elephants, towards his new conquest of Tiberhind. Mohammed, immediately retraced his steps, and met the hostile squadrons on

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the banks of the Sursutty, fourteen miles from Thannasar and eighty miles from Dehly.

Chandu Rai, king of Dehly, having discovered Mohammed, advanced against him upon his war-elephant. The Mussulman general, not less anxious to contend with his rival, spurred on his steed, and, by a blow from his lance, struck out one of his teeth; at the same time the king of Dehly severely wounded his opponent with an arrow. Mohammed was so much stunned by his wound, that with the utmost difficulty he could preserve his seat, which being observed by one of his faithful attendants, he immediately vaulted behind him, and bore him off from the field of battle. The Mussulman seeing their general in this situation, immediately took to flight, and were pursued by their enemies for forty miles.

After this unexpected defeat, Mohammed retired to Ghizne, whence he proceeded to Ghor, the capital of his brother; from whom he received such an addition to his forces, as rendered his army one of the most formidable that had ever entered Hindocstan.

His force said to have consisted of 1,20,000.

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horse in complete armour, and a vast number of irregular cavalry. The Hindoo princes advanced with an army of 3,00,000 horse, 3,000 elephants, and an immense host of infantry. But the Hindoos were defeated, and, Chandu Rai, king of Dehly, and many other princes were slain on the field of battle; and, Pitru Rai of Ajmire, was taken prisoner, and afterwards put to death. Mohammed proceeded in person, and took possession of Ajmire, having barbarously put many thousands of the unfortunate inhabitants to the sword, reserving the rest for slavery. Mohammed then left his faithful slave and general, Cuttub, in the fort of Khoram, and, then left for Ghizne, plundering and ravaging all the countries in his way.

In the year A.D. 1194, Mohammed, along with his general Cuttub proceeded to Benares, which they easily captured; and broke down and destroyed all the idols and temples of that celebrated seat of Hindoo learning. Mohammed then returned to Kole (now called Allyghur), where he again confirmed Cuttub as his Viceroy in India.

In the year A.D. 1202, Mohammed, for the last time, entered into Hindoostan; but after taking the fort of Biana, he returned towards Ghizne.

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Sultan Mohammed Ghory was assassinated in the year A.D. 1204, by the tribe of Gickers.

In the year A.D. 1204, upon the death of Mohammed Ghory, Cuttub succeeded to the uncontrolled possession of the Indian provinces; and having established Dehly as the capital of his dominions, he may be considered as the first Mohammedan king of Hindoostan.

As it was during the reign of Cuttub Addeen that Bengal became subject to the Mohammedan arms, we now turn to the affairs of that province.

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THE EARLY CONQUEST OF BENGAL.

The first chief who exalted the banners of the Ghor dynasty in the fertile plains of Bengal, was Mohammed Bukhtyar Khulijy. This person was an inhabitant of Ghor, a city on the northern boundary of Afghanistan, and belonged to the tribe of Khulijy.

In the year A.D. 1199, he was appointed to the command of an army destined to the conquest of Behar. He was successful in his undertaking and conquered Behar or Magadha.

In the year A.D. 1202, Bukhtyar Khulijy was appointed the Governor of Behar. Bengal was at that period ruled by a Hindoo prince, named Luchmunyah, who resided at Nuddeah, still a celebrated seat of Hindoo learning.

On the death of Luchmun, the father of Luchmunyah, this prince was still unborn; but as his mother, who was of the royal family of the Sovereigns of India, was far advanced in her pregnancy, the

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nobles seated her on the throne, and made their obeisance. When the princess felt the pains of labour approaching, she assembled the astrologers and Brahmens, and consulted them on the probable destiny of her child.

The astrologers, having attentively considered the position of the heavens, declared that if the child should be born before a particular hour, his destiny would be replete with misery; but if after the time specified, he should enjoy a very long reign.

The intrepid lady immediately gave positive orders to the attendants, that, without paying any attention to her feelings, or regard to her safety, they should use every endeavour to postpone the delivery. The measures they adopted were rude and cruel; and although their efforts were attended with success, it was at the expense of the life of the mother.

As soon as the child was born, he was laid on the throne, and the commencement of his reign dated from that instant. This prince ruled Bengal for eighty years, and was distinguished for his clemency, generosity, and justice.

In the year A. D. 1202—3, the Mohammedans

having conquered the province of Behar, and extended their ravages to the borders of Bengal, the Brahmens and astrologers waited on the Raja, and represented that their ancient books contained a prophecy that the kingdom of Bengal would be subdued by the Toorks; that they were convinced the appointed time was now arrived, and advised him to remove his wealth, family and seat of government (then at Nuddeah), to a more secure and distant part of the country, where they might be safe from any sudden incursion of their enemies.

The Raja on hearing this representation, asked the Brahmens if their books gave any description of the person who was to be conqueror of his dominions. They replied in the affirmative, and the description exactly corresponded with the person of the Mohammedan general, then in Behar.

The Raja, being far advanced in years, would not listen to their advice, and took no measure to avoid the danger. But the nobles and principal inhabitants sent away their property and families, either to the province of Jagernaut, situated on the sea side, or to the countries on the north—east bank of the Ganges.

In the year A. D. 1203—4, Bukhtyar Khulijy,

having acquired sufficient information of the unguarded state of Bengal, secretly assembled his troops, and marching from Behar, proceeded expeditiously towards Nuddeah, that the approach was not even suspected.

On his arrival in the vicinity of the city, he concealed his troops in a wood, and accompanied by only seventeen horsemen, entered the city. On passing the guards, he informed them, that he was an envoy, going to pay his respects to their master.

He was thus permitted to approach the palace; and having passed the gates, he and his party drew their swords, and commenced a slaughter of the royal attendants.

The Raja, Luchmunyah, who was then seated at dinner, alarmed by the cries of his people, made his escape from the palace by a private door, and, getting on board a small boat, rowed with utmost speed down the river.

The remainder of the Mohammedan troops now advanced, and having slaughtered a number of the Hindoos, took possession of the palace and the city. Soon as this intelligence was conveyed to the Raja, he became overwhelmed with affliction; and resolving to dedicate the remainder of his life

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to religion, he continued his journey to Jagernaut, and had the consolation of dying soon after, in the vicinity of the sacred temple.

After the flight of the Raja, Bukhtyar gave up the city to be plundered by his troops, reserving for himself only the elephants and public stores. He then proceeded, without opposition, to Lucknowty, and established the ancient city of Gour as the capital of his dominions. As a necessary part of this ceremony, he destroyed a number of Hindoo temples, and with their materials erected mosques, colleges, and caravanseries, on their ruins.

Although elated by success, and absolute master of the extensive dominion, he did not assume to himself independence, but continued to stamp the coin with the name of the Sultan of Ghor; and sent most of the elephants and treasure to Cuttub Addeen, the Viceroy at Dehly.

About two thousand and six hundred years ago Gour was the capital of Bengal; and the population of the city was about ten lakhs at the time. Adisur, one of the kings of Bengal, with the object of acquiring divine aid by propitiatory rites, to overcome absence or insufficient rain-fall in his domi-

tion, brought down five Brahmens from Cannouge, well versed in Vedas. They were by names Bhattanarayana, Dakhya, Vedgarva, Chhandore and Sriharsa.

Brahmens of Sandillya-gotra, are the descendants of Bhattanarayana. Makaranda Ghose, a Kayastha by caste came with the said Bhattanarayana, and the Ghose Kayasthas of Bengal are his descendants. Kashyap-gotra Brahmens are the descendants of Dakhya. Kayastha Dasarathi Basu came with him, and the Basu Kayasthas of Bengal are his descendants. Sabarnya-gotra Brahmens are the descendants of Vedgarva. Kayastha Dasarathi Guha came with him, the Guha Kayasthas of Bengal are his, descendants. Byatsya-gotra Brahmens are the descendants of Chhandore. Kayastha Purushottam Dutt came with him, the Dutt Kayasthas of Bengal are his descendants. Varadwaj-gotra Brahmens are the descendants of Sriharsa. Kayastha Kalidas Mitra came with him, and the Mitra Kayasthas of Bengal are his descendants.

Prior to that there were only 700 families of Brahmens in Bengal; who were fallen from approved usage. They were known as Saptasati or Satsati.

Out of the five Brahmens, who came to Bengal,

as aforesaid; only a few settled near Gour, on the banks of river Karatoya—at Barendra-Bhumi, and the others settled to a far off distant place—at Rar. Accordingly they were known as Barendra-sreni and Rariya-sreni. The rules of Kulinism were framed by one Udayanacharja Bhaduri, who had them adjusted to the Brahmens of Barendra-sreni; whereas, one Debibar Ghatak classified and adjusted the Rariya-sreni Brahmens; and one Purander Khan did the same for Kayasthas.

In the course of a year, Mohammed Bukhtyar, having completely subdued Bengal, and stationed garrisons in all the strong places, was seized with the mad ambition of adding the bleak mountains of Bootan and Thibet to his dominions. He therefore appointed Mohammed Sheran Khulijy, his principal officer, to be the deputy during his absence; and proceeded, with a select detachment of 10,000 horse, towards the ridge of mountains which separates India from Tartary and China.

These mountains were inhabited by three distinct tribes, called Koonch, Mikeh, and Neharu. These peoples had all Tartar countenances, and spoke a language between Hindy and Thibetian.

Mohammed Bukhtyar had the merit of conver-

ating one of the chiefs of the tribe of Koonch to Mussulman faith, to whom he gave the name of Aly Miekh. This person undertook to be his guide and director on this expedition. He first led the army to a city named Burdehun or Murdehun, under the walls of which ran a very large river, called Bungmutty, three times as broad as the Ganges. This river falls into the Indian Sea. For ten days they proceeded upwards, along the banks of this river ; till they entered the narrow defiles of the mountains, and came to a stone bridge consisting of twenty-two arches, over which the army crossed.

As the possession of this bridge was of utmost importance to secure a safe retreat, Mohammed Bukhtyar took the precaution of leaving a strong party to guard it, under the command of two officers; one of whom was of his own tribe, but the other a Toork.

When the Raja of Kamroop was informed that the army had crossed the bridge, he sent an envoy to Mohammed Bukhtyar, to solicit his friendship; and offered that, if he would postpone the expedition for another year, he would, at the expiration of that period, join him with all his forces, and lead him by an easy route, into Thibet.

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Mohammed, being either anxious to finish his undertaking, or giving little credit to the promises of the Raja, declined his offer; and proceeded for fifteen days through the narrow valleys and over lofty mountains, till at length the army entered an extensive plain of Thibet, well cultivated and inhabited. They shortly after came to a well-fortified town, the inhabitants of which opposed them courageously, and killed a number of Mussulmans.

The armour of these people was entirely composed of bamboos, sewed or tied together with raw silk. With such materials they very ingeniously formed not only shields and breast plates, but even helmets. Their offensive weapons were long spears, and large bows and arrows.

After a hard day's contest, the Mussulman forces were obliged to retire to their camp, without any other fruit of victory than a few prisoners; from them they learned, that at the distance of fifteen miles, there was a very large and strongly fortified city, called Kurmputtun, which was inhabited by Brahmens and Bootaneers; that their prince was a Christian, but that he had, in his service an innumerable army of Tartars well versed in the use

of the bow and spear; that, on the first appearance of the Mussulmans, an express had been sent of to the city; and that, without doubt, a powerful force would arrive from thence early next morning.

This intelligence very much alarmed Mohammed Bukhtyar, whose army was considerably reduced by fatigue and battle. He therefore called a council of war, in which it was resolved that they should immediately retire, and return at a more favourable opportunity, with a greater force.

Two hours before the day, the Mussulmans silently commenced their retreat; but as soon as the inhabitants of the country were aware of their intentions, they set fire to all the forage and grain which was on their way. At length, after suffering the greatest hardships, the Mussulmans arrived, on the fifteenth day, at the banks of the river which they had crossed, but how great was the disappointment of Mohammed Bukhtyar, to find that the officers, to whom he had entrusted the defence of the bridge, having quarrelled with each other, had abandoned their post: and that the Raja of Kamroop, now taking advantage of the distresses of the Mussulmans, had combined with the enemies to cut off his retreat. and had in consequence, broken down two of the arches of the bridge.

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In this dilemma, Mohammed ordered his troops to take possession of a large Hindoo temple, which was in the vicinity, and which contained many massy idols of gold and silver ; whilst a party were employed in cutting down wood and bamboos, to form rafts for crossing the river. During this time, the Raja of Kamroop, having collected a large army, surrounded the Mussulmans ; but knowing that his troops could not withstand the close attack of their invaders, he ordered them to construct a line of circumvallation, composed of stakes interwoven with bamboos, at a considerable distance round the temple, and thus to starve their enemies to death.

When the Mussulmans saw this wall rising on all sides of them, they called out to their commander ; 'If we remain longer here, we shall all be caught in the net of these infidels'. So saying, they made a sudden charge upon the Hindoos, and cut their way through the unfinished stockade ; they then retreated to the banks of the river, and each man employed himself in devising some means of getting over, whilst the Hindoos annoyed them from a distance with their arrows.

One of the troopers having ridden some way up the banks of the river, discovered a place ford-

able to a short distance. The army seeing this, and supposing that the ford extended across the river, impetuously rushed after him ; nor did they discover their mistake till too late. The majority of them was carried away by the rapidity of the current, and found a watery grave ; whilst the general, and a small number of the best-mounted soldiers, with much difficulty reached the opposite side.

When Mohammed Bukhtyar had reached Koonch (probably Cooch Beyhar) he was hospitably received by the inhabitants, and specially the relations of Aly Miekh, who endeavoured to alleviate his wants, and to mitigate his sorrows ; but melancholy and disappointment overwhelmed him ; and a few days after his arrival at Deocote in Bengal, he sunk under the pressure of his calamities, amidst the execrations and curses of the orphans and widows of the soldiers who had fallen a sacrifice to his insatiable ambition. His remains were carried to Behar, and there buried. These events happened in the year A.D. 1205.

Mohammed Sheran was a person of good family, of the tribe of Khulijy, and had given many proofs of activity and valour. He was promoted by Mohammed Bukhtyar, to the command of his

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army ; and, when he set out on his unfortunate expedition, he left Sheran at Lucknowty, as his deputy in the government.

After the death of Mohammed Bukhtyar Khulijy, Mohammed Sheran, was elected to be the Chief of all the Mussulman commanders, on condition of each receiving a certain district, for the support of his troops. On this occasion Mohammed Sheran assume the ensigns of royalty, and took the title of Aza Addeen.

Cuttub Addeen, after assuming the title of Emperor of Hindoostan, ordered Kemar Roumy, Governor of Oude, to proceed to Bengal. One of the Khulijy chiefs in Bengal named Hissan Addeen Avuz, joined the royal standard, and was confirmed in the government of Deocote. The other chiefs, disdaining submission, opposed Kemar Roumy ; they were however defeated, and then they fled towards Cooch Beyhar, where quarrelling amongst themselves, Mohammed Sheran fell by one of their swords.

After this event, Kemar Roumy, pardoning the remaining chiefs, made a new division of the country amongst them ; and having appointed an

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officer to receive the Imperial portion of the revenues, returned to his own government.

Aly Murdan Khulijy, who was Governor of Barsool, under Mohammed Bukhtyar Khulijy, was appointed Vicéroy in Bengal, by the Emperor Cuttub Addeen in the year A.D. 1208.

In obedience to the royal mandate, Hissam Addeen Avuz, and the other Khulijy chiefs, met the new Viceroy on the banks of the river Coosa : thence they carried him to Deocote, and placed him on the Musnud. Shortly after, he proceeded to Lucknowty (Gour), and obtained the undisputed control of the kingdom.

Upon the death of Sultan Cuttub Addeen, in the year A.D. 1210, Aly Murdan rejected the authority of the court of Dehly, and, assuming the white umbrella and other ensigns of royalty, caused himself to be proclaimed king of Bengal, under the title of Sultan Ala Addeen. Ala Addeen was assassinated in the second year of his reign.

After the assassination of Aly Murdan, the Khulijy chiefs raised to the throne Hissam Addeen Avuz, a nobleman who had given frequent proofs of his abilities and valour, and who was highly esteemed by all parties. On his election to the

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Musnud of Bengal in the year A.D. 1212, he assumed the title of Ghyas Addeen, and, having removed his residence to Gour, he expended large sums of money in improving that city.

He carried his arms into the territories of the Rajas of Kamroop, Tirhoot, and Jagernaut, which had never been before subdued by the Mohammedan arms, and compelled them to pay him tribute.

For ten years he reigned with great prosperity ; but having neglected to send presents to the court of Dehly, the Emperor Altumsh, son-in-law of Cuttub Addeen, in the year A.D. 1225, marched from Dehly, and without opposition, took possession of Behar ; but Ghyas Addeen, having secured all the boats, prevented the royal army crossing the Ganges ; and, by the mediation of some friends, the Emperor at length agreed to make peace, and let him retain the government of Bengal on the following conditions :— that the money should in future be stamped, and the *Khutbe* (proclamation) read, in the name of Altumsh ; and that Ghyas Addeen should present the Emperor with thirty-eight elephants and a large sum of money, and send annually a tribute to Dehly. These terms having been ratified, the Emperor returned towards Dehly, previously

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appointing a nobleman, named Mulk Ala Addeen, to be Governor of Behar ; but scarcely had he arrived in his capital, before Ghyas Addeen crossed the river, dispossessed the new Governor, and drove the royal troops out of the district of Behar.

The Emperor was highly irritated at this conduct ; and having assembled a numerous army in Oude, under the command of his son, Nasir Addeen, he ordered the prince to proceed to, and subdue Bengal. Nasir Addeen marched from Oude in the year A.D. 1227, at a time when Ghyas Addeen was employed in subduing some of the Rajas in the eastern parts of Bengal ; in consequence of which the young prince obtained possession of Gour without opposition. But as soon as Ghyas Addeen had received intelligence of the invasion, he hastened to meet his opponents. He courageously attacked them in the neighbourhood of his capital ; and, after exhibiting many proofs of valour, fell, with many of his chiefs, either on the field of battle, or immediately after, by the hands of the executioner.

On the death of Ghyas Addeen, the young prince took possession of Bengal and Behar, in the name of the Emperor ; and having sent the family of the deceased and the plunder of Gour to Dehly.

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was appointed Viceroy of those provinces, with permission to use the red umbrella, and other insignia of royalty.

He is said to have ruled with great justice and died at Gour in the year A.D. 1229. Upon this event, the Khulijy chiefs revolted, and for some time threw the affairs of Bengal into confusion; but the Emperor Altumsh having marched from Dehly on the news of his son's death, entered Bengal early in the year A.D. 1230, and, after defeating the rebels, appointed Mulk Ala Addeen to the government. Mulk Ala Addeen, after having held the government of Bengal for four years, was succeeded by Sief Addeen Toork, who, at the end of three years, was poisoned to death.

Toghan Khan was born in the district of Khotah in Tartary. He was handsome in his person, and possessed of every amiable quality. Whilst a youth he was purchased by the Emperor Altumsh, who for several years employed him in confidential situation in the royal household, and in the year A.D. 1233, appointed him to the government of Budaon (now Rohilcund). Having distinguished himself in this situation, he was promoted to Behar; and on the death of Seif Addeen Toork, in the year

A.D. 1237, was rewarded with the important government of Bengal.

When Sultana Rizia, daughter of the Emperor Altumsh, ascended the throne of Dehly in the end of the year A. D. 1237, Toghan Khan sent an eloquent agent, with valuable presents, to court, and by these means was not only confirmed in his government, but was also promoted to the highest rank of nobility, with permission to use the red umbrella, as the representative of the Empress.

In the year, A. D. 1243, the Raja of Jagepore (Orissa) having given some cause of offence, Toghan Khan marched on to the frontier of Jagepore where he found the army of the Raja had thrown up entrenchments to oppose him. The Mohomedans drew up in order of battle, and, having made a vigorous attack on the entrenchments of the enemy succeeded in taking two of the lines; but there being still a third, and the troops fatigued and oppressed with heat, Toghan Khan allowed them to halt and refresh themselves. In the mean time, a small party of the Hindoo cavalry, getting into his rear, seized upon the elephants, and began to plunder the camp. On seeing this, the Mohammedans retreated in great disorder; and being warmly pursued by their enemies, numbers of them were

slain, and all their baggages and elephants seized by the enemy. Toghan Khan was therefore compelled to return with ignominy to Gour.

The Raja being encouraged by this success, invaded Bengal, in the following year A. D. 1244. He laid siege to the city of Gour, with Orissa army and a number of war elephants, but was vigorously opposed by Toghan Khan. Another party of the Orissians made an attack upon Naghore, the capital of Beerbhoom, the defence of which had been entrusted to Kureem Addeen, who with great number of his followers fell in the contest, and the town was plundered by the enemy.

In the mean time, the army of Oude, under the command of Timour Khan Keran, which had been ordered from the court of Dehly, to the assistance of Toghan Khan, approached Gour. When intelligence of this event reached the Orissians, they were alarmed, and retreated with plunder to their own country.

When Timour Khan arrived at Gour, he affirmed that his commission from the court superseded Toghan Khan in the government, and demanded possession of Gour. This claim was resisted by Toghan Khan; and an appeal to arms was

the result, from the dawn of day till the Sun had nearly attained the meridian, but, by the interference of Menhajaddeen, and other mutual friends of the chiefs, the combatants were at length separated. After this it was agreed, that Toghan Khan should be allowed to take away with him all his treasures, elephants, and other property, and that Timour Khan should continue as Governor of Bengal.

Toghan Khan was favourably received at the court of Dehly, and was soon after appointed Governor of Oude, in which situation he died in the year A.D. 1246.

Timour was a native of Kipchak (north of Caspian Sea), and was purchased by Sultan Altumsh. Being a youth of great comeliness and bravery, he was speedily promoted to various offices of importance, and was at length entrusted with the Government of Oude; whence; as has been before related, he proceeded to Bengal; which country he governed with great prudence for two years, and died at Gour in the year A.D. 1246, on the same night that his predecessor, Toghan Khan, died in the city of Oude. His remains were, by his own desire, carried to Oude, and were buried close to those of his rival.

Sief Addeen Yugan Tunt, originally a Turkish slave, succeeded to the government of Bengal, and reigned with considerable reputation for seven years. He died at Gour in the year A.D. 1253.

Ikhtyar Addeen Toghril Khan Mulk Yuzbek. This chief was also one of the Tartar slaves of the Emperor Altumsh; and having been by degrees promoted to an important command in the army, joined the rebels, who, in the year A.D. 1237 deposed Ferose, the son of his master, and exalted the Sultana Rizia to the throne; but three years afterwards he turned his arms against the princess, and became a favourite with the Emperor, Byram Shah. His intriguing disposition, however, having rendered him suspected, two months before the tragical death of that Emperor, he was seized and confined; but upon the accession of Musaood, he obtained his release. Under the reign of that Emperor, he obtained first the government of Tiberhind, and subsequently that of Lahore. In this situation he evinced a refractory spirit, and was recalled to Dehly; but was pardoned at the intercession of his friends. He was subsequently entrusted with the government of Cannouge, and afterwards with the Oude; whence,

on the death of Sief Addeen Yugan Tunt, in the year A.D. 1253, he was transferred to Bengal.

The first act of his government was the assembling of an army, to revenge the disgrace which the Mohammedan arms had sustained from the Raja of Jagepore (Orissa), as has been before related. He accordingly invaded the dominion of that prince, and was victorious in two battles; but in the third was completely defeated, and lost all his elephants; among which was a white one, esteemed a great curiosity.

In the following year, he invaded the territories of the Raja of Azmurdun (probably Silhet, in which there is still a large town, called Azmurgunge), and took the capital of that prince, with all the treasure and elephants. After overrunning that country for some months, he returned, loaded with plunder and captives, to Gour.

The success of his late expedition, and the distracted state of the empire of Dehly, inflamed the Governor with the ambition of independence; he accordingly assumed not only the red and black but the white umbrella; and took upon himself the title of Mogies Addeen. Shortly after, he assembled a numerous army, and proceeded to

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Oude. Here he was opposed by the Governor of that district; and it being rumoured that the Emperor was marching in person against him, he made a speedy and disgraceful retreat to Bengal.

This rebellion of Mulk Yuzbek against the legitimate Sovereign rendered him contemptible in the eyes of all mankind; nor did his ill actions go unrequited, as will subsequently appear.

In the year A. D. 1256-7, Mulk Yuzbek, assembled his army and invaded the territories of the Raja of Kamroop. That chief, finding himself unable to oppose the Mohammedans, retreated into the mountains; and his capital was taken possession of by the invaders, who found therein immense wealth. Mulk Yuzbek ordered a mosque to be built, and was proclaimed Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Bengal and Kamroop.

During the time, the Raja sent an ambassador to Mulk Yuzbek, offering, on condition of his retiring, not only to pay him a large tribute of money and elephants, but also to stamp the coin in his name. These offers were rejected by Mulk Yuzbek with disdain; but he had shortly occasion to repent his temerity; for the Hindoos, having taken possession of the roads, cut off the supplies of grain; and

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As soon as the rainy season set in, cut the banks of the rivers, and overflowed all the low country. In this dilemma, the invaders attempted to retreat across the mountains; but lost their road, and suffered the greatest distress. At length the Hindoos, having completely surrounded them in a defile, galled them severely with their arrows. Mulk Yuzbek, who rode upon an elephant, being thereby rendered very conspicuous, was mortally wounded; after which the whole of the Mohammedan army yielded themselves to the enemy. Mulk Yuzbek was then carried before the Raja; and when introduced to that prince, he requested that his son, who had been with him in the battle, might be sought for, and, if alive, brought to him; his request was complied with; and the youth having been found among the prisoners, was brought to his father, who embraced him, and immediately after yielded up his soul to his Maker.

As soon as the death of Mulk Yuzbek was known at the court of the Emperor Nasir Addeen Mohammed, the ministers of the empire, judging it a favourable opportunity to recover their influence in Bengal, despatched a chief, named Jelal Addeen Khany, to take possession of that

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province. This officer was received by the subordinate chiefs with every mark of respect due to the Imperial authority, and permitted to assume the reins of government without any opposition. Jelal Addeen, after settling the business in the neighbourhood of Gour, was induced to lead his army into the eastern part of Bengal, to reduce some of the independent Rajas to obedience; but while thus employed, his government was invaded from a quarter whence he could least have suspected it; for Irsilan Khan, the Imperial Governor of Kurrah, having been intrusted with command of an army to subdue the Raja of Callinger, in Bundelcund, suddenly turned his footsteps towards Bengal, and, after a siege of a few days, got possession of Gour. In a subsequent engagement he killed Jelal Addeen; but in consequence of his sending the elephants, horses, and other property of the murdered chief, to the court of Dehly, his conduct was overlooked. This event occurred in the year A. D. 1258. Irsilan Khan, was also one of the slaves of the Emperor Altumsh. He continued to rule Bengal for two years, and died at Gour in the year A.D. 1260.

Mohammed Tatar Khan, was celebrated for

his generosity, bravery, and virtue; and was so great a favourite with the army, that on the death of his father, Irsilan Khan, he took quiet possession of his office; and the attention of the Emperor Nasir Addeen being at that time much occupied in defending his northern frontier against the Moghuls, it was thought unadvisable to depose him. But when, in the year A. D. 1265, the reins of supreme authority had fallen into the able hands of Balin, the Governor of Bengal drew his neck within the circle of obedience, and despatched to Dehly a rich tribute, consisting of sixty-three elephants, great quantities of silks, muslins, &c., and large sum in specie.

As this event occurred in the first year of Balin's reign, the Emperor considered it an auspicious omen, and ordered the cavalcade to be introduced into the capital with great pomp. The agents were received in public court, and were distinguished by dresses of honour; and a few days after received from the hands of the Emperor a commission, confirming Tatar Khan in his government; to which were added several presents, as a proof of the royal favour. This conduct had such an effect on the mind of Tatar Khan, that he con-

tinued thenceforward a faithful vassal of the court of Dehly, and died at Gour in the year A. D. 1277.

Toghril, was originally a Tartar slave, had the good fortune to be purchased by the Emperor Balin. He afterwards became the Governor of Bengal. Taking the opportunity of the illness of the Emperor, the said Toghril turned a rebel and declared himself king of Bengal, under the title of Sultan Mogies Addeen. He was later defeated by the royal army and was killed. The Emperor Balin, thereafter, ordered a number of the adherents and relations of Toghril, including their wives and children, to be put to cruel death. This was the first time that any of the Emperors of India had inflicted punishment on the women and children of rebels.

In the year A.D. 1282, the Emperor bestowed on his younger son the kingdom of Bengal, with the title of Sultan Nasir Addeen (Defender of the Faith), and conferred on him all the insignia of royalty.

This prince governed Bengal for several years with much reputation; but his elder brother, Mohammed, having been killed in a battle with the Moghuls in the vicinity of Moultan, the Emperor ordered him to proceed to Dehly, and, on his arrival there, thus addressed him:— "The sudden

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death of thy elder brother has bent down my aged head with sorrow to the grave ; and although he has left a son who is doubtless the legitimate heir to the throne, the youth is of too tender an age to wield with effect the weighty sceptre of Hindoostan ; it must therefore be placed in more able hands. You are my only prop and support. Bear for the short period, for which I am destined to remain in this world, the yoke of dependence. Send a deputy to govern Bengal, and remain near my throne, ready to step into it as soon as Fate shall call me hence." —The prince promised implicit obedience to the will of his aged parent ; but several months having elapsed, and the Emperor improving in his health, Nasir Addeen resolved to return to Bengal, and leave the empire of Dehly for those to whom it might be destined by Providence.

Having taken this resolution, he requested permission of his father to make a short excursion, for the purpose of hunting ; and under this pretence quitted Dehly, and proceeded directly to Gour. ●

This step gave great offence to the Emperor ; who thereon sent for Ky Khusero, the son of the

prince Mohammed, and declared him the heir of his kingdoms ; soon after which event he departed this life, in the end of the year A.D. 1286, in the eightieth year of his age.

Notwithstanding the legitimate claim of Ky Khusero to the kingdom, which was further sanctioned by the will of the deceased Emperor, the nobles raised Kiekobad to the throne, a prince of eighteen years of age, son of Nasir Addeen, the king of Bengal. This youth soon fell into all the allurements of pleasure, and devoted his whole time to amusement ; relinquishing to his minister, Nazim Addeen, the government of his dominions.

The Emperor Kiekobad was assassinated in the year A.D. 1289, and the throne of Dehly usurped by Feroze, a chief of the tribe of Khulijy.

Sultan Nasir Addeen was permitted to retain the kingdom of Bengal, during the whole of the reign of Emperor Feroze, and the earlier part of that of the Emperor Alla, without molestation ; but when that able, though cruel monarch had attained the height of his power, Nasir Addeen, dreading his displeasure, voluntarily laid aside his umbrella and other insignia of royalty, and professing himself a subject of the court of Dehly, was per-

mitted to retain in fief the district of Gour, and the south-west part of Bengal. This event occurred about the year A.D. 1299.

The Emperor at the same time appointed a chief, named Behadur Khan, to the government of the eastern districts of Bengal; hoping, by thus dividing that province into two governments, to render it more subservient to the court of Dehly than it had hitherto proved. The capital of the new government was fixed at Sunergong. (this place was situated about thirteen miles south-east from Dacca, before the present town of Dacca was built).

When in the year A.D. 1317, the dissolute prince Mubarick Shah succeeded to the throne of Dehly, Behadur despising the weakness of the Imperial councils, arrogated to himself independence; assuming the white umbrella, and ordering the coin to be stamped with his own name, changing the title Behadur Khan to Behadur Shah.

In the year A.D. 1324, the Emperor Tughlik, jealous of the assumed rank, and wearied by complaints of the oppressions and tyranny of Behadur Shah, marched from Dehly with a numerous army, and, on his arrival at Tirhoot, was met by Nasir Addeen, the deposed king of Bengal, who having

presented the Emperor with many valuable jewels, was received with great favour, was permitted to use the insignia of royalty, and re-appointed to his government of Gour on condition of holding it in fief from the court of Dehly. This agreement he faithfully complied with, and died in the year A.D. 1325, being forty-three solar years from his first accession to the throne of Bengal ; over which country he may be said to have been the first regularly constituted Mohammedan monarch, having been crowned as such by his father, the Emperor Balin, and confirmed in the possession of his kingdom by his son, the acknowledged Emperor Kieko-bal.

Behadur Shah, finding himself unable to oppose the Imperial arms, submitted to the clemency of the Emperor ; and was pardoned, on condition of giving up the public treasure and elephants, and attending the Imperial stirrup to Dehly.

The Emperor then appointed Tatar, with the title of Bhiram Khan, to the government of Sunergong ; and having subdued Tirhoot, formed it into a distinct government, to which he appointed Ahmed Khan, and then returned to Delhy.

In the year A. D. 1325, when the intelligence of the death of Nasir Addeen had reached Dehly,

the Emperor Mohammed Shah, who had just then succeeded to the throne, appointed Kudder Khan, to the government of Gour, and confirmed Bhiram Khan in the government of Sunergong. These two persons are said to have ruled their respective territories, for fourteen years, with much equity and propriety.

In the year A. D. 1338, Bhiram Khan died at Sunergong, at a period when Mohammed Shah, having conquered great part of the Dekkan, was busily occupied in the affairs. This occasion presented a favourable opportunity to Fakher Addeen, the armour-bearer of Bhiram Khan, not only to assume the government of Sunergong without permission, but also to declare himself an independent monarch, assuming the title of Sultan Sekunder.

When intelligence of this event was carried to court, the Emperor ordered Kudder Khan, the Governor of Gour, and the neighbouring chiefs, to unite their armies, and expel the rebel. In obedience to the Imperial commands, Kudder Khan marched from Gour, and, in a general engagement, defeated Fakher Addeen, who fled, and concealed himself in the forests. The Governor took posses-

sion of Sunergong ; and after some time had elapsed, and the rainy season had set in, he allowed the subordinate chiefs to return to their homes ; and dispersed the greater number of his own troops, to collect the revenues. It happened that there was at this period a large sum of money in the treasury which the Governor was preparing to forward to Dehly. Fakher Addeen having obtained intelligence of this circumstance, sent proposals to the portion of the army remaining with the Governor that if they would kill their master, and join him, he would distribute the whole of the treasure amongst them. His emissaries were successful; the troops consented to the terms; they murdered the Governor; and then proceeded to join the rebel, who immediately advanced to Sunergong, and, having taken possession of the treasure, distributed it according to his promise. This event occurred in the year A. D. 1340.

Fakher Addeen having, as we have stated in the preceding paragraph, succeeded in regaining his authority, caused himself to be proclaimed Sovereign of Bengal ; and ordered the coin to be stamped, and all public papers to be issued, in his name.

The throne of Dehly being at that period

possessed by the weak Mohammed III, no effort was made to reduce the province to the Imperial authority; and as the power of the empire continued to decline, Bengal remained for many years afterwards an independent and distinct kingdom; on which account historians have considered Fakher Addeen as the first Mohammedan king of Bengal.

The new Sultan fixed his residence at Suner-gong; and sent an army, under the command of his slave, Mukhliss Khan, to take possession of Gour and the dependent districts; but in this expectation he was foiled; for Aly Mubarick, one of the officers of the deceased Governor, having collected some troops, opposed the invaders, and killed their leader. On this event, Aly Mubarick sent a petition to the Emperor, stating his success against the rebel, and soliciting that he might be confirmed in the government; but without waiting for the sanction of the Emperor, he took the title of Ala Addeen, and, advancing against Fakher Addeen, in the year 1342-43, took him prisoner, and caused him to be put to death. The reign of Fakher Addeen, was only two years and five months.

Aly Mubarick was assassinated, at the expiration of a year and five months, by his foster brother,

Ilyas Khaje or Hajy Elias, he took possession of the kingdom.

After the assassination of Aly Mubarick in the year A.D. 1343, his murderer assumed the reins of government, under the lofty title of Shums Addeen ; and being of a mild and generous disposition, he soon rendered himself popular, both with the army and his subjects, who, in his other good qualities, shortly forgot the mode by which he ascended the throne.

As soon as Ilyas found himself perfectly established in his authority, he invaded the dominions of the Raja of Jagenagur (Tippera), and compelled that prince to pay a great sum of money, and to give him a number of valuable elephants, with which he returned in triumph to his capital.

For ten years Ilyas Khaje ruled Bengal with absolute authority, and without any molestation from the court of Dehly ; but in the end of the year A.D. 1353, the Emperor Feroze, taking offence at his having made encroachments on the province of Benaras, invaded Bengal with a numerous army.

Ilyas, not finding himself able to oppose the Emperor in the field, placed his troops in different garrisons, and took post himself in the fort of

Akdala (situated at a short distance to the north of Dacca); leaving his son to defend the city of Pundua (near Maldah). which for some time past he had made his capital.

In a contest near Pundua, the troops of Ilyas were defeated and his son was made a prisoner ; after which the city surrendered.

From Pundua the Emperor proceeded to Akdala, and invested that fortress ; but the place being very strong, the Emperor, after besieging it to a great length, and the rainy season, which in Bengal sets in with great violence and inundates the plains, drawing near, the Emperor found it requisite to make peace ; he therefore, upon a promise from Ilyas of an annual tribute, and some trifling presents, released the prisoners taken at Pundua, and returned to Dehly.

In the year A.D. 1354, Ilyas sent ambassadors with very valuable presents, to the Emperor ; by whom they were most graciously received, and afterwards dismissed with assurances of friendship.

In the year A.D. 1356, Ilyas, being still suspicious of the Emperor's intentions, sent other ambassadors to Dehly, who, after some negotiation, concluded a permanent treaty of peace ; by which

the independence of Bengal was formally acknowledged, and the respective limits of each kingdom defined.

In the next year, the king of Bengal sent a number of elephants, and other valuable presents, by his ambassador Tajaddeen, to the Emperor, who received the embassy in the most gracious manner; and, in return, ordered Sief Addeen, a nobleman of distinction, to proceed, as his ambassador, to the court of Bengal; and to take with him a number of choice Arabian and Tartar horses for the king.

The Imperial Ambassador proceeded as far as Behar, where he received the melancholy intelligence of the death of the king of Bengal; he therefore waited in that city for further instructions; and in consequence of orders received from his court, he divided the horses amongst the chiefs of Behar, and returned to his master.

Ilyas Khaje, under the title of Shums Addeen, ruled Bengal for sixteen years and five months, and died in the year A.D. 1358.

Three days after the death of Ilyas Khaje, the chiefs placed on the throne his eldest son, Sekunder Shah, who commenced his reign by a strict admini-

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stration of justice, and minute attention to the welfare of his subjects.

As soon as the days of mourning were accomplished, the king prepared a splendid embassy, with valuable presents, to be sent to the court of Dehly. But when the Emperor Feroze heard of the death of Ilyas Khaje, he judged it a favourable opportunity to recover the Imperial authority over Bengal ; he therefore, early in the year A.D. 1359, advanced with hostile intentions towards that province ; and sent an ambassador to Sekunder Shah, with offers of peace, provided he would acknowledge himself the vassal of the empire. To these humiliating terms the king would not agree ; but sent five elephants, and some costly presents, as a peace offering. But the Emperor advanced with his army as far as Pundua ; and Sekunder, following the prudent example of his father, took refuge in the strong fortress of Akdala. The Imperial army in a short time surrounded Akdala ; but after a siege of some weeks, the Emperor, finding there was no probability of taking the place, consented to accept a present of forty-eight elephants and a large sum of money, and, on the promise of a future annual tribute, to withdraw from Bengal.

From that period, till nearly the close of his life, Sekunder Shah enjoyed a happy and undisturbed reign. He married two wives. By the first he had seventeen children, and by the second only one son. This youth, who was named Ghyas Addeen, possessed a most amiable disposition, and surpassed all his brethern in learning and accomplishments.

The first wife of Sekunder Shah, beheld Ghyas Addeen with the eye of envy. Ghyas Addeen was suspicious of the machinations of his step mother, to do him mischief. One day under pretence of going to hunt, he made his escape to Sunergong, and engaged in open rebellion. He was shortly enabled to collect an army, at the head of which he advanced towards Pundua. A general engagement ensued, in which, although Ghyas Addeen had given positive orders to his troops not to injure his father, the king was unintentionally mortally wounded. Sekunder Shah reigned somewhat more than nine years, and was killed in the year A.D. 1367.

Ghyas Addeen, the king of Bengal, reigned with much reputation for six years and some months, and died in the year A.D. 1373.

When the soul of Ghyas Addeen had taken

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its flight to the other world, the nobles placed his son, Sief Addeen, on the throne, with the title of Sultan Assulateen. This prince was of generous, courageous and humane dispositions ; he disturbed not the quiet of his neighbours by his ambition, but ruled Bengal peacefully and unmolested for ten years and died in the year A.D. 1383.

On the death of Sief Addeen, the nobles raised to the throne his adopted son, a youth of very inferior talents, who took the title of Shums Addeen the Second. For little more than two years he enjoyed a tranquil reign ; but at the expiration of that period, Kanis, the zemindar of Bhetourieh rebelled against him ; and the youth being unsupported by the Mohammedan chiefs, was defeated, and lost his life, in the year A.D. 1385.

Immediately after the above mentioned event, the zemindar, having assumed the title of Raja, advanced to Pundua, where he was greeted by the Hindoos as the restorer of their religion, and Sovereign of Bengal ; but after being seated on the throne, he found that the Mohammedans in his dominions were so numerous, and so much superior in bravery to his natural subjects, that he judged it requisite to treat them with mildness and affa-

bility ; he therefore allowed many of the Afghan chiefs to retain their estates. He enjoyed a quiet and peaceable reign of seven years, and died in the year A.D. 1392.

During the reign of Raja Kanis, the city of Pundua was much extended and celebrated in the east, and the temples of idolatory again raised their heads.

After the death of Raja Kanis, his eldest son named Chietmal, who embraced Mohammedan religion, ascended the throne under the title of Jelal Addeen.

Jelal Addeen removed again the seat of government from Pundua to Gour, and expended large sums of money in improving that city. The mosque, baths, reservoir and caravanserai, distinguished by the name of Jelally, were all constructed by him. This prince ruled with great equity and justice ; and, after an undisturbed reign of eighteen years, died at Gour, in the year A.D. 1409.

The oldest of Jelal Addeen's sons, Ahmed Shah succeeded to the throne, after his father's death, without any opposition. He walked in the footsteps of his father, and administered justice to his subjects with impartiality ; in so much that the

followers of Mohammed and the worshippers of idols vied in their attachment to his person.

During the reign of this prince, Sultan Ibrahim of Joanpore invaded Bengal with a numerous army, and, after plundering of the districts, carried away many of the inhabitants as slaves. Ahmed Shah finding himself unable to contend with so formidable an adversary, whose power, in fact, exceeded that of the feeble representative of monarchy at Dehly, sent an ambassador to Shah Rookh, the son of Timour, who, although residing at Herat (in Persia), was considered as the Emperor of Hindoostan, to solicit his protection and interference.

The ambassador was received by the Tartar monarch with much honour; and on his taking leave, was accompanied by Abdul Kereem Hazy, who was furnished with a letter to Sultan Ibrahim, threatening him with most exemplary vengeance if he did not immediately release all the captives, and peremptorily prohibiting him from ever again molesting the king of Bengal.

Sultan Ibrahim received the letter with much respect; and whether from dread of Shah Rookh's vengeance, or being constantly occupied by his contests with the neighbouring chiefs, never after-

wards invaded Bengal. As the letter is a curious specimen of the pompous style of the East, it is here subjoined :—

“As soon as this mandate (to which the whole world is subject, and the universe obedient) shall arrive, in the space of one day, collect all the Mohammedan captives, and other persons belonging to that country (Bengal) ; and having delivered them over to their respective lords, procure a certificate of the fact, signed and sealed by the cazies, and send it immediately to the foot of the Imperial throne. And be assured, that if you use any delay, or are in smallest degree neglectful of the order ; We will issue our Imperial mandate to our most illustrious son Sultan Mahmood, king of Cabul, and to our Governors of Khotelan, of Ghizne, Kandahar, and Gurmseir, to proceed (to India), and so severely punish you, that it shall serve an example for others. If this shall not be sufficient, We shall issue our orders to our General, Feroze Shah, to march with the armies of Khorassan, and inflict vengeance on you. And if this shall not suffice, We will send our mandate to our most noble son Shums Addeen Mohammed, to advance with the troops of Arhung Pyrai, Kund-Diz, and

Bakelan, to chastise you. If this shall have no effect, We will direct our brave and victorious son Bayestegur Behadur to March with the forces of Babul, Sary, Mazinderan, Tubberistan, Goricke, and **Jilan**; and thus render you sensible of your crimes and impotence. But if you still continue to persevere in your atrocious conduct, We will command our august son Sultan Ibrahim to move with the armies of Irac, Azerbijan, Bagdad, and the districts of Arabia, to separate your soul from your body. And if they shall not be able to effect this purpose, We will signify our Royal will to our most beloved and victorious son Ulug Beg Goorgan, to proceed with all the squadrons of Toorkistan, and either tear you to pieces, or hang up your body to be eaten by the crows”.

Nothing more interesting occurs in the history of the reign of Ahmed Shah, which lasted eighteen years, and was terminated by his death in the year A.D. 1426.

Ahmed Shah, not having left any son to inherit his dominions, one of his slaves, named Nasir, seized upon the government; but the other chiefs, disdaining to submit to his authority, at the end of eight days put him to death; and raised to the

throne a youth who was a descendant of Ilyas Khaje Sultan Shums Addeen Bhengara, on whom they conferred the title of Nasir Shah.

Nasir Shah enjoyed a long and undisturbed reign. This prince constructed the fortification round the city of Gour ; the foundation of which have been traced over its whole circumference. Nasir Shah departed this life in the year A.D. 1457.

Nasir Shah was succeeded by his son Barbek Shah, who was esteemed a man of great abilities. He was the first prince in Hindoostan who introduced Abyssinian and Negro slaves into his service. He at one period had eight thousand of them, well mounted and armed, in his army ; and having by experience found them faithful and attached to him. His example was afterwards imitated by the sovereigns of Guzerat and Dekkan ; and many of those people, who, if they had fallen into the hands of Europeans, would have been condemned to servile drudgery, became the associates of princes and governors of provinces. Barbek Shah died in the year A.D. 1474, after a prosperous reign of seventeen years ; and was succeeded by his eldest son, Yusuf Shah.

As soon as the prince had taken possession of

the throne, he established rules for the strict administration of justice throughout his dominion. After having reigned with much reputation for seven years and six months, he departed this life in the year A.D. 1482., Yusuf Shah dying without children, the nobles raised to the throne a youth of the royal family, named Sekunder Shah ; but after two months, finding him incapable of governing, they deposed him, and placed on the throne his uncle, Futteh Shah.

This prince is said to have been possessed of good natural understanding, and finding that the Abyssinian slaves, and the eunuchs of the palace, during the reign of his predecessors, had gained too much influence, and had been guilty of improper practices, he punished some of them severely, and reduced them all to a level with his other servants and subjects. This conduct of the king's gave much offence to the eunuchs ; they seduced the corps of guards called Paiks, (infantry armed with swords and spears), 5000 of whom daily mounted guard over the palace ; and one night murdered their master in the seraglio, or female apartments, which their confidential situation in the interior of

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the palace enabled them to effect without immediate discovery.

It was the custom of the court of Bengal, that the night guard should wait till the king mounted the throne in the morning ; and after having saluted his majesty, to march off, and give place to the new guard, the Paiks waited some time for the approach of the king ; and either were, or pretended to be, much surprised to see the Chief eunuch, Bareek, ascend the throne, dressed in the royal robes.

It happened at this period that both the Vizier, Khan Jehan, and the Abyssinian Commander-in-chief, Mulk Andiel were detached from the capital, to wage war against some refractory Rajas ; and there were no troops left in the city but the Paiks : the commanders of whom having been previously bribed, the eunuch was proclaimed without opposition, under the title of Sultan Shahzadeh. This event happened in the year A.D. 1491.

Sultan Shahzadeh immediately promoted a number of his companions, the eunuchs, to the most important commands. But not thinking himself sufficiently established in his authority without the concurrence of Khan Jehan the Vizier, and Mulk Andiel the Commander-in-chief, he offered

to confirm them in their employments if they would take the oath of fealty to him ; and these officers, thinking it would be better to temporize, and wait for a favourable opportunity of destroying him, than by opposing him openly, returned to court, and were received with much cordiality.

This confidence was however misplaced ; for Mulk Andiel, having gained over to his party one of his countrymen, an Abyssinian eunuch, who had charge of the sleeping apartments, was admitted one night into the palace with twenty of his companions : when the Sultan, having dressed himself in female attire, and put on all his jewels, had seated himself on the throne, and indulged freely in the pleasure of music and wine. At a late hour of the night, after the Sultan had fallen asleep in the state of inebriety, and as soon as the attendants retired, the black eunuch extinguished all the lights except one, and admitted Mulk Andiel into the room.

The Sultan was then murdered. The next morning in consultation with the Vizier, it was decided to place on the throne the infant son of Fatteh Shah (then only two years of age), and that a person should be nominated to administer the

affairs of government during his minority. But the widow of Futteh Shah, did not agree to this proposal and said that on the murder of her husband, she had made a vow to God that whatever person revenged his death should have her suffrage to be king.

This sentiment was probably expected by them, and in consultation with the chiefs and with their approval, Mulk Andiel, although an Abyssinian slave, was elected to be their monarch. The reign of eunuch Sultan Shahzadeh was barely eight months.

When the Abyssinian Mulk Andiel, was elected to the sovereignty of Bengal, he assumed the title of Feroze Shah Hebshy, and governed his subjects with strict justice and munificent liberality. He reigned nearly three years, and died in the year A.D. 1494.

When Feroze Shah departed from this transitory world, the nobles raised to the throne his eldest son, with the title of Mahmood Shah; but the Vizier, Hebsh Khan, originally an Abyssinian slave, left to his master nothing but the name of king. This conduct gave much offence to the other Abyssinians; and, under pretence of reliev-

ing the prince from a galling yoke, one of them, named Siddee Budder Dewaneh, assassinated the Vizier ; and having thus mounted the first stage of the ladder of ambition, he shortly after murdered the king, and ascended the throne.

The period of Mahmood Shah's nominal reign was one year only. Siddee Budder Dewaneh mounted the throne in the year A.D. 1495, and assumed the title of Muzuffir Shah. He commenced his reign with the murder of several of the Turkish nobility. He afterwards marched his armies against some of the tributary Hindoo princes ; and having seized them, put them to death, and plundered their estates. In short, there was no species of cruelty or oppression that this tyrant did not commit ; till at length, in the year A.D. 1497-98, all the chiefs, headed by the Vizier, Syed Hussein, Sheriff of Mecca, rebelled against him, and besieged him in his capital ; but Muzuffir Shah, having in his service a corps of five thousand well mounted Abyssinians, and twentyfive thousand Afghan and Bengal troops, defended the city of Gour for four months with great resolution ; and whenever he made prisoners of any of the rebels, he took pleasure in beheading them himself. The number of persons he

is said to have put to death in this manner is incredible.

At length, thinking himself able to contend with his adversaries in the field, he marched out of the city and engaged them. A bloody battle ensued, in which Muzuffir Shah lost his life, and the plains of Gour were strewn with twentysix thousand of the slain. The reign of this oppressor of the human race was three years and five months..

On the death of Abyssinian Muzuffir Shah, the chiefs elected to the throne another foreigner, but of more noble race. This person was a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, and had quitted the sandy deserts of Arabia to improve his fortune in the fertile region of Bengal. On his arrival in Bengal, he was for some time in a very humble situation, but the cazy of Chandpore, having been informed of his illustrious descent, gave him his daughter in marriage, and introduced him into the service of Muzuffir Shah. His superior abilities soon raised him to the high dignity of first subject of the empire. The oppression and brutal temper of Muzuffir made him a rebel and fortune made him a king. His name was Syed Hussein, during the period that he acted as prime minister to his

predecessor, had given many proofs of his abilities and general benevolence, all the chiefs, of what ever tribe, concurred in opinion that he was the most worthy person to fill the throne ; and he, in return, granted them the extraordinary privilege of plundering the city of Gour for a prescribed period. The rich inhabitants of Gour being principally Hindoos, the pious Syed thought that they were fair plunder, although his own subjects. This may be considered as a specimen of a bigoted Mohammedan government.

At that period it was customery, amongst the rich inhabitants of Bengal, to have a number of golden dishes ; and the degree of respect due to any person was estimated by the quantity of plate he displayed upon public occasions ; on which account, the quantity of gold and silver regorged by the plunderers, is said to have been immense.

The privilege of plundering the city having been carried further than the Syed intended, he ordered the soldiery, after some days, to desist ; but finding his orders disobeyed, he caused twelve thousand of them to be put to death, and seized all the fruits of their rapine.

Syed Hussein ascended the throne of Bengal.

in the year A.D. 1499, and assumed the title of Sultan Ala Addeen Hussein Shah Sheriff Mecca.

One of the first acts of Ala Addeen's government was to reduce the corps of Paiks, who had so frequently assisted in dethroning their sovereigns; after which he raised a regiment, denominated *Serhungs*, to mount guard over his person. He also dismissed the whole of the Abyssinian troops; and they, having lost their reputation in Bengal by their frequent acts of disloyalty and treachery, could not obtain service either at Joanpore or Dchly, and were therefore compelled to proceed to Guzerat and the Dekkan, where they procured employment, and afterwards became very conspicuous, under the appellation of Siddees.

A good number of Paiks were settled in the Midnapore district; and had lands assigned to them, on condition of defending the country against all invaders and marauders; but the English Government not requiring their services, and wishing to put them on a footing with other subjects, they were much dissatisfied for a considerable period, and caused frequent disturbances between the years A.D. 1790 and 1800.

After these arbitrary but salutary acts, Ala

Addeen ruled with strict justice ; but, for the better security of his person, he made the fort of Akdala the seat of his residence.

The Sultan, after regulating his own kingdom, began to aspire to foreign conquests. He, in consequence, assembled a numerous army, and invaded the kingdom of Assam, situated to the north-east of Bengal. Having overrun that country, and acquired much plunder, he turned his arms against the Rajas of Kamroop, and the countries lying at the foot of the northern mountains, distinguished by the general name of Turryana ; and, on taking possession of many of their forts, established garrisons therein ; after which, having appointed his son to be Governor of the conquered districts, he returned to his capital.

It has ever been the systematic policy of the princes of Turryana to relinquish the level country to the invaders, and retire with their families and effects to fastnesses in the mountains, until the setting in of the rains ; when, the roads being rendered impassable for an army by inundation and torrents from the hills, they cut off all supplies of provisions, and either starve their opponents into a capitulation, or force them to retreat under the greatest disadvantage.

This system was now put in practice ; and the son of the Sultan was compelled to make a humiliating retreat, with the loss of half of his army.

After this unsuccessful attempt, the Sultan built an extensive fort on the banks of the Bettiah river, (the Gunduk), to defend his own territories from invasion ; and occupied himself in promoting the population of his country, and in improving the situation of his subjects.

The Emperor Sekunder having, in the year A.D. 1499, subdued the province of Behar, which for several years had been dependent of Joanpore, and was the last of the possessions of the kings of the East, advanced the banners of hostility against Bengal ; but on his arrival at Tuglickpore or (Cutlickpore) in Behar, he was informed that the prince Daniel, son of Ala Addeen, was on the way to meet him, with overtures of amity from his father. The Emperor, being also desirous of peace, that he might be enabled to return to Dehly, halted at this place, and sent forward two noblemen to meet and confer with the prince.

The plenipotentiaries met in the town of Bar... and in a few days concluded a treaty, the terms of which were, that the Emperor should retain Behar...

Tirhoot, Sircar Sarun, and all the other countries he had subdued, provided he did not invade Bengal; and that neither party should support, or in any manner assist, the enemies of the other. This treaty having been ratified by both monarchs, the Emperor returned towards Dehly. After this event, Ala Addeen enjoyed a peaceable and happy reign, beloved by his subjects, and respected by his neighbours; and died at Gaur in the year A.D. 1520, having reigned twentyfour years.

The deceased king left eighteen sons; the eldest of whom, Nusserit Shah, being a person of acknowledged bravery and superior talents, was chosen by the chiefs to be their monarch.

The distracted state of the court of Dehly, occasioned by the approach of Moghuls, under the celebrated Baber, presenting a favourable opportunity of recovering some of the districts which had formerly belonged to Bengal, Nusserit Shah broke the treaty which his father had contracted with Emperor Sekunder; and having invaded Tirhoot, and put the Raja to death, he appointed his son-in-law, Ala Addeen, to the government. He then proceeded against Hajypore; and having subdued it, gave it in charge to another son-in-law,

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named Mukhdoom Aalum ; after which he crossed the Ganges, and took possession of the fort and district of Mongeir, which he entrusted to one of his best generals, named Kuttub Khan.

When, in the year A.D. 1526, the Emperor Babar defeated and slew Sultan Ibrahim, and the empire of Hindoostan was transferred from the Afghan to the Moghul dynasty, many of the chiefs of the former nation sought employment and protection in Bengal ; even Mahmood Lody, the brother of Sultan Ibrahim, was compelled to seek refuge at the court of Gour. All these persons were most hospitably received, and had pensions assigned them, suitable to their rank and former situation.

Mahmood having brought with him one of the daughters of the late Emperor, the king took her in marriage, and made great rejoicings on the occasion.

The Moghul Emperor, Baber, who, in the year A.D. 1528-29, sent an army, under the command of his relation Askary, to invade Bengal, but Nusserit Shah, having obtained timely intelligence of his intentions, sent an ambassador with costly presents to Dehly to please the Emperor. Emperor

Baber died at Agra in the year A.D. 1530-31, and was succeeded by his son Emperor Homayon.

Nusserit Shah reigned thirteen years and was assassinated by an eunuch in the year 1533. Thereafter the nobles raised to the throne of Bengal his son Feroze Shah ; but at the end of three months the youth was murdered by his uncle, Mahmood Shah, who usurped the government.

Mahmood Shah was one of the eighteen sons of Sultan Ala Addeen. From this period may be dated the downfall of the empire of Bengal ; for Mukhdoom Aalum, governor of Hajypore, raised the standards of rebellion, and united himself in the bonds of friendship with the celebrated Shere Khan, who afterwards became Emperor of Hindoostan, and who at that time was regent of Behar.

Mahmood Shah in order to punish Shere for the assistance afforded to the rebel, ordered Cuttub Khan, governor of Mongeir, to invade Behar. As the force of Shere were inferior to those of Bengal, Cuttub Khan flattered himself with an easy conquest ; he therefore rejected all overtures for peace, and made a spirited attack on the army of Behar. But fortune did not favour his wishes ; he was shortly pierced by an arrow, and fell from his etc.

phant. On seeing this accident, his army fled ; and the whole of his elephants, artillery, and baggage, became the plunder of his adversary.

This defeat was a severe disappointment to the king of Bengal ; he however assembled a more numerous army, the command of which he entrusted to Ibrahim Khan, the son of the unfortunate general.

At this time, an event occurred which flattered the vanity of the king of Bengal, and gave him every reason to hope for success. Jellal, the young king of Behar, disgusted with the overbearing and insolent conduct of the regent Shere, fled from Behar, attended by a number of his followers, and took refuge in the Bengal camp, whence he sent orders to all his adherents to afford no manner of assistance to Shere.

This event having much diminished the force of the regent, he was obliged to shut himself in the fort of Behar ; the fortifications of which were only ramparts composed of mud.

The Bengal army advanced, and surrounded the fort ; but the Afghan troops of Shere defended the place with so much resolution, that, after a siege of several months, Ibrahim was obliged to apply to the king for a reinforcement. Previous however

to his arrival, Shere, having made a sally from the fort, completely defeated the Bengalese, slew their general, and seized on all their artillery and baggage, compelling the young king Jellal to flee, and seek refuge at the court of Gour. This event occurred in the year A.D. 1535-6.

From this period may be dated the downfall of the empire of Bengal ; for the following year Shere Khan, having acquired possession of the strong fortress of Chunar, rendered himself completely master of all Behar ; after which he advanced with a numerous army towards Bengal. The natural strength of the passes of Terriagurry and Sickly-gully delayed the fate of Mahmood for a short period ; but Shere having surmounted these difficulties, the king was compelled to retreat to his capital.

During this period, Mahmood sent various messengers to the Emperor Homayon, to implore his speedy assistance ; but several months having elapsed without any appearance of the Moghul forces, and provisions becoming very scarce in the city, Mahmood Shah embarked on board a fast-rowing boat, and was conveyed to Hajypore. The city soon after capitulated and was taken possession

of by the Afghan forces, who plundered and put to death a number of the unoffending inhabitants.

It is said that Mahmood Shah had made application for assistance to Nunode Cuna, the Governor General of the Portuguese settlements in India, who sent a squadron of nine ships to his aid ; but they did not arrive in Bengal till after the surrender of the city. This was the first introduction of the Portuguese into Bengal, as a military power ; although some of their ships had entered the Ganges as early as A.D. 1517.

Mahmood Shah was so closely pursued by a party of Shere's troops, that he was obliged to halt, and defend himself. He was soon wounded ; but his friends covering his retreat, he was enabled to continue his flight, and arrived in the Moghul camp during the period that the Emperor Homayon was besieging the fort of Chunar.

Homayon, touched with the misfortune of the royal fugitive, received in the most gracious manner ; and promised that, as soon as he had taken the fortress, he would proceed to Bengal, and reinstate him in his kingdom.

In the year A.D. 1538-39, the Emperor, having succeeded in taking the fort of Chunar, advanced

towards Bengal ; and hearing that Shere Khan was busily employed in fortyfying the strong passes of Terriagurry and Sicklygully, the flanks of which are covered on one side by the rapid current of the Ganges, and the other by lofty mountains, he sent forward a considerable force, under the command of Jehangire Cooly Beg, to clear the road ; but this officer, upon his arrival at Terriagurry, found that in addition to formidable entrenchments, he had to contend with a numerous army of Afghans, commanded by Jellal, the son of Shere Khan.

Not dispirited by such difficulties, Jehangire made an attack upon the entrenchments ; but after losing a number of men, he was himself severely wounded, and compelled to retreat towards the main army.

The Emperor, irritated at such unexpected opposition, advanced hastily towards the passes, vowing vengeance on the garrison ; whilst Jelall Khan, alarmed at the approach of the Maghuls, abandoned the entrenchments, and, in a pusillanimous manner, retreated with the whole of his army, to join his father at Gour.

Mahmood, the expelled king of Bengal, who accompanied the army, upon his arrival at Colgong,

Having heard the Afghans had murdered his two sons, who were taken prisoners on the capture of his capital, was so affected by the intelligence, that he died after a few day's illness.

The reign of this prince, including the period of his expulsion, was five years. With him terminated the line of independent kings of Bengal, who ruled the country for two hundred and four years. Although several of the rulers of Gour afterwards assumed the title of king, they were not masters of the whole of the province, nor was their right acknowledged by their contemporaries, and consequently they can not be considered as absolute sovereigns. This event occurred in the year A.D. 1538-39.

CHAPTER III

FIRST RAILWAYS IN INDIA

Prior to the construction of railway lines in Bengal, a statistics were taken by the East India Company, with the proposed Railway Company (East Indian Railway) to ascertain the profits, which may be expected by opening the proposed railways.

The figures then collected are shown below :-

1. The population on both sides of the river Ganges were about five crores.
2. Passengers from Mirzapur to Calcutta, each year were as follows :-
 - (a) By boat sixty thousand,
 - (b) By steamer two thousand,
 - (c) By horse-drawn carriages, ekkas, palanquins, bullock-carts and on foot five lakhs, and
 - (d) Goods were carried by roads and rivers sixty lakh maunds - besides,
 - (e) Merchandise were transported on the roads of Cawnpore and Allahabad by one lakh of bullock-carts, one lakh and sixty thousand camels and sixty thousand horses

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In this connection the East India Company appointed an engineer, Mr. Simms, to report the convenient routes to be adopted for laying railway lines. In his report he suggested that from Calcutta, either by the eastern or western bank of the river Ganges, the lines may be laid and at a little distance from Barrackpore, a bridge be built to cross the river and to extend the lines up to Mirzapur and Allahabad through the southern side of Benares; and thereafter to cross the river Sone to reach Chunar by a branch line. He further suggested to construct railway lines up to Delhi, to a total distance of about 900 miles. The estimated costs were one lakh and seventy thousand per mile.

But the above suggestions of Mr. Simms were not accepted and from Howrah, the first lines were laid to the northwards up to Magra and gradually from there to the further north up to Raniganj.

An agreement was reached between the East India Company and the said Railway Company - the contents of which are, in short, given, below :-

Firstly, the Railway Company were to undertake laying railway lines in two parts of India - in Bengal and the north-western part ;

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Secondly, on this account the Railway Company were to spend, with the financial help of the East India Company, three crores of rupees ;

Thirdly, the amount of loan was to be repaid within the course of three years.

The East India Company gave such a liberal financial help for the reasons as will appear from the opinion of the then members of the Select Committee of the House of Commons :-

“By constructing railway lines, not only improvements of cities and towns be made, but the value of lands be increased to the places, along which the lines will pass. Besides, articles will be had at cheaper prices, where such articles were not easily available previously. The inhabitants of those places will be more active and be richer. With the construction of railways, the country will thus flourish in all respects and the people will become educated, intellectual and rich and therefore it is greatly beneficial to that country.”

At the time of the construction of railways in England, there were great troubles and difficulties in survey and levelling of the land.

In the beginning, great objections were raised by some people on the ground that if railways are

constructed within the towns, the wool of sheep will be discoloured by the smoke of engines and thus the flannel and other woolen cloths will deteriorate in quality and also the smoke of coal is injurious to the health of men.

In some cases, the engineers, who were engaged in survey and levelling work, were driven out of the land and in some instances were even beaten.

In giving evidence in the House of Commons, on the 27th of April 1825, Mr. George Stevenson said that when he went near the land of Captain Bradshaw, for the purpose of levelling, the Captain's men told him that if he entered upon the land, he would be thrown in the nearby tank. He and his subordinates, therefore took the course of stealthily performing the levelling work when the landlords were engaged in taking meals or when there was none on the land at the time of survey and levelling.

In survey and levelling of the land on the proposed scheme of construction of railways, between London and Birmingham, the landlords vehemently opposed and therefore the levelling work had to be done at the dead of night with the aid of dark lanterns. In one instance, the surveyers were fired at and other instances of obstructions were recorded.

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Regarding the construction of railways in India, the first praise is due to Mr. R. McDonald Stevenson. He was not a highly posted government official nor had he any hope of securing necessary funds for the project. But with a genuine desire in mind, he made out a plan and went to England to explain the utility of railways in India, amongst the members of the Board of Directors and it took him 12 years to induce them to agree to his proposal. Lord Dalhousie was also very keen for the construction of the railways and for which he is generally admired; as Lord William Bentinck is estimated by the people of India for the introduction of steam-ship, and is styled as 'Friend of India'.

The reason of accepting the scheme for the construction of railways, as aforesaid, was mainly on the ground of cheap and quick transport. It was experienced during the Punjab war that the expense for sending each soldier was fifteen hundred rupees. This was for the reason that a camel was required for two soldiers only and for other purposes, elephants, horses, bullocks and many other persons were to be sent. Thus for sending two hundred soldiers, more or less two hundred

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extra men had to be accompanied, causing a great expense.

Before the acquisition of land, for the construction of railways in India, the following Act was passed :—

Act 42 of 1850.

An Act for giving additional facilities for Public Works in Bengal.

Whereas, by Regulation I, 1824, of the Bengal Code, power was given for taking any land in territories subject to the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, which is needed for any public purpose, according to the forms therein prescribed, but it is expedient for hindering needless delay in making the Railway about to be constructed in the said Presidency under the sanction of Government, and also in any other public work that more summary power should be in certain cases be given for gaining immediate possession of the land needed for such public work.

It is declared and enacted as follows :—

I. Any Railway made in the said territories under the sanction of Government, is a public work within the meaning of the said Regulation.

II. The persons employed in any public work, with their servants and workmen, may enter upon any land for surveying the ground, and in the case of a road, canal or railway for setting out the intended road, canal or railway may mark the intended line by cutting a trench or placing landmarks along the line, and where otherwise the survey can not be completed, and the line marked, may, with the sanction of the Government for this purpose, cut down and clear away any part of any jungle or toke of trees in the direction of the intended line. Provided that no person shall enter the curtilage of any house under colour of this Act without consent of the occupier, unless between sunrise and sunset, and after the notice given to such occupier.

III. It shall be the duty of the officer so appointed by the Government to take account of all necessary damage done as aforesaid, that it may be allotted for, in awarding compensation to the owners and occupiers of land.

IV. Whoever wilfully obstruct any person in lawfully setting out the line of any road, canal or railway, or destroys, damages, or displaces any such landmark, or effaces, or fills any such trench, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any term not exceed-

ing six months, and also to fine not exceeding two hundred rupees.

V. Whenever the said officer shall have recorded his opinion that the land in dispute is needed immediately for the purpose of the public work, he shall be empowered to take immediate possession thereof on behalf of the Government leaving the amount and distribution of the consideration to be paid for it, if not agreed to by private bargain to be afterwards ascertained according to the said Regulation and such possession may be enforced and the obstruction of it punished in like manner as if the land so taken had been sold in execution of the decree of a Civil Court : and all Collectors, Magistrates and other officers shall, if necessary, give the like aid as they would be bound to give for enforcing the speedy and complete execution of any such decree.

VI. If the said officer is opposed or impeded in taking immediate possession of such land as in his opinion is immediately needed, he shall apply to the Magistrate of the district, who shall enforce the surrender of the land.

VII. The powers of the said Regulation and of this Act shall extend in the case of any road, canal

or railway, to authorize the temporary occupation of any land not more than one hundred yards from the centre-line of the road, canal or railway as marked on the ground, for taking earth or other materials for making or repairing the road, canal or railway or for depositing thereon superfluous earth or other materials or erecting temporary buildings and workshops thereon, or any land which may be needed for making temporary roads from any public road to the intended line of railway ; and for the temporary occupation of any such land, and for any permanent damage done by such occupation and use of the land, including the full value of all clay, stone, gravel, sand and other materials taken thence, compensation shall be paid to and among persons having an interest therein, to be ascertained in case of any disagreement in the same manner as compensation for land permanently taken.

VIII. The local Government, if it thinks fit, may empower any such officer to execute any award made under the said Regulation, and to do all things necessary for completing the business, of taking and paying for the said land, and for settling all disputes concerning it, without sending any report to the local Government.

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IX. In every case in which any land has been or shall be taken by the Government for any public work, otherwise than according to the said Regulation, such land after the lapse of five years, without any claim preferred for the recovery thereof in any competent court, or under the said Regulation I, or this Act, shall vest absolutely in the East India Company, freed and discharged from all other claims thereunto.

X. The said term of five years shall be reckoned from the date of this Act, in the case of land heretofore taken, and in the case of land hereafter taken from time of taking possession thereof.

XI. If within the said term of five years any suit is begun, upon which final judgement shall be obtained establishing the right of the plaintiff to any interest in any such land, instead of the said land, there shall be paid to the person obtaining such judgement the value of this interest in the said land, at the time when possession thereof was taken, with interest thereon at the usual and lawful rate, to be ascertained and settled in case of dispute by arbitration in the manner described for disputed claims by the said Regulation.

The land required for the construction of railways, on permanent and temporary basis, were paid at the rate of Rs. 40|- per bigha and for lands within Serampore, Chatra and Baidyabati were paid at the rate of Rs. 200|- per bigha. Price of trees on such land were paid on the basis of the value of 10 years produce of fruits. The prices of wood after cutting the trees were paid at Rs. 5|- to Rs. 6|- per hundred maunds; and for the wood suitable for making planks were paid at the rate of Rs. 7|- per hundred maunds, and bamboos at Rs. 4|- to 6|- per hundred pieces.

The prices of brick-built houses were paid on the following scale of the prices of materials, required for building the same :--

1st class soorkey	Rs. 10 - to Rs 13 - per
%maunds	
-Do-inferior	Rs. 8 - to Rs 9 - per %
maunds	
Lime	Rs. 35 - to Rs. 40 - per % maunds.
Shell lime	Rs 33 - per % maunds
Magra sand	Rs. 3 12 - per % maunds.
Jhama khoa	Rs 6 - to Rs. 8 - per %
	maunds.
Brick 9" size	Rs. 2 - per hundred pieces.

-Do-10" size	Rs. 2 12 - per hundred	pieces.
-Do-11" size	Rs. 4 8 - per hundred	pieces.
Windows 6' x 3'	Rs 2 - per piece	
Beam	Rs. - 5 - per cubit	

Those who were not satisfied with the above-mentioned scale of valuation of their houses, had the option of placing their objections before the Arbitrators, appointed for the said purpose. But by such arbitration some got increased value and some persons got less than the above scale of valuation.

After clearing the lands in the manner aforesaid, the earth-work (Embankment) was done 6' high and 33' wide at the top, gradually reclining on both sides. The earth was taken from the land acquired temporarily, as aforesaid. Over the embankment Jhama-khoa were spread and sleepers were placed thereon and thereupon single lines of railways were laid. Over the canals at Bally, Serampore and Baidyabati as also over river Saraswati and Kunti, wooden bridges were erected. Within the course of four years 121 miles of railway lines were constructed.

In the year 1857 it was decided to construct further 649 miles of railways by contractors and the Railway Company themselves were to construct 200 miles. Survey work had to be made for the construction of railways up to Lahore. The territory of the British Government at that time from Calcutta to the North West Provinces was 1350 miles. On the 15th of August 1854 the first railway train commenced to run from Howrah to Pundooah, distance of 37 miles only. Thereafter on the 3rd February 1855, the railway service were extended up to Raniganj. The average expense for the construction of railways was rupees one lakh per mile.

Prior to the construction of railways the particulars of the highways in India and the method of sending news are given below :—

The condition of the public roads was very bad. Even the roads within the capitals were narrow and their condition were worst. During the monsoon most of such roads were full of knee-deep water and clay, causing great difficulties to the travellers. If, however, they could travel, they had to meet with greater danger of being waylaid by dacoits, which were numerous along the highways

at that time and many travellers were looted of their belongings and even put to death. Ordinarily people had to go from place to place on foot. The only conveyance for the rich was palanquins, which took much time in journey, besides the difficulties aforesaid. There were no horse-drawn carriages at that time, perhaps for the deplorable condition of the roads.

There was no *Dak* system : only the Government letters were used to be carried by camels and they were known as *Sanrinir Dak*. The people had no benefit of it. There was a class of people who used to live on the earnings by carrying letters and news of the general public to the important towns at a prohibitive charge and therefore poor people did not send or get news from their relations.

THE CALCUTTA, AS IT WAS THEN

There were two villages named Sutanuti and Govindapur, which were full of jungle and paddy fields and within the area of which the foundation of Calcutta were started by Job Charnock in the

year A. D. 1690 and named it as Kalikota from the name of Kalighat, a nearby village. The annual revenue for the place payable by the East India Company was Rs. 1200|- and the number of the British troops were one hundred. Many merchants settled in Calcutta for business, as other places were not considered safe from the aggression of dacoits. Sett or Basaks were principal residents of Calcutta at that time and they used to trade with the merchandise of the Company's Houses or *Kutis*. But no one understood the English language. It is said that once a vessel came to Calcutta with merchandise and the Captain wanted from the Basaks an interpreter (Do-vasi) or one who understood English. But having failed to understand his intention, the Basaks after calling a meeting of learned men came to the conclusion that the Captain wanted Dovasi or *Dhopa* (a washer-man) and they asked one Ratiram Dhopa to go to the Captain Sahib. Ratiram, with much unwillingness, agreed to go to the Captain and when he reached the vessel in a boat; the Sahibs on receiving the news of his arrival fired guns, in his honour, at which Ratiram was greatly frightened. However, he was taken before the Captain, who

shook hands with him and made him sit on a good chair and afterwards presented him with one hundred gold *mohurs*. The said washerman worked for some days with the Sahibs and learnt a few words in English and thought himself a learned man. This man was the first to know something about English, in this country.

In the year A.D. 1696, a fort was built in Calcutta at a cost of rupees sixty lakhs, with an accommodation of twenty thousand soldiers; and in the year A.D. 1700, the said place and the adjoining villages were purchased by the East India Company from Nawab Azim Osman. In the year A.D. 1707, the name of Calcutta was changed to Fort William and was the capital of India. The population of Calcutta at that time were five lakhs. The trade in Calcutta at that time amounted to about one and a half crores.

In the year A.D. 1774, the Supreme Court was established and one Ramnarain Misra, who knew a little bit of English, became the clerk of the Vakil. By this time one Anandanarain Das was a teacher of English and thereafter Ramlochan Napit and Krishnamohan Basu became teachers of English. Mr. Franco and Petters started a school and gave

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Education in English. In the year A.D. 1801, one Mr. Miller published a book in English and Bengali of one hundred pages, which he sold at Rs. 32|- each.

In the year A.D. 1829, the Mint was built at a cost of rupees thirty lakhs.

At the time of Lord Hastings, the Governor General of India; the School Book Society was established, by the efforts of Lady Hastings, Mr. W. Belly and Father Carrey. Thereafter by the endeavour of Mr. Harrington and Mr. Hare, the Hindu College was established and thereby people of this country had the great privilege of learning fair English. But many of them became anti-Hindu in religion. In the year A.D. 1855, a booklet was published from the said college supporting widow marriage.

CHAPTER IV

PLACES BETWEEN HOWRAH TO RANIGANJ

In or about the year A.D. 1800, Howrah was a small village. There was a dock for re-painting of vessels. Many Europeans made their residents at the place for preaching and for teaching Christianity. A college was started named Bishops College. Howrah was and still the terminal station of the East Indian Railway.

Salkia was a nearby village, where the East India Company used to trade in cloth and thread. They had cotton godowns and thereafter salt godowns (Gollas) were built and are still existing. All kinds of merchandise used to come to Salkia from Lahore and other places in the North Western Provinces, by carts and camels; where they were stored and were taken to Calcutta by boats and steamers.

Bally is situated at a distance of five and half miles from Howrah. To the north of this village, there is a canal named Bally-khal. The earning of

the East India Company from the ferry-fund was about rupees three thousand per annum. Thereafter an iron bridge was built over the canal by Colonel Goodwin. By the side of the canal there was a sugar factory and a brewery for rum. Over the said canal, to the further west the railway bridge was constructed at a cost of rupees sixty-five thousand. To the north of the said bridge there was a Workshop for railway materials and railway lines. Railway station of the same name was also built close to the said canal.

The next important place was Rishra. Mr. Auckland started a Jute-mill over there in a big garden. The Danes made a dock at the place for the repairing of vessels. Several Europeans lived there and one Captain Weatherhall built a house of his own.

Ballavpur, a place of importance, in connection with the idol of Sree Sree Radhaballav Jew. About three hundred years back from this time, there was no village named Ballavpur. It is said that a high official of the Nawab of Murshidabad, while going to meet the Nawab of Chitpur, by the river route, accidentally saw the idol Radhaballav Jew and was much impressed. With his influence, he

caused portions of villages Akna and Mahesh to be reduced, and to be formed a new village after the name of the said idol, and the annual revenue was fixed at rupees eighteen per annum. After many years, Raja Nabakissen of Soyabazar Raj, made it a Varjai Mahal. About three hundred and fifty years back, one very religious minded Brahmin, named Rudra Pundit, established the said idol when the place was full of jungle and none lived there. In the year A.D. 1699, one Nayanchand Mullick of Calcutta built a temple of the said idol the ruin of which still exists on the river bank.

A portion of the river bank of Bhagirathi near Ballavpur having gone under the water, the idol had to be shifted from the old temple; when the existing temple was built in the year A.D. 1785 by one Gourcharan Mullick of Calcutta.

In the year A.D. 1698, the Danes came in India for trade and built Houses or *Kutis* at Patna, Balasore and Hooghly. In the year A.D. 1755, they purchased sixty bighas of land at Serampore and built *Kutis* over there. Thereafter, villages Sri-pur, Gopinathpur and Mohanpur (where the present Serampore stands), as also the adjoining villages Akna and Pearapur were obtained in perma-

ment settlement, by the Danes, at an annual rent of Rs. 1600|-, where they built many *pucca* houses and godowns. After the transfer of the place to the East India Company, the Houses etc., reverted to the zeminders Gangaprosad Goswami and Gopikrishna Goswami.

Every year at that time, the Danes used to bring, more or less twenty vessel loads of merchandise at Serampore and in this connection, the founders of the Goswami family of Serampore Ramnarayan Goswami and Harinarayan Goswami earned lots of wealth and became the richest family of the place.

During that period the Danes used to get from Serampore, revenues under different heads, as detailed below :—

Land revenue	Rs. 4000 - per annum
Excise, Bazar-tax and Stamps	Rs. 3000 - " "
Fines	Rs. 1000 - " "

Besides, they used to get Rs. 5000|- per annum from the East India Company, on account of salt and opium.

The Danes made very good roads within Serampore town. In the year A.D. 1805, a church

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was built at a cost of rupees eighteen thousand and five hundred, on the public subscription, to which Lord Wellesley contributed Rs. 1000/-. After the year A.D. 1850, the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, took charge of the said church from the Baptist Mission and since then it is under the Church of England. Thereafter, with a further subscription, a Clock Tower was built to the said church.

Preaching of Christianity was prohibited by the English, within their territory and for the reason the missicneries, headed by Doctor Carrey, had to make their seat at Serampore, in the year A.D. 1799, under the Danish Company. Gradually they were well placed and made efforts in various sphere for the good of the Indians, specially the Bengalies. The Bengali language was then in a most deplorable condition, with the mixture of Persian language. The colloquial language was changed so much so, that in speaking five words there were not even three purely Bengali words.

Doctor Carrey and his other colleagues, namely Marshman, Watt and others, established a printing press at Serampore and started publishing books in various languages and mainly in Bengali. The beginning of the improvement of the Bengali lan-

guage, was thus commenced with the great endeavour and efforts of those noble missioneries. The first weekly news paper in Bengali was started by them entitled 'Samachar Darpan'.

In the year A.D. 1880, the famous Serampore College was built by them at a cost of rupees one lakh and fifty thousand. In the library of the said college, there were forty thousand copies of books on different subjects; most of which have been destroyed uncared for. The first Principal of the college was one Mr. John Mack, who was a vastly learned man and was the first to publish a book in Bengali on chemistry.

Doctor Carrey made a Botanical garden at Serampore, which was commonly known as 'Carrey Saheber Bagan' and planted three thousand different kinds of trees. They started primary school for the education of the girls and by inducing the Danish Company, abolished the cruel system of *Saha-gaman* of *Sati-rites* from the place. They were also the originator of Paper-mill in India. The paper manufactured in their mill at Serampore, was known as 'Serampurer-kagaj'.

In the year A.D. 1801, the Danish Company for the Government, built a 'Government House'

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with a ghat on the river and a flag-staff, which was known as 'Bara Saheber Bati'. In the year A.D. 1803, the Court House and the Prison or the Jail were built. Before that the court was used to be held in a small house.

In the year A.D. 1837, the Danish government started a hospital in the town, with the help of Doctor Marshman and Mr. John Marshman. The said Mr John Marshman established "Serampore Press" and started publishing many Sanskrit books and a news paper entitled "Friend of India". The Bengal Government Gazette was used to be published from the said press.

The town of Serampore was twice taken forcibly, by the East India Company and after treaties restored to the Danish Government. Thereafter, at the advice of Mr. Henson, the then Governor of the Danish government at Serampore, the sale of the said town and few other places to the East India Company at a consideration of rupees twelve lakhs and fifty thousand was concluded by a treaty and said town and other places were included in the district of Hooghly. This fact was informed to the public by a notification dated 19th November 1845.

1 Notification of the Government in respect of Serampore dated 19th November 1845.

“Whereas a Treaty was concluded and signed in Calcutta on the 22nd of February 1845, between His Majesty the King of Denmark and the Honourable East India Company.

And whereas in clause I of the said Treaty His Majesty the King of Denmark engaged to transfer the Danish Settlements in the East India Islands including the Public and Crown buildings, to the Honourable East India Company, for a portion of the consideration stated in the aforesaid Treaty.

And whereas in clause 4 of the said Treaty it was agreed upon that the inhabitants of the aforesaid Settlements European as well as Natives, who continue to reside within the Settlements, will be placed under the protection of general Law of British India, and religious, personal, or acquired rights, as formerly enjoyed under the Danish Government, will be respected. All suits commenced and pending in the Danish Courts at the time the Treaty comes into force, shall be carried on and decided by the same Law as far as altered circumstances will allow. The same will be observed in all cases of appeal subsequent to the

Treaty, but no complaint or suit which has been finally settled and decided under the Danish Administration, and not appealed in due time under observance of the rules for appeal then in force, shall be deemed appealable ; nor shall it be lawful to bring forward again, subsequently to the conclusion of the Treaty, by petition, complaint or otherwise, such cases have been already finally determined by competent authority.

And whereas the town of Frederiksnagore or Serampore, comprising of 60 bighas, commonly called Frederiksnagore or Serampore, with Dehi Serampore, Akna, and Pearapore, along with all the Public and Crown buildings and properties were made over by His Majesty the King of Denmark to the Honourable East India Company on the 10th of October 1845.

It is therefore ordered that the inhabitants of the said town and the adjoining places named above, both European and Natives, will be placed under the protection of the general Law of British India, and religious, personal, or acquired rights, as formerly enjoyed under the Danish Government, will be respected.

It is further ordered that all suits commenced

and pending in the Danish Courts at the time of the Treaty comes into force, shall be carried on and decided by the same Law as far as altered circumstances will allow. And subsequent to the Treaty the same rule will be observed in all cases of appeal. But no complaint or suit which has been finally settled and decided under the Danish Administration, and not appealed in due time under observance of the rules for appeal then in force, shall be deemed appealable, nor shall it be lawful to bring forward again, by petition, complaint or otherwise, such cases have been already finally determined by competent authority.

It is further ordered that the aforesaid Frederiksnagore or the town of Serampore and Dehī Serampore, and Akna, and Pearapore is included within the capital of Fort William in the province of Bengal.

And whereas by Act 21 of 1836, it was ordered that the Honourable Governor General in Council will have the right to include any new district within the capital of Fort William in the province of Bengal and to change and alter the boundary of the present districts.

And whereas to accomplish the administra-

tion of the aforesaid Frederiksnagore or the town of Serampore and the said Dehi Serampore, and Akna, and Pearapore, it is decided on this day by the Honourable President of the Governor General in Council of India, to include those places in the district of Hooghly and the same is being notified for public information.

It is ordered that the boundary of Hooghly is hereby changed and the Frederiksnagore or the town of Serampore, and Dehi Serampore, and Akna, and Pearapore are included in the district of Hooghly. The 19th November 1845."

During the construction of railways, 23 bighas of land were permanently acquired at Serampore ; in which there were 410 different kinds of trees, 13 clumps of bamboos, 10 thatched houses and two brick-built houses. 35 bighas of land were temporarily acquired ; in which there were 790 different kinds of trees, 236 clumps of bamboos and 19 thatched houses. There is a railway station at Serampore.

There were, at that time, two residential hotels for Europeans. Extensive trade on silk existed at that time in the place.

SEORAPHULI AND BAIDYABATI.

About one hundred and thirty years back, no one lived at Seoraphuli. Thereafter one Harish Chandra Roy built a big house and installed a Kali image within it. The *hat* or fair of Baidyabati was located, close to the said Kali-bati; when many merchants settled there for the purpose of trade. One Ashutosh Deb of Calcutta, made a bazar or *gunge* at the said place and named as 'Dulalgunge' causing a further increase of population. Formerly the aforesaid *hat* was at Baidyabati for more than one hundred years; when the site was transferred to Seoraphuli by the above-mentioned Harish Chandra Roy and the then Magistrate of Hooghly, Mr. Smith.

Baidyabati is a very old village. Many people of Baidya caste and other persons lived there. It was in a flourishing state, when the aforesaid *hat* was there.

It is said that when Sree Sree Gouranga Dev was out on a pilgrimage, he halted at Baidyabati for the purpose of ablution. The ghat where he took his bath is known as 'Nemai Tirtha Ghat'.

CHANDANNAGAR OR FARESHDANGA.

It is situated at a distance of 21 miles from Howrah. In the year A.D. 1672, the French became the owner of this place. Dupleix was the Governor of Fareshdanga from the year A.D. 1730 to 1742. He caused two thousand brick-built houses to be erected during the period. There was a fort at the place, where 700 French soldiers and 700 Indian soldiers used to remain. The said fort was built in the year A.D. 1742. In the year A.D. 1757, there was a war between the French and the East India Company. East India Company, won the said war on the 23rd of March of the same year and took away rupees twelve lakhs. After a treaty, the town was restored to the French.

Fareshdanga consisted of Gondalpara, Hatkhola, Sabinara, Lalbagan, Baghbazar, Naruarmon, Boro, Bibirhat and Haridradanga. The town was very neat and the roads were good.

The revenue earning of the place, at the time, are detailed below :—

Land revenue	11,000/- per annum
Excise and Export tax	28,000/- „ „

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There was no use of the stamp in court. Both parties had to file their petitions on plain paper in Bengali with a translation in French language. The railway station was built in a nearby village named Khalsini.

CHINSURAH.

The Dutch took possession of Chinsurah in the year A.D. 1676 and built a town. They also built a fort in the year A.D. 1687 and named it 'Fort Gustavus'. In the year A.D. 1734 there was a war between the Dutch and the East India Company, in which the East India Company won. In the year A.D. 1827 the aforesaid fort was completely demolished. In this town the present building of the Hooghly College, was built by Monsieur Piran, a Frenchman, who was a commander of the Marhatta force and acquired a vast wealth in that position. Afterwards he sold it to one Prankrishna Haldar ; who used it as a place for amusements and dancing. Thereafter, due to adversity he sold the said house to the East India Company, for the purpose of starting the aforesaid college. At that time, a

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very wealthy Mohammedan named Mohammed Moshin made a gift of properties of an annual income of rupees fifty thousand, for the said college.

In the year A.D. 1826, the Dutch made over to the East India Company, Chinsurah and Falta, in exchange of Sumatra island. The East India Company built a barrack at Chinsurah for the accommodation of soldiers ; but owing to the bad climate of the place, the idea of accommodating troops was abandoned. The said barrack is now being used as Hooghly Court and the quarter of the District Judge. The Chinsurah is within Hooghly district and Falta within the district of 24 Paraganas.

HOOGHLY.

Hooghly is at a distance of 24 miles from Howrah. It was a trade centre during the Mohammedan reign. Vessels used to come there from distant countries. There werè, at the place, *Kutis* or Houses of the Dutch, Danes, French, Portuguese and English. Prior to the construction of Calcutta, Chief of the East India Company

used to stay at the Hooghly *Kuti* and the Council function from there. For the protection of the said *Kuti*, there were a regiment of artillery. There was a war between the Mohammedans and the East India Company in the year A.D. 1686, in which saltpetre, worth rupees thirty lakhs, belonging to the East India Company and 500 houses were destroyed. For the said reason, the East India Company changed their seat from Hooghly to Calcutta, when there were only a few huts at the place.

In the year A.D. 1757, the Marhatta (Bargis) looted the town of Hooghly, and in the same year the East India Company possessed it in a war with the Mohammedans. Five thousand Mohammedan soldiers used to stay in that place.

In the year A.D. 1517, the Portuguese came in India for the purpose of trade. They made much improvement of Hooghly, when it was used to be called Gola or Gulin, and from it the name Hooghly was derived.

In the year A.D. 1599, the Portuguese built a fort at Hooghly. But soon after, at the command of Emperor Shah Jehan, Nawab Kasem Ali sieged the said fort; but failed to take possession of the same, even at the endeavour of three and half months.

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Then a tunnel was dug under it and a portion of the fort was blown off with explosives. Only at that period i.e. A.D. 1599, the East India Company obtained permission from Queen Elizabeth, to proceed to India for trade.

The Portuguese built a church at Bandel. This village, they obtained as a gift, from the Nawab of Gour, for some gratifying act done to him. They also built a fort at this place, for its protection. In the year A.D. 1632, the Moghuls took possession of the village forcibly and destroyed many pictures and small images kept in the aforesaid church. Thereafter a Portuguese Missionary approached the Emperor at Delhi and expressed his grief for such despise to the church. Thereupon the Emperor was pleased to grant him 777 bighas of rent free land for the maintenance of the said church. There is a famous mosque (Imambara) at Hooghly. Formerly, Hooghly was within the district of Burdwan.

SAPTAGRAM OR SATGAON.

About 400 years back, big vessels used to come over there. It was once the capital of Bengal and

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there was a fort. Till the year A.D. 1566, it was a big port and a trade centre. The river having been dried up by the change of its course, the site for the purpose of trade, was transferred to Hooghly. Tribeni, a holy place for pilgrimage is close to Saptagram.

PRADUMNANAGAR OR PANDUA.

It is situated at a distance of 38 miles from Howrah. Pandua was once the capital of a Hindu Raja. In the year A.D. 1340, there was a war between the said Raja and the Mohammedans. Shah Sofli, cousin of the then Emperor of Dehly Feroze Tuglak won the war and the Emperor was pleased to bestow upon him the power to rule Bengal. But Shah Sofli preferred to become a mendicant (Fakir) and stayed at Pandua. After his demise, a 200 feet high mosque was built upon his grave.

BURDWAN.

Formerly the name of this place was Kusumpur. In Ree's Cyclopaedia, it is said that Europeans used to call it as Barwa.

A wealthy, Mohammedan named Shere Afgan, came and settled here with his exquisite wife named Mher-ul-Nissa, by obtaining the service of superintendency of the district of Burdwan, from the Subahdar of Bengal. The particulars of the birth of Mher-ul-Nissa in a desert, her marriage with Shere Afgan and her becoming the Empress of Hindoostan, in the famous name of Noor Jehan, in most extraordinary circumstances, will not be out of place here.

In or about the year A.D. 1586, an educated poor man, named Chaja Aiass, a native of the western Tartary, falling in love with a young woman as poor as himself, married her. But he found it difficult to provide for her the very necessaries of life. Reduced to the last extremity, he turned his thoughts upon Hindoostan, the usual resource of the needy Tartars of the north. His all consisted of one sorry horse, and a very small sum of money, which had proceeded from the sale of the other effects. He left his native place privately, placing his wife upon the horse and walking by her side. She happened to be with child, and could ill endure the fatigue of so great a journey. When they arrived on the skirts of the great soli-

tudes, which separate Tartary from the dominions of the family of Timur in India, the wife of Aiass was taken in labour. They fasted for three days for want of provision. She began to reproach her husband for leaving his country at an unfortunate hour. In this distressed situation she brought forth a daughter. They remained in the place for some hours, with a vain hope that travellers might pass that way. They were disappointed ; human feet seldom tread these deserts. The Sun declined apace ; they feared the approach of night ; the place was the haunt of wild beasts ; and should they escape their hunger, they must fall by their own. Chaja Aiass, in this extremity, having placed his wife on the horse, found himself so much exhausted that he could scarcely move. To carry the child was impossible ; the mother could not even hold herself fast on the horse. A long contest began between humanity and necessity ; the latter prevailed, and they agreed to expose the child on the highway. The infant covered with leaves, was placed under a tree ; and the disconsolate parents proceeded in tears.

When they had advanced about a mile from the place, and the eyes of the mother could no

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longer distinguish the solitary tree under which she had left her daughter, she gave way to grief ; and throwing herself from the horse on the ground, exclaimed, 'my child ! my child !' she endeavoured to raise herself ; but she had no strength to return. Aiass was pierced to the heart. He prevailed upon his wife to sit down ; and promised to bring her the infant. He arrived at the place. No sooner had his eyes reached the child, then he was almost struck dead with horror. A black snake, it is said, was coiled around it. The father rushed forward ; the serpent alarmed at his vociferation, retired into the hollow tree. He took up the daughter unhurt, and returned to the mother. He gave her child into her arms ; and, as he was informing her of the wonderful escape of the infant, some travellers appeared, and soon relieved them of all their wants. They proceeded gradually, and came to Lahore.

The daughter, who had been born to Aiass in the desert, was named Mher-ul-Nissa, or the Sun of women. She had some right to the appellation ; for in beauty she excelled all the ladies of the east. She was educated with all the utmost care and attention. In music, in dancing, in poetry, in painting, she had no equal among her sex.

Prince Selim, afterwards Emperor Jehangire being much impressed of her beauty and distracted with his passion, knew not what course to take. Mher-ul-Nissa had been betrothed, by her father, to Aly Cooly Shere Afgun, a Turkomanian nobleman of great renown. Selim applied to his father Emperor Akbar, who sternly refused to commit a piece of injustice, though in favour of the heir of his throne. The prince retired abashed; and Mher-ul-Nissa became the wife of Shere Afgun. The latter, however, suffered in his prospects of life, for not having made a voluntary resignation of the lady to the enamoured prince. Thereafter Shere Afgun retired into the province of Bengal, as has been before related.

The passion of Mher-ul-Nissa, which Selim had repressed from a respect and fear of his father, returned with redoubled violence when he himself mounted the throne. He recalled Shere Afgun from his retreat. The original name of Shere Afgun was Asta Jillo, but having killed a lion, he was dignified with the title of Shere Afgun, or the overthrower of the lion. Under the latter name he became famous in India.

Shere Afgun appeared before the Emperor at

Dehly. Though the Emperor received him graciously, and conferred new honours upon him ; he devised ways to put an end to his life. But Shere Afgun was saved for his incredible strength and bravery ; by killing without an weapon a tiger of an extraordinary size and killing one of the largest elephants of the Emperor, which was directed to tread him to death. The aforesaid designs of Jehangire were no secret ; they were the subject of common conversation. For the above reasons, Shere Afgun again retired to Bengal with his beloved wife.

Thereafter, Emperor Jehangire appointed his own foster brother, Cuttub Addeen Kokultash, to the government of the three provinces of Behar, Bengal and Orissa.

Some months after the arrival of the new Governor at the capital of Bengal, he took offence that Shere Afgun had not come to Rajemahel, to congratulate him upon his accession to the government ; he therefore summoned him to appear, and to clear himself from some charges of which he stood accused. Shere suspecting that treachery was designed, did not go, and the Governor, having represented this contumacious conduct to the Em-

Emperor, received orders to send Shere Afgun a prisoner to court; and if this measure should be found impracticable, to put him to death, either by open force or by stratagem.

To ingratiate himself with the Emperor, though perhaps not by his express commands, Cuttub hired forty ruffians to attack and murder Shere, when an opportunity should offer. One night the said ruffians, stealthily entered in the sleeping apartment of Shere Afgun, when he fought with them single handed and killed more than half and the rest fled away to save their lives.

Shere, however, thought proper to retire from Rajemahel, the then capital of Bengal, to his old residence at Burdwan. He hoped to live there in obscurity and safety, with Mher-ul-Nissa.

Cuttub Addeen, after settling the affairs of his government at Rajemahel, resolved with a great retinue, to make the tour of the dependent provinces. In this route he came to Burdwan. He made no secret to his principal officers, that he had the Emperor's orders for dispatching Shere. Shere Afgun, hearing that the Governor was entering the town, mounted his horse, and, with two servants only, went to pay his respects. Cuttub received

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Shere with affected politeness. They rode, for sometime, side by side ; and their conversation turned upon indifferent affairs. Cuttub suddenly stopped ; he ordered his elephant of state to be brought ; which he mounted, under pretence of appearing with becoming pomp in the city of Burdwan. Shere stood still, when Cuttub was ascending ; one of the pikeman, pretending that Shere was in the way, struck his horse, and began to drive him before Cuttub. Shere was enraged at the affront ; he knew that the pikeman durst not have used that freedom without his master's orders ; he saw plainly that there was a design laid against his life. Turning therefore round upon the pikeman, he threatened him with instant death. The man fell on the ground and begged for mercy. Swords were drawn. Shere had no time to lose ; he spurred his horse up to the elephant, on which Cuttub was mounted and cut him in two ; and thus the unfortunate Cuttub became the victim of his own zeal to please the Emperor. Shere did not rest here ; he turned his sword on the other officers. The first that fell by his hands was Aba Khan, a native of Cashmire, who was an amyry of five thousand horse. Four other nobles shared the same fate ; a

death attended every blow from the hand of Shere. The remaining chiefs were at once astonished and frightened ; and fled to a distance to form a circle around Shere. Some began to gall him with arrows ; others to fire with their muskets. His horse, at length, being shot with a ball in the forehead, fell under him. The unfortunate Shere, reduced to the last extremity, began to upbraid them with cowardice. He invited them severally to single-combat ; but he begged in vain. He had already received some wounds ; he plainly saw his approaching fate. Turning his face towards Mecca, he took up some dust with his hand ; and, for want of water, threw it, by way of ablution, upon his head. He then stood up, seemingly unconcerned. Six balls entered his body, in different places, before he fell. His enemies had scarcely courage to come near, till they see him in the last agonies of death.

The officer, who succeeded the deceased Governor in the command of the troops, hastened to the house of Shere and took away Mher-ul-Nissa with her daughter.

When intelligence of the death of Cuttub-Addeen Khan reached the Emperor, he was much afflicted, as he had ever found him faithful and

devoted servant ; and it is said, that, on this occasion, Jehangire made a vow that he would never see the lady who had been, though unconsciously, the cause of his favourite's death ; but the beauty and attractions of that accomplished female made him change his resolution, and, for many years, she conjointly with him, ruled the empire of India. A circumstance so uncommon in an Asiatic government is thus recorded on the coin of that period :

“By order of the Emperor Jehangire, gold acquired a hundred times additional value by the name of the Empress Noor Jehan (Light of the world).”

—Khafy Khan's History.

In the year A.D. 1615, a Hindu zemindar, named Sobha Singh, with the help of the Afghans, killed the Raja of Burdwan and possessed his property and family. After the said Raja was killed, his son Jagat Roy went under the protection of the Nawab of Dacca. At that time, Ibrahim Khan was the Nawab of Bengal. Sobha Singh, with a lascivious intention, confined a very beautiful daughter of the aforesaid Raja and when, after some time, he attempted to spoil the girl and embraced her, she, to save the honour of her family,

and of herself, at once plunged a dagger into the belly of Sobha Singh, upon which he died and then she put the dagger into her own belly and died.

Before the present Raj family of Burdwan, there was a family of zemindars with the title of Sinha, who were the zemindars or the Rajas of the territory. The last member of the said family was by the name of Bir Sinha, who quarrelled with the Emperor of Dehly and had to leave his place.

The founder of the present Raj family of Burdwan was one Chhakuram Roy ; who supplied ration to the Mohammedan forces, at the time of their fight with the aforesaid Bir Sinha. Thus the Emperor was pleased with him and gave him the said zemindari. Maharaja Udaychand Bahadur is the 17th in generation of the said family.

On the 27th September A.D. 1760, the Nawab of Bengal gave under a treaty, the superior rights of Midnapur, Burdwan and Chittagong to the East India Company.

The territory of the Burdwan Raj is 75 miles in length and 45 miles in breadth. East India Company used to get an annual revenue of rupees forty lakhs for the estate.

MANKAR.

It is situated at a distance of 89 miles from Howrah. There was an extensive trade in sugar in the place. The Goswamy's of this place have come from the family of Guru or spiritual guide of Burdwan Raj.

RANIGANJ.

The importance of this place is due to coal-fields. In the year A.D. 1820, one Mr. Jones, discovered the existence of coal at the place. It was full of jungle prior to the working of coal mines. Bengal Coal Company purchased the land and constructed buildings at a cost of rupees one lakh and twenty-thousand, out of their total capital of rupees one lakh and fifty-thousand. The annual raising of coal, at the time, were about 21,60,000 tons. Raising cost was Rs. 2/- per ton and other costs including wages and salaries Rs. 6/- per ton. The selling price was about Rs. 10/- per ton. About 81,000 tons of coal were exported every year to Calcutta in boats by river Damodar, on a fixed rate of hire at $\frac{1}{3}/6$ per maund.

APPENDIX

HOW INDIA BECAME AN EMPIRE OF THE BRITISH

In the days of Emperor Jehangire there came to India travellers from Europe, including an ambassador from England, Sir Thomas Roe, seeking his friendship.

Emperor Aurungzebe reigned for nearly fifty years, and strove to bring all India under his sway, overthrowing the great kingdoms that were still in the Deccan or Peninsular part of India ; yet thereby wrought the ruin of the empire, for it became too large to be held under control, and had to be divided into provinces. After his days the ruler of each province cared little for the Moghul ruler at Delhi, but went his own way as if he had been an independent king.

Just before Babar conquered Hindoostan, the Portuguese had found that they could sail to India round the south of Africa ; and they got possession of some harbours on the coast of India, and in the islands to the south-east, and set up trading. A

hundred years later, King Philip of Spain made himself King of Portugal; and, as he was at war with the English and Dutch, both of them became ready to try to get at all that of his into their own hands. Just before Queen Elizabeth died the English and Dutch each set up company to trade with the Indies.

The English now persuaded first one and then another of the native rulers, who were subjects of the Moghul Emperor, to let them set up trading stations at Surat, Madras and Calcutta. When Portugal got free from Spain, Charles the Second of England, married a Portuguese princess, named Catharine of Branza and the Portuguese gave her Bombay, as dowry, which they had got possession of in the old days. The French, too following the example of the English, got permission to set up factories at Pondicherry, which is not far from Madras, and at Chandernagore, which is not far from Calcutta. All these happened while the Moghuls were still mighty rulers, before Aurungzebe died.

Then, when the Moghul Empire was breaking up into provinces, there arose a great rivalry between the British and the French, each seeking

to win favour with the native princes so that each might secure the trade and shut the other out. As the disorder grew greater within the empire of the Moghuls, and as it also seemed likely that Great Britain and France would go to war with each other over quarrels that they had in other parts of the world, a very clever Frenchman named Francois Dupleix thought he might manage to turn the British out altogether.

Nobody thought much about conquering India, but Dupleix thought that if British were out of the way French would be able, during the quarrels that would arise, to get nearly anything they might ask for.

So when the expected war between Britain and France broke out, Dupleix attacked the British at Madras, and captured it. Then the ruler of that part of India, who was called the Nawab of Carnatic, wanted to turn the French out of Madras, but Dupleix trained native troops under French officers and scattered a large army the Nawab sent against them. The French had to give Madras back after all, because when the war came to an end, both sides gave back what they had taken: but, as Dupleix had expected, the native rulers be-

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gan to quarrel, and one side made haste to ask the French to help them. Then of course the British took the other side in the dispute.

This time the fortune of war went against the French, for while the French and other allies seemed to be getting the better of the allies of the British, a daring young officer named Robert Clive who had joined the Army at the end of the previous fighting, having been a clerk before that — was sent with a few hundred sepoys, or native soldiers, and a very few British volunteers, to attack the enemy's capital Arcot. Clive captured Arcot, and then, with his few men, defended it so stoutly against a great army that presently he put that army to rout. After that the British and their allies got the best of it.

Although peace was again made in India, before long another war broke out between Britain and France, and this time the British beat the French.

So, instead of the French getting rid of the British, as Dupleix hoped, the British got rid of the French, and could carry out for themselves the great idea of Duplcix in training Indian troops to defend order and peace. The French taught the

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British how to make themselves powerful in India, and the British learned the lesson well.

Before the French had been quite got rid of, a thing happened which made the British masters of the very important province of Bengal.

The English while trading in Bengal by the name of East India Company, got immense service from Nabakissen Deb (afterwards Maharaja) who was appointed its Moonshee. The English Government expelled from Calcutta in 1756, were accommodated on board a schooner near the pestiferous shores of Fulta. They received, however, regular and important information respecting the movements at Moorshedabad through Warren Hastings, then Commercial Agent there. It is not too much to assume that Hasting's own informant was Nabakissen. During this period, some of the provisions were supplied to the English on board the ship at Fulta, by Nabakissen at the risk of his life, for the Nawab had prohibited, under penalty of death, any one supplying the English.

When Seraje ad Dowlah attacked Calcutta with a grand army, the English had only a small force and made no resistance. The Governor and many other English gentlemen went to Madras.

Now was enacted the tragedy of Black Hole. The Nawab having taken Calcutta named it Alinagar and appointed one Raja Manick Chunder as its Governor. He then returned to Moorshedabad.

Mr. Drake and other Members of Council having arrived at Madras, brought Colonel Clive on board one of Admiral Watson's ships, who landed with his force at Fulta within six months and took the forts of Budge-Budge, Tana, Magooa and Aligar, defeated the Nawab's army and surprised Raja Manick Chunder, who was then amusing himself at *nautches*. The Raja fled to Moorshedabad and the English took possession of Calcutta in January 1757.

When Seraje ad Dowlah made preparations for a second attack on Calcutta, encamped in Amir Chand's garden, now called Halsibag. Colonel Clive deputed Nabakissen and an Engineer to obtain information in regard to the particulars of the Nawab's encampment under the pretence of making proposals of peace and offering presents to the Nawab. They brought with them a detailed account of the situation. Clive marched his forces up to the Nawab's camp at the end of the night and blew up his tent and those of his Sirdars by

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the first fire from his cannon. The Nawab, however, had already removed to another tent and he remained unhurt. Clive followed his enemy to Plassey, where a decisive battle was fought.

After the battle of Plassey Seraje ad Dowlah was deposed. In consequence of negotiations carried on by Nabakissen, Mir Jafar or Jafar Ali Khan formed an alliance with Colonel Clive, who took possession of Moorshedabad and declared Jafar Ali Khan to be its lawful Nawab. With the sanction of Clive, Nabakissen settled the terms of Subahdari agreement with the new Nawab and made arrangements for conducting the affairs of the provinces in concurrence with the Naib Subadar Nawab Mozufferjung, and fixed an annual Nizamut allowance at Rs. 18,00,000 and the expenses of the Subahdari at Rs. 7,00,000, making a total of 25 lakhs of rupees. Although Clive appointed a new Nawab, he had himself to become the real ruler of Bengal, and after a little while the Moghul Emperor of Dehli agreed that Bengal should belong to the English.

Clive left for England on the 25th February 1759; he returned to Calcutta on the 3rd May 1765; he finally bade adieu to the country in 1767.

sailing from Calcutta on the 29th January. He had determined not to leave Bengal so long as there should remain any danger threatening the English settlement. With the destruction of the last of its European rivals (namely, the Dutch) all danger had disappeared, Clive felt in January 1767 that he might retire with honour from the country which he had won for England.

In this way, although the British had not planned any such thing, they suddenly found that their trading company, with its few factories, had become ruler of a whole province, the Carnatic, which had promised them obedience. The two provinces together were only a small part of India. But they were larger provinces than any single native prince ruled over—except, of course the Moghul rulers, who were still then supposed to rule over all of them, including the British.

Then the Government in England appointed a governor-general named Warren Hastings over these new dominions. He has been much blamed for some of his doings, and was impeached for them in Parliament, because people did not understand why he was obliged to act as he did. Yet it was

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owing to him that a good and strong government established at all.

The difference in opinion respecting the career and character of Warren Hastings in India that existed in his life-time has continued since and will never be reconciled. The problem is how to judge justly a man who was personally self-seeking, according to the custom of his day, but broadly speaking did sound and helpful public work, which prevented far greater evils than his own covetousness. Every adventurer in India at that time expected to return to England with a private fortune, yet the public conscience was even then growing uneasy about the means men used to enrich themselves in a land that was both rich and poor; and a storm of protest rose around Warren Hastings when he returned the wealthiest of all nobles.

While the British were chiefly anxious to secure what they had won, and to establish a government in those provinces, the native rulers became anxious and jealous, and would have liked to turn the British out again. It thus happened that three times in twenty years the southern State of Mysore defied the British; and a little later the people of Nepal, in the mountains along the north side of

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India — where they edge the plain of the Ganges — tried to take possession of a part of the plain stretching below.

So there was a war with them, and at the end of it they, too, gave up a part of their lands. However the people there, who are called the Gurkhas, made friends with the British, and though Nepal is still an independent State, the Gurkhas, who are very warlike, would come down from the hills and enlist in the Indian army, and their regiments are among the best in the world.

A number of princes of the race called Mahrattas also made war with the British, and from them the greater part of their lands was taken away. Last of all, the Sikhs who ruled in the Punjab, invaded the occupied territories of the British, but they were defeated and the Punjab came within British government. So India within the circle of the mountains and the sea was brought under the British rule, though the princes who had not waged war against the British were allowed to remain the lords of their own realms, on condition that they did not rule as tyrants, or try to stir up wars.

In 1857, came a terrible time, when the

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Sepoy regiments all over the Ganges plain mutined against the British officers and the British rule. Where there were enough regiments of British soldiers, the mutiny was checked ; but where there were many native regiments and a few white soldiers, defence was difficult.

At Lucknow, the garrison held out and endured through a long siege till they were relieved, first by Havelock and Outram, and then by fresh troops from England led by Sir Colin Campbell. Because there was a great rising of mutineers at Delhi, where the Moghul Emperor was on the throne, British besieged the city, and took it after a time. After Sir Colin Campbell had arrived with his fresh troops, it was not very long before the revolt crushed altogether.

The British nation now felt that it was time to end the ruling of India by a company of merchants ; so the Queen of England ruled India, and Queen Victoria was given the title of Empress, because the Moghuls sovereigns had been called Emperors.

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List of the Governors of Bengal

With

The contemporary Sovereigns of Hindoostan

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1001	_____	Sultan Mahmood Ghazy	Ethelred
1030	_____	Musaood I	Canute
1041	_____	Modood	Hardicanute
1058	_____	Ibrahim	Edward the Confessor
1098	_____	Musaood III	William II
1115	_____	Arsilla	Henry I
1117	_____	Bahram Shah	_____
1157	_____	Khusero I	Henry II
1163	_____	Khusero II	_____
1189	_____	Mohammed Ghory	Richard I
Early Conquerors of Bengal :			
1204	Bukhtyar Khulijy	Cuttub	John
1206	Mohammed		