



the rivers Moota and Moola, within a stone's throw of the city of Poona. This most learned and ingenious gentleman kept an open table for all European officers who passed the residency, and welcomed them with eastern magnificence and British hospitality. The cantonments for the Poona division of the subsidiary force were also near the city, and formed a beautiful display of elegant cottages and bungalows, surrounded by gardens in the European style, filled with the various fruits of the Deccan, overtopped with cypress trees that imparted a majestic grandeur to the scene.

Soon after the political arrangements had been concluded which called for the presence of the army, the force returned to Seroor to be cantoned during the approaching monsoon. The amateurs marshalled their theatrical columns, and entertained the ladies, who had been left almost in solitude, with some excellent specimens of farcical humour. Balls and suppers were not wanting, so that gaiety and festivity, sweetened by the recollection of late deprivations, everywhere prevailed. But scarcely had the rains subsided, and the jockey club found the course fit for the annual races, when the force again took the field, and resumed their station on the banks of the Godavery. The Mahratta states had now assumed a very warlike appearance. The Marquis of Hastings was moving with a vast force upon Scindea. Holkar's government was suspected; the rajah of Berar was little



to be depended upon, and the Peishwa appeared ready to break faith if opportunity offered. In these circumstances, a very active campaign being apprehended, proper preparations were made to meet an approaching storm, which soon began to rage, as will be seen in the next chapter.



CHAP. XXIII.

"But look! the tide now ebbs — hark! — splash of oars —
I leave thee, and these long frequented shores.
My fondest hope — O may it not be vain!
Is soon, my friend, to press thy hand again.
Once more, the *dandies* call, farewell! adieu!
And Gunga bore him swiftly from my view.
The stormy ocean soon will roar between —
Perchance till death has clos'd life's busy scene!"

INSTEAD of immediately pursuing the course of events in the Deckan, we find it necessary to bring up collateral matter, which has fallen considerably in arrear. The regiment to which Frank Stanley belonged had at length received orders to return home, and it was drafted at Trichinopoly. Frank accompanied the head-quarters to Madras, where, a very short time before he embarked for Europe, his long promised promotion took place, and he was raised to that rank in life by his merit which he had so long signally deserved. Although love smiled before him in the prospect, and hope beckoned him from the white cliffs of his native land, yet he left India with a sorrowful heart, and his farewell letter bore evident marks of melancholy: — "I am much concerned to say, my dearest friend, that this will be the last time I shall write to you in India, for the



ship is arrived from Bengal, and we go on board to-morrow morning. I have been waiting in anxious expectation some time past for a letter from you, but I am greatly afraid I shall be obliged to leave the country without one. Notwithstanding the pleasing prospect before me, I cannot account for the reason, but I do not feel half so much pleasure in leaving India as I expected I should; perhaps leaving you behind, and a chance of never seeing you more, is partly the cause. I suppose you have heard of the death of Colonel E—— and Lient. S——, who are much regretted by the whole regiment. Poor fellows, they were preparing to go home the day before they died. To see men cut off in the prime of life, after a few days illness, almost makes me indifferent about my future prospects, for ‘we know not to-day what to-morrow may bring forth.’ I had the good fortune the other day to receive a very affectionate letter from my mother; she is well, and anxiously waiting to see me, so is the old squire, and if I may trust a mother’s love, so is Miss Sarah. Pray have you heard again from your father? I shall go to Ireland shortly after I get home to see him, and should have liked to be the bearer of a letter from you, with a ring or some token of your affection. Having some fine elephants’ hair, I shall get one made in England, and deliver it to him in your name, for I am sure you will send me a note of introduction to the old gentleman. Please to present my kind respects to



Mrs. T—, and I hope this will find her and all your little ones in good health; and I pray God you may enjoy every blessing this world can give together.

“Do, my excellent friend, let me hear from you at all opportunities, it will be my greatest consolation. We expect to put in at the Cape; if so, I will send you a letter. But should I not receive one from you in two or three months after my arrival in England, I shall conclude something has happened. I must now bid you a long adieu! and something tells me I shall never have the pleasure of seeing you any more. For all past favours I have nothing to return you but my unfeigned thanks, and may the Almighty bless and prosper you and Mrs. T—. Go whither I may, you will always possess the entire esteem and affection of your constant friend till death.”

A tear had been dropped on this letter by the writer, and it was wet with another from the reader, for Charles sighed at the probability that they should never meet again in this world. His own health was in a most delicate state from long residence in the climate, and he laboured under an affection of the liver; but although he had received the most pressing invitation from his father to return home, yet he could not in honour quit the force on leave of absence during the war, when it was expected that every officer should keep at his post so long as he was able to stand. He was, however, cheered by the prospect of soon following



his friend to the renovating breezes of his native climate, for a probability existed that, by the vast preparations then making, the Marquis of Hastings would force the native powers into his measures without striking a blow. Some other circumstances had also elevated Charles's spirits to a high degree. His old benefactor, Captain Noble, had returned to India to insure his majority, and had written to Thoughtless in the most friendly terms, assuring him that his greatest satisfaction almost through life had been the reflection of having assisted his merit in its dawn, which had since advanced him to the station in life that he so well deserved. He had also received letters from his father, and from his friend George True, who was now a captain on half-pay residing on his paternal estate, which quite delighted him. The former breathed the most ardent anxiety to see him, and the latter described every thing in the most enchanting colours; for when we are pleased and happy within ourselves, all the world seems robed in smiles.

“With emotions of joy,” said Charles's father, in his first letter, “which I am unable to describe, I received your letter of the 3d June. Thank God that my son is yet living; that his father has been spared after various fatigues, dangers, and troubles by sea and land: I shall deem it the best gift of Providence to receive a long absent son, his wife, and little offspring, with all that tender pa-



rental affection which the human heart can possess." He then went on to describe the success he had met with in the United States, and the affluence in which he lived in his native country. "You, my dear Charles," continued he, "are my only son; but I have three daughters by a second marriage, smart lively girls, the eldest has a striking resemblance of you, and the mother says that she is the pet on that account. Providence has been kind in giving you a happy inclination to improve your mind. You well know that my embarrassments were the cause of your having been left with your grandmother and uncle, for an unfortunate co-partnership ruined my affairs, and forced me to quit my native country. We have both been successful in overcoming the persecution of fortune, thank God; I hope that we have both done with her hard gusts, that we shall have a happy meeting in this country, and that my dear son's presence will aid, cheer, and comfort me in my declining years. Therefore, my dear Charles, come hither with your family as soon as possible; thank God I am able to make a handsome provision for you; in short, I shall gladly share to the last shilling with you. But what is fortune to health? and yours is impaired. The thought fills me with anxiety. Your grandmother and aunt in Dublin are dead. My mother died last October, good old lady; she was pleasingly affected on hearing your former letter read. I am now in the fifty-



fourth year of my age, and enjoy good health. I am still fond of music, and keep my violin and flute in good order, and sometimes play for the children, who dance well. Since your letter arrived they have had much chat about your little ones, and I assure you my wife will be most happy to see you all. 'Tis astonishing to observe the affectionate anxiety manifested by your sisters to make friends of your children." In another letter this affectionate parent entered into further particulars with so much warmth of feeling that Thoughtless determined upon giving up his prospects in the army, and going home with his family as soon as he could do so with honour. "My dear and only son," said his father, "nothing in this world ever afforded me such a degree of satisfaction as the receipt of your letters, assuring me that you are still in the land of the living, and affording hopes that I may soon have the pleasure of seeing you, your wife and dear little offspring; but I feel uneasy that your health is impaired: exert yourself to come to this country, your debilitated constitution will be renewed, and by God's permission, I expect and hope to see you an ornament to society in my declining years, to fill my place and fall into my connections. I reside in the country, ten miles from Dundalk, during vacation, but I have a house in Dublin, and one in Dundalk also, where I intend to fix you and family, for I spend nearly half my time in it, being a lively improved country town, situated in one of the best



parts of Ireland. Thank God you have escaped the pestilential climate of Guzerat, and now breathe the elevated air of the Deckan. Most undoubtedly you have been and will be happy in the choice you have made; a good wife is the greatest blessing a man can have in this sublunary life. You seem to possess a disposition suited to domestic happiness, but your situation in the army deprives you of the real enjoyments to be attained in that way. —The feelings of a man leaving his wife and family, perhaps never to see them again, at a few hours warning, to take the field against a formidable enemy, and the fatigues, troubles, and deprivations incident thereto, must torture even the bravest officer living. I can have but a faint idea of the state of mind induced by such emotions; but I think a military life ill calculated to ensure the comfort of a wife and family, which must be the object of every honourable man who has elevation of soul sufficient to prefer the happiness of his partner to his own. I sincerely recommend you, as soon as you can consistently with honour, to make arrangements and return to your native country. It is my intention to make you an allowance fully adequate to support yourself and family genteelly, till in the course of nature you will succeed to my income, which, without exaggeration, is eight hundred per annum. I am sure that after having served your king and country so many years, it will be easy for you to retire to the half-pay. When you have arrangements made for leaving that country, let me know



when you expect to arrive in London, and I shall meet you there. My dear son, my happiness in a great measure depends on your existence, and having you and your sweet little family near me would smooth my passage through the declining part of life. My health is, and has been for years, very good — my weight eighteen stone, though I ride a great deal on horseback, and rise very early — my wife and children all join me in prayers for your safety and speedy arrival. May God bless you, Mary, and your dear little children, is the fervent ejaculation of your affectionate father." When Thoughtless made known the change in his prospects to his friends and companions, particularly to his warm-hearted countryman, Adam Cuppage, "I protest," said he, "your story is just like a novel, and it would be equally interesting if you were judiciously to give it here and there a slight tint of the marvellous."

True's letters abounded with the most charming descriptions of society in the north of Ireland, particularly in the lively towns of Armagh and Newry. The elder Mr. True, with a delicacy which did him honour, had put George into possession of a small estate of his in county Down, which came into the family with his mother: he himself resided on his paternal property in county Armagh, but such a constant intercourse was kept up between the two families that hardly a day passed without some exchange of courtesy. Robert Gordon had become the confidential steward of the captain, and in



course of time was appointed agent and receiver to the father and son, for which situation he was well qualified both in point of education, address, and intelligence.

Charles was deeply interested in the reminiscences of his native country which his friend's letters contained. The uncertainty when he should be refreshed with the sight of those scenes of his youth, the approach of his children to that age when it was necessary, in a moral and physical point of view, for them to be sent to Europe, the departure of his earliest and dearest friend — these considerations, combined with the morbid feelings caused by hope long deferred, were beginning to prey on his mind. It is true he was surrounded by many estimable noble-minded companions, who permitted him to call them friends, and whom he esteemed as such in every sense of the word; but to his heart friendship was like a second marriage, for while he contemplated the fine qualities of his new associates, he often sighed and mentally exclaimed, "Still unlike Frank Stanley." He had lost in him his most intelligent Indian correspondent, whose letters, instead of being filled with slip-slop, abounded in interesting remarks on men and manners, and in observations on the curiosities in art and nature which he had seen in his marches through the Carnatic, and in voyaging along nearly the whole coast of Coromandel, from Adam's Bridge to Juggernaut. He had viewed the stupendous structures raised in times beyond the range of historical record in



honour of the Brahminical idols. He had surveyed with astonishment those remains of antiquity on the island of Seringham, near the mouth of the Cavery, where 40,000 Brahmins were once supported by the pilgrimages made to them. There are seven square enclosures with walls twenty-five feet high and four thick, each having four large gates and high pagodas, some of which are composed of stones thirty-three feet long and five in diameter, and the outward wall is about four miles in circumference. The pagoda of Chillambrun, near Porto Novo, is 120 feet high, built of stones forty feet long and five feet square, and covered with plates of copper, with figures of gods and animals so innumerable as to baffle description, for the whole structure is upwards of 1300 feet in length and near 1000 in breadth. But these famous monuments need not here be noticed, for all the historians of the East speak of them with wonder, and who that has directed his curiosity towards India requires to be told of the seven pagodas on the mountain of Mavalipuram near Sadras? We shall therefore turn to more original matter, of which a great quantity still before us must necessarily be compressed into a small space.

It may be said that nearly all the Deckan is inhabited by Mahrattas, for although Mahomedans are numerous in the territories of the Nizam, yet they bear no proportion to the great mass of population, which comes under the general description applicable to other parts of India. Whether the Mahrattas were the aborigines of the country, or the



descendants of Persian settlers, as it has been learnedly attempted to be proved in the Asiatic Researches by Major Wilford, seems a question of little consequence. At present they are Hindoos in every respect, and the fighting casts are exceedingly brave as to individual courage. In the reign of Aurungzebe they began to be very powerful, and he fought numerous battles with them, frequently driving them back to the mountains, from which they again emerged with new spirit, and at length under Sevagee, who was general in the army of the great king of Begapore, laid the foundation of that empire which threatened at one time to subdue all the East. Its progress was arrested by the Mahomedans at the battle of Paniput; but its resources were so great in the beginning of the present century, that the revenue amounted to seventeen millions sterling, and the population to 40,000,000 of souls. The five chiefs who composed it, namely, the Peishwa, Scindea, Holkar, the Rajah of Berar, and the Guickwar, had a regular army of 300,000 men, and were able to bring three times that numerical strength into the field. Their artillery and material were truly formidable; they had founderies for guns, and manufactories for every kind of warlike stores, conducted by French engineers. Perron's brigade under Scindea was alone 40,000 strong, with 400 pieces of artillery; it was in as fine a state of order and discipline as the company's sepoy, and was armed in a similar



manner, and perfectly organized on the most modern scientific principles. Holkar fought the battle of Deeg with twenty-four perfectly disciplined battalions, and 150 pieces of cannon. With such a warlike population, spread over a tract of 1000 square miles, with so many hill forts, which a handful of brave men might defend against a mighty army, the physical resources of this people were prodigious. Let any man think of all this, and at the same time reflect that a combination was forming among all the Mahomedan chiefs for the destruction of the British ; that Shah Allum was about to cede Agra and Delhi to the French ; that Tippo, tinctured with all the enthusiasm of the revolution, called himself citizen, and had his cannon cast with a tiger devouring the head of an Englishman ; that the Grand Seignior, the King of Cabul, the Nabob of Oude, and the Nizam, were all ready, and that the Mahrattas were invited to join in the plunder of the British empire, and he will at once have a slight glance at the merit and ability of the Marquis Wellesley, who steered the vessel of his country through such a storm. He seized the French faction at Hyderabad, alarmed the Afghans by turning the Persians upon them, captured Seringapatam, beat Scindea, and drove every Frenchman out of his service, saved Poonah from plunder, while the battles of Delhi, Assaye, and Argaum added laurels to the British arms. In short, the tremendous danger that threatened our



prosperity in India may be conceived, but it cannot be accurately described. The siege of Bhurtpore, which was five times assaulted, cost 3000 lives alone, chiefly British. All those ambitious chiefs, however, who aimed at our destruction and at universal empire in the East, were humbled. But under the feeble administration of the Marquis Cornwallis which followed, (for that great man seemed to have lost his energy a short time before his death, during his second government of India,) concessions that were made to Scindea, at a time when his insolence deserved correction, inspired the restless Mahrattas with confidence and hope, and laid the foundation for the late war. These feelings were continually gaining ground under the mild and conciliating administration of Lord Minto, who was continually impelled to this moderate course by an anxious wish on the part of the court of directors to preserve peace, and not to increase their territories. It appears that while the British government of India abstained most religiously from encroachment, and made impartial justice the measure and rule of their conduct, the Mahrattas and the Goorkas were meditating an extension of their power, and exciting discontent and rebellion in all the provinces within their influence under British controul.

In the meantime, the Pindarries were secretly encouraged by the Mahratta chiefs, and hordes of them annually overran the fertile plains of our pro-



vinces, and those of our immediate allies, carrying destruction along with them, and sparing neither age nor sex. From the reports in the Calcutta Gazette, it appears that they committed the most horrid excesses, "by the indiscriminate butchery of men, women, and children, bearing the latter in triumph on their spikes." No feeling mind could endure the idea of such dreadful irruptions; and the Marquis of Hastings, on assuming the government of India, directed his attention to this subject as one of the utmost importance. The Mahratta states were called upon in vain to restrain those plunderers who passed through their territories to invade the company's, and upon failing to do so, they virtually became parties to their aggressions; but although his lordship was fully aware of the hostile sentiments of the Mahratta chiefs, notwithstanding their cunning evasions and crafty subterfuges, he gave them a full opportunity of re-establishing themselves in his confidence: he signified to them, that his intentions in approaching their dominions with a British army, were only to disable the Pindarries from destroying the harmless peasantry of the defenceless villages. For this purpose his lordship took the field, and his penetrating genius, foreseeing the extensive combination that was to be overcome, he put in motion the grandest British army that the native powers ever saw. Some idea of this force may be afforded by the following extract from an officer's letter, dated Right



Bank of the Jumna, in camp, October 27th, 1817:—

“ We are now on our march— supposed, in the first instance, to be directed against the fortress of Gwalior, belonging to Scindea. The great object of the campaign, however, is the entire annihilation of the Pindarries. The whole of the army now in the field consists of ten divisions, each of about 10,000 men. We are advancing from the three Presidencies towards the same point, with the finest army ever perhaps heard of in India. The governor-general is with our division, which is about 13,000 strong, with sixty pieces of cannon. The camp followers of this division alone amount to 67,000. For the carriage of the baggage of our regiment, we have 40 elephants and 400 camels; every elephant has two keepers, and every two camels have one. Of us, there are 37 officers present, among whom there are 810; every horse in the regiment has two attendants, one as a groom, the other to provide grass; these alone amount to 1,400, besides 120 for the mess, and 900 for the bazar to supply the provisions; in all, for our regiment alone, about 3,500 followers, besides their wives and children. The Marquis of Hastings travels in a most princely style: he has 150 elephants and 400 camels, besides state elephants splendidly accoutred, having superb solid silver howdahs or castles on their backs. There are now actually 36 rajahs and independent chieftains, of various ranks, on



their way to pay their respects to the Marquis. Some of them, indeed, are already in camp."

The Madras army was advancing under Sir Thomas Hislop, while a division of the Bombay force, commanded by Sir William Grant Kerr in Guzerat, and Brigadier-generals Doveton and Smith, with their subsidiaries in the Deckan, co-operated with his lordship in the fine dispositions made to form a grand chain round the Pindarries, leaving no hope of escape. Previous to this, as before noticed, the Peishwa had been forced to give security for his conduct, having been detected in attempts to excite the Mahratta chiefs to war, and in endeavours to corrupt the native troops. In consequence of this treacherous conduct, it was thought expedient to show him that he had something to lose in forfeiting the friendship of the East India company, whose hand had replaced him on his throne when driven into exile by Holkar. Therefore, as a deserved punishment for breach of faith, a treaty was forced upon him at the point of the bayonet. By this he ceded to the British government territories yielding a clear revenue of thirty-four lacks of rupees (being nearly the half of his gross income) or £480,000 per annum. Of this revenue, £300,000 were attached to the presidency of Bombay, and secured by the cession of that tract of the Koncan, about eighty miles in extent, lying between Demaun and Panwell. The occupation of Bassein and Jambosein, with their dependencies,



was also transferred to the company, together with the Peishwa's share of tribute from Kattywar. The remaining £180,000 were appropriated to the Madras presidency, and provided for by cessions of territory in the Carnatic, together with the forts of Darwar and Kishelgur. Ahmednuggar was also ceded with 2,000 yards around it, and a considerable tract of pasture lands for the troops in the Deckan. On the part of the company, it was agreed that the subsidiary force should be augmented to 12,000 men; and with respect to the Peishwa, that he should maintain 8,000 irregular horse and foot, to be officered by Europeans.

On the good faith of this treaty, Brigadier-general Smith (for he had now local rank) marched from Seroor, leaving part of his force at Poonah, and having crossed the Godavery at Toka, encamped near the passes of Unkee Tunkee. But in a few days the non-arrival of the Bombay dawk filled every one with alarm for the safety of those at Poonah. As soon as General Smith found that all communication was actually cut off, he made forced marches back, fully assured from the above circumstance, and from the appearance of parties of Mahratta horse hovering about, that hostilities had commenced. On arriving at Seroor, they found all the cantonment in a state of apprehension. Various reports of the destruction of the detachment at Poonah having reached them, they were making active preparations against an expected



attack. The hills commanding the lines were fortified, and the ladies and families had been placed for security in the theatre, which lay under a strong battery erected on one of its heights. All the roads to the cantonments were rendered impracticable for horse, and every precaution was taken that the safety of the place required. Under these circumstances the general sent all the families under a strong escort to Ahmednuggar, and proceeded immediately to Poonah.

His little force consisted of one regiment of European infantry, three battalions of sepoy, with a proportion of horse and foot artillery, a battering train, and a complement of pioneers, but unfortunately the only cavalry were a small body of irregulars under Captain Spiller, recently organized agreeably to the late treaty, for two regiments of Madras cavalry that had been attached to him were sent to reinforce General Doveton, whose division was in advance. The total effective with General Smith consisted of about 3,000 fighting men, the remainder of his force being at Poonah, Seroor, and Ahmednuggar. Previous to leaving Seroor, the enemy had appeared, and carried off some of the commissariat cattle from the vicinity. About twelve miles on the high road to Poonah, a very considerable body of horse, estimated at 5,000, appeared on the right flank. As it seemed to be their intention to cut off the commissariat, the horse artillery were wheeled to protect that



department, and after receiving some shots, the enemy retired in confusion, when Captain Spiller, at the head of his irregulars, charged their rear with great gallantry, and cut several to pieces with his own hand, but in this brave dash against such superior numbers, he narrowly escaped with his life, having received a spear wound in his cheek, near the eye. On reaching the ground of encampment at Kunderpore, they found the European bungalow erected for travellers in flames, the enemy having set it on fire, and from the heights they saw their rear-guard closely engaged with the enemy, who cut through the baggage, and wounded several of the camp followers, who had left Seroor in a very straggling manner, notwithstanding orders to the contrary, and arrangements for their protection. The knapsacks of two companies of the 65th regiment were taken, and the whole loss of baggage and grain in the force was very considerable. Colonel Milnes commanded the rear-guard, and had an arduous day's march; he did not arrive till near sun-set, having been engaged with the enemy, and marching and countermarching, from ten o'clock until he reached camp. The want of regular cavalry was greatly felt. The force marched next morning in much more compact order, forming a sort of hollow square round the park and baggage. Very large bodies of horse appeared on their flanks and rear, pressing closely, but the discharge of cannon from different parts of the line forced those



were posted advantageously near the ruined village of Kirkee, in a bend of the river which protected its flanks and rear, being very rocky with steep banks, and in that part almost unfordable.

Mr. Elphinstone, as soon as he perceived these hostile indications, pressed for satisfactory explanation, and on the morning of the 5th November, having received a most insolent answer from his highness, and observing an armed force approaching the sungum, he and his suite and guards made their escape to camp. In a few minutes the British residency was in a blaze, and all his valuable property, manuscripts, and oriental curiosities, valued at upwards of 80,000 rupees, were either plundered or consumed. At the same time the European cantonments, the beauty of which has been noticed, were set on fire and entirely destroyed, and the Peishwa's army collected in and about Poonah, estimated at 15,000 cavalry and 8,000 infantry, approached the British position in battle array. A Portuguese named Pinto, who held the rank of major in the Peishwa's service, commanded a battalion of infantry organized in the European style, and his park of artillery, consisting of 14 guns, were served by Portuguese. One of the officers described the approach of this formidable host to Thoughtless, by comparing it to the waves of an angry sea, assuring him that the divisions seemed to follow each other in endless succession as far as the eye could reach, while all the heights were covered with ele-



phants bearing the Peishwa and his great officers of state, who came out to witness the certain destruction of the force at Kirkee.

Opposed to this, Colonel Burr of the company's service, who commanded, had only the Bombay European infantry, a detachment of recruits belonging to the 65th regiment, two battalions of sepoy, with a proportion of European artillerymen, and a detachment of irregular horse, in all about 3,000 fighting men. With this small but firm little band, he advanced to meet the shock. The attack began with a dreadful discharge of artillery on both sides, and an attempt by the enemy's infantry to make an impression on his line, which was soon followed by a tremendous charge of their cavalry. In a body they pushed directly for the Europeans; but receiving a cool and deliberate fire, turned and forced their way through the 7th Bombay native infantry, and these brave sepoy were for some time intermixed among them, and fought nobly with their bayonets. Large masses of the cavalry got into the rear, and the engagement became very critical, depending in a great measure on the steadiness of the Europeans in the right wing, who were quite unbroken. Just at the proper moment Major Ford, who commanded the Peishwa's brigade, arrived with his men from the cantonments at Dapore, and opening a well-directed fire upon the masses of the enemy that had got into the rear, struck a panic to their hearts, which was communi-



cated to the whole, for they retreated in the utmost confusion, leaving vast numbers of dead on the field, and never after dared to hazard a renewal of the fight.

Colonel Burr, in his report of this engagement, stated that "Mr. Elphinstone most gallantly exerted himself throughout the day in setting a distinguished example of zeal and animation to the troops." Indeed, it appeared that British valour so completely astonished the Peishwa, that he made his escape from the battle, and that it was with the greatest difficulty his commander-in-chief dissuaded him from setting off direct for the fortress of Poorundar.

During this sanguinary action, for the enemy lost about five hundred men, though the casualties were on Colonel Burr's part only one officer and fifty soldiers, the ladies of this part of the force were in the village of Kirkee, which had been fortified in a temporary manner for their protection, and their situation during the agonizing suspense and tremendous fire that was kept up for a considerable time, may be more easily conceived than described.

The Peishwa's conduct roused a strong suspicion in the mind of every one, that all the Mahratta chiefs had confederated and agreed to make simultaneous attacks on the British forces in their vicinity, in the hope of destroying the army in detail; and there was reason to conclude, that nothing would prevent Scindea from supporting the com-



non cause, but the wise and effectual measures of the Marquis of Hastings. From the blood-thirsty and treacherous manner in which the war was commenced on the part of the Peishwa, and which left him no shadow of hope for reconciliation, it was assumed that he confidently relied on the combination of which he was a part, as sufficiently powerful to annihilate the British. Every thing in his dominions within the power of his troops, that bore the name of European, was destroyed, and the houses of private individuals were razed to their very foundations. Lieutenant Vaughan of the 15th Madras N.I., and his brother of the marine service, were taken at Karlee, on their way to join the army, dragged along almost naked by their barbarous murderers to Tullygaum, where they were hanged; and the resentment of the soldiers was raised to the highest pitch, by a report that one of the brothers had been forced to execute the other. A small escort of sepoy, with Lieutenants Hunter and Morrison of the Madras corps, were also attacked on their way to join, and forced to surrender. The sepoy were cut to pieces, and the officers carried off to a strong hill fort. No doubt it was the intention to destroy them in the event of the war being successful, and indeed their lives were only spared through the remonstrances made by Mr. Elphinstone upon the murder of the Vaughans.

General Smith encamped exactly before the Mah-rattas, the river Moota Moola running between, and



the village of Yellara, which is situated near the bank, under a height which was called Picket Hill, being on his side, with a fine plain extending for near a mile to the enemy's lines on the other bank. The river was, however, very rocky and difficult to pass, having deep banks, and being lined with Arabs. From the hill he had a full view of the position occupied by the Peishwa, who had the city of Poonah on his left, whence his line extended to Harris's tope, having encamped on the ground where the British cantonments had stood. His army, drawn up in front of their tents, which seemed to be two miles in length and a mile in depth, appeared prodigious; from the amazing masses and groups of horse and foot within view, it was estimated that upwards of one hundred thousand persons were assembled, and of this concourse thirty thousand were fighting men.

Thoughtless, in reflecting upon what he saw and heard, was much at a loss to account for the conduct of the Peishwa, who, considering it a hopeless undertaking again to attack Colonel Burr, nevertheless remained near Poonah in a position backed by a chain of high hills, affording no retreat but through difficult passes, while an enemy, flushed with success, and inflamed with resentment, was approaching to attack him. In short, Charles expected that the force would have been immediately led against the enemy, with the certainty of complete success; he inferred that the Peishwa had



committed a fatal error by awaiting the junction of General Smith's division with that of Colonel Burr, and that after his failure at Kirkee, his real interests demanded a retreat from Poonah into the plains of the Deckan, where his numerous cavalry would have been useful in harassing a pursuing enemy, and in keeping up the spirits of his confederates. As he had not adopted this course, Charles considered that his army must be inevitably destroyed by a spirited attack on his camp in such an unfavourable situation and in such peculiar circumstances. Consequently his surprise and disappointment were great, upon witnessing the operations of General Smith after his junction with the force at Kirkee.

On the following morning, proper reconnoissances having been made, some guns were placed on Picket Hill, which swept the banks of the river with grape shot, for the purpose of enabling a party to examine the fords; but the Arabs having good cover, rendered it impossible to effect the purpose with accuracy. The whole force attempted about midnight to pass them, but it being found impracticable in the dark, the attempt, after fruitless endeavours, was abandoned. During the whole of the day there was constant skirmishing between the Arabs and riflemen, which produced a very great display of personal bravery, for the Arabs crossed the river, and several of them lost their lives in a daring attack upon Captain Clutterbuck and part of the light company of the 65th regiment. In the



course of the ensuing day, the horse artillery and riflemen having cleared the banks of the river, the force was formed into two divisions, one of which, under Lieutenant-colonel Milnes, about three o'clock in the evening, crossed a ford near the village of Yellara, with all the field pieces, and took up a position on the bank, immediately in front of the right of the enemy's camp, notwithstanding the opposition of the whole of his infantry and Arabs, who charged several times to the very bayonets. The Peishwa's batteries kept up a tremendous cannonade on the ford and on the troops, as they were forming, which was continued until nine o'clock, all the while briskly returned by our guns. The Bombay regiment suffered a good deal, and the casualties in the division were considerable. The wounds were nearly all from cannon shot, and were terrible to behold; some of the soldiers were literally crushed to pieces by the discharge of a cannon carrying shot of one hundred pounds weight.

Colonel Milnes gained well-earned honour and praise by a display of coolness and judgment seldom surpassed. While he was crossing the river the shot flew about him like a shower of hail, yet he asked Lieutenant Farquharson, his brigade quarter-master, playfully, "What are those whistling about us?" ("And Farquharson," said Thoughtless, "do you think the Colonel had Charles the 12th in his mind at that time?"—"I really do not know," replied he, "but he seemed as unconcerned



as I do now.") It was reported that Colonel Milnes, after repulsing the repeated charges of the enemy, sent an aide-de-camp to General Smith for orders, and offered to take the camp with his division, but this was declined, and he was directed to bivouac on the bank of the river during the night. The other divisions lay on their arms, under Picket Hill, having sent all their camp equipage to the village of Kirkee, and before daylight next morning they crossed the river at the sungum, and formed line on the right of Colonel Milnes, when the whole advanced to attack the Mahratta camp. Bodies of horse appeared in the front which were cleared away by a cannonade from the horse artillery. The morning was just peeping over the mountains when the British line approached the Mahratta tents, and the 65th regiment was exactly opposite to that part from which the batteries had blazed the evening before. Mr. Elphinstone, accompanied by his assistants Mr. Russel and Captain Pottinger, with General Smith and all his staff, were behind the colours. A dead silence prevailed. The dooly bearers thought they saw lighted matches in front, and ran precipitately to one flank, while our artillery fired under an impression that the enemy's guns were about to open upon them. All the staff pressed closely towards the 65th. "Gentlemen," said Major Warren, who commanded the regiment, "keep back ; you are preventing me from seeing



my men;" for he was as coolly attentive to the preservation of a good line as he would have been on parade, though he expected every moment to storm the batteries, at the first blaze of a cannon. "They are off," said Mr. Elphinstone. "I fear they are," said General Smith; and the smoke clearing away, the light discovered that the Peishwa had fled with his army, leaving a great part of his camp standing. The distant hills were covered with his followers and baggage, but a large body of his cavalry appeared in the rear, and threatened to charge the line. The guns were turned upon them, and they wheeled in great confusion at full gallop round the right flank and escaped. General Smith pursued the fugitives across the enemy's camp to the bottom of the hills; but having no means of following them with effect, he soon returned to invest Poonah. The Mahratta camp was covered with dead and dying men, horses, and bullocks, from the effects of the cannonade the evening before, and it presented a most melancholy sight to a feeling mind. With the exception of the large unwieldy cannon before noticed, the Peishwa carried away all his guns with him, and effected his retreat over the little Bore Ghaut into the plains south of Poonah; which city, being left with only a small garrison to defend it, was surrendered in the course of the day, and the British flag was hoisted on the palace under a royal salute.



Thoughtless could not conceive what had induced General Smith to fight the battle of Poonah with one half of his force; and when the victory was gained, why he did not push on and reap all the advantages of it, instead of affording the enemy an opportunity to escape during the night. Powerful motives, no doubt, suggested the line of conduct pursued by the general, who undoubtedly possesses talent and genius. He was anxious, perhaps, to save the effusion of human blood, which might be the consequence of a rash attack upon an enemy so vastly superior in numbers. Acquainted as he was by experience with the obstinately daring courage of the Arabs, four thousand of whom were with the Peishwa, he might be justly apprehensive of the risk to be run in attacking them on ground peculiarly suited to their habits of warfare, being intersected with numerous ruins and hedges, affording them good cover; and no doubt a contest to dislodge them would have been sanguinary, urged to fight, as they would have been, by the powerful motive of securing a retreat for their master and his army. Moreover it was the object of both Mr. Elphinstone and General Smith to preserve the city of Poonah from plunder and destruction, which a rash battle in its immediate vicinity might have occasioned. Those magnificent praises which Sir Thomas Hislop bestowed upon General Smith for *“the wisdom of his plans, the gallantry and valour displayed in their execution, and the decision and*



promptitude with which his attack of the enemy's lines was arranged, and their dispersion and overthrow effected by a perseverance and determined courage which have never been surpassed," were perhaps in every respect measured by strict justice. In their consequences, every thing conduced to the public good ; but if the other Mahratta chiefs had succeeded in their treacherous designs, and formed a junction with the Peishwa, the organized state of his army, the vast treasure he had collected, and his mighty influence, address, and persuasive power might have produced very injurious results, which a more dashing mode of warfare at Poonah would have prevented. Success is not always the criterion of able conduct. To judge properly of any enterprize, it is necessary to consider not only what it effected, but also what it did not effect, and moreover to look at what might have taken place if possible events had ensued, according to the calculation of one of the contending parties. But it is really with deference, doubt, humility, respect, and on nearly all other points admiration for General Smith, that the emotions passing in the soul of Charles Thoughtless on the above occasion are here offered to professional men.

Two officers and eighty-five non-commissioned officers and soldiers were killed and wounded during these operations ; but not less than 1,500 of the enemy were destroyed.



CHAP. XXIV.

Say what is man ? From infancy he grows,
And as he ripens, various beauty shows—
He stores the ready and capacious mind
With what the flood of time has left behind.
But when become the Mentor of his day,
The skilful pilot of life's rocky bay,
In hoary age beneath the silent sod
He rests, till called before the throne of God.
How vain the toil to hoard up crores of wealth,
Man's cup of joy is competence and health,
In rural ease to smile dull care away,
And taste the good of every fleeting day.

AFTER the capture of Poonah, proclamations were issued to the inhabitants, and circulated as widely over the country as possible, to counteract the inflammatory and false publications of the Peishwa. The inhabitants were taken under British protection, and assured that they would be maintained in their rights, in the possession of their property, and in the free exercise of their religious customs and ceremonies. A great deal of public property was found in Poonah, and the Peishwa's arsenal was well furnished with military stores. Prize agents were appointed to dispose of the captured property, and arrangements both civil and military were speedily made for the government and protection of the place. Lieutenant-colonel Burr, with 200 Europeans and four native battalions, was appointed



to remain there in command; and the remainder of the force, consisting of the 2d Madras cavalry, which had joined from Jaulna the day after the city was taken, two European regiments, four native battalions, with horse and foot artillery and pioneers, was formed into three brigades for field service. Two guns and 300 sepoy, under Captain Watson of the Bombay establishment, were sent off to open the communication with the presidency. General Smith having learned that part of the enemy had encamped under Synghur, a detachment was sent thither on the night of the 19th, which about daylight next morning completely surprised them, and took their camp and guns under a tremendous fire from the fort of Synghur, which, however, did not injure the detachment, for the cannon could not be depressed sufficiently, and the shot flew over their heads. Prize property to a vast amount was taken, consisting of pearls and diamonds; it is supposed that the merchants of Poonah had sent their valuable articles thither for safety. Many of the soldiers enriched themselves with plunder, and during several days were carrying hats full of pearls, jewels, and gold ornaments about for sale, without knowing their real value, being anxious to exchange them for money or hoondies on Bombay, ere the prize agents should discover that they possessed such valuable plunder. Six guns and a great quantity of ammunition were taken; the former were spiked, and in blowing up the latter, Lieutenants



Willock and Johnston, of the horse artillery, with five men, were dreadfully burnt by an accident in the explosion.

The force marched in pursuit of the Peishwa on the 22d November, and on the next day, with some difficulty, the guns were got over the little Bore Ghaut; the pass being steep, would have afforded an opportunity for making a fine stand, but no enemy appeared. This range of mountains passes near Poonab from the great western chain, and continues in an easterly direction for several miles. The inhabitants are called Ramoosies, and, like the Bheels in other parts, are the aborigines, who were driven from the plains by the Mahomedan conquerors and the Mahrattas. They have ever since maintained a sort of independence, living by plunder, but observing strict honour with respect to those travellers who claim and pay for their protection in passing through this mountainous region.

Next day a halt was found necessary in order to get the baggage over the ghaut; but on the 25th, the force marched 24 miles on the road to Sattara. At about half that distance is situated the considerable town of J-ajooree, with a superb pagoda on a high rock of granite in its vicinity. This structure is of modern date, having been built by the grandfather of the great Holkar, but it is in high estimation among the Mahrattas, and is supported by a considerable revenue. Its exterior is very grand, having a flight of steps cut out of the rock



near a quarter of a mile in length, over which are several curious triumphal arches placed at intervals, as distinguishing the main entrance. These arches are ornamented with figures, and connected by a row of pillars along each side, which, during the festival, are illuminated with thousands of lamps, so that all night the hill appears to the distant country quite in a blaze. Soon after passing this pagoda, the enemy's cavalry appeared in great force on both flanks; and General Smith, with the horse artillery, and the 2d, accompanied by Mr. Elphinstone and suite, and all the staff, pursued them for several miles. The body which appeared on the right suffered the general to approach within gun-shot, and they appeared drawn up in good order behind a nullah, but as soon as this obstacle was crossed, and the artillery opened upon them, they scampered off in great confusion. Some camels loaded with rockets were taken, and a few prisoners made whose horses had been killed; they stated that the Peishwa was at Sattara with 25,000 fighting men. The country through which the force marched from the little Bore Ghaut to the Nera river was uncommonly fine, with many lovely valleys in high cultivation, and in a military point of view remarkably strong by nature. The enemy pressed, during the latter part of the march, closely upon the rear and the baggage, but they were kept off by constant discharges of cannon, which induced General Smith to return with the cavalry,



and the infantry were so much delayed by frequent halts, that it was night before the force crossed the bridge over the Nera, which the enemy did not attempt to destroy. About 13 miles south of the fine valley of this river a chain of ghauts runs eastward from the western mountains, through which there is a long and difficult pass at Salpee, on the high road to Sattara. Narra Punt and Napunker, two of the Peishwa's most resolute sirdars, determined to oppose General Smith at the head of this pass, and posted large bodies of cavalry on the table land, a beautiful plain, with rocket men and sharpshooters on the sides of the declivities through which the road winds. General Smith expected to be attacked here, and made judicious arrangements. He pushed forward riflemen and light infantry, and sent flanking parties along the mountains; they clambered over the cliffs and dislodged the enemy, who, however, continued from the head of the pass to rockade the line, till the horse artillery gained the summit and dispersed them. They left their dead on the field of contention, and retired slowly over a most beautiful plain bounded by hill forts, finely watered by silver streams, branches of the Kisthna, enlivened with numerous villages, and smiling with all the charms of luxuriant cultivation. The crops were now in full bloom, and it was melancholy to see the labours of the husbandman destroyed by the lords of the soil in ambitious contention. On this plain Gockla drew up several



times across the road, and it was estimated that the three divisions with him were 20,000 strong, but they constantly gave way upon receiving a few shots or shells from the artillery, for they had none to return, and it was consequently a murderous warfare on their part. Yet such superiority in numbers was not without effect. They covered the whole plain, attacked in front, flank, and rear, and every five minutes forced the line to halt for the rear-guard, thus frequently forced to fire grape at them. In short, General Smith had to fight for the ground on which he encamped almost every day, till the Peishwa, retreating southward with the family of the Sattara Rajah, whose person it was his interest to have near him, got several marches in advance; but upon hearing that a British force was approaching from Darwar under General Pritzler, he left the banks of the Kisthna, and moved northward.

The scenery in the vicinity of Sattara was most enchanting. The horizon presented a more or less distant variety of hills capped with forts and crowded with men. Clear rivulets meandered through the vallies, covered with clumps of fruit trees, and charming villages built of stone and lime, neatly tiled, and without fortifications, altogether presenting an image of security and rural happiness such as would please the eye even in England. They were full of inhabitants, who were quite ready to assist either party, and the seniors came out to offer their cock and rupee to General Smith as soon



as the Mahrattas had retired. The cock is laid at the feet of a conqueror as an emblem of a brave people at the mercy of their invader, and the rupee is at once an offer of tribute and a claim for protection. Both parties afforded them all possible security, and placed guards over their towns, but still they were plundered and ruined by the villanous followers of both armies, one of whom General Smith hanged in this valley for tearing the rings out of the ears and nose of a woman ; one half of the vagabonds that followed the camp were flogged for robbing the gardens and sugar plantations near the line of march, and even unroofing the houses for fire-wood. Soon after passing Sattara, General Smith changed his direction, and marched on the high road to Punderpore. The enemy opposed him every day, and kept the troops exposed to the burning sun from morning till night, so that it was generally seven o'clock in the evening before their tents were pitched, and their lips and noses suffered exceeding pain from the scorching rays darting directly on their faces.

It would be tedious to detail the march from day to day, as it continued for a considerable time with little variation, the enemy making every exertion to retard the pursuit of General Smith, while he strained each nerve to overtake the Peishwa. The mode of warfare adopted by Gockla was that which it seems he ought to have chosen immediately after the failure of attack on the force

at Kirkee; for by it he veteranized his cavalry, and harassed General Smith exceedingly, who often exposed himself to great danger in the skirmishes which daily occurred. On the 3d of December a post arrived from Bombay, after the force had reached the ground of encampment near Meharee, and a royal salute announced that treaties of alliance had been concluded with Dowlat Row Scindeah and Newab Meer Kaun. On the 7th they encamped near Punderpore, where the rear-guard was completely surrounded by the enemy, and General Smith, upon seeing it closely pressed, had galloped to it with his staff, accompanied by Mr. Elphinstone and suite, escorted by a troop of the 2d cavalry, so that for some time they were separated from the line. Their danger was imminent; for, one of their guns being upset, the Mahrattas raised a loud shout and charged with spirit, but drew off again upon receiving a volley from the infantry. The general's orderly dragoon was shot. Captain Grant had a ball through his hat, and Mr. Pottinger one in his holsters. In short, Captain Hardcastle, upon being dispatched to the line for reinforcements, had to gallop for his life through the enemy, who might have destroyed the rear-guard, the general with Mr. Elphinstone, and the whole staff of the division, if they had pressed forward when they charged. Punderpore stands on the left bank of the Beema. It is a large town, but the country around it is poor, and nearly all the villages are in



ruins. The pagodas of the sacred bathing place support a great number of Brahmins. Mr. Elphinstone here received the official account of the treacherous attack made by the Rajah of Berar on the subsidiary force near Nagpore, which was fortunately repulsed by Colonel Scott, though with the severe loss, on his part, of four officers and 800 men killed and wounded.

The direction in which the Peishwa retreated enabled General Smith to continue the pursuit by way of Seroor, where he determined to leave the battering train, which greatly impeded his advance, it being necessary to cut roads for the heavy guns. Gockla opposed him at the fords of the Nera, Beema, and Gore rivers, but being without artillery he only exposed his cavalry to certain destruction, and the havock made in their dense masses by shot and shells was so great, that the ground was covered in many places with dead bodies of men and horses. On the 17th December the force reached Seroor, and the carriage cattle were so much exhausted by continued marching, that it was found necessary to change many of them. For twenty-one days they had moved at the average of fifteen miles, engaged with the enemy from morning till night. The cavalry were nearly broken down by excessive fatigue, but the infantry were in high spirits; there were very few sick in the force, and indeed the general health of the Europeans seemed much improved by this severe service and exposure to the



sun. At this place the general lost no time in equipping his division as a light field force, and in pursuing the enemy northward. He marched to the westward of Ahmednuggur, and crossed the Pera river at Colaur, keeping along the left bank to Sungumneer, through a fine valley, with hills on the right, left, and front; thence to the bottom of the Warsowa Pass the country was rich in an extreme degree, studded with villages and towns, and covered with luxuriant fields of wheat, hemp, gram, sugar-cane and jewarry. Over this fine region the Peishwa's army had moved, like a flight of locusts, destroying all in their way; it was now doomed to further injury from the march of the British force.

On the table land of this chain of mountains, his highness the Peishwa had been encamped for some days, and he was joined at this place by Trim-buckgee Danglae, with a reinforcement of Arabs and Bheels. Some of the northern sirdars had also increased his ranks, and it was reported that he had with him four thousand Arabs, about the same number of other infantry, four six-pounders, and 30,000 horse. General Smith made arrangements to ascend the Warsowa ghaut, which is a long and very difficult pass that might have been easily defended. The Peishwa had broken up the roads, and it required a whole day to remove the obstacles, during which time he retreated on the high road leading to Poonah with his whole army.



General Smith knowing the difficulties of the road he had taken, pursued him with only the horse artillery, 2d cavalry, the 65th regiment, the 1st of 2d N. I. and pioneers, leaving the remainder of his force with Colonel Boles to follow leisurely, for he naturally felt some apprehension for Seroor and Poonah. About ten miles from Warsowa there is another ghaut of very difficult ascent, called Manhulla, up which the guns were dragged by the men. The town of Barramwarra is situated on the table land of this romantic mountain, and near it the Peishwa's army had encamped, and paid the last honours to the son of Gockla, a fine young man of twenty years of age. The natives assured Thoughtless that his wife, about fifteen years of age, and of great beauty, performed suttee with his body. From this town, which was in a very ruined state, Charles had a fine view of those vast ranges of ghauts, on the highest table land of which he now stood. No country in the world can be stronger for defensive warfare than this part of the Deckan. It appears as if it had been once an entire table land, though now broken into hills and ridges of rocks, as if all the soft parts had been washed away by the flood. The hills are of most fantastic shapes, many of them are isolated, and the little valleys are in full cultivation. From this height the force descended into the plain of Wuttoor, by a pass which is long and difficult. At the bottom of it there is a very neat dhurrumsallah, with a fine well for



travellers, and the town of Wuttoor, situated near it, appeared in a very flourishing state. The force encamped there late in the evening of the last day in the year 1817, and Charles Thoughtless laid his weary head on his pillow, after breakfasting on beefsteaks at supper time, and uttering a soldier's short prayer: "O God, I thank thee with all my heart and soul for thy protection during the past year."

From Wuttoor to Kullum, a large town on the Gore river, the distance is twenty miles, which they marched the following day, and about two o'clock next morning proceeded through a romantic glen with several *warries* belonging to the Bheels; having crossed the Beema at the town of Keir. On approaching the fort of Chakoon the guns of it opened upon them, but they defiled out of their range and encamped near it. Serious apprehensions were now entertained that an attack had been made on Poonah, for a continued cannonade had been heard during the march from Wuttoor in that direction. Here General Smith received intelligence of the march of the second of the 1st Bombay native infantry from Seroor, by desire of Colonel Burr, to reinforce him at Poonah against the approach of the Peishwa, but this corps was intercepted at Koragaum, and nearly cut to pieces. Upon hearing a confused rumour of this disaster from the natives, General Smith marched for the scene of reported contention, and Thoughtless there



beheld a most melancholy sight; the streets of the village were choked up with dead Arabs, swelled to a prodigious size by the heat of the sun, and the plain around was covered with putrifying carcasses of men, horses, camels, and bullocks, so that the stench was intolerable. The soldiers were digging up the ruins of the houses for the Europeans that had been killed, thirteen of whose bodies were laid out near a grave which the pioneers were making, while the officers of the force were searching for their deceased friends. Of those who had been in the action not one remained on the spot alive to relate the particulars. All was a scene of death and desolation. The substantial stone houses were demolished by cannon shot, and many of them burning, having been set on fire seemingly in the struggle of the contending parties to possess them. In the course of the following day, General Smith received the official report of this action, which he justly pronounced in his orders on the subject to be one of the most brilliant examples of gallantry and perseverance recorded in our Indian annals. From that report, and from private accounts afterwards communicated to Thoughtless by several of the survivors, the particulars here stated were collected.

A detachment, consisting of a detail of Madras artillery and two six-pounders of the second battalion 1st Bombay native infantry about 600 strong, and 300 auxiliary horse, the whole under Captain Staunton of the company's service, marched from



Seroor for Poonah at 3 P. M. 31st December, and reached the heights overlooking Koragaum, about ten in the forenoon of the 1st January, whence the whole of the Peishwa's army, estimated 30,000 horse and eight thousand infantry, were discovered in the plain south of the Beema. To retreat before such masses of cavalry was impossible. The officers with Captain Staunton were Lieutenant Chisholm and Assistant-surgeon Wiley of the Madras artillery, Lieutenant and Adjutant Pattinson, and Lieutenant Conlan second of 1st regiment, and Lieutenant Jones of the 10th Bombay N. I., doing duty with that corps, the assistant-surgeon in charge of it Mr. Wingate, and Lieutenant Swanston in command of the auxiliary horse. These gentlemen formed a circle on the heights of Koragaum around their commander, and it was debated what course should be pursued for the preservation and honour of the detachment in the perilous situation in which they found themselves. For such a handful of men to remain in the plain was certain destruction, to retreat was equally dangerous, and only two alternatives presented the shadow of hope, for the idea of cutting their way to Poonah through the Peishwa's army was out of the question. The village of Koragaum, with several strong houses and inclosures, lay half a mile before them on the left bank of the Beema, while a strong height difficult of approach for cavalry was a little way on their right, but without water or cover for the men.



Captain Staunton moved therefore upon the village with the intention of occupying it, and had scarcely succeeded in reaching it with his detachment when he was attacked in the most determined manner by three divisions of the Peishwa's best infantry, supported by immense bodies of horse and the fire of two pieces of artillery. The enemy's troops were animated to the utmost exertions by the presence of the Peishwa on a distant height, attended by all the principal Mahratta chiefs, who flattered his highness with the prospect of witnessing the destruction of this gallant handful of British troops.

Impressed with terror at the intrepidity of the European character, the Peishwa, on seeing Captain Staunton advance down the heights of Koragaum, exclaimed to Gockla, who had offered to cross the river and attack the detachment, "They are coming to attack us!" But on perceiving that the advance guard was making towards the village, he permitted the Arabs to plunge into the Beema, and endeavour to gain possession of it before the British, and they succeeded in posting themselves in the strongest parts of it, from which it was found impossible to dislodge them, and the contest for the remainder was obstinately continued from noon till nine P. M. During that time almost every pagoda and house had been repeatedly taken and retaken, and one of the guns for several minutes was in possession of the enemy. The detachment was placed



in the most trying situation at this period ; nearly the whole of the artillerymen and about one-third of the infantry and auxiliary horse were killed or wounded. From the exertions which the European officers had been called upon to make in leading their men to frequent charges with the bayonet, their numbers also were diminished. Lieutenant Chisholm was no more, having fallen under several wounds. Mr. Assistant-surgeon Wingate was also killed. His right arm was broken in a charge on the Arabs, in which he and Lieutenant Conlan, who was also wounded, were made prisoners, and thrust into a pagoda of which the enemy had possession. Mr. Wingate there dressed his own arm, but a few moments after Lieutenants Swanston and Pattinson charged the Arabs, and Mr. Wingate having evinced a desire to escape was stabbed in the breast and expired, but Conlan was rescued. The two brave officers who led the men on in this desperate attempt were wounded, but Pattinson could not remain inactive while able to wield his sword, and he joined in other charges which cost him his life. Only Captain Staunton, Lieutenant Jones and Mr. Assistant-surgeon Wiley then remained, nearly exhausted, to direct the efforts of the remaining part of the force, who were almost frantic from the want of water, and the unparalleled exertions they had made throughout the day without any sort of refreshment, after a fatiguing march of twenty-six miles. But under cover of the night they were en-



abled to procure a supply of water, and at nine P.M. the enemy was forced to abandon the village, after sustaining an immense loss in killed and wounded.

“The British character,” said General Smith, “was nobly supported throughout the whole of this arduous contest by the European officers and the small detachment of Madras artillery. The medical officers also led the sepoys to charges with the bayonet, the nature of the contest not admitting of their attending to their professional duties; and in such a struggle the presence of a single European was of the utmost consequence, and seemed to inspire the native soldiers with the usual confidence of success. At day-light on the 2d, the enemy was still in sight, but did not renew the attack, although it prevented the troops, whose ammunition was nearly expended, from receiving either a supply of that or provisions.” In fact, it was the rapid march of the light division from Wuttoor which obliged the Peishwa to retreat over the little Bore ghaut, but of this the detachment at Koragaum was entirely ignorant. Upon seeing the enemy march southward, Captain Staunton considered his further advance towards Poonah impracticable. He buried his dead in the best manner possible, under the ruins of the houses which the cannonade of the enemy had destroyed, and made preparations for returning to Seroor. The tents were torn and converted into slings for the wounded soldiers, and with the aid of those who



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escaped, and the few bullocks and horses that remained, he marched during the night of the 2d, and reached Seroor at 12 o'clock in the forenoon of the 3d, having had no refreshment since the 31st December. He brought in nearly all the wounded, and both the guns and colours of the regiment, which the Arab chiefs had vainly hoped to present as trophies to the Peishwa; and by his brave and determined conduct deserved all the praises and honours which followed this brilliant example of noble exertion and exemplary patience under every species of privation.

Finding that the Peishwa had moved southward, in which direction General Pritzler was ready to take up the pursuit, General Smith marched for Seroor to replenish his commissariat, where royal salutes were fired on the 7th January for the battle of Maidenpore, gained by his excellency General Sir Thomas Hislop on the 21st December, over the army of Muller Row Holkar; for the battle of Nagpore, won a few days before it by Brigadier-general Doveton; and for the subsequent surrender of that city to the British troops. Here also Thoughtless learned that the Pindarries were nearly exterminated by the various attacks made upon them, and that Sir John Malcolm was following up the advantages gained with brilliant success, so that hope began to cheer him with the expectation of soon being enabled, by general peace, to return home. On the 8th January, however, information



reached General Smith, that General Pritzler had turned the Peishwa, and gained some advantages by successful charges made by the 22d dragoons. He marched therefore with the light division, leaving Colonel Boles to follow with the park and stores, and continued for several weeks making moves and countermoves every day, at an average of twenty miles. The *dawks* were now beginning to arrive regularly from Bombay, and Thoughtless, on the 20th January, entered in his journal — “We have received, for the first time since October, some Bombay gazettes. The editor says in one paper, — ‘The Peishwa is not, as reported, at Punderpore; but it is no matter where he is.’ I wish this gentleman was marching after him as we are, and he would soon find it to be a matter of some moment.” On the 22d January, they gained sight of the enemy near the town of Ogur, on the Kisthna, having marched by way of Punderpore, and made countermarches in all directions. The south of the Deckan, near the river Kisthna, is abundantly rich. Its banks are covered with towns, and the country clothed with fine crops of cotton, tobacco, wheat, sugar-cane, gram, and jewarry.



CHAP. XXV.

O truly blest, if bliss he knows,
Who, healthful in some safe retreat,
Which simple competence bestows,
Feels no ambition to be great.

Whose acres few and garden give,
Nicely to trim, amusive toil;
Whose mind, philosophy to live
Serenely on his native soil.

What if no *durwan* stand in state
Before his lowly cottage door;
Would a *sawarry* at his gate
Increase the joy he has in store?

GENERAL SMITH had made a forced march of thirty miles to Ogur, for the purpose of surprising the Peishwa, whose army was encamped near the town on the banks of the Kisthna; but the horse artillery, cavalry, and a light battalion, formed from the flank companies of native corps, and mounted on *tattoos*, only reached the heights overlooking that fine river in time to see the clouds of dust that hovered over the retreat of the Mahrattas. The force had marched 222 miles since its last departure from Seroor, taking but one halting day to rest the cattle, nearly exhausted by continued exertion. This rapid pursuit far exceeded the Peishwa's calculation, and he felt himself sorely pressed upon all sides. Gockla, with the flower of his cavalry,



was at this period around the division of General Pritzler, impeding his advance from the south, when General Smith broke in most unexpectedly before him upon his highness and the main body of his army. Chittamun Row, Napunker, and Trim-buckgee Danglae, with 12,000 horse, made a bold effort to cover his retreat on the high road to Sat-tara, and the next day these daring chiefs attacked the light division in front, flank, and rear, near Mirrich, with great impetuosity, cut off a non-commissioned officer's party of the light battalion, and in one of their charges, having penetrated the baggage flank, slaughtered many of the followers, and carried away some plunder, it being impossible, with such a deficiency of cavalry, to pursue the enemy in all directions. Gockla, upon being ap-prised of the able and unexpected manner in which General Smith had taken up the pursuit of his royal master, drew off his cavalry from their attack on General Pritzler, and making a forced march of near forty miles, fell upon the rear of the light division next day, who were pushing hard to reach Tausgaum, and were closely engaged with the other chiefs in front and flank. General Smith soon perceived, from the immense bodies of ca-valry and numerous standards approaching on all sides, that the whole of the Mahratta cavalry were around him. The plain, as far as the eye could reach, was literally covered with them, and it was sufficient to excite the wonder of a spectator that



such a handful of men should have dared to press forward after four times their number of infantry with guns, in the face of fifteen times their numerical strength of Mahratta cavalry, whose korrallies or flankers were individually so brave that they galloped along the line within a few paces of the riflemen and light infantry spread round to keep off their *matchlocks*, depending for safety upon their shields and armour. But coolness and discipline will always be found irresistible opposed to any numerical superiority deficient in these essential qualifications. Gockla's men were individually brave, and he was an experienced and able general, well acquainted with our tactics, for he had fought as an auxiliary under Sir Arthur Wellesley, and seen some of the most dashing service in India; but his troops being in a disorganized state, and without that mutual dependence upon each other which discipline ensures, he never could actuate them with his own brave spirit, and they invariably deserted him in the hour of trial. He was, however, by this mode of warfare making soldiers of them. The casualties during this day's service were considerable; but the enemy lost immense numbers from the fire of grape, shells, and round shot discharged upon them nearly the whole day. They however succeeded, by their perseverance and boldness, in retarding the advance of the light division, for every thing wore so much the appearance of a general action, that the British com-



mander at length halted in the evening at the village of Kauta, without being able to reach Tausgaum, where the enemy shewed vast masses next morning, and disputed every mile of the road to Neemluck. Here they encamped so near, and in such prodigious numbers, that the light division lay all night fully accoutred. On the following day they reached Koragaum, eighteen miles distant, notwithstanding the great efforts made by Gockla to prevent their advance.

Upon moving next morning the scene was interesting. The sun rose in beauty over the high romantic hill fort of Booserghur, below which large bodies of the enemy appeared drawn up, while their artillery rockaded the line. A large mass of them, directly in front, defiled along the left flank, and soon after another, equally numerous, passed down the right. The horse artillery and cavalry had scarcely dislodged their rocket-men, who had killed several sepoy, when an immense column appeared advancing at full gallop upon the front. A line was formed to receive them, and at this time the engagement was pretty general in every quarter. The division in front formed at the distance of five hundred yards, and stood for some time in silent awe, but raising a shout advanced again with the intention of charging the cavalry drawn up to mask the guns, which were now opened upon them by Captain Pierce with such effect, that they wheeled suddenly to the left and dispersed in the great-



est confusion. From Pussasowla to Reymutpore the road winds through hills, and the vallies are broken into nullahs or ravines, and much intersected with hedges, so that the ground was unfavourable for cavalry, and the force marched on without much molestation except from rockets, which blazed upon the line from every height. But upon passing Julgaum, and entering the vale of Sattara, the enemy's whole force of cavalry appeared drawn up in columns of attack to the right, just out of cannon-shot range. Their korrallies were in every direction, sniping with the riflemen and flankers, and their rocket-boys were stationed on distant heights, showering their deadly missiles upon the line; from one of these Colonel Milnes had a very narrow escape, for his horse, on being struck by the shaft, made such violent plunges that his rider was thrown from the saddle with great violence, but fortunately arose uninjured, though two sepoy had their legs so much shattered by the same rocket that amputation was found necessary. General Smith continued his march, and Gockla, whose person was conspicuous at the head of his men, advanced also in a parallel line, for several miles. The sight was grand and interesting. He expected that General Smith would have taken the road to the left, to avoid the hill fort of Mungheer directly in front, and both columns marched upon it till their heads closed to within short cannon range. A struggle followed between the advance guards to



gain the main road under the hill. The horse artillery opened a tremendous fire on the masses of cavalry, advancing at full gallop to pass under the guns of the fort, which they sustained for some time; but at length, dispirited by the numbers that were falling, they wheeled to the right in great disorder, and fled down the opposite side of the mountain. Towards evening the force encamped near the head of the Salpee Pass, down which the Peishwa had effected his retreat, having been very nearly intercepted in it by Colonel Boles and the heavy division. The enemy had sent their baggage down the Salpee after the Peishwa, and finding themselves thus cut off from the only road over the mountains in this quarter, endeavoured to pass along the bottom of the chain of ghauts, under the fort of Chunden Wunden, from which there is a communication with the main road, and they were seen about twilight advancing from among the mountains. The horse artillery, cavalry, light battalion, and flank companies were immediately dispatched to form an ambuscade, and they succeeded in forcing one division to seek safety by endeavouring to scale the mountain, on which they were directly turned. In this attempt they sustained immense loss, for the guns raked the side up which they clambered, and men and horses fell in numbers from the precipices they had gained in the vain hope of getting to the table land. But all the other divisions effected their escape under the darkness of night.



Thoughtless wrote his remarks late at night. "This," said he, "has been an interesting day's service. Before sun-rise the firing commenced. The blazing rattle of rockets, loud beyond description from the echo of the neighbouring mountains, the thunder of artillery, the bursting of shells, the cries and rout of the enemy's bodies of horse, the wild tones of their tooterics and *nagarics* urging on to the charge, the rush of our baggage to avoid the rockets, the romantic scenery of high hills on every side, the grand and steady march of 2,500 disciplined troops in the face of 30,000 Mahrattas, through this fine valley, our frequent halts and advances, announced by the bugles and drums, along the line, the flogging of followers for plundering the villages, while the *patels* were led to the general and forced to supply the commissary with grain, and were occasionally conducted back again with ropes round their necks, under a threat of death, in case of concealing provisions, are hints which may convey an idea of the scene. This fine valley, lately so beautiful, has changed its appearance. The passage of such large armies has destroyed the verdure of the fields, and many of the houses have been unroofed by the *looterers* for firewood. Oh! what misery the contentions of ambition generate for the humble tenants of the soil. Another ruffian was taken to-day in the act of tearing a gold-knobbed ring out of a woman's nose. Her face was covered with blood; she struggled,



and he was going to cut her throat, when a *tackildar* arrested his villanous arm; he was hanged. A camp follower's wife was taken in labour on the march to-day in a nullah, and through the anxious solicitude of her husband, obtained that attendance which such a crisis demanded."

General Smith continuing the chase next day down the Salpee Pass, found that the Peishwa had escaped eastward, towards Punderpore; but before he resumed the pursuit it was necessary to replenish his store park and commissariat, and he determined moreover to avail himself of the opportunity of reinforcing his cavalry from the division of General Pritzler. Therefore having procured ammunition and grain from Colonel Boles, he re-ascended the Salpee Pass, and formed a junction at Reymutpore with General Pritzler, whose force consisted of two squadrons and the head-quarters of the 22d dragoons and 7th Madras native cavalry, an European flank battalion of eight companies from the 34th, 53d, 69th, and 84th regiments, the 1st of the 12th Madras native infantry and the Madras rifle battalion, with eight field-pieces, and a detail of artillerymen and pioneers. An efficient light force was immediately formed of the horse artillery, 22d dragoons, 2d and 7th Madras cavalry, light battalion, 65th regiment, 1st of 2d and 1st of 3d Bombay native infantry; with which General Smith determined to pursue the Peishwa. Before his departure, however, he found it expedient to take possession of Sattara, and the whole



force, being joined at Koragaum by Colonel Boles and the heavy division, marched towards the ancient Mahratta capital on the 10th February 1818. They crossed the Kisthna at Maowly, a large town, with a magnificent pagoda on one bank of the river, and a handsome pavilion, belonging to the Peishwa, on the other. It is a sacred bathing place, and there are several fine flights of stone steps from the town to the water's edge. The inhabitants seemed very much alarmed, but crowded to see the force pass, after they had been furnished with tackildars to guard their property : from this place Sattara, situated on the table land of an isolated hill, has a formidable appearance. They forded the Kisthna, about fifty yards broad at Maowly, and encamped before the place of destination, in fine gardens of onions and carrots, in plantations of sugar-cane, and across fields of wheat, barley, jewarry, cotton, and dhol. The loss to the poor owners was incalculable. There was a considerable garrison in the fort of Sattara, but the *killedar* did not make a resolute defence, or he might have laughed at the efforts of General Smith for its reduction. After receiving a few shells from a mortar battery, the enemy evacuated it without returning a shot, and Thoughtless accompanied the party that took possession of a place truly wonderful, both in respect to nature and art.

Sattara stands on a hill belonging to a range, which it completely commands. The height of the



fort is about three hundred yards above the plain, its length twelve hundred, and its breadth varying from three hundred to eighty at the western point. There is a table land formed by the hand of nature on the top, which is a huge rock of granite ; it is cut perpendicularly all round, at an average of thirty feet. On this solid foundation the rampart is built of masonry, about eight feet high and as many broad. Numerous towers and bastions are erected round it ; and there were twenty-seven guns mounted on the works, with a park well supplied with ammunition and stores. There is only one gate, exceedingly strong, but a sally-port defended by two towers opens in an opposite direction. Four fine tanks contain an abundance of water, and in short there is a small town on the summit, which, when the rajah was confined here, served as a habitation for the numerous Brahmins that surrounded him ; in the centre of it a handsome house was erected for him. The petah or city of Sattara lies below in the plain under the north face of the fort ; it is of great extent, and seemed rich and populous. The houses were well built of stone and lime, with good streets, and numerous gardens and orchards. The top of the hill commands a most delightful view of the valleys of Sattara, through which the Kisthna and Oomrouly meander and glitter to the eye with pleasing variety, sometimes hid beneath the rich foliage of fruit trees, and occasionally breaking forth in unexpected turns



upon the sight. The British flag was hoisted under a royal salute from the camp, but after waving for a few minutes over the battlements that had long awed the Mahratta empire, it was replaced by that of the Sattara Rajah; Captain Garraway with 150 sepoys being left in charge of it; and while General Pritzler and the heavy division marched against other forts, General Smith with the light division proceeded down the Salpee Pass in pursuit of the Peishwa.

On the 19th February, after a rapid march of five days from Salpee by way of Fooltaun, a large town with magnificent pagodas, they reached Yelapore, where General Smith received information that the Peishwa was encamped at Gopalashtee, situated about thirty miles to the eastward. They marched at twelve o'clock that night, crossed the Beema at Keutalla, and about eleven o'clock next day the horse artillery and cavalry, with the staff of the force, halted on the heights overlooking the plain on which the Mahratta army was encamped; — an hour before, his highness the Peishwa had thought himself in perfect safety, being assured that the British force was at a considerable distance, and his tents were struck and baggage loaded for the purpose of marching northward; — while he was in earnest conversation with his chiefs, it was announced that the English general was close upon him. When the British squadrons gained sight of the plain, they heard the



tooteries and tom toms shrilly and loudly proclaiming surprise and confusion, and saw the Peishwa in rapid retreat, while Gockla with a great part of the cavalry was drawn up in line of battle across the main road; he having vowed to his highness that he would cover his retreat or lose his life. General Smith hesitated not a moment. He dispatched his staff to the different commanding officers with orders, the substance of which were that the cavalry should move down in separate columns of attack, the 22d dragoons in the centre, the 2d on the left, and the 7th on the right, while the horse artillery were directed to take up the best position according to circumstances, and at the discretion of Captain Pierce. "Thoughtless," said he, "ride to the rear, and order the light battalion up as quick as possible." Charles was not long in performing this duty, and to his surprise found the rifle companies of the 65th regiment close behind the light battalion, struggling hard to outmarch the tattoos upon which the men were mounted. Upon his return, he saw the cavalry dashing down the heights to charge Gockla in three separate columns, whose heads formed points for the formation of the line of battle. The ground was so rugged that the horse artillery could not get forward, and Charles overtook them just as the cavalry had approached within musket-shot of the enemy and formed line. Captain Pierce then used every exertion, and brought his guns into position on the right, when the line,



at a round trot, made directly for the centre of the masses before it. The sight was awful, and a dead silence prevailed. Gockla had chosen his ground with great judgment, behind a nullah and other obstacles, which, he calculated, would keep back the artillery. His appearance was very formidable, the front ranks of his line having their spears couched, while the rear ranks seemed drawn up on a ridge higher than the front, armed with matchlocks. They opened a heavy fire upon the cavalry when within 150 yards of their line, which the latter did not return till they had advanced within a few paces of the Mahratta front, when the 22d dragoons discharging their pistols in the faces of the enemy, charged their centre, and the action became close and warm for a few seconds. The horse artillery, at this time on the right, could not fire; and General Smith, full of anxiety to see the cavalry close with the enemy, had galloped into the space between the right of the 7th and the left of the guns, where he was much exposed. Gockla had a chosen body in reserve behind his left wing, for the purpose of attacking the rear or flank; and while the shock of the charge made by the 22d dragoons had forced his centre to give way, he wheeled with the greatest rapidity round his left, and passing between the guns and the right of the British line, attacked the 7th cavalry in rear with great impetuosity. General Smith was cut down, and some confusion was produced on the right;



but Major Daw, with the reserve of the 22d, charged Gockla, who was killed in this desperate but brave attempt; and now the whole of the Mahrattas fled in confusion. General Smith had received the blow of a sabre on the back of his head, but the wound was not dangerous. The slaughter of the enemy was great, and they were pursued till it was feared the horses would be blown. All the plain was strewed with their dead and wounded. The pursuit was continued. After the horses had breathed, another successful charge was made; for during the halt the chiefs had rallied their men and shown front again. In this charge the main body was overtaken, and the carnage was dreadful. The Peishwa escaped on a fleet horse; but the Sattara Rajah, his mother, and his two brothers were taken, with eleven elephants and fifty camels, some of which were loaded with treasure. Majors Daw, Doveton, and Walker preserving a fine line, and halting frequently to breathe their horses, continued the pursuit for nearly ten miles from the scene of action, and captured all the rear of the baggage of the Peishwa's army. In short, the rout and dispersion of his troops were beyond description terrific and dreadful. Thoughtless accompanied the cavalry in this course of slaughter, and saw enough to impress his mind with the most frightful image of war. The native troopers even shot unarmed palankeen boys and camp followers; but the 22d dragoons were as



merciful as they were brave, and both the officers and men exerted themselves to save the prostrate foe.

Previous to this, the Peishwa becoming aware of the rapid rate at which General Smith could move, had placed his guns and infantry in forts, to enable him to march with superior celerity, so that he was completely surprised, and the result was of the greatest importance. No officer was killed in the light division, and besides the general, only Lieutenant Warren of the 22d dragoons was wounded; but 80 non-commissioned officers and soldiers were killed and wounded, with a considerable number of horses. The body of Gockla was burned in the evening, the ceremonial being accompanied with all due honours, according to the customs of his cast. His person was large, his features fine and manly, and his complexion nearly fair. He had received several wounds on his face and body, but the confusion was so great, that it could not be ascertained under whose hand he had fallen, and several inferior chiefs shared his fate around him. He wore on the morning of the action a rich dress of gold *kinkob*, with a pearl necklace, diamond earrings, and an ornament for the turban of immense value, which became the plunder of some of the camp followers; for the bodies of all the officers were found nearly naked upon the return of the cavalry from pursuing the enemy. It is impossible not to respect the spirit of Gockla. The judgment



with which he prepared to receive General Smith was only equalled by his valour and skill in bravely endeavouring to retrieve the day, upon finding, that his centre could not withstand the charge of the 22d dragoons; and the muse of history will encircle his name with a laurel for fidelity and devotion in his country's cause.

The rescue of the Rajah of Sattara and his family from the hands of the Peishwa, gave General Smith the most lively satisfaction; for nothing could be of more importance in the present conjuncture, as the supreme government had determined to depose the usurper, and restore the rajah to some portion of the rights belonging to his ancestors. In the orders issued upon the occasion, the General warmly expressed his high sense of the meritorious and most gallant conduct of the cavalry, and his admiration of the exemplary conduct of every one engaged in the action of Ashtee. "The operations of yesterday," said he, "were necessarily confined to the cavalry; but the zeal and good conduct evinced by the whole of the troops during a period of three months of incessant marching, has been eminently conspicuous; and the brigadier-general regrets that it was impossible upon this occasion to afford them all an opportunity of meeting the enemy." This affair was truly honourable to himself, and so ruinous in its effects upon the Mahrattas, that they never dared to show their faces afterwards. Intercepted letters, from various chiefs,



soon gave a picture of the desertion and the dismay consequent upon it in the Peishwa's camp. "The English general," said one, "has by this blow gained every object of his government, and rewarded his force with immense booty for the hardships they had endured for the last three months." "All the sirdars," said another, "are now endeavouring to make terms for themselves, and I am determined to withdraw from a cause which is ruined, and is involving the country in misery."

In short, the interest of the campaign here ceases. General Smith, after the sale of the prize property, returned towards Poonah, for the purpose of placing the Sattara Rajah with Mr. Elphinstone, who had remained there, having been appointed commissioner for the settlement of affairs in this part of the Deccan. The rajah now assumed all the external pomp of an eastern prince, and seated in a rich howdah on a large elephant, accompanied by his brothers and their mother, with her ladies of honour in other howdahs and rich palankeens, with flags, tom toms, tooterics, and guards, formed a pageant of no ordinary magnificence at the head of the British line. During the cool of each morning, these high personages rode richly caparisoned Mahratta horses, and only mounted their elephants in the heat of the day. The queen mother managed her horse with great dexterity, and rode, according to the custom of the ladies of her country, as gentlemen do with us. She bore the traces



of great beauty, wore a rich dress of embroidered muslin, with but few ornaments ; she did not conceal her face, and was both familiar and talkative with such officers as approached her. In person she appeared rather above the middle size, and her complexion was almost fair. She evinced an ardent desire to appropriate every thing that was captured to herself, for she claimed all the elephants and camels, with every fine horse and tent that she saw, as her own. Her age seemed between forty and fifty, and she had none of that timidity which one naturally supposes to belong to Hindoo ladies. In short, she appeared to be a woman possessed of much natural ability, and far greater presence of mind than the rajah, for whom she managed every thing, and he even looked to her for the answers he had to make to several questions. He appeared about 23 years of age, and his brothers something younger ; but there was no great difference in their size, being all of small stature, dark complexion, and vulgar aspect, so that no person would suppose they were the children of such an intelligent, sprightly, fair woman as the queen mother. They were richly dressed in gold muslins and kinkobs, with pearl necklaces of three rows set in gold and sparkling with precious stones ; their turbans and ear-rings were very costly ; they wore trowsers with feet like stockings, and slippers turned up at the toes and covered with precious gems. Upon approaching towns or villages the

tooteries were sounded, and the musicians, who rode on camels, began to beat their tom toms, when the inhabitants came out in crowds and prostrated themselves before their legitimate sovereign.

In this manner the force returned by easy marches, and crossed the Beema at Hingingaum, having passed the village of Tamboorna, the birth-place of Padashaw Munkisser Bow, late minister for British affairs at the court of Poonah, who till his last moment made it the object of his life to cultivate the friendship of the English government. He made the humble spot of his birth remarkable by erecting a magnificent palace near it with fine gardens. On the 27th February they passed the large town of Barramutty, and halted next day at Moorishwar, that the rajah might return thanks to Gunputty, who has a celebrated temple here, and make presents to the Brahmins on occasion of his restoration to power. The pagodas are very magnificent and numerous, but their sanctity is not so great now as formerly ; for it is believed that Gunputty forsook them, disgusted with the partiality of the Brahmins for new customs, and that this god is now incarnate at Cheechore, near Poonah. But this *avatar* of Gunputty needs not be detailed, as a particular history of it is given by Lord Valentia in his Travels in India. Soon afterwards the Honourable Mr. Elphinstone arrived from Poonah to meet the rajah and escort him thither with Captain Davis and the irregular horse, and General



Smith marched for Seroor. It may here be proper to notice the most affecting circumstance of the whole campaign; twenty-two guns were fired at Boolsir for the death of her royal highness Charlotte Princess of Wales, and Thoughtless shed a tear when he reflected that rank, fortune, love, and the hope of a nation could not shield such excellence from the shaft of death; and that while her royal father's heart was torn with anguish for the irreparable loss of his only child, how little pleasure could arise from the intelligence that the British arms were successful in acquiring new and splendid conquests in the East.

General Smith only halted one day at Seroor. He proceeded northward at a rapid rate after the enemy on the road to Jaulna as far as Toka, where the march was changed to the eastward, but not long continued, for the Godavery was crossed at Rauksbone on the 18th March, and on the 28th, after prodigious marching and counter-marching, the force left their sick at Jaulna, and continued the pursuit of the Peishwa. The heat of the weather had now increased so much, that during every long march some of the men fell under coups de soleil; the thermometer stood at 109° at ten o'clock in the day, and the hospitals were soon filled with fever, liver disease, and dysentery. The Peishwa's case now became desperate. Brigadier-general Doveton was closing upon him in one direction; Colonels Adams and Scott were advancing with



light divisions from other points; while General Smith was driving his highness upon them. Many of his sirdars, however, made it a point of honour to adhere to their chief in the hour of his adversity; and in the latter end of April they were surprised and cut up by Colonel Adams, who took the whole of their baggage, and all the remaining treasure of the Peishwa. Soon after which his highness surrendered himself, and received permission from his generous foes, notwithstanding all his treachery and ingratitude, to reside at Benares on a large pension.

The force now returned to Seroor, crossed the Godavery at Keir, and reached the cantonments on the 16th May, having marched since their departure thence on the 10th March 706 miles, and during the whole campaign, since their first movement from Seroor, 2,037.

In the meantime the Marquis of Hastings had returned to Calcutta, and Sir Thomas Hislop to Madras. All the hill forts belonging to the Peishwa in the Deckan and Konkan had surrendered, and Trimbuckgee Danglae had been taken prisoner by Captain Swanston at the head of a body of irregulars after a night march of sixty miles, arranged and conducted with consummate skill, by which that cunning and plotting chief was completely surprised. The 65th regiment were now suffering from the effects of fatigue and exposure to the sun; for Europeans, though they stand a hard campaign



well in India, drop off rapidly on returning to quarters. But the cholera morbus, which had spread such destruction in Bengal, now travelled westward, and began to thin the ranks of the Bombay army. Many were the victims to its fury in the 65th, but Thoughtless escaped; for having now obtained leave of absence, he departed for Bombay, in the hope of soon embarking with his family from the burning climate of India. Yet he could not say "*farewell*" to his valued friends, without a sensation of deep regret, that cast a gloom on the cheering prospect of a return to his native land.



CONCLUSION.

No sickly clime his spirit tries,
No deadly vapours fire the brain,
Beneath the eye no comrade lies,
Whose life-blood cools the burning plain.
But rosy children course the lawn,
And sportive mazy circles form ;
Whose hearts, like dew of summer dawn,
Dissolve in pity for a worm.
How bootless is the courtly smile
To him whose little ones and wife
Can melancholy care beguile,
And strew with roses thorny life ?

He who has a large family in India will find no difficulty in transporting them to England, if he have a few thousand rupees to pay for their passage. Thoughtless had a sufficient fund remaining for this purpose, and he had the good fortune to embark in an excellent vessel, of which the commander, a most worthy man, made so good use of his time, that he dropped his anchor in Table Bay exactly one month after his departure from Bombay harbour, and Charles beheld with pleasure the cloud-capt brow of the mountain that rises abruptly from Cape Town. Thence they were wafted by the steady trade-wind past St. Helena and Ascension, and in three months and twelve days after their



departure from the Cape of Good Hope the passengers landed at Dover.

London being new to Charles, he remained a fortnight there, admiring the various productions of art that court the attention of the curious. At length he touched the land of his birth after an absence of seventeen years. The meeting of a father and son under such circumstances is a scene best suited to the imagination, and it is entirely omitted by him who wrote "Fifteen Years in India." Thoughtless took possession of a handsome well-furnished house in Dundalk, and he had the pleasure of seeing his friend George True, who visited him on the very day when he settled in that agreeable town. The roses and lillies of Erin bloomed on the cheeks of the lovely Nannette and her charming children; and Edward and Emma recognized in each other what fancy had been teaching them to expect. Robert Gordon, now agent to the extensive estates of Mr. True, was in the full exercise of his poetical faculties. The season of the year afforded Bob an opportunity for composition, and when Charles called to see him he had just finished a sonnet, which he entitled "the Opening of Spring."

"But," said he, "I shall not offer you this, for I intend to write a piece in commemoration of your return home." Thoughtless, however, was pleased with the concluding lines of the stanzas, because they accorded with his feelings; and, in re-

visiting the scenes of his youth, he strove to repress the melancholy that arose within him by frequently repeating

"At this sweet season why should I be sad,
While bounteous heaven makes all around me glad."

All around him was gladness and joy, but every thing was new and unexpected. His habits had undergone a change of which he was not aware; and in his disappointment he at first concluded that the manners of his early companions had become deteriorated.

A few fleeting days cleared up his agitated conjectures respecting Frank Stanley, from whom he received a most satisfactory letter, stating that he was welcomed by the old squire with every sincere demonstration of joy, and that his aged mother seemed renewed with life by consummated hope, on clasping her long absent child to her maternally affectionate breast. "But," said Frank, "confusion to me, my dearest friend, if I can describe the rest. — I found that bright particular star, for so many years the north-pole of attraction to my anxious soul, in all the loveliness of matured beauty. Let the pencil of imagination paint on the mind of a lover my transport at discovering that the willow had been worn for my sake. Sarah is now my wife."

To conclude : — There is every reason to hope that as much felicity as was intended to mingle in the cup of human life will be enjoyed by all the



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parties in question during the remainder of existence; and should the author of these humble sketches have succeeded in convincing the public that his pen has been employed in promoting the interests of morality, virtue, and religion, while he endeavoured to amuse the fancy and interest the affections of the heart, his own share of bliss will have been considerably increased.



GLOSSARY.

ABDAR — a servant whose business it is to cool water, wine, &c.

Ayals — maid-servants in India.

Amir — a nobleman, a lord.

Arab — the horses used by officers in India are from Arabia, and called Arabs.

Aw, saheeb — yes, Sir.

Avatar — an incarnation of some deity.

Buggy — the gig, or one horse chaise, is so called in India.

Bobberchee — a cook.

Brahmins — the sacred cast in Hindostan from which the priests are selected.

Bungalow — a cottage, a name generally applied to the Officers' houses near a cantonment in India.

Bheesties — men who carry water in leather bags. ✓

Bhauts — the descendants of the ancient bards of India.

Brandy-pawny — brandy and water, the common beverage in India.

Bhote salam — best compliments.

Bavas — children.

Biggah — the third of an acre.

Borahs — hawkers, pedlars.

Buftas — piece goods made of cotton.

Brahma — the god of creation in India.

Champaul Ghaut — the name of a wharf in Calcutta.

Chattah — a large umbrella made of silk or palm leaves.

Coolies — natives in India whose business it is to carry burdens, porters.



- Cre* — there are one hundred lacks in a crore, and a lack is equal to 100,000, therefore a crore is ten millions.
- Champo* — to knead or rub the body with the hand.
- Cranny* — a native in Bengal who writes in an office, a clerk.
- Cudjans* — the leaves of the palmira and cocoa-nut trees, with which the houses are thatched.
- Cutwal* — the magistrate of a village or town.
- Chattee* — an earthen pot.
- Cheechee* — the Bengal half-cast ladies are nicknamed "cheechees," being a word often used by them, which in Hindostanee means "fie! fie!"
- Couch wallah* — a man who carries a camp cot and bedding.
- Catamaran* — a sort of boat used at Madras.
- Dooly* — a litter covered with canvas, in which sick soldiers are carried.
- Dandies* — the boatmen on the river Ganges are so called.
- Durbar* — the court of a native prince.
- Durwan* — a gate-keeper.
- Dawks* — the posts by which communication is kept up in India, post-office, letter-bag.
- Fakier* — a religious mendicant; properly speaking, the word is restricted to Mahomedans; but it is now generally used for beggars and enthusiasts of all descriptions in India.
- Ghaut* — a mountain, a hill; also a wharf, quay, or landing-place.
- Ginjals* — small pieces of artillery mounted on walls, or upon the backs of camels.
- Goru* — a spiritual guide, the confessor or family priest in India.
- Ghurs* — Hindoo huts or houses.
- Gora wallah* — a groom, horse-keeper.
- Gosains* — one of the divisions of Hindoo mendicant friars or enthusiasts.
- Hurkarus* — messengers who carry dispatches, and generally travel mounted on camels.
- Hackery* — the common car in India; also the covered carriage used by the natives.



- Hookah* — the gorgeous Indian pipe for smoking tobacco.
- Havildar* — a serjeant of sepoy's. ✓
- Hoondée* — a bill of exchange.
- Halalcure* — a sweeper, a remover of filth, an outcast that performs those offices which contaminate.
- Hurries* — men whose business it is to remove dead bodies at Juggernaut.
- Howdah* — the castle placed on the elephant for the accommodation of those who ride that animal.
- Hoont wallah* — a camel driver.
- Jemidar* — a rank in the company's military service similar to that of ensign. ✓
- Jungles* — forests or uncultivated parts of the country.
- Jaghires* — pensions, or lands held on condition of performing certain services.
- Khatris* — the fighting or warrior cast.
- Ka babbery* ? — what noise is that ?
- Killedar* — the commandant of a fort.
- Kussum* — husband.
- Knockada* — the captain or master of a native vessel.
- Kinkob* — silk embroidered with gold.
- Looters* — are plunderers that follow an army in India.
- Lack* — a number equal to 100,000 ; a lack of rupees is £12,500.
- Lingums* — are temples in which barren women pray for children, and perform certain ceremonies prescribed by the Brahmins.
- Langutty* — a cloth which is tied round the loins.
- Monsoon* — the wet season in India is so called.
- Matchlocks* — are fire-arms discharged by means of a match instead of a flint. ✓
- Mohur* — a gold coin worth sixteen rupees, or £2.
- Moonshee* — a teacher of languages ; generally a Mahomedan.
- Mohorum* — the Mahomedan annual festival in honour of Hussen and Hossein.
- Mussauls* — chair-boys in India.
- Mussoola boat* — a particular kind of boat used at Madras on account of the heavy surf on that coast.



Naik — a corporal of sepoy. ✓

Nautchees — dancing girls.

Nusseeb — fortune, destiny, lot.

Nautch — a dance, a ball, an entertainment given in honour of some god.

Nagaries — are drums of a very large description.

Nizamut Adoulut — a native court in Calcutta, which superintends the administration of criminal law according to Hindoo and Mahomedan codes, customs, and forms.

Ollas — leaves on which the natives write with a style.

Pundit — a professor of Gentoo law, a native barrister.

Pallankeen or *Palkee* — the sedan of India, carried by four men, and made so that the person in it may lie at full length.

Pagoda — the common Hindoo temples are so called; it is also a gold coin, current in many parts of India, worth 9s.

Parsee — the officers' head servants are in general the descendants of Persian settlers, who are called Parsees on the Bombay coast.

Punko — a large fan suspended from the ceiling to produce artificial circulation of air.

Poojah — a Hindoo procession of the *doorgas*, or idols; a festival in honour of some deity.

Paddimar — a large boat in use on the western coast of India.

Petah — the town outside a fort is so called in India.

Peré — a saint or holy Mahomedan, whose tomb is held sacred.

Patels — native officers placed over villages in some parts of India, instead of cutwals.

Rupee — a silver coin, worth 2s. 6d.

Routy — the common tents used in camp by soldiers are so called in India.

Ramram — a complimentary term of address among the Hindoos, equivalent to "good day" — "how are you."

Sepoys — native soldiers in the pay of the East India Company.

Saheeb — sir, or master; a term of respect.



- Subadar* — the highest rank a native officer can attain in the company's military service. ✓
- Shigrampo* — a word compounded from the imperative of the Malabar verb *po*, go, and the adverb *shigram*, quick, and applied to a sort of carriage used in several parts of India.
- Soubah* — a title under the Great Mogul, equal to viceroy.
- Salam* — the Indian salutation, made by touching the forehead with the right hand.
- Salam-alikoom* — "peace be unto thee;" the complimentary address used by Mahomedans.
- Shroff* — a Hindoo banker.
- Sircar* — an agent who transacts money concerns; it is also applied by the natives to the British government in India.
- Such bola* — speak truth.
- Soodres* — the fourth cast, or labouring classes in India.
- Sanyasee* — a Hindoo religious mendicant or enthusiast.
- Suttee* — the ceremony of burning a wife with the dead body of her husband.
- Sauree* — the female dress, composed of one piece, is so called.
- Shaddee* — the marriage ceremony, marriage.
- Sirdars* — chiefs or head men.
- Suwarry* — the suite and equipage of a great man.
- Sheva* — the brother of Brahma, whose office it was to destroy what the others had created.
- Sudder Dewany Adoulut* — a court that superintends the administration of civil law in Bengal upon native principles.
- Tank* — a reservoir for water, an artificial pond.
- Tatties* — frames thatched with grass, upon which water is thrown to cool the air passing through them into the sitting-rooms in India.
- Tiffin* — the mid-day meal in India, lunch.
- Topes* — groves of fruit trees or others.
- Teerettee* — a female belonging to the Teer tribe on the coast of Malabar.
- Tazee be Tazee* — a popular song in India, called in English "Ever fresh and ever gay."
- Tiek* — the Indian oak is so called.



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GLOSSARY.

Tom toms — the common drums of India.

Tooterics — long trumpets.

Tomasha — an entertainment, a play, a merry-making, fun of any kind.

Tattoos — small country horses.

Takildar — a guard placed over a village in passing it to prevent plunder. ✓

Viranda — a portico, or piazza (in the common acceptance of the word).

Veidam — the Hindoo Scriptures.

Vyasees — the third cast in India, composed of the middling classes.

Vishnu — the brother of Brahma and Sheva, whose duty it was to preserve what the one had made, and the other would destroy.

Warries — hamlets, small collections of huts.

Zemindars — the collectors of the rent for the government in India.

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