



retake Tanna ; but the Guzerat prince having intimation of his movement, proceeded in person with a strong detachment to intercept the Deccanies. Both armies arrived before Tanna on the same day ; and another action ensued, which lasted from break of day till sunset, when the Deccanies were ultimately defeated, and dispersed. Mullik-oot-Toojar took refuge in Chakun, while the Prince and Khwaja Jehan did not halt till they reached Dowlutabad. Among the articles taken on the island of Mahim were some beautiful gold and silver embroidered muslins, with which vessels were laden and sent to Ahmudabad.

In the year 835 Ahmud Shah, leaving
A. H. 835.
A. D. 1431. his eldest son at the capital, marched in person to Champanere ; and Ahmud Shah Bahmuny, in order to have his revenge, also marched at the head of an army to Buglana, a district contiguous to Surat, which he completely devastated. The King receiving information of this attack countermarched from Champanere to Nundoorbar, destroying Nadout on his march.

Ahmud Shah Bahmuny, who was at this period engaged in the siege of Tumbole, retreated to his capital, and Ahmud Shah of Guzerat returned towards Ahmudabad ; but he had scarcely reached the river Tapti, when he received intimation that Ahmud Shah Bahmuny had returned to the attack of Tumbole, a measure occasioned, it seems, by the King of the Deccan mistaking for pusillanimity the offers made by Ahmud Shah to negotiate a peace. Ahmud Shah of Guzerat now returned towards the enemy, and arrived within a few miles



of the town of Tumbole, when Ahmud Shah Bahmuny resolved to make an attempt to carry the place by escalade that night. A few Naigs were in consequence selected for this service; some of whom succeeded in gaining a footing on the ramparts before they were discovered; but the alarm being once given, the commandant of the garrison, Mulik Sadut Sooltany, having collected a small party, attacked the assailants, and nearly destroyed the whole. A few threw themselves over the works. At the same time the garrison made a sally on the enemy's camp, by which the besiegers suffered severely before they could oppose the attacking party, which escaped back to the fort under cover of the night, without loss.

On the next morning the Guzerat army arrived; and Ahmud Shah Bahmuny, stung with vexation at the repeated defeats his arms had suffered during the late campaign, seemed determined to retrieve the character of the Deccanics in a general action. When the two lines were drawn out opposite to each other, Ajdur Khan, a young Deccany nobleman, galloped forth and challenged any of the nobles of Guzerat to meet him singly. The offer was accepted by Azd-ool-Moolk of Guzerat, and they both fought as the opposing armies advanced. Ajdur Khan was severely wounded, and taken prisoner, soon after which the action became general. It was severe on both sides, and continued till sunset, when the retreat was mutually sounded; and this would have been considered a drawn battle, but the King of the Deccan having experienced a

very heavy loss in killed and wounded, commenced his retreat during the night.

Ahmud Shah on the next day went into the fort of Tumbole, and with his own hands conferred donations and titles on Mullik Sadut and his brave garrison, which he reinforced, and then marched to Talnere; whence he proceeded to Nadout; and having left Ein-ool-Moolk in charge of that district, returned to Ahmudabad.

In the Siraj-oot-Tareekh Bahmuny, the account of the siege of Tumbole is somewhat differently related; but I think the Deccan historian is not so clear in his account as the Guzerat author, to whose text I have adhered, though God only knows which authority is most to be relied on.

A. H. 836.
 A. D. 1432.

In the year 836, Ahmud Shah having contracted his son Futteh Khan in marriage with the daughter of the Ray of Mahim, marched towards Nagoor and Mewat. On his arrival at Dongurpoor, he received large presents, and exacted tribute from the Raja; thence entering the country of the Kolies and Bheels, subject to Rana Mokul of Chittoor, he laid it waste; and proceeding into the district of Meywar, he levied contributions from the rays of Kota, Boondy, and Nowlaye. During this campaign he was joined by Feroze Khan of Nagoor, who made an offering of several lacks of tunkas, which, however, were not accepted by Ahmud Shah. He now returned to Ahmudabad.

A. H. 839.
 A. D. 1435.

In the year 839, Mahmood Khan Khiljy, one of the officers of the Malwa



government, having rebelled, drove Musaood (the grandson of Sooltan Hooshung Ghooory) from the throne, who sought protection at the court of Guzerat. In the following year, Ah-
A. H. 840.
A. D. 1436. mud Shah felt himself bound to march an army in order to reinstate him. On his arrival at Basowda he detached part of the force in advance towards Mando to intercept Khan Jehan *, the father of the usurper, then on his march from Chundery; but when the latter heard of the movement of Ahmud Shah, he made forced marches to the capital and reinforced his son, now styling himself Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy.

Ahmud Shah at length arrived before Mando, and the Malwites made several trifling sallies; but in a night-attack, of which Ahmud Shah obtained previous information, they were so completely repulsed that they almost all fell victims to their temerity. On the following morning Ahmud Shah detached his son Mahomed Khan, with a body of five thousand horse, to plunder the country of Sarungpoor, with orders to join Oomr Khan, a son of the late King of Malwa, who, having raised a force, was also on his march from Chundery to the capital. Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy, in spite of these disadvantages, was enabled to hold out in the fort; for he had laid in store a large quantity of ammunition and provisions, while the besiegers found it difficult to subsist. In this state of affairs he made a sally from the Tarapoor gate, leaving his

* His real name is Mullik Mogheis Khiljy, and he is much distinguished in the history of Malwa under that name.



father in charge of the fort, and marched to Sarung-poor. On the road, having encountered Mullik Hajy Ally of Guzerat, who was posted to guard a ford on the Chumbul, he attacked and completely defeated him, compelling him to seek refuge in Ahmud Shah's camp. Sooltan Mahmood, following up his success, attacked the Prince Comr Khan, whom he also defeated and slew, and eventually established himself on the throne of Malwa. At this time the plague (a disease very unusual in India*) broke out in the army of Ahmud Shah, so that many of the dead remained unburied. The King of Guzerat was, therefore, induced to quit Malwa, and to retreat to Ah-mudabad, where he eventually died, on the 4th of Rubbee-ool-Awul, in the year 847, after a reign of nearly thirty-three years.

* As this is the only instance, I believe, on record, of the disease known to Europeans by the name of the plague having made its appearance in India, notwithstanding the constant intercourse between its coasts and Egypt, I think the author from whom Ferishta quotes must be mistaken. The word is written

طاعون



MAHOMED SHAH

Espouses the daughter of the Raja of Idur — exacts tribute from the Raja of Dongurpoor — attacks the Raja of Champanere, who obtains aid from the King of Malwa. — Mahomed Shah retreats. — Invasion of Guzerat by the Malwa troops. — The pusillanimity of Mahomed Shah — flies to Diu — is poisoned by his queen at the instance of his officers.

THE Prince Mahomed, the eldest son of the late king, succeeded his father, under the appellation of Mahomed Shah, and immediately after, having marched to Idur, espoused the daughter of the Ray, to whom he restored his ancient rights in that district. Thence proceeding to Dongurpoor, he exacted tribute from the Raja, and returned to Ahmudabad.

In the year 853 he marched towards
A. H. 853. the fort of Champanere, where being
A. D. 1449. opposed by the Raja Gungadas, he defeated and compelled him to seek refuge in his capital. Gungadas, thus situated, wrote to Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy of Malwa, stipulating for the payment of a lack of tunkas of silver to his army for every march. Sooltan Mahmood, in consideration of the pecuniary subsidy, and smarting with resentment under the treatment he had experienced in the beginning of his reign from the late king of Guzerat, assented, and in the end of the same year marched towards Champanere.



Mahomed Shah, having lost many of the carriage-cattle of his army during the campaign, no sooner heard of the advance of Sooltan Mahmood than he set fire to the greater part of his heavy baggage, and commenced his retreat to Ahmudabad, in spite of the earnest remonstrances of his officers.

Some time afterwards (in the year 855),
A. H. 855.
A. D. 1451. when Sooltan Mahmood of Malwa, perceiving the timidity of the present sovereign of Guzerat, advanced with a force of one hundred thousand men, with the resolution to conquer and annex it to the kingdom of Malwa, Mahomed Shah, so far from opposing him, endeavoured to retreat to the island of Diu; but the Guzerat officers, feeling for their character, resolved to cut him off, and instigated his own wife to administer poison to him.*

Mahomed Shah reigned eight years, nine months, and four days, having obtained, during that period, the name of Kurreem, or the Merciful, an appellation to which, from his mild nature, he seems to have been entitled.

* This event, according to the Moontukhib-oot-Towareekh, occurred on the 10th of Mohurram, A. H. 855, which answers to the 12th of February, 1451.



KOOTB SHAH

Is induced to oppose the King of Malwa.— Battle of Surkech. — The King of Malwa retires. — Peace concluded. — Shams Khan, the son of Feroze Khan of Nagoor, solicits the King's aid against the Rana Komôha of Chittoor. — Reinforcements sent to Nagoor. — The King's troops defeated. — Treaty of offensive alliance against the Rana concluded between the kings of Malwa and Guzerat at Champanere. — Abao taken by the King of Guzerat — he compels the Rana to pay one thousand one hundred and seventy-six pounds weight of gold. — Death of Kootb Shah.

ON the death of Mahomed Shah he was succeeded by his son Kootb Khan, under the title of Kootb Shah. This prince was born at Nundoorbar, on the night of Monday the 8th of Jumad-oos-Sany, in the year 855, (8th of August, A.D. 1451,) and ascended the throne in the forty-ninth year of his age. The King of Malwa, Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy, in prosecution of the war, obtained possession of the town of Sooltanpoor, by gaining over the governor Mullik Alla-ood-Deen Sohrab Toork. He appointed that officer commander of his troops, and made rapid marches to the capital of Guzerat. Kootb Shah was advised by some of his courtiers to retreat to Sorut*, and allow the King of Malwa to occupy for the present the eastern provinces;

* Western Guzerat, called also Kattywar.



when it was proposed, that, after his return to Mando, Kootb Shah should attack the Malwa troops, and recover his losses. This advice was so entirely in unison with the King's feelings, that he actually suggested it to the officers of the army; who, with one voice, protested against a measure so fraught with disgrace and inevitable ruin.* They reminded the King of the deeds of his warlike grandsire and ancestors, and used every means in their power to induce him to lead his army to oppose the invader; a measure to which he reluctantly assented, and made one march towards the enemy.

Mullik Alla-ood-Deen, the Guzerat officer who had betrayed the fort of Sooltanpoor to the enemy, and who now held the high post of commander-in-chief of the Malwa army, on finding that Kootb Shah was actually on his march to resist the invasion, returned to his allegiance, and went over to his king, who received him with such marks of favour, that during one levee he bestowed upon him seven different khiluts, and conferred on him the title of Alla-ool-Moolk.

When the two armies were within six miles of each other, the Guzeratties at the village of Sur-

* The spirited conduct of the nobles on this occasion must not be mistaken for patriotism. They had each considerable landed estates for the maintenance of troops, which they must have lost in the event of the King of Malwa succeeding in subduing Guzerat. Their motives for fighting, therefore, appear quite natural; so that, although this mode of paying the army seems, in some respects, exceptionable, yet it tended greatly to promote union in cases of invasion by a foreign enemy.



kech, and the Malwites at Butwa, Sooltan Mahmood addressed some verses, conceived in taunting language, to Kootb Shah, who returned for answer that the present generation had not forgotten the conquest of Malwa by Moozuffur Shah, the capture of Sooltan Hooshung, and the restoration of his kingdom at the hands of his grandfather, Ahmud Shah.

Suffur 1. On the night of the 1st of Suffur,
A. H. 856. A. H. 856, Sooltan Mahmood mounted
Feb. 10. at dusk, with the intention of surprising
A. D. 1453. the Guzerat army, but lost his way in
the night among some ruined walls near his own
camp. Kootb Shah, hearing of his failure, ordered
out his line, and at day-break attacked the Malwa
forces, who were also by this time under arms.
In this action, the left wing of the Guzerat army
was repulsed, and fled to Ahmudabad, but the
right wing succeeded in defeating the body of
the enemy to which it was opposed. Notwith-
standing this circumstance, Sooltan Mahmood of
Malwa, although deserted by all his army except-
ing thirteen troopers, charged with this small
party as far as the royal tents of Guzerat. From
which he brought away the crown, the King's
girdle, and many other valuable jewels, to his own
camp. On his arrival, he caused a report to be
circulated, that he intended to attack the Guzerat
army again on the same night; which becoming
known to the enemy, as he intended, induced the
Guzeratties to remain on the alert. This enabled
Sooltan Mahmood, whose troops had been severely
handled, to retreat without molestation, if we ex-



cept the opposition he experienced from the Kolies and Bheels. Kootb Shah, congratulating himself sincerely on having got rid of the Malwa forces with such facility, returned to the city of Ahmudabad with his spoils, consisting, among other articles, of sixty elephants. A considerable detachment was now sent to retake Sooltanpoor; which being effected, a peace was concluded between the two sovereigns, by which it was agreed each should retain whatever places his troops now occupied; and one article enjoined the parties to wage perpetual war against Hindoos, whose destruction was solemnly agreed on.

In the year 860, Feroze Khan, the occupant of Nagoor, died, and his brother, Mujahid Khan, having expelled Shums Khan, the son of Feroze Khan, kept possession of the estate. Shums Khan immediately applied to Rana Koombho of Chittoor for aid; and as the Rana's family had long wished for an opportunity to humble the chief of Nagoor, he marched against him. The garrison, without offering resistance, agreed to receive Shums Khan; and he was formally re-instated with the understanding that he was to dilapidate part of the battlements*, in token of submission to the Rana, after which he returned. So far from doing this, however, Shums Khan improved the fortifications, and set the Rana at defiance; who, enraged at this con-

* It was usual to require refractory chiefs to allow part of the battlements of their castles to be broken, in token of submission. The act of repairing them, without permission, was the signal of rebellion.



duct, returned to Chittoor, only to collect a large force, and then marched against Nagoor. Shums Khan, unable to cope with him, left the place, under charge of one of his best officers, and proceeded to Ahmudabad to obtain reinforcements.

Kootb Shah became so well pleased with Shums Khan, that he not only required him to reside at his court, but he even married his daughter, and ordered an army, under the command of Ray Ramchundur and Mullik Gudday, to reinforce the garrison of Nagoor. These troops no sooner arrived than an action ensued with the Rana, who completely defeated the Guzeratties, and killed many brave officers and men. Kootb Shah, hearing of this disaster, marched in person; but despairing of reducing Chittoor, he proceeded in the direction of Sirohy, the Raja of which was closely connected with the Rana of Chittoor. He was opposed by the Rajpoots of Sirohy, whom he defeated, and afterwards entering the hills, he reached Koombulmere. Here the Rana attacked the Moslems, but was defeated in several engagements, and sued for peace, consenting to pay a large sum in specie, and a quantity of jewels; after which Kootb Shah returned to Ahmudabad.

On his road to Guzerat he was met by Taj Khan, an ambassador from the court of Malwa, who had been sent to propose an offensive alliance against Rana Koombho of Chittoor, whose country it was agreed should be divided between the allies. All the towns to the southward, and lying contiguous to Guzerat, were to be attached to the kingdom of Kootb Shah, while the districts of



Mewar* and Aheerwara should be reduced and retained by the Malwa forces. This treaty was solemnly signed by the respective envoys at the town of Champanere, in the latter end of the year 860.

A. H. 860.

A. D. 1456.

On the following year, pursuant to the treaty of Champanere, Kootb Shah marched towards Chittoor, and on the road stormed and carried the fortress of Aboo, where having left a garrison, he pursued his march. At the same time Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy also commenced his attack on the side of Malwa. The Rana was desirous of opposing the Malwa army first; but Kootb Shah's approaches were so rapid, that he reached Sirohy, and entered the hills, compelling the Rana to come to a general action, in which the Rajpoot army was entirely defeated. Kootb Shah followed up his success, and shortly after brought the Rana again to action: he was defeated a second time, and fled to the hills, whence he deputed an ambassador, and purchased the retreat of the King of Guzerat by the payment of fourteen maunds† weight of solid gold, and two elephants which conveyed the treasure. A seasonable donation was at the same time made to Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy, who was also induced to retreat to Malwa.

* The entire dominions of the Rana constitute according to Colonel Tod, Méwar, or properly Med-war, the midland or central region of India.

† A maund of Chittoor is equal to eighty-four pounds: the whole amount would weigh one thousand one hundred and seventy-six pounds.



On the following year, 862, the Rana
A. H. 862. broke the treaty, and marched to attack
A. D. 1458. Nagoor with fifty thousand horse and
foot; intimation of which the governor immediately
despatched by a messenger to the King at Ahmud-
abad. Kootb Shah was at the time engaged in a
course of debauchery, from which he could not be
recalled; notwithstanding which, the prime mi-
nister, Imad-ool-Moolk, collecting part of the army,
made one march from the capital, but was obliged
to halt for a whole month, before the equipments
could be prepared. The Rana, hearing that the
troops had actually moved, retired to Chittoor;
and the King returning to Ahmudabad, continued
to spend his time in licentious excess.

In the latter end of the same year he marched
to Sirohy; the Raja of which place being related
to Rana Koombho, and apprehensive of the Maho-
medan arms, fled to the hills of Koombulmere,
while the Guzeratties laid waste his country;
a simultaneous movement was also made by the
Malwa forces against Chittoor. Kootb Shah
having pursued the Rana to the fort of Koombul-
mere, found that he was unable to take it, and
contented himself, therefore, after plundering the
country, with retreating to Ahmudabad. Shortly
after his return to which city, he was taken dan-
gerously ill, and died on the 23d of Ru-
Rujub 23. jub, 863. He was buried in the vault of
A. H. 863. May 25. Mahomed Shah. It was generally be-
A. D. 1459. lieved at the time of his death that the
King had been poisoned by Shums Khan of Nagoor,
whose daughter he had married; and that chief



suffered death in consequence, but it was afterwards proved he was perfectly innocent.* Kootb Shah is entitled Ghazy (the Champion of the Faith), and reigned seven years and seven months, during which period many scenes of the most wanton cruelty took place. He was of a violent and capricious temper, and of a sanguinary disposition, often putting to death, without the slightest cause, some of his most confidential servants and favourites, who usually suffered during the time of his disgraceful debauches.

* The author of the *Moontukhib-oot-Towareekh* says, that Kootb Shah's mother, suspecting the Queen, her son's wife, made her over to the vengeance of her eunuchs, who literally tore her in pieces.



DAWOOD SHAH:

He succeeds to the throne of his nephew — ennobles persons of low birth — is deposed by his courtiers.

AFTER the death of Kootb Shah, his uncle Dawood, at the instance of Imad-ool-Moolk and the rest of the nobility, was elevated to the throne; but shortly after his accession, he ennobled one of the common sweepers of the household, and conferred on him the title of Imad-ool-Moolk. This and other acts of imbecility induced the same nobles who raised him to power to depose him on the seventh day, and to place his nephew Mahmood, a youth of only fourteen years of age, on the throne of his elder brother.



MAHMOOD SHAH I.

ENTITLED BEGURRA.

A conspiracy threatens to subvert the throne, but is suppressed by the great vigour displayed by the King—he makes two campaigns to the Deccan to assist Nizam Shah Bahmany against the King of Malwa—marches into the province of Sorut—reduces Gírnál—makes an inroad through Kutch as far as the Indus—builds Moostufabad in Sorut—reduces Champanere—builds the town of Mahomedabad—constructs the city wall of Ahmudabad—proceeds to Dowlutabad in the Deccan.—Arrival of the Turkish fleet from the Red Sea at Diu—it is joined by the Guzerat fleet, and they proceed to attack the Portuguese.—Battle of Choul, in which both parties suffer severely, and each claims the victory.—Death of Mahmood Shah Begurra.

SHORTLY after the accession of Mahmood Shah, the affairs of the state, which had been so much neglected during the reign of Kootb Shah, began to assume a form of regularity. Five or six months after, however, four nobles, who held small governments at a distance from the capital, jealous of the increasing influence of the minister, Imad-ool-Moolk, formed a conspiracy against him, and insisted on his removal; they even went so far as to threaten, if he were not instantly disgraced, to dethrone the present king, and to place his younger brother Hoossein on the musnud. The names of these officers were, —



Boorhan-ool-Moolk,
Azd-ool-Moolk,
Hissam-ool-Moolk,
Suffy-ool-Moolk.

In the history of Nizam-ood-Deen Ahmud it is related that these officers represented to Mahmood Shah that Imad-ool-Moolk projected to dethrone him, and intended to place the crown on the head of his own son, Shahab-ood-Deen. Notwithstanding the nature of this accusation, so likely to poison the mind of this young prince, he had sufficient discretion to see the matter in its true light, and at the same time too much prudence openly to avow his sentiments. He, therefore, dissembled his feelings, and determined to avail himself of the first favourable opportunity to expose the accusers. In the first place, he caused Imad-ool-Moolk to be confined in chains, thanked the informers for their loyalty and attachment, and assured them, that he would punish the traitor by putting him to death with his own hands.

This conduct, while it elated the four conspirators with hopes of placing the Prince Hoossein on the throne, lulled them into security from any apprehension of a discovery of their plot.

On the following day the King having taken his measures, ordered the accused minister to be conveyed into the palace-yard, opposite the hall of audience. Upon his arrival, he desired him to be brought into his presence, in order that he might put some questions to him before his death, when he suddenly caused his fetters to be removed.



Some of the conspirators observing this, and concluding they were discovered, threw themselves from the palace, on the pavement below, while others falling on their faces prostrated themselves at the King's feet, and begged his mercy. In order that the triumph of the minister over his enemies might be complete, the King allowed him to stand on the right hand of the throne, where he received the congratulations of the court.

X Hajy Mahomed Kandahary relates, that when the four conspirators heard of the enlargement of Imad-ool-Moolk they proceeded with a body of thirty thousand men towards the palace, where the King remained with three hundred attendants only. On this occasion, some resolved to shut the palace-gates, and defend themselves behind the walls; while others proposed to collect the crown jewels, and make their escape. Mahmood Shah, however, in spite of the inequality of numbers, and though merely a boy, slung his quiver at his back, and with a bow in his hand sallied forth, attended only by three hundred horsemen, and accompanied by all the royal elephants, which did not amount to two hundred. On quitting the palace, he caused the approaches leading to it to be occupied by elephants, proceeding himself through the main street in slow procession, with the royal music playing before him. By this coolness and intrepidity, several of his nobles were enabled to join him; and in a short time they formed a very considerable force, though infinitely inferior to that of the insurgents.

X The rebel troops having no room to oppose a



large front dispersed among the streets, and plundered the inhabitants; while the conspirators themselves, being in a very short time deserted, fled, and were pursued. Boorhan-ool-Moolk, being of an unwieldy bulk, threw himself for temporary safety into a ditch which runs into the Saburmatty, in the village of Surkech, where he was taken, and, by the King's orders, trod to death by elephants. Azd-ool-Moolk fled among the Girasias, who, recognising him to be the same person that had on a former occasion plundered them, put him to death. Hissam-ool-Moolk took refuge with his brother Rookn-ood-Deen, the chief magistrate of Puttun, from whence both fled to Malwa; and Suffy-ool-Moolk was taken prisoner; but, as he was not considered so guilty as his confederates, the King spared his life, causing him to be confined in the fort of Diù, where he died. Order being restored, Imad-ool-Moolk requested permission to resign the seals of office, and spend the rest of his days in retirement and devotion; and the King (to convince the world of his attachment to his old minister) appointed his son, Shahab-ood-Deen, to his situation, with the title of Mullik Ashruf.

In the year 866, Ahmud Nizam Shah
A. H. 866. Bahmuny of the Deccan, attacked on
A. D. 1462. all sides by his enemies, particularly by Sooltan Mahmood of Malwa, who had marched towards his capital, solicited the aid of Mahmood Shah. The King no sooner received this communication than he determined immediately to march to his assistance; but his officers and nobles recommended that he should send an army, and



himself remain at home, in order to provide against any contingences which might occur during his absence. With an ardent disposition, and ambitious of glory, he could not be averted from his resolution; and he assumed command of the army in person, consisting of a large body of cavalry and infantry, besides five hundred elephants. With this force he marched to Nundoorbar, where he was joined by Khwaja Jehan of Gavulgur, and proceeded to make a diversion by attacking the territory of the King of Malwa. This circumstance compelled Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy to retreat from Ahmudabad Bidur, to which place he had penetrated, in order to return and protect his own country; but the passes on his direct route being occupied, he was reduced to the alternative of marching by Elichpoor, from whence, penetrating through the Gondwana woods, he arrived in Malwa.* Such was the end of this campaign.

In the following year, Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy renewed his attack on the Deccan; and the King of Guzerat, at the entreaties of Ahmud Nizam Shah Bahmuny, marched to his relief, but did not arrive in sufficient time to prevent Sooltan Mahmood laying waste all the fertile country in the vicinity of Dowlutabad, and carrying off many prisoners. The King of the Deccan on this occasion paid a large sum for the assistance of the Guzerat troops to Mahmood Shah, who, on returning to Ahmudabad, addressed a letter of remonstrance to Sooltan Mah-

* The Moontukhib-oot-Towareekh states, that Sooltan Mahmood of Malwa lost one thousand men, who perished by thirst in this retreat.



mood Khiljy to this effect :—“ It is surely far from
“ the principles of the faith for you to wage war
“ with true believers. On the other hand, it is as
“ discreditable to refuse to meet your enemy in the
“ field. Desist, therefore, from these invasions, or
“ you may rely on it that the moment you commence
“ your march again towards the Deccan, we will
“ make a predatory incursion into Malwa.” This
letter was answered by a promise of refraining in
future from any other invasion of the Deccan.

Two years afterwards (869), Mahmood
A. H. 869.
A. D. 1465.

Shah marched with a large army towards
Bavur, an extraordinary hill-fort, con-
sidered impregnable by the inhabitants. From
thence he proceeded to Doora* and Purnalla,
places situated between Concan† and Guzerat, and
defeated the infidels in several actions; and the
Raja was obliged to give up his forts, and to throw
himself on the mercy of the Mahomedan con-
queror, who, after having obtained from him a
large sum of money, restored his country into his
hands.

As an instance of the impartial justice of
Mahmood Shah it is related, that in the year
870, while on a hunting party near Ah-
A. H. 870.
A. D. 1466.

mudnuggur, Baha-ool-Moolk, the son of
Aluf Khan, one of his principal nobles,
in a fit of passion put to death a trooper, and for

* Probably Durampoor.

† The country lying below the western range of mountains of
the peninsula of India north of Goa is denominated Concan,
and is divided into northern and southern Concan by the Pan-
well river, which disembogues into the harbour of Bombay.



fear of being taken fled to Idur. The King immediately sent Mullik Hajy and Imad-ool-Moolk, two of the secretaries of the government, to seize him; but they, in order to screen the real murderer, on account of his rank, gave a sum of money to two of Baha-ool-Moolk's servants, to acknowledge that they perpetrated the deed; and the secretaries promised to save their lives, by using their influence with the King. These unfortunate men, allured by the largeness of the bribe, and relying on the fair promises of the two officers, avowed the commission of the crime, and being delivered over to the court of justice, were tried, condemned, and executed. Sometime after, when the King discovered the real state of the case, he caused the heads of the secretaries to be struck off, notwithstanding they were men of noble family, and in high favour at the time. After their execution their skins were stuffed with straw, and hung over the gates of the town, as public examples, to the rest of the nobles of the court.

The author of the history of Mahmood Shah relates, that in the year 872 the King
A. H. 872.
A. D. 1468. saw the holy Prophet (Mahomed) in a dream, who presented before him a magnificent banquet of the most delicate viands. This dream was interpreted by the wise men as a sign that he would soon accomplish a conquest by which he would obtain great treasures; which prediction was soon after verified in the capture of Giral.

In the year 873, Mahmood Shah
A. H. 873.
A. D. 1469. marched towards the country of Giral, the capital of which bears the same



name. This place is situated on a mountain, on which is constructed the strongest fortress in that part of India. Its reduction had been frequently in the contemplation of the kings both of Dehly and Guzerat, but they had not yet been able to effect it, and many of the ancient rajas of India had in vain attempted to seize that formidable fortification. The accomplishment of this object was reserved for Mahmood Shab Begurra. The mountain on which the fortress stands is surrounded by lower hills situated at some distance, and ravines and broken ground surround its approaches on all sides, which lead through narrow defiles. One of these, the Dumodry G'hat, has a strong outwork at the entrance, called at the present day Joonagur. There are, besides, two other works, called Mohabilla. Nearly nineteen hundred years had elapsed since this fortress first came into possession of the family of Mandulik* Raja, who

* This is the first time that Ferishta speaks of a Mandulik raja. The title implies Petty Chieftain, and it is generally supposed they were originally Hindoo military chiefs, frequently near relatives of the superior king, entitled Sarwabhoom, "Lords of the whole Country." As the power of the Sarwabhooms declined, or passed into other hands, the Mandulik rajas became independent. They have the same description of authority as *dessayes*, *natgowrs*, *reddyvars*, *zemindars*, and *poligars*, so called in different parts of India; under which appellations they have, at various times, become known to the British government. Viewed abstractedly, they are the officers of some greater state; but circumstances frequently render them entitled to be treated as independent princes. The *Moontukhib-oot-Towareekh* gives this petty prince the name of Humbur Ray.

held it when Mahmood Shah marched to attack it ; and excepting Mahomed Toghluk and Ahmud Shah of Guzerat, no foreign prince had penetrated into that country.

Mahmood Shah, relying on the interpretation of his dream, marched towards Giral with perfect confidence of reducing it to his subjection. On his arrival within eighty miles, he detached a force of one thousand seven hundred men, under his uncle Toghluk Khan, in advance ; and presenting every man of the party with a dirk in a scabbard mounted with gold, ordered that the works called Mohabilla should be occupied at all hazards before his arrival. As the approach of this force was unexpected, the Rajpoots, who bear the name of Row, and who were intrusted with the charge of the post, were attacked by surprise, and cut off.

Mahmood Shah with the main body following soon after, passed the defile without opposition. The Ray of Giral, hearing of the occupation of the Mohabilla post, descended from the hill-fort, and attacked Toghluk Khan, and might have repulsed him, but for the arrival of the King with the main body, when the Ray sustained a total defeat, being himself severely wounded. The victorious army, without attacking the fort of Giral, destroyed all the temples in the vicinity ; and the King sending out foraging parties procured abundance of provisions for the camp. The Ray, rather than sustain a siege, purchased a cessation of hostilities by present submission, and by the payment of a large amount in jewels and in specie ; after which, the army returned to Ahmudabad.



In the year 874, the King, who only
A.H. 874. wanted some excuse to invade Gernal a
A.D. 1470. second time, urged, as a cause of complaint against the Raja, his habit of assuming the ensigns of royalty. He, therefore, ordered an army of forty thousand horse to march to Gernal, and to exact a fine from him on this account. The Ray, who was neither able nor willing to oppose the Mahomedan arms, paid the sum required; and Nizam-ood-Deen Ahmud states in his history, that Mahmood Shah distributed the money produced by this expedition, in one night, amongst a set of female dancers.

About this period a curious incident occurred, and the anecdote will serve to illustrate the character of Mahmood. He was engaged on a hunting excursion, when a *must* elephant, running towards him, attacked that on which the King was seated. All the rest of the party instantly took to flight, and the King was left alone. The circumstance by no means disconcerted him; but with a presence of mind which never deserted him, he received the animal with undaunted bravery, and with a spear assisted his own elephant and driver in such a manner, that the infuriated beast became so severely wounded as to give up the contest and fly.

In the latter end of the year 874, the King again marched by way of Sorut to Gernal. The Ray declared his willingness to pay any sum of money he could produce, to protect his subjects from the oppression and horrors of war. Mahmood insisted on his abdicating the throne and government in his favour. The Ray made no answer, but



shut himself up in the fort of Joonagur, to which the King laid siege. Shortly after, having evacuated Joonagur, in the beginning of the year 875, the Raja again retired to Giral; but seeing no end to his misfortunes, he at length consented to become a proselyte to the Mahomedan faith, when he was dignified with the title of Khan Jehan; and his descendants have ever since occupied one of the most respectable stations at the Guzerat court. The author of the *Mirut-Iskundry* relates the circumstance of the conversion of the Ray of Giral in the following words:—

“The Mandulik Raja,” says that author, “being taken prisoner, was sent to Ahmudabad. One day, perceiving a grand procession going towards the residence of the holy Shah Alum at Russoolabad, the Ray enquired who Shah Alum was, and in whose service. He was told that this holy person acknowledged no master, but the Supreme Being. Struck with admiration at the reply, he resolved to visit him, and was afterwards persuaded by him to become a proselyte to the faith.”

The King, being desirous that the tenets of Islam should be propagated throughout the country of Giral, caused a city to be built, which he called Moostufabad, for the purpose of establishing an honourable residence for the venerable personages of the Mahomedan religion deputed to disseminate its principles; Mahmood Shah also took up his residence in that city. Having by this measure withdrawn his court into a corner of the kingdom, the greater part of his dominions was left to the



bad management of his officers, who during his absence neglected their duty, the evil effects of which soon became apparent. The public roads were so infested by robbers, that it was dangerous for single travellers, or small parties, to pass to and fro in Guzerat, so that the King found it necessary to establish a more active police. Accordingly Jumal Khan, the son of Sheikh Mullik, ennobled with the title of Mohafiz Khan, was appointed to this duty, with orders to reside at Ahmudabad, and he was authorised to increase the police establishment. In a short time, five hundred thieves were publicly executed; and some idea may be formed of the number of the police retainers when it is known, that Mohafiz Khan had, at one time, in attendance one thousand seven hundred bargeer-i-khass, or persons equipped by him, and riding his own stable horses. His power was, in fact, so little within control, that his son Mullik Khizr, in the absence of the King, marched without orders, and obliged the rays of Idur, Wagur, and Serohy, to pay him tribute.

The King, who was still at Moostufabad superintending the building of the new city, now heard that the inhabitants of Kutch, far removed from Dehly, had long thrown off all allegiance from that government. This people having but little to subsist on, were in the habit of plundering their neighbours, and had lately invaded Guzerat. Mahmood Shah, who only wanted an object to excite him to action, readily seized this opportunity of gratifying his ambition, enriching himself, and of propagating the faith. Accordingly, in the



A. H. 877.

A. D. 1472.

year 877, he proceeded towards Kutch, and by forced marches came suddenly upon the enemy's encampment at Sheevur with only three hundred cavalry, the rest of his troops having been left behind during a march of sixty coss * without a halt. The Kutchies consisted of four thousand archers, who drew up in good order. Mahmood Shah dismounted to put on his armour, and with his small party charged the enemy, which, notwithstanding the disparity of numbers, was (by the assistance of God) defeated, and numbers of them slain; after which, the remainder came forward with their weapons slung round their necks, to implore mercy. Mahmood Shah, wishing to ascertain if they had any knowledge of the principles of the true faith, questioned them as to their religion. They replied, they were men of the desert, without teachers: they knew there was a sky, earth, and water, and fire; that they had no wants but the necessary articles of food; but begged his Majesty to send teachers among them, in order that they might become true Mahomedans. †† The Kutchies are a large, tall, robust race, extremely active, and notoriously good archers. Many of the chiefs of the tribe accompanied the King on his return to Moos-tufabad, where they imbibed the true principles of the faith; after which, a constant intercourse was kept up between that city and these people.

* According to ordinary computation, not much less than ninety miles.

† It would appear from the original that the Kutchies were, at this time, Mahomedans. They are no longer so.



From them the King learned, that beyond the country of Sheevur, in the province called Sind, were four thousand inhabitants of the Jutt and Buloch tribes, who also excelled in the use of the bow to that degree, that it was said of them that they could split a hair with an arrow. These Bulochies, as well as their neighbours the Bulochies of Persia, are of the Sheea persuasion, and live by depredations, sometimes penetrating as far as the Guzerat provinces.

In the end of the same year, Mahmood Shah marched towards Sind. On arriving at Sheevur, he selected a detachment of one thousand cavalry, each trooper leading a second horse with a week's provender; and by making forced marches across the desert, he reached the frontier of that country. On the evening of his arrival he halted, in order that his men and horses might be effective on the following day, when he attacked the enemy's camp. This delay, however, enabled some persons who were tending their camels to give intimation of this sudden inroad, so that many of the Bulochies made their escape in consequence, and the King found the tents deserted, except by a few persons who had concealed themselves. These were dragged out on being discovered by the soldiery, and put to death; and their camp was delivered up to plunder; after which the King retreated to ~~Moostufabad~~, having penetrated on this occasion as far as the Indus. "

Mahmood Shah's next effort was against the port of Jugut, with a view of making converts of the infidels, an object from which he had been

hitherto deterred by the reports he received of the approaches to it. The cause of making the attempt at this time arose from the capture of Mowlana Mahmood Samarkandy by the people of Jugut. This holy man was one of the most learned philosophers of his age. He had spent the greater part of his life in the service of the Bahmuny kings, and being in the decline of life was returning to his native country. Having embarked in a vessel bound to Ormuz, it was driven into the port of Jugut, where the inhabitants, at the instigation of the bramins, boarded the ship, and having taken the Mowlana and family prisoners, plundered him of all he possessed, permitting him with his two children to go, but detaining his wife.* The holy man brought his complaint to Mahmood Shah at Moostufabad; stating that his wife had been seized and detained by Raja Bheem of Jugut; and he persuaded the King that he was bound in duty to attack these infidels, who had thus dared to lay hands on the faithful. Mahmood Shah, having harangued his army, stated the necessity of making another campaign against the infidels of Jugut, to which, although the troops had been sadly harassed during the last three or four years, by severe marches, they cheerfully consented.

The King, after an arduous march, at length arrived before the fort of Jugut, a place filled

* The pirates of Jugut and Béte have been notorious for many ages, and they are little less infamous, I fear, in the present day than they were several centuries ago. Local circumstances account for their propensity and for their success.



with infidels, misled by the infernal-minded brahmins. They were terrified at the appearance of the Mahomedans, and fled in confusion to the island of Béte. The spot on which the King encamped was full of wild beasts, such as lions, leopards, and wolves. Snakes, also, were so numerous, that within the enclosure occupied by the royal tents no fewer than seventy* were killed in one day. The army was employed in destroying the temple at Jugut, and in building a mosque in its stead; while measures, which occupied three or four months in completing, were in progress for equipping a fleet to attack the island of Béte. During this time the enemy attacked the King's flotilla on twenty-two different occasions. At length the Mahomedans reached the island, and landed, and having got into the town, put to death a vast number of Rajpoots. Raja Bheem effected his escape in a small boat during the attack, though he was overtaken and made prisoner by some vessels sent in chase; and being put in fetters was carried in the train of the King to Moostufabad, where he was delivered over to the holy man on whose account the war had been undertaken, to

* This number of venomous reptiles being killed within an area of two or three acres may appear to the European reader incredible; but it will not surprise those persons who have had occasion to move about much in Asia, and may be thus accounted for: When the royal tents, occupying an area of two or three acres of land, are pitched, and the spot enclosed by screens, the whole superficies is levelled, and rendered smooth to walk on: in doing this, snakes' nests are frequently turned up, and vast numbers of those venomous reptiles are disturbed.



whom also his wife and property were restored. The Raja was, subsequently, at the instigation of Mowlana Mahmood, dragged around the city of Ahmudabad, and put to death, in order to deter others from similar conduct.

Mahmood Shah, conceiving his dominions too extensive for his own immediate management, divided Guzerat into separate provinces, appointing governors to each, himself residing at Moostufabad.

Béte and Jugut, — Furhut-ool-Moolk,
Songier, — Imad-ool-Moolk,
Godra, — Kowam-ool-Moolk,
Tanna, — Nizam-ool-Moolk,
Ahmudabad, — Khoodabunda Khan.

The latter individual was the preceptor of the Prince Moozuffur Khan.

A short time after this arrangement took place, Khoodabunda Khan, in conjunction with Ray Rayan, and some other officers, concerted a plan to dethrone Mahmood, and to place his son, the Prince Moozuffur, on his throne, and proposed taking advantage of the Rumzan fast to carry their project into effect. Among others to whom they communicated their plan was Imad-ool-Moolk, governor of Songier, whom they swore to secrecy. The force which he commanded being at that time at the seat of his government, he had not the power, even had he wished it, to oppose the conspirators; he therefore pretended to enter into their project, and in the mean time sent messengers to order his troops to Ahmudabad.



On the last day of the Rumzan*, Imad-ool-Moolk went to the Prince's court, accompanied by his troops, and attended him, as usual, to read prayers at the Eedgah, and he returned without making any attempt to place him on the throne, as was expected. The conspirators, though disappointed, were overawed by the force of Imad-ool-Moolk, and looked on the plot as having failed. In the mean time, Keisur Khan, an officer of the household, mentioned the affair privately to the King, who proceeded forthwith to Gogo, and embarking in a vessel sailed to Cambay. On his arrival there, he was met by most of the confederates, who came to welcome him. On the first court-day, in order to discover how they were disposed towards him, he addressed his courtiers, saying, that as his son Moozuffur had now arrived at years of discretion, and as he understood that some of the nobles looked up to the Prince in preference to him, he had come to the resolution of abdicating the throne in the Prince's favour, and proceeding to Mecca to pay his devotions at the holy shrine. Imad-ool-Moolk of Songier entreated the King, in the first place, to proceed to Ahmudabad. This observation from Imad-ool-Moolk at once convinced

* The month of Rumzan is kept as a fast throughout all Mahomedan countries. On the last day of which, the whole of the people proceed to a building erected for the purpose, and say their prayers. This spot is called the Eedgah, "the Place of Rejoicing," after the month's mourning and fasting. The edifice consists of a stone platform, on one side of which is built a single wall several feet high, facing Mecca.



him that he had nothing to apprehend from that quarter, he therefore marched to Ahmudabad, declaring, that, after his arrival, he would not eat till the nobles consented to his visiting Mecca. The chiefs, having by this time discovered that the King only wanted to try their fidelity, forbore to urge him; and Nizam-ool-Moolk recommended him to proceed and subdue the fort of Champanere, from the plunder of which the expenses of the pilgrimage might be defrayed. The King replied, "God willing, let it be even so." For some days after he avoided conversing with Imad-ool-Moolk, whom he knew to be loyal; but although acquainted with the whole plot, he had yet communicated nothing to the King. An explanation, however, at length took place, when the King disgraced the minister Khoodabunda Khan, and caused the person employed in the meanest office of his household to be called by his name, in order to show that the minister was worthy of no higher station. Mahmood Shah, after remaining for some time at Ahmudabad, proceeded to Puttun, from whence he deputed Imad-ool-Moolk and Keisur Khan to levy tribute on the rajas of Julwara and Aboogur. During the first march, while encamped at the shrine of Sheikh Hajy, Mujahid Khan, the son of the late degraded minister, took the opportunity of revenging himself on Keisur Khan, who had given the first information of his father's defection, and entering his tent at night, put that nobleman to death. The King's suspicions of the murder fell first on Ajdur Khan, who was known to be hostile to Keisur Khan, and he was



placed in fetters; but the real murderer and his accomplices having fled from camp the next night, the King caused Khoodabunda Khan to be imprisoned, and Ajdur Khan to be released. The King now returned to Ahmudabad, and then proceeded to Moostufabad, where he remained for some years. In the year 887, A. H. 887. he prepared an army to move towards A. D. 1482. Champanere; but about that period, hearing that the Bulsar pirates had gained such an ascendancy at sea as to threaten the invasion of his dominions, and had already intercepted the trade, he collected a fleet, on board of which he embarked a force consisting of gunners, musketeers*, and archers, with which he sailed from Cambay. After some days the fleet fell in with the enemy and gave chase: a running fight was sustained for some hours, during which several of the piratical vessels were captured. The fleet returned to Cambay, and the King repaired to Ahmudabad.

During this year, in consequence of an unusual drought, famine prevailed in Guzerat, of which Zeekad 1. many thousands of the inhabitants perished. On the 1st of Zeekad, the King A. H. 887. commenced his preparations for marching Dec. 3. against Champanere. This fortress †, A. D. 1482.

* This is the first mention of artillery and musketry in the Guzerat history. They were probably introduced by the Arabs and Turks from the Red Sea and Gulf of Persia.

† It is now called Pawrungur, or the Stormy Rock, owing, it is said, to the violent winds which prevail on its summit. The appellation may be modern, but it seems to have superseded that of the Mahomedan historian.



situate on a high hill, was surrounded by strong works of solid masonry, and was in possession of Beny Ray, a chief of the Rajpoot tribe. It is so ancient that no tradition even exists of the time of its foundation. The princes of Champanere had possessed the government from time immemorial; and sixty thousand Rajpoots formed the army of the Raja, who were devoted to his person with an enthusiastic attachment. It is by no means, therefore, to be wondered at, that this fort had not yet been subdued, or that its rulers had never bent their necks to the Mahomedan yoke.*

When the Ray heard of the determination of Mahmood Shah, he began to lay waste the country contiguous to Rusoolabad, and put to death many of the faithful. On the King's arrival at Baroda, repenting of his conduct, the Ray sent ambassadors to solicit forgiveness; but Mahmood Shah, enraged at the devastation committed on Rusoolabad, refused to listen to any accommodation.

It was in the beginning of the year 888
A. H. 888. before all the preparations were ready,
A. D. 1483. that Taj Khan, Beiram Khan, Etibar
Khan, and Azd-ool-Moolk, were sent in advance,
Suffur 7. and arrived at the foot of the hill on the
A. H. 888. 7th of Suffur, A. H. 888. After this the
March 17. enemy repeatedly attacked these troops
A. D. 1483. without much effect, till at length the
King having reached the fort, he encamped at

* The Raja of Champanere was a Chowhan by descent, of the tribe of Keechy, and nearly allied to the head of the family who then occupied Gagrone as his capital; but on being dispossessed by the race of Hara, he built the fort of Ragoghur-Tod.



Girnary on the Malwa road. Beny Ray deputed ambassadors, offering to pay two elephant loads of gold if Mahmood Shah would desist from his purpose; but finding neither his entreaties nor offers of any avail, he collected his troops, consisting of sixty thousand men, beside the auxiliaries furnished by the neighbouring rajas. With these troops the Rajpoots made frequent attacks on the besiegers; till at length they compelled them to raise the siege; and the Raja drew up his army to engage the King, who now appeared at the head of his forces. The action which ensued was sanguinary, and obstinately contested on both sides; and the Hindoos, though repulsed, retreated in good order, with a compact body of twelve thousand men. The King having followed the enemy to the foot of the hill-fort, renewed his disposition for the prosecution of the siege, and returned in person to Girnary. Shortly after, a convoy of provisions and stores, under Syud Mudun Lung, was attacked by the Rajpoots, and the whole convoy seized. In consequence of this, the King repaired to the camp, and superintended in person the operations of the siege, both in constructing the trenches and carrying on mines. The flower of the Rajpoot army had been destroyed in the late action; and the Raja, beginning to despair of saving his capital, or of appeasing Mahmood's rage, sent his minister Shew Ray to Mando, promising Sooltan Gheiasood-Deen Khiljy of Malwa to pay him a lack of tunkas of silver for every march he should make in coming to his assistance. Gheiasood-Deen assembled his army for this purpose at the town



of Nalcha; when Mahmood Shah, leaving orders for the continuation of the siege, marched to attack him. On arriving at D'har, Mahmood Shah heard that Sooltan Gheias-ood-Deen, on being reproached by his nobles and officers for entertaining an intention of marching to the assistance of an infidel, had disbanded his army and returned to Mando. Mahmood Shah, in consequence, countermarched to Champanere, and caused a mosque to be built in the lines, in order to convince his troops that it was his resolution not to desist from the siege of the fort till it was reduced. The mines were now carried on with increased exertion, and the approaches brought within a short distance, so much so that the besiegers discovered that the Rajpoots left the place through a sally-port every morning in order to perform their ablutions. The King, taking advantage of this circumstance, ordered a party on the morning of the 2d Zeekad 2. of Zeekad, A. H. 889, to be close to A. H. 889. the walls at daylight; and as the besieged Nov. 17. the walls at daylight; and as the besieged A. D. 1484. quitted them, many of the Mahomedans rushed into the place, and penetrated as far as the second gate, while Mullik Eliaz Sooltany*, with a small party, escalated the western wall, where a breach had been made a few days before by one of the batteries, and got possession of the main gate. The Rajpoots seeing no chance of escape, and finding that the King rejected all overtures for surrender, made a funeral pile within the walls, and having brought their property, their wives, and their children, set fire to it, and con-

* This is the celebrated admiral who engaged the Portuguese fleet off Choul, and who commanded for many years at Diu.



sumed them to ashes ; after which, they resolutely awaited the storm. Meanwhile they made every effort to expel Mullik Eiaz Sooltany from the position he had gained ; but a shell * falling on the palace of the Raja, it was deemed unlucky. Mahmood Shah, who was ready in the lines, sent more troops to support Mullik Eiaz, who opened the gates, and admitted the Mahomedans. With this reinforcement the King arrived in person ; and having planted the colours on the works, obtained entire possession of the ramparts. The Hindoos, thus situated, collected in a body, and running to some water near the spot, bathed, with their naked swords and spears in their hands, and then rushed on the Mahomedans. The Rajpoots were for the most part killed in this assault, though the victors also suffered severely, both in killed and wounded. The Raja Beny Ray, and his prime minister Don-gursy, were both wounded, and fell into the hands of the King's troops.

After this victory, Mahmood Shah caused public prayers to be read, and directed the wounds of the prisoners to be attended to. Having sent for Beny Ray, he asked him what could induce him to hold out so long, before so large a force. The Ray replied, with undaunted firmness, " I hold this territory by hereditary right, and being descended from a line of noble ancestors, have been taught to respect that name which they handed down to me. I

* The word is *hooka*. The use of shells at this early period is remarkable, although it is mentioned that the Moslems employed *grenadoes* in their ships at the time the Portuguese reached India.

MAHMOOD SHAH I.

“determined, therefore, not to act in a way so as
“to disgrace my family.” Mahmood, admiring this
spirited and manly conduct, ordered every attention
to be paid to the Raja’s wants and comforts.

During the time the King was detained by his
sick and wounded at Champanere, he laid the
foundation of the city of Mahmoodabad, and also
of a beautiful mosque, in which was a pulpit with
this sentence inscribed upon it, commemorating
the date of its completion : —

نقطه و منبر

“Prayers and the pulpit.”

Beny Ray having recovered from his wounds,
the King used every effort to persuade both him
and his minister to embrace the Mahomedan faith.
They, however, persisted in refusing, swearing that
they preferred death to abjuring their religion.
Mahmood Shah was in hopes of shaking their con-
stancy by confining them separately, and treating
them harshly. This conduct only tended to support
their resolution, till at length the King, at the
instigation of some holy men about his person,
ordered them to be put to death.

At this period, he caused the city of Ahmudabad
to be surrounded by a wall and bastions; and on its
completion had the following sentence, commemo-
rative of the date of that event, inscribed on one
face of the fortification : —

مَنْ دَخَلَ كَانَ آمِنًا

“Whosoever is within is safe.”



In the year 892, some merchants
A. H. 892. travelling from Dehly with horses for
A. D. 1486. Guzerat were plundered in passing the
territories of a Hindoo chief.* The King im-
mediately sent a person to demand restitution of
the property; and such was the awe Mahmood
Shah had inspired, that the merchants were not
only well reimbursed, but the messenger was
handsomely entertained, and magnificent pre-
sents sent back with him to the King.

A. H. 900. In the year 900, one Bahadur Geelany,
A. D. 1494. an officer of the Deccan government,
having revolted from his master, collected a force
consisting of from ten to twelve thousand men, and
also a fleet, with which he not only seized on the
ports of Goa and Dabul, but went so far as to lay
hands on some Guzerat vessels trading along the
coast. He afterwards landed, and took possession
of the island of Mahim†, giving up the town to
plunder. On information of this event, the ad-
miral, Sufdur-ool-Moolk, was sent to Mahim by
sea, and Kowam-ool-Moolk marched with a force
by land. The fleet experienced a heavy gale
off the port, in which most of the vessels were
stranded; on which occasion the enemy came
down to the beach, and massacred the crews as
they were washed ashore. The admiral himself
was taken prisoner, and all the fleet fell into the
enemy's hands. Kowam-ool-Moolk hearing of this
disaster, on his arrival near Mahim, sent a mes-

* The name and country of this chief is omitted in the original.

† Bombay.

senger to the King, and halted till further orders. Mahmood Shah now deputed an envoy to the King of the Deccan, complaining of the outrage committed by Bahadur Geelany; and that monarch marching against the rebel (notwithstanding a disaffection of the nobles of his court), seized* his person, and caused him to be executed; and Sufdur-ool-Moolk, the Guzerat admiral, was released from prison, and the fleet of the late Bahadur Geelany, which fell into the hands of the King of the Deccan, was delivered over to the admiral's charge. After the necessary equipments, Sufdur-ool-Moolk sailed from Mahim to the northward, taking with him some valuable presents from the King of the Deccan, and also a letter, requesting the interference of Mahmood Shah with the officers of his army, and the nobles of his court, who were in a state of actual revolt. Mahmood Shah, perceiving that matters had gone too far to be enabled to render him any aid, declined engaging in the affairs of his court.

In the year 901, Mahmood Shah
A. H. 901. marched towards the countries of Wagur
A. D. 1495. and Idur, from the rajas of which places
he exacted large offerings, and returned laden with
treasure to Mahomedabad Champanere. Three
years afterwards (A. H. 904), having
A. H. 904. heard that Aluf Khan had raised the
A. D. 1498. standard of revolt, the King ordered
Sheikh Burra Deccany, the Kazy-ool-Koozat† of

* Bahadur Geelany was killed in action, fighting against a detachment of the Deccan army in the vicinity of Kolapoor.
Vide vol. ii. p. 543.

† Chief judge.



Ahmudabad, to march against him; upon which the rebel fled to Malwa, where he shortly afterwards died by poison. On the following year (A. H. 905) Adil Khan Farooky, ruler of Kandeish, following the example of Aluf Khan and the officers of the Deccan, raised the standard of revolt, and refused to pay the usual tribute. Sheikh Burra was also sent against him; but Adil Khan coming in person to Mahomedabad Champanere, threw himself on the King's mercy, bringing with him the arrears of tribute, as a peace offering. Some historians state that Mahmood Shah marched in person against Adil Khan, and having arrived on the river Tapti, received his submission there.*

About this period Mullik Ashruf†, the governor of Dowlutabad, wrote to Mahmood Shah, stating that he had possession of that strong fortress, and was besieged by the Deccan army under Ahmud Nizam Shah Bheiry; offering, at the same time, if the Guzerat monarch would march to his assistance, to give him possession, and hold it as his tributary. Mahmood Shah, in consequence, marched to the south, and Ahmud Nizam Shah raised the siege, and retreated to Ambur. The King of Guzerat did not halt till he reached Dowlutabad; where having received handsome presents

* It is difficult to fancy a more wanton exertion of power than that of the Mahomedan King of Guzerat demanding tribute from the independent Mahomedan principality of Kandeish, whose rulers derived their titles and authority from the very same sovereign as did the kings of Guzerat.

† The history of Mullik Ashruf is fully detailed in that of the Nizam Shahy kings of Ahmudnuggur. Vide vol. iii. p. 204.



from Mullik Ashruf, he returned to Mahomedabad Champanere.

In the year 906, the King having
A. H. 906. discovered a conspiracy among some
A. D. 1500. of the nobles of Ahmudabad, for the
purpose of dethroning him, went thither, and by
strong measures dictated by policy as well as by
necessity, removed some from their offices, and
caused others to be executed.

In the year 913, the infidel Euro-
A. H. 913. peans *, who had of late years usurped
A. D. 1507. the dominion of the ocean, endeavoured
to occupy for themselves some port on the Guzerat
coast, on which they wished to settle; and the Grand
Seignior of Constantinople, desirous of opposing
this measure, deputed Ameer Hoossein† with a
fleet from the Red Sea to engage them in this
quarter. Ameer Hoossein arrived off the Gu-
zerat coast in this year; and Mahmood Shah,
also, anxious to aid in the expulsion of these
strangers, sailed with a fleet first to Daman, and then
to Mahim. On his arrival at the former port, he
ordered Mullik Eliaz Sooltany, the Ameer-ocl-
Omra, with a large fleet, to sail from Diu to
attack the enemy in concert with the Turkish fleet,
whose ships were of a larger description than those
of Guzerat.‡

* This is the first mention made of the Portuguese in the
Guzerat history.

† This is the same person the Portuguese call Meer Hashim.

‡ The Portuguese historian states, that the Turks in Arabia,
having no means of constructing ships there, procured timber
to be sent from the mountains of Dalmatia to Alexandria,
whence it was conveyed to Cairo, and over the desert of Suez



The combined fleets fell in with the Portuguese off the port of Choul, where an engagement took place, in which the flag-ship of the enemy (valued at a crore of rupees *) was sunk, and every man on board perished. Mullik Eiaz, having thus defeated the Portuguese fleet, returned victoriously; for "although four hundred Turks were honoured with the crown of martyrdom, no fewer than three thousand or four thousand Portuguese infidels were, at the same time, sent to the infernal regions." After this event, the King having placed the Guzerat ports in security from the enemy's attacks, returned to Mahomedabad Champanere. Shortly after, news arrived that Dawood Khan Farooky, ruler of Kandeish, was dead, and that a revolution had taken place in that country. Adil Khan Farooky (the grandson of Mahmood Shah) deputed a person to the King, asserting his right to the government, and claiming assistance from him on the score of relationship. In the year 913, therefore, Mahmood Shah marched with a small force towards Aseer. On the road thither he

A. H. 913.

A. D. 1507.

on camels. The fleet consisted of twelve sail, and carried one thousand five hundred men, under the command of Ameer Hoossein, who, with Mullik Eiaz, the admiral of Guzerat, united and attacked the Portuguese in Choul harbour; on which occasion the latter took two of the Turkish vessels, and lost one of their own, which was blown up. Faria-e-Souza, tome i. part ii. chap. ii.

* A million pounds sterling. This affords some notion of the estimation in which they held the European vessels.

† Faria-e-Souza states the Portuguese to have lost eighty-one men, and estimates the enemy's loss at six hundred.



halted to celebrate the Rumzan at the town of Chikly, on the banks of the Nerbudda; where he learned that Alum Khan Farooky, being invited by one Hissam-ood-Deen of Kandeish, and supported by Ahmud Nizam Shah Bheiry, and Imad-ool-Moolk ruler of Berar, had assumed the reins of government in Aseer. On Mahmood Shah reaching Talnere, he was met by Adil Khan, and thence he sent a Guzerat detachment in advance to Boorhanpoor. In consequence of which, the united forces of Berar and Ahmudnuggur retreated, and Adil Khan was placed at the head of the government. Larun Khan Khiljy, one of the pretenders to Kandeish, was gratified by receiving the title of Khan Jehan; and he obtained the district of Ahwas in jageer. Mahmood Shah, on this occasion, conferred titles also on many other of the Aseer officers attached to Adil Khan, and left a body of Guzerat troops to support his authority. In order to deter Hissam-ood-Deen from making any future attempt on the government, he conferred on him the town of Dhoor, in the district of Sooltanpoor. Notwithstanding these arrangements, internal commotions occurred at Aseer during the following year, which were amicably adjusted through the agency of Mahmood Shah, who sent his own son to carry into effect his orders, and to confirm the authority of Adil Khan.

It is worthy of remark, that an embassy, accompanied by valuable presents, was sent on the following year from Sikundur Lody of Dehly to Mahmood Shah of Guzerat, thereby acknowledging, for the first time, the

A. H. 915.

A. D. 1509.



independence of that kingdom. * In the latter end of the same year, Mahmood Shah made a tour of his kingdom ; proceeding, first, to Nehrwala Puttun, where he solicited the prayers of the holy men dwelling in that place ; and subsequently to Ahmudabad, when he paid his devotion at the shrine of Sheikh Ahmud Geesoo-Duraz, and returned thence to Mahomedabad Champanere ; where falling dangerously ill, he sent for his son the Prince Moozuffur, the heir apparent, from Baroda. Shortly afterwards, recovering sufficiently to transact business, he permitted him to return to his government ; but in a few weeks after, having a relapse of his complaint, he again sent for the Prince. At this period, Yadgar Beg Kuzilbash† arrived as ambassador from Shah Ismael, King of Persia ; but before he could obtain an audience, Mahmood Shah died, on the 2d of Rumzan, A. H. 917, in the seventieth year of his age, and the fifty-fifth of his reign. ‡

He was surnamed Bégra, or Bé Gurra. Historians differ with regard to the origin of this appellation : some assert it was given to him because bégra signifies curled, as the horns of a cow, alluding to the shape which his mustachios assumed.

* The Guzerat historian, who prides himself much on this event, seems to forget that the empire of Dehly had also changed its master, and that the power of the Toghluks had passed into the hands of the Afghans since the establishment of the kings of Guzerat.

† Kuzilbash, or Red-head, is an appellation given to the Toorks settled in Persia, owing to their wearing red caps. Vide p. 80.

‡ He is buried at Surkech, near Ahmudabad, in the shrine of Sheikh Ahmud Kutloo.



Shah Jumal-ood-Deen Hoossein, however, in his history, gives his opinion in these words:—
“The word bé, in the Guzeratty language, signifies two, and gurra a hill-fort, from whence the name Bé Gurra, derived from Mahmood Shah having reduced two hill-forts on the opposite sides of his dominions, before deemed impregnable; viz. Giral on the west, and Champanere on the east.” This derivation appears to me sufficiently rational and probable.



MOOZUFFUR SHAH II.

He ascends the throne without opposition — engages to assist the King of Malwa, who is expelled from his throne by the Hindoos — besieges Mando, and takes it by storm, on which occasion fifteen thousand Rajpoots lose their lives — replaces the King of Malwa on his throne. — The King of Malwa defeated by Rana Sanka of Chittoor — receives aid from Moozuffur Shah, whose army besieges Chittoor. — Peace concluded with the Rana. — Bahadur, the King's second son, quits his father's court in disgust, and proceeds to Dehly. — Death of Moozuffur Shah II.

MAHMOOD SHAH was succeeded by his son Moozuffur, who was born on Thursday, the 20th of Shuval, A. H. 875, (10th April, 1470,) and ascended the throne in the forty-first year of his age; immediately after which he nominated Mullik Khoosh Kuddum, entitled Imad-ool-Moolk, and Mullik Rusheed, entitled Khodawund Khan, his two ministers. On the following month, Yadgar Beg, the Persian ambassador, reached the capital, and all the principal officers and heads of departments were deputed to meet him at some distance from the city, in order to welcome him in the King's name, and to escort him to a handsome palace fitted up for his reception. At his first audience, the ambassador delivered his credentials and some of the rarities of Persia, when he and the rest of his suite were honoured with robes.

Sometime afterwards the King went to Baroda, the name of which town he caused to be changed to Dowlutabad. * Upon his arrival there, he found Sahib Khan † (a prince of the blood-royal of Malwa), who had fled from the persecution of his brother. Moozuffur Shah received him with attention, and treated him with the consideration due to his rank. The King then proceeding to Mahomedabad Champanere, directed Keisur Khan to go to Dohud, in order to ascertain the state of affairs in Malwa. This measure was adopted previously to sending any troops in aid of the fugitive prince, Sahib Khan, whose impatience he restrained by telling him that at present the rains had set in, and it would be imprudent to commence a campaign; but that when the season was more favourable he would, God willing, restore to him his just rights.

During his residence at court, Sahib Khan unfortunately contracted a close intimacy with the Persian ambassador, who, together with his suite, had become extremely obnoxious to all classes, and were called by the inhabitants Soorkh Koolla, in allusion to the name of their tribe, Kuzilbash signifying in the Toorky language Red-head. The result of this intimacy, on the part of Sahib Khan, at length ended in a scuffle between the Kuzilbashes and his people in the ambassador's palace. Swords were drawn on both sides; and the Indians being routed, the Kuzilbashes pursued them into the streets,

* It is no longer known by the latter appellation.

† The adventures of Sahib Khan will be found in the Malwa history.



armed with bows and arrows, and wounded several persons wholly unconnected with the affray. A rumour immediately spread through the town that the Toorkmans (that is to say, the Kuzilbashes,) had seized the person of Sahib Khan, and it was some time before peace was restored. The Malwa prince, who felt himself to blame, was so ashamed of his conduct, that he quitted the court without taking leave, went to Aseer and Boorhanpoor, and ultimately to Berar, where he solicited the assistance of Imad-ool-Moolk. A more full account of Sahib Khan's adventures will be found in the Malwa history.

The departure of Sahib Khan was followed by intelligence that the Poorby Rajpoots had completely defeated Sooltan Mahmood Khiljy of Malwa, an event which induced the King to go to Godra in order to make arrangements for a campaign in Malwa. Ein-ool-Moolk, governor of Puttun, was directed to bring his division to Ahmudabad, when Bheem Ray of Idur, taking advantage of his absence, plundered and laid waste the surrounding country as far as the Saburmatty. In consequence of this proceeding, Ein-ool-Moolk was ordered to proceed to Mahrassa, where he was attacked and defeated by the Idur Raja; and Abdool Mullik, an officer of distinction, with two hundred men, were left dead on the field.

The King, hearing of this disaster, instantly marched towards Idur. On reaching Mahrassa he caused the whole of the Idur district to be laid waste. Bheem Ray took refuge in the Beesulnuggur mountains; but the garrison of Idur, con-



sisting of only ten Rajpoots, defended it against the whole of the King's army with obstinacy; they were, however, eventually put to death on the capture of the place; and the temples, palaces, and garden houses, were levelled with the dust. Meanwhile the Ray deputed one Mudun Gopal, a bramin, as envoy to the King; stating that Ein-ool-Moolk had wantonly devastated his country, and that the action which had been fought occurred in consequence of his outrages. Bheem Ray expressed his regret at the circumstance, and sent one hundred horses and two hundred thousand tunkas, as an offering, which, in consideration of the projected campaign in Malwa, the King accepted, and overlooking the conduct of Ray Bheem, gave the money to Ein-ool-Moolk to raise troops, with orders to join the army. On the King's return to Godra, having left his son Sikundur Khan in charge of Mahomedabad Champanere, he marched to Dohud, from whence he directed Keisur Khan to occupy the town of Dydla; but having heard there was good hunting ground in the vicinity of D'har, he left the army under Kowam-ool-Moolk, and proceeded, with an escort of two thousand cavalry and one hundred and fifty elephants, to that place, where he was for some time engaged in the amusement of the chase. At this period, Nizam-ool-Moolk, who had been sent with a foraging party to Nalcha, was attacked by a body of Poorby Rajpoots of Malwa, but succeeded in repulsing them without loss. Intelligence was now received, which compelled the King to return to Guzerat; and this partial skirmish led