



ul-mulk; and Hoffsēin-aaly-qhan waited only for letters from him, in order to set out himself for Decan. Ratan-chund indeed had more than once proposed to get rid of Nizam-ul-mulk, by relinquishing to him the Viceroyalty of Decan; but such a proposal shocked all the feelings of his Masters, although the northern parts of the Empire seemed convulsed as much as the southern ones: For violent commotions and bloody troubles had arisen in Cashmir.

ONE Abdol-nebi, a Cashmirian, better known by the appellation of Muhtēvi-qhan, a man, who was this long while infested with the folly of hating all the Gentoos, availed himself of the confusion of the times, to give vent to his aversion. He assembled a number of idle; disorderly, inconsiderate people, from amongst the Mussulmen; and went at their head to Mir-ahmed, the Deputy Governor, and to the Cazy, or Supreme Judge of the Province, to whom he proposed, that henceforward, Hind8s of all sorts should be forbidden the use of horses, djamas, green-turbands, and arms (125); and also that they should be forbidden to go at their stated hours to gardens and bathing places (126). The Governor and Supreme Magistrate answered calmly, that "What-

(125) The green turban and color, about which the Turks make so much noise, was not the color of the messenger's dress, for his furcoat, which had been presented him from the Governor of Damascus was painted red and white: and his cloak, was black; nor was it of his main standard neither, this was red: and in India, the green is a color of mourning, as well as the black; nor do the Hindoos or any others care to wear such a color, which is difficult to catch, and is never of any duration.—The Djama folds upon the breast, which a Nima does not; and in order to have a tolerable idea of either, the European reader must suppose a short dress, reaching to the navel, and fitting so close to the body, as well as the arms, as to look like another skin; at the navel is sewn to it a petticoat, that reaches to the ankles or lower, so ample as to be seven, or eight, or ten and fifteen times ampler than any European woman's petticoat; Dost-mahmed-qhan had at Calcutta a Djama of an hundred and one breadths of Mulmul.

(126) This was a great hardship; for besides being invited to the bathing places by the heat of the climate, the Hindoos, either man or woman, are enjoined very frequent ablutions by their religion; nor can they take their meat, or proceed on their devotions without a previous ablution. But what seems very singular is, that although both sexes in general bathe pell-mell, with hardly any distance between the individuals, (and this is done several times in the day time,) there is no example of the least immodesty, although the men bathe with their bodies naked down to the navel, and the women wear such thin clothes and in so small a quantity, that they might be easily seen throughout. The wonder is how they contrive in your very presence to come ashore in their wet clothes, and to put on dry ones, without it being possible to the eye most expert at travelling over a woman's body, to make the smallest discovery. As to what the author calls the gardens, it must be observed that although there are not in India such public gardens as those in London and Paris, for the beau monde, yet nothing is more common for companies of men, and companies of women, and sometimes for mixed ones, to repair to any gardens or seats that chance throws in their way in the suburbs or elsewhere; a garden, an orchard and a seat being time out of mind, as free to all the world all over India, as is a well, or a pond; and nothing amazes and disgusts the Hindostanies more when they come to Calcutta, than to see so many seats, and gardens, all *flout up*.

ever.





“ever regulations his Majesty should think proper to promulgate by the advice of the learned Divines of his Court on those matters, as a standing rule for all the Hind8s of his dominions, would of course find their way into Cashmir, where it would be their business, as his special servants, to put them in execution.” This answer having not proved satisfactory to Muhteviqhan, that man henceforward made it a practice to attack every Hind8 he chanced to meet, and to use him according to his own wild notions. One day as Sahab-rai, a Gentoo of distinction, was giving an entertainment at a garden in the suburbs, that satellete of the devil, instigated by his master, fell unexpectedly on these innocent people, and killed, and wounded, and mangled as many as he could come at. Sahab-rai finding himself aimed at, fled to Mir-ahmed-qhan the Governor’s lodgings; and whilst he was concealed there, his house in town was set upon by Muhteviqhan and his followers, who plundered and sacked it leisurely. They likewise plundered that whole Gentoo-quarter, after which they set it on fire, killing and dispersing not only as many Gentoos as came out to entreat their mercy; but as many Mussulmen besides as attempted to intercede for the latter. Heated with this performance, they marched down to the Governor’s lodgings, which they attacked at first with stones and brick-bats, and at last with arrows and musquet-balls; and whoever came out of it, or fell otherwise in their hands, was sure of being insulted and plundered, if not killed and stripped upon the spot. The Deputy Governor remained besieged for a whole day and night; nor would it have been possible for him to escape, had he not risked several contrivances, and exposed himself to the most imminent peril. The next day he assembled some soldiers, and some other people, mounted his horse, and being supported by his Paymaster, Shah-yor-qhan, and by several Mansubdars and crown-servants, he advanced towards the feditious wretch; but that infernal man, who had received advice of his design, had assembled a vast number of men of his own stamp, with intention to stand his ground; and on observing that the

Deputy





Deputy Governor, had advanced on this side of a bridge, then full in view, he sent some of his satellites who set it on fire; and who following their blow, set on fire all the streets in his flank and rear, whilst some others of his people getting amongst the ruins, as well as on the tops of the houses, made incessant discharges of musquetry, arrows, stones and brick-bats; and their wives and children were striving to out do them, by tossing baskets full of human dung and other immondices, and by throwing every missile they could think of; and a furious combat was going on. In a little time Seïd-veli, Nephew to the Deputy-governor, and Zolficar-beg the Cotval's Lieutenant, were slain, with a number of others; and many more being grievously wounded, or disabled, Mir-ahmed-qhan saw himself almost alone. Unable to go back, and afraid of advancing, as well as of stopping, he had recourse to intreaties and supplications; and after undergoing every sort of opprobrium and outrage, short of death, he was suffered to escape. Muhtevi-qhan, now fiercer than ever, returned to the Governor's house, where Sahab-raï had taken shelter, with a multitude of Gentoos of all sorts; and having forced it in a twinkling, he seized every one of them, killed some, cut the nose of others, and circumcised all those he thought proper to conserve, but all this with so unfeeling a precipitation, that some had their penes cut off. The next day, he repaired at the head of a great throng to the cathedral mosque, where of his own authority, he deposed the Deputy-governor, proclaimed himself in his stead by the style and title of Dindar-qhan (127), Supreme Ruler of the Mussulmen, and ordered that until the arrival of another Deputy-governor, the Cazy should hear and determine all matters relative to distributive justice; inasmuch that for five months together, Mir-ahmed remained a private man in his own capital; Muhtevi-qhan sitting every day in state in the cathedral, and hearing and determining all contentions about matters of finance and government, or even about whatever concerned the distributive justice.

Furious commotions in Cashmir.

127) The Lord endowed with faith.





THESE disturbances having been taken notice of at Court, Moommin-qhan was sent to Cashmir, as Deputy on the part of Ynaïet-ollah-qhan, who had the Government of the Province : This intelligence intimidated Muhtevi-qhan, who by this time had very much cooled, so as to become sensible of all the consequences of what he had done. In the first emotion which he felt, he took two small children of his by the hand, and went with them to Qhadja-Abdollah, one of the principal Religious of the city, with whom he had an acquaintance ; and as he had heard that he intended to go out to meet the New Deputy-Governor at the head of the principal Religious and the principal citizens, he wished to be of his company in such a day. The holy man answered that he had no objections ; but that he thought he would act with more propriety, were he to go to the Paymaster, Mir-shah-yor, first, whose forgiveness he ought to ask for what had passed. Muhtevi-qhan being of the same opinion, went to the Paymaster's lodgings, where the latter had, by the Qhodja's advice, concealed a number of men from the Djud-bel, that much injured quarter of the city. On his entering the room, a few words were exchanged with him, when the Paymaster feeling some urgent necessity within his body, excused himself and went away ; and this being the signal agreed upon, the concealed men rushed from their corners, and first of all ripped open in his face, the two children's bellies, and then falling upon him, they put him to death with all that variety of tortures which resentment could contrive. Hardly had this execution taken place, when his followers resolved to revenge his death ; and running to the Djudd-bell, they commenced killing, wounding, beating, and mangling the inhabitants, after which they set the houses on fire. About three-thousand men were hacked to pieces by these scelerates, and these proved to be mostly Moguls, Merchants, and other Strangers come for the purpose of trade : An infinity of women and children were likewise seized on, and carried away as fair booty. Property to the amount of several lacs was carried away likewise, or spoiled utterly ; nor





is there any describing the usage offered to those defenceless people that were carried away by those miscreants. These infernal men, after having finished what they called the first volume of their religious war, proceeded to the second, that is, they marched in a body to the lodgings of the Cazi, and of the Pay-master. The latter found means to remain concealed: the Cazi changed his dress and flunk away: and the scelerates incensed at his escape, tore up his house from the foundation, and handing the materials about, they left not a brick on the spot. It was some days after this execution that Moommin-qhan, the new commandant, arrived. His first care was to send Mir-ahmed-qhan to a place of safety; his second, to re-establish order and subordination: a difficult task this in a country known for a disposition to turbulence, and for being inhabited by a wicked race of men with whom a man in power must make a shift to live some times by yielding and as often by stiffening.

WHILST the northern parts of the Empire were recovering from a state of convulsion, the southern ones were becoming the theatre of a very dangerous war, that struck at the very being of the two brother Sëids. We have left Dilaver-aaly-qhan in full march for B8rhanp8r. Nizam-el-mulk, informed of his motions, sent against him some of his best Generals with his best troops, to whom he soon joined Ghö8fs-qhan's cavalry, with a train of artillery and a camp-equipage: the whole under command of his trusty friend, Ynaiët-qhan: himself mounting his elephant, came out of the city with Ghö8fs-qhan his kinsman, and the rest of his army, and he encamped in the neighbourhood, so as to be at hand to succour Ynaiët-qhan. As soon as the enemy was discovered, Ynaiët-qhan drew up his army, and pursuing Nizam-el-mulk's instructions, he placed the greatest part of his light and heavy artillery behind a bushy ground, where it remained loaded with that small ball called *churra* in India. It was along a brook whose shady banks seemed calculated for concealing it from sight; and such was its commander's intention,





who had under his orders a numerous body of men, whose valor had been tried, and which Nizam-el-mulk knew to be capable of conserving their presence of mind in a moment of trepidation and danger. On the other hand Dilaver-aaly-qhan, with that fiery courage peculiar to him, and that obtuseness of understanding become proverbial for the men of Barr, advanced armed and mounted, in company with Dost-mahmed-qhan, an Afghan commander; and he ranged his army in this manner. He was himself at the head of eleven thousand horses; and the two Gentoo Princes Behim-sing and Gudj-sing followed with a compact body of Radjps. On the back of these were his artillery, and behind all, were his war-elephants. It was with such an order of battle he was advancing in a frantic manner against the enemy who waited steadily for him. Ynaïet-qhan on the contrary was watching the motions of his enemy. The battle commenced by discharges of muskets and rockets, when Dilaver-aaly-qhan, inflamed by the sight of his foes and unable to contain himself, advanced farther and farther on the retiring enemy, without ever suspecting any thing of the ambuscade which lay in wait for him; until he found himself upon very unequal ground, which necessarily obliged his troops to break and discompose their ranks. Unmindful of this disorder, he was pushing-on, until he arrived over against that bushy ground which concealed the Ambuscade, and where he was expected by a steady body of men, who taking aim leisurely, let fly a general discharge of musquetry, canon and rockets, which brought down almost the whole of those that followed him so eagerly. Those behind, terrified by that terrible execution, availed themselves of the smoke which had covered the plain, to quit the combat and to retreat: in so much that Dilaver-aaly-qhan was left almost alone, and with no one about his person, but the two Radjas and about four or five hundred men. As the ground was too uneven for either a horse or an elephant to move, with ease, and the greatest part of the cavalry with the Radjps were laying dead or wounded on the field of battle, whilst the rest were flying on all sides;

Battle of  
BSrhanp8r.

Dost-mahmed-qhan





Dost-mahmed-qhan, that Afghan of so much courage and so great a character, thought proper to retire likewise: the sense of honor having been superseded in him by a sense of fear; for fortune had already turned her back on the two brothers, and nothing that concerned them could be brought to take a favourable issue. Dilaver-aaly-qhan in despair to see the discomfiture of his whole army, still pushed-on with the two Radjahs and his brave troops, resolved not to survive his shame; and these being shot at like so many marks, were all slain to a man. This victory which had almost destroyed the enemy's army, cost hardly any thing to Nizam-el-mulk; and it is agreed on all hands that he did not lose a single officer. The enemy flying every where, a shout of victory arose in the victorious army; and Dilaver-aaly-qhan's military-chest, baggage, artillery, and equipage, with every thing that could ~~be~~ a general pillage, was taken possession of for Nizam-el-mulk's use. This General, now in full possession of victory, returned in triumph to B3rhanp8r, where he spent his time in cherishing the inhabitants, and in rewarding his troops with elephants, dresses of honor, rich arms, and other favors, whilst he took care to relieve the wounded by giving them money and medicines.

THE report of this victory having soon reached the capital, gave a secret but sincere satisfaction to the Emperor, as well as to Mahmed-amin-qhan, and to all those who professed an attachment to that Prince; but it struck the two brothers with fear and anxiety. They were holding consultations every day: Sometimes they proposed to march against Nizam-el-mulk together: And sometimes they thought it better to carry the Emperor to the capital, where he should be left under the care of the elder brother, whilst Hossèin-aaly-qhan, the younger, should march against the dangerous rival that had risen in Decan. At one time, they had a mind to carry the Emperor in the middle of the theatre of war, so as to make him partake their own danger; and at another, they thought it more decent first of all to send for Hossèin-aaly-qhan's consort and children, and then only to think of marching against Nizam-el-mulk. Another  
object





Great debates  
between the  
two brothers.

object of debate amongst them was Mahmed-amin-qhan, who did not doubt himself of his giving them very great umbrage, infomuch that the public report was one day, that he had been put to death by the Sēids, or at least, arrested; and another, that a reconciliation had taken place, and that every subject of animosity was buried in oblivion. They say, that the younger brother voted for his being put to death; but that the elder, who objected that oaths and promises had intervened between himself and the T8ranian Lord, objected that such a death would begun enerous, and at any rate, dishonorable, and even inexpedient. The dispute grew warm on that single subject; and the elder brother was heard to say: "*My life is a pendant of his; if you be bent on killing him, then kill me also, or let me kill myself.*" It was after such debates that his life was spared at last; and indeed, as he was predestinated to kill Hossēin-aaly-qhan himself, how could he come to be killed by him?

The capital  
of the Empire  
almost destroy-  
ed by an earth-  
quake.

THE mighty events with which the womb of time was evidently pregnant, seemed to have been prognosticated by the convulsions which all the elements underwent at this time. On the twenty second of the blessed month of Ramazan (128), in the year 1233, as the people were assembled at the cathedral at a little past twelve, to say their noon-prayers, and to assist at the Qothba, on a sudden the whole building was shaken by a violent earthquake, and bricks fell from the cupola to the great terror of the congregation; who thought that some thing mighty and unusual was prefaged by such an event, or that it reminded them of some past one. Most of the houses in Shah-djehan-abad and in Old Dehly fell down, or were shaken to the very foundations. Numbers of inhabitants were crushed under the ruins, and numbers were wounded and maimed; and the rumbling noise under ground was so frightful and repeated,

(128) The Ramazan is the lent-time of the Mahometans, who say that the gates of Paradise remain at that time, full open. But an European reader would be egregiously mistaken who should think that this lent has any thing similar to that of the Christians, who abstain from flesh, to fare luxuriously on fish. A Mahometan cannot touch any food or drink from sun-rise to sun-set: touching a woman, touching one's self voluptuously; looking at a woman luxuriously; imoaking; taking snuff; smelling to perfumes or flowers; looking at any thing with pleasure; renders the fast, void and of no merit.

that





that it spread dismay and consternation in every heart. There were that day no less than nine successive shocks, and they overturned most of the houses in the city. The earth continued shaking violently for forty days and forty nights together, producing every day some new damage to the shattered buildings. Noises, voices, and groans were now and then heard from under ground; and the affrighted inhabitants were in such a dismay, that no man in his senses had the daringness to sleep in a place shut-up, or under a roof. After these forty days of continual shaking, the earth seemed to have settled indeed, but not without undergoing now and then some lighter commotions during the four or five months that followed. And commotions were yet felt, when on the first of Zilcad, it was determined in a grand council, that the Emperor's camp-equipage, with that of the Vezir's, should quit the environs of Ecber-abad, in order to march to the capital; and that the younger brother Hossein-aaly-ghan, who was fond of war, should with a number of noblemen accustomed to a camp-life, set out at the head of a numerous army, for an expedition into Decan.

WHILST the preparatives for such a campaign were making, the tale-tellers were so busy, and the suspicions entertained of all the T8ranians were so rooted, that Mahmed-amin-ghan's life and death came again to be an object of debate; disputes arose about his fate, and the differences in opinion having transpired abroad, became a general topick all over the city: matters became so critical, that expecting every moment an attack upon his person, he used to sleep in armour, and to be surrounded day and night by a body of T8ranians devoted to his interests. At last, and whilst extremities of the most fatal kind were expected, both parties came to an accommodation: and mutual promises, and solemn and tremendous oaths were enterchanged with solemn asseverations of a sincerity quite distant from disguise and treason. How far all these protestations were sincere on the part of one of the two parties, we shall soon have occasion to see; and mean while we shall resume our narrative of the projected campaign in Decan.

As





As the vainquished army had been almost destroyed, the very few that had escaped from that field of slaughter, but which did not amount to more than two or three thousand men, made the best of their way to Aalem-aaly-qhan's army in the most wretched condition imaginable, whilst Nizam-el-mulk employed that time of respite in repairing his artillery and camp-equipage, in providing ammunition, and in distributing medicines to his wounded; as well as in quieting the minds of the citizens, and in recruiting his troops, whose hearts he was gaining by every means in his power. But his main business, although in secret, was how to debauch and entice away Aalem aaly-qhan's soldiers and officers; the more so, as while he was busy in debauching the other's soldiers, he was losing some of his own. Anver-qhan, that ungrateful man who had so far forgot all the obligations he owed to the two brothers, as to go over to Nizam-el-mulk's party, now turned again to the other side, as if a single treason could not have answered his turn. He wrote to Aalem-aaly qhan, " That Nizam-el-mulk was not grown so powerful, as that " he might not be crushed by a timely diligence and a rapid march, " whilst he spent his time in making up medicines, and in establishing contributions: an inaction which afforded a precious opportunity, which men " of genius would not let slip out of their hands." This letter having been intercepted, served only to render the writer despicable, and to bring so much the nearer the punishment which he deserved.

ALEM-AALY-QHAN, who had no need of such an incitement, set out in the beginning of Ramazan, with an army of twenty-five thousand horses, amongst which were ten or twelve thousand Marhattas of the Sah8 Radjah's, under the command of Cand8-dehary and Sancradji-malkar. He was likewise attended by some Commanders of character, who remembering how they had shed their blood more than once under Hoss8in-aaly-qhan's command, were attached to his cause, and devoted to his person. Several other officers and persons of distinction were in his army, some out of sincere zeal, and some  
by





by a principle of time-serving. With these troops, Aalem-aaly-qhan thought himself a match for the enemy; and having with some difficulty carried his army through the difficult pass of Feridap8r, which is midway betwixt the Qhandefs and the Aorengabad, he encamped in the neighbourhood of the latter city; where his Mahratta horse, faithful to their wonted custom, spread all over the plain and plundered all the villages. These ravages engaged Nizam-el-mulk to send his family and heavy baggage, within the fortrefs of Afsir, and then to meet his enemy in the field. But the river P8rna, which flows at about seventeen cosses from B8rhanp8r, being then swollen by the rains, was likely to occasion much delay, had he not been extricated by Ghö8fs-qhan. This General, who was acquainted with the country, proposed to march about eighteen cosses higher by the left, towards a spot which he knew to have a ford; and to this they arrived sooner than expected by bye-ways, which were pointed out by the Zemindars of the country: So that Nizam-el-mulk, having forded over, was already in full march towards the enemy, before the latter knew any thing of his approach. At last he received intelligence, and marched up to his antagonist, whilst the latter's Marhatta horse to be before hand with what booty might be had, ran forwards, and by scouring the country, occasioned a dearth and a scarcity in Nizam-el-mulk's army; especially, as the heavy rains which were falling daily, had spoiled the roads, and the Marhatta horse were perpetually harrassing him on all sides: Infomuch, that it became difficult to move; and here again Ghö8fs-qhan was of great service: At the head of some thousands of those Marhatta-horse that served in Nizam-el-mulk's army, he cut his way through the other free-booters, and was followed by that General, who found himself obliged to advance through perpetual skirmishes; his intention being to avoid a general-action, until he might find a field of battle to his mind. Having found it at last about the town of Balap8r, he prepared for a battle. So soon as the two armies had got sight of each other, Aalem-aaly-qhan prepared to attack the enemy; and this





Destructive  
battle of Bala-  
pör, where the  
army of the two  
Sëids is almost  
destroyed.

this was the fifth of Shevval. He put his first line under the command of Mun-  
evver-qhan and Ghalub-aaly-qhan, the Decanian, and supported their right  
by several corps commanded by Aamin-qhan, brother to Qhan-aalem ; by  
Umer-qhan, cousin to the late Dä8d-qhan-pëni, and by Shimshir-qhan, Esh-  
ref-qhan and Fidvi-qhan, which last was Divan to Muntehi-qhan : That  
officer, as well as Mahmedi-beg, his brother, were two Commanders of con-  
sequence, renowned for their valor and military talents. His left he filled  
with the several corps, commanded by Refäiet-taleb-qhan, and Qhadja-rah-  
met-qhan, and by some other officers of character, to whom he added all the  
Marhatta cavalry, with strict injunctions not to mix their ranks: Aalem-aaly-  
qhan himself took his post in the center, where he shared his elephant with  
Ghäiaff-qhan. His artillery marched in front surrounded by ten or twelve  
thousand Musqueteers of the Carnatec, supported themselves by a number of  
war-elephants, that looked like so many mountains cased in iron. The  
General having reviewed his order of battle, seemed easy in his mind, and he  
was advancing with a cheerful countenance, pleased to find he was going to  
an engagement likely to prove decisive. But he was but freshly arrived in  
those parts, unacquainted with the nature of the country, and totally unexpe-  
rienced; and although he was informed that Dilaver-aaly-qhan had lost both  
his life and army by giving way to the ardor of his temper, which had carri-  
ed him head-long into an ambuscade of which with a little more precaution,  
he might have got timely intelligence; nevertheless, he fell himself head-  
long in the same snare, where after exhibiting prodigies of valor and activi-  
ty, he saw his sweet life cropped up in the very flower of his youth. The  
truth of the matter is, that he was under the actual impulse of fate, and that

“ By no scheme and by no contrivance is one's destiny to be escaped,

“ Be it by a hoary old man or by an unexperienced youth.”

On the morning of the sixth of the month, Aalem-aaly-qhan, surrounded by  
thirty or forty commanders, all mounted on elephants, marched to the ene-  
my with a blind security, which history can neither conceal nor dissemble.

NIZAM-EL-MULK





NIZAM-EL-MULK on his side gave the command of his first line, to the brave Merhamet-qhan; and to make a trial of his son, Ghazi-eddin-qhan's fortune, he joined him to that renowned officer. Abdol-rahim-qhan, Raiet-qhan, Saad-ed-din-qhan, Darab-qhan and Camiab-qhan and Ynaiet-qhan, all at the head of their troops, were distributed in his right and left wings, together with those corps commanded by Cadyr-dad-qhan, Ahtisaff-qhan, and Rohollah-qhan, and Dilir-qhan and Anver-qhan: to those troops he added all the Radjps commanded by some Radjahs, and all those brought by some commanders, highly discontented with the two brothers, as well as fond of war and battle. Himself took his post in the center, with Ghö8ff-qhan at his side. As to the troops brought by some Zemindars, as well as some thousands of Marhatta cavalry, he thought it better to leave them in his camp under Renbah, their General, with orders to secure his camp against the enemy's Marhatta horse. He had a numerous artillery, which had been vastly augmented by what he drew from the fortresses of Afsir and B8rhanp8r, but especially by that whole train which he had found after his late victory. All this he placed in his front, in full view of the enemy; but as soon as it became dark, he sent great part of it to the left and right, where it was concealed by a bushy ground from the enemy's sight, and ranged with skill by men of tried valor and abilities. All these were loaded with churrah or small ball, and intermixed with swivels, wall-pieces and rockets, stationed by his own particular direction. He had hardly done, when Aalem-aaly-qhan's army was seen in motion; and the action commenced by the forlorn hope, consisting of ten or twelve thousand horses, which under the command of Munevver-qhan pushed for the enemy's artillery. But upon the first discharge he was slain together with some of the bravest of his men, who were all from Bar or from Decan. On sight of this, the first line of Nizam-el-mulk's, which was mostly composed of Mogols, charged the enemy's line which they threw instantly into confusion; and this being reported to Aalem-aaly-qhan, he took a number of choice troops and

F f 2

marched





marched in haste to repair the disorder which he now perceived in his center; and here the battle growing warm, Aalem-aaly-qhan, who was the fore most in every attack, overthrew the enemy, confounded their ranks and made them lose ground. Flushed with this success, he pushed on with ardor, but without the least caution: the enemy was falling back: Aalem-aaly-qhan was pursuing; and both parties were drawing nearer and nearer to that fatal spot, where such an infinity of fire-mouths were concealed. All this artillery was under the management of a body of tried men, personally inimical to the two Sēids; and fire being given to it, all those guns loaded with grape, and all those swivels and rockets, went off at one and the same time, and gave an image of the day of Judgment. The sun's light was darkened by the smoke, and the day was turned into night. When it cleared up a little, Munevver-qhan the commander of the van, with Ghalub-qhan, and Shimshir-qhan, and Ashref-qhan, and Qhadjahmet-qhan, and Muntehi-qhan, and Mahmedy-beg with a vast number of the bravest commanders and foldiers were seen dead, or sprawling in their own blood. The best and greatest part of the cavalry was destroyed or disabled. But this did not discourage Aalem-aaly-qhan; although wounded, he made a stand, and rallied round his person a number of veteran foldiers, all accustomed to battle, all ready to part with their blood in his cause, and all capable to face so many lions in a wilderness. With these he kept on advancing; when he was stopped by Yqhtisafs-qhan, and by Ynaïet-qhan, who had just been wounded in the eye by an arrow, as well as by numbers who could not help admiring the valour of that young hero: and here commenced a long and bloody contest, which could not be ended but by Yqhtisafs-qhan's joining Alem aaly-qhan, and cutting off one of his arms at one blow. This wound having disabled him, he was overpowered by some of the bravest of the enemies and slain on the spot, together with nineteen other commanders of character, and the greatest part of that brave body that had kept pace with him. The young Sēid cheerfully parted with

all





all his blood, and with a face glowing with victory, he went to join his holy and valiant ancestors (129), Sancradji, the Madiatta commander, who followed next to Aalem-aaly-qhan with a number of the bravest of his nation, was wounded and taken prisoner, as was his brave troops.

WHILST such a scene of slaughter occupied every one, Omer-qhan, brother to the late Dä8d-qhan-pèni, and Aamin-qhan, brother to Qhan-aalem, two commanders who had treacherously taken service with Aalem-aaly qhan, availing themselves of the general confusion, seized on three or four elephants and on three or four lacs of rupees, and flyly parted with the field of battle, as they thought, but as they really did, with their own honour, and character : Wheeling round with a number of troops as treacherous as themselves, they went to surrender to Nizam-el-mulk. That General ordered the enemy's artillery, military chest, camp-equipage, and whatever belonged to the commanders slain in battle, to be seized on for his use, as much of it at least as could escape a general plunder. It was observed in this second battle, as had been already in the former, that the victor's troops suffered so little, that not a man of character was slain amongst them, and that he had hardly any wounded. Some citizens and some officers who were of the number, were soon cured with the unguent of his liberality, and the cerate of his encomiums and favors.

Aalem-aaly-qhan is slain fighting valiantly

WHEN intelligence of this disaster was brought to the two brothers, it threw them into a state which it would be difficult to describe; especially the younger, who from his deep sense of such a reverse of fortune, was consuming inwardly by grief and impatience; and he really suffered the agonies of death, whenever he reflected that his confort and family were yet in Decan.

(129) He was a Scid, and of course descended from Aaly firm-med by the Shpath, the King of Braves. But in general all the faints of ancient date amongst the Mahometans, were to a man very pious as well as intrepid warriors : nor would unwarlike faints be liked by the Musulmen; so that a certain christian faint who having scooped to himself a cloak of free-stone, with which he used to run about in the sun would not make a fortune amongst them even to-day : no more than he who perched on the top of a lofty column, as well as he who suffered himself to be eaten up by vermin in order, as he said, to gain heaven.

Fortunately





Generous action of the Governor Dö8let-abab.

Fortunately for him, in a few days more he received intelligence that before Nizam-el-mulk's approach to Aorengabad, the Governor of Dö8let-abad, (130), although ill used by the two Sëids, and very dissatisfied with their proceedings, had had the generosity to receive that forlorn family with all their dependants and effects within that strong fortress. What is singular in that Governor is, that he was actually upon ill terms with the very man to whose comfort and children he was affording all the assistance and all the conveniences in his power. In a word he took an ample revenge of the two Sëids by conferring upon them an important benefit at a most critical time.

"To return evil for evil is sometimes a very easy matter."

"Return good for evil, if thou be a man."

Hoffein-aaly-qhan on hearing such a comforting piece of news, recollected his wonted firmness, and became easy in his mind; although he heard at the same time that Mubaruz-qhan, Governor of the kingdom of Haiderabad, as well as Dilaver-aaly-qhan his brother-in-law, had both quitted his party, and gone over to Nizam-el-mulk, to whom they carried a body of seven or eight thousand horses.

THE news from Decan becoming every day more serious, the two brothers held frequent councils together on the subject; and after much examination and debate, it was at last determined that Abdollah-qhan, who was the Emperor's deputy by his office, should march to the capital, in order to over-awe it into submission and quietness; but that Hoffein-aaly-qhan should march with that Prince in Decan at the head of a numerous army. This resolution having been several times examined and confirmed, the Viceroy turned his

(130) Dö8let-abad, like G8aliar and Gandi-cotta and so many other fortresses in India, has the same advantage which have Gibraltar and Malta all over the world: they are inattackable. Dö8let-abad occupies a mountain divided in three enceintes one above a-nother, to none of which there is any access but by a subterraneous passage cut in the rock, which by a ladder and a grate of iron enables a man to get into the story or enceinte above. The lower one is within level with the rock, and without, it is escarped to the height of a hundred feet; and this frightful rampart is defended by a frightful fosse, sixty or a hundred feet deep, full as much in breadth and teeming with alligators. The whole mountain is cut into subterraneous apartments for the garrison and for immense stores of water, and provision: and all that is bomb-proof as well as mine-proof.





whole attention towards making great additions to his army and to his artillery. With that view he dispatched Sëid-mahmed-qhan with money and letters of array to the brave inhabitants of Bar, and to the Afghans who lived beyond them, whose bravest commanders he invited over to his service: and he was so well served, that in a little time he saw himself at the head of fifty thousand horses: he had the Imperial guards besides, and a number of Radjas with their Radjists; and he was followed by an infinity of persons of distinction, who went as volunteers, desirous to signalize themselves under such a commander. His train of artillery was composed of such large cannon, that it seemed intended for shaking the earth on its foundations; and it was under the care of a numerous body of musqueteers formed by himself, whose unerring balls seemed to be so many expresses dispatched by fate. All this army having been reviewed about the end of Shevval, Hossëin-aaly-qhan sent his equipage upon the high road of Decan; and that same day he advanced with the Emperor at two cosses distance from Ecber-abad. But as the last hour which was allowed him by his destiny was at hand, he became guilty of several improper proceedings, which cannot be ascribed to any thing else, but to the imperiousness of fate. He took from Sëid-qhan-djehan the office of Grand-master of the artillery and gave it to Haiderc8ly-qhan: an office of the utmost importance, and which always involved the disposal of the Emperors household, family and even person. Several days more having being spent in that encampment, it was the ninth of the next month of Zilcaad, when the Emperor, quitting the Imperial residence of Ecber-abad, advanced three cosses on the road of Decan (131), on a spot of ground which he enobled by his presence. He was attended by the

Hossëin-aaly-qhan after many consultations, resolves on marching to Decan in person.

(131) This slowness of motion and the smallness of these stages are in the notions of the Indians a part of the state that must attend a great man, together with an immense retinue, that keeps the matter involved in a perpetual cloud of dust. But all these notions have been overturned by the English Conquerors, who travelling by land with no retinue at all, and with all the expedition possible, have taught the Indians to enjoy an atmosphere free from dust, and even to travel in post.

Vezir

233





Vezir Abdollah-qhan, who waited only for a proper opportunity to take his leave and to commence his journey towards the capital: for as the anniversary of the Emperor's coronation was at hand, and fell on the fifteenth, he wanted to assist at the ceremonies and rejoicings usual on that occasion, and then only to commence his journey (132). Hossain-aaly-qhan objected to so much delay; and he engaged the Emperor to dismiss the Vezir more early, after which he decamped himself with the Emperor; and on the fourteenth, he had marched one full stage more, to stop at Fateh-poor at which town he spent three or four days in rejoicings for the anniversary of the Emperor's coronation. These being over, he thought only of marching by long stages to Decan. But his brother Abdollah-qhan, remained in the same spot two or three days more with Hamed-qhan, uncle to Nizam-el-mulk and some other lords that had neither wings nor feathers, such as Ghazi-eddin-qhan, Ghalub-qhan and many others. After this stay, the reason of which no one could guess, he set out for the capital, and in the road was met by Mohammed-qhan bangash, the Afghan; who not satisfied with some lacks of rupees which he had touched from Hossain-aaly-qhan, under promise of following him with his body of national troops, protested a want of money, and got fifty thousand rupees more from the Vezir. The latter continued his march to the capital whilst his brother was intent on marching into Decan.

The Vezir continuing to advance, was at two short journies from the capital, when he received intelligence that his brother had been killed, together with his younger brother Nasr-eddin-aaly-qhan and his nephew Ghazret-qhan. This intelligence was contained in a short note brought by a dromedary corrier, which Ratan-chund had hurried away on the first tumult. And here is a detail of this event.

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(132) One of these ceremonies consists in weighing the Emperor's person in a pair of golden scales against a quantity of articles, which being so dissimilar to each other, must have some meaning or some intention concealed under these appearances: these articles are gold, quick-silver, artificial perfumes, musk, vitriol of forts, intoxicating drugs (such as opium, bang, &c. &c.) several kinds of grain, namely, wheat, barley, rice, badjraw Dal, &c. &c. salt, boiled butter, iron &c.





As the Emperor was a mere cypher in his own dominions, his situation set daggers in the hearts of some Nobles and Lords of the Old Court of Äsrengzib's, such as Nizam-el-mulk, Mahmed-aamin-qhan and several others, who beheld with indignation the enormous power of the two brothers, and were perpetually revolving in their minds the various means by which they might be delivered from a boundless influence, so injurious to the Imperial family, and so capable to eclipse them with every one of their party. Mahmed-aamin-qhan, although narrowly watched, had found means to say a few words of Turkish to the Emperor, both to obtain his consent, and to put him upon his guard; and this consent having been imparted to Nizam-el-mulk, it put him upon asserting his own independance and upon wresting all the Decan from the two brothers; and it is to these intrigues at court, and to that General's exertions in the field, that Dilaver-aaly-qhan and Alem-aaly-qhan owed their misfortune: although after all, it cannot be denied but that the whole did happen by the immediate impulse of an unavoidable destiny. For Mahmed-aamin-qhan, who saw that the Viceroy was bent on the destruction of his confederate, Nizam-el-mulk, and who suspected that the latter was not a match for his adversary, concluded that his ruin would be followed by his own downfall and that of all the T3-ranians. Impressed with such ideas, he was watching day and night with his confederates for a favorable opportunity of falling at once upon Houssein-aaly-qhan, and of making an end of him. But it must not be believed that they would have raised their views so high, had they not been assured of a vigorous support by a powerful party; and this they were augmenting every day. The first person they thought of acquiring, was Seid-mahmed-aamin, better known under the name of Saadet-qhan, an Iranian born at Nishap8r in Qhorassan. This man's first rise in the world was by appearing as Colonel or Hezary in that corps of Musqueteer-guards, called Vala-lshahies. It was in Feroh-fyur's time. Some time after, he was promoted to the Fojdary of Hendon-biana;

Conspiracy  
against Houssein-  
aaly-qhan.





one of the principal and most refractory districts of the Province of Eberabad. It was here he first gave a specimen of his valor and abilities. With a few troops which he obtained from the Vezir Adbollah-qhan, and a few more which he added of his own, he found means to bring that whole country under order and controul; and this service having produced him an augmentation of five hundred horses to his military grade, he henceforward became known at Court, where he bore the character of a resolute man and an able commander; and he was now come to camp to carry some points of his own. Mahmed-aamin-qhan finding by his looks that he was exactly cut out for his purpose insinuated himself to artfully into his mind that he became henceforward his bosom companion and the depositary of all his secrets: and as this association had been greatly facilitated by their being both Moguls (132), they cast their eyes upon a third Mogul, a man altogether fit for their purpose: this was Mir-häi-der-qhan, a Djagatäi-Calmuc (152), of Calghar in T<sup>h</sup>ran, whose family enjoying these many years the office of sword-bearer, or Mir-shimshir, to the Prince of that Northern country, had assumed the appellation of Mirs or Miranies. He was founded by the two confederates; and Mir-Häider, who was a man of an intrepid daring temper, whom no danger could appale, accepted the proposal, not only out of a principle of ambition, but also out of a religious zeal, he being as zealous a Sunny, as the Viceroy was a zealous Shyah: He even took upon himself the task of dispatching him with his own hand, a desperate attempt that had never entered the head of a man in his sober senses. These three resolute men being closely knit together by a

(132) It has been already observed that all strangers of a fair complexion are called Mogols in India: a mistake arising from that minority of Iranians or Persians which were in the Mogol-army that invaded India under Djenghis-qhan and under Tamer-lang; so that the Indians, who till then had no other name for all the northern people but that of Turk, which they pronounced Tgrk, took them to be all of the same race, and have since given them the appellation of Mogols, sometimes distinguishing them into Mogols T<sup>h</sup>ranian and Iranian. The Turks that inhabit to-day that part of the Roman Empire known to the Asiaticks, are called R<sup>o</sup>mis or R<sup>o</sup>mis: an appellation which the Turks themselves give to those inhabiting Romania and Anatoly. The Europeans are all called Frenglis or French.

(133) Tamer-lang as well as Djengis-qhan were of the Djagatäi tribe.





conformity of characters and a similitude of views, were examining amongst themselves who should give the first blow, and in what manner; and having for this purpose applied to the Coran, the sort fell on Mir-haider, that man unworthy of living either in this world or the other. This man without suspecting how near he was to his own end, framed a petition full of complaints against Mahmud-aamin-qhan; and to present it, he took for his partner a countryman of his, who was his particular friend, and whom he knew to be as stout and as daring as himself. It was on a Tuesday, which fell on the sixth of Zilkidj in the year 1132 of the Hejrah. The army was encamped at fifty coffes south of Echerabad; and the Emperor was just alighting to get into his quarters. This moment having been seized by Mahmud-aamin-qhan, he drop a few Turkish words by which he advised him to be ready and upon his guard, he made his bow, and retired to the quarters of Haider-csly-qhan, who was one of the principal conspirators. As he was retiring, the Viceroy advanced, and having accompanied the Emperor as far as the first entrance of the Ladies enclosure where he saw him enter, he withdrew, and took the road of his own quarters, which being in the vanguard, could not be at less than one coffe distance. As he was approaching the outlet of the Imperial paling, called Calal-para, Mir-haider, who had availed himself of a rising ground to shew himself from afar, and to make his bow, raised his petition as high as he could; but the chopdars, and Slave-guards, having forbidden his approaching nearer, fate, unavoidable fate, put it into the Viceroy's mind to becom to the man, and to command his people to let him draw nearer. Mir haider having augured well of this extraordinary condescendence, drew close, presented his Petition, and as the Viceroy's paleki was going-on, he went-on likewise, holding, as it is usual on those occasions, the foot of that carriage with one hand (133).

(133) The Paleki being a kind of bed, repofes upon four or eight feet, about eight inches in height.





Hosseïn-aaly-qhan is assassinated.

A furious combat about his body.

whilst he gesticulated with the other, in explaining the objects of his complaints. But the moment he saw his attention engaged by the contents of the Petition, he drew his poinard, and gave that valorous innocent Saïd such a violent stab, as threw him on the opposite side of the Paleki, where he expired without a groan, and in an instant put on the crown of martyrdom. But even in falling on the opposite side, he gave his murderer a violent kick in the breast which overthrew the paleki, but the body fell motionless on the ground. Nâzr-ollah-qhan, a relation of the Viceroy's, was likewise marching on foot, and holding the paleki likewise; but on seeing the blow, he drew his sabre, and felled the murderer to the ground, and was himself felled down by the Mogul, or second partner, who was himself killed and killed by Mir-mushref, who although wounded in the scuffle, found means to escape alive: from that moment a promiscuous slaughter took place round the paleki; but numbers of Moguls arriving one after another, the ground was cleared, and both the heads of Hosseïn-aaly-qhan, and Nâzr-ollah-qhan being severed from their bodies, were carried to the Emperor's quarters. This fight made so deep an impression on the Eunuch Macbûl, superintendant of the Viceroy's Seraglio, that assuming courage from his very despair, he drew his sabre, attacked the Moguls vigorously, and received several wounds of which he died three or four days after. Whilst so much noble blood was streaming round Hosseïn-aaly-qhan's body, his head water-bearer and head-scavenger, taking to their sabres and buclers, ran with all their might towards the Imperial paling; and throwing themselves headlong amongst the body-guards, they cut their way towards the Emperor as far as the part called Tesbigh-qhana, where they were hacked to pieces, or, as some others say, hewed down by Saadet-khan, who barred the passage with his body—A troop of resolute men, attached to Mohcum-sing, Divan of the murdered Viceroy, having on the very first tumult, ran with drawn sabres as far as the Calal-para, through which many of them cut their way





as far as the main tent of audience, fought valiantly; and although they were mostly wounded, they cut their way back on hearing that their master could not recover. As for Hoffsain-aaly-qhan's musqueteers, who had already commenced firing, they were soon silenced, or they dispersed of themselves, on hearing that all was over.

THE news of Hoffsain-aaly-qhan's death was directly carried to Ghäiret-qhan, his Nephew, who was actually in camp. That valorous young man, without calling-up his troops, or bringing-up his artillery, or even giving himself time to assemble his friends about his person; without sending word, or waiting until they should come, directly quitted the meal he was taking, and having wiped his mouth and hands with a handkerchief (134), he mounted his Elephant. And without uttering a word, he advanced to fight himself against the Emperor and all the murderers of his uncle. With about three thousand horse and foot that joined him troop by troop by the way, he rushed on the enemy with a fury which can be compared to nothing but to the rapidity of lightning or to the fury—of a storm. Whilst he was advancing, Saadet-qhan, and Mahmed-aamin-qhan with Häider-c8ly-qhan, sensible of the Emperor's danger had rushed head-long amongst a number of enemies that had penetrated as far as the women's enceinte, and were thronging and barring the very entrance; and having cleared the passage by mere bodily strength and a vigorous execution, they called on the Emperor to shew himself: but the Emperor was actually held body to body by his mother, and entangled amongst a crowd of women that had seized on his person. Saadet-qhan sensible of the importance of the moment, and how little rules of etiquette deserved then his attention, had the boldness to rush beyond the door, and having intreated the Emperor to shew himself at the head of a number of faithful

(134) Amongst the Asiatics, the Turks wash their hands before sitting at table; they have a towel and wash again with soap after their meal. But the Indians, and Persians wash before meal—have no towel—and wash again after meal, but with some flour made of pulse, which answers all the purposes of soap. Ghäyret-qhan's eagerness was such, that he did not give himself time to call for water and flour, but laid hold of a white handkerchief where lay his penknife and his watch, or some such thing, and wiped his mouth with it.





servants ready to shed their blood in his cause, he seized his hand, and having by mere strength of body disengaged him from the women, he brought him out to Mahmed-aamin-qhan, who mounted him upon his elephant, and took his post in the Qharvas behind, to protect his person. As it was customary for the Emperor's guards and for some other corps to assemble early at the entrance of the Imperial enceinte; and they had hastened rather that day earlier than usual, whilst some troops of Mogols were hastening towards Saadet-qhan, and some others were joining Mahmed-aamin-qhan by detached bands; the Emperor at once appeared surrounded by a respectable body of men. But still his danger had been great, but for Haider-c8li-qhan's activity, who sensible that some such emergency was at hand, had had the foresight to exercise every day his troops of the artillery, whose hearts he had been gaining all this while by his liberality; in so much that on the first report of the tumult, he had marched up to the Emperor's quarters and whilst Ghäret-qhan was advancing on one hand with a confused disorderly body of men, he was marching up on the other with a steady pace and a numerous troop marshalled in order, with which he surrounded the Emperor's person, forming without his own circle another circle of field-pieces and war-elephants. This once done, he went up to a body of his own horse, and advanced to the charge, himself the foremost. It was high time: a battle, as terrible as the day of judgment, had already commenced. Ghäret-qhan, who had come with all the fury of a hungry lion or a famished tyger, was broiling like incense upon the fire of impatience: his eagerness did not give him time to take breath, so little was he apprehensive that all his eagerness would only serve to precipitate him into the abyss of eternity. He had resigned his own life, and was ready to part with it, if he could but revenge his uncle's murder, and close with the Emperor's person, or those of Mahmed-aamin-qhan and Haider-c8li-qhan. The Cannon and musquetry of this general accustomed long ago to order, were already firing with a steady hand,

A bloody battle betwixt the Emperor's party and that of the Viceroy's, in which Ghäret, who commanded for the latter, loses his life with the victory.





and already balls were raining as thick as if had been a storm of hail. The two adverse parties were engaging with so much fury, that nothing was heard but the groans of the dying and the cries of *have at you*. For by this time the Lords of the Emperor's party were flocking from all parts round his person; and Ghäret-qhan's troops were likewise hastening to their Lord's assistance: so that the two parties, which had now assumed the appearance of complete armies, were already come to hand-blows, and engaging body to body. In a little time Ghäret-qhan had advanced so near Häider-c8li-qhan that he had shot an arrow at him, which sunk with so much violence in the latter's bow, that it required afterwards a great force to extract it. This was no sooner seen by Saadet-qhan and Camer-eddin-qhan; than they ran to his assistance, and performed exploits worthy of their attachment to the Emperor. This Prince himself was incessantly filling his bow and shooting arrows on all sides. Whilst the two parties were solely intent on each others' destruction, the sharpers and robbers of both sides, availing themselves of the confusion, fell on Hossäin-aaly-qhan's quarters, set them on fire as well as all the tents of his body of Seïds; and whilst the servants were busy in putting out the fire, they plundered out of the Viceroy's tents money and jewels to the amount of several crores. It was at such a time that Qhandö8ran arrived to the Emperor's assistance; the action seemed then inclining to one side. Ghäret-qhan enfeebled already by two wounds, now received a third. He was shot dead with a musquet-ball by an Habeshinian who sat in the Qhavvas behind Häider-c8li-qhan; and the young Seïd, without uttering a groan, went to sit close-to, and to wait upon his glorious ancestor, the Doctor Aaly, the Prince of the pious, (on whom be grace and mercy for ever!) all this while the Viceroy's baggage had been plundered leizurely, and there remained but little of it to be secured for the Emperor's use.

THE Victory being now secured, Häider-c8li-qhan sent word to Moh-cum-sing, Prime Minister or Divan to Hossäin-aaly-qhan, that he advised him





him to pay his homage to the Emperor, as that Prince had ordered that his life and property should be spared. He came, and on his making his bow, the Emperor forgave the errors of his past conduct, and augmented his military grade to six thousand horses. Word was also sent to Ratan-chund, but as from that General himself, that he might come and be safe. But Ratan-chund, who knew how much he was detested, made haste to dispatch a dromedary-courier to Abdollah-qhan, as we have already said; and getting into his paleki, he was hastening to his own quarters. But he was soon stopped by some Mogols as well as by crowds of mob, who, incensed thus long while at his violent behaviour and at his oppressions, flew at him, and having torn him from his Paleki, they gave him a severe beating, and dragged him stark naked to Mahmed-aamin-qhan's quarters, who immediately ordered him some clothes, but sent him into confinement with a chain at his feet. Rai-feromendafs, agent-general to Abdollah-qhan, was more lucky: observing how matters went, he shaved his beard and whiskers, changed his apparel; and whilst his baggage was pillaging, he went like a thief into his his own tent, took some jewels, and retired successively to the quarters of some trusty friends, who successively found means to conceal him: at last he made his escape good to Abdollah-qhan his master. But Mir-aaly-qhan did not meet with so much good luck: he was a servant attached this long while to Hoffsän-aaly-qhan, who set so much value upon his services, that he had raised him to some offices equally lucrative and honourable, such as that of Dagh-teffuya; (135). and he in acknowledgement for those favors had now approved himself a worthy brave companion of Ghäret-qhan's. He was now plundered as well as others, and sent into confinement, after having been respected for three days together by that same populace, that had proved so licentious with others.

(135) The horses of the Cavalry being numbered, described and registered, are also marked with a hot iron upon the thigh (for the trooper finds himself in horse as well as clothes, accoutrements, arms, and victuals) for fear of thefts: Hence the necessity and importance of such a register, and of such a mark: the latter being called a Dagh-Teffuya, produces a great perquisite.





Mirmushreff, who had cut so conspicuous a figure, when Hossein-aaly-qhan, was murdered, was now offered offices and even money: But he thought it incumbent upon him to decline both, and he retired to his house where he lived for a long while unthought of and in obscurity; when the Emperor of his own motion sent for him and took him in his own service.

As to the three corpses of Hossein-aaly-qhan, Reddin-aaly-qhan and Ghäiret-qhan, they were wrapped-up in cloth of gold by Mahmed-amin-qhan's order, and decently put into coffins, that nobleman intending thereby to screen himself from the reproaches of the public. He even went to the place where they lay in state, made his devotions at the foot of them, performed the usual rites, and said aloud: *Here lies three valorous Lions asleep.* After this he ordered the three coffins to be taken-up and carried to the family monument at Adjmir, where lies buried the great Abdollah-qhan, alias Mäa-qhan, the founder of that family. Doubtless the intention of the gold cloth and other costly ornaments, was to excite by the way the cupidity of the banditti and highway-men, who by plundering the whole, and committing a variety of indecencies, might render the procession ridiculous, but if such was his idea, he was disappointed. Wherever the coffins were decryed from afar people of all ranks would flock to them, and out of a respectful regard, would accompany them a great way; and it was with such a cortege they arrived at Adjmir, where they were deposited in the family monument:

"The world, O my son, is no permanent property:

"Never expect that it can abide forever in the same place.

"Have you not seen the morning and evening of all Solciman's power (on whom be  
"peace (136)!

"And has not his Empire gone to wreck as well as so many others?

"Did you not see that he went to wreck himself at last?

"Happy! that he could carry with him the merits of his wisdom and justice!"

Thanks be to God Almighty, that these two qualifications have confessedly shined in Hossein aaly-qhan's character; and it appears from authentic

(136) Solciman, Ebn Da3d. Solomon, son of David.





memoirs and unquestionable testimonies that what befel Feroh-syur and some others of his enemies, was of his and their own seeking, and had never taken place but in his own defence. And indeed where is the man that would not strive for the conservation of his life and honour? It is unheard to this day that any man of the world should have ever parted with either, whilst he had power to defend them. It may even be said that few men have been found of a standard so free from alloy, as to have layed their lives and honor in the cause of God and of his Messenger, although a total dereliction of either or of both in such a mighty case, of divine obligation, and never fails to produce in the other world the highest degree of happiness and glory: whereas the like dereliction in the cause of our own species, is far from producing such a glorious return. And how shall it be believed that it can whilst the many important services rendered Feroh-syur by these two brothers at the expense of so much blood and property, were no better rewarded than by his perpetually endeavoring to make them fall a sacrifice to such vile reprobate men as an Emir-djemlah and an Yucad-qhan—The most contemptible and most profligate wretches that ever disgraced a court?

The Emperor's lenity to the vanquished.

THE victor's lenity was never so conspicuous as in his condescendence towards those persons attached to the Seïds. Affed-ollah-qhan, better known under the name of Navvab Evliah, a son to Housseïn-aaly-qhan's aunt, having lost all his effects in this general confusion, as well as his credit and influence, obtained leave to quit the Court, and he went in pilgrimage to the house of God in the glorious Mecca. Gholam-aaly-qhan, who had the merit of having been one of those that went to fetch the young Emperor from Selimgur-castle, and on that account had been spared both in his honour and property, no-sooner saw himself at full liberty, than he made his escape to Abdollah-qhan. Nufret-yar-qhan, one of the principal Seïds of Bar, who although much dissatisfied with Abdollah-qhan, had had the generosity to march to his brother's assistance at the head of his body of horse, and was already





ready at three cosses distance, finding on his arrival that all was over, applied to Ghandö8ran with whom he had an intercourse of friendship and civilities; and he was sent for by that Nobleman who presented him to the Emperor. On his paying his obeisance, he was raised to the grade of five thousand horses, with an addition of two thousand more, to his command. This favor seemed to serve as a signal for bringing forwards a variety of promotion. Mahmed-aamin-qhan, who enjoyed already the grade of eight thousand horses, was complimented with the effectual command of so many troopers at two horses each, presented with a donative of two Corors and a half of Dams (137), and decorated with the dignity of Supreme Minister, under the title and style of Vezir-el-memalic, Zaafer-djung (188). The office of Paymaster-general was given to Qhandö8ran, together with the grade of eight thousand horses, and the title of Emir-ul-umera, that is, Prince of Princes. Camer-eddin-khan, son to the actual Vezir, was invested with the second Pay-mastership, and the superintendence of the Bathing place, which implies the private apartments: He was also complimented with some other offices, and promoted to the command of five thousand horses, with the grade of seven. Haider-c8ly-qhan, who had cut so conspicuous a figure, was promoted to the same grade, with the effectual command of six thousand troopers at one and two horses each; and he received besides the title of Nasser-Djung, that is, Succourer in battles. Saadet-qhan was promoted to the grade and command of five thousand horses, and complimented with the title of Bahadyr or Valliant, and with a nagarah or a large kettle-drum of command. Zaafer-qhan had also a share in the Imperial favor; in one word no one of the Emperor's friends antient or recent were forgotten, and every one was rewarded in offices, dignities, and employments, as his merits pointed out, or as he had interest at Court.

(137) A Dam or Peissa, has a variety of values in the market, being a very thick Copper coin; but in the Exchequer accounts, it is always the fortieth part of a rupee.

(138) Victorious in battles.





ABDOLAH-QHAN had advanced about forty coffes, and he was already at two short journies from the capital, when he received that note which Ratinchund had hurried away on the very first tumult: that mournful note which darkened the light of the day for him, blinded his eye-balls, and rendered his existence a burthen, with eyes brimful with tears, and a mountain-load of grief on his breast, he thought it unsafe to stop, and was for marching-on to the capital. Some of his friends objected to this notion, and were of opinion that as the Emperor was not yet joined by the troops of the Provinces, and had not had time to practise upon the inclinations of many thousands of old Soldiers attached to his late brother, it was expedient to return to Echerabad, and to fall at once upon the Emperor, before he should find leisure to fortify his party, "this advice did not please Abdollah-qhan, who observed, that there was no success to be expected by attacking with dispirited, diminished troops, on a Prince firmly seated upon the throne, and surrounded by an infinity of Lords and Generals closely linked together: That for his part, he firmly believed that in such a case the match would prove too unequal, and quite inauspicious, unless he shewed to his party a Prince of Aorengzib's blood; whose person might attract the eyes of the multitude, and conciliate the hearts of so many Lords of the old court, who were now living in the capital, and who by forming a court to the new Prince might afford him time to assemble troops and Artillery." This advice of the Vezir's having been approved, he continued his journey to the capital. But matters were already much altered in that territory.

For as soon as the news of the revolution had spread far and near, the peasants had joined the highwaymen and bandits, and made it a practice to plunder every one of those that chanced to lag behind, or even any baggage that happened to be at some distance from the main; and although they were more than once chastised, there was no weaning them from such practices





ices. One day a body of foot, with their officers at their head, was cut off near Abdollah-qhan's quarters, and almost within his sight: Another day they furrounded a convoy that came from the capital with a vast quantity of effects for Hoffsain-aaly-qhan, and plundered it entirely, stripping all those that composed it; and this at only two coffes from Abdollah-qhan's camp. On the other hand, all the lands and Djaghirs, that belonged to the two brothers or to their adherents, had been layed hold of by the Zemindars, who took possession of the revenues, until, said they, they might know to whom they were to remain. All these however being but inconsiderable objects, Abdollah-qhan dispatched Shudjahat-ollah-qhan and M8rteza-qhan two Noblemen of importance, to the capital, with orders to bring from thence one of the Princes of the Imperial blood; and he wrote to his younger brother, Nedjmeddin-aaly-qhan, Governor-general of the province of Dehly, in which the capital is seated, to raise as many men as he could, and to provide a camp-equipage with every thing requisite for taking the field.

THE letter arrived in the evening of the eighth of Zilhidj, that is, some time before any certain intelligence could arrive at the city; but as some rumour had already found it's way thither, the Governor had sent a number of armed men with the (city Cutval at their head (139), to take possession of Mahmed-aamin-qhan's palace, which they had kept encircled for the greatest part of the night whilst the people within shewed a resolution to defend themselves; but in the morning the Governor, whether from his own motion, or in consequence of an order from Abdollah-qhan, recalled the Cutval, and desisted from a proceeding so hazarded. His attention was besides

(139) The cutval is an officer partly civil and partly military, a kind of General justice of peace, but with much more extensive power, which brings his office to a par with that of the Lieutenant de Police at Paris. It must be observed that the Palaces in Dehly, being built of stone, to the very roof, beams and joisters; and being terrassed with stone and furrounded by walls and battlements, shut up by doors fortified like so many Dungeons, they are all capable of defense.





so diverted to objects of much greater importance; for two days after, that is on the tenth of Zilhij, which is always the day of Corban or sacrifice, he went out of the city to make his devotions in the fields, as is the custom, with a vast multitude of people; and on returning to town, he repaired directly to the castle, where are guarded the Princes of the Imperial blood: he was accompanied by Abdollah-qhan's two Envoys, and it was with them he presented himself at the door of the apartment where lived the Princes, sons of Muëzzeddin-djehandar-shah, whom he requested to come out. But so far were they from complying with such a request, that they all refused to a man, and even one of them, Nico-fyur by name, stole away, and hid himself. The Envoys confounded at such a repulse, repaired to Soltan Hibrahim's apartment, a young Prince, who was son to Refi-al-cadr, and cousin-german to Bahadyr-shah, and having prevailed upon him to accept their proffer, they brought him out; and on the next day, they placed him on the throne under the name and style of Abol-fetuh—Zehir eddin—Mohammed-hebrihan (140). Abdollah-qhan being arrived two days after, went immediately to pay his homage to the new Prince, from whom he obtained for Ghazi-eddin-qhan the office of first Pay-master-general, with the grade of eight thousand horses, and the title of Emir-ul-umerah. Nedjmeddin-aaly-qhan was made second Pay-master; Selabet-qhan, third; and Bāyram-qhan, fourth. Favors and promotions were likewise granted to their relations and friends; and then the minister turned his attention towards many antient Lords, who having been of the court of Refi-ed-derdjat, now lived at home, without office and without employment, utterly neglected and forgotten. These were now sent-for, received with respect, accommodated with offices and employments, and assisted with sums of money, adequate to all their wants, from fifty thousand down to a lac each. Some who had served with distinction, were proposed to the

Abdollah-qhan places on the throne a rival to Mammed-shah.

(140) Mammed-labrahim, the visitor of religion, and the father of success.





command of several new bodies of horse, which they were to raise at the rate of eighty rupees per month for each trooper. Hamed-qhan, uncle to Nizam-el-mulk, but upon bad terms with him, was complimented with a new Djaghir over and above that which he enjoyed already, and with a large sum of money. Several Nobles and Lords attached to Feroz-shah, such for instance, as Yticad-qhan, Shahista-qhan, Sefi-qhan, and Islam-qhan, with many others more, who lived neglected this long while, and moreover uncertain of their fate, were now requested to attend, and promised honors and dignities, if they would attach themselves to the young Prince. Some of them, like Islam-qhan and Mahmied-yar-qhan and Sefi-qhan, who did not like the complexion of the times, excused themselves upon their bad health, and absolutely refused to meddle with honors or dignities or offices. But Yticad-qhan and Sefi-qhan agreed to the proposals, and accepted a sum of money for their necessities, but without having really any sincere intention: for both these Lords, as well as several others that had commanded in the guards called Vala-shahies, returned home after having followed Abdollah-qhan for forms sake during one or two days march. The dignitaries or Mansobadars of lesser note, such as those from five hundred to a thousand horses, proved more sincere in their attachment, and were therefore preferred according to their merits. As to the common troopers, their pay was carried from fifty rupees a month to full eighty. But as men and horses were promiscuously admitted, without giving a due preference to old soldiers, these as well as those that were advantageously mounted and armed, took offence at an undistinguishing inattention, that confounded them with enadequate new levies, and they became discontented. Nevertheless the necessities of the times not allowing the rulers to pay to their discontent all the attention it deserved, the levies went on without much minding the distinctions of old or new soldiers, and still less that of the tribe and race; inasmuch that whoever brought a horse, was insisted of course, without much inquiry about what nation or

tribe

The Vezir  
acquires parti-  
zans, and in a  
little time raises  
within the city  
an incredible  
army.





tribe he might be. In this manner an army of ninety thousand horses was in a little time levied in the capital, at the expence of one coror of rupees for levy-money (141).

THE seventeenth of Zilhidj, that is five days after the Coronation, Abdollah-qhan brought the new Emperor out of the citadel, in the middle of as much cortege and as much royal pomp as could be put together on so short notice, and he marched with him to the Yid-gah (142), out of the city, where he encamped, and where he was joined by several persons of consequence, who quitted the Imperial army and joined him with their troops. At the same time Gh8lam-aaly-qhan and Nedjabet-aaly-qhan; (the latter was Cousin-german to Abdollah-qhan and only fourteen years old,) were sent back to the city, with commission to keep it quiet and free from tumults. And as the news he now received assured him that Mahmed-shah was advancing by the Djait country, he took to the road of saint Co8t8b-eddin's monument in order to be on his passage; but on being better informed, he struck to the left and encamped at Ferid-p8r; whilst Mahmed-shah was coming through-out Echer-abad. There he made some stay in expectation of being joined by his younger brothers Seif-eddin-aaly-qhan, and Sēid mahmed-qhan, as well as by some other Lords and commanders who were to bring a body of Sēids of Bar with their own troops. This short stay proved of service to him, as every day he was joined by some body of troops, as well as by the bravest amongst the Afghans; besides several considerable Zemindars who flocked

(141) We may guess at the size and populousness of Dehli by the rapidity and success of these levies. Ninety thousand horses is a force which no kingdom of Europe can afford at even ten years warning, and yet these ninety thousand troopers were exclusive of two hundred thousand men more, which every one knows must have attended them, exclusive of two hundred thousand men more that had come out of the city with the Emperor and the two brothers, and exclusive of those multitudes more that remained neutral; and all this is only military men, exclusively to that infinity of other sorts of men that must have swarmed in that immense city, and exclusively to the women and children. Those therefore that have said that Dehli contained about two millions of men, were not wide of the mark; and this is the population, which the Jesuits, the most intelligent travellers that ever wrote, gave to Peking and Nanking the two capitals of China, as well as to Dehli and Agra in 1750.

(142) The Yid-gah or feast-place is a wall with a niche facing Mecca, but erected in the open fields, for the purpose of celebrating there the Prayers and rites usual on the day of Corban or sacrifice. There the whole congregation prays in the open air.





amongst the Afghans; besides several considerable Zemindars, who flocked to him from the environs at the head of their men. Shoals of Houssein-aaly-qhan's veteran soldiers, who had been prevailed upon to enlist with Mahmed-shah, and to touch one month of his pay, now made it a practice to steal away and to come by hundreds and two hundreds at a time, all mounted and armed. Abdollah-qhan thus strengthened, moved to Peshawar, where he was joined by his two brothers, and by some other commanders, who besides their own troops, had brought one hundred and fifty Cart-loads of Sēids of Bar, every one of whom thought himself equal to a Rustem and an Effendiab. These were ordered to form a circle round Abdollah-qhan's elephant: a post for which they had shewn much eagerness, not only in hopes of preferment, but also to exhibit their regard for that Minister with whom, as Sēid's, they claimed the rights of kindred and brother-hood. As to the veterans brought by his two brothers, they amounted at least to ten thousand effective troopers; and hardly were they in camp, when they were followed by Churamon the Djaat (father to Bedun-sing and grand father to Barchund) a powerful Zemindar of the Province of Ecberabad, and owner of the very ground whereon Mahmed-shah was treading. Immediately after, arrived Radja Mocum-sing late Divan to Houssein-aaly-qhan, the same who had been so kindly used by Mahmed-shah. But his inclination overbalancing those new ties, he fled from that camp and came to Abdollah-qhan, bringing with him a good body of troops with several Veteran officers and commanders. All these several successive bodies were in addition to that numerous army brought out of the capital, and they formed so immense a surface, that the soil undertrodden by so much cavalry and infantry disappeared at once and could not be seen but after some search. All these forces were in such high spirits, that Churamon having gone a skirmishing the very day of his arrival, he brought away three or four elephants and a large number of camels, belonging to the enemy, all which he presented to Abdollah-

The Vezir's army is almost doubled by the succours that flock to his camp.





qhan, as an auspicious beginning; but which that General requested him to accept at his hand, as an earnest of future victory. The two adverse armies had advanced so near, that Mahmed-shah was encamped in the neighbourhood of Shah-p8r, and the distance would have been reduced to nothing had not that Prince stopped there, to wait for the famous Abdol-femed-qhan Governor of M8ltan, and the Radja Dehiradj djehi-sing, who however did not appear, either through the badness of the roads, or for some other reason. It was then the ninth of Moharrem; but in that interval Mahmed-qhan-bangash joined him with three thousand horse, as did Ghäret-qhan, the Rohilah and Bayazid-qhan the Mevati with their respective corps; and in a little time more, four thousand effective troopers, arrived from Radja Djehi-sing's country.

MEAN while the neighbourhood of the two armies had occasioned several skirmishes, in which the two parties were essaying each other; and at one time Churamon directed by Abdollah-qhan, had been very near setting fire to the park of the enemy's artillery; and at another he had been very near decoying and bringing away all the bullocks, belonging to their train. Nevertheless it was the tenth of Muharrem before the armies could face each other, and they were ranged in battle immediately. Häider-c8li-qhan, grand master of the artillery, who had been so instrumental in saving it from Churamon's attack, was put at the head of the first line: Saadet qhan, with Mahmed-qhan-bangash, commanded the right wing; and Qhandö8ran with Nufret-yar-qhan and some other commanders of distinction, commanded at the left, in the center of which appeared Azzem-qhan with a body of veteran troops. Mahmed-aamin-qhan, the Vezir, with Haddy-qhan and Cammer-eddin-qhan, and Aazim-ollah-qhan and some other commanders of the first-rank, was in the center of the whole, where Mahmed-shah took his post surrounded by the troops commanded by Shir-esken-qhan and Terbiet-qhan, besides a numerous troop of persons of the highest rank, who

fought





fought as Volunteers, being personally attached to the Imperial person. Mir-djemlah and some other commanders, amongst which were Radja-gopal-sing-bohd8dia, were ordered to cover the flanks; and Affed-ollah-qhan with Seif-qhan and Radja Dehiradj, were placed so, as to serve as a corps de reserve, and to watch over the Emperor's female household. The war-elephants, like so many mountains, cased in iron, were stationed in front of all, but behind the artillery, and mixed with a number of light horses, that fought singly, or in detached parties.

ABDOLLAH-QHAN on his side, who on the twelfth of Moharrem was arrived at Hottin-p8r, three cosses short of the enemy's encampment, ranged his army in battle array. But the troops as well as Officer of the Bar, who on account of the kindred which they claimed, pretended to a kind of equality with him, proved exceedingly troublesome, and unruly; and they took-up so much time in being brought to some order, that it became necessary to marshall them three several times: at last they were prevailed upon to remain in front of Abdollah-qhan's elephant, under command of their three Generals, Seif-eddin-aaly-qhan, Seid-mahmed qhan, and Shahamet-qhan every one of whom proved full as head-strong as any of their men, which as well as they were Seids of Bar, but all so full of themselves as to pretend to an equality with the Rostems and the Afrasiabs of old (143). Hamed-qhan and Seif qhan, and Bayram-qhan and Yqhlaff-qhan the Rohilah, with Omer-qhan the Afghan, and several other commanders Afghan and Rohilahs, amongst which were Shudjah-qhan-peloly and Abdollah-qhan-tirin, all of them Zemindars, and all of them mounted on elephants, to the number of seventy, were placed with their troops in the right and left wings. But Abol-mohsen-qhan, the Paymaster-general, and Seid aaly-qhan Pay-master to the regular corps, and Hiramon Pay master of the troops from Bar, with twenty-five thousand horses,

(143) Two heroes of Persian antiquity.





all in Abdollah-qhan's private pay, and all his veteran troops, were placed before his elephant, which was already encircled by a body of men ali Sëids of Bar, and all Infantry, who considered themselves rather as the countrymen and kinsmen of Abdollah-qhan's than as soldiers in his pay. The army being marshalled in that order, passed that whole night, which was that of the thirteenth, under arms. That very night Radja Mohcum-sing, who although Divan to the late Hossëin-aaly-qhan, had been used with French lenity by Mahmed-shah, and even taken into favor, and promoted to the grade of five thousand horses, having found a favorable opportunity, came over, and presented himself to Abdollah-qhan, to whom he brought a body of eight hundred horses with Qhoda-dad-mirza and Qhan Mirza two officers of distinction at their head. At the dawn of the day, as soon as the trumpets sounded, and the heralds had published three times, as usual, *that courage was always safer than cowardice*, the foremost on both sides saluted each other (144), and made use of the whistling of arrows and the whizzing of musquet-balls to compliment each other, and to ask about each others health: this was the moment which Mahmed-shah, then in the center of his army, had appointed for Ratan-chund's supplice. The head of that odious man was presented to him, and fastened to the foot of his elephant, on which he sat in his Imperial attire. Upon this, as upon a signal, that numerous army which moved like the waves of a sea, or like an inundation that has covered the whole plain, advanced shouting, and with a firm resolution to wring the souls of its enemies out of their inimical bodies; and those that beheld the animosity of the combattants, and heard the confused noise of trumpets and kettle drums, concluded that no quarter would be asked or given that day by either party. The artillery was already sweeping whole ranks; and so many fire-mouths opening their jaws at once, carried terror into the heart of the bravest, like so many messengers dispatched by inevitable fate; whilst the incess-

Battle of Shah  
poor which lasts  
thirty hours

(144) This circumstance which has never been seen in Europe but at the battle of Fontenoy, where the French and then the English saluted each other, is not uncommon in India.





stant flashing of rockets in fire put an end to the boasts of the most courageous: nor can it be denied but that the artillery directed by so active a man as Häider-c8li-qhan, who had under his orders a body of expert men, accustomed to fire with steadiness, performed wonders that day. But this did hardly intimidate the opposite army, where thousands of brave men, animated by a spirit of party, and carrying the hearts of so many dragons, threw themselves fearlessly before those infernal mouths that vomited fire and death; and although numbers were swept away every moment, thousands were pressing forward and were advancing with a steady step: so that the faint-hearted of Mahmed-shah's artillery were loosing ground, and at last had betaken to an open flight, especially after Nedjmeddin-aaly-qhan had given a turn to the day by a manoeuvre judiciously conceived and as bravely executed: With twelve thousand horses and foot he had detached himself from his main, to take possession of a grove that lined a village; and from such a cover he made so hot and so incessant a fire, that imagination itself had its wings and feathers burned. If his ambition was to give a turn to the fortune of the day, his wish was accomplished; for his fire proved so galling, that the field became too dangerous for the Imperial troops: the roses on the cheeks of the bravest lost their hue: even a sense of shame disappeared; and their trepidation being such that they could no more distinguish their feet from their heads, they confounded their ranks, and were ready for an open flight. Such a state of things having been observed by Häider-c8ly qhan and Qhan-dö8ran, they took with them Nufretyar-qhan and Sabut-qhan with some other valorous commanders, and detaching themselves from the main, they advanced boldly on that breast work from which Nedjmeddin-aaly-qhan was pouring so much destruction: by dint of canon-balls they made a breach, and rushing upon it with shouts as to an assault, they carried every thing before them, reducing the enemies to a skulking fire from behind broken walls and fallen trees, from which they were finally driven; in so much that

Häider-c8ly-qhan





Haider-c8ly-qhan remained master of that Important post. In this state of things, and the two parties remaining on their field of battle after a bloody undecisive day, Abdollah-qhan at sun set, ordered a small tent to be pitched for him on the spot where he was; but on recollecting his loss, he sobbed, observed that no rest remained for him now in this world, and commanded the tent.

As soon as it grew dark Haider-c8ly-qhan who commanded the Imperial artillery, found means to put it in motion; he advanced firing and gaining ground, until he had taken an advantageous post, from whence he kept such an incessant firing the whole night, as killed and wounded an infinity of men. No heart could stand so destructive a canonade; and whole bodies not being able to bear it's violence, returned to camp, where being still exposed to a rain of balls, they fled farther; so that most of those valliant commanders, that had cut such a conspicuous figure on their Elephants in the day-time, now sought their safety in a shameful flight, but were intercepted in their retreat from camp, by armed bodies of peasants who stripped them of every thing. About the dawn of the day, a ball of a canon having broke the Häodh on which sat Mohcum-sing, he jumped down in a fright, and took horse and fled with so much earnestness, that a long time elapsed before any tidings could be had of his being dead or alive. The day broke out by this time, which was the fourteenth of Moharrem 1133; and it appeared that out of fifteen or sixteen thousand horses that had stood during the night that terrible canonade, not one had eaten any thing these twenty four hours, or even drank any water, that element being too far off, and moreover in the possession of a body of Djatts: such was the sense of honor, and such the sense of zeal amongst them, that not one of that whole multitude shrunk from his post: they were mostly Sëids of Bar, commanded by their own countrymen, and equally with them jealous of their honor, as well as zealously attached to Abdollah-qhan's person.

Equal





EQUAL steadiness was exhibited on the opposite side. Mahmed-shah mounted on his favorite Elephant, called Shah-pesend (145), was gracing by his person all that host of officers, commanders, and illustrious volunteers that surrounded his throne: It was remarked that he had remained sitting the whole night as well as the whole preceeding day. At day-break the enemy was already in motion; and Nedjmeddin-aaly-qhan at the head of a body of Sëids of Bar and another body of trusty soldiers, advanced again to the charge with the resolution of one resolved to carry the day, or to perish in the attempt. Setting at nought the thundering of that destructive Artillery that had done so much havoc the whole night, he made a furious attack that gave an image of the day of judgement, being resolved to recover that important post; he was opposed by Haider-cöly-khan and Qhandö8ran, who sensible of the importance of example in such circumstances, came out of their breast work to encounter the enemy: and they were supported by valorous troops and valiant commanders, amongst which last was Nufret-yar-qhan a Sëid of Bar, who although priding himself in his being related to both Nedjmeddin-aaly-qhan and Abdollah-qhan, wished to signalize himself against them. And here again the contest became bloody and obstinate: the valorous commanders on both sides, having made so many targets of their breasts, exerted themselves heroically as if emulous only of washing away with the waves (146), flowing from their sabres, the doubts which might have remained in their minds about each other's bravery. Both sides were rushing forward like so many crocodiles emerging from out of an inundation, or like famished lions from out a howling wilderness: and such screams and such an uproar rose every where as would have drowned those at the day of judgement. From the repeated conflict of so many steely sabres against the flinty firmness of so many intrepid commanders, a fire was struck out which

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(145). The King's favorite.

(146) This is again an oriental allusion to those undulations which being much closer than the waters of an English Taby, seem to pour plentifully from the hilt of a Persian or Indian sabre down to the point.

blazing.





blazing like lightning, consumed those brave men by shoals, and ruined their forlorn families, by thousands.

SAADET-QHAN, who saw this dangerous conflict, and wished to acquire honor, advanced several times like an elephant in rut, to the assistance of those that were shedding their blood in the Emperor's cause; and he made several vigorous charges; and Shir-eken-qhan, who marched to their assistance by the Emperor's express commands, threw himself on the enemy's pointed spears and threatening lances, like a famished tyger that lets the hunters at nought. Nevertheless the Imperialists seemed to lose ground; and Der-vish-aaly-qhan, commander of Qhandöbran's artillery, Abdol-ghani-qhan, who commanded that of Häider-c8li-qhan's, with Meïaram his secretary, and Mah-med-djaaser, nephew to Hossëin-qhan, with an infinity of others, were already slain, and lay stretched on the ground. Nufret-yar-qhan had two arrows fixed in his body; and Dost-aaly-qhan with a multitude of others, was wounded and disabled. On the part of Abdollah-qhan Shahamet-qhan, a commander of great renown, with one of his sons, was slain, together with Abdol-cadyr-qhan, brother to the Cazi, Mir Baha-dyr-shahi, and his brother Fa-teh-yar-qhan, and Tahover-aaly-qhan; and this was the fate of Abdol-ghani-qhan, son to Abdol-rahim-qhan Aogrenzebi (147), and Gholam-muhi-eddin-qhan, and Sabqhat-ollah-qhan firnam-ed Sheika, and Gholam-aaly-qhan the illustrious warrior; all three brothers and all three commanders of importance in Abdollah-qhan's army, as well as Shu-djah-qhan son to Beloli. They were all slain in that trying occasion, where none but the bravest could shew their faces: all of them, after exhibiting feats of prowess and attachment that astonished the beholders, submitted cheerfully to their fate, and without hesitation drank to the dregs the bitter potion presented them by death. After they had exerted themselves to their

(147) These epithets of Bahadyr-shahi and Aogrenzebi, design their having long served under the Princes.





last breath in wrenching out the souls of their enemies. Vast numbers of their men, who had gamed away the capital of their lives in that scene of slaughter and blood-drinking match, quitted the world in haste, and like so many bankrupts that had lost their all, they plunged at one dip into the abyss of eternity. The valorous Nedjmeddin-aaly qhan, who had hitherto been the highest bidder in that market of death and slaughter, after having received several wounds by hand-blows, was at last hit by an arrow, which sticking into his eye, deprived him of the delightful garment of sight, to the unspeakable sorrow of his brother Abdollah-qhan; who observing how matters went, marched-up to his assistance with all the braves of Bar that remained about his person. At this very time, and whilst every one's attention was taken-up with the critical situation of things, Churamon the Djatt, who was the best partizan in Abdollah-qhan's service, wheeled round and fell upon the Emperor's rear which he filled with confusion and screams. He seized on a thousand spare-bullocks belonging to the Imperial artillery, with a number of camels laden with the chancellery and kitchen offices, all which were grazing on the banks of the Djumna; and pushing his point, he went as far as the Imperial camp, where he found at last people ready to receive him. The Emperor himself shot an arrow at him; and Mahmed-aamin-qhan and Hadi-qhan marched against him with the infantry which was round the Imperial elephant. Abdollah-qhan occupied only with what was passing on his front, was marching to the assistance of his people; when his flank was attacked by Saadet-qhan, Haider-c8li qhan, and Mahmed-qhan Bangash; and this motion being observed by Abdollah-qhan, he wheeled round and marched-up to them. But his people were exceedingly galled by Haider-c8li-qhan who had always his bow in action, and by that body of expert musqueteers whom he had trained himself. Abdollah-qhan lost two officers of merit by this attack: Sheh habilah, commander of his artillery, and Seïd-aaly-qhan, brother to his Paymaster-general, Abol-mohsen-qhan. This attack

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having

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having somewhat disordered the ranks of Haider-c8li-qhan's men, he formed them again, and being joined by a good body brought by Qhandö8ran, he renewed his attack with so much vigor, that Abdollah-qhan lost his usual presence of mind. It had been a standing rule with him in the many battles which he had seen, and in which he had often been reduced to extremities, never to be guilty of the thoughtlessness of the Hindostany Generals, who on a moment of danger, used to quit their elephant, and to combat on foot, mixed with the crowd. Abdollah-qhan on the contrary had always conserved his presence of mind on such occasions, and had made it a point to oppose firmness and steadiness to forwardness and impetuosity : Like a lion lying in wait for the moment of falling on his prey, he kept displayed the standard of ascendant and superiority, (which after all ought to be the intent of prowess), and looked upon firmness and perseverance as more instrumental in the gain of a battle than ardor and impetuosity. Nevertheless his store of good luck being now spent by this time, and fortune having turned her back upon him, he forgot his own maxims, and jumping without any necessity down his elephant, he took to his sabre and bucler, and mixed with the crowd ; without once minding that he had still three thousand Sëids of Bar about his person, who seemed likely to stand by him to the very last. But as fortune after having quitted his party, seemed now bent on counteracting all his schemes, he was hardly down, when most of his officers and men, taking it for granted that he was slain or disabled, or that he had despaired of victory, abandoned their posts far and near, and betook themselves to flight. Some other accounts say that Sëif-eddin-aaly-qhan, his very nephew and one of his best Generals, had already quitted his station, before Abdollah-qhan had thought of jumping down ; and that his example had been followed by all the others. Be it as it will, Abdollah-qhan, although astonished at this desertion, kept his footing vigorously ; but being now surrounded on all sides, and the weight of his armour obstructing his activity, he received an arrow in his forehead, and then

Abdollah-qhan totally defeated and then taken.





two successive cuts on his neck and hand; and being pressed close and overcome with fatigue, he was seized on by the claws of fate, and made a prisoner. It was at the very moment his younger brother Nedj-meddin-aaly-qhan, was closing with him, resolved to share his fate; and they were both going to be slain, when Abdollah-qhan was recollected by Haider-c8li-qhan, who rescued them both from the hands of the soldiery. The destiny of those two noble persons affected the feelings of an infinity of men; and people thought they saw them designed in these verses which were then handed about:

" I am he who in an attack could run the point of my spear through a golden ring,

" But being now forsaken by my good star and rejected by fortune,

" I have been in my turn surrounded by a ring and taken.

" Of what avail could be my helmet and my Cuirass,

" After my good fortune had already turned her back upon me?

" When the key of Victory ceases to be in a hand,

" To no purpose will the arm attempt to break open the door of success."

Haider-c8li-qhan having mounted the two wounded Noblemen upon the same elephant, carried them to the Emperor; and this Prince, who had a great deal of benignity in his nature, cast a look of compassion at them, and then consigned them both to Haider-c8li-qhan's custody: after which he ordered the Imperial musick to strike up for so signal a victory. As to the vanquished army, some bodies of it fled, some mixed with the victorious: and Ghazi-eddin-qhan availing himself of this moment of suspense, returned to camp, and packing-up as much of Abdollah-qhan's baggage, as had not been yet plundered, he fled towards Dehli, at the very time when the commanders and officers of the victorious party, were presenting their Nuzurs, and congratulating each other, and returning thanks to God for so important a Victory. As to the enemy's camp, and his baggage immense, whatever was of a nature to escape a general pillage, was secured for the Emperor's use.

A SINGULAR anecdote, which then became a general topick, is reported by men of authority and credit. On the very beginning of the divisions between

A singular prediction on the fate of the war.





the Sëids and the T8ranian party, a person attached to Abdollah-qhan repaired to the lodgings of a learned man, renowned for his skill in astrological predictions, and put to him a variety of questions about the future event of these dissensions, as well as about the success of the expedition. The philosopher without erecting any scheme, extracted his answer from the very words made use of by the propounder, and they proved to be these letters: *Ghain, Lam, Be, Ain, Dal, Vow and Caf*, which on being assembled in the usual manner, formed the Arabic words: *Ghalub Ad8ca*, that is *thine enemy shall prevail*; and on being inverted, signified, *thine end is come*. And in fact these words were not belied by the succeeding event, and few predictions have proved so fortunate: for Soltan Hibrahim, who had fled from the field of battle, had been pursued, and sent back to his former apartment; and a complete victory had been gained after a bloody contest of thirty hours.

THE news of so decisive an engagement reached the capital in the evening of the fourteenth of Moharrem, being a Friday, and they transported an infinity of people with joy, whilst they afflicted an infinity of others with all the pangs of surprise and consternation. Those that were attached to the throne ordered the Imperial musick of the citadel, to announce that happy event to the public; but the family and household of the three Sëids slain, recommenced their mournful rites (148). The women especially belonging personally to Abdollah-qhan's three brothers, exhibited the most affecting picture of dismay and unutterable woe; whilst some of them, but of the inferior sort, availed themselves of the confusion and opportunity so far, as to lay their hands upon whatever precious came in their way, and stole away under the disguise of dirty clothes and the cover of homely veils; they disappeared some time before the police thought of taking possession of the

(148) Those mournful rites ought to be over the seventh night of Moharrem, which is called *Sh bi-call* or the night of the occision, at which time the death of Hossain the first of Sëids, is represented in a theatrical manner and with theatrical scenery. But two days more being taken by the Devotees in lamentations, and in carrying the coffins or rather the catafalcoes to the grave; and three days more by the hiper-devotees in distributing dressed victuals to each other and to the poor, the whole makes-up twelve or thirteen days.





house. Some of these women fell with their booty into the hands of the Police-officers; but some made good their escape. As to the Ladies of Abdollah-qhan's race or bed, so far from stirring out of the house, they retreated within their own chastity; and covering themselves from head to foot with the veil of decency and modesty, they sat weeping in a circle, without any one offering to move or to avail herself of the dismal scene which now was taking place. For Abdollah-qhan-Cashy, whom Abdollah-qhan, his old friend and benevolent master had entrusted, with the care of his Conforts, Ladies and Seraglio, no sooner heard of the disaster that had befallen his benefactor, than forgetful of all that was expected from him, even as an honest man and a Gentleman, he carried the daringness so far as to put a sacrilegious foot within those sacred precincts, and to give vent at one and the same time both to his infamous lust and to his treacherous cupidity. He soon came to an understanding with the Hindoo who commanded the guard (149); and getting within the sanctuary of the women, those two wretches seized and carried away whatever persons and effects they could fix their claws upon; So that this villain has ever been from that moment pointed out with the finger of detestation, as a Renegado to his God, a traitor to his master and friend, and an invader of the most sacred rights of mankind. Fortune that had now turned her back on that forlorn family, seemed bent on rendering abortive every attempt made by any of its members; and Gholam-aal-qhan and Nedjabet-aaly-qhan, two nephews of Abdollah-qhan's, who by changing their apparel, and altering their faces, had endeavoured to make good their retreat to Djanfita, a town where they were born as well as himself, were intercepted by the way and carried to the Emperor.

THIS Prince now fixed irrevocably on his throne, and freed from all an-

(149) The great men in India prefer for their women, an Hindŭ guard to any other, as Hindŭs cannot defile themselves with women different from their tribe, without incurring damnation in the other world, and being interdicted fire and water in this. They cannot so much as touch their water, or their water-pot, or their knife, or make use of any thing that has served to them.

Abominable  
treachery of Ab-  
dollah - qhan-  
cashy to his mas-  
ter and friend.





xiety and solicitude, turned his thoughts towards the means of rewarding that number of Generals and Lords, who had so well deserved of his cause. Those whose golden nature and undebaſed fidelity had been tryed in the fiery crucible of the late bloody battle, and found to be of a pure ſtandard, were now expoſed to the ſun-ſhine of diſtinction and favour, honored with a variety of titles and offices, and rewarded with high preferment. The fixteenth of Moharrem having been fixed-on for the Emperor's auſpicious departure from that memorable ſpot, he mounted the Palefrey of achievement and victory, and turned its reins towards the capital of his Empire, ſhortening his diſtance, and haſtening his march with ſo much expedition, that on the nineteenth, he was already at the monument of ſaint Nizam-ed-din-Evliah, in which venerable ſpot he performed his devotions, and beſtowed favors and liberalities on every one of the attendants. Here he ſpent two days in expectation of a lucky moment; in which time he raiſed Haïder-cſly-qhan's grade by a thouſand horſes, ſo as to make him a Marſobdar of eight thouſand troopers, with the effectual command of ſeven. Saa-det-qhan was honoured with the title of Bahadyr-djung, or Valliant in battles, and decorated with the inſignia of the *Mabi* or fiſh (160), whiſt a variety of favours and offices were pouring on every one of their friends and dependants; but Nedjabet aaly-qhan having been brought-in whiſt the Emperor was beſtowing preferments and diſtinctions, that Nobleman was received with a look of compaſſion, and conſigned over to Haïder-cſly-qhan's cuſtody.

ALL theſe matters being over, and the Ceremonial of the Emperor's entry into his capital, being adjusted, he now thought it high time to ſhew himſelf to his people. This auſpicious event happened on a Saturday, being the twenty-ſecond of Moharrem, in the year 1133 of the Hedjrah, in the middle of a pomp and an eclat that dazzled the eyes of all the beholders in the very ſun-ſhine of a fine day,

(150) This eſign, which is ſo uncommon in hindoſtan, is more common in Decan: it is a fiſh of copper gilt four feet in length, carried horizontally upon the point of a ſpear; and this eſign is always joined to another which is a human head, alſo of copper gilt, carried horizontally likewiſe, upon the point of a ſpear.





whilst the regions of the air, were rent as high as the sphere of the moon and sun, with the mingled sounds of an infinity of trumpets and kettle-drums. The Emperor's cortege was followed and preceded by lofty elephants, resplendent with gold and silver-trappings; by beautiful slave-boys and young men, in gold-cloth; by thrones and Imperial chairs of gold and by sedans of jewel-work; by embroidered ensigns and streamers equally superb and elegant; and by crowds of servants shining in gold and silver tiffue, that shed such a lustre, as rendered the sun's rays of small value in comparison: All these were interspersed amongst bodies of troops that marched in battle-array, and in ranks differenced by rows of commanders and noblemen, all advantageously mounted, and all conspicuous by the brightness of their arms, as well as by the richness of their apparel. Already a number of the most beautiful horses with enamelled saddles of gold and jewel-work, were announcing from afar the Emperor's approach; and now this Prince adorned by all the graces of youth and beauty, was making his appearance mounted on a mountain-like elephant and seated upon a throne that blazed with a profusion of jewels and elegant ornaments. He directed his march through the Admir-gate, sprinkling his way with handfuls of gold, and enriching by such a long forgotten liberality, a multitude of needy people, that had this long while fixed the eyes of expectation on such an auspicious moment: In the victorious moment of the fifth hour of the day, he arrived at the Imperial castle, and landed at his august habitation, where the Empress Cadeffiah, his mother, with a Cortege of chaste Princesses and Ladies of the highest distinction was waiting for him at the inner door of the sacred apartment. The Empress-mother holding a large plate of gold and silver, filled with gold and silver coins of several denominations, as well as with a variety of gems and precious jewels, poured the whole as a libation over his head; and after wishing him a long and prosperous reign, she introduced him by the hand within the Imperial sanctuary.

Pompous entry of Maimed-shah's in the capital, and.

Similar ceremony at his introduction into the Imperial seraglio.

SECTION

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## SECTION III.

CSL

*Of the SEIR MUTAQHERIN, or REVIEW of MODERN TIMES,*

## Contents of the Third Section.

*Promotions at Court—death of the Vezir—the Emperor refuses the reversion of the deceased's immense estate—a Persian adventurer sets up a whimsical new sect—the Carnatic ravaged by waters—troubles in G8jdrat, in Adjmir, in Cab3l and in various parts of the Empire—curious expedient of the Emperor's to render his person more accessible—he takes a consort—Nizam-el-mulk made Vezir, endeavors to introduce, but in vain, a reform at court—The Emperor to rid himself of Nizam-el-mulk's gravity, gives him the government of G'dirat—A girl called C33ki becomes a female Minister, rallies at the Emperor: effeminacy and disorders at Court—Supineness of the Emperor—A war under hand between the Emperor one side, and Nizam-el-mulk, his deputy, on the other—the latter defeats Mahariz-ghan, and sends Nuzurs of Congratulation to Court, as if the Imperial arms had been V'lorious—The late Vezir Abdollah-ghan, poisoned—Ser-b8lend-ghan appointed General from court, beats Nizam-el-mulk's troops, and wrests the G8jdrat out of his hands—the Marhattas severely handled by Naimeddin-ally-ghan, Lieutenant to Ser-b8lend-ghan.—immense acquisitions of four favorites, refused—the victorious Ser-b8lend-ghan, neglected and superseded—he beats his rival, the Gentoo Prince, and then goes to visit him alone—the Marhattas, excited by Nizam-el-mulk, make conquests in Hindostan—Malwa vigorously defended by its governor—the Marhattas conquer both G8jdrat and Malwa.—Caïm-ghan heroically rescues his father Mahmud-ghan Buzass from eminent danger—sedition at Delhi on account of a Hadji murdered by Gentoos—the Mahrattas continue their ravages—an infectious stench pervades all Hindostan—a severe frost at Delhi, where the river freezes—ridiculous expedition against the Marhattas.—terrible rain of thirty hours in Delhi and its neighbourhood.—flagitious enormity of Adjadj3, Zemindar of Corra, who is punished—introduction to the revolutions of Bengal—origin and rise of Ally-verdi-ghan's family—reduced to the utmost misery, he hardly finds money to repair to Shudja-ghan's court in Bressa, where he is employed, and where he approved himself a good Officer, a good Soldier, and a good financier.—Djafer-ghan, Governor of Bengal, thinks of procuring his patent to his own grand son, Ser-Efraz-ghan—but is supplanted by his son-in-law Shudjab-ghan—Ser-Efraz-ghan submits*





to his father—excellent character of Shudjab-qhan—he promotes Alli-verdi's relations to offices in state—Alli-verdi-qhan appointed Viceroy of Azimabad, adopts his own Nephew and grand son, Mirza-mehmed, alias Seradj-ed-dö8la—his excellent conduct in his Government—an expedition against the Marhattas by both the Vezir and Qbandö8ran, who prove defective both in courage and talents—Saadet-qhan alone, successful against the Marhattas—his ardor damped by the jealousy of the two Imperial Generals.—The Marhattas avail themselves of this suspense to turn the rear of the Imperialists, and to plunder the suburbs of the capital—the Emperor with his whole Council consents to pay a tribute to the Marhattas—Seif-qhan, an old Partisan of the two brothers, turned out of his Djabhir and slain—ruin of the town of Djan-sita.—affecting description of it—tremendous signs in the air by which heaven signifies its wrath.

A LITTLE after this ceremony Abdol-femed-qhan, Viceroy of Labor, who had set out early with his son Zekariah-qhan, his General and Deputy Aghyr-qhan, and some other Noble personages, but could not arrive in time, was admitted to the honour of paying his obeisance, and distinguished by a dress of honor, a circlet of jewells, a poniard and several other noble presents. Zeckariah-qhan had his grade raised by a thousand horses, and now his command became of full five thousand. Radja Djehi-sing, and Radja Gurd-hur, not being arrived in time, were on the commencement of Sefer admitted to the happiness of kissing the ground of the Imperial presence, and they were tranquillized with a remission of their transgressions and past errors. An order was issued a little after to put in force the capitation-tax upon the Gentoos; but it was remitted on an elegant apology which Djehi-sing made for them. Nizam-el-mulk's petition, congratulating the Emperor on his victory, and wishing him a length of days and a prosperous reign, was honoured with a glance of the Imperial eye; as did another supplication from Moonshood-cooly-qhan, Viceroy of Bengal, which was fraught with congratulations on the victory, and a prayer for length of days and dominion; it announced likewise the arrival of the Revenue from that province, with another large sum by way of Nazur. Honors and dignities were bestowed that day on a number of

Promotion at  
Court.





nobles: Haider-c8ly-qhan was decorated with the title of (151) Muez-ed-dö8lah, over and above that of Naffyr-djung which he had already, as was Zafer-qhan with that of Roshan-ed-dö8lah. The superintendence of the body-guards was conferred on Saadet-qhan; and Zeckariah-qhan received the government of Cashmir in lieu of Ynaïet-ollah-qhan, dismissed. But on a Tuesday, being the twenty-second of the first Reby, the Emperor being gone out with a hunting party, an hacara messenger informed him that his Vezir Mahmed-aamin-qhan, had been seized with so sudden and so excruciating a pain in his bowels, as would deprive him of the honor of holding the Imperial stirrup. The next day his distemper increasing in violence, a total alteration was perceived in that minister's person; and his *Cibolic* augmenting from moment to moment, rose to such a height, that the remedies of physicians and skilful men produced no effect: a terrible vomiting took place, and he threw towards nothingness the garment of his existence; in so much that on the twenty-ninth of that same month he departed towards the regions of eternity, after a short lived ministry of three months and twenty-two days. His estate, mightily swollen by his confiscation of Hoffsain-aaly-qhan's fortune, and the seizure of his baggage, and by several favings and benefits, was so amazingly great as to be reckoned only by corors, and yet it was left entirely to his heirs; but by his death the people of God were released from the oppression they were likely to suffer. They say that intending to enlarge his palace, and to enclose more ground within its yard, he with a single command of his had dispossessed seven hundred house-keepers of his neighbourhood (152), who all quitted their homes and delivered their keys to his officers; Nevertheless after his death all these were returned to their

(151) *Muez-ed-dö8lah*, signifies the honoured of the Empire, as *Naffyr-djung* signifies, the succourer in battles.

(152) This to an European ear cannot sound but very harsh; b. t it is not so with an Indian, who knows that nothing is more common than to build small thatched tenements on rented grounds, where it is always explained, and as of an understood, that the Land-Lord at so many days warning can recover his land; sometimes the term is fixed, oftener it is indefinite. And such things happen every day in great towns; nor would the author himself have been scandalised at all, had he not conceived as much antipathy against that minister, as that minister had conceived against the Seyds, of which tribe the author himself, was a most bigotted member.





owners by Camer-eddin-qhan his son, who on his being acknowledged his heir, renounced the invidious acquisition, and exchanged it for the applause of mankind and the blessing of God. It is on such an occasion that one may observe of Mahmed-shah, who was generally taxed with tenacity and parsimony, that he does not appear to have really had such a character, since on Mahmed-amin-qhan's demise, the imperial treasury was pretty much drained; for the mighty sums drawn from all parts of the Empire by the two brother Sëids having been very much thinned by their immense levies and preparatives, the Emperor had been very little benefitted by what remained in their coffers, the whole having been made away by the pillagers of the army and by his own generals; so that the ornaments of gold and silver which decorated the public and private halls of audience, and which in those days of calamity had been torn away and turned into stamped coin, remained unreplaced to that day; and the halls themselves with the other apartments, wanted a thorough repair immediately: nevertheless when the list of the deceased minister's property came to be presented to the Emperors (and it amounted to several corors, reckoning only the gold, silver, gems and precious stuffs;) he paid no attention to it, and ordered the whole to be left to the natural heirs; and yet it was an established custom with all the Emperors of the Babrian family, nay, with all those of the Timurian race (153), to take possession of the estates and wealth of their deceased ministers and servants, to the exclusion of the natural heirs; to whom they were pleased to vouchsafe as a favour such a share as they thought they deserved, or it was their pleasure

The Vezir  
Mahmed-amin  
-qhan dies.

The Empe-  
ror refuses to  
accept the rever-  
sion of his estate.

(153) This remark of our author's as well as the last is to be understood with a *Grano Salis*. What if the Emperors of the Babrian family should have promoted their household-slaves to the highest posts of the state? And what, if the confiscation being always expected, those slaves become ministers of state, always took care of their families before hand? and what, if these families, sensible of the approaching storm, always managed so, as that the imperial officers should not find at home, but so much as had been left there on purpose? Nor are all these many suppositions wholly groundless: they are no more than what the author himself mentions with regard to the confiscation of a viceroy of Moltan, reputed immensely rich.

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