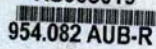




CSL-AS-  
AS003019



954.082 AUB-R



CSL



RISE AND PROGRESS  
OF THE  
BRITISH POWER IN INDIA.  
VOL. I.



CSL

# RISE AND PROGRESS



OF THE

## BRITISH POWER IN INDIA.

By PETER AUBER, M.R.A.S.,

LATE SECRETARY TO THE HONOURABLE THE COURT OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

WM. H. ALLEN & CO.

Booksellers to the Honourable the East-India Company,

AND

CALKIN & BUDD, PALL-MALL.

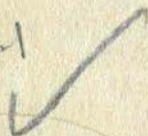
1837.





CSL

C-54  
954.082  
Aub-R  
V-1



954.05

A88 R

LONDON :

Printed by J. L. Cox & Sons,  
75, Great Queen Street.

V. 1

27769

2 vols  
A1





CSL

TO

**THE KING'S****MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.**

---

  
SIRE,

Under the protection of their SOVEREIGN  
and PARLIAMENT, the EAST-INDIA COMPANY  
has been the instrument of acquiring those  
vast possessions, declared by the Act of 1833,  
to be YOUR MAJESTY'S INDIAN TERRITORIES.

That measure suggested the preparation of  
a Work which, divested of all commercial  
detail, would comprise within moderate



limits, a narrative of the leading political events connected with the Rise and Progress of the British Power in India.

YOUR MAJESTY having graciously condescended to countenance the attempt—the first Volume is now humbly submitted to YOUR MAJESTY. It records the names, with an outline of the services, of some of those eminent men, whose advice in council and valour in the field laid the foundation of the British Empire in the East.

The Second Volume will commence with the establishment of a System, which not only gave permanence and stability to the East-India Company, but enabled it to call forth the services of those illustrious Statesmen and Soldiers who raised the superstructure of that Empire, which still remains under the government of the Company, and forms so stupendous and splendid a monument of national enterprize.





Although the Company exercises no political power in this country, it has evinced on all occasions of national contest or internal commotion, an anxious desire to uphold the Sovereign Authority, and has manifested the most devoted attachment to YOUR MAJESTY'S Royal House and Person.

That the blessings of British Rule, may be long enjoyed and fully appreciated throughout every portion of the varied and widely extended dominions under YOUR MAJESTY'S mild and paternal sway, is the prayer of

YOUR MAJESTY'S

Most dutiful and

Loyal Subject,

PETER AUBER.



## CONTENTS.

---

### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

---

### CHAPTER I.

1600 to 1741. Page 1—46.

Early History of Hindostan.

Native Powers.

Settlement of the Portuguese.

Rise of the Mahrattas.

Establishment of the EAST-INDIA COMPANY.

Petition against the formation of the LONDON COMPANY.

Union of the two under designation, UNITED EAST-INDIA  
COMPANY.

Early Settlements of the Company and other European Nations.

Embassy from Calcutta to the Mogul at Delhi.

Differences with the Nabob of Bengal.

Early Instructions of the Directors to their Servants, and their  
Replies from India.

Defensive measures inculcated, and offensive to be avoided.





## CHAPTER II.

1746 to 1760. Page 47—76.

Hostilities with the French on the Coast of Coromandel.

Clive appointed a Writer, contemporary with Orme the Historian.

Early Services of Clive under Lawrence.—He returns to Europe.

Increase of the French power in India.

Col. Clive appointed to Madras Council.—Proceeds *via* Bombay.

Pirates subdued at Gheria.

Cruelties of the Nabob at Calcutta.—Expedition thither under Clive and Watson.—Calcutta retaken.—Council restored.

Council remonstrate against Clive's powers.—His reasons for retaining them.—Defeats the Nabob.—Operations against the French.

Chandernagore surrenders.

Nabob Seraje-ud-Dowlah deposed, and Meer Jaffier proclaimed.

Clive acts as President.—Court appoint him sole President.

Hostilities with the Shazada, who retreats from Patna.

Jaghire granted to Col. Clive.

Clive embarks for Europe.—Arrives in England, and is thanked by the Directors.

## CHAPTER III.

1760 to 1765. Page 77—118.

Mr. Vansittart succeeds Clive.

Jaffier Khan removed, and Cossim Ally Khan succeeds as Nabob.

Burdwan, Midnapore, and Chittagong acquired by Company.

The Shazada again advances towards Company's Provinces and is defeated.

The Mogul murdered; the Shazada succeeds.



Dewanny declined.  
Differences with the Nabob on account of Inland Trade, &c.  
Massacre at Patna.—Cossim deposed.—Meer Jaffier again placed on the Musnud.  
The Mogul and Vizier offer aid to the Company.  
President's view of affairs.  
The Mogul and Vizier hostile to the Company.  
Major Munro takes the field.  
Overtures from Mogul and Vizier rejected.—Latter defeated, flees to Allahabad.  
The Mogul Shah Alum joins Munro's army.—Treaty with the King.  
Operations of the Vizier.—Death of Jaffier Ally Khan.—Nazim-ood-Dowlah succeeds.  
Mr. Spencer succeeds Mr. Vansittart.  
French on the Coromandel Coast.  
Masulipatam taken by Major Forde.—Various other Operations.  
Pondicherry surrenders.  
Hyder appears in the field in rebellion against the King of Mysore.  
Madura surrenders.  
Northern Circars.  
Mahratta Powers and Bombay.—Hyder in hostility with them.  
Hyder's successful operations on the Malabar Coast.  
Council at Madras desire peace with him.

---

#### CHAPTER IV.

1765 to 1768. Page 119—206.

Lord Clive appointed President and Commander-in-chief in Bengal.—Proceedings connected with that measure.—Arrival in India.





- Differences with his Council, as to Presents, &c.  
Proceeds up the country, and concludes a Treaty with the Vizier and Nabob.  
The DEWANNY granted to the Company.—Court's Views thereon.  
Opposition to Lord Clive.—His Lordship's views.—Intended return to England.—Requested by the Court to remain.  
Political relations.  
Servants called by Lord Clive from Madras.  
Lord Clive proceeds up the country.  
Military Fund founded by Lord Clive.  
Military combination subdued.  
Congress at Chupra.  
Lord Clive returns to the Presidency.—Contemplated Measures against Mahrattas.  
Abolition of the Inland Trade.  
Lord Clive returns to Europe.—Testimony of Council to his merits.  
Shah Abdallah.—Sentiments of the King and Vizier towards the Company.  
Mr. Verelst succeeds as Governor.  
Mission to Nepaul fails.  
Proposition for obtaining Cuttaek to form a chain of Company's influence.  
Court's desire to promote happiness of Natives.—Views as to Orissa, and caution regarding Alliances with Indian Powers.  
French Influence.  
Review of the Powers in Hindostan.—The Mogul, Vizier, Rohillas, Jauts, Seiks.  
Conduct of the Vizier suspicious.—Deputation to him.—Court's views thereon.  
Differences with the French.  
Mogul determines to proceed to Delhi.  
Mr. Cartier succeeds to the Government.  
Mahrattas, their hostile demonstrations.



## CHAPTER V.

1765 to 1769. Page 207—267.

Northern Circars.—Sunnuds obtained for them from the Mogul.  
Differences between the Nabob of the Carnatic and Nizam.

Bengal Council propose a Treaty with the Nizam, which is  
concluded.—Court's Remarks thereon.

Hyder's conduct leads to Hostilities with him.

The Nizam vacillates: is disposed to join Hyder, who enters  
the Carnatic.

Operations against Hyder, and Court's views thereon.

Treaty with the Nizam.—Condemned by the Court.

Fruitless Negotiations with Hyder.—Embarrassments of Ma-  
dras Council, who are forced to make a Treaty with Hyder  
at the gates of Fort St. George.

Connexion of Company with the Nabob of the Carnatic.

Court's views on Treaty with Hyder.

Circars taken under Company's management.

Zemindarry and Government Lands described.

Litigious Proceedings of the Grand Jury at Madras.

Operations against Hyder by the Bombay Council.

## CHAPTER VI.

1769 to 1773. Page 268—335.

Proceedings in Parliament following the grant of the Dewanny.  
Regulation of Ballot and Dividend.

Supervisors nominated by Company.

His Majesty's Government propose to arm the King's Naval  
Officer with Powers as Plenipotentiary.—Differences thereon.

—Sir John Lindsay appointed to command King's ships.

Supervisors lost on their passage out.

Court's Orders as to a REVENUE SYSTEM.—Separation of Ju-  
dicial and Revenue powers.





- Mahrattas take Delhi.—Project of the king to join them; his Majesty resolves on that step.
- Hyder urges Company to join him against the Mahrattas, who enter Mysore.
- The Nabob of the Carnatic desires to join the Mahrattas.—Sir John Lindsay interferes.—Representation from Madras on his proceedings, and an appeal to the King from the Court.
- Sir Eyre Coote's powers disputed by the Council at Madras: that officer returns to England.
- Embarrassments of the Council regarding Hyder and Tanjore. Court's views thereon.
- Rajah of Tanjore proceeds against some Polygars.
- Sir Robert Harland reaches Madras as successor to Sir John Lindsay.—He supports the Nabob against the Company's views in his wish to form a treaty with the Mahrattas.
- Differences between Sir Robert Harland and the Council.
- Company's relations with the Nabob of the Carnatic and Rajah of Tanjore.
- Sir Robert Fletcher succeeds General Smith in command of Madras Army.—Circumstances lead to his pleading his privilege as a Member of Parliament; is sent home.
- State of the Carnatic.—Mahrattas defeat Hyder, who makes large conquests on the Malabar coast.
- Operations against Broach.—Transactions at Poonah.

---

## CHAPTER VII.

1772 to 1774. Page 336—412.

- Embarrassment of the Company's Finances.
- Parliamentary Committees appointed.
- Parliament prohibit the appointment of another Commission of Supervisors.
- MR. WARREN HASTINGS succeeds as President in Bengal.—His early services.—Mahomed Reza Cawn.—Revenue Arrange-



ments.—Duplicity of Nundcomar.—Incursions of the Mah-rattas.

Council determine to include Corah within the line of defensive operations.—Differences with Sir Robert Barker, the commander of the Forces; his Statement, and Mr. Hastings' Reply.

Treaty with the Vizier.—Differences on that measure.

Vizier contemplates operations against Rohillas.—Applies to the Council to aid him, which is ultimately agreed to; the Troops cross the Caramnassa and defeat Rohillas.

---

## CHAPTER VIII.

1772 to 1774. Page 413—439.

Revenue and Judicial System.

Letter from the Teshoo Lama to the Governor-General.

---

## CHAPTER IX.

1774 to 1775. Page 440—504.

The Parliamentary Inquiry terminates in the Regulating Act.

A GOVERNOR-GENERAL and four Councillors nominated;

Mr. Hastings to be Governor-General.

A Supreme Court of Judicature authorized.

Court's instructions to Bengal.

Differences in Council under the New Government.—Revenue

System.—Rohilla War.—Mr. Hastings' Correspondence.—

Resident at Lucknow.—Instructions to Commanding Officer

with the Vizier.—Mr. Hastings defends his conduct.—

Court's views.

Nundcomar prefers accusation against Mr. Hastings.





Nundcomar tried and executed for forgery.

Differences in Council.—Mr. Hastings accused of correspondence with a proscribed native chief.

Affairs of Oude.

Court's views.

---

## CHAPTER X.

1774 to 1779. Page 505—571.

Expedition from Bombay against Salsette.—Death of Commodore Watson.

Supreme Government call for Reports from Madras and Bombay, which Reports are forthwith made of affairs under those presidencies.

Treaty with Ragobah by Bombay Government disapproved in Bengal.

Col. Upton appointed to Poonah from Bengal.—Mr. Hastings differs with majority.

Mr. Wynch removed from Madras.—Lord Pigot appointed Governor.

Lord Pigot arrested by majority of the Council.

Admiral Sir Edward Hughes differs with Council.

Bengal Government support the majority at Madras.

New Revenue Settlement in Bengal.—Differences between Mr. Hastings, General Clavering, and Mr. Francis.

Court's views as to letting Lands.—They condemn conduct of Governor-General.

Supposed resignation of Mr. Hastings.—Proceedings in England and in India in consequence. He disavows the act.

Death of Sir John Clavering.—Sir Eyre Coote appointed Commander-in-chief.

Supreme Council resolve on supporting Ragobah, and detach a Force to Bombay.—Goddard's march and operations.

Salt Monopoly resumed by Governor-General.—Chittagong.—The Muggs.—Major Rennell.—Cochin-China.



## CHAPTER XI.

1779 to 1784. Page 572—647.

Proceedings in Parliament.—Difference between Lord North, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Burke, on the Company's Affairs.

Embarrassed position of the Madras presidency.

Sir Thomas Rumbold resigns, and Mr. Whitehill succeeds—both dismissed the service.

Lord Macartney appointed Governor of Madras.

Hostile disposition of Hyder and the Nizam.—Hyder overruns the Carnatic.

Sir Eyre Coote sent down from Bengal to oppose Hyder.

Acts passed to remedy defects of Supreme Court at Calcutta, and for an Agreement with the Company for one year.

Sir Elijah Impey appointed Judge of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut.

Carnatic and Mahratta War.

Affair of the Governor-General at Benares with Cheyte Sing.

Differences in Council.

Mr. Hastings appoints Major Scott his political agent in England.

The Governor-General and the Vizier meet at Chunar.

Intrigues of the Nabob of Arcot against Lord Macartney : his attempt to ruin Mr. Haliburton.

Parliamentary Reports from a Committee appointed to inquire into the Carnatic War, and Sir Elijah Impey's appointment.

Resolutions founded on the Reports, including the recall of Mr. Hastings.—Proceedings of the Courts of Directors and Proprietors thereon.

Naval Engagements off Madras.—Peace with Mahrattas.

Efforts to relieve the Carnatic.

Mr. Hastings addresses the Court—complains of reflections made on him.





Death of Hyder.—Tippoo succeeds.

Protracted Hostilities.

Sir Eyre Coote, who had returned to Calcutta on account of his health, offers to proceed again to Madras; embarks, is chased by the French, lands at Fort St. George: his decease.

Negotiations with Tippoo finally concluded by Treaty of Mangalore.

Further Letters from Mr. Hastings in justification of his conduct.

---

## CHAPTER XII.

1783 to 1784. Page 648—675.

Ministerial Changes in England.

Mr. Dundas's India Bill brought forward and rejected.

Mr. Fox's India Bill, supported by Mr. Burke; its purport; Discussions thereon; its rejection by the Lords.—King's Letters to Mr. Pitt, who brings forward a Bill which is rejected by the Commons; after further proceedings Parliament is dissolved.

---

## CHAPTER XIII.

1784 to 1785. Page 676 to 699.

Supreme Council animadvert upon the Proceedings of the Madras Government, and contemplate Suspension of Lord Macartney.

Directors' views on Mr. Hastings's conduct as to Cheyte Sing—applaud the aid given by Governor-General to Madras.

Mr. Hastings proceeds to Lucknow.—Disapproves Treaty with Tippoo, and sends orders to the Madras Government, which are disobeyed by casting vote of Lord Macartney.



- Directors appointed Lord Macarthey to succeed as Governor-General: apprehending that the Supreme Government may have suspended him, they confirm his appointment.
- Mr. Hastings' description of the Mogul's son, whom he met at Lucknow.—His opinions as to Oude.—His intended Departure.
- Mr. Shore on the Alienated Lands.—He returns to England.
- A new Revenue Settlement for one year.
- Mahratta Power extended.
- Committee of Revision on Public Establishments.
- Mr. Hastings delivers up the Keys of the Fort and Treasury.—Embarks on the *Berrington*, and sails on the 8th February.
- General Remarks on his position when in India.
- Mr. Hastings arrives in England; is thanked by the Court.
- His Impeachment.
- The East-India Company grant him an Annuity of £4,000.
- His Evidence before Parliament in 1813.—The House of Commons rise on his withdrawing.
- His attachment to the Company, and his Letter immediately preceding his Death.
- Mr. Burke's animosity to him.
- His Statue placed in the India House.
- Concluding Remarks.





## PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

---

WHILE preparing, in the year 1825, the 'Analysis of the Constitution of the East-India Company,' I experienced the want of a work treating progressively of the political events that had occurred in India, with a statement of the laws passed by Parliament for the government of the Company's affairs; together with the views and opinions of the Home Authorities on the proceedings of their servants abroad.

There were numerous publications, referring to detached portions of India affairs. The History of British India by the late James Mill, Esq., was the first attempt to compass in one work the various subjects comprised in so extensive a field. It presents an instance of indefatigable perseverance, and exhibits the peculiar views of the gifted and lamented author. It is matter of regret—a regret of which I know that gentleman himself



himself partook—that he had not an opportunity, when writing his history, which terminates in 1805, of consulting the documents that subsequently came under his official cognizance and care.

In the course of my researches, amidst the voluminous records at the India-House, I made various memoranda, with the intention when leisure offered of preparing a work in the present form. The pressure of business preparatory to the discussion on the Charter in 1833, and the arrangements consequent on the passing of the Act, in order to give effect to its provisions, which did not come into operation until April 1834, completely occupied the attention of the whole establishment.

The effects of the extraordinary change caused by the abandonment of all commercial operations, were felt in the great diminution of those duties, that had partaken of the combined character, heretofore sustained by the Company. Extensive reductions necessarily followed, some departments being wholly abolished, others partially reduced, and the entire establishment brought down to a scale that would ensure the largest saving, and at the same time provide for perfect efficiency.

These





These circumstances led to my assistant\* proposing, under a sense of public duty, his retirement at the close of the year 1834. The same motive impelled me to propose my own retirement, with a view to a consolidation of offices, in December 1835.

I advert to these circumstances because an impression has arisen in connexion with the reductions alluded to, that the idea thrown out in the original Hints submitted by his Majesty's Ministers in February 1833, for reducing the number of the Directors, might have been acted upon with advantage to the public interests. The idea was wisely abandoned. There is no necessary connexion between the number of the Court of Directors, and the strength of the Home establishment. Were it possible, which it most certainly is not, that half the present number of officers and clerks could discharge the duties which now fall upon them, still the twenty-four Directors ought to be inviolably maintained: that number being based upon a principle which should never be lost sight of;

while

\* William Carter, Esq., a most honourable public servant. His retirement, as well as my own, was accompanied by that of some old and valued servants in the department.



while the strength of the establishment ought to be governed by the extent of duties it has to perform. The present number of the Executive Body is essential to its independence, and forms a security against the successful exertion of political or other influence operating to the prejudice of the great interests committed to its care.

An objection has been taken to the choice of so many Directors from gentlemen who have served in India, because they may have imbibed strong local prejudices. If the term *local prejudice* implies that those Directors have a feeling of attachment towards India and its population, it presents a recommendation; the real difficulty is in removing prejudice against and in creating an interest in matters relating to that country.

If the term be used as implying narrowness of views, caused by supposed confinement to local duties in a distant part of the world, why should an effect be produced on minds engaged in India in forming revenue settlements or fixing the bounds of a province—in administering justice amidst millions, or discharging the duties of a political Residency—in filling the office of a Member of Council, or that of Vice-President,—

or





or in taking a distinguished part as companions in arms with those illustrious individuals whose names are recorded in the history of their country, more than in that of parties who may be occupied in England in the settlement of tithes or parish rates, in fixing the limits of a turnpike trust, or discussing the merits of a railroad-bill?

Some reason might exist for the term, were all the members who have served in India to be chosen exclusively from one presidency, and from one particular branch of the service; but, so far from this being the fact, selections are made from all the three presidencies, and from every branch of the public service. Nor is the choice confined to gentlemen only who have been in the service; the election has fallen on parties who have resided in India, but wholly unconnected with the service.\*

If any objection still remains, its force is neutralized

\* A recent instance presents itself in the case of the Right Hon. Cutlar Fergusson, who was a member of the Bar at Calcutta, and was chosen a Director, on his return to this country, by the united suffrage of the Proprietors. That gentleman retired from the Direction, much to the regret of all parties, on re-assuming office with His Majesty's Ministers. The late Sir Hugh Inglis, Bart., had been in India, but not in the Company's service. The present Director, Sir Robert Campbell, Bart., is another instance.



lized by the introduction of gentlemen of high character possessing extensive mercantile and financial experience, having had no connexion with India. This is an advantage which offers additional reason for maintaining the present number, and for continuing a system that secures the various qualifications now brought to bear in deciding questions of great public as well as of personal interest.

Nor can any idea be more erroneous than that the duties devolved upon the Court since the Act of 1833 do not present sufficient matter to engage the attention of so many members. With the exception of questions which involve great constitutional changes in the establishments of the United Kingdom, those which come under the review of the co-ordinate authorities forming the Home system, for governing India, are of a more extended, varied, and complicated nature than any that generally occupy the attention of Parliament. Twenty-four Directors were not considered too many when the Company had commercial affairs only, and those of a very limited extent, to transact; neither was that number thought excessive when the Company possessed only one-third of the territory,





ritory, of the army, and of the population, now under their control and government.

The office of a Director of the East-India Company presents one of the most honourable and interesting positions in public life, and offers matter to engage the highest range of talent and the best powers of the mind, in a widely extended sphere of duty, comprising political, military, revenue, judicial, financial, legislative, ecclesiastical, and commercial subjects, not confined within narrow limits, where one decision will apply to the country at large, but calling for separate measures in distinct provinces, and different laws for a varying population in habits, manners, and customs.

The office is not one of pecuniary reward, but it is one which yields its possessor the means of an honourable provision for his family connexions and friends, with the enviable gratification of being enabled to confer obligations in quarters where educated and exemplary heads of large and amiable families have to contend with limited funds, and whose habits have precluded them from forming connexions to advance their families in the world. The children of the veteran soldier  
with





with honourable laurels, but scanty means—the widow's son and the destitute orphan, have participated in that patronage which, but for the maintenance of the Court of Directors, might have been applied to the most unconstitutional purposes, and certainly would never have reached those channels where it has been so philanthropically bestowed. The fact was admitted by Parliament during the discussions on the Charter, and I speak from personal knowledge of numerous instances of the most kind and generous acts of individual patronage.\*

Although

\* In the year 1774, the following curious petition was presented to the Directors:

“To the Honourable Court of Directors,

“Gentlemen:—I am a clergyman of Ely, in the county of Cambridge. I have a parcel of fine boys, but not cash to provide for them. My eldest son I intended for a pillar of the Church, and with this view I gave him a suitable education at school, and afterwards entered him at Cambridge, where he has resided the usual time, and last Christmas took his degrees with some reputation to himself. But I must at the same time add that he is more likely to kick a church down than to support one: he is of a very eccentric genius. He has no notion of restraint to Chapel-gates, Lectures, &c. &c., and when rebuked by his master, tutors, &c., for want of obedience to their rules, &c., he treated them in the most contemptible light, as if not being gentlemen, and seemed to intimate that he should call them to account as an affair of honour, &c. This soon disconcerted all my plans for him, and on talking with him the  
other





Although the subject will be noticed when the present system comes under review at the close of the Second Volume of this work, I cannot refrain from adverting to one clause of the Act of the 3d and 4th William IV. cap. 85, which has immediate

other day, asking him what road his honour would choose to pursue in future life, he told me his plan was to go into the India service. Upon being interrogated whether he had any reasonable expectation of a provision from that quarter, he looked small and said no. Now, gentlemen, I know no more of you than you do of me, and therefore it is not unlikely but that you will look upon me as chimerical a man as my son, in making this application to you: but you will remember that he is my son, and that reflection, I hope, will be deemed a sufficient apology. I want your advice, now; therefore not knowing any individual amongst you, I apply to you as a body. If he will suit your service and you can help me, do. He is now about twenty, near six feet high, well made, stout and very active, and as bold and intrepid as a lion. He is of a Welch extraction for many generations, and I think as my first-born he is not degenerated. If you like to look at him you shall see him and judge for yourselves; you may leave word with your clerk. I shall call again shortly to hear what you say, and am in the mean time,

“Gentlemen,

“Black Bull Inn,                      “Yours, &c. in haste,  
“Bishopsgate Street,                      (Signed) “THOMAS JONES.”  
“3d March 1774.”

“N.B. If you like him I will equip him, &c.”

One of the Members of the Direction gave the young man a cadetship.



diat reference to the civil patronage of the Company. I do not believe that it has yet been acted upon. Before the plan devised by the Marquis of Wellesley in 1800, for the establishment of the Calcutta College, there was no test required from parties previously to their being appointed Writers. They simply produced a certificate that they had been educated in writing and accounts, and were desirous "of serving their Honours." The same kind of petition was presented by Mr. Hastings, by Mr. Shore (afterwards Lord Teignmouth), by the late Charles Grant, Esq., by Sir George Barlow, by the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, and by distinguished members of the service who, after filling high posts in the governments abroad, are now devoting their valuable experience to the same objects at home, in their places as Directors. Whatever may have been the demands of the public service, it must be admitted that fit instruments were found to meet those demands.

The plan of Lord Wellesley was superseded by the establishment of the East-India College in this country, in the year 1805. By the Act of 1813, each party, before his nomination as a  
Writer,





Writer, was required to pass four terms at the College.\*

That institution, and the regulations for its government, have afforded matter for repeated discussions, in the Court of Proprietors and elsewhere.

In the year 1826, the East-India College was not adequate to supply the wants of the public service. The Act of 7 Geo. IV. was accordingly passed, which admitted of the nomination of parties as Writers who should pass a given test before four examiners, two being appointed for that purpose by each of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; the ages of the candidates not to exceed that prescribed by the Acts of 1784 and 1793,† *viz.* twenty-two years.

The wants that called for the remedy having been supplied, the Act expired, and the exclusive system of passing through the College was reverted to; but to render it more palatable, and to give the service of India all the benefit of general education elsewhere, it was declared sufficient for a party to have resided either one or two terms,  
instead

\* 53 Geo. III., cap. 155, sec. 46.

† 33 Geo. III., cap. 52, sec. 60.



instead of four, provided he passed the final examination. Some instances of valuable instruments, who had come from the Universities, being appointed under the revised plan, have lately occurred.

With these facts upon record, it is difficult to imagine what can have led to the introduction of the 103d section, cap. 85, in the Act of the 3d and 4th of His present Majesty; unless indeed its object was to render the civil patronage as little grateful to the nominating parties as possible, if so, it will be most effectually attained whenever the scheme shall come into operation. The general outline of the Ministerial plan of 1833 was the result of a comprehensive and enlightened view of the vast subject then brought forward; but many of the details were framed in haste, and apparently without due consideration of the effects that would follow their adoption.

The age of each of the candidates to fill one vacant nomination to the College is not to exceed twenty-two years; but the Acts of 1784 and 1793 provide that no party shall be appointed a *writer* whose age exceeds twenty-two years. Residence therefore at the College, under the new Act, is  
out





out of the question for a party of the extreme age admitted by that Act. At all events, there is a discrepancy that requires correction. Again, the period of one month only is allowed to a Director to find out four candidates, and this is to be done in the months of July and August, a period of the year of all others the least likely for candidates to be found, and if they are not produced the nomination falls to the Board! The remotest idea of imputing any sinister intention when the plan was devised is utterly disclaimed, but the result is clear: for supposing thirty vacancies, the Directors in one month must be prepared with 120 youths, who are ready to risque their academic reputation for thirty problematical prizes.

To avoid this, the Directors may send up ninety youths who may happen to be at home for the holidays from some of the seminaries in the country, to compete with thirty comparative veterans, and the Act would be complied with, while the real intention would be entirely defeated.

The plan prescribed by the Act is unattainable in principle, and would be open to intrigue and injustice when put in practice. A proper test and





public examination seems all that is really requisite to ensure well qualified servants.

As the governing body in the India system, the Directors have the origination of *principle*. This is a most important point. Their acts, it is true, are subject to revision by the Board of Commissioners, but the Directors possess the means of making the public judges of those acts through the medium of the Court of Proprietors, should extreme measures or differences of opinion render such a proceeding expedient. If the powers both of the executive and constituent bodies are more circumscribed by the late Act, they are still of a character to be applied with much force and effect.

If the past experience of their government be taken as an earnest for the future, there is ample warrant to anticipate the most beneficial results. The testimony of that great man (whose services will be hereafter noticed), when speaking of the Company's government, not from mere report but from long personal experience; at a time when the Company had the honour to number him amongst their servants, and who in that capacity set an example of the strictest subordination,





nation, when the policy of a measure was opposed to his own conviction;—who exhibited entire devotion to the public service, when personal interest would have decided otherwise;—who evinced a foresight as extraordinary in planning and devising measures and operations, as promptitude, energy, and success in carrying them into execution;—who laid down a system for the management and conduct of the various branches of the public service, which simplified the most complicated and important matters, whilst the most minute and apparently unimportant were not forgotten;—who observed an extraordinary regularity in his public accounts, amidst unceasing engagements, requiring continued exertion both of body and mind;—and whose acquaintance with the general affairs and political relations of the Company was not less conspicuous than his military achievements,—this eminently competent eye-witness declared, from what he saw at the time, and from what he had since seen, that it was one of the best and most purely administered governments, and one which had provided most effec-



tually for the happiness of the people over which it was placed.\*

Another gentleman then in office at the India Board, and now filling a high station in the Council of India, declared his astonishment at discovering the effects of a government and a system of which he had formed a very different opinion. †

One of the leading characteristics in the government of the East-India Company is freedom from party or political feeling: it is desired to observe the same spirit in this work. After all, the subject is so vast, that scarcely any one work can give more than a brief connected detail. To aid the attention in taking a glance at the history of India, from the commencement of hostilities with the French in 1745, the subsequent period may be divided into ten decades.

At

\* Parliamentary Debates, July 1835. In the reference I have here made to the Duke of Wellington's services, I have strictly confined myself to those rendered in India. They formed a true presage of his Grace's subsequent illustrious career.

† Debate in the Commons on the second reading of the India Bill, 11th of July 1833.





At the beginning of each, or within a very short time, some marked event took place :

1745-6. The commencement of hostilities with the French on the coast of Coromandel.\*

1755-6. The affair of the Black-hole, and the expedition to Calcutta under Clive and Watson.†

1765. The acquisition of the Dewanny.‡

1774. The Regulating Act; a Governor-general appointed, and a Supreme Court of Judicature created.§

1784. The establishment of the Board of Commissioners.

1793. The renewal of the Charter; the Board of Commissioners placed upon a permanent footing, with salaries to the President and Commissioners.

1804. The termination of the Marquis Wellesley's brilliant administration, including the fall of Seringapatam, the expulsion of the French, and the subjugation of the Mahrattas.

1814. The renewal of the Charter; the opening of the India trade; the introduction of an Episcopal establishment; the commencement

\* Page 47.

† Page 54.

‡ Page 146.

§ Page 442.



ment of the Marquis Hastings' administration, and Nipaul war.

1824. The Burmese war.

1834. The East-India Company relinquish commercial operations; surrender all their property to the Crown, and retain the government of India. The abolition of suttee, and termination of Lord William Bentinck's administration,

I have purposely introduced, in the first chapter, some extracts to show the state of the Company's early political relations. It must be remembered, that until the late great change, the East-India Company possessed no other pecuniary means than what they derived from the combined result of their territorial and commercial receipts. In the course of the national contests in which Great Britain was involved, the Company were frequently much embarrassed. They obtained at times unwilling aid from Parliament, at the instance of the Minister who disputed their claims to reimbursement for outlay on account of his Majesty's Government, when the national exchequer was severely pressed, and the Company's exigencies





exigencies most felt, there being no demand, either at home or abroad, for the produce in their warehouses.

These were the reasons why the Directors contended for the maintenance of the Company's exclusive privileges in all their integrity. Had concessions been made, they felt that there was no limit at which to stop, their sole dependence being on their own resources. India, including the Home Establishment, with that of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, has never been a direct charge on England. Hence the orders to the governments abroad were sometimes couched in terms grating to minds unaccustomed to the tediousness of detail and formal minutiae of a peaceful administration, "formed on a commercial basis."

The First Volume of this work refers to the early period of Indian history, and of the Company's establishment. It comprises the administration of Lord Clive, with the intermediate governments in Bengal and at Madras and Bombay, and closes with that of Mr. Hastings. Most of what relates to Lord Clive's government had been prepared from the official documents before the life of his

Lordship



Lordship was published. I mention this, because I am gratified to find that my views are generally supported by those of the gallant and regretted author of that work.

The Second Volume will open with the Establishment of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India; a measure which preserved the Company's political existence, and tended to check, and gradually to eradicate the evils that had arisen from the want of power on the part of the Executive Body to enforce obedience to their orders.

The important proceedings of the India Government, which gave effect to the revisions contemplated by the Act of 1784, will be gradually developed. The principles by which the Supreme Council were guided will be traced out, together with the course of splendid achievements which marked the progress of the British power, under the several eminent personages who presided in the respective governments. The result exhibits the extraordinary fact that the Company, whose representatives hesitated at one time to address a Nabob of one of the provinces, now hold the Great Mogul himself as a pensioner upon those revenues, which





which through their instrumentality have become the property of the British crown.\* An Outline of the Indian System as it exists under the altered character of the Company, will likewise be given.

The scheme of his Majesty's Ministers was explained and supported in an able and luminous exposition by the President of the Board, in February 1833.† The Proprietors closed with the proposition, and accepted the revenues of India as security for their capital, and payment of the dividend, on condition that the Company retained the government. Of the competency of India to sustain all the just demands upon her exchequer, no doubt is entertained: "a country with an increasing revenue of twenty-two millions, a territory almost unlimited in extent, a soil rich and fertile, and suited to every kind of produce, with

\* A map of India is prefixed, in order to show the possessions acquired by the Company at the close of Mr. Hastings' government in 1784, as also the native states which existed as substantive powers at that time.

The Second Volume will contain a map prepared upon a similar principle, brought down to the present time; also a map exhibiting the routes of Steam Navigation with India.

† The Right Hon. Chas. Grant, now Lord Glenelg.



with a people capable of great improvement, and both frugal and industrious."

But the Proprietors must not forget that capital and skill are the means, and judgment and energy the qualifications essential to apply those means in the mode best calculated to ensure the anticipated benefits.

No endeavour should be omitted to awaken an interest in a country, which has doubtless been brought under British dominion for higher ends than mere pecuniary advantage, although instances of the benefits derived in that point of view may be traced throughout the United Kingdom: for there is scarcely a county without resident families who owe, either remotely or immediately, their fortune, or pecuniary means, to the establishment of the East-India Company, and the acquisition of India.

If this work, which is almost wholly founded on official records, shall in any degree answer the purpose, one of the objects I have had in encountering the labour of preparing it for publication will be attained. It may likewise prove an useful introduction to more extended researches by individuals who shall hereafter enter the Company's service,





service, or to those who may resort to India for other purposes.

As the attempt has been graciously countenanced by the Sovereign, I feel that I shall but manifest the respect which I bear towards the Company, by announcing to the Proprietors individually the progress of a work, the first volume of which is now sent forth to the public.

LONDON, *April* 1837.



RISE AND PROGRESS  
OF THE  
BRITISH POWER IN INDIA.

---

CHAPTER I.

IN contemplating the History of India, abundant matter to awaken, if not to satisfy curiosity, as to its earliest condition and chronology, is to be found in the works of those distinguished scholars and historians, who have presented the public with their valuable researches on the various kingdoms of Asia. Early history.

Confining the retrospect to the limits within which reference can be had to historical facts, it is impossible not to be most forcibly struck with the extraordinary vicissitudes and revolutions to which Hindostan has been subject. Governed for a series of years by a Maharajah, or prince who exercised supreme authority, and by various feudatory but powerful native chiefs; having a priest-  
VOL. I. B hood





Mahomedan  
irruption.

hood assuming a lofty tone of morality, possessing great influence over the people, and acting as counsellors to their rulers, the Hindoo power, notwithstanding the early invasion of Alexander,\* remained comparatively secure until the irruption of the Moslems, whose troops were led to the territories on the Indus within the third century after the rise of that scourge of the human race, the followers of the prophet, whose flight from Mecca, A.D. 622, gives date to the Hijrah. In thirty-one years from that period, besides Arabia, the kingdoms of Persia, Egypt, and Syria, were subjugated by their arms, and in the year 673 they entered the country beyond the Oxus.

The five great princes, who are represented to have united their forces against the earliest invasions

\* "I take it for granted, that Alexander crossed the Indus (about 327 years before Christ, according to Usher, and in the month of May), at or near the place where the city of Attock now stands: because, first, it appears to have been, in all ages, the pass on the Indus leading from the countries of Cabul and Candahar into India; and this is strongly indicated by the circumstance of Achar's building the fortress of Attock to command it. Mr. Fraser, in his history of Nadir Shah, says, 'there is but one place where an army can conveniently be transported, the stream being so rapid in most parts. There is a castle commanding that passage, called the castle of Attock.' Attock, then, must stand on or near the site of the Taxila of Alexander. Taxila must necessarily have been very near the Indus, to allow of its being one hundred and twenty miles from the Hydaspes, or Chelum. See Pliny's Indian Itinerary, book vi."—*Major Rennell's Memoir of Hindostan.*





sions of Hindostan by the Mahomedans, were those of Lahore, Delhi, Ajmere, Kanouje, and Callinjer, all included in Northern Hindostan.

The more southern part was full of impregnable hills and castles, which were tenanted by the daring race of Rajpoots. The multitude of these forts, built on lofty and almost perpendicular eminences of rock or mountain, so common in India, affords sufficient evidence of the distractions which, in ancient periods, prevailed amidst the endless contests of ambitious chieftains.

In the tenth century, three lines of Mahomedan princes arose, whose successors established themselves in Hindostan.

The first was that of the Gaznavides, so called from Gazna, the capital of a province in the neighbourhood of Candahar. They continued from about A.D. 1000 to 1157, when they were expelled from their Indian conquests by the Gaurides, from Gaur, a province to the north of Gazna. The Charazmians, from Charazm, the capital of their kingdom, succeeded A.D. 1212; and they were defeated by Genghis Khan in 1221.

Lines of Mahomedan princes.

During the whole of the Gaznavian dynasty, as well as the dynasties of Gaur and Charazm, India boasted no supreme head. The dignity of Maharajah had become merely nominal. He might take the field, and was revered as chief; but he possessed no decisive power to control the different factions that had arisen and convulsed the country,





the provinces having been partitioned among the superior line of rajahs who headed or ruled over them. The unsatiated invaders from the western frontiers, as long as their tyranny lasted, were the lords paramount of India. The tribute was regularly transmitted to Gazna, or Gaur, by such of the Indian chieftains as desired peace, numerous armies of Afghauns being ready to pour down upon any who might manifest resistance.

Deccan invaded.

The DECCAN, or Southern Peninsula, remained in quiet subjection to its ancient chiefs of Indian descent until 1293, when it was first invaded by Alla-ud-Deen, the Mahomedan governor of Kurrah, a country bordering on the Deccan, near Ellich-poor.

Timour's conquest of Delhi.

At the close of the fourteenth century, the celebrated Timour "planted the Tartarian standard on the imperial towers of Delhi." On returning to his own country, he committed the government of his new conquests to two viceroys, Pir Mahommed and Chizer Khan. The latter contested successfully for the sceptre. The Tartar government having become odious, both to the Mahomedan chiefs and native princes of India, they emancipated themselves from its yoke in 1493, about which period the Usbecks invaded Great Bokhara, and constrained Baber, the descendant of Timour, to abdicate the throne of Tartary and seek refuge at Gazna. In this retirement he contemplated the invasion of Northern Hindostan and the conquest





quest of Delhi. The Afghauns and the great rajahs of the country opposed his progress, but his valour and perseverance overcame every obstacle, and on the 1st May 1526, Baber, a fugitive from his own country, ascended the Mogul throne, one hundred and thirty years after the conquest by Timour. Humaioon, son of Baber, carried his arms into Malwa and Guzerat, where Sultan Bahauder reigned. The latter, in order to defeat the advance of Humaioon, granted the port of Diu to the Portuguese, in consideration of their aiding him against the invader. Here we perceive the first footing obtained by an European power in India.

Emperor  
Baber.

Portuguese  
settle at Diu.

Humaioon was subsequently driven to seek safety in Lahore by a revolt of the Afghauns, which took place under Shere Khan, during the emperor's absence from Delhi. He died in 1556. His son, Akbar, then only fourteen years of age, was proclaimed king by the chiefs who had accompanied his father to Lahore, and was crowned at Delhi in 1558. He raised Agra to great splendour, as a royal city, in 1570. During his reign Bengal was reduced, siege was laid to Patna and Allahabad, Guzerat was subdued, Ahmedabad was fortified, and the greater part of the Deccan, with the kingdoms of Viziapore and Golconda, were brought under his arms.

Akbar.

Abul Fazil, the soldier and historian, enjoyed the full confidence of Akbar, and took an active

Abul Fazil  
murdered.

part





part in the operations in the Deccan. On the revolt of Selim, the emperor's son, Abul Fazil being summoned by Akbar to Delhi, was murdered whilst on his way to obey the commands of his master.

Jehaungier.

Selim proffered submission to his father, and succeeded to the throne at the close of the year 1605, by the title of Jehaungier. He also experienced the revolt of his eldest son, two of whose companions in the rebellion were condemned to suffer death.\* In 1607 the emperor marched against Caubul. He reduced the refractory Afghauns, and afterwards prosecuted the war against the Nizam and the Deccan.

Shah Jehan, his son, succeeded him in 1628. An insurrection in the Deccan, under Lodi, an omrah of the highest distinction, called forth the exertions of the Emperor, who sent an army to oppose him, but at the same time offered terms of pardon, which Lodi imprudently accepted. He was made governor of Malwa, and subsequently invited to the court at Delhi, where he was treated with great indignity. The apprehension of assassination induced him to flee from the court to Malwa. Having withstood the troops sent after him

\* It is stated that one was sewn up in the raw hide of an ox, which, as it contracted by the heat of the sun, caused suffocation; the other was sewn up in the hide of an ass, but his friends having kept it moist by continually wetting it, his life was preserved, and he was ultimately pardoned.





him and obliged them to relinquish their pursuit, he traversed the provinces of Bahar and Oude on his way to Golconda, and ultimately reached Dowlatabad, where the Nizam received him with open arms.

This conduct of the Nizam gave the Emperor an opportunity, for which he had long sought, of renewing his efforts to bring the Deccan into complete subjection. The Sovereign of Bejapoor, the King of Hyderabad and Talingana, and the Nizam, king of the Deccan, confederated in support of Lodi; but the arms of the Emperor prevailed, and Lodi was cut to pieces. The confederates were ultimately reinstated in their possessions, upon condition of their acknowledging the Emperor and his successor to be lords paramount of the Deccan.

Aurangzebe, the third son of Shah Jehan, although naturally ambitious, concealed his real character and intentions under the assumed rigidity of a fakir. He was appointed to govern the Deccan in 1638. In 1658, through treachery towards his two brothers and by imprisoning his father, he obtained the imperial throne. He made considerable conquests in the Peninsula, and engaged in hostilities with the Mahrattas.

The latter power arose in 1628, under Sevajee, who in 1661 had made a conquest of the whole of the coast of the Concan, comprising the country from Goa to Demaun. He died in 1680, and was succeeded

Aurangzebe.

Rise of the  
Mahrattas.





succeeded by Sambajee, who having taken under his protection the rebel son of Aurungzebe, the troops of the latter proceeded against him. The Emperor having obtained possession of his person by bribery, offered him his pardon if he would embrace the Mahomedan religion. Sambajee indignantly rejected the offer; upon which his tongue was torn out. Still refusing to purchase mercy at the expense of his faith, the inhuman Emperor caused his heart to be cut out.

Collect the  
chout.

Aurungzebe died in 1707. His conduct had exasperated the Mahrattas, who, under their chief Sahoojee, overran and plundered the greater part of Hindostan. In 1735 they obtained authority to collect the *chout*, or fourth-part of the net revenues of all the provinces of the empire, excepting that of Bengal. At the death of Sahoojee in 1740, their territories extended from the Western Ocean to Orissa, and from Agra to the Carnatic, being one thousand miles in length and seven hundred wide. Their capital was Sattarah. There were two principal leaders: Ballojee, the Peishwa or vicerent, who resided at Poona, was looked upon as the chief; the other, Ragojee Boonslah, was the bukshi or commander-in-chief, who resided at Nagpoor in Berar. These two parties divided the kingdom; but the Ram Rajah, or Rajah of Sattarah, was considered the supreme prince, as he bestowed a *khelat* on the accession of the Peishwa. Ballojee died in 1761, and was succeeded





succeeded by Mhaderao, mention of whom will be found in the early political transactions of the Company. Narrain Rao succeeded in 1773: on his death he was followed by Ragobah, his uncle, who was the cause of the protracted hostilities between the Bombay presidency and the Mahrattas, which will be noticed hereafter.

Ragojee Boonslah was succeeded by Janojee in 1749; and Moodajee, the son of Janojee's younger brother, succeeded in 1775.

Of the other Mahratta chiefs, some rose to eminence, and became formidable enemies to the British power.

The first was SCINDIAH. A part of the province of Malwa, which had been separated from the Mogul dominions about 1732, was awarded to him by a grant from the Rajah of Sattarah, Oojein being his capital. Scindiah.

The second was HOLKAR, who likewise obtained a considerable part of Malwa, his capital being Indore. The province of Kandeish was partitioned between the Peishwa, Scindiah, and Holkar. Holkar.

The third chieftain was FUTTY SING, generally called the Guicowar. He divided Guzerat with the Peishwa. Guicowar.

The fourth was PURSERAM BHOW, the Rajah of Colapore

The fifth was the RASTIA family, long settled in the Concan.

This





British Power.

This outline of the several native states, when the European nations opened an intercourse with the East by sea, and formed establishments there, may serve as an introduction to a political narrative of the rise and progress of the **BRITISH POWER** in that quarter of the globe: a power which has been more widely extended throughout the continent of India than any that preceded, whether native or European.

Established by  
the East-India  
Company.

In connection with this fact it should be recollected, that the acquisition of our eastern possessions was not effected by the collective forces of this nation, but by the **EAST-INDIA COMPANY**, who form the most extraordinary chartered body that has existed in any nation. They were incorporated in the year 1600 by Queen Elizabeth, who had supported the Dutch republic as a barrier against the House of Austria. England perceived the advantages which accrued both to Portugal and Holland by their trade with Asia round the Cape, and became desirous to participate in that lucrative traffic. Individual means or enterprize were unequal to such an undertaking: 'the attempt could not be made but on a joint stock.' The **LONDON COMPANY** was accordingly formed, for the purpose of extending the commerce and navigation of this country. They continued without a rival until 1698, when the necessities of the state led to the formation of the **ENGLISH COMPANY**. The measure being proposed to Parliament,





Parliament, the LONDON COMPANY presented the following petition to the House of Commons in support of their privileges.

To the Honble. the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses,  
in Parliament assembled;

The humble Petition of the Governor and Company  
of Merchants of London trading into the East-  
Indies, in a General Court assembled,

Humbly Sheweth :

That your Petitioners have the sole trade to the East-Indies granted them by several Charters of Queen Elizabeth, and other his Majesty's Royal Predecessors, and those Charters confirmed by his present Majesty, wherein his Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant your Petitioners the said trade for twenty-one years, from November 1693, under many regulations, agreed upon by this Honourable House, and to direct an additional subscription of £744,000 to the stock for the better carrying on their trade, and making it more national and extensive, which regulations are submitted unto, and the said £744,000 subscribed and paid in by a great number of new adventurers, since which subscription your Petitioners have suffered very severely in the loss of twelve ships, that would have produced here a very great sum of money.

That your Petitioners, by reason of these losses, have reaped no benefit from their said subscription; and yet have paid £85,443. 6s. 6d. in taxes for their stock during the war, besides the taxes for this year, £295,029. 13s. 4d. in customs; since the said subscription have also advanced among themselves, after their losses, great sums of money for carrying on their trade, and preserving the advantage thereof to the nation, and have likewise served his Majesty and the Government on sundry occasions.

That





That your Petitioners did not doubt (their losses by war and other the premises considered) but they should enjoy the benefit of their trade in time of peace; whereas, instead thereof, they are informed, a proposal is given in to a Committee of this Honourable House, of a loan to be made by persons not interested in the said Company, so as they may have the sole trade to India, China, &c., exclusive of all others; which proposal tends to the utter destruction of your Petitioners' right.

And forasmuch as your Petitioners are in possession of the said trade, have a revenue at Fort St. George and Bombay of about £30,000 a-year, another at Fort St. David's of above £6,000 per annum, which are daily increasing, and large extent of lands in both places; have also above £3,300 a-year paid them by the Persians, and the perpetual inheritance of Bombay and St. Helena, by several grants from the Crown of England; have likewise divers forts, settlements, and territories on the island of Sumatra, without which the pepper trade would be entirely lost to this nation; have also a strong fortification in Bengal, and several other factories (some of them fortified), buildings, settlements, privileges and immunities in many places within the limits of their trade, all which are their absolute propriety, and have cost them immense sums of money for the purchase and grants from Indian princes and others, and for the strengthening, and other expenses thereof.—23d May 1698.

Notwithstanding this appeal, the necessities of the state were such that the New Company was formed under the title of the ENGLISH EAST-INDIA COMPANY. They, however, found that they could not compete with experience, added to possessions and capital, and at the recommendation of his Majesty





Majesty King William the Third, the two Companies agreed to form one society, to be designated "THE UNITED COMPANY OF MERCHANTS OF ENGLAND TRADING TO THE EAST-INDIES." The Company consisted of all persons holding a share in the capital stock, then amounting to £2,000,000. Every individual, whether male or female, possessing £500 stock, either in his or her own right or otherwise, was entitled to vote and to take part in discussions in the meeting of Proprietors, who when assembled were termed by the charter a "GENERAL COURT OF PROPRIETORS." The Proprietors were to elect out of their body, every year, twenty-four members, each possessed of £2,000 stock, to be Directors of the Company. Thirteen members formed a quorum, and when assembled for business were termed a "COURT OF DIRECTORS." By the charter four General Courts are to be held in the year, each quarterly. A committee was to be chosen to frame by-laws for the government of the Company, which laws have the same force as those framed by Parliament, when not opposed to any existing Act.\*

\* In order to facilitate the transaction of the Company's affairs, the charter empowered the Directors to form themselves into committees.





1616.

IN the year 1616, the Company were confined, on the continent of India, to Surat and Amadavad, in the Mogul's dominions; to Calicut, on the Malabar coast; and to Masulipatam, on the Coromandel coast.

1625.

In 1625, their agents at Bantam,\* in Java, suggested to the authorities in Europe the expediency of directing their attention to the trade on the Coromandel coast, and at the close of the season despatched a vessel from Batavia to Masulipatam with a cargo. They also fixed on a station at Armagon, between Nellore and Pullicat. In 1638, the situation of Armagon being considered unfavourable for increasing the Company's commerce, Mr. Day, one of the council at Masulipatam, selected Madraspatam; the Naig of that district having offered, provided the English would settle there, to erect a fort at his own cost, and to exempt them from all customs on trade. So much importance was attached to securing this position, that, without waiting for instructions from England, a fortification was commenced at the expense of the Company; the fort receiving the name of FORT ST. GEORGE, the town retaining its original appellation.

FORT  
ST. GEORGE  
first settled.

1653.

In 1653, Fort St. George was raised to the rank of a presidency; and, on the application of the Company,

\* Bantam, at this early period, was one of the Company's principal settlements to the eastward.





Company, in 1667, was incorporated by royal charter from his Majesty King Charles II.

The island of Bombay, ceded by the crown of Portugal to King Charles II., as a part of the dowry of the Infanta Catherine, was, in 1688, granted by the King to the Company; and, in 1687, was constituted the chief seat of the British government in India, all the other settlements being declared subordinate to it.

At the conclusion of the seventeenth century, the English in Bengal were settled at Calcutta, the French at Chandernagore, and the Dutch at Chinsurah, all situated on the river Hooghly.

The Rajahs of the country surrounding those settlements having revolted against the Mogul government, and plundered several towns belonging to the Nabob of Bengal, the three European nations, for their own defence, immediately fortified their settlements. Aurungzebe, then Emperor, sent one of his grandsons to suppress the rebellion, and to superintend the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa; through whom the English obtained permission, in 1698, to purchase from the Indian proprietors the villages of Soota Nutty, Calcutta, and Govindpore, on which ground the city of Calcutta now stands. A fort was ordered to be built, and, in compliment to his Majesty King William III., it was denominated **FORT WILLIAM**.

In 1712, the Company having acquired several additional factories for the prosecution of their trade

Surat and  
Bombay.  
1661-1687.

1698.  
English.  
French.  
Dutch.

BENGAL.





BENGAL.

1715-1745.

trade, and expended large sums in maintaining their interests against the influence of the Dutch, petitioned parliament for an extension of their commercial privileges. After considerable opposition the exclusive right of trade was continued to them until 1733. In order to secure a greater degree of protection from the native powers, an embassy was despatched from Calcutta to the Emperor Ferrokshere at Delhi in 1715. It consisted of two of the most intelligent factors at the presidency.

The progress of the embassy presents a curious, specimen of diplomacy. The following extract is given from the reports made to the authorities at Calcutta, by the deputation to the Emperor, as the Mogul or King was then designated.

Our last to your Honours, &c. was from Agra the 24th ultimo, which place we left the same day. We passed through the country of the Jaats with success, not meeting with much trouble, except that once in the night, rogues came on our camp, but being repulsed three times they left us. We were met on the 3d July by Padre Stephanus bringing two Seerpaws, which were received with the usual ceremony by John Surman and Cojah Surpaud.

The 4th, we arrived at Barrapoola, three coss from the city, sending the Padre before to prepare our reception, that if possible we might visit the King the first day, even before we went to the house which was got for us. Accordingly, the 7th in the morning we made our entry with very good order, there being sent a munsubdar of 2,000 munsub, with about 200 horse and peons to meet us, bringing likewise two elephants and flags. About the  
middle





middle of the city we were met by Synd Sallabut Caun Behauder, and were by him conducted to the palace, where we waited till about twelve o'clock, till the King came out, before which time we met with Caundora Behauder, who received us very civilly, assuring us of his protection and good services. We prepared for our first present, *viz.* 100 gold mohurs; the table-clock set with precious stones; the unicorn's horn; the gold scrutoire bought from Tendency Caun; the large piece of ambergris; the afflo, and chelumche manilla work; and the map of the world: these, with the Honourable the Governor's letter, were presented, every one holding something in his hand as usual. Considering the great pomp and state of the kings of Hindostan, we were very well received. On our arrival at our house, we were entertained by Synd Sallabut Caun, sufficient both for us and our people; in the evening he visited us again, and stayed about two hours. The great favour Caundora is in with the king, gives us hopes of success in this undertaking; he assures us of his protection, and says the king has promised us very great favours. We have received orders, first, to visit Caundora as our patron, after which we shall be ordered to visit the grand Vizier, and other Omrahs. We would have avoided this if we could, fearing to disoblige the Vizier; but finding it not feasible, rather than disoblige one who has been so serviceable, and by whose means we expect to obtain our desires, we comply with it.—*Delhi, or Sha Jehanabad, July 8th 1715.*

Your Honour, &c. was before informed that three days after our arrival at the city, the king left it under a pretence of worshipping at a noted place, six coss from Delhi, but his real design was to get clear from the fort, where he thought himself not so free to command, which he might be by this journey, as appeared after. He went round the city, eight or ten days, and the Omrahs petitioned him to

VOL. I. C return,





return, it being an unseasonable time to go further: he refused to consent, sometimes saying he would go to Lahore, and sometimes to Ajmere. We were startled at this news, looking back on the risk and trouble of bringing the present hither, although at the King's charge. How to remove it, or to pretend to enter on our negotiation without delivering it, we could not tell; but after due consideration, we concluded the best way was to deliver the present as fast as possible, though the King was abroad; and accordingly we carried all the japan scrutoires, japan earthen and lacquered ware, fire-arms, and cutlery ware, with us to the camp, and presented it. The second day, we delivered in a note for four hundred pieces of broad cloth, ordinary; the third day, another, for three hundred pieces aurora, and sixty pieces ordinary yellow: the following day, the fine reds, superfine scarlet, &c. after this, we returned to the city to prepare what was behind, and brought with us to the camp five standing clocks, twelve looking-glasses, and the map fitted up, which were presented; but after his Majesty's perusal, the clocks were ordered to be sent back to us, to be taken care of till he returned to the city: this order hindered us from delivering any more goods. Since the King gave out he designed to proceed no farther than about forty coss from Delhi, to a noted place for worship, from whence he would immediately return, we concluded that we ought to attend his Majesty, leaving Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Phillips to take care of the goods remaining in the city; that we should give notice to the several Omrahs we intend to present; and afterwards, under the favour of proceeding to commence our negotiation withal, in case the King should exceed the designed journey, that then Mr. Stephenson might hire carriages, and bring the goods after us. Pursuant to this consultation, we are now with his Majesty, twenty coss from the city: we are preparing our petitions





petitions to be delivered. God send they may meet with the desired success.

We have, from time to time on the way, and since our arrival there, desired sufficient supplies of money to enable us to go on with our business. It is impossible for us now to enlarge more on that head, but that it is certain, if we are not supplied, we shall be in no ways able to effect any thing at this court; all that we can possibly do is to advise your Honour, &c. of our pressing necessities. We were in hopes to supply our honourable masters with a large sum from the private goods with us, but the King's leaving the city, no merchant is to be had for them, so hitherto that method has been impracticable.—*Twenty coss from Delhi, 4th August 1715.*

The Mogul had suffered under a long illness. Mr. Hamilton, an English physician, had attended him, which created a strong feeling against us in the minds of the natives. Mr. Hamilton advises that his constitution is so manifestly mended, that he hopes in a few days to effect a perfect cure. This affair has made no little noise in this court, and although the King's doctors have made a great stir, to edge Mr. Hamilton out, yet by the particular influence of his Majesty's favour, and our patron's assistance, thanks be to God, all has been carried on very even, and his Majesty having made use of many and particularly favourable expressions to Coja Surpaud and Mr. Hamilton on this occasion, has given us such pleasing hopes that may fully recompense the delay that has been made hitherto.—*Delhi, Nov. 8, 1715.*

We wrote you the welcome news of the King's recovery. As a clear demonstration to the world, he washed himself the 23d, and accordingly received the congratulations of the whole court. As a reward for Mr. Hamilton's care





and success, the King was pleased the 30th to give him in public, *viz.* a vest, a culgee set with precious stones, two diamond rings, an elephant, horse, and 5,000 rupees, besides ordering, at the same time, all his small instruments to be made in gold, *viz.* gold buttons for coat, waistcoat, and breeches, set with jewels: the same day Coja Surpaud received an elephant and vest as a reward for his attendance on this occasion. Monsieur Mar was to have received a reward the same day with Mr. Hamilton; but considering it was not for the credit of our nation to have any one joined with him, especially since he had no hand in the business, we got his reward deferred till three days afterwards, when he had a vest, elephant, and 1,000 rupees; a favour purely owing to his Majesty's generosity, and because he was his servant.

We have esteemed this a particular happiness, and hope it will prove ominous to the success of our affairs, it being the only thing that detained us hitherto from delivering our general petition; so pursuant to the orders we received from Caundora, the King's recovery was succeeded by the giving in the remainder of our present (reserving a small part only till the ceremony of his marriage should be over), and then delivered our petition to Caundora, by his means to be introduced to his Majesty. Synd Syllabut Caun, who has all along managed our affairs under Caundora, being at that instant and some time before much indisposed, we were obliged to carry it ourselves, without taking care to have his recommendation annexed. Since the delivery, Coja Surpaud has been frequently with Caundora, to remind him of introducing it to his Majesty, but has always been informed no business can go forward till the solemnization of the King's wedding is over, when he has promised a speedy despatch. All offices have been shut up  
for





for some days, and all business in the kingdom must naturally subside to this approaching ceremony; so that we cannot repine at the delay.—*Delhi, 7th Dec. 1715.*

A phirmaund, or royal grant, having been issued conferring additional privileges upon the Company, Calcutta was declared an independent presidency, accountable only to the Directors at home.

BENGAL.  
1715.

Jaffier Khan was at this time governor of Bengal, and subsequently obtained a grant of Bahar and Orissa. His conduct towards the English was tyrannical and extortionate. Having manifested an indisposition to obey the orders from the Mogul for the grants to the Company, the members of the embassy on their return to Cossimbusar, addressed the Council at Calcutta in the following terms:

We are entirely of your opinion that you ought not to acquiesce in Jaffer Cawn's refusing obedience to the King's royal orders, nor sit quiet under his disobedience of them: we never entertained such imaginations, but rather that he ought to be compelled to it by such means as your Honour, &c. think best.

You are sensible that no black servant in the country dare speak with that peremptoriness to so great a man as Jaffer Cawn, as sometimes the nature of our affairs require, on which consideration we ourselves went in person to him, and showed him the phirmaund, and demanded the free use of the mint as before advised. Mr. Feake disputed the point himself with Jaffer Cawn in the Indostan language, face to face, Eckeram Cawn Duan and others being present,





present, with ten or a dozen Munsubdars and several of the Mutsuddies, in a public court, who were all eye and ear witnesses to the smart and warm replies Mr. Feake at last made him: the whole Durbar was surprised, and several whispered to Coja Delaun with a seeming fear in what the dispute might end. Jaffer Cawn remained silent for some time, and then ordered beetle to be brought, and despatched us with a few sweetening words, that we would rest satisfied he should not be our enemy, but see what was to be done, and the like, which is a customary cajole he uses to get rid of company he don't like, as was plain he did not ours, for he never had so much said to his face since he has been a Duan or Subah, nor does he usually give any one such an opportunity. Nothing that was necessary to be said or done remained, but giving the duhoy, which experience has taught us is of no value with Jaffer Cawn, who suffers nothing to be sent to court without being read and approved by him: those officers dare as well eat fire, as send anything unknown to him.

Our Vacqueel, though an elderly man, and possibly not so brisk as some others, yet he has the character of the boldest Vacqueel in this Durbar; he once before did give the duhoy, and shall do it again, if your Honour, &c. please to give orders; but we crave leave to offer some reasons we have against doing it at this juncture.—*Cossimbuzar, 15th August 1717.*

We have wrote you already this day with our accounts, since which our broker (whom the Nabob's mutsuddy sent for last night) is returned from the Durbar, and acquaints us, that Dupnaran (whom we have lately obliged to be our friend) took him home to his house, and told him the phirmaund and perwannaes, which we formerly shewed the Nabob, were then sent up to the King. If you have got another copy of them, he said, bring them to me. I have talked





talked to the Nabob (who is violently angry with you), but give my service to your master, and tell him I have hopes to adjust your affairs, and will, if possibly it lies in my power: not that I am sure of it, for the Nabob is a vile man, but let me have a copy of your grants, and I'll try what is to be done.—*Cossimbuzar, Nov. 21, 1717.*

The Directors wrote to the Bengal Presidency on the importance of attending to the revenues, and deprecated any extension of the Company's possessions.

Letter to  
Bengal,  
3d Feb. 1719.

Para. 63. We come now to take notice of that which we must always have a due regard to, *viz.* the articles of our revenue. We need not repeat the reasons; we have often mentioned them. The assurances you have given us, that you will, and still do, continue to enlarge our revenues all you possibly can without oppression, and faithfully promise your utmost endeavours, as well to augment them as diminish the expenses, excepting that of the military, which you would not lessen, are so many acceptable instances of your care and zeal for our service. We can desire no more, but to see these promising blossoms ripening into fruit. We would not have them enlarged by oppressing any, the poorest person; and allow the reason you give for continuing your military, that it is the best argument you can use for supporting our privileges and the trade, to be very substantial; the experience at Cossimbuzar, and for bringing down your goods, are pregnant instances of it, among many others.

64. "Notwithstanding the doubts we had, whether it would be our interest to have the thirty-eight towns, if granted, or whether they might not engage us in quarrels with the Moors, if hereafter they should be resolved to take them away, when they found them to flourish, of which





Letter to  
Bengal,  
3d Feb. 1719.

which we wrote you to have your opinion; we find by para. 85, you say they would be of great advantage to us to have them. This we have discoursed Mr. Frankland upon, and of the necessary charge of soldiers to protect them from, or keep off, insults; and having well weighed the expected profit on one side, and the trouble that one time or other may be occasioned thereby on the other, we think it best for us to have only so many of them (when you can purchase them) as lie contiguous to our three towns above and below them, and those on the other side of the river, within about the same extent of ground as the towns when purchased reach on your side; and we are inclined only to have such of them as lie on or within about two miles of the bank of the river, because if there should ever be a necessity of defending them from the inroads of some neighbouring petty governor, our soldiers may not be harassed by long marches to defend our bounds. We suppose, too, that when Jaffer Cawn, or any other governor, finds you desire only part of what you might insist on, he or they may be the easier to give their consent, and not pick future quarrels; *for as our business is trade, it is not political for us to be encumbered with much territory.* Mr. Frankland assures us, the ground on the other side of you would be of great service to us for repairing our ships, because the river is not rapid there, and as we have said about the dock, that we should find benefit if we could have a good one. We might also add, that if ever we should be forced to the necessity of it, our settlement there would enable us to command the river; but this is not to be so much as publicly hinted at, lest it alarm the government.

The Court of Directors again, whilst they looked to the confirmation of the phirmaunds, expressed





expressed their indisposition to territorial acquisitions.

Para. 57. By the letters and consultations before us, it appears that King Mahmud Shaw is likely to sit easy on his throne, and not be troubled with competitors, or embarrassed by his officers, since the syads are cut off. That thereupon you cannot doubt that the subahship of Bengal will be soon settled, and Jaffer Cawn know whether he shall be continued or removed, and will bribe high to keep his post. That when you know who is subah, you will endeavour to get possession of the phirmaund grants, being unwilling to launch out monies at uncertainties, as in all likelihood it would be during the unsettled posture of affairs in the empire, wherein we think you judged rightly, that Hyder Cooly Caun, who is a great friend to the English, is, by report, one of the king's greatest favourites: he plainly shewed himself so while subah at Surat, for it was he who ordered us to be put into possession of the phirmaund privileges there. By all this we hope you will lay hold of the present opportunity to get the grants confirmed. First, that of the mint; then such of the towns as you shall judge proper, in pursuance of what we have wrote you, and according to the paragraphs which you promise to have regard unto. *Remember, we are not fond of much territory*, especially if it lies at a distance from you, or is not pretty near the water-side, nor indeed of any, unless you have a moral assurance it will contribute, directly or in consequence, to our real benefit.

General Letter  
to Bengal,  
16 Feb. 1721.

The Company's representatives abroad had, at this early period, directed their attention to the formation of roads, &c.

Para. 76. The reasons given for making the new roads on the S.S.W. and E. to W. sides of your towns, and the benefit

General Letter  
to Bengal,  
16 Feb. 1721.





General Letter  
to Bengal,  
16 Feb. 1721.

benefit expected and arising thereby, as well to see through your bounds into the country of the neighbouring Zemindars, who attacked you some time before, as to facilitate the march of your soldiers, when necessary to support your utmost outguards, and prevent private robberies in the night from rogues abroad, and that thereby the wind hath a free passage into the town, and likely to contribute to its healthiness, carry their own commendations with them; and we must add, we look on it as a piece of good management in you to lay hold of a fitting opportunity, to persuade your inhabitants to agree to your making them, and they bear the charge.

The desire of the Directors was conveyed to the Council in Bengal, that the young servants should be urged and encouraged to acquire a knowledge of the native languages.

General Letter  
to Bengal,  
16 Feb. 1721.

Para. 82. We observe your want of writers. We sent you a sufficient supply the last season. Encourage them all to learn the country languages, which are sooner attained by youth than men grown, because the memory is then more fitted to keep what they learn, and their tongues more ready and pliable to give the true accent in pronunciation. Besides, some men are so proud, they think it is like sending them again to school when they are put upon learning a language. Enquire at some set times what proficiency the youths make therein, and awaken their ambition by representing to them, they will be the better qualified for a chiefship in time, or to be employed at the aurungs.

General Letter  
to Bengal,  
14 Feb. 1722.

Para. 55. The accounts you give us of being pretty easy with the country government, notwithstanding the unsettled condition of the country, is acceptable, and much more your proceedings in clearing Contoo, the Cossimbuzar broker,





broker, when seized by the Nabob, and your boats when stopped at the several chookies. These are so many new proofs of the necessity of putting on a face of power and resolution, as we have often mentioned, to recover our privileges when openly infringed, and softer methods and applications for redress prove ineffectual, and that even the country government are afraid when you give them the duhoy in a prudent manner, and on well-grounded occasion. Yearly experience shews you they are always watching for opportunities to get money out of you, as in the dispute of your making the road for the benefit of your towns. Let it be your constant care (as hitherto by what appears it has been), to give them no just handles if possible. We need not add (because it hath been often recommended to you), that you continue to keep fair with the Hugbly government, which, with a little prudence, may be done at a cheap rate, even your usual piscoshes. Be equally careful to keep up a good understanding with the Nabob, so as good words and a respectful behaviour, without paying too dear for it, will contribute. Is there no likelihood of contracting a friendship with one or more of his favourites, to make your way to, and the obtaining your requests from, him more easy? Such things have been practised formerly, and particularly by President Eyres, who, by his intimacy with Mirza Mudusfer, first obtained the grant of your towns.

General Letter  
to Bengal,  
14 Feb. 1722.

The effects resulting from the access of licensed and unlicensed parties into the interior, were noticed from home.

Para. 63. We understand some of the persons we have permitted to reside free merchants in India, have suggested that, by virtue of the license contained in their covenants under our common seal, they have an equal liberty with ourselves to trade where and how they please: and think themselves

General Letter  
to Bengal,  
14 Feb. 1722.





General Letter  
to Bengal,  
14 Feb. 1722.

themselves no way accountable for mal-administration, or to be questioned by our Presidents and Councils (who are our representatives) when chargeable therewith. Give public notice to all with you, that if they persist in that opinion, they will find themselves mistaken, and that by a clause in their covenants they are obliged to return for England whenever we shall see just cause. That you have our authority to send them accordingly, whenever you find them acting contrary to our general interest, or that of the English trade in India. As to such as are not under covenants, and therefore presume they are no way accountable for their behaviour towards us or the interest aforesaid; do you take care to let them know, that by the laws, no subject of his Majesty can stay in India without our leave, and therefore, as they are there only during good behaviour, so you will let them continue no longer than they deserve it.

64. Though we have laid down these rules on such general terms, yet we add, that we will not have the President and Council put them in practice so far as to send any to England, unless where the accusation is full, and as well proved as the case can admit of, and the fault of a notorious nature; *such as assisting our enemies, or openly striking at our privileges, or refusing to comply with the rules by us prescribed for the good government of our settlements, where such person or persons shall be; and this not by inferences only, or strained constructions or interpretations.*

To check extravagance, and to enforce obedience to orders, the Directors wrote,

Letter to  
Bengal,  
7 Jan. 1725.

Para. 19. We find an entry in your consultation of a chaise and pair of horses bought for the President, Mr. Deane, charged to us as costing Rupees eleven hundred. We gave no order or leave for it, and thereby, we hereby  
direct





direct that the money be repaid into our cash out of his effects, and that nothing of this nature be again introduced: if our servants will have such superfluities, let them pay for them.

The state of the Mogul affairs led the Court to caution the Council to be fully alive to the passing events in which the Company's interests might become involved.

The battle you mentioned to be fought by the Vizier, wherein he was successful against the King's army, and killed the general Mombarras Cawn, his sons, and several Omrahs, does in our opinion show that affairs in the Mogul's dominions are in the utmost confusion, and tend towards some extraordinary crisis. Our advices from Fort St. George say, that the said Vizier, Chicklis Cawn, was in the Metchlepatam country, and from thence intended to march to Bengal to enlarge his power. Time only must discover the event of these troubles: in the interim keep a watchful eye to preserve yourselves from danger, and keep up your friendship with the Hugly government, which may be the more necessary in this critical juncture.

Letter to  
Bengal,  
1 Dec. 1725.

The Directors announced to the government that they had obtained his Majesty's Royal Charter for a Mayor's Court at Calcutta.

To enable us by virtue thereof to have our affairs in all those places, and within the districts therein-mentioned, as also in all the subordinate factories in those presidencies, managed with greater authority than ever hitherto, we applied to get the management of the civil affairs, as near as we could, agreeable to the practice and methods of the Mayor's Court at Fort St. George, which have continued for many years, as you will see in the said charter,  
of

Letter to  
Bengal,  
17 Feb. 1726.





Letter to  
Bengal,  
17 Feb. 1726.

of which we send you, by the 'Bridgewater,' an exemplification under the great seal of this kingdom.

Various books of instruction for the proceedings of the new court, were transmitted with the despatch.

13. If you apply heartily, as we earnestly recommend to you to endeavour, you will bring the Mayor's Court, though new with you at present, into use and good liking of all the people, for doubtless there doth arise among you at times some disputes in the matters of *meum* and *tuum*, and if you do exercise the other powers with prudence and justice: and we must tell you it is greatly incumbent on you so to do, for the very intimations of kings are commands, and if not obeyed, or their grants not thankfully accepted and made use of as they ought, may bring you as well as us into a premunire.

15. Be you particularly careful on your part, and let the mayor and aldermen know that we also earnestly recommend to them, to check the first beginnings of any oppressions, exactions, misbehaviour towards any, or the least foul practice of the attornies and other officers of the court; keep them all within due bounds of decorum, and discountenance all attempts of prolonging of suits. In the instructions are certain distances of times between one part of the processes and what next is to follow; let the court curtail them as much as equitable may be, for justice may be rendered sour by delaying: the most expeditious it can be made in reason is thereby the better.

Jaffier Khan the Nabob of Bengal, died in 1725, and was succeeded by Sujah Khan, his son-in-law, who removed to Moorshedabad, accompanied by two omrahs, one of whom was Ally Verdy Khan.

The





The Court adverted to the event in the following terms :—

We find you seem to lament the death of your old Nabob Jaffer Cawn, and wish that he may be succeeded by his son-in-law Sujah Cawn, who you say had on many occasions showed the English his friendship and favour. Wherefore, we are very glad to find by your's of the 28th of January, that he had been appointed and confirmed in that high station, hoping that he will continue us his friendship and favour : so that we flatter ourselves that our affairs, under your care, will not be any ways prejudiced by this change in your government.

Letter to  
Bengal,  
21 Feb. 1728.

In 1729, Ally Verdy Khan was appointed governor of Bahar, and ultimately, through intrigue and treachery, proclaimed Nabob of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa.

The following orders to Bengal, explain the origin of the appointment of a Council of *nine* Members, which continued until Parliament entered upon an inquiry into the affairs of the Company.

Para. 11. The badness of the goods sent us for two years past, having not only raised a general clamour among the buyers, but also great uneasiness in the Proprietors of the Company's stock, and we being convinced that there has been a culpable neglect in the management of our affairs by the unequal sortment of the goods, deficiencies in their lengths and breadths, and excessive high prices, together with the vast quantities of fine unvendable articles sent us, contrary to our orders, and having kept back great quantities of goods we wanted and ordered, and have been employed for their private trade ; by the first we are great sufferers, and by the last we are deprived of  
great

Letter to  
Bengal,  
3 Dec. 1731.





Letter to  
Bengal,  
3 Dec. 1731.

great profits that we might naturally have expected, those goods being greatly in demand; for these reasons, and to strike terror to those that succeed, we have thought fit to dismiss from our service six members. This extraordinary step we have been obliged to take, in order to remedy these and any such like evils, and to clear our reputations from the censure the world would otherwise throw upon us, that we connived at the bad actions of our servants, hereby convincing mankind that we are not biassed with favour or affection to any particular person whatsoever.

12. By these ships we have sent a commission under our seal, constituting and appointing John Stackhouse, Esq. to be President, with eight other members, for the management of all our affairs at Calcutta, and the factories subordinate thereto, hereby directing the military, and all under our protection, to pay all due respect to such orders as you shall think fit to make for our advantage, or the benefit of the place.

13. We persuade ourselves that you, the now President and Council, having such an example of our just resentment set before you, will, in your several stations, discharge the great trust reposed in you, by studying to advance the Company's interest by all possible means; and as we are informed that great mischiefs happen to our interest, as well as to your own destruction, by the private trade of India, as it is at present, and has for some years past been carried on, to a much greater degree than it should have been, we reserve ourselves to give our opinion upon that head by the latter ships.

The Court then urge upon the Council the importance of setting an example of economy.

17. Among the rest of complaints from your place, is none of the least, the extravagant way of living, of  
which