



About this time, Balajee Rao Nana,<sup>†</sup> the chief of the Mahrattas at Poona, for the first time made an incursion towards Mysore, after taking possession of the Souba Sura, to the chief of which, Nawaub Dilawár Khan, he gave the Purguna of Kolar, in Jageer, leaving the Souba in charge of Bulwunt Rao. Finding that Hydur Ali was absent from the country of Mysore, he proceeded without fear, and, meeting no opposition, laid the whole of the country waste, and placed strong garrisons of his own troops in all the forts, and took permanent possession of them.

The Raja of Mysore, seeing the enemy in great force, and that they had seized all his towns and villages, excepting his capital, Bangalore, and Makri Droog; also that, by the pride and mismanagement of the Dulwai, Nundi Raj, his own troops were confined to the neighbourhood of Trichinopoly; and that, however often he wrote informing him of the desolation of his country, and the plunder of his Ryuts, and ordered him to return to his succour, Nundi Raj still refused to comply before making his own arrangements; and, lastly, seeing that all pertaining to the government was falling into confusion, he, (the Raja) overwhelmed with difficulties, and disordered in his senses, at length, purchased the forbearance of the Mahrattas, by

<sup>†</sup> The Paishwa.





paying a crore of rupees to them ; but, although they with their troops returned to Poona, still they did not withdraw their detachments or garrisons, and officers, from the towns and forts of Mysore ; but, on the contrary, increased their number. They, moreover, plundered and laid waste the country, so cruelly and effectually, that to this day some towns are not re peopled.

But, to return, while Nundi Raj, the Dulwai, was encamped at Sutti Mungul, his troops, for want of their pay placed him in Dhurna.<sup>§</sup> The Dulwai, however, having with sweet words and fair promises appeased their anger, sent them to the Raja, at Seringaputtun. But Hydur Ali, in whose personal character he had great confidence, and a Rathore Jamadár, named Hurri Singh, who commanded a hundred and fifty horse, these, with his own Pagah, five hundred horse, and about two thousand foot, he kept with himself. The entire want of money and supplies, however, so oppressed the soldiers, that, Hurri Singh forgetting the ties of salt, or gratitude to his master, in order to obtain his arrears of pay forbade the sleeping and eating of the Dulwai, by placing him in Dhurna, or arrest, and that in so great a degree as even to stop

<sup>§</sup> By sitting at the door of his tent, which was equivalent to imprisoning him.





the water used in his kitchen. The Dulwai, losing heart from this rigour, with his clothes and the vessels of silver and gold brought for his use in travelling, and a small sum of money, paid him off, and discharged him.

As soon as the Jamadár had obtained his money and discharge, he marched away with his baggage, to a place within about three miles from Seringaput-tun, and encamped there; and his men being free from care<sup>h</sup> and want, in body and mind, after eating and drinking joyfully, laid themselves down to rest with the greatest confidence.

On witnessing these occurrences, however, Hy-dur became exceedingly excited, and going to the Dulwai, addressed him in reproachful terms, say-ing to him, "Why have you acted thus? What you have done is unworthy a man of rank! Is it proper, that, without the knowledge of your most particular friend, and for the sake of paying one of the meanest servants, of the Raj, or Go-vernment, you should have incurred the discredit of selling your plate and clothes? and of dis-charging demands without proof of the justness of the claim. This is far from correct; seeing that to make one man insolent by such an un-wise indulgence, is to open the door to similar





claims and insults from the rest of the officers of the troops. It is indispensable, therefore, that he who has placed his foot beyond the circle of obedience, and by that means sought misfortune, should be punished ; and, if you authorise me, I will punish him so that he shall be an example to others."

The Dulwai lent an attentive ear to this advice, and requested that it might be as Hydur Ali had said. Hydur, therefore, immediately rising, without a moment's delay returned to his own place of encampment, and taking five hundred musketeers, or matchlock men, and a store of ammunition with him, he marched straight towards Hurri Singh's halting ground, and falling suddenly on his sleeping party, whose death had arrived, and firing volley after volley among them, slew some, the more fortunate on their beds, and others were slain rising and advancing a few steps, with their swords and shields in their hands. In fine, the whole of the troop, with their mutinous Jamadár, were slain by the sword, bayonet, &c., and all their arms and baggage, with their money, utensils, horses, and the articles they had collected, were brought to the Dulwai, who, with the exception of the money and articles belonging to himself, presented the whole of the plunder, horses, &c., of these slaughtered men to Hydur





Alí, whose prudence in this action acquired for him great renown.

A few days after this, the Dulwai sent for Hydur, and, seating him on the musnud with himself, he consulted with him on the re-establishment of his own affairs, complaining bitterly of his distress for want of money. Hydur immediately took the management of his affairs, (that is, to say, the collection of money for his wants), on his own responsibility, and without delay, like a raging lion, marched with his brave soldiers towards the Poligars; and, in the course of one year, having thrown all the Nairs and Mapillas<sup>1</sup> into the utmost trepidation and confusion, he collected a large sum of money. In this expedition those persons who, according to requisition, came forward with a good will, and did their best to provide the sum demanded, he spared in life and property; but, on the contrary, those who disobeyed his commands, and, without having the license or exemption of the Raja, refused to pay the required tribute, he so completely destroyed, that their names, and those of their children, were erased from the book of time.

The Poligars of the Talookas of Palni and Virapachy, who were exceedingly rebellious, were, by

<sup>1</sup> Hindu Chiefs, and Mussulmans of the Malabar coast.



a well-planned attack, taken with their families and property, and brought in; and, in some of the difficult positions and passes in that country, Hydur also built stockades, or wooden forts, with stakes and planks, which in the language of the Hindoos are called lukkur kote,\* and in these he left detachments of his own troops. He thus diffused throughout the region a salutary fear of punishment, (which is so necessary to support the authority of Governors), held the country firm, and kept the rebels in proper subjection.

At these successes, which, by the good management of Hydur, produced a large sum of money, Nundi Raj was much pleased, and wrote a congratulatory letter to the Raja, at Seringaputtun, on the conquest of the territory of the rebellious Poligars, with which he sent a crore of rupees, as a nuzzur or present. By this means he washed away half the blackness of discredit or shame which before covered his face.

A short time after this, Hydur Ali was again sent with a body of troops, to establish order at Dindigul, Palghaut, &c. At this time, the chiefs about the Raja, persons who dreaded Hydur's advancement, persuaded him to recal Nundi Raj, and they obtained and despatched letters recalling him, but





conveying kind assurances to him under the Raja's seal.

As the Dulwai had been travelling for a long time, that is, two or three years, he had become tired of the fatigues of continual movement, and was wishing and looking for an opportunity to return home, to his family, then residing in the fort of Seringaputtun. As soon, therefore, as the letters arrived, he without any fear or apprehension, proceeded to Seringaputtun, and wrote to Hydur Ali, who was employed in reducing the Poligars, to return as quick as he could.

When Hydur Ali found that Nundi Raj had returned to Seringaputtun, he lost no time in completing his arrangements where he was, and with his own troops, consisting of two or three thousand regular infantry, five hundred Chittikars,<sup>1</sup> two hundred Europeans, of all nations, (who had been attracted by high pay from Pondicheri, Mangalore, &c.) four thousand Karnatic foot, and eight hundred horse, with four or five light guns, he marched by regular stages to Seringaputtun, and encamped near the Mana Munduf.

At that time the state of Seringaputtun was as follows. The whole of the country northward from the town of Chutr,<sup>m</sup> which is four fursungs from the

<sup>1</sup> So called from their clothing apparently.

<sup>m</sup> چہتر





city of Seringaputtun, and on the road to Sura, was in the hands of the Mahrattas, and the civil and military officers of these plunderers, regulated the whole of the Talookas and towns, and enjoyed themselves in collecting the revenue. Gopal Rao Mahratta, the Chief of Mirich, who was constituted the Chief of the Souba Sura, after the removal of Bulwunt Rao, again assembled a force, and besieged the fort of Bangalore. The Killadár or governor, however, whose name was Sri Nowas, the son of Vinkat Rao Burki, did not lose heart; but having strengthened the fort, and encouraged the garrison, he opposed the enemy with great constancy and courage. The Chiefs of Mysore, nevertheless, lost from cowardice<sup>n</sup> all sense and discretion, and, like a parcel of old women, trembling, waited for a man to enter the field of valour for them. When, therefore, Nundi Raj and the brave Hydur arrived at Seringaputtun, it appeared as if the breath had entered anew into their lifeless carcases, and now they began again to consult how they should repel their enemies. All the chief officers and Jamadárs being assembled, they were questioned as to how the country, almost entirely lost, could be recovered, and the enemy chastised. In answer to these interrogations, the whole of





the military officers said, that, if the Raja would mount his elephant, and prepare to attack the Mahrattas, they would surround him, and fight to the last man in his defence ; but that, otherwise with their own forces alone, they could not venture to attack the numerous army of the Mahrattas.





## CHAPTER V.

An account of the defeat of the Mahrattas under Gopal Rao, in the vicinity of Bangalore, by the bravery of Hydur Ali Khan, and the recapture of the Talookas, and Forts, taken by the Mahrattas; with other occurrences of the year 1168, Hijri—A. D. 1754.

WHEN the heads of the government heard these dastardly words from all the officers commanding their troops, they became hopeless, and, sending for Hydur Ali, they made him acquainted with what had occurred, and besought his aid in the recovery and preservation of the country. The Khan immediately without the least hesitation, made himself responsible for the accomplishment of this arduous undertaking; and the Raja, after complimenting him highly on his courage, embraced him, gave him the title of Khan Bahadúr, and repeated his request for the settlement of the country, and the discomfiture of his enemies; he likewise sent out of the fort his own standard, his own tents and equipage, his musnud ornamented with gold, his treasury, wardrobe, and elephants; and appointed the Khan, Sipahsalar (Commander-in-Chief) and





gave him discretionary authority to act as he thought best, and then, giving him the leaf of dismissal,<sup>o</sup> he, to do him honor, accompanied him attended by his chiefs on foot to the Gate of the Palace.

*Persian verse.* "He who can wield the sword shall have money struck in his name"<sup>p</sup>—or the Sikka shall be read in his name.<sup>q</sup>

As the Khan, and his brother Shahbaz, with their own troops only, now left the city and encamped at the Kurri Kote, the Raja and Dulwai, summoned all the Jamadárs, and gave them strict orders to obey the Sipahsalar, and signified to them that they were dismissed for the purpose of joining him. At first only Khoob Sáhib Dukkani, and Syud Buduni, Jamadárs, (officers who had been lately released from the prisons of Muhammad Alí Khan,) with their troops, amounting to about three thousand horse, arrived; but afterwards, Ruhim Sáhib, Yakoob Sáhib, Meer Bijli, Amr Singh, with their companies and military stores, some officers of foot, and Manuel, the European, with his Risala, made themselves ready to attend the Sipahsalar. The rest of the officers and troops raised a dispute regarding the arrears of pay which were due to

<sup>o</sup> The Betel leaf.

<sup>p</sup> Stamped on the coin his name shall stand revealed  
Who bravely wields the sword in battle-field.

<sup>q</sup> "هر که شمشیر زند" "سکه بنامش خوانند"





them, and remained at the capital. Hydur Ali was, therefore, at length obliged to march with the scanty force which he had under his orders, amounting only to four or five thousand horse, twelve thousand regular infantry, and six or seven guns; and, having given the curl of enterprise to the moustache of his manhood, he proceeded towards Bangalore, and in two or three days, with the greatest regularity and order, arrived and encamped in the vicinity of Chinaputtun.

Being aware of his approach, the Mahrattas dispatched fifteen thousand horse to attack him; but, hearing of their advance the Sipahsalar also marched, and took up a position in the jungul or forest of Burdi, or Baroli, where he and his men lay in wait, like tigers waiting for their prey.

Having sent, the next morning, to ascertain the place where the Mahrattas were encamped, he, at night, marched against them with one thousand regular Infantry, and Chittikars, and two hundred Europeans, and attacked them in the rear so successfully, that, abandoning all their baggage, the Mahrattas fled hastily and lost but few in killed and prisoners. After this night attack, which was admirably concerted, and gave them an example of what they (the Mahrattas) had to expect in future, Hydur marched to Bangalore, and en-





camped near Basoon Gori, and immediately wrote and forwarded a letter of encouragement to the besieged Killadár, Sri Nowas, informing him of his arrival, to his (the Killadár's) aid, and the defeat of the enemy. Sri Nowas was now nearly reduced to surrender, by the fire of the Mahrattas, and the want of ammunition, and provisions, but immediately on receiving the letter, and recognizing the signature of Hydur, he recovered his confidence, and for joy fired off his guns, as a salute, at the Mahratta camp.

The Mahrattas, also, seeing that the garrison were roused by the prospect of relief, determined to relinquish the siege of the fort, and attack the troops arrived to its assistance. They, therefore, changed their ground the distance of two fursungs, (about six or seven miles,) to Soondi Gopeh, and encamped there in the best order. On the following morning, Hydur, the Sipahsalar, drew out his forces, and having given charge of his right and left wings to experienced officers, he, with his artillery in readiness, marched straight towards the Mahrattas, who, aware of his purpose, marshalled their troops, and prepared to receive him warmly. The fire soon commenced, and the balls fell like pattering rain from the guns and muskets of Hydur's men, and unable to stand the fire of Hydur's





infantry and artillery, the Mahrattas, lost all power of opposition and resistance, and fled, leaving part of their baggage behind them. Being master of the field of battle, Hydur Alí now taking possession of the deserted baggage, returned to his former ground of encampment, and then, with great art, sending for Sri Nowas the Killadár, under pretence of a visit, he detained him with his own troops, and appointed to the charge of the fort a certain Kubeer Beg, one of his own friends.

The body of Mahrattas, which had been defeated and fled, again collected their scattered numbers, and made ready for action, in the neighbourhood of Nulloonga. In consequence of this, Hydur Alí marched from Bangalore, and encamped two or three fursungs from Balapoor the greater, and halted there for two days. On the night of the third, however, having obtained a favourable opportunity, he again marched, and attacked the Mahrattas, throwing, such a powerful fire of musketry, guns, and rockets like a tempest of lightning upon them, that he dispersed them and losing their manhood and senses, they fled, leaving their arms, ammunition, tents and standards, on the ground.

Hydur thus gained the victory, and the leader of the Mahrattas, having escaped with much difficulty, continued his flight to Nijigul.—After the lapse of about ten or fifteen days, he, however, commenced





again to collect his horse and foot, and was making ready to attack Hydur, when at this period, news arrived from Poona, that Sudusheo Pundit Bhow, and Wiswas Rao, the eldest son of Balajee Rao Nana, who had displayed the standard of conceit and arrogance, and had raised the neck of pride in the empire of Hind, and with three hundred thousand horse, two hundred thousand foot, and three hundred guns, had marched towards Dehli, and had taken and plundered the Dárul Khiláfat of the King of Kings; had, at length, in the plain of Gunjawur, depending on Paniput Karnal, received from the powerful hand of Ahmud Shah Doorani, (the grandfather of Zemán Shah the King of Kabul, who with four Dustas of Sir Abdalli, each Dustu consisting of twelve thousand horse, had arrived in Hindustan) such a total defeat, and had been so effectually destroyed, that their name and the token of their existence had departed from the world. (He learned also,) that Balajee Pundit, at hearing of this shameful defeat, the utter ruin of his power, and the destruction of hundreds of thousands of his troops, was so struck with grief, that, from the distress and disorder of his mind, he at length lost his senses, and died, lamenting his misfortunes and loss. Gopal Rao, on receiving this dreadful news, finding

\* The whole of these paragraphs in the original are very much involved and parenthetical.





he could not hope to oppose Hydur successfully, lost his way in the wilderness of despair ; that is, with his troops and his baggage that remained, he retired to Sura, and withdrew all his people from the country of Mysore. Hydur Ali followed his steps, and, having expelled the Mahratta garrisons from the forts depending on Mysore, some by fair means and some by foul, and replaced them by men and officers of his own, he then, with the plunder he had taken from the fugitive Mahrattas, returned, with joy in his heart, and pleasure in his countenance, to Seringaputtun ; the departments of which he found in the following unsettled state when he arrived.

The whole of the Jamadárs of horse, with their men armed and ready, amounting to three or four thousand men had secured the gates and posterns of the fort, and stopped all communication with any one, friend or stranger, under pretence of demanding their arrears of pay. The chief officers had made up their beds at the doors of the Raja and Dulwai's habitations, and remained there, demanding their money ; and suffered no one in the fort to go out, nor would they allow any one to enter the fort.

On witnessing the rigour and injustice of these soldiers, Hydur Ali was greatly excited and en-





raged, and determined to punish them ; when, at the same time, the Raja, Nundi Raj, &c. placing entire confidence in Hydur, sent to him, through the medium of a woman who sold herbs, an account of the misery of their situation, from the oppression of these faithless soldiers, and begged his assistance, in obtaining a settlement of their disputes with them.—Hydur Ali, in reply, sent verbally all the consolation and comfort he thought necessary at that moment, and professed his friendly wishes to do them service. On the ensuing day, therefore he sent word to the mutinous Jamadárs, that he, also, was one of the claimants or creditors of the government, and that he had been employed on hard service for months, without any pay or assistance whatever, and that, if they would allow him, he would join them, and thus obtain the settlement of his own demands ; but that they might be certain that, until they opened the fire of their guns and rockets on the Dewaun Khana, and Zanana, (or the palace) of the Raja, and showered a tempest of shot on these places like hail, and until they filled the heads of the conceited occupants with the black smoke of their artillery and musketry, they would never submit to follow the right path. If they chose he said to act on his suggestion, well,—if not,—the surrounding suburbs of the city





were rich and populous ; and, besides them, there was the whole country of Mysore, from which, if he thought proper, he could collect his dues without difficulty.

When the Jamadárs heard this excellent advice from Hydur, they began to fear that he would carry his plan into execution, by plundering their houses, which they had built in the Bahadúr Poora, near the old Eed Gah, a little to the westward of the battery of Muhammad Ali, commandant, and which part of the suburbs was very populous. They, therefore, gave him leave to enter the fort, with a few men ; but Hydur, that Lion of the forest of courage and enterprize, without the least delay, accompanied by two light guns, seven or eight hundred regular infantry, and two hundred spear men on foot, entered the fort, and, having posted his men in parties at different places, visited the Raja and the Dulwai, and offered consolation and comfort to them. Then, after having also pleased the Jamadárs with kind and flattering words and speeches, and having attracted the hearts of high and low to him by his affable manners, he returned to his encampment. The next day he entered the fort, accompanied by the same number of men as before, and now told the Jamadárs that, as there was no guard on the Zanana, or women's apart-





ments, of the Raja or Dulwai, he would place his own foot soldiers on them, that they might stop all supplies of water and other necessities to their inhabitants; and, the Jamadárs having yielded to this proposal, he immediately sent for two thousand foot, well armed, and posted guards on the Zananas of the Raja and Dulwai, and, in short in the course of two or three days, he secured, or made himself master of, all the roads and lanes leading to the palace.

The day after this he proceeded to the Private Hall of audience,<sup>t</sup> and having placed a number of his attendants under pretence of Dhurna in the inside of the Hall, which is called Chutr Duddi, or Doorí,<sup>u</sup> he of a sudden came out, and told the Jamadárs that a settlement of his and their demands had been effected; but, that the regular accounts of their monthly pay must be entered into the Duftur, or register of the Tosha Khona, (or treasury) and that they might<sup>v</sup> then take their money. That, they must take up their beds, therefore, from the palace, and carry them away, and then, with the Vakeel or agent of the Risala or troop, and one Mutsuddi, (or writer) attend, the Kutcheree,<sup>v</sup> that their monthly accounts might be made up,

خاص

چتر دري

<sup>v</sup> Any public hall for the settlement of revenue or judicial questions.



and their claims discharged ; also that, if they had any other intentions he thought they would in the end repent of them. Having said this, he ordered his men to keep the Jamadárs, with a Vakeel and Mutsuddi each, present in the Hall, and turn the remainder of their men out of the fort. As his brave soldiers were drawn up in companies, parading about the streets and markets, with their drums beating, and handling their arms, the Jamadárs, seeing the posture of affairs, lost their colour,<sup>w</sup> and submitted to Hydur's pleasure and commands, and with an accountant or two, each repaired to the Kutcheree, where the astute Hydur himself examined the monthly pay lists of each Jamadar, and, causing a memorandum of each, to be taken, kept it by him ; while, to compare the numbers in the returns with the numbers present for duty, he demanded an actual muster. For, in fact, the Jamadárs of a thousand horse had present at that time only six hundred ; those of five hundred, but three hundred, and those of two hundred but half as many ; although, by the collusion of the writers of the Pay Office, and the Vakeels or agents of the regiments, they extorted pay for the full complement, and, for actual muster, played at hide and seek ;<sup>x</sup> as soon as the clear-headed Hydur under-

<sup>w</sup> Became alarmed.

<sup>x</sup> شش و پنج





stood this excessive roguery,<sup>y</sup> he immediately sent for the Jamadárs and took the muster of their men and horses; and, being much vexed at the villany of the accountants of the Treasury, he deducted the amount overdrawn for absent or non-effectives, from the day on which the Jamadárs and their companies were received into the service, to the very day he mustered them; and made up and settled their accounts on that scale. Now, as, by reckoning, in this mode, Jamadárs, instead of creditors, were made debtors to the State in a large amount, in order, to discharge the same, they were obliged to give up their horses, camels, elephants, tents and utensils, and even their clothes, of all which he took a regular account, and then discharged them. But, of the Jamadárs, any one who had been his companion in the field and at board, to him he paid his money in a certain mode, and re-engaged him. As, in this way, a body of five or six thousand of these men were ruined, their horses were taken by Hydur Alí, and sent to his own stables, and, in place of their riders, he hired Bargeers, (men enlisted as cavalry to ride the government horses) and in this manner he surmounted his difficulties.

<sup>y</sup> عین فتوح Ironically. He must have been fully aware of it, as it is customary, and it is most probable he did himself the same.





## CHAPTER VI.

The quarrel between Nundi Raj and his son-in-law, and his retirement to the fort of Mysore. Also, his contention with Hydur, the Sipahsalar, and at length his being taken prisoner. Also, the acquisition of the Talookas of Ani Kul, and the district of Barh Mahl, by the Khodadaud Sirkar (Hydur), with other events of the year 1169, Hijri.—A. D. 1755.

AFTER the Sipahsalar, Hydur, by his prudence and courage, had defeated the Mahrattas, and recovered the country taken by them, he placed the government of Seringaputtun on a sure and established basis, and relieved the state from the burden and danger of mutinous and seditious servants; and having done this, he retired to his own house.

About this period, the Raja of Mysore, on account of the hopeless and bootless return of his troops from the expedition to Trichinopoly, which, notwithstanding it was attended with an immense expense, produced no profit, again reproached Nundi Raj in angry terms and manifested great displeasure. Nundi Raj, who, also, was much ashamed of his want of political foresight in the affair, with great





trouble and difficulty, and by pleading his advanced age as an apology for ceasing to bear a part in the government, was allowed to retire to Mysore. He accordingly withdrew entirely from the management of state affairs, and took up his residence in that fort, retaining, as a necessary protection, a body of about two thousand foot, five or six hundred horse, and five hundred regular infantry.

The other chiefs of the government, having consulted together, were, however, desirous to go further, and obtain from Nundi Raj the sealed Sunnuds, (patents or commissions), of the Dewanni, or Prime Ministership. One man, in particular, named Khundi Rao, a Brahman, who was the Mooshrif, (overseer or inspector), of Hydur Ali's troops, was the most active and influential in this design ; he induced his master Hydur to join him in his object, and the whole together petitioned the Raja to demand the Sunnuds.

On receiving these requests, the Raja, to oblige them, demanded the patents of the appointment of Prime Minister, (Purdhani or Sáhíb Dewanni), from Nundi Raj, who returned for answer that as the documents in question had not been derived to him during the reign of the present Raja, but from his father and grandfathers to the ancestors of Nundi Raj, generation after generation, the re-





turning of them would be superfluous; for, when it was considered that he, Nundi Raj, had abandoned of his own free will all regulation or control of the Raja's affairs, he, the Raja, might be certain that, through the medium of the Sunnuds, Nundi Raj could cause no impediments to any one, in matters of state, and he might estimate the old Sunnuds or patents as copy books of children or waste paper. He added, that he, Nundi Raj, recommended the Raja with the advice of his council, to select, his ministers himself, from those best able to conduct his affairs, and let him, a weak, worn out man alone, and relieve him from the trouble and perplexity of public business.

The whole, however, of those who were seeking the injury and downfall of Nundi Raj, by telling tales and making misrepresentations to the Raja, brought his mind to determine that Hydur Ali, after having been flatteringly called by the Raja his son, was the proper person to be sent to obtain the seals and Sunnuds. As soon as Hydur, therefore, marched with his own troops towards Mysore, he sent a detailed notice to Nundi Raj, that, as some enemies of his had deceived and turned the Raja's mind against him, and had persuaded him to seize the Sunnuds or patents of his office, it appeared to him, (Hydur Ali), necessary or rather the





best policy that he should send in the papers, through the medium of his most particular friend, (meaning himself,) and that he, Nundi Raj, might place every reliance on him. Nundi Raj, however, not being inclined to agree to this request, the fort was surrounded by order of the Raja, batteries were raised on all sides and guns mounted. Notwithstanding all this, Hydur Ali, in hopes to avoid actual conflict, still wisely advised him to submit, but Nundi Raj would listen to none of his advice, however prudent and politic, but prepared to defend himself, and fired upon Hydur's camp.

That lion of the field of battle, therefore, could hesitate no longer; and he now gave orders to his brave soldiers to commence the attack, who immediately opened a fire of all arms, guns, muskets, &c. on the fort. The fire of war was consequently lighted up on all sides, and both parties fought courageously; but, at length, by their valour and strength of arm Hydur Ali's fearless troops brought on the heads of the besieged a resemblance of the day of Judgment. Still, their chiefs defended themselves with great bravery for three months, when, their provisions and ammunition becoming exhausted, they surrendered, and Nundi Raj, agreeably to the desire of his friends, accompanied by his family in carriages, proceeded to Hydur's camp and his





troops marched out of the fort, and leaving a garrison in it, and taking with him Nundi Raj, Hydur returned to Seringaputtun, where Nundi Raj was placed in confinement. In obedience to orders from the Raja, Hydur by artful means obtained the patents of the Prime Minister and other papers from Nundi Raj; and then, by the sanction of the Raja, and the recommendation of the Chiefs of the Government, the office of Prime Minister, was given to the Brahman Khundi Rao, an old servant, Hydur supposing him, faithful, and he received strict orders to do nothing in affairs of Government without the knowledge and sanction of Hydur. In this matter Hydur, however, was unsuspecting and ignorant of the changes which the revolving heavens, or the arch conjurer Time, (who varies his tricks every moment), might bring about.

As soon as he had delivered up his patents to Hydur, having nothing further to care for, and considering his residence in such circumstances at Seringaputtun a degradation, Nundi Raj with great eloquence pleaded for and obtained leave to retire to his three Jageers, which had belonged to him of old and which he still possessed; these Jageers were, the Kusba or town of Kinnoor, Puria Puttun, and Arkul Goorah, with Anchiti Droog, a perpetual or permanent assignment—he himself resid-





ing at the town of Kennoor, and maintaining, for the protection and regulation of his dependencies, six or seven hundred horse, two thousand regular infantry, and about four thousand Karnatic foot; and thus he rested from his labours, and enjoyed himself.

About this time, Suráj ud Dowla Muhammad Alí Khan, Wala Jah, at the instigation of the English, marched with a body of troops to attack Pondicherry. The French immediatly sent a Vakeel, or messenger, to Hydur Alí, the noise of whose courage and political ability had reached the utmost corners of the earth; but whose fame was more particularly known in the countries of Hind and the Dukhun, and requested he would afford them aid; offering to give up, for the support of the troops sent to their assistance, the revenues of two Purganas, one Chincee, and the other Tyag Gurh, both which depended on them. Hydur, the protector of the helpless, immediately stained the finger of the Vakeel's request with the henna of accordence, and dispatched a force of three thousand horse, six thousand regular, and two thousand Karnatic infantry, under the command of Syud Mukhdoom, his half brother, with abundance of stores, ammuniton, and provisions, to Pondicherry.

With Syud Mukhdoom, on his departure, was





associated a certain Asud Khan Mahkuri, Nayut, who had been formerly in the service of the Chief of Kirpa, and had been appointed to the Barh Mahl district. This man was universally known for his excessive bravery, and had no equal in his kind regard for his comrades,—but it may not be uninteresting to mention here some instances of his bravery. When Abdul Mujeed Khan was killed, by the hand of Bulwunt Rao, the Mahratta, Imrut Rao, also a chief of the Mahrattas, was sent by his orders with five hundred horse, and two thousand foot, to take possession of the Barh Mahl district. Having plundered the Kusba of Wanambari, he was advancing further, when this brave fellow, feeling his honour as Foujdár rather roughly handled, by the Mahrattas, and his blood being up, sallied forth from the town of Tripatoor, and on an open space, to the northward of that town, fell in with the Mahrattas; and, not taking any account of their numbers, with only five horsemen he attacked them as a tiger attacks a herd of deer, and actually beat them off his bounds; the said Imrut Rao being wounded in the action. Sometime after this event, Uzeez Khan, a one-eyed man, being envious of this brave man's reputation, obtained for himself the agency or lieutenantcy of this district, and arrived to take possession. Offended at the neglect and want of appreciation of





his services, shewn by the Chief of Kirpa, Mohsun Khan, (alias Moocha Mean,) Asud Khan of his own accord left his service, and took up his residence at Rai Vellore. Knowing his value, the Nawaub Bahadúr sent for him, at the same time providing him with funds for his expenses and carriage. This officer was therefore now attached to Syud Mukhdoom's force, and the Syud marched with his military stores from Seringaputtun to Bangalore, where he learned that the Poligar of Anikul had given up the care of his own dominions, and, being tired of governing, had presumed to oppress his people and despoil his own relations and servants of their rights.

Mukhdoom, therefore, taking advantage of an opportunity, suddenly surprised him in the night and sent him off a prisoner to Seringaputtun. Placing a garrison in his fort, he then marched on. At this time, news arrived, that the Barh Mahl district, from the tyranny of Uzeez Khan, the one-eyed slave of Moocha Mean, the Chief of Kirpa, had fallen into disorder, all the inhabitants having been plundered by him; and that some of them had actually arrived, to complain of their hard treatment, and to request the Khan to restore order among them. Syud Mukhdoom, however desirous and determined he might be to protect them, still dared not advance





a foot without Hydur's commands. After some consideration, therefore, he addressed a letter to Hydur, who, on receiving his letter, without hesitation, dispatched an answer, authorizing him to undertake the protection or regulation of the district, without further delay.

Passing, therefore, with his troops by the defile of Rai Kote, Syud Mukhdoom immediately came in contact with Uzeez Khan, who, with his troops, forthwith abandoned the country, without fighting and fled to Kirpa. Mukhdoom, therefore, after having placed garrisons in the forts and hill forts, &c. of the Barh Mahl, and left Asud Khan Mahkuri there as Foujdár, advanced toward Pondicherry, and conducted his march thither with such address, that he arrived there without being molested or opposed by any one; after which, making a vigorous night attack on the English Troops, detached to guard the trenches or batteries, he with all his stores and ammunition safely entered the fort. The besiegers, however, being subsequently more on their guard, by the fire of their guns and small arms effectually closed in future the road, in or out, to the besieged. Notwithstanding this, Syud Mukhdoom encamped with his troops near Vallinoor, and took the defence of the city on himself. With regard to the Purguna of Chinchí, which is eighteen





kose west from Pondicherry, the authority of the French had ceased there, and it had fallen into the hand of the Chief of Arkat, Muhammad Ali Khan ; the government was not therefore in Mukhdoom's hands. Tyag Gurh, however, which was a very distant dependency, was placed under the authority of Mukhdoom's agent who remained there.

Pending the defence of Pondicherry, however, for want of hay, corn, &c., the troops and cattle suffered greatly ; and most of the horses and camels became useless or died for want of forage ; but, notwithstanding these hardships and difficulties, the garrison continued to make a brave defence.





## CHAPTER VII.

An account of the treachery of the Chiefs of the Mysore state, and the base ingratitude of the proud and foolish Brahman, Khundi Rao, to his patron ; and his arriving at the punishment due to his bad actions. Also the invasion, or incursion, of Esajee Beenee Mahratta.<sup>2</sup> 1170 Hijri. A. D. 1756.

WHEN the villain Brahman, Khundi Rao, by the kindness and aid of his master, had obtained free of expense or trouble, the Seven Sunnuds of the Dewanni, or first ministership of the Mysore State and when he saw that the rest of the officers of government were not averse to his views and policy, he imagined that his own good fortune and propitious stars had aided him in the work, and that the heavens revolved to accomplish his designs. In a very short time, therefore, for this very reason—that the water of a little pool, soon becomes offensive, and that a dog has no relish for the sweetness of rice and milk,—he with a hope of establishing his own inauspicious power, turned his back on his patron ;

<sup>2</sup> بيمبي Signifies the nose, but by the Mahrattas the advanced guard of a body of troops is called the Beenee.



and, considering himself independent in the binding and loosing all matters of state, he unrighteously placed the foot of his designs beyond the circle of his ability, and planned the expulsion and destruction of his master, and his establishment; indeed, did his best to root out his power and authority. With this purpose, he in private addressed himself to the Raja, in the following terms—"This contemptible Náík, (meaning Hydur,) has increased to his present height, and power, by the favour and benefits conferred on him by the Maharaja, and has become the possessor of wealth, territory, and a military force; and this in truth seems likely to be the cause of much danger to your authority." God forbid, a foreigner or stranger, for instance, a Mussulman, should enter into the affairs of this government, and thus cheaply obtain possession of the riches and power accumulated and established, by the labour of so many years.—If however, I am permitted, I will exert my abilities in the destruction of his power. *Verses from Sadi.*<sup>b</sup> "A tree which has just taken root may be pulled up by the strength of a man; but if let alone for a

<sup>a</sup> منخل

- <sup>b</sup> The tree that just has taken root  
Men can tear up; but, if allowed to stay  
Till rolling years its strength recruit,  
Waggon, nor team, shall rend it then away.





time, you cannot pull it up with a waggon, or, a team of horses."

The Raja, inexperienced and low minded, and an example that rank does not confer capacity, lent a willing ear to these suggestions, but still with a cautious regard to his own safety ; for, he allowed the ungrateful Brahman to act as he pleased in the matter, but himself preserved the strictest silence.

*Verses.* "He, (Khundi Rao,) was like the base born silk worm, who when he invests himself with a silken robe of honour, loses himself." He did not reflect, that treachery never fails to bring contempt and degradation in the end, but spread the net of his wiles, over the whole of the officers, and servants, of the Mysore government, and associated them in his plans.

At the same time, he wrote to the Chief, (the Názim), of Poona, in the following terms,—“ That a certain Mussulman, a servant of inferior rank, had increased in power to that degree, that he had seized and usurped the whole of the wealth and territory of Mysore, and had grown so arrogant that the Raja had nothing left to him but the name ; and that, if the Poona State would now assist them, and remove or take away this Mussulman, the yearly tribute, with two Lakhs of Rupees, Nuz-zur, or as a present, and five Lakhs of Rupees, for the expenses of the subsidiary troops, should be





immediately paid." This letter being dispatched, he waited for opportunities and an answer.

As Hydur had detached a great part of his troops, to Pondicherry, and another body of troops under the Foudári of Meer Alí Ruza Khan, for the necessary protection of the Barh Mahl, he was left with only two or three risalas of regular infantry, (consisting of about fifteen hundred men) four hundred horse of his own stables, and a thousand foot without arms, in his encampment, which was near the Deo Rai Peeth, on the bank of the river, (Kauveri) where also his family, relations, dependents and workmen, resided. By prudence and foresight, however, and observing closely the conduct and movements of the faithless Rao, he gained some information, which induced him to provide, as is proper for all persons in authority, for his own safety, by raising two or three batteries round his residence, and keeping his guns mounted and in readiness. But, notwithstanding this, Hydur frequently sent for the Brahman, under pretence of particular business, and to ascertain what he was about; for, whatever might be his conduct, Hydur still had confidence in him, and merely wanted by kindness and gentleness to prove his political capacity. *Verse.* "Heat will bring iron out of stone," by-gentleness one may insinuate himself as water





into steel.<sup>c</sup> The Brahman, however, under various pretexts, put off his attendance from today to tomorrow, and often sent word, that the Raja would not allow him to leave the fort, but that, if Hydur himself would come, and ask the Raja's leave, he, Khundi Rao, was ready to return with him. By these strange answers Hydur was filled with doubt and thrown into great perplexity : he did not, however, lose courage, or neglect any means to protect himself.

When the letters, before mentioned, arrived at Poona, Madhoo Rao, the son of Nana, greedy of the things of this world, which is the Paradise of the covetous—*verses*, “ The covetous, with all the riches of the world are never satisfied, the cup of the bubble is not filled by the sea”<sup>d</sup>—he immediately dispatched Esajee Pundit Beenee, (that is the Chief of the Mahratta advanced guard,) with forty thousand horse and twenty thousand foot ; and the artillery, which Nana had left in the Souba Sura, when he returned to Poona, was given to him, to accompany him.

When the news of the arrival of the Mahrattas

<sup>c</sup> The temper of steel is called the water.

<sup>d</sup> Though all earth's treasures he possess'd,

Unsatisfied the covetous would be :

The bubble, on the water's breast,

Remains unfilled by all the boundless sea.





reached the false Brahman, he formed a deep scheme the same night, and the next morning shut the gates of the fort, pointed the largest guns in the direction of his patron's (Hydur's) camp or cantonments, and fired several shots at them. Hydur, who was in his Dewan Khana, on hearing this left it, and having viewed the fort, saw a change of policy was in contemplation, and that his secret suspicions were now about to be verified. He however, thought—*verses*, "what does the (Kargus)<sup>e</sup> vulture enjoy of life but carrion—of what advantage is a long life to a fool."—He, therefore, immediately manned his defences with musketeers, and also, without the knowledge of any one dispatched a number of men, and seized all the Ambakars<sup>f</sup> of the river (Kauveri) side with their baskets,<sup>g</sup> it being now the time of the flood, (rains), and made them prisoners. Then, having placed his infantry and cavalry in readiness round his house, he sent for the writers of his different departments, and made them write out distinct lists of what he was possessed of, in valuable cloths, elephants, camels, arms, and the most precious of his household property, as rich stuffs, utensils, &c., and arranged all

<sup>e</sup> کرگس

<sup>f</sup> Watermen.

<sup>g</sup> Baskets covered with skins, used as boats.





this business by midday. During that time, the perfidious<sup>b</sup> Brahman, with a body of horse and foot, made a sortie from the Mysore gate, and attacked Hydur's encampment; but the men Hydur had placed in his batteries gave them such a warm reception with their guns and musketry, that they were defeated and fled; and although they returned and repeated their foolish attacks, they were constantly repelled.

In the evening, Hydur having collected from his Zanana, all his money, and valuables in gold, silver, and precious stones, and placed them in bags, and having consoled and comforted his family and dependants; he with two or three hundred well mounted horse, taking with him his bags of gold and jewels, crossed the river in baskets,<sup>i</sup> and, marching all night, arrived the next morning at Anikul. Having made his arrangements here in an hour or two, Hydur next addressed a letter to Kubeer Beg, the Kiladár of Bangalore informing him that he might expect him there. That worthy friend, on hearing of the approach of Hydur, was well pleased; but as the chief civil officers, (Huzaurian), were

<sup>b</sup> وخيم العائيه

<sup>i</sup> These basket boats appear to have been used in Ireland, and there called Corragh, they are described as—*Carabus-parva scapha ex vimine facta quæ contexta crudo corio genus navigii præbet.*





the servants of the Raja, he was apprehensive of them, and he therefore devised the following plan. Under pretence of visiting some gardens in the vicinity, he assembled the civil officers of the fort,<sup>1</sup> and took them out with him; giving orders, to the guards at the gates, not to oppose the entrance of Hydur Ali Khan Bahadúr, and his followers, as he was coming to the fort on particular business from Seringaputtun. The Mirza, after this, dispatched a letter, inviting him to Bangalore. As soon as Hydur saw this letter, from his trusty well wisher, he with great satisfaction marched into the fort; and, having quietly placed guards of his own men on the gates and Posterns, he now made himself easy. After staying out an hour or two, the Mirza returned with the officers, and immediately visited Hydur, who, by his presents and promises to the officers and men of the old garrison, so completely won their hearts, that they all agreed to serve him, and sacrifice their lives for him whenever required.

After the settlement of this affair Hydur immediately sent for all the bankers and merchants of the city, and having given them assignments,<sup>k</sup> or drafts, for the amount, he took fifty Lakhs of Rupees from them. He also informed Meer Ali Ruza

<sup>1</sup> هزاریان

<sup>k</sup> تمسکات





Khan of his arrival alone at Bangalore, and the circumstances which led to his arrival, and requested him to come to him. He likewise wrote to Mukhdoom Sáhib, at Pondicherry, informing him of the treachery of the ungrateful Brahman, the incursion of the Mahrattas, at the invitation of that seditious person ; and his (Hydur's) having in consequence sought refuge at Bangalore, without troops or stores, and he requested Mukhdoom to join him immediately. When, however, Meer Alí Ruza Khan, with his troops, amounting to about two thousand regular infantry, (Bar,<sup>1</sup>) three hundred horse, a thousand irregular foot, and five guns, arrived, Hydur felt still more confident ; and, being now strong in heart, he threw up batteries<sup>m</sup> or out-works at Busoon Goori and Hussoor, and encamped there, occupying himself in collecting horse and foot.

When the ungrateful Brahman found, on the next day, that the lion<sup>n</sup> had left his old hunting ground, and had hoisted the standard of valour in the manhood-testing field of Bangalore, spreading the terror of his name in all quarters of the world, he proceeded with a few men to Hydur's encampment and having seized all the property remaining

<sup>1</sup> The word بار signifies a wall of a town, a hedge, &c.

<sup>m</sup> بتريها

<sup>n</sup> حيدر Signifies a lion in arabic.





there, he carried it into the fort, and placed the family, and the fortunate son of Hydur,<sup>o</sup> (then about seven years of age), in an empty house near the Alí Musjid, which at that time was a Hindu temple, and posted a guard over them. He next, without the least delay, began to remove and to replace the Killadárs and Talookdárs of Mysore, or the commanders of forts and districts, and assembled a body of troops, for the conquest of Bangalore.

In the intermediate time Esajee Beenee, with his heavy force, arrived, like a hungry hawk, pouncing on its prey, and the Brahman, estimating his arrival as an instance of the greatest good fortune, suggested to him the plan to be pursued in regard to Hydur, and made him a present of Hydur's elephants, about thirty in number, (which he, Hydur, was training, and for which he had paid a large price,) with other valuables. Then sending him with injunctions to capture the fort of Bangalore, and make Hydur Alí prisoner, he speedily followed, with a force of nine thousand horse, fourteen thousand foot and a train of heavy guns, and soon also arrived there.

<sup>o</sup> In one manuscript a verse is inserted here—*verse* "from whose forehead rank and dignity shone resplendent"—giving notice to the world beforehand.

The rank and dignity, which all might see  
Resplendent on his brow, told what the man would be.





In the meanwhile, the Mahrattas had raised a terrible storm in the vicinity of Bangalore, and had so pillaged, and destroyed the people, that most of the towns and villages, from the constant ravages of that ill omened army, were left without an inhabitant.<sup>p</sup> But, during these proceedings whatever approaches were pushed on, trenches dug, or batteries raised, to breach the fort, were rendered of no avail ; for the soldiers of Hydur frequently sallied forth, and burned their trenches, and victoriously repelled their assaults.

At this time, Mukhdoom Sâhib, according to Hydur's requisition, having taken leave of the French at Pondicherry, with the same worn out body of troops, the state of which has been before described, arrived by forced marches at Tyag Gurh ; and, having taken four guns from the top of the mountains, brought them along with him, and, marching through the Pass of Tippoor, arrived at Kishengiri. Here he took some necessary supplies of provisions and ammunition, from Asud Khan Mahkari, the Foujdâr, and, giving him a receipt for the same, then marched by Rai Kote to Anikul.

Upon hearing of Mukhdoom's arrival there raging like a mad elephant, with a large force, the Brahman and the Mahrattas, immediately determined to attack





him. Accordingly, with their plundering horse and foot they let loose their courage for the fight, and, although camel-hearted,<sup>1</sup> they being in numbers like locusts, arrayed themselves in great force against him on the field. Mukhdoom Sáhíb, nevertheless, did not give the game out of his hands; but arranged his artillery and infantry on the lower grounds, while he himself, with his light-bridled and well-trained horse, intending to give them a lesson, kept the higher parts of the ground. The two Surdárs, (the Brahman and Mahratta), in their pride, not estimating the bravery of their opponents, as they appeared few in number, immediately charged them, and Mukhdoom Sáhíb retiring with his horse, and giving the signal to rise to the parties he had placed in ambush, they immediately rose, and opening a heavy fire of artillery and musketry, killed a great number of the infidel Mahrattas. Nor did they withdraw their hands while they had power from slaying and plundering their enemies, and thousands on both sides were stretched on the field of death.

The Mahrattas were defeated, and fled; but, towards the evening, they reassembled, and surrounded and besieged Mukhdoom's lions, buzzing round them like flies continually. Mukhdoom,

<sup>1</sup> Cowards.





therefore, forwarded a letter to Hydur Ali, stating his arrival at Anikul, with stores and ammunition, and his being surrounded and besieged by the Mah-rattas and Brahman's troops.

On receiving this letter, Hydur, by using his intelligence and prudence to the best end, and agreeably to the rules of those who love to overcome difficulties, immediately wrote and despatched a letter to Nundi Raj, informing him that the Brahman, Khundi Rao, had followed the path of treachery and rebellion, and that he himself had been compelled to abandon his station and property, and separate himself from his family. He also made known to him the arrival of his troops from Pondicherry, and their being prevented from joining him by the two vile Infidels, the Mahratta and Mysorean, and their want of some place of support or refuge.

When the Dulwai heard the terms of this letter from that great and illustrious man his old friendship again warmed his heart, and he became convinced that the misfortunes which had before befallen him arose from the villany of this Brahman. He, therefore, wrote a kind and consolatory letter in reply, with a note to the Killadár of Anchiti Droog, directing that provisions should be supplied to Mukhdoom Sâhib's troops, and that they should be allowed to seek support and refuge under the protection of the guns of that





hill fort, the garrison there being his. This note Hydur immediately forwarded, with corresponding suggestions of his own, to Mukhdoom Sâhib. Mukhdoom, who, in opposing his enemies and preserving his own troops, had been for three or four days exposed to great difficulties, but who, notwithstanding he had two armies to contend with, had never quitted the field, however pressed by force or artifice;\* and who, during all this time, whilst oppressed by the want of water, forage, corn, and carriage, had still maintained himself in the same place by dint of hard fighting; on receiving the letters of his master, and the orders of Nundi Raj, immediately formed his troops, and attacked his opponents, and the two worthless chiefs, finding they could not resist his brave soldiers, retired like foxes before them; but, nevertheless, still continued to surround the victorious army, and occupied themselves in playing off their treacherous wiles. Mukhdoom, however, without fear or hesitation, with his right and left wings under the command of his experienced officers of horse and foot, marched, still keeping up a hot fire, straight to the Droog, before mentioned, and forwarded the order of Nundi Raj to the Killadâr. The Killadâr, on receiving it, immediately admitted the troops to the protection of the hill fort, and furnished them





with provisions and articles needful to them of all kinds, at reasonable prices, and he thereby obtained great credit.

The Mahrattas, however, when they saw this state of affairs, sent for their artillery, commenced a distant fire on Mukhdoom's troops, and also made incessant attacks on them. One day and two nights passed in this way, but, on the third night, Mukhdoom, with some brave and experienced officers, two hundred (Kulahposh) Europeans,\* and two thousand regular infantry, after climbing hills, and descending vallies, in the darkness of the night, arrived in the rear of the enemy's camp, and made such a fierce attack on them, that, losing with their senses all power to fight, they fled to the deserts of shame and bitter reflection, and the two inexperienced chiefs, that is Esajee Beenee and the seditious Rao, seeing this sudden calamity, alone, without any covering for their heads or feet, fled and escaped from the conflict. Of their troops, some who awakened from their sleep of forgetfulness laid hold of their swords and muskets, and, making no distinction between friend and foe, slew each other; the rest, both horse and foot, each seizing his opportunity, fled from this trial of manhood, and, by tears and supplications, saved their lives from the hands of Hydur's blood drinkers.





Having gained a great victory, Mukhdoom rejoicing had his conquest proclaimed by his loud kettle drums, on the portals of the world ; and, in the morning, with the baggage of the defeated Mahrattas, their guns and stores, which lay about in heaps, he returned to his ground of encampment. The next day the two defeated chiefs again collected their followers ; and, like crows cawing with cries of ha and hoo, notwithstanding their dispersion, and the confusion of their faculties, again assembled in one place.

About this time, Nundi Raj wrote to the Mahrattas, that Hydur Ali Khan was the pillar of the Mysore State, and that he had not only established just claims on that state, but that he might be considered its master ; that, at this time, a low servant of his, a Brahman, according to the *verse*, “ When the lair is empty the fox gives himself all the airs of the lion,” being spoiled by the favor and kindness of his master,—*verses*, “ He who is wicked will never fail to do evil—the faithless man can never be trusted,—had rebelled against him, but that his labour was useless, for this wicked action could not be profitable to him—“ Confidence cannot be placed in a low man for more than a hour or two—The scum which rode at the top, soon

When from his lair the lion's gone,  
The lion's airs the fox puts on.



sinks to the bottom of the vessel"<sup>u</sup>—“ And that it was not worthy of them (that is the Mahrattas), that they should interfere thus for him in the government of the Mysore country, that if they wished to obtain the money due for the Chouth, or Tribute, they should first consider how they might obtain its payment, and afterwards return home, without loss or damage.” After the receipt of this letter from Nundi Raj, the Mahratta put less confidence in the Brahman, Khundi Rao, and some angry words passed between them; and as the Mahrattas had suffered much from the troops of Hydur, they conceived it their best policy to return home, and, accordingly Esajee made known his intentions to Hydur, demanding, at the same time, a sum of money. In reply Hydur pleaded his poverty, from the loss of his property, which had been plundered through the intrigues and rebellion of the Brahman; but he promised that, as soon as he should have established his power, and had time to regulate his departments,<sup>x</sup>

<sup>u</sup> The man who has a wicked mind  
 Wicked ever wilt thou find :  
 Put in a faithless man no trust,  
 Not for an hour can he be just :  
 The scum, that floated on the top,  
 Down to the bottom soon will drop.





the amount should be paid. The Mahrattas now requested he would give up to them the Barh Mahl ; and, as they strenuously insisted on this gift, Hydur, to please them, and as a temporary expedient, sent an order, written in the name of Asud Khan Mahkurri, the Foujdár of Kishengiri, to give up the district of the Barh Mahl. Sealing it with his large seal, but without enclosing it in an envelope, he thus despatched it to the Mahrattas ; and Esajee, delighted to obtain it, and conceiving that all is gain which is saved out of a burning house, immediately marched from the vicinity of Bangalore.

Hydur now, with the rapidity of lightning, marched, and joined the force of Mukhdoom Sáhib, and encamped outside the fortress of Bangalore with his troops and stores. He then secretly wrote to the Foujdár of the Barh Mahl, that it was merely with a view to expediency and his own security, that he had written an order to him, without an envelope, to give up the Barh Mahl district ; but that he, (the Foujdár), was to keep his station, with all his force and ability, perfectly independent, and on no account to allow the Mahratta to enter or possess himself of the fort. The prudent Foujdár, therefore, independent, and at his leisure, provided for the defence of his forts.

In the mean time, Esajee, the Beenee, arrived





with his deceptive orders at Kishengiri, and forwarded it to the Foujdár, with his own demand of the surrender of the fort. On receiving the order that able and obedient man demanded a repetition of it in his name, with the signature of his master, and the impression of his private seal ;<sup>y</sup> and further intimated, that he could never think of giving up forts and territory to a single order, and that not even enclosed in an envelope. When the Mahratta insisted on an authentic repetition of the order, Hydur plainly told him, that no order or signature should be repeated ; and the Mahratta saw, by such a manly answer, that his negotiation had been baffled, and that there was no use in squabbling about it, as the country could never be retained in his possession.

While he was in this distress, his intelligencers brought him information, that Hydur, with the troops of Meer Alí Ruza and Mukhdoom Sáhib, had left, like a hungry lion, his lair in the fort of Bangalore, and had encamped on the plain of Jugni ; and that his eye was eagerly directed to his enemies, as to a flock of sheep. The heart of the Mahratta failed him when he heard this, and he marched off, without attaining his object.

The Brahman, Khundi Rao, when the Mahratta





moved towards the Barh Mahl had slunk<sup>z</sup> back to Seringaputtun. Hydur Ali, with his victorious troops, now marching by the route of Makri Droog, placed garrisons of his own in that Droog, and at Ootri Droog, Chenraiputtun, Cheenaputtun,<sup>a</sup> &c. ; and then proceeded, by the Mooti Talaub, and Churkoli, towards Periaputtun, to meet Nundi Raj.

At this time letters arrived, secretly despatched from the grandmother of the Raja, to the effect that, at this moment, in consequence of the imprudent and selfish views, and enmity of the foolish chiefs or ministers, the power of their ancient house, or family, had become so totally disordered, that most of the seditious and rebellious<sup>b</sup> were waiting opportunities to seize and take possession of the territory and wealth of their state. That in these circumstances if he, Hydur, who was their thrice fortunate (adopted) son, would return, and restore the government to some order, place her unfortunate family in safety and comfort, and encourage and promote the welfare of the country, it would be only consistent with his name and character.

When Hydur became acquainted with the contents of these letters, he seized them as pledges and

<sup>z</sup> خزید

<sup>a</sup> Also called Muddoor.

<sup>b</sup> ناهنجار





patents,<sup>c</sup> establishing his claim to the supreme authority of the Khodadad, (the name which Hydur Ali gave to the state of Mysore,) ; and, putting the letters into his pocket, he wrote and forwarded a conciliatory epistle in reply. From this place he marched straight to visit Nundi Raj, and met him at a fortunate moment, and after having enjoyed their meeting, they began to converse on the villany and ingratitude of the Brahman, upon whom Nundi Raj bestowed a few curses, and then advised how he should be displaced and punished. Hydur therefore immediately got his troops in readiness to attack him, and Nundi Raj, also, placed the force he had with him consisting of two thousand foot, a thousand regular infantry, and seven hundred horse, under Hydur's command for the same purpose.

Khundi Rao, meanwhile, with a body of troops amounting to seven thousand horse, twelve thousand foot, and Manuel the European at the head of eight hundred Chittikars, with ten or twelve guns, was likewise on his march, to attack Hydur ; but, although he affected to make Periaputtun his ground of encampment, still, from the fear of the manhood of Hydur's character and the promptitude of his hand and sword against his enemies, he





trembled day and night; indeed, his fears so prevailed that he could neither eat nor sleep. It happened, too, that in his encampment a horse broke his heel ropes one night, and fell upon another horse, and both began neighing<sup>d</sup> and kicking each other. This creating much alarm in his camp, the men and women within it began to cry out, "the enemy are come! the enemy are come!" and the alarm was so great, that they all fell into such confusion, that some from fright laid hold of their swords, and blindly slew each other, and most of the merchants, having lost their goods in the tumult, struck the hand of grief on the forehead of their bad luck. When, however, the morning dawned, and they could discover nothing of the Kuzzaks of Hydur's army, (the burners of their enemies,) whom they so much feared, they became ashamed of their foolish alarm, and ventured to take a little rest.

Hydur, on the other hand, on hearing of the mischief that had befallen the Brahman's troops, was much comforted, and next day formed the right and left wings of his army, and marched straight to his enemy. The Brahman<sup>e</sup> also put his troops in readiness, and formed them in good position and

<sup>d</sup> صهيل

\* Zoonnardār, alluding to the Brahminical string.





order ; but, nevertheless, the heavy fire of Hydur's guns and musketry at once defeated his force,<sup>1</sup> which was totally dispersed.

Khundi Rao, therefore, mounting a horse, swift as lightning, and wet with the sweat of shame, flew like a hail storm ; and, passing through a thousand difficulties and dangers, escaped to Seringaputtun. His cavalry with their horses, and his entire infantry, regular and irregular battalions, with their arms and accoutrements, became, as they were before, the servants of Hydur, the friend of the soldier, and prepared to oppose his enemies. Hydur, (the poor man's friend as he is called,) now marched after the fugitive Brahman, and crossing the river, (Cauvery), by the ford of Choongul, encamped with his troops in the neighbourhood of Manai Mundup, where, having placed his largest guns in one battery, he, for an example, fired a few shot at the Dewaun Khana, or palace, of the Raja, to frighten the inmates of the women's apartments. As soon as the shot struck the Zanana, (women's apartments), a mighty cry arose from them, and the whole of the women, with

<sup>1</sup> Hydur in all his battles seems to have been indebted most to his artillery. (or *اتش خانه*) and his European and regular infantry under Manuel, Lalli and other French and Portuguese. These officers appear to have done duty with the artillery in time of need, as was the case when Baillie's detachment was defeated, the blowing up of the tumbril being entirely ascribed to Lalli.





great noise and clamour, went to complain to the Raja. Frightened out of his senses at the tumult and wailing of the women, the Raja despatched a messenger to Hydur, to tell him that, from the commencement of the government of his family, and the foundation of the capital, to the present time, no one of their servants had acted as he had done, nor had any one of them presumed to fire guns or muskets at his (the Raja's) house; and he requested Hydur would send orders to his artillery men to desist from such insolence and outrage, and then signify to him, (the Raja), what was his object. In reply to this message, Hydur sent word, that he was the faithful adherent of the Raja, and his government, but that an ungrateful servant, an enemy of his, had sought refuge in the fort; and, therefore, those upon whom rested the responsibility of the defence of the State, had used the presumption and insolence of which the Raja complained; but that, if this man were given up to him, he was the same friend he had ever been.

The Raja, being unable to evade this application, had no remedy, and therefore, after exacting from Hydur the most solemn covenant, that he would not put the Brahman Khundi Rao to death, he placed him under a guard, and sent him to Hydur, and that dispenser of good to the world, having re-





gard to his oath and engagement, instead of impaling or dismembering him, which punishment he richly merited, put him into an iron cage, like an inauspicious crow, and sent him off to Bangalore. Verily, if a man eat salt from the table of his master's benefits; or, if he be cherished by the hand of a generous patron, and ungratefully betray him, or rebel against him; the true avenger of ingratitude, in a short time will cause him to be taken in the net of his own perfidy—*verses*, “To show enmity to a man with a pure breast, is only enmity to one's self,” “whoever unsheaths his dagger at a looking glass draws it on himself.”





## CHAPTER VIII.

An account of the regulation (perhaps capture) of the City of Seringaputtun, with other events of the year 1171. Hijri. A. D. 1757, September 14th.

WHEN Hydur had thus overcome his difficulties in this contest, and had conquered the enemies of the Khodadad, he fulfilled his duty in offering unlimited thanksgiving and praise to the Almighty for his favours; and, on the following day, he sent word to the Raja, that, if it were permitted, he, his servant,<sup>s</sup> would visit his family in the fort. The Raja with great readiness and pleasure, gave orders to the guards, at the gates of the fort, to admit Hydur; and he himself, under pretence of taking the air, mounted his horse and went to meet him. Having arrived at his encampment, he, to obtain his friendship, showered an abundance of gold and jewels on his valiant head, and presented him ornaments such as bracelets, gorget, &c., set with jewels; bade him welcome, and congratulated him on his victory and good fortune; and invited

خيرخواه<sup>s</sup>





him to the fort. Hydur, however, cautious and penetrating, considered that entering the fort in company with the Raja would be an act quite incompatible with the prudence and circumspection indispensable to understanding men; and he, therefore, made an excuse that the day or hour was an unlucky one, and put off his visit to his family, particularly to his son of exalted fortune, (whose valuable existence was in truth the foundation of the Khodadad State,) until the next day. Then, having made a present to the Raja of a number of horses, and valuable cloths or dresses, he sent him off to the fort, and remained during that night where he was. The next morning, however, taking with him a strong body of troops, he entered the fort, and posted confidential men of his own on the gates, posterns, and offices of the fort, and even on the gates of the Raja's Hall of Audience, and his Zanana, he placed his own men. He then went with confidence to meet his family, and enjoyed himself with them in security. Under pretence of transacting some business of his own, he next visited Nundi Raj, and, with the policy and regard to expediency of a conqueror and statesman, having pleased or satisfied him, he took him and his wife, children, relations, and dependents, and placed them in his own house; and, then prostrating him-





self before the throne of the all powerful Dispenser of grace and favour, his drums and trumpets made the city resound to their joyful strains.<sup>h</sup>

In truth, why should he not do so ? When he had restored the country of Mysore, already half dead, to new life and vigour ! When, many times, purely in supporting this State of Mysore ; he, Hydur, had fought with the Mahrattas and other rebels,<sup>i</sup> and by his great courage and individual exertions and abilities, had defeated them, and had himself regained and brought under his powerful hand the country which before had been taken or conquered ! When, notwithstanding all his labours and anxiety, the envious and short sighted conspired by vain arts to overthrow the house and fortune of that brave soldier ; turned the mind of the foolish Raja against him, excited a tumult to his prejudice ; and when all the hardships, and travail, he had suffered in the protection of the country was about to be gratuitously thrown away and scattered to the winds by the designs of his enemies. Then it was, therefore, that God withdrew him from the anxiety and perplexity of plans and schemes for the defence of the country

<sup>h</sup> The Nobut and Nagara of the Mussulmans are very musical.

<sup>i</sup> These modest gentlemen the Mussulmans apply the term rebel to all their enemies.





against its enemies ; kept him in a place of security, made him a king<sup>k</sup> in territory and power ; and, still more, placed him beyond the stormy sea of worldly interest on the shore of safety, and made him the grateful returner<sup>l</sup> of praises and thanksgivings to God for the great benefits he had received. *Verses.* “ No man can obtain a crown without courage.”— “ Those who aim at exaltation, must waste by the head like a taper.”<sup>m</sup>

But, to return,—for some days and nights Hydur occupied himself in regulating the broken down fortunes of the Mysore state, in discharging the disaffected, the envious, and the seditious ; in levying fines on the corrupt and cowardly civil servants, and removing the dishonest ; and in collecting troops, stores, &c., necessary for the commander of an army ; and, finally, having administered justice to all, he attracted the hearts of the people, far and near, by his liberality, his favour, his kindness, and his affability, and thereby gained great fame. Indeed, he undertook no measure without the deepest consideration, grounded on his accurate

<sup>k</sup> طرف دار A prince or a Jagiredár.

<sup>l</sup> The author has placed here مشكور for شاكر or the participle passive for the agent.

<sup>m</sup> None without valour ever won a crown !

The man that purposes to tread  
The path which leads to empire or renown  
Must waste, like tapers, by the head.





perception of the best policy. His fortunate son, (Tippoo), was now placed under the best masters, who laboured to instruct him in all kinds of learning. The dependencies of Mysore, which are like a flower garden, now received anew the freshness and colour of security, and the hearts of those who were envious of the prosperity of the country and government became like the flowers of a garden in autumn, faded and dead. Most of the dependencies on the frontier, which had been lost to this state from the incapacity of former ministers and chiefs, by the exertions and abilities of Hydur, that Rustum in disposition, were regained by his powerful and grasping hand; and now able men of various tribes and nations, artificers of all countries, and soldiers who, from the want of employment and the neglect of merit by the former rulers of Mysore, had been hiding in corners, like a sword in its sheath; at length had the rust and dirt rubbed off the face of their condition, by the furbisher of appreciation, and, by the aid of their good fortune, like the spear, carried their heads high, and presented themselves erect to Hydur, who employed them in service proportionate to their abilities and merit. According to the desire of that cherisher of the people, merchants, also, brought precious commodities from every part of the world, with valuable horses, and





camels, and, in addition to the prices they demanded for their goods, they received handsome presents; many thousands of pounds being expended on the security of the servants of the state for commissioning articles of rarity, and soldiers of approved valour, from different parts of the world. In fact, in performing the duty committed to his charge, every one strove with all his heart to ensure its accomplishment. In truth, whenever the only true Lord desires to make one of his slaves worthy of the government of a country, and fit to be the cherisher and defender of the poor, and to provide for and support his subjects, he makes his person the object of the regard of high and low, and his actions the profit and benefit of the world. *Verse.* "Good fortune comes not by chance as they say it does."<sup>n</sup>

But, to continue, although the ungrateful Brahman had received the reward of his actions, and the root of mischief and rebellion in the country of Mysore had been plucked up, still, to the southward of Seringaputtun, or rather in the country of the Payeen Ghaut, that is to say Koimbatore &c., where the vile Brahman had sent one of his own relations, to govern, disorders continued to prevail. This

<sup>n</sup> Never, (as some have idly thought)  
Was yet by chance good fortune wrought.





base born fellow, as soon as he heard of the fate of his principal, having associated with him a number of Naimars and seditious persons, created a great disturbance. To suppress this revolt, and punish him, Hydur dispatched two hundred horse, two risalas, or regiments of regular infantry, and a thousand irregular foot, under the command of Syud Ismail, his brother in law, accompanied by Surdár Khan, a very brave man.

As soon as the Sikkah<sup>o</sup> in the name of the fortunate Hydur, by God's gift became current, and all things meet for kingly power and state were taken possession of by him, such as the treasury, gold, and jewels, the artillery and military stores, Mukhdoom Sáhib was appointed to the command of the fort of Seringaputtun ; and, agreeably to the request of the family of the reigning Raja, Nundi Raj, and others, the customary allowances to them were confirmed, and the Killadár was constituted the Raja's steward or purveyor. Hydur himself, also, on a certain day, and at a fortunate hour, visited the women's apartments of the Raja and Nundi Raj, and, after consoling them, and assuring the Raja of his care of his country<sup>p</sup> and authority, he himself presented each of them (name by name), with trays of dresses, or valuable cloths, and gold

<sup>o</sup> Impression on the coin.

<sup>p</sup> طرفداري





and jewels, and then returned home to enjoy himself. Some of the Poligars of the frontier, as the Koorg Raja, &c. who had previously placed the cotton of forgetfulness in the ears of their understanding, seeing and fearing the strength and good fortune of Hydur, now submitted to him.

After having regulated the affairs of the capital, Hydur marched, with a body of his troops, to Bangalore, to pay the sum of money he had borrowed or taken up from the bankers of that place, and returned highly gratified when he had repaid them. In the meanwhile, Ismail Sáhib and Surdár Khan had finished their operations, and, having taken prisoners the relations of the Brahman Khundi Rao, they returned to the Presence.

About this time, Budr uz Zumán Khan Nayut, arrived from the vicinity of Runjungurh, with the intention to enter into Hydur's service; and, as Hydur well knew both his father and grandfather he esteemed his arrival a very fortunate occurrence, and engaged him as Bukhshi to the regular infantry Kutchuri, at five hundred rupees a month. About this period, also, Hydur received information that the Poligar of little Balapoor, vain of his troops and his wealth, had raised the head of conceit to the clouds of folly, that he had allured most of the peasantry of the districts of Mysore to his territory,





by giving them advances in money; that it was certain he entertained no fear of Hydur's lion like troops; that without coercion he would never be rendered tributary or obedient; and that advice and instruction were lost on him. Hydur, the dispenser of Justice, therefore, on hearing this, determined to go himself and root him out, and began to collect troops and stores for that purpose.





## CHAPTER IX.

The march of Busálut Jung, to take possession of the Souba of Sura, and his conquest of that Souba, by the aid of Hydur Alí Khan Bahadúr. Also, the transfer of the Sura to the hands of the prudent Hydur, in the same year, 1171 Hijri.—A. D. 1757.

AFTER the decease of Sulábut Jung, in the year 1166, H., Nizám Alí Khan, Assud Jung, collected a large force to attack the Mahrattas; and, at the time Ballajee Rao Nana, with all his forces and chiefs, had marched to reduce the province of Khandeish, finding the coast clear, he by long marches reached Poona, which he plundered and burned; he moreover destroyed all the temples, killing cows in them, and then returned. The Mahrattas, however, as soon as they heard this intelligence, followed Assud Jung by forced marches, and overtook and surrounded him at the town of Humnabad, where they gave him such a defeat that, in the twinkling of an eye, destruction fell on the whole of the force of the Moghuls, and, abandoning all his baggage, and artillery, Assud Jung sought refuge in the fort above mentioned, and was besieged there; his Ameers of old standing being





some taken prisoners, but mostly slain. At length however, his affairs being remediless, Assud Jung entered into a negotiation with the Mahrattas, and by the advice of Pothail Das, his Dewaun, or minister, gave up a country producing a revenue of seventy Lakhs of Rupees; also two cities, the capitals of the Sultans of the Dukhun, viz. Burhanpoor and Bejapoor besides Ahmud Nuggur, Dowlutabad, and the Souba of Sura. He then returned to Golconda, and the whole of this territory remained in the hands of the Mahrattas at the time when their mighty army was defeated and destroyed by the Serabdalli,<sup>a</sup> near Gunjpoor, depending on Paniput Kurnal, and Ballajee Rao, from excessive grief at his great loss, died. Seizing the favourable opportunity thus offered, Meer Shureef Alí Khan, Busálut Jung, the governor of Adhooni, determined with his troops and artillery to reduce or recover the Souba of Sura; and, with the assistance of Morar Rao, the Chief of Gootti, and the Chief of Kurpa, he marched to Huskote, (called by Wilks Ooscottu), which is a fort and Purgana depending on Sura, garrisoned by a detachment of Poona Mahrattas, and immediately laid siege to it. Mokhund Sripot, who commanded there, was a brave man, and, having strengthened the works of the fort, he defended it so gallantly that

<sup>a</sup> Afghans.





Busálut Jung of himself, with his large force, was obliged to send to Hydur Ali Khan for assistance.

Hydur, who was then at Bangalore, occupied in the chastisement of Sami Koora, the refractory Poligar of little Balapoor, and also in the regulation and improvement of his troops, seeing in this application an opportunity of extending his authority, immediately accepted it, and joined Busálut Jung, but, although the latter invited him to pay him a visit, and actually prepared to receive him, he declined, and sent word to him, that first, he must be informed what service he was expected to perform, and that, having obediently executed his commands and obtained credit for the performance of them, he would then pay him a visit. Busálut Jung replied, by requesting him to attack and take the fort. Accordingly, on the next day, the experienced Hydur proceeded round the fort, to reconnoitre and examine the nature of the ground. He then attacked the Town, which is to the eastward of the fort, and took it at the first assault; and, having raised his batteries there, gave orders to his artillery to fire at the walls of the fort as at a mark; and they soon drilled them as full of holes as a bird cage. At the time, however, when he commenced the fire of his artillery, he wrote to Busálut Jung, that