



he was about to fire at the fort, and recommended him to take care of himself; and his (Hydur's) artillery men, agreeably to his orders, fired a few shot from heavy guns in the direction of the Moghul camp, which was about a fursung to the westward of the forts, merely to give them an example of what he could do. The Moghuls were not prepared for this, and fell into much confusion, and Busálut Jung, changed his ground of encampment to another beyond a tank, northward of the fort.

But, to return,—Hydur continued for two or three days firing, and battering the walls. On the fourth day, he sent a message to those in the fort, that he was a fortunate soldier, and if they cared at all for their lives, and fortunes, and wished still to enjoy them, that they must quit the fort, and they should then, without molestation from any one, proceed with their property where they liked,—that if not, he would storm the fort, and in that case the garrison with their wives and children should be put to the sword. The Killadár, however, after many difficulties and objections, having been at length assured and satisfied, thought it best to submit peaceably to the fortune of the Khodadad, and delivered up his fort to Hydur, who placed a garrison of his own in it, gave the Killadár his life and property, to gratify him provided carriage for his



baggage as he required, and, with the consent and advice of Busálut Jung, sent him to Poona.

The next day, Hydur wrote to Busálut Jung, that it was necessary he should send a garrison into the fort, that he might withdraw his. The prudent Busálut Jung, however, thought proper, from convenience, or policy, to leave the fort with its dependencies to the charge of Hydur, and marched on towards Sura. In two or three days, Hydur had made all his arrangements for the charge of the fortress, and then marched, with his victorious troops and artillery, by regular stages, to the environs of Balapoor the greater, where he encamped. The governor of the town, Abbas Kuli Khan, the son of Durgah, Kuli Khan, recollecting his cruel treatment of Hydur in former time, and fearing retribution, fled with his women and indispensable baggage to Arkat. Hydur, therefore, on hearing this, sent a garrison of his own troops into the fort, and then marched and joined Busálut Jung, the advanced guard of whose army he selected as his post. Still, however, no meeting or visit had passed between them, nor had they ever spoken to each other, except through a medium. When they arrived near Sura, Hydur encamped nigh the Eed Gah, to the westward of the fort, and the Moghul troops took up their position on a Tank, to the eastward of the fort, which they sur-



rounded. Batteries were now thrown up, and approaches dug and carried on, and a sharp fire, and the explosion of mines, were kept up continually.

As the operations against this fort, also, were committed to the experience of Hydur, by degrees the town was taken ; and batteries being raised, and heavy cannon mounted thereon, the walls of the fort and the citadel were breached, and from the constant fire of the guns, the shock or concussion of which broke the hearts of the besieged, the walls were completely knocked down. But, notwithstanding all this, Trimuk Kishen, the Chief of the Souba, did not lose heart, but for a month continued valiantly to perform his duty as Killadár. At length, however, the walls being levelled with the ground, and being apprehensive of an assault by Hydur's brave troops, he thought it best, for his advantage, to seek Hydur's protection, and therefore requested that his and his garrison's lives might be spared, and that he might receive Kowl, or an assurance to that effect. Hydur, whose fortune was ever alert, kindly despatched to him assurances of safety, and sent for him, and then placed a garrison of his own in the fort. The depôt of provisions and military stores, which the Mahrattas had collected for the conquest of the Karnatic Balaghaut and Payeen Ghaut, and had



deposited in this fort, were all seized by him and applied to his own use ; and, without any delay, or the knowledge of any one, he buried under ground all the heavy artillery, and such stores as he wished to reserve for himself, and throwing out four or five pieces of artillery damaged and split at the muzzles with a parcel of old and useless stores, he sent a letter with his congratulations, (Mobarikbadi), on the capture of the place, to Busálut Jung.

The next day, Busálut Jung mounted his horse, and came to the fort to inspect it, and the large magazine of military stores, guns, &c. which the Mahrattas were said to have kept here, and of which he had heard so much, from his spies ; the experienced Hydur first met him outside the fort, and then accompanying him inside, and having wheedled and talked him over with fool-deceiving words, he presented him with the keys of the fort, and showed him, one by one, the articles he had allowed to remain.^s However, after having inspected them all, Busálut Jung took only three large guns, which had belonged to the body guard of the murdered Nawaub Násir Jung, and sent them to his camp, and then giving the remaining stores and keys and the regulation of the Fort and Souba to Hydur, he returned to his tents.

^s The author of another life of Hydur, states that Hydur bullied Busálut Jung into the surrender of the fort and stores.



Some three or four days after this, being the day Busálut Jung had appointed for his march to Adhoooni, he sent for Hydur, and saluted him with the title of Nawaub Hydur Alí Khan Bahadúr Chuckmak^t Jung, and also wrote and presented him Sunnuds, conferring on him the revenues of the entire Souba of Sura, with the Paishkush or tribute of the Poligars; he also added the district of Gurm Koonda, with its fort and dependencies saying to him spontaneously "you are the Chief of all this country; and the creator and bestower of life," has raised you into existence on purpose to protect his creatures; may you be fortunate and happy in the possession of this country."^x In short, after an interchange of the usual congratulations, the wise Busálut Jung quitted the Nawaub Bahadúr, and, with a large sum of money, horses and elephants, presented by Hydur, he and his whole army returned to Adhoooni; and as he was not able to take the guns before mentioned with his army, he left two on a river to the northward of the fort. One gun however, which had belonged to the Julow or body guard of the Nawaub, Nizám al Moolk, Asof Jah, he, with

^t Chuckmak is the name given by our Sipahcees to the flint and steel of the musket.—*Turkish*.—Busálut Jung knew well to whom Hydur owed his fame although he himself had not the candour to acknowledge it.

^u محقق ^x I should think this speech more than doubtful.



a thousand difficulties, contrived to carry with him. It is not to be concealed, that, at the time Busá-lut Jung conferred on Hydur the titles which have been mentioned, Hydur, from a wish not to displease him was silent ; but, after Busá-lut Jung had departed, he rejected the title of Jung, and styled himself Nawaub Bahadúr. In short, the Nawaub remained in the fort, ten or fifteen days, and having encouraged and assured the peasantry he appointed Meer Ismael Hussein to the charge of the Souba, giving him strict orders to repair the fort and then returned to his tents.



CHAPTER X.

The march of Hydur and his army to Chuk or little Balapoor, and the capture of that place. Also the conquest of the Hill fort of Murg Sura, or the little Sura of Pankoonda, &c. in the year 1172, Hijri.—A. D. 1758.

As soon as the Nawaub^y had accomplished the conquest and regulation of Sura, he determined to attack Balapoor the less, which it had been his intention to have done long before; and he therefore marched towards that place with his whole force, consisting of eight thousand horse, ten thousand regular infantry, and twelve thousand irregular or Karnatic foot, with abundance of stores and artillery. While Hydur was on his route thither, Fyzullah Khan Hybut Jung, who was the son of Meer Mahammudi Khan, Jageerdár of Timri, and the son-in-law of Nawaub Dilawar Khan, having quarrelled with his father-in-law, after the death of his wife, hastened, (making use of his head for his feet)^z to the service of the Nawaub Hydur, and was

^y Hydur although raised to the dignity of Nawaub was never considered a gentleman by the polished part of the population of northern India.

^z قدم از سر ساختن



installed in office, according to his abilities and rank. When the Nawaub arrived, and encamped near Balapoor, the Poligar of that place, finding himself unable to oppose him in the field, shut himself up in the fort; and, notwithstanding the Nawaub took great pains to induce him to obey his orders, this unfortunate man rejected all his advances, and prepared to defend himself; he also solicited Morar Rao Ghore Purria to give him assistance. The Rao, therefore, with his whole force, amounting to twelve thousand horse and foot, came to his aid, and, having established himself at Goori Bundah, (some place apparently in the vicinity), he made it his station, and despatched six or seven thousand horse, to attack the army of the Nawaub. This force, however, only fell upon and plundered the foraging parties of the Nawaub, and then retired. When he heard of this attack the Nawaub was much irritated, and with a detachment of his bravest soldiers, he immediately followed and tracked the route of the Mah-rattas, and on a plain to the westward of Nundi Gurh, he fell in with them, and, at the first charge defeated them, and put most of them to the sword; the few who escaped with their lives leaving their horses and arms behind them. Near two thousand horses were taken, on this occasion, by the troops of the Nawaub. Returning victorious, Hy-



dur now fixed his attention solely on the reduction of the fort. By his orders, the troops attacked and took the Peenth or suburbs, and, raising batteries there, employed themselves in firing at the walls, and exploding mines.^a Meanwhile, although the Rao had, ordered his troops to ravage and desolate the dependencies of the Sirkar (Hydur's) and the Kuzzaks of his army, day by day, continued to destroy the towns and villages of the Khodadad State, still they did not attempt to attack Hydur's troops in the field. The Nawaub was kept constantly informed of these losses; but, considering that his present object was the fort, and that afterwards at his leisure he could punish the Mahrattas, for their excesses, he affected to take no more notice of them than as if he had never seen or heard of them, devoting his whole time and exertions to ensure the capture of the fort. After a short time, therefore, the walls of the fort, which were of earth, were completely battered down and breached on one side, and the Nawaub consequently gave orders for the assault. Yet notwithstanding the state of the walls, and other disadvantages, the besieged fought so bravely in the breach, that they beat off the storming party, and put them to flight. The next day another storming party tried their luck,

^a منجنیق پرانی perhaps throwing shells into the town.



but without success. The Nawaub was now obliged to have recourse to his ingenuity to take the place, and therefore, with great labour, raised a new stage or battery,^b in front of the gate of the fort, and gave orders to batter the gate. In the course of one or two days, his experienced gunners beat down the two walls which masked the gate; and, as soon as the besieged Poligar found that the defences of the gate were battered down, he began to reflect on the probable result; and, through the medium of the bankers and the obedient Poligars who attended the camp of the Nawaub, he forwarded proposals for an accommodation, and requested the lives of the garrison might be spared. After a great deal of discussion, the Nawaub considering him with the eye of kindness, consented to receive from him a Nuzur or Paishkush of seven Lakhs of Rupees, and desist from the prosecution of the siege. In compliance also with the Poligar's request, it was settled, that Hydur with his troops and artillery should return by the route of Dewun Hully, (called by Wilks Deonelly), and Bangalore, to Seringaputtun, and that the amount of tribute being divided into three Kists, or payments; one was to be paid at Dewun Hully, another at Bangalore, and the last at the capital. His march therefore was conducted



agreeably to the prescribed route ; the Nawaub, however, with his usual caution, left in the batteries and suburbs a thousand matchlock men, under the command of Juhan Khan Khokur^c and Hussein Khan Lodi, until the payments were made ; and he also left seven or eight boxes of ammunition in their charge.

The Rao, on hearing of this accommodation immediately made a forced march during the night, arrived in the rear of the fort, and apprized the Poligar of his arrival. Overjoyed at this intelligence, the foolish man left the fort immediately ; and the two traitors met, and consulted how they should deceive the Nawaub. The Rao having, with flattery and deceiving words, allured the Poligar from the way of his own welfare, drew him into the net of his wiles, and said, " you see the walls of the fort are battered down, and that most of the poor inhabitants, and soldiers, have been destroyed by the fire of the guns. It is not fit, therefore, that you should now stay here ; but that you with your family, treasury, gold, jewels, &c. should depart from hence, and take up your residence at the hill fort of Nundi ; and the money, which you have collected to pay to the Nawaub, pay to me, and with that same money, I will collect a body of troops, and

^c Tribes of Afghans well known in India.



moreover obtain large armies to your aid from Hydrabad and Poona, and thus he, Hydur, shall have his due punishment." The period of the Poligar's ruin being at hand, he gave the selfish words of the Rao a place in his willing ear, and acted accordingly; for, having four or five Lakhs of Rupees ready to pay the dividends to the Nawaub, he gave them to the Rao, and left the fort also to his care, and retired to the Hill Nundi.

The Rao now posted in the ruined fort two thousand foot, with ammunition, as a garrison and then returned to his own station. On the following morning, the garrison manned the walls, beat their drums, and sounded their trumpets, in the Mahratta style, and then assembled suddenly in great numbers at the gate. Seeing these movements and apprehending treachery from them, the Nawaub's detachment manned their batteries, and were standing ready for action, when, all at once, fifteen hundred of the Mahrattas left the fort, and advanced rapidly to attack them. The Nawaub's men being few, and they also scattered, or detached, they left the battery, and assembled in the Peenth, or suburb, and, having made one gate strong, they remained quiet. The troops from the fort now formed a circle round them, and commenced a brisk fire of musketry and rockets. The officers of the Na-



waub's infantry, nevertheless did not lose heart, but determined to sell their lives dearly ; and they therefore strengthened a large building at the gateway, and defended it gallantly, while the Khokur, (Afghan), with a few brave fellows, made an attack on the unlucky Mahrattas, and with the sword and spear killed a great many of them. Some of the garrison of the fort also were taken prisoners by stratagem, and from them they learned the state of affairs in the fort, as has been before related. The officer above mentioned on the next night, despatched, therefore, the prisoners to Hydur, with a letter, stating what had occurred by the treachery and misconduct of the ill fated Poligar, and then waited for succour.

On his receiving this letter, and hearing the statement of the prisoners, Hydur became as furious as an enraged lion, and with his troops and artillery made a forced march^d back from Dewun Hully, and arrived at the fort, round which the cavalry of the Rao were stationed, and they being attacked received such a defeat from Hydur's Bedes or Kuzzaks that they fled and never looked behind them until they arrived at Goori Bundah. Perceiving the advantage which Hydur had gained, his officers who were on the alert in the Peenth or suburb,



immediately hoisted his standard on the gate and beat their drums. The Nawaub on seeing this was highly pleased, and, having entered the suburb, he occupied the same batteries he had before raised, and ordered his artillery and infantry to give the fort a shower of shot. Hydur remained only two days before the fort, when he assaulted and took it, and directed some of the men belonging to the artful Rao to be put to death, and, for an example, some had their noses and ears cut off, and were sent bleeding to join their comrades with the Rao. Ali Ruza Khan was then appointed to command the fort ; and having given him strict charge to take the hill fort of Nundi, and the unfortunate Poligar, Hydur marched off to Goori Bundah, with his victorious army, to attack Morar Rao. The Rao, however, finding himself unequal to contend with Hydur, marched to Goori Koonda, a place in his own possession. The Nawaub Bahadur after a siege of two or three days, reduced Goori Bundah, and, leaving a detachment there, he moved on.

When Hydur arrived near Goori Koondah, the Rao mounted his horse, and with his cavalry, infantry and artillery, took post ready to receive him.—The Nawaub having placed his regular and irregular infantry and artillery in ambush, in the dry bed of a river, now ordered off all his light horse to the



front, to attack the Rao's troops, but when the Rao's cavalry attempted to charge them in a compact^e body, Hydur's horse, before the enemy came near turned their backs and fled at speed. The Rao's horse, who were rendered very bold by this flight, followed them, and while they were in pursuit, all at once, the troops in ambush rose up, and received them with such a volley of cannon, and musketry, that to this day their loss remains inscribed on the page of time; for the troops of the Rao were scattered like grain shaken out of a slit bag, and they did not drink water until they arrived at the walls of Gooti. The Rao also fled his own way. Hydur, victorious, advanced; and, after a siege of seven days, took Goori Koondah, and from that place marched towards Pen Koondah, where also the Rao had a garrison. He first, however, took and fortified the Ghauts, or passes, and then, by successive assaults on the hill fort, in a month took it, after which he proceeded to attack the hill fort of Murg Sura. The commandant of that fort, who was a brave man, prepared however to oppose him, and on his approach, by the continual fire of his guns and musketry, he killed a great many of the Nawaub's troops. The Nawaub being in great anger at this, gave orders to his officers for



the immediate investment of the fort, and, under the cover of the rocks to make an assault, while he himself took his station on a hill to the northward of the fort, but adjoining to that on which it stood; and, having mounted some large guns on that hill, he sent to the Killadár a Kowl Nama, or a summons and terms for his surrender. The terms not being accepted, Hydur, who was much annoyed gave orders to the marksmen among his artillerymen to fire at a particular part of the rocks, which rose above the middle of the mountain, and beneath which stood the houses and buildings of the fort, full of inhabitants; and, as these rocks were knocked to pieces by the cannon balls, the fragments killed a number of the besieged, and scattered the rest so effectually that the garrison of the fort lost the power^f of defence. Seeing his soldiers in this inefficient state, the Killadár became alarmed, and after begging their lives might be spared, he gave over the fort to the servants of the Nawaub, and himself, seeking Hydur's protection, was allowed his life and property.

Meer Alí Ruza Khan who, meanwhile, was besieging the hill of Nundi, by exerting the greatest skill and bravery, reduced the besieged to such extremities, that being in all respects without resources, the



Poligar surrendered it to the Meer, and sought the asylum of the Khodadad. The Meer, agreeably to Hydur's orders, despatched the captive Poligar, and his family to Bangalore; and of his sons two were made Mussulmans. One of them died, but the other, named Sufdur Khan, is now living, and with his troops was received into the Nawaub's service.

Budruzzuman Khan was appointed governor of the newly captured fort.

When the dependencies of that country, which, in truth, may be likened to the Garden of Eden, fell into the powerful hands of the Nawaub, he rubbed the forehead of his hopes on the threshold of the Creator of the Universe, pure from wants or desires; and, this being done, appointed and despatched intelligent agents, and faithful and able Killadárs, to the different parts of the country. The Nawaub himself halted some days at Sura, to make arrangements for the government of that district.



CHAPTER XI.

An account of the conquest of Bednore, otherwise called Hydur Nugger, and other forts and towns of that country, in the year 1173, Hijri. A. D. 1759.

As the knowledge of the good or bad state of different countries, and the hearing of intelligence describing the policy and ability of both friend and foe, form the rule of conduct of the sovereigns of the field of empire, and guide the actions or measures of the conquerors of the world; it was the constant custom of the Nawaub Hydur to receive daily news from all districts of his own kingdom, far and near, and from the dependencies of friend and stranger; and every night, after making himself well acquainted with the details of the state of all countries, as the government of the Zemindárs, and Rajas; that of the Nizám^g of the Dukhun, the Nazim^h of Poona, the Soubadar of the Carnatic Payeen Ghaut, &c.; he retired to his private apartments, to take his rest. For the performance of this arduous

^g اسم مبالغة

^h نظم اسم فاعل from the root



but indispensable duty, which required so much care and caution, intelligencers of talent, and Kasids, or messengers, who from head to foot were eyes and ears; able spies; secret writers, unequalled in the age, and correspondents quick of hand, and of great understanding; were stationed in every quarter of the country, and by these men correct accounts of all occurrences were written and forwarded daily. It happened at this time, that they all wrote respecting the country of Nuggur, describing that, from its beauty and verdure, it bestowed splendour on the Balaghaut country, nay, that it might be said to be equal to the Gardens of Paradise.—*Verse*.¹ “ If any one burned with grief enters Nuggur,^k were he even as a bird roasting on the spit, he would regain his wings and feathers.”^l—In fact, that the fertility of the country was the envy of Kashmeer, for on it depended many cities, pleasant and rich, and its beautiful fields and meadows gave delight to the heart of the beholder; that moderate rains fell there for six months in every year, which gave life and verdure to the hearts of the withered vegetation and the ani-

¹ The following is called Insha Tirazi, انشا طرازي.

^k One copy says Bednore.

^l If, burnt up with grief, into Nuggur you enter,
Though as bad as a bird's on the spit be your plight,
In that beautiful country, of pleasure the centre,
Your wings and your feathers you'll renovate quite.



mal creation; that the trees of the forest and gardens were mostly cocoa nut, and date, like the stature of the lovely, with their heads erect; that the fruit trees, were of all kinds, laden with their pleasure-giving store, and the sandal trees, filled the hearts and palates of men of all countries with fragrance; that the perfume of the flowers and sweet smelling herbs, and the early fruits of the country soothed the sickly and gave rest to the unquiet soul;—that, the rosy cheeked and moon faced damsels there with forms straight as the poplar, like a rose garden, ever flourishing, adorned with the colour and perfume of loveliness, practised stealing the heart, while speciously delighting the eye; and clothing their slender forms in elegant apparel, with their subduing smiles and glances conquer and enslave amorous young men; that, the rivers and streams of that flowery and ever blooming country are like the sea, ever flowing, and the lakes and reservoirs ever full to the brim, like the fountains of a generous heart; that, the inhabitants of all classes in that country lived freely, and were wealthy; but that they had, always kept their eyes on the path of the brave man of the field of battle, that is, they had looked anxiously for the conquest of their country by some just and distinguished chief,^m for this reason

^m Meaning Hydur.



that that delightful country had fallen into the hands of a wild race, and a low minded fearless woman wearing the dress of a man, exercised unlimited authority there ; that, in former times, this district or province was under the authority of the Soubas or governors of Sura, but that, at present, having rebelled, the ruler had neglected to forward the Paishkush or tribute, and, notwithstanding the successors of her former governors still existed, the Rani was ambitious of being independent, and had lately formed an illicit connexion with a slave, and the country, with all its fertility and riches, like the eyes of the blind, had become totally deprived of light, while the hearts of the people, by the tyranny and oppression of the dissolute Rani, were sorely afflicted ; that, the sounds of complaint and grief were heard in every street and market ; that on all sides, thieves and robbers laid hold on the property of the poor ; that the men were ashamed of obeying their ruler, and had shut themselves up in their houses, and the women, licentious, fearless, and drunk with the wine of immodesty, ornamenting their hair, and (painting) their faces, gave themselves up to sensuality, and the men had no power to correct or reprove, even the women of their own families ; and that, they gave themselves up to dalliance in the open streets, and markets,



and walked about in eager expectation of their lovers.^a

Truly, if rulers noted for want of sense be appointed to govern and protect a country, what hopes of comfort or safety can be entertained by their subjects. It appeared, therefore, improper that the government of such a fine province should be held by such a person, and that a bad woman should govern so beautiful and fertile a country was unreasonable; besides this, she had rebelled against the government.^o There was a man, (it was said,) a descendent of the chiefs of that country; but he was void of sense and intelligence,—for, notwithstanding he had laboured and schemed much, in the hope to obtain the chief authority, he could effect nothing; and it was, therefore, evident how proper and likely a man he was to be qualified for government, who was more ignorant and incompetent than the Rani herself. Did he not know the noble master, (Hydur), to whom this fine extensive country and high office should fall?

In short, on hearing these joyous tidings, the fortunate Nawaub immediately despatched search-

^a Some punning verses on the word زن omitted.

^o All this rigmarole is intended to prove that Hydur Ali had a right to dispossess the unfortunate Rani of her territory and wealth, and perhaps to take her life.



ing spies and able intelligencers on this business with orders to collect correct information respecting the government of Nuggur; the abilities of those who conducted it; the amount of the revenue, the number of the troops; and to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with these matters, and write a full and distinct account of them. He then marched with a strong force towards Chitul Droog, and, from policy, and to make an impression, he gave orders to take, plunder, and destroy, the dependencies of that place. His fearless Kuzzaks, in consequence, immediately spread themselves over the whole of its Talookas or districts, to the Ghaut of the Droog, and levelled every town and village to the ground. The Nawaub, however, marched straight to the Droog, where the Poligar of that place took the head of submission out of the veil of rebellion, and entered the circle of obedience; and agreeably to the directions of the Nawaub, paid two Lakhs^p of Rupees, in lieu of Paishkush, and one Lakh of Rupees as a present, and was allowed his life and property, and he and his troops accompanied the army. In the meantime, the spies and intelligencers had proceeded with the greatest speed to Nuggur, and had examined closely the state of that country, and they described the whole in detail

^p A Lakh is 100,000.

to the Nawaub. About this time, also, the person^a who was ambitious of obtaining the government of Bednore, and who, as has been already stated, desired an opportunity to establish his claim, had sought refuge in Chitul Droog, and, under the auspicious star of his good fortune, was introduced to the Nawaub. This person promised and engaged, through the medium of the Chief of Chitul Droog, to gird his loins in the service of the Nawaub; and stated that he considered the service of that victorious Chief as an honour to his house; and that he entreated the Nawaub to proceed quickly to the punishment of the Rani, whose government was a display of caprice, and who, like a man, galloped over the field of licence, and extinguish the torch of her immodesty^r with the water^s of the sword, and give to the world, (the people of which had their lives on their lips from her oppression, and tyranny,) comfort, consolation, and a new life. Seeing that the appearance of things was conformable to his hopes and wishes; the Nawaub Bahadúr agreed to the prayer of this man; and, having arrayed the right and left wings^t of his army, the main body,^u

^a This person is said by a French author (an officer in Hydur's service) to have been the son of the late Raja or Rana of Bednore.

^r The Rani is always spoken of disrespectfully by this author.

^s Keenness—temper.



and advanced and rear guards,* he gave the command of each to brave experienced officers, and, the next morning but one, he marched towards Nuggur, his worthy son of victorious presage accompanying him. At every station and encampment on the march, Hydur, by his affability and presents, raised great hopes among the inhabitants of that country, and, to stimulate the cultivation and prosperity of the land, he gave them every assurance" of safety. In every town or fort, also, where his army encamped, he sent for the whole of the poor, and persons without employment, of all classes, and by favours and gifts gained their hearts, and enrolled them among his own servants. Those, however, who left the circle of obedience to his commands, and did not attend to his advice and instructions, but prepared to oppose him, those he endeavoured by all means to make prisoners or destroy. From this cause, fear and trembling came over the people of the country, and the mass of peasantry, civil officers, commandants of forts, &c. through the medium of Hydur's son, (Tippoo,) submitted and offered their obedience, and obtained encouragement in proportion to their merits. When Hydur's troops arrived and encamped two stages on this side Nuggur, the spies, who had been before secretly ordered there, pre-



sented themselves, and stated that the Rani was much alarmed and grieved, that she took no rest day or night, and was immersed in deep reflection :— that she had given over all regulation of the affairs of government, and had determined to die ; but that she still hoped, by management and deceit, the payment of the Paishkush, and by presenting valuable presents, that she might turn Hydur from his purpose ; and, indeed, just at this time, according to the statement of the spies, the Rani did send confidential ambassadors with presents, and a supplicatory letter. These Vakeels, after paying their respects to Hydur, presented the articles and rarities intended for gifts, and stated that the Rani would pay a yearly sum of 100,000 Hoons or Pagodas,^x besides a tribute of other valuable articles, such as Foful,^y Dates, Sandal wood, Kakul, (a particular kind of wood), black pepper, &c., and that, as long as she lived, she would be submissive to his orders, and pay tribute ; and that she hoped the country would be restored to her charge, as a gift from him, so that, under the shade of his protection, she might be safe from all enemies. To this, Hydur returned for answer, that if she desired or hoped for safety, present comfort, tranquillity of

^x About three and half rupees each.

^y This tree is like a date tree, perhaps Betel nut.



mind, and the preservation of her honour, she must come without hesitation to the army ; and that, then, she might proceed with every comfort to the fort of Seringaputtun, *the asylum and stronghold of modesty and virtue*, where she might reside, and receive from him an allowance proportioned in every respect to her wants.

The Vakeels returned to the Rani with this message, and reported to her the commands of the Nawaub. The Rani, free from restraint, proudly rejected the terms of this proposal ; and right or wrong, foolishly prepared to defend herself ; with this intent, she intrigued with Abdul Hukeem, Khan of Shanoor, sending a large sum of money to him, and entreating his assistance. Abdul Hukeem agreed to her request, and immediately despatched two thousand horse and four thousand foot, to assist her ; and himself with a large force and artillery, advanced and encamped on the river Bala. The troops sent in aid entered, meanwhile, the fort of Nuggur, from the hills and forests surrounding the fort.

As soon as this intelligence reached Hydur, he became violently incensed, and, moving forward, encamped within one stage of Nuggur. Then sending for his officers, he despatched them to take the forts and towns near Nuggur, while he himself, with a body



of his infantry and cavalry, commanded by his bravest officers, marched and invested the fort of Nuggur. The officers Hydur had detached, had, in the meantime, after much fighting, taken and plundered most of the towns and forts, in the neighbourhood, and those who demanded quarter were sent in troops to Hydur. While they were thus engaged, Hydur was employed day and night in the investment of Nuggur; and by raising batteries, and taking up ground by degrees for the attack, he so straightened the field of action on the garrison, that it became small as the eye of a needle; and the garrison, quitting all the places they had fortified outside, retired into the fort, and manned the walls. Although the garrison had in a short time lost the power of defending themselves, their senses being dissipated and though fear for their lives and the honour of their women had taken possession of their hearts, still, in faithful performance of their duty to the Rani, (the writer always affects to speak of this lady with great disrespect) who herself behaved with as much steadiness and courage as a man, they remained steadfast at their posts, and defended themselves bravely. Nay, even although the Nawaub's brave soldiers daily killed troops of them with their cannon, and musket balls, and the sword, and burned numbers of them with the fire of hope-



lessness and despair ; still, notwithstanding all this calamity and misery, the garrison continued to fight ; they were killed, but not subdued. The Afghan troops, also, with great insolence did their part in aid of the fort and attacked the batteries of the besiegers repeatedly, but were always defeated ; and although, in a short time, the besieged saw their field of battle still more straightened, and the field of flight and desertion appeared to them wider than the plain of the day of Judgment, still the siege was so strict and close, that they could not escape with their lives ; and, being without resource, they determined that they would fight as long as they were able, and after that, by changing their clothes, try to save themselves, and penetrate to some other country.

When the Nawaub found that the town and forts in the vicinity, the commandants of which were brave men, had been conquered, and that the siege of the fort of Nuggur, defended by a woman, had been protracted to so great a length ; also, that the rains, which bring distress upon man and beast, were at hand, and consequently his operations must be soon brought to a close, he, on the day on which the siege had continued one year, gave his troops orders to make the assault ; granting them free permission to retain all their plunder,



all articles of gold and silver, and likewise all handsome Hindoo women who might be taken. The cavalry, therefore, quitting their horses, and the infantry stepping out at the charging pace,^z marched up the breach, firing vollies, and, mounting the walls and bastions, made the air resound with shouts of "take and kill!"^a Every one who made opposition to them became the butt of the ball and bayonet, and the food of the blood-red sword. When the manlike Rani saw her affairs in this condition, she first set her palace on fire, that is, her ornamented sleeping apartments, which had been built and beautified by her husband, Shoom Shunkur, with Chinese bricks and tiles, washed and set in gold; the interstices being gold, and the doors and walls ornamented with jewels. She next burned most of her boxes of jewellery, or beat them to pieces in an iron mortar; and then, accompanied by only two or three damsels, or slave girls, she escaped on foot by the way of a water drain,^b with her life only, to Kooli Droog, five kose from Nuggur, a very strong place, surrounded by a thick forest. This place she strengthened still more, and remained there, leaving the whole of the country, treasures, and valuables, of her husband and forefathers to the iron grasp of the renowned Nawaub.

^z جلادت^a بکش و بکیر^b بدررواب



As soon as the Nawaub knew that the Rani had escaped, he placed a garrison in the fort of Nuggur and immediately followed her steps, and invested the mountain fort, with every care and caution, and closely besieged it. The siege continued for some time ; but, at length, after a month's resistance, when the garrison had been completely subdued by the bravery of Hydur's troops, they surrendered the hill to the Nawaub, and the Rani being taken was brought to the presence. This being effected, the Nawaub returned to the fort of Nuggur, and put the Rani in prison, and afterwards, placing her in a meeana or palankeen, he despatched her by the route of Sura to Seringaputtun. He then, with the greatest pomp and display of force, and at a fortunate moment, made his entry into the fort of the capital of Bednore, bestowing honour on the seat of Government ; and for fifteen days he held a banquet, during which season of festivity he enjoyed the sound of music and the abundance of good things provided for the feast. He then gave to the poor, the religious, the musicians, and dancing women, presents of gold and silver ornaments, valuable cloths, and shawls. Also, to the brave chiefs of his army, and his soldiers, who had distinguished themselves by their gallantry, and had perilled their lives in this conquest, besides what



they obtained in the assault of the fort, which, by Hydur's orders, was what they could take, of heaps of gold and silver, valuable stuffs, jewels, pearls, arms of all kinds, and a great number of beautiful women, the value of all which was sufficient to place them above all wordly wants, to these valiant men he now again gave costly presents and honorary dresses, gold bracelets, pearl necklaces, jewelled gorgets, splendid swords, and lastly, jageers or fiefs (for conditional service), according to their rank and respective capacities. Hydur likewise selected a man of the name of Oojni, a Kolor, an old servant of his, and an intelligent able man, and, having given him the title of Raja Ram, committed the charge of Nuggur to him, giving him orders to repair the fort, and its defences; and, having bestowed on it the name of Hydur Nuggur, he again entered his tents.



CHAPTER XII.

An account of the incursion of the Afghans of Shanoor, who came to the aid of the imprisoned Rani of Bednore, and the punishment of the Chief of Shanoor, by the sharp sword of the Nawaub Bahadúr, with the conquest of other places, occurring in the year 1175, Hijri. A.D. 1761.

DURING the period the Nawaub was occupied in the siege and assault of Nuggur, the Afghans of Shanoor, who had arrived to the aid of the Rani, were the cause of great annoyance to the troops of Hydur, and even prevented the arrival of their provisions and supplies; in fact, they let slip no opportunity of giving the Nawaub a good deal of trouble; and, although the Bukshi, Hybut Jung, was appointed to oppose them, still, encamping under cover of the forests and hills, they fought his detachments daily, sometimes beating them, and being themselves sometimes beaten. The Nawaub, therefore, after he was freed from the necessary arrangements for the safety of the dependencies of the fort of Nuggur, which was effected in about two years, in person marched straight towards Shanoor.



And on the morning of his arrival, when the Kuzzak horse appeared wheeling round the Afghan army, the Afghans who thought them the horse of Hybut Jung, advanced quickly into the field of ambush to oppose them, like men without discretion or foresight. The Nawaub, therefore, gave orders to the regiments of regular infantry, the horse, foot, and artillery, all which were posted in ambush immediately in front of them, to fire and charge; and accordingly, firing vollies, they rushed upon the Afghans, and most of their men of valour and chiefs of note, were sent to eternity by the showers of cannon and musket-balls in that charge.^c Having lost their presence of mind, the rest of the Afghans fled, and never drew the breath of courage until they reached the river Bala. Hukeem Khan, the Chief of the Afghans, having also lost his senses, left the whole of the baggage of his army, that is, his tents, standards, drums, camels, elephants, &c., and retired to his capital. The Nawaub, however, followed close on his heels, and appointed his Kuzzaks, (predatory horse) to pursue him from the field of battle to the gates of the fort; and they took many of his cavalry and their horses, nor did they draw back their hands from the discomfiture of their enemies. The Khan of Shanoor, being thus com-



pletely humbled, attempted no further opposition ; but, taking the road of safety, made peace by paying a crore of rupees—*verse*.^d “ Who did (evil), who did not find (retribution) ? ”^e

In place, however, of the sum demanded, the Khan gave up elephants, camels, tents of velvet, bechobas embroidered with gold, (a kind of tent without a pole,) Boorhanpoor cloths, of great value, arms of costly price, and a sum of money. These articles the chiefs of former times had accumulated at the expense of hundreds of thousands of pounds ; but all these articles were at once given up, and then he was released from the violence of Hydur's brave soldiers.

When the Nawaub had completed his arrangements here, he placed garrisons in the forts of Bangalore, Chenolee, Hurnee, &c., and then returned victorious to Nuggur ; and from that place despatched Hybut Jung, with a large force, towards Hurpun Hully, Kunakgiri, &c., to reduce the Poligars of the Suba of Sura, and to collect the amount due for the customary tribute or Paishkush ; there being due, also, from every Poligar, besides the Paishkush, one-tenth for the horse-shoeing of

که کرد که نیافت^d

^e What man e'er yet performed a guilty deed,
But righteous retribution was his meed ?



the Foujdári.^f Hydur himself, at the same time, crossed the Ghauts to the westward of Nuggur, to reduce the forts and country on the sea-side depending on that state; and Mirza Husseini Beg, his brother-in-law, the maternal uncle of Kureem Sahib, the Nawaub's youngest son, was sent with a detachment to reduce Buswa Rai Droog.

As soon as he obtained his audience of leave, the Mirza marched to the sea-side, and, having seized some fishermen's boats, embarked with his followers, and sailed towards the Droog, which lies about two fursungs (nine or ten miles) distant from the shore, and is surrounded by salt water. When they arrived there, he with his troops encompassed the hill, and despatched a message to the garrison, informing them of the capture and plunder of the town of Nuggur, and the captivity of the Rani; sending also a separate Kowl Nama from himself. The garrison losing heart (at this intelligence), after three days, surrendered without resistance. Having placed a strong garrison on the hill, the Mirza returned with the whole of the property of Shoom Shunker, the Raja of Nuggur, deposited there for safety, which consisted of two or three boxes of pearls and diamonds, two boxes of jewelry, two elephant housings, richly embroidered and curiously

^f One-tenth of the tribute? حق سعي



wrought in gold and silver, a jewelled chain for the foot of an elephant, two sets of gold and silver bells for the necks of the royal elephants, and two gold embroidered saddles. These, on his return, he presented to the Nawaub, and was highly complimented by him.

The Nawaub himself, having in a very short time settled and regulated that part of the country, and having placed strong garrisons in the forts of Mirjan and Angola, (which are on the boundary of the Kokun Ghauts, and were built by Syfe ul Moolk, the governor of the Kokun, an ameer of the Adil Shahi dynasty,) also in Gorial Bunder (Mangalore) Sudasheo Gurh, Mykuni, Moleer, Honawur, Pykul, &c., returned to Seringaputtun.

When Hybut Jung, with a large body of troops, had taken leave of the Nawaub, he marched to Kunakgiri, and having realized there three years' Paishkush, or two Lakhs of rupees, he next proceeded to Hurpun Hully, and, by fair and foul means, made the Poligar of that place pay three Lakhs of rupees. He then marched to Chitul Droog, and obtained four Lakhs of rupees Paishkush from the Poligar, and, marching thence by Jureemli and Goori Kota, arrived at Rai Droog, from the Chief of which he demanded the tribute. In his reply, the Chief pleaded poverty, and described the devastated condition of his country, and



delayed payment of the tribute under different pretexts. It is not, however, to be suppressed, that the Poligar of Bellari had made an excursion into his territory, and had plundered and laid it waste. Hybut Jung however, for an example, besieged the little fort of Kanikul, depending on the Droog, and laboured to effect its capture. The Poligar, therefore, assembled five or six hundred cavalry and two thousand foot, and, by occupying the roads in the vicinity, stopped all supplies for the army. At this time, which was the period of the return of the Nawaub from Nuggur, he despatched a letter, by a pair of camel sowars, or riders, to Hybut Jung, requiring him to send him from his force a thousand able men, without arms. Hybut Jung accordingly selected a thousand young men from his division, and despatched them from the northward of Rai Droog to Simoga, under an escort of five hundred horse and two battalions of regular infantry, with arms. This body of troops had proceeded two or three fursungs (fursung here apparently means kose), when suddenly the horse and foot of the Poligar made their appearance, and, at first pretending to be friends, charged the escort without hesitation; and although the escort fired briskly, and the horse attacked the enemy, sword in hand, still the infantry of the Poligar, having the cover



and protection of the forest, mastered and threw them all into confusion, and most of the old soldiers or men of experience were without pity put to the sword. Some, however, escaped from the carnage to the protection of the mountains.

When Hybut Khan heard this he left his batteries, and marched with his collected force, and, in the twinkling of an eye, attacked the troops of the Poligar, and gave them such a defeat, that the runaways did not look behind them until they reached the ditch of the Droog before mentioned. He then, in the same place, that is, to the eastward of Rai Droog, planted his colours, and pitched his tents, and wrote a letter to the Poligar, stating that his insubordination arose from the kindness and lenity with which he had been treated by him, (Hybut Jung); and that certainly he had intended, by every means in his power, to intercede with the Nawaub, so as that the Poligar's district or country^g might remain to him as it was without diminution, and then return with a good name for mildness or lenity; but that, now, he was not to look for any indulgence, but wash his hands of his life and property. When the letter was received by the Poligar, and he understood its contents, he despatched Kistnapa, his Dulwai, or Minister, to in-



tercede for the pardon of his offences ; and by his negotiations he engaged to pay three lakhs of rupees as a Paishkush, two lakhs for his rebellion, and one lakh as a present for his life. He also paid for all the property and cattle belonging to the detachment he had attacked and destroyed, every article being returned ; and, after this, Hybut Jung, taking the Dulwai and the money with him, proceeded to the presence. About this time, Meer Alí Ruza Khan was appointed to the Foujdári of Sura, and took leave.



CHAPTER XIII.

An account of the Invasion of Mysoor, by the Paishwa Siwae Madhoo Rao, Mahratta, and his taking a number of Forts, and the Souba of Sura, &c., with other events of the year 1076, Hijri. A.D. 1762.

WHEN Ballajee Rao Nana, the Poona Paishwa or Purdhan (Minister), died, Siwae Madhoo Rao, his son, seated himself on the Musnud of his Government, and remained for some time occupied in the internal regulation of his own dominions; sometime after that, however, he began to collect troops, stores, and heavy artillery, so that he at length assembled near one hundred thousand horse, sixty thousand Pindarehs, and fifty thousand matchlock foot, in addition to the troops of Alí Bahadúr, the son of Shumshire, Bahadúr, (who was a son of Ballajee Rao Nana) and, with this immense force, he made an incursion into the Karnatic Balaghaut. An abridged account of Alí Bahadúr is as follows:—^h

^h I have been compelled to change the form of the narrative here, as the account of Alí Bahadúr in the original is a long parenthesis.



After the ruin of the Adil Shahi dynasty, a Hindostani dancing girl travelled from Bijapoor to Poona, and took up her residence in that city. This woman being the most beautiful and most accomplished dancer of her time, Ballajee, beguiled by the elegance of her person and accomplishments, fell in love with her, and selected her for his bedfellow, and, being deceived by his professions, this vile woman consented.¹ Being fond of each other, after sometime a son was born, who was brought up by his mother as a Muhammadan. When, however, this boy grew up to manhood, his father, that is Ballajee Rao, gave him the title of Shumshire Bahadúr, with a munsub, and jageer of twelve thousand horse. This Bahadúr was present in the battle of the Sirabdalli (the battle of Paniput), with the Rao, and was killed there, with him; and his son, Alí Bahadúr, was there also.

In reference to the Pindarehs, it is not unknown that they are a low tribe of robbers² entertained by some of the princes of the Dukhun, to plunder and lay waste the territories of their enemies, and to serve for guides, or as an example to their own troops. They give these men no certain pay from

¹ It is to be recollected that it is a Muhammadan who writes this work.

² اوچكه This word in Turkish signifies a He-Goat, and I can find no other interpretation.



their treasury; but when the troops halt, these people bring hay and wood to the camp for sale, and the price of these articles provides them with necessary subsistence. In time of active service, they are highly pleased to obtain, from the Commanding Officer of their army, permission to plunder; and then they lay waste the country of an enemy so completely, that even the owl and bat would be afraid of such a desert. Indeed, in time of war, they generally pay the Chief of their army a sum of money, under the denomination of horse-shoeing¹ money. But, to return, when Madhoo Rao marched towards Mysore, he visited Shanoor, and took the Hakim or chief of that place, and his troops with him. He next sent for Morar Rao, and then, crossing the river Tungbhadra, by the Gooraknauth Ghaut, marched by the route of Chituldroog, (the Poligar of which also accompanied his army), to the Souba of Sura. The Meer before mentioned, (Meer Ali Ruza Khan,) on the first day, marched out of the fort with his troops, and having viewed the Mahratta army, he returned, and prepared to defend himself. The Rao stationed his artillery on a tank, to the northward of the fort, and began to breach the fortifications at a considerable distance. The Meer, however, de-

¹ نعلبندی



fended himself for ten or twelve days; and then, after exacting good conditions, gave up the keys of the capital of the Souba to the Mahratta, and he himself entered his service; Madhoo Rao, treating him with great kindness, and keeping him about his person. Madhoo Rao next marched to Mudgiri, and, after a siege of about a month, took that hill fort, and leaving there a garrison of his own men, marched onward.

The Nawaub although he marched to Bangalore, with the whole of his horse, foot, and artillery, yet, from the strength of the Mahratta army, which was ten times more numerous than his own, he did not consider it prudent to come in contact with them; agreeing with the words of the wise—*Verse*, “You may overcome a proud enemy by humbling yourself, &c.”^m Making, therefore, no opposition, he returned to Seringaputtun, and threw up batteries round the fort for its protection, and also stationed his artillery, and his regular and Karnatic infantry in different places, and remained at his own quarters, in perfect readiness. All this seeming negligence, or quiet indifference,ⁿ was however put on merely to try and ascertain the

^m Humility if thou wilt show,
Thou may'st o'ercome a haughty foe.

ⁿ خواب خرگوش



intentions, strength, courage, and ability, of the Mahrattas; and Hydur's stable horse, and the Pindarehs, were kept concealed in the jungle or fort of Makuri Droog, and had orders to make plundering expeditions against the enemy.

After sweeping hill and dale, mountain and forest, the Mahrattas at length sat down before the fort of Nijigul, and despatched a summons, demanding the surrender of the fort from Hydur's Killadár, whose name was Sirdar Khan, a brave man, of good family, and faithful to the Nawaub. That trustworthy and brave officer, however, who, by his ability and liberality, had secured the affections of his men, and was certain of their loyalty, replied to the summons by sending them a few cannon balls; upon which, being much incensed by the steadiness and courage of Sirdar Khan, Madhoo Rao immediately assaulted the place, in hopes to break down the defences. The Mahratta troops came on, making a great noise, like a swarm of bees buzzing round their honey. But Sirdar Khan, who thought himself more than equal to a thousand Mahrattas, advanced with his men, and made the breasts of his enemies butts for his cannon and musket balls and arrows, and killed a great number of them; and from the marks of their blood on the stone steps and rocks of the mountain, he acquired



honourable distinction,^o and remained victorious. The Mahrattas, having received a total defeat, retired. Nevertheless, they did not delay before they again made another very gallant attack, which, however, had again the same result, and the colour of their faces departed. The next day Madhoo^p Rao mounted his elephant, and, all being ready, he gave his officers and troops, horse and foot, orders again to assault the hill fort. On this day also, this gallant officer, Sirdar Khan, faithful to his master, fought desperately, and succeeded in repelling the Mahrattas; and, from the continual fire of the artillery and musketry, from the foot of the mountain to the walls of the fort, heaps of the assailants lay rolling in their blood. Seeing this carnage, the Mahratta began to pause and reflect; and, having raised the hopes of the Poligar of Chituldroog and others, by valuable presents, and the promise of the remission of their Paishkush for two years, and giving orders also to put to death the whole of the garrison, he employed them to take the fort. The Poligars having in consequence directed their own Bedurs,^q

^o Alluding to a Hindu custom.

^p In speaking of Madhoo Rao, the author generally calls him the Chief Mahratta, or the Ghuneem, or Plunderer.

^q Footmen, apparently.



men particularly well acquainted with the country, to attack the fort, now sent them on for that purpose. These men, therefore, climbing up at the back of the mountain, through a thousand difficulties and dangers, scaled the walls and towers, by the help of ladders, and raised their shouts of "Koo! Koo!" Sirdar Khan, although he with a party of his men, immediately attacked them desperately, and killed many of them, yet the garrison, seeing their enemies in the fort cutting off heads, became so terrified, that they threw away their arms, and at the same time their lives. Sirdar Khan was wounded, and taken prisoner. Madhoo Rao, however, sent for this brave man, whose forehead shone bright with courage, and seated him in the place of honour, and, bestowing on him great commendations, took him on with him.

Leaving a detachment in Nijigul, Madhoo Rao marched forward; but the Nawaub's Kuzzaks made great havoc among his foraging parties, and also attacked his advance and rear guards, and displayed so much bravery, that the Pindarehs of the Mahratta camp, who, in thieving, cheating, and roguery of all kinds, were the ablest men of their time, were, by the daring and villany of Hydur's Kuzzaks, completely outdone, and unable to leave their camp. The Mahrattas themselves, also, not-



withstanding the strength of their army, were frightened at the Nawaub's troops. But, to return—in time Madhoo Rao took Balapoor the greater; and intending, in the first place, to reduce the forts in the neighbourhood of Puttun, and make the Poligars of that quarter join and assist him in the conquest of the capital of the Khodadad State, he directed his march towards Balapoor the less. Budruzzuman Khan, who was Foujdár there, seeing the strength of the Mahratta army, was alarmed, and considered that opposition could be of no avail; nevertheless, Budruzzuman Khan was a brave and faithful man; but the state of a man's temperament is never long the same, and, according to his view of the case, it seemed to him that his best policy lay in surrendering the fort, and he accordingly gave up the keys, and those of the stores, to Madhoo Rao, and, being allowed to depart freely, he retired to Kirpa.

The Mahrattas now marched to Kolar; and, taking a sum of money from Delawur Khan, they allowed him to retain his Jageer. They then besieged the hill and fort of Murwakul, in which was a garrison of the Nawaub's; and, after several assaults, and the loss of thousands of brave men, the fort was taken, and the Killadár and garrison all put to the sword. From that fort they marched



towards Goorum Kondah, which fort was also in charge of one of Hydur's officers; and, after some opposition, they took that also. Madhoo Rao gave this fort in Jageer to Meer Ali Ruza Khan, who was with him as an Omeidwar,^r and whose father and grandfather had, in former times, held its Killadári or command for several generations, with authority to raise a thousand horse, and two or three thousand foot, to keep the country on that side in subjection, and with strict orders to reduce the Poligars.—Madhoo Rao then marched to attack Puttun.

The Nawaub had however obtained information of his design; and, with the whole body of his cavalry sought cover in the Jungul of Makuri, and waited there, like a hungry lion looking out for his prey. While he was thus waiting, it happened that suddenly the advanced guard of the Mahrattas, which, in the Persian language, is technically called Beeni-i-Usakir,^s with a great quantity of stores, provisions, artillery, and the standards of the Paishwa, arrived, and encamped in the neighbourhood of Ootri Droog, ignorant of the presence of the Nawaub's troops. The first day they halted, and the next day resolved to proceed, to besiege the fort of Seringaputtun; all the Mahratta troops

^r A volunteer.

^s The nose of the army.



being void of apprehension of meeting with the Nawaub's forces. Having received this information from their encampment, the Nawaub forbade and prevented, for the whole day, a single man of his force from quitting the Jungle, keeping them in constant readiness. But, as soon as night drew on, the Nawaub marched, and, about midnight, came upon the rear of the unwary Mahrattas, and attacked them so vigorously and successfully, that, with all their overwhelming numbers, amounting to between forty and fifty thousand men, they lost the use of their senses; and, unable to stand against the sword and spear, mostly hid themselves in rice and camel bags, ' which they had previously emptied, and some, by the active employment of their hands and feet, and by resorting to a hundred tricks and subterfuges, escaped from the battle. Some Chiefs of the Mahrattas, with abject fear, laid their heads under the feet of the horses of the Nawaub's brave soldiers; and the Commanding Officer of the Mahrattas, mounting a horse without a saddle, fled to his great camp or head quarters. Victorious in a degree above all his former victories, the Nawaub ordered his drums to beat and trumpets to sound for joy, and despatched the whole of the Mahratta spoil, as artillery, standards,



&c. to Seringaputtun, and took up his ground of encampment on the same spot.

When Madhoo Rao heard of the shameful defeat which his Beenee, or advanced guard, had received, he was greatly afflicted, his colour fled, and he shed the fast tears of sorrow and anger, and bitterly reproached the pale trembling officer, who, after the destruction of his troops, had found means to escape, saying to him in great displeasure "by thy folly thou hast cut off the Paishwa's nose,"^a meaning that he had lost or sacrificed the Paishwa's honour.

Madhoo Rao after this, left the neighbourhood of Chintamuni, where he was encamped, and went to seek refuge in the mountains of Ambajee Droog. At this time the Nawaub, by a night march, surrounded the fort of Balapoor the greater, carried it without difficulty at the head of his cavalry, and put the whole of the Mahratta garrison to the sword, and the next morning he returned to Mäkurri Droog. When this intelligence reached also Madhoo Rao, it threw him into great perplexity.

About this time, also, an officer from the Mahratta camp, with five or six thousand horse, plundering the country, as they went, arrived in the Barh Mahl; they were, however, followed and

^a A pun on the word Beenee.

tracked by Hydur's Kuzzaks, and by their exertions entirely dispersed or destroyed. And here, is it not natural to pause, and consider how wonderful it was, that, notwithstanding the exceeding great number of the Mahratta host, the intrepidity of the Nawaub's Pindarehs so straightened them that they dared not quit the ground of their encampment. The words of the holy book,^x "How often has a small company conquered a large army."^y were thus completely verified.

After this, however, the Nawaub, consulting his good sense and discretion, and adapting his conquering policy, to the times; according also, to the *verse*, "A wise man will not give cause of offence."—"To a proud enemy he will be humble:—" "When fire flames high water is thrown on it."—"No one would put out fire by adding fire,"^z—he despatched several able ambassadors to Madhoo Rao, with some presents, which had fallen into his hands in the plunder of their camp, seven lakhs of rupees in money, and a message to this effect; that

كم من فيه قليله غلبت علي كثيره *

- ^y Full oft have mighty hosts been known
By scanty bands to be o'erthrown!
- ^z The wise man studies never to offend,
And to a haughty foe will humbly bend:
When blazes high the flame, we water throw,
Nor heap on fire, and make it fiercer glow.



“it was not just for men of rank and courage, (meaning Madhoo), without cause to slay the poor or plunder the peaceable, but that there was no help for what was past;^a that it became the dignity of Madhoo Rao to withhold his hands from slaying and plundering God’s creatures, and restrain his heart from devising injury to mankind; that he should return to his own country, where he would recommend that the money now sent should be deposited in his treasury, and be received by him as the profit or the produce of his invasion; and that he might consider the Khodadad state, (Mysore) as the aid and support of his own.”^b

When these able, clear-sighted agents reached Madhoo Rao, they delivered their message to him in distinct terms, and handing over the money, with fair and flattering words, brought him to agree to extinguish the fire of discord, and make peace. Madhoo Rao, who had done nothing in two years and three months, in that time had made no permanent acquisition in Mysore, but on the contrary, had witnessed on all sides the ruin of his own army; now, therefore, saw his best policy in the terms of the message, and accepted the propositions

مضي ما مضي^a

^b All this is addressed to Madhoo Rao, but, I do not believe Hydur ever sent such a message.



of the Nawaub; sending to him the prisoners he had made of the Nawaub's troops, with presents of money and clothes; and, after that, returned to Poona.

The Nawaub, with his army, followed the Mah-rattas as far as Balapoor the less, and then visited the Talookas or districts plundered by them, where he pleased the hearts of the farmers and husband-men, by advances and aids of money, bullocks for the plough, seed and instruments^c for the cultivation of the land, and he moreover gave strict orders, to foster the population, and increase the cultivation, and remitted the share of produce belonging to government for one year. He then returned to Bangalore.

At this time, Alí Zumán Khan Nayut, who was married to a sister-in-law of Budruzzuman Khan, arrived at the presence, as the agent of Muhammad Yousuf Khan, commandant of Mudhra, (Madura), against whom Muhammad Alí Khan, the chief of Arkat, had marched a body of troops falsely accusing him of rebellion. Alí Zumán was sent to solicit aid to repel this attack. As, however, the Nawaub had objects of great necessity and importance on hand, he did not consider it convenient or safe at that period to detach any part of his army. For

شمار^c



some time therefore the negotiation was prolonged, on different pretexts, until, about this period, the chief of Arkat defeated the commandant, and the fort was taken, through the treachery of Seonas Rao, a Brahman of Tanjore and other Jamadars, and the said commandant was impaled: the date of his execution will be found in the words; 'the rebellious commandant.'^a Meer Ali Zuman Khan, after this, remained with the Nawaub, who, being pleased with his polished manners, his mild disposition, and the charms of his conversation, made him a constant companion. Sometimes, however, he was offended with him, or treated him with caprice. Being a very stout man, the Khan was not able to mount a horse, and therefore, when he went out, Hydur was used to give him the loan of his own elephant.

About this time, also, Fyze Ullah Khan Hybut Jung, who had quarrelled with his father-in-law, Delawur Khan, sought refuge with the Nawaub, to prefer a claim he had on that person, to jewels and articles of value, belonging to his wife; and, opportunities offering themselves, he repeatedly complained to the Nawaub, and excited him greatly against Delawur Khan. The Nawaub, therefore, despatched his own elephant, with the equipage and



a few horse, to Kolar, with a summons for Delawur Khan.

The Khan being a wise man, and seeing that his ruin impended, and fearing the mischief produced by his foolish son-in-law, also that he could not with safety to his life reject or refuse the Nawaub's invitation, without any equivocation set out on his journey. When, however, the Nawaub heard of the venerable Khan's arrival, he took the veil of enmity off his honest heart, and advanced to the enclosures of his tent, to meet and do him honour, bringing him into the tent, and seating him on the Musnud with himself, with all the respect and deference which distinguish a man of perfect good breeding,—as one of the poets says, “That man is perfect among the perfect, who shows he is master, while humble as a slave.”^e Hydur told the Khan that he must have considered him, (Hydur), as one of his most faithful servants, to have made so long a journey to see him;—that he, Hydur, was an ignorant man, who yet had much to learn; but he hoped that, by his advice and instruction, he might be brought to the good way. After Hydur had been gratified by the visit of the worthy Khan, and had been made acquainted with the real facts of the

^e Perfect among the perfect men

That man will surely be,

In whom, while humble as a slave,

We can the master see.



case, he considered the claim of Hybut Jung to be entirely false, and discharged it from his mind. The sons of Hybut Jung, whom Delawur Khan had brought with him, were, however, sent to their father; and a separate tent, being cleared and provided with articles of use and comfort, Delawur Khan was placed therein, and proper servants appointed to attend him, and for his expenses a thousand rupees a month were allowed; besides which, he ate twice a day at the Nawaub's table. About this time, likewise, Noor Ulabsar Khan the son of Dileer Khan, and the nephew of Delawur Khan, was selected by the Nawaub as his son-in-law, and the usual marriage^f ceremonies were duly performed.

After awhile, the Nawaub, intending to reduce the Poligars in the vicinity of Kolar, and Murwakul, marched a force in that direction; and, at the same time, by the mediation of Khaki Shah Durvesh, one of the Nawaub's counsellors, Hybut Jung, and Muha Mirza Khan, the Bakshi of the Paigah,^g (a person who had been sent for from Aurangabad, and treated with great distinction and honour,) Meer Ali Ruza Khan, by the promises of a large Jageer, and an increase of rank, was invited and induced to re-

^f The name of Hydur's daughter married on this occasion was Paupa Bibi, according to Mr. Marriott.

^g Troop of horse.



turn to the presence ; and, as he was a brother-in-law, and otherwise related to the Nawaub, he returned with confidence, and, to secure his attachment, the Nawaub presented him with the hill fort of Goorum Koondah, and the whole of the district of Dindigul in Jageer, and also honoured him with an order to enlist troops.

The Nawaub in about six months had reduced the Poligars of that vicinity ; that is, the Poligar of Punganoor, Mudun Pally, Komneer Palah, &c. ; and, having finished his arrangements, he returned to Seringaputtun, where he remained for two years, occupied in pleasure and enjoyment ; also, in the collection of military stores for future conquest, in the acquisition of which he expended hundreds of thousands of rupees in gold and jewels, as he likewise did in the enlistment of horse and foot, and the purchase of horses.

Yaseen Khan, Wanti Koodri, came, about this time, from Nuthur Nuggur, otherwise Trichinopoly, and entered the Nawaub's service. Muhammad Omar, commandant, about this time fell sick and died, and his son Muhammad Alí, who, during the life of his father was a Soubadár,^h was promoted to the command of the same Risala.

As soon as, in all respects, his army was ready

^h Native captain.



for the field, the Nawaub turned his thoughts to certain arrangements required at Nuggur, and marched thither with a well appointed force. On this expedition he took with him Delawur Khan; and, on the days of march or action, the venerable Khan was mounted on Hydur's own elephant, and marched surrounded by the horse of Hydur's stable or Paigah, and accompanied by his Julow or personal guard. Hydur himself rode on horseback, and in front of the regular infantry, and artillery. From Nuggur he despatched a force under the command of Vinkut Rao, Mooshrif, (inspector), a faithful officer in his service, accompanied by Hybut Jung, towards Shanoor; that, by this manifestation, they might collect an adequate Paishkush from the chief of that place, and also reinforce certain garrisons in that neighbourhood. In about a twelvemonth, the Nawaub returned to Puttun, and remained there for some time.



CHAPTER XIV.

The Second Invasion of Mysore by Sewaie Madhoo Rao, and the march of the Nawaub Bahadúr to the neighbourhood of Shanoor, to oppose him; with other events of the year 1078, Hejiri. A.D. 1766.

WHEN Madhoo Rao, after peace had been concluded, returned for the first time from the Karnatic Balaghaut to Poona, he left a Thana, or garrison, in Sura. The Killadár of that place, now hearing of the assembling of the Nawaub's army, and his advance towards Nuggur for the regulation of his affairs there, and becoming alarmed, despatched a full account of these matters to Madhoo Rao, who being also troubled and perplexed, and considering his own destruction to be threatened by the assemblage of the Nawaub's forces, again commenced to collect his troops and chiefs. Having commenced his march towards Mysore, he despatched a body of troops, to reduce all the forts on the frontier, which were held by the Killadárs



of the Nawaub. Hearing of the march of the Mahratta army, the Nawaub marched also with his victorious troops by the route of Seo Mooka, (or Simoga,) and Buswa Puttun; and, having crossed the Tung Bhudr, advanced to Hur Hur, and Arnee, and from that to Meduk, known also by the name of Shikarpoor, where he encamped.

The army of the Mahrattas, after taking the forts before mentioned, marched towards the Nawaub, and encamped about three miles distant from him, and the next morning advanced to attack him. The Nawaub was, however, all ready to receive them, and his troops, ready formed for battle, kept their ground. The Poligar of Chitul Droog, with his force, was present with the Nawaub's army on this occasion. The Mahrattas now surrounded the Nawaub's troops, forming a ring round them; but, although they charged desperately, still the Ghazies, or Mussulmans, constantly repelled them with the greatest steadiness and courage, and maintained their ground throughout the whole of the day. At night, however, the Nawaub quitted that ground, and marched straight to Cheroli, Anoti, and Jara, and there, placing his rear to the Jungul, he encamped; and for the further security of his camp, he mounted his artillery in batteries on all the rising grounds surrounding it; and, being in rea-



diness, he waited for an opportunity to destroy his enemies. After the Nawaub had taken up this position, Madhoo Rao was not able to march and quit him, or to attack any other place. The Chief of Shanoor, however, had made a treaty with the Mahrattas, and gave them his aid.

After a few days, therefore, parties of both armies daily met in the field, and did justice to their manhood by keeping the field of battle constantly occupied by combatants. The Mahrattas likewise placed on the top of a small hill all the guns of their artillery which carried furthest, and from thence cannonaded the Nawaub's camp, and caused great inconvenience to his camp followers. To remedy this, the Nawaub, after some consideration, one night marched with a body of five thousand matchlock infantry marksmen, about fifteen hundred horse, and four light¹ guns of his Julow, or guard, all selected men, leaving the rest of his army under the charge of Hybut Jung Bukhshí, and the regulation of the treasury and Tosheh Khana, &c., to the superintendence of Delawur Khan; the Nawaub's object being to make a night attack, he marched, under cover of the thick jungle, straight on the Mahratta artillery. The time, however, was unlucky, and the hour favourable to his enemies;



for, by reason of the badness of the roads, his troops being obliged to cut down the trees to obtain a passage ; by the time they had arrived on a plain near the Mahratta artillery, night vanished, and the morning shone forth brightly. The Mahrattas, therefore, being aware of the approach of the Nawaub's troops, immediately surrounded him, and, setting up shouts of " take, and kill ! " and curvetting^k and leaping their horses, charged on all sides. The Nawaub had very regularly and skilfully formed his infantry into a fort, or square ;¹ but, although he gave orders to commence a fire from his guns, not one of them would go off, and fire seemed to take no more effect on them than on so much ice. At length the Nawaub himself dismounted from his horse, and, taking a match in his hand, placed it on the touch-hole of the gun. It was, however, of no use, as the fuse did not take fire ; and now, hopeless of any service from his artillery, he kept off the Mahrattas by a sharp fire from his musketry, and still fought to the very extent of his means. At last, the Mahrattas, like a flight of crows, charged in a body and mixed with the Nawaub's troops, shoulder to shoulder, and the

^k Any one who has seen the Mahratta cavalry about to charge, will understand this description.

¹ A hollow square.



ranks of the Nawaub's troops were broken, and thrown into confusion, and their lives uselessly lost. Vinkut Rao, the Dewaun, was killed, and Ali Zumán Khan, wounded; and some of the Nawaub's troops, under pretence of bringing aid or ammunition, ran away. When they saw the field their own, the Mahratta army followed the fugitives, and as long as they were able, plundered and slew them. The Nawaub, by his intelligence and activity, escaped from the slaughter, and like the sun without a peer, and alone, sat down under a tree, and surveyed with wild passion the field so favourable to his enemies. Just at this time, a drummer with his drum arrived at the place where he sat, and stood before him. Thinking his arrival a very fortunate occurrence, and a happy presage of the fortune of his troops, the Nawaub ordered him to beat (a charge), and he accordingly beat his drum in such a way that the sound shed terror on the Mahrattas; and they fearing, from the beating of the drum, that a re-inforcement had arrived to the aid of the discomfited Mussulmans, left all the baggage they had taken, and began to run away. The Nawaub had scarcely collected the remainder of his force, which the sword had left to him, and arrived in the plain, when Hybut Jung, with the artillery, regular infantry, and ca-



valry, arrived to his aid by a forced march. The Nawaub's mind now being fully at ease, he took the troops with him, followed the enemy at speed, and gave orders to his artillery and infantry to fire as fast as they could, to break the heads and legs of the runaway Mahrattas and their horses; which they did successfully. The Mahrattas now retired, dragging with them their guns; but, leaving their dead and wounded on the field, for want of time to carry them away. They, however, carried off the artillery which they had captured.—When the Mahratta army was out of sight, the Nawaub collected all his own dead, and wounded, with the wounded Mahrattas, and brought them to his camp, and ordered their wounds to be sewn up and dressed, giving, at the same time, the allowance of Murhum Putti, (a compensation in money for wounds), to every one.

The Mahrattas, with their troops, now marched towards Binkapore, where they halted; and, as the rainy season had arrived, they placed themselves in cantonments there. The Nawaub halted on the same ground, (that of the battle.)—Madhoo Rao, however, notwithstanding the rainy season, despatched Gopal Rao, the chief of Mirch, with his force, to plunder and destroy the country on the other side the river Tung Bhudr. Gopal



Rao, therefore, crossing that river at the ford of Horul, advanced, plundering the people, and firing the villages, all the way he went. From the Poligars of Hurpun Hully, Rai Droog, &c., he collected the Paishkush by force, and plundered the dependencies of Chitul Droog, and filled the four quarters of the Karnatic with the noise and tumult of calamity and oppression. Gopal Rao, having made the teeth of rapacity sharper than the claws^m of a dog, with perfect confidence, and a loose rein, encamped near Hussdroog, a dependency of Chituldroog.

When this intelligence reached the Nawaub, he, leaving the whole of his troops and baggage in the same place, with only six thousand stable horse, nine thousand Sillahdárs,ⁿ four thousand regular infantry, and six guns, lightly equipped, marched secretly and rapidly towards them, and, on the third night, he fell bravely on the Mahrattas, who were seized by the hand of death, and ignorant of the change brought about by the revolution of the heavens, pouring such a fire upon them, that all at once their union as a body, and the firmness of their minds, were broken by fear, and

^m A queer simile.

ⁿ The Sillahdár is a trooper hired with his horse and arms at a certain rate of pay for all.

they were scattered as the falling leaves before the desolating winds of autumn. Those men only of the Mahrattas who, throwing down their arms, abandoned their horses, and, shewing their teeth, held up the hand of supplication for mercy to Hydur's brave soldiers, were spared. The officer in command of the Mahratta troops, whose name is above mentioned, (Gopal Rao), withdrawing the hand of courage and honour from all things denoting his rank and authority, took what was present of his property, and some plunder obtained by his rapacity and oppression; and, in astonishment, repeating these lines,—“Every one carries away some worldly goods,”—“we, for our parts, have withdrawn our hearts from the things of this world,” accompanied by a few men, escaped on one side, and took the road to Sura. The camp followers, and women of the soldiers, all that had escaped the sword, and were seeking their safety by flight, never stopped until they arrived at the protection of the ditch of the fort at Sura. Some, by a thousand stratagems and labours, fled with all speed, and falling and rising again, and thinking every moment the last, arrived at the head quarters of the Poona army. The victorious Nawaub remained the whole of that day on the Mahratta ground of encampment, and collected all the bag-



gage; as tents, standards, and arms, and having laden with them all the elephants, horses, and camels, taken from the enemy, and setting fire to the remainder, which lay about in heaps, he returned to his camp.

When the Mahratta, (Madhoo Rao), heard of this exploit of the Mujahidan, or Mussulmans, he became convinced he would scarcely be able to preserve his own life in the present campaign, and was fearful that, by some sudden change, his power and authority might be scattered to the winds. About this time, also, the Kuzzaks of the Nawaub's army, who, in the arts of deceiving and plundering their enemies might be considered perfect, by changing their dress and altering the cut of their beards, &c., joined the foraging parties of the Mahrattas without suspicion; and, after associating with them for some time without discovery, when they found an opportunity, raised a tumult, which might be likened to that of the day of judgment, among their quondam friends, relieving them from the charge of five thousand horses, nineteen elephants, and ninety head of camels, besides slaying them without compunction.

When Madhoo Rao saw his troops in these difficulties, and that, notwithstanding their great