

number, they could take no rest at night for fear of attack ; that, during the day, for fear of their lives, they did not dare to quit their encampments; that, above all, from the violence of the rains of that year, the earth was more over-flowed with water, than the eyes of an unfortunate lover; and that both men and beasts had lost the use of their limbs from extreme heat and cold, and that, like as if frozen, many of them slept in the arms of death; when, therefore, Madhoo Rao found himself surrounded by such difficulties, his heart gave way, and, without the accomplishment of his projects, and after the lapse of one year and some months, by the mediation of able Vakeels or Ambassadors, the war was concluded, on the payment of two Lakhs of rupees, (by Hydur), although, in its prosecution, Madhoo Rao had incurred the expense of a great many Lakhs. After this settlement, Madhoo Rao returned to his capital, Poona.

The Nawaub, victorious, after making some necessary arrangements in that quarter, returned by the route of Nuggur, happy and rejoicing. When he arrived at Seringaputtun, Delawur Khan, pretending to be sick, obtained leave of absence and retired to Kolar; from which place, secretly and at night, he, with his baggage, valuables, women, and his whole household, without any evident



cause, took the road to the Payanghaut; and, on his arrival there, selected Arkat as his residence. The Nawaub, when he heard of his flight, was much surprized; but lost no time in sending a detachment of troops to garrison the fort of Kolar, and took possession of the district for himself.



CHAPTER XV.

An account of the conquest of Koorg, and the reduction of Kalikote, (Calicut), &c. ; events which occurred in the year 1181, Hijri. A.D. 1767.

FROM the time of the Kings of Bijapoor, the Zemindárs of this part of the country, (meaning the south of India), such as the Chiefs of Koorg, Kalikote, (Calicut), &c., paid each of them a proportionate Paishkush, at the capital of the Kings ; through the medium of the governor of the Souba Sura, and after the fall of that dynasty, they paid their customary tribute to the Názim, or Soubadár of the Dukkun, that is, to the Nawaub Asof Jah ; sometimes without denial or delay, and sometimes when troops were marched towards them to enforce payment. In the last days, however, of the Nizám of Asof Jah, who, by reason of the arrogance and incursions of the Mahrattas, and his constant conflicts with them, had no leisure to collect or confirm the dues of Government in this quarter, the whole of these men, taking advantage of the opportunity thus afforded them, rebelled,



and without further hesitation each became a sovereign prince in his own territory. The governors of the Souba Sura, also, who had been ordered by the Názims of the Dukkun to correct and chastise the irregularities of these Zemindárs, not only slothfully neglected their duty, but, from the influence of bribes, connived at the irregularities of the Poligars. When, however, by the strength of his arms, and the exertion of his courage, the power of the Nawaub increased he reduced them all to subjection, and drew them into the circle of those obedient to his commands, making them the servants of his will, and the slaves of his policy. At this latter period, however, from the incursion of the Mahrattas into the Nawaub's country, and the Nawaub's full occupation in repelling them, they again became insubordinate in their own districts, lifted up their heads to rebellion, plundered and murdered the garrisons of the Nawaub, stationed in all the forts in their vicinity, and reduced the whole country under their own authority. These circumstances having been reported to the Nawaub, and he being now relieved from the Mahratta contest, he, like an angry lion, marched by the way of Nuggur and the sea-shore, towards that wild desert, (Koorg); and having collected six or seven hundred fishermen, with their boats, and



directed his supplies and stores to be sent by sea, he himself marched with his regular and irregular infantry, and artillery, and fell on the heads of these rebels like a sudden calamity. The first on whom he fell was the Poligar of the Bul district, who, when he had an opportunity, had attacked the dependencies of Seringaputtun, and plundered them, carrying off the goods and cattle of the peasants of the Sirkar.^o This violence had unsettled the minds of the people, and made them abandon their homes. The re-assurance of their minds, and their safety and comfort, the Nawaub thought could, therefore, by no means be so well secured or established as by the destruction of these rebels. He consequently attacked them briskly, and plundered and devastated their country. Not being able openly or alone to oppose the invincible Nawaub, the Poligar abandoned his fort, and, with his property and family, slunk away like a fox, to the protection of the forest, and, in confederacy with the Chief of Koorg, prepared for war. The Nawaub, seeing this, left a strong detachment in the fort of Bul, and instantly marched forward, and courageously threw himself into the terrible forests

^o The historian feelingly describes the plunder of the Nawaub's territory, but makes very slight mention of the territories of other states ravaged and desolated by him.

and wilds of Koorg, like a wild elephant, and near Akrubnar, (a town or village so called), a great and well contested battle was fought between him and the Poligar of Bul—so fiercely contested, indeed, that, at the commencement of the engagement, the discipline and order of the Nawaub's troops had nearly given way. While, however, they were in this state, the Nawaub himself, with a few brave men, under the thick cover of the trees, marched and attacked the rear of the enemy, and wielded the sword with such vigour, that the great actions of Rustum and Isfendiar were again presented to the admiration of the world; so that most of the rebel Chiefs and soldiers were slain, or ran away, and some sought refuge among the troops of the Khodadad.

Tippoo Sultaun, Hydur's son, on this day first displayed the innate courage of his nature, and the honour he obtained by his prudence and bravery, enlightened his daring countenance. The mode in which the circumstance occurred was this:—When Hydur, with his select band, attacked the rebels, and overthrew them, Tippoo, who was then only eighteen years of age, fortunately obtained a clue to the place where the dependents, (that is, the women,) of the Poligar had taken refuge. This place was five or six miles from the field of battle,

and through a thick dark forest, as full of turnings and windings as the curls of a Lady's ringlets. With two or three thousand brave and experienced men, Tippoo, by a forced march, came suddenly upon them, and, although the guardians of the honour, (the women), of the Poligar were aware of their coming, and steadily opposed their advance with spears, swords, and matchlocks, yet the bravery of Hydur's men was irresistible, and their first attack effaced the memory of the great actions performed by the brave son of Zal, (an allusion to Rustum the hero of the Shah Namah). The rebel guards, giving their honour to the winds, saved themselves by covering or concealing themselves under the robes^p of the women, and some even dressed themselves like women, and trembling fell down before the swords of the brave soldiers; and some, who fought fearlessly, were slain without accomplishing their object. The fortunate son of Hydur, therefore, rubbing the forehead of gratitude and thanksgiving on the threshold of the true and only giver of victory, with (the honour of the dishonoured) the women, and other valuables, returned to his father, and was received with great favour and distinction.

^p ساري A robe worn by women in India, extending from the hip to the ankle.



When the Poligar saw the miserable state of his dependents and servants he was thrown into deep affliction; but now, in addition to this, he was doomed to hear of the plunder of his house, and the capture of the women of his family; and, overwhelmed by this calamity, striking the hand of grief on the head of his pride, he, in the most abject manner, with his hands bound, accompanied by some of his servants, presented himself to Hydur, and, like a slave girding his loins to service, was obedient to the orders he received. He also brought valuables, treasure, and elephants' teeth, of which there was about fifty camel loads, collected in a long period by his forefathers, and presented them to Hydur, who, pitying his condition, received him with favour and encouragement, took him with the army, and soon after gave him back his women and his territory; and having taken assurances from him, for the protection of the peasantry, and the improvement of the country, Hydur marched on.

Hearing of the ruin and desolation which had fallen on the Poligar of the Bul district, part of which, indeed, he had seen, the Koorg Chief began to fear what would befall himself; and he, therefore, commenced to devise means to secure his own safety. The result of his reflections being that



submission to the Nawaub was the best and safest policy, he submitted, became tributary, and paid a large sum of money, and likewise gave valuable presents of the rarities of the country. By these means, he was received as one of those to whom forgiveness is extended. The Nawaub, however, placed a garrison of his troops in the fort of Murkera; but left the country in his possession, and proceeded further on. Alí Raja, the Chief of Cananore, who was a Muhammadan, and of the tribe called Mapilla,^a rejoiced at the success and conquests of a Muhammadan Chief, and considering obedience to him as an increase of honour to himself, submitted without delay, and entered into public affairs, in aid and support of the Nawaub's measures. Hydur, also, by presents and kindness, gained his confidence; and, because this chief was known to be well acquainted with the secrets of that country, he associated him in his plans, and marched to the reduction of the environs of Kalikote. The rebels of that place, who were of the Naimar caste, brave and hardy, as they undoubtedly were, were soon conquered by the ability and bravery of Hydur; some were slain, and some were put in irons. The Poligar of Char-

^a The Mapillas are the descendents of Arabs, by Teer or Nair women; they follow the religion of their fathers, although their name signifies that they are the sons of their mothers.



kul being likewise subdued, his wealth and country were assumed by Hydur; but, as he was not taken alive, being slain, his son, who was about seven years old, and a prisoner, was honoured by being adopted by Hydur, and was named Iyaz Khan. This young man had other brothers. In short, when the Nawaub prepared to commence the siege of Kalikote, the Chief of the Naimars, seeing that his affairs were going to ruin, that all his country had been conquered by the brave soldiers of the Nawaub, that he was not able to oppose him in open fight, nor had he the means of escaping from him, and, being therefore resourceless, despatched Vakeels with presents, and provisions^{*} for the army, and the tribute money, and asked forgiveness of his offences. The Nawaub, from convenience and policy, called the Envoys to the presence; and, having severely reproved them, he honoured the Chief with a Kowl Nama, or security, to set his mind at ease, and sent for him; and, after they had met, Hydur gave him his life and property, and forgave his offences, but took the country out of his hands, and instead of it gave him a monthly pension, and thus freed himself from all further trouble with him."

اذوقه^{*}

^{*} Taking possession of the Poligar's country, under written assurances of life and property.

When this intelligence became known in that neighbourhood, that the Nawaub received those under the shadow of his protection who sought his forgiveness, and that he punished the rebels to his authority with a strong arm, by plunder and desolation, and to such a degree, that the names and signs of them and their families were no longer found on the page of existence, the Naimars and Mapillas placed the ring of obedience in the ear of their affections, and bound the girdle of devotion on the loins of service. From this place the Nawaub marched to Koochi Bundur,¹ from the inhabitants of which neighbourhood he exacted a large sum of money, and drew the whole of the Naimars under his authority. The Chief of Malabar, also, dreading the courage and lion-like qualities of Hydur's soldiery, and fearing lest his territories should be ravaged, sent Hydur twenty-eight elephants, and seven Lakhs of rupees, as a present; and, by that means, turned him away from his quarter. The victorious Nawaub remained nearly two years making arrangements for the regulation of the Naimars of the hilly tract of country, and the neighbourhood of Coimbetoor, &c.; and Sirdar Khan, an officer of great courage, was appointed Subadár of that province, with a sufficient military

Cochin, on the Malabar coast.



force attached to him ; and then, after having given him orders to punish the insubordinate in that neighbourhood, Hydur marched to reduce the Poligar of Dindigul.

CHAPTER XVI.

An account of the incursion of Trimuk Rao Mama, the maternal uncle of Madhoo Rao, into the Karnatic Balaghaut, and the terrible defeat the troops of the Nawaub sustained in the battle of the hill of Churkooli, a place about four or five miles to the northward of Seringaputtun; and, lastly, Trimuk Rao's bootless return to Poona; with other fearful events of the year 1182, Hijri, A. D. 1768.

MADHOO Rao having returned from his first and second expeditions without success, and brooding over his failures, in the same fit of despondency was seized by the palsy,^u and died. Narayen Rao, his brother, succeeded him, and remained for some time occupied in his own regulations and government. After that, however, the thorn of his shameful failure in the Balaghaut, wounding his heart, to relieve himself from painful reflection and sorrow, he formed a deep scheme or plan, and despatched Trimuk Mama, his maternal uncle, with a hundred and twenty thousand horse, and sixty

خفقان^u



thousand foot, and a hundred pieces of light artillery, to conquer that country, and he himself proceeded to Sitara.

As soon as Trimuk had received his orders to proceed to this quarter, he marched on, and soon arrived in the Balaghaut; and all the Poligars of this part of the country, such as Morar Rao, the Chituldroog chief, the Ruttun Giri, the Merkai, the Khut, Kumneer chiefs, &c., who had all been spared by the heavy hand of the Nawaub, all now at once turned against him, and joined the Mahrattas; and every one took upon himself the responsibility of guarding the Mahratta camp, and escorting supplies to their army. The chiefs of Shanoor and Kirpa,^v also, followed the same path. Trimuk, consequently advanced, and took possession of some forts, depending on Puttun, which were out of repair, or not well garrisoned, and, giving them over in charge to his own officers and men, he marched towards Puttun, and, with the hand of oppression, plundered and destroyed the poor inhabitants of the country, and so completely desolated most of the towns and districts, that they have not been repeopled to this day. In whatever place his ill-omened troops encamped, were it but for a single day, that place remained

^v Called Cuddapah, by Wilks.

uninhabited for years, and the abode of bats and owls; and on whatever ground the plundering troops of this oppressor halted, even but for an hour or two, from beneath the earth cries of Amán,^w (mercy,) and the sound of Ul Hafeez,^x (God the Protector), arose, and reached the ears of the oppressed world.^y When Trimuk found that the plains of this part of the country were free from the presence of the raging lion,^z he, without any constraint or fear, extended his steps to the plunder of the wealth and property of the inhabitants of the Balaghaut. The Nawaub, however, when he came to know Trimuk's intentions, and his invasion of this neighbourhood, returning rapidly with his troops and artillery, arrived at Seringa-puttun; and, after making some arrangements there, marched by the way of Chenputtun, towards the jungul of Makri Droog, with this intention, that, whenever the Mahratta, (Trimuk), should besiege Puttun, he would attack and harass his rear. Having arrived and obtained cover there, he remained waiting for an opportunity to carry his design into effect, while Trimuk, on hearing that the Nawaub had arrived near the said Droog, immediately marched with his troops and artillery in that direction. The Nawaub, being also in-

شرزة^z زمان و زمانیان^y الحفیظ^x امان^w

formed of this movement, marched at night, and having defeated the advanced guard of the Mahrattas, he entered the mountains of Milekote. On the following day, the Mahrattas moved from their encampment, and besieged Milekote.

The first day of the siege, the Nawaub, with the whole of his regular infantry and artillery, made an attack on the Mahrattas; and, by a constant fire of artillery, and volleys of musketry, drove them off the field of battle. Notwithstanding this, the troops of Trimuk still surrounded the fort, at a distance. Hydur, meanwhile, maintained his position for fifteen or twenty days, and kept the hill against his enemies, fighting hard with them every day. At length, however, as his provisions were failing him, and as he could procure no hay or corn for his horses, he determined to return to his capital, Puttun. At night, therefore, Hydur cut down the jungul at the back of the hill, and, having despatched his artillery under Meer Ali Ruza Khan, he himself, with his horse and regular foot, marched to amuse and occupy the Mahrattas, and, after forming his lines, at the foot of the mountain, and displaying his strength to them, he marched on.

The road to the rear of the mountain was, however, very bad, the surface being up and down, and full of ravines and holes, and the guns and

stores were not able to get on, until by the exertion of great labour^a they proceeded seven or eight miles. At this distance, the jungul or forest ended; the night also closed, and morning appeared. The Mahratta scouts, or sentinels, now gave information to Trimuk Rao, that the Nawaub's artillery and stores were proceeding towards Puttun; and, immediately on hearing this intelligence, he marched off all his troops, with strict orders to take the artillery, and bring it back to him; he himself following. By this time the Nawaub had advanced four Fursungs^b (perhaps Kose), and had arrived near Kurri Goorah, (a place situate north-east^c from Puttun, and three or four Fursungs distant from that town, when he heard that Trimuk, like a salamander had attacked his fire department, or artillery and ammunition, and had not only taken the whole, but was actually returning with it. Hydur immediately galloped off with his cavalry, to the main body of his enemies, who, being crowded round the artillery, formed as good a mark as a butt on a mound, and attacking and breaking in upon them

محنت شاقه^a

^b Nearly sixteen miles. A Kose is one mile and a half; a Fursung, four miles and three quarters.

ایسانی^c



on one flank, he dispersed them, and reached his guns,^a and then, without stopping, marched straight from that place towards his capital, having his horse in the centre, and his right and left wings, and his advanced and rear guards, formed of his regular and irregular infantry, and artillery, and keeping up a continual fire. In this movement, notwithstanding troop after troop of the Mahratta cavalry leaped or sprang their horses against the rampart formed by his infantry, the fire of his veterans blackened the faces of their manhood, and sent them away in despair. During this time, however, the Mahrattas had placed seven or eight long guns on the bank of the Mooti Tulaub, or Pearl Tank, and had blocked up the road of safety to the Nawaub's troops; and from that position they commenced a brisk fire, the shot of which threw the Nawaub's baggage and followers into great confusion. The Nawaub, therefore, taking with him a number of his brave fellows, and two guns, advanced, fighting desperately; and, not giving the enemy time to draw off the guns or retire in safety, fell on them like the stroke of fate, and, at one charge, took their guns and ammunition, and this done, halted there. As the whole of the Nawaub's army and artillery had come up from the rear, they

^a بتوبخانه پیوست It appears he could not retake his guns.

halted there also, for a short time, to take their breakfast ; and although the wiser servants of the Nawaub, and the experienced officers of his government, represented to him that for that day he had better plant his standard and pitch his tents where he was ; and that the next morning they might proceed with perfect ease to the capital, still, as the heavenly bodies do not always revolve after the same fashion, and those intrusted with the decrees of fate are not always guided by the same rules ; so, the ruin of the God-given ° state had arrived, and there was no help for it ! “ In truth, an unlucky day will never be seen fortunate.”—“ On his burial night no one will sleep in his house.”—“ What fate has from eternity prescribed,”—“ power has no choice but to meet at the appointed time.” The suggestions of the able men about the Nawaub did not agree with his opinion for the reason that “ When ruin comes to any one, folly or madness shuts up the path of wisdom.”—“ On an unlucky day sense or wisdom is taken away ;” and the Nawaub, therefore, let go the thread or clue of care and caution ; and, after eating and drinking what was presented to him, he arose, and the troops, forming by his directions, commenced their march.

The forces of the Mahrattas were, in num-

bers, like ants or flies, and, surrounding him as he moved on, they made continual attacks on him. On their arrival near the hill of Churkooli, it chanced that a shot from one of the Mahratta guns, fired at a considerable distance, fell among a string of camels carrying rockets, and threw them into disorder; and, in the tumult and crowd of men, the rockets took fire, and flying among the baggage and followers, threw them into utter confusion. To increase their misfortunes, a rocket, which had taken fire, fell on one of the boxes of ammunition, and blew it up; and in the black cloud of smoke, which rose up to heaven, many of Hydur's brave soldiers were carried up to a great height, and then cast down head foremost on the ground. Fate having thus broken the bonds of discipline and order, which held the army together, the enemy's Pindarehs, taking advantage of this disaster, like a new bride in the house of a son-in-law,^f with the greatest confidence insinuated themselves into the mass; and, notwithstanding the Nawaub's troops used their arms with effect, and resisted to the utmost, they could avail themselves nothing, but were completely subdued and cut up; and, therefore, like the humblest and most patient, they bore whatever insult or injury

عروس بخانه داماد^f

the Mahrattas chose to inflict on them. Lala Mean, the favorite^g son-in-law of Shahbaz Sâhib, after making a desperate resistance, and giving worthy proof of his courage, drank the cup of martyrdom. Meer Ali Ruza Khan, and Ali Zuman Khan, with many other chief officers, were taken prisoners, and most of the soldiers, both horse and foot, considering flight as a stain upon their honour, fought as long as they could stand, and then resigned their heads, as a religious offering or sacrifice, to the swords and spears of the Mahrattas. Yaseen Khan, Wunti Koodri, a faithful friend and servant of the Nawaub's, who was in some respects like him in person,^h entered the ranks of the Mahrattas, and gave himself out for the Nawaub; and, having taken more draughts of the Sherbet of sword wounds than his strength could bear, was lying senseless on the ground, when the stupid Mahrattas thinking he was the lion-hearted Nawaub, and, rejoicing, took him up and carried him away to Trimuk Rao. Thus the whole of the equipment of the army, which had been collected with so much labour, was now plundered and trampled beneath the hoofs of the Mahratta horse, and the excellent store department, and artillery, small and great, all fell into the hands of

the Mahrattas. The Nawaub, however, while he repeated these lines, *Verse*,—"If thou art fortunate, it is not owing to thy prudence."—"Or if thy plans be bad, it is not thy fault."—"Be resigned and contented, and live happy."—"Thou art not qualified to know any thing about fate, good or bad,"—mounted the hill of Churkooli, and, standing on a millstone, viewed on all sides, with furious anger, the victorious career of these wild men, the Mahrattas, as they charged and pursued his troops. At that moment, Ghazi Khan Bede, (a Pindara), presented himself, and with the greatest difficulty forced him from the field, and, attended by only fourteen good horse, escorted him to Puttun.

The Nawaub, however, in his absence from his brave son Tippoo, who had been separated from his side in the battle, lost all rest and peace of mind; and was overwhelmed with affliction, and having visited the tomb of the saint, Kadur Wuli, a Peer Zadah, which is situated N. E. (Eesani) of the fort, near the bank of the river Kauveri, he made his arrival known to Meer Ismael Khan, who was commandant of the fort. Having made all necessary arrangements in the fort, Meer Ismael waited for his coming and when the time of eveningⁱ prayer arrived, Hydur's son, of auspicious



presage, came in without injury, attended only by two or three horsemen, and in the garb of a Mahratta Pindara. The Nawaub's life was restored to him by the sight of his son, and, immediately entering the fort, he threw open the door of his treasury of gold and jewels, and to every horseman or foot soldier who had escaped from that disastrous battle, he gave his two handful of gold, and to every man, who returned with his horse and arms, he gave, besides an honorary dress, a present of five handful of gold. "The fortunate Feridoon was not an angel."—"He was not formed of musk and amber."—"He owes his name to his liberality."—"Give and thou shalt be Feridoon."^k

But, (to return to the combat,) Muhammad Ali, commandant, when he saw his troops in this condition, and being at the same time ignorant of the safety of Hydur, determined to devote himself to death, and repeated to himself the following lines.—
"I call myself a man as long as I have life in my body,"—"but of what use will my life be if I be without manhood."—"To be fearful in the day of

- ^k To angel birth had Feridoon no claim;
Neither of musk and amber was he formed;
His heart a largely-bounteous spirit warm'd;
And thus he gain'd a never-dying name.
Be of thy gifts as liberal as he,
And thou thyself a Feridoon shall be.

battle, is for cowards.”—“ It is the custom of brave men to leave their heads on the field of battle.” The commandant, therefore, with the utmost coolness and bravery, collected his own men, with others of Hydur’s troops, and mounting the hill, and taking advantage of the cover of the rocks, without water or food, and carrying on his body three sword wounds, and still keeping up his courage, he fought till the evening. During this time, his well sustained fire of musketry slew numbers of the Mahrattas, and every one of the Nawaub’s men, who was able, by every art and means in his power, joined the brave commandant’s company, and fought valiantly. Trimuk Rao himself was pleased with his courage and devotion, and, by the medium of Muhammad Yusuf, a commandant in his own service, sent them a Kowl Nama, or assurance of safety, and by that means at night brought down the gallant commandant and his party with their arms, to whom he also sent a dinner. The arms of his men were, however, taken from them, and a guard was placed over them. And now, at the instance of his master, the officer of Trimuk, however much by fair words and every art, he endeavoured to induce Muhammad Ali to accept service with the Mahrattas, still, the brave commandant refused; but, to please and deceive them, he said, that, if they would give him leave to return once to Puttun, he,

after he was cured of his wounds, would bring his family, and then serve them according to the best of his judgement and ability. The next night, therefore, he was released, and marched towards Puttun, with sixteen hundred men. On his route it happened, accidentally, that two thousand Mahratta matchlock men were stationed as an outlying picket, or outpost, about two fursungs from the camp, and were sleeping in great security, with their arms stacked or piled¹ about them. The commandant, on seeing them, thought them a valuable prize, and with his unarmed men having broken with stones the heads of those who were lying about, and having seized all their arms and ammunition, he marched, firing at the Mahrattas, until he arrived near the fort of Seringaputtun, where he learned that the Nawaub was safe, and soon after joined him. On the commandant's arrival, the Nawaub, knowing his fidelity and his bravery, and having heard the fire of the muskets of his party, (when engaged with the enemy), returned thanks to God; and, considering the life of that brave man as one of the best supports of his government he embraced him warmly, and made him presents of honorary dresses, money and a new musket, or rifle, fabricated in his own arsenal.

The fort was now strengthened on all sides, by

¹ سه پايه بغدادی

new works, and guns were mounted on them ; and being quite prepared, the Nawaub waited for his enemy, he, however, was daily engaged in enlisting recruits, and collecting warlike stores.

The victorious Mahrattas now despatched to the Souba of Sura, the prisoners of the Nawaub's troops, which they had made. Meer Ali Ruza Khan, however, (who, after much solicitation, had entered the service of Madhoo Rao and been appointed to the government of Gurum Kondah, but who, after that, in consequence of his ties of kindred, with the Nawaub, had again returned to him, deserting the Paishwa's service,) was sent for by Trimuk, who, after reproving him in no very proper or delicate language, despatched him a prisoner to Poona. Still believing that Yaseen Khan was no other than Hydur Ali, himself, Trimuk Rao had a separate tent pitched for him, and all means were taken to console and comfort him, and he was requested, with much importunity, to send for his family and his son Tippoo. Yaseen Khan, being a prudent man, who, merely from gratitude, endeavoured to shield his master from injury, (under the shadow of whose protection thousands and thousands of men found subsistence), and who had borne the hardships of the fight, and had made convenient to himself both the heat and cold of fortune, laughed in his sleeve at

the soft flattering words of Trimuk, but gave him no answer. When, however, in the course of about eight or ten days, Trimuk was informed, that the Nawaub was safe, and that he was assembling troops, collecting stores, and mounting guns, to strengthen the fort, he became aware that his prisoner was one of the Nawaub's faithful and devoted servants, and was ashamed of his own want of discernment; and he marched forthwith to attack the fort. He, therefore, raised batteries, commenced to carry on his approaches,^m and opened the fire of his guns. The rumour of the generosity and profusion of the Nawaub, was, however, so prevalent in Trimuk's camp, that most of the brave and experienced soldiers, who served under him with degradationⁿ and despondency, taking their arms and horses, repaired to Hydur, enlisted in his service, and prepared to chastise his enemies. In a very short time, ten or twelve thousand horse, and regular infantry, were thus collected, and the Nawaub had gained the hearts of his servants to such a degree that all were ready to die for him, and breathed nothing but defiance.^o One night, therefore, Hydur sent for Muhammad Ali, commandant, and said "the Mahrattas having become insolent, fearless,

^m صلابت کوچه

ⁿ Being in the service of a Kafir.

^o انا ولاغیری

and very rash, we have determined that their correction shall fall to the share of our Khodadad (state); but what is your advice?" The brave and veteran commandant in reply immediately took the responsibility of the plan on his own experience and ability, and, with two thousand matchlocks, lightly equipped, leaving the city by the Mysore gate, and then crossing the river and passing under cover of the walls of the Soomar Peenth, or suburb, he fell upon the enemy, stationed near the Eed Gah, to the amount of three thousand foot belonging to the Poligar of Chitul Droog and two thousand foot belonging to Morar Rao, who with four guns and one thousand horse had established themselves there; these troops he immediately attacked, and with sword and bayonet roused the men whose fortunes were sleeping, from the bed of life, and those awake, whose good fortune was also sleeping, were laid to rest in the bed of eternity. The remainder both horse and foot, were made prisoners, and their hands tied behind them,^p and placing all the arms and equipment of the defeated party on their heads, sent them with their horses and guns to Hydur. He for his own part remained in the same place about two hours, and in the morning returned victorious. The Chief of the Droog and Morar Rao escaped with shame and dis-

grace^a. The Nawaub was rejoiced at this victory, and beat his drums, and fired a salute on the occasion. The Mahrattas, however, being very numerous now without any fear or hesitation raised a large and very strong battery on the north of the Kurri Khet^r Hill, and near the river, this was called the Khas or Trimuk's battery and they mounted some large guns on it and by the shot and shells^s from this battery the people in the fort suffered much. The brave commandant seeing this presumption of the Mahrattas, and the injury sustained, was exceedingly angry and several times represented to the Nawaub that if he had permission he would raise a storm on Trimuk Khas's battery, and compel the occupiers to quit it, and that then he would give the rest of the Mahratta troops a great shock by pouring volleys of arrows and musketry on them.^t The Nawaub, however, was alarmed at this proposition considering the immense army of the Mahrattas, and, therefore, kept him back; he, however, by importunity and repeated requests at length obtained leave. "Oh truly the

^a زرد روی

^r This hill is called Karighat by Mr. Thornton and others.

^s منجھیق

^t A strictly literal translation of this book would be an absurdity.—I have therefore in some places deviated from the original, but not more than I could help.

hearts of the brave are restless as quicksilver until they effect the destruction of their enemies"—having therefore obtained leave he set out at night with three thousand regular infantry and one thousand Karnatic foot, taking nothing with him but his ammunition marched by the road of Sosili and having crossed the river at the distance of two Kose and taking the cover of the forest,^u he proceeded above the villages of Kurkawul, and Arkerā, and passing towards the small hills of Hurroor, advanced steadily straight from the rear to the battery under the pretence of being a reinforcement and relief to the Mahrattas stationed in it. The Mahrattas in charge of the battery hearing of the relief of the advanced parties^v were highly pleased and anxiously expecting them; when the brave commandant found, that the time was favourable and his good fortune aiding him, and that by deceiving his enemies he would attain his heart's desire, he without any hesitation marched into the battery and instantly gave his orders to his men to attack, and throwing their hand grenades^w on the heads of these worshippers of pride, they raised out of them the black smoke of destruction,^x and with the merciless sword cut off the heads of the soldiers, pioneers, and men lying in the battery and trenches, and laid them up in heaps. They then

دمار^x حقہہائی آتش^w منقلا^v بیابان^u



buried all the larger guns, but the light guns, being more useful and available, were sent off to the presence. Although, as soon as they were aware of this assault, the Mahrattas behaved very gallantly in attacking the Nawaub's troops, and trying hard to regain the battery and expel them, still they could effect nothing, and, placing their hands on their heads, they returned hopeless. The commandant having thus conquered his enemies, before the rising of the sun, levelled the trenches and battery with the earth, and, setting fire to the materials, returned to the presence, and was honoured by being addressed by the title of Son by Hydur, and, moreover, received the praise and applause of all ranks.

When Trimuk saw the distressed state of his troops, and their want of confidence, he gave up all thoughts of restoring the battery, and commenced to plunder and devastate that part of the country, which had as yet remained untouched; and, having spread abroad his Pindareh horse, he and his army took up their encampment in the plain of Chuttur; while here, however, on the day of the Hindu Eed, Trimuk with his officers mounted their horses, and came from the eastward of the hill called Kurri Khet, to bathe at the confluence of the two rivers, which is called by the Hindus Sungum, and is near the Lal Baugh. Having received

intelligence of this movement, the Nawaub immediately sallied out of the fort with his troops, and took his station near the Mana Munduf, (or Mundip), and placed his son Tippoo, with all the horse, in ambush near the temples of Kurunkote, (written also Kurun Koor), which are on the other side of the river. The brave commandant, Muhammad Ali, with the gallant Ghazi Khan, and four thousand matchlocks, four hundred Pindarehs, and four guns, for display, and after the manner of scouts, or an advanced guard, were sent to the south of the hill above mentioned. When the cavalcade of the Mahratta Chief arrived at the river, they dismounted, and began to amuse themselves, and swim about in the water; the horsemen of their rear guard following, caracoling and curvetting as they came along. The commandant, in the meanwhile, posted his guns and matchlock infantry in the dry bed of a nullah, or river, and made a concerted sign to Ghazi Khan; and that brave man no sooner saw it than, with two or three hundred tried men, he galloped towards the rear guard, and by tricks and wiles, and teaching the fools how to play the lion, drew them gradually in front of the guns and musketry of the ambuscade, and having brought them there, his whole party suddenly facing about dispersed, and every



one retiring placed himself under cover of the concealed party. The commandant now suddenly charged them; and with the fire of his guns and musketry broke their ranks, and sent a great many to their eternal abodes. In this skirmish, two or three Chiefs of the Mahrattas were killed, and the elephant which carried the flag and kettle drums was also killed. As soon as the body of the enemy's troops became disordered, Ghazi Khan, and Hydur's son, esteeming this a most favourable opportunity, galloped their horse at once into the midst of the fugitives; and, as long as they had strength, withdrew not their hands from spoil and slaughter; following the fugitives half a fursung, taking four or five thousand horses, and two thousand prisoners, and then returning with them, and a great quantity of plunder. The face of Trimuk, on his hearing this intelligence, became yellow; and, in the greatest haste and trepidation, with his clothes wet, and his lips dry, he returned and encamped near the Mooti Talaub, or Tank. The Nawaub manifested great joy at this victory, and, prostrating himself at the threshold of the High and Mighty Bestower of all blessings, returned his thanks, and, beating his drums in honour of his victory, entered the fort. But, to say the truth, the skirmishing and fighting of the brave men of



both armies continued daily; but, for the most part, the Mahrattas were worsted and put to flight. Trimuk, therefore, now put a stop to the fighting, and began to plunder and devastate the country of the Payan Ghaut, that is, the territory in the Nawaub's possession to the southward of Puttun, namely, Koimbetoor, Palghaut, and Dindigul; because he had heard that supplies from those parts, escorted by the Naimars and Mapillas, arrived in the camp of the Nawaub; and, moreover, that levies of horse and foot were made there, and that considerable bodies of these troops had joined the Nawaub's camp. In consequence of this, he raised a storm of mischief in that unfortunate country, and destroyed and desolated it to that degree, that not a root of green herb or blade of grass remained in the earth, all being torn up; and even the branches of the trees of that depopulated waste held out their oppressed hands,* to crave mercy from the giver of life. The commanders of forts, however, in that direction, strengthened their posts, and defended and preserved them well.

When Trimuk departed to the Payan Ghaut, the Nawaub prepared to follow him, and had actually planted his colours, and pitched his tents,

* Alluding perhaps to the position assumed by the Brahmans when asking alms.



near the hill^y which has been before mentioned. The commandant, Muhammad Alí, however, represented to him, on this determination, that his quitting his capital at that time was not advisable, lest any treachery or sedition should arise; for, that the enemies of his power were innumerable, while, on the contrary, those friends and servants who were ready to sacrifice their lives for him were few; that he had better take the matter into his deepest consideration; that he, (the commandant), would exert himself to the extent of his ability, and not fail in devoting his life to his service; but that it was necessary Hydur's son, Tippoo, should be left in the Barh Mahl district, with the whole of the cavalry and Kuzzaks or Pindarehs. The Nawaub adopted this advice, and accordingly despatched his son with six or seven thousand horse, all he could collect, to the Barh Mahl; while the commandant, with four thousand regular infantry, two thousand Karnatic foot, and six guns, followed him. The two divisions joined on the Ghaut of Rai Kote, and the Prince (Tippoo), with all his horse encamped in the plain of Kauveri Puttun, while the commandant, Muhammad Alí, with his troops, remained at Kishengiri.

At that time intelligence arrived, that four or

^y Karighat.



five thousand Mahratta horse, with stores in great quantity, and cattle innumerable, being plunder which they had taken from the army of the Nawaub, and in the country of the Balaghaut and Payanghaut, and accompanied by the bankers of the Mahratta camp, with great store of gold and jewels, had come in obedience to the orders of Trimuk, from the Ghaut of Tuppoor, and passing above the towns of Wanambari and Tripatoor, and across the pass or mountains² of Kurunpaut, were marching direct to Poona. As soon as he had heard these tidings, the brave commandant marched, at night, with five hundred regular infantry, two hundred Chittikars,^a and a thousand irregular foot, by the road of Gungindi Pala, (the Poligar of which was still obedient to the Nawaub); and, descending by the Ghaut of Tubul Pulli, took up a position on the side of a hill, on the road to Kurunpaut, and there halted, despatching the Chittikars to the top of the Ghaut, which belonged to the dependencies of the Názim of Arkat. It is to be observed here, that the Arkat chief was then acting in concert, or secret collusion, with the Nawaub, and that, consequently, the guards at the gates of the Ghauts

² کتل

^a The Chittikars are so called, I believe, from their clothing. Perhaps the tiger-striped cotton.



offered no impediment to their march. The Chittikars, therefore, took possession of the gates of the Ghauts, which were fortified by walls and towers, and, after that, they remained there. It happened, the next day, that the Pindarehs of the Mahrattas, with an immense quantity of baggage, and herds and droves of cattle and horses, came on without any suspicion or apprehension, in truth, like game coming of its own accord to the kitchen to be roasted. The vigilant commandant soon knew of their coming, and immediately sent information to his concealed parties in the Ghaut, while he himself remained in readiness where he was. In the meanwhile, when the Mahrattas advanced nigh the gate of the Ghaut, and their rear guard arrived opposite the hill, where the commandant had stationed himself, he attacked their rear like a furious lion, pouring volley upon volley on them. On hearing this fire, the parties in ambush in the Ghaut, rushing forward, charged them in front, beating their drums, and with the sword and bayonet, made as many holes in the breasts of their antagonists as there is in a bird cage ; while those who attacked in the rear, broke the backs and sides of their enemies with their spears and muskets. When the officers and soldiers of the Mahrattas saw that the road of their safety was as small as the eye of an elephant,



they, in a cowardly manner, without making that resistance which they might have done, and leaving all their baggage, hid themselves in the caves and ravines of the mountain. The commandant now made his two detachments form a junction, and, collecting the baggage and stores of the fugitives, with their horses, and bullocks, and the bags of silver and gold, placed the plunder in loads on the heads of the prisoners, and sent them, by the route of the Ghaut of Tubul Pulli, to Kishengiri, under the escort of the Karnatic infantry. As for himself, he halted where he was, near a pool of water, at the foot of the Ghaut. No sooner, however, had he done so, than a detachment of Mahratta cavalry, which had come up in the rear of the escort and baggage, arrived, and, seeing the small number of his party, instantly surrounded them, and commenced sniping at them from a distance. The commandant had sustained their attack for near two hours, when, taking advantage of the cover given by the hedges and bushes, he got close to the Mahrattas, and gave them such a warm discharge from his musketry, that at once two or three hundred horsemen, horse and man, fell killed or disabled. The rest, pushing their horses, fled as fast as they could, and the commandant, quitting the ground victorious, crossed the Ghaut to Kishengiri.

When Trimuk heard of the plunder and dispersion of his detachment, he discovered that the Ghaut of Kurunpaut was a dependency of the Názim of Arkat, and was therefore surprised how it was possible the troops of the enemy should penetrate there; he consequently inferred that some collusion had subsisted between the two chiefs, that is, Muhammad Alí Khan and the Nawaub, and, further inferred, that in the event, (which he hoped God would forbid,) those chiefs should unite together to attack the Mahrattas, and shut the passes of the mountains, on their route, the honour of the Paishwa might be thereby endangered, and many lives uselessly lost. Trimuk, therefore, made forced marches from that quarter, and, having crossed the Ghaut of Tuppoor, encamped near the town of Ootangiri. The commandant, Muhammad Alí, immediately apprised Tippoo of the arrival of the Mahrattas, and advised him to march to Puttun. As soon, however, as that fortunate and brave young man knew of the rapid march of the Mahrattas, he sent the whole of his baggage and followers, that is, his tents, stores, colours, &c., to Puttun; and he himself, with a body of three or four thousand horse, marched towards Trimuk's force. It happened, on that day, that the Mahratta light troops had foraged towards Dhurrumpoori, and thrown that neighbour-



hood into great disorder, and had plundered several towns, and were then busy in collecting wood and forage. Tippoo soon joined these men, and affected to collect wood and grass, as they did ; but he was looking out for an opportunity, which at last he found. Having made up their loads, the Mahrattas put them on their horses, camels, and elephants, and, without any precaution as to friend or foe, marched towards their own encampment. Tippoo, the moment he was able, threw upon the ground the loads from his horses, and, without delay, stretching forth the hands of manhood, with little trouble, put the Mahrattas into such confusion, that, from the shouts of "kill and take,"^b fear fell on their hearts, and they saw no remedy but to fly, and save their lives. Tippoo, in consequence, with three or four thousand horses and bullocks, fifty or sixty camels belonging to Trimuk's Tosha Khana, or wardrobe, and fifteen or twenty elephants, with other equipments of the Mahratta army, returned victorious to Puttun. Trimuk, struck with alarm at this attack, marched with his army to Kauveri Puttun, and encamped there. The commandant, however, having on the same night obtained information of the encampment of the Mahrattas, and having his force in readiness, determined to surprise them by an attack

بن و بکوب^b



under cover of the darkness, and he marched for that purpose. It happened, that by the time he had arrived near their encampment, the night was spent, and the cock sounded his loud call to attention, and to arouse the lovers of sloth; he, the commandant, therefore, quickly countermarched, and sought refuge in the low ground, near the foot of the mountain of Gugungurh. Trimuk, also, halted during that day where he was; but was still ignorant of the arrival of that lion of the field of valour, who, from the morning to the evening of the same day, passed his time under the cover of the jungul. But at night, when the veil of sleep and forgetfulness was thrown over the world, he, having all in readiness, attacked the left wing of the Mahrattas, and most gallantly captured the whole of their stores and artillery, and released several prisoners, who had been taken in the confusion of the defeat at Churkoli, and were still confined in the Mahratta camp. Having completely dispersed the followers and baggage of the enemy, and set fire to their tents and standards, the commandant, before the rising of the sun, returned with five hundred horses, six elephants, and eleven camels, laden with treasure; and, skirting or keeping close to the hills, entered Rai Kote. He, however, still marched on, and, at night, pro-



ceeded to Anikul, where he had scarcely arrived when Trimuk, having been informed of the presumption of the Nawaub's troops, despatched his light horse in pursuit of them, he himself following. When the commandant arrived at Khan Khanhully, the Mahratta troops had anticipated him, and had occupied and blocked up the roads by which he could pass with safety, and they then surrounded him. The brave commandant, nevertheless, halted all day in a ruined fort, and at night, having lighted fires all over his ground of encampment, and hung up old dirty clothes on the walls and gates, he, with his troops, passing to the rear, through narrow and deep roads, jungul, and over high and low grounds, with much labour, but without the knowledge of the enemy, arrived after his march, on the rear of their picquets. The Mahrattas, meanwhile, seeing the fires, and the white cloths hung upon the gates and walls, thought Hydur's troops still remained in the fort, and without fear left their horses picketted, and were busily occupied in smoking their hookahs, and cooking their victuals. They were thus employed, when, all at once, the commandant, the deceiver of his enemies, arrived on the heads of the picquets, and commenced to fire upon them, and also opened a fire from his

guns, which were loaded with grape. The picquets, although numerous, were soon dispersed; but a body of five or six thousand cavalry, in armour, behaved with the utmost gallantry; for, although the shot from the cannon and musket rained upon them on all sides, so that scarce any one could escape with his life, from the field, they still, with the greatest bravery, galloped at speed straight into the ranks of their enemies, and fought so desperately, *Verse*, "Yes, men will never clothe themselves in the garb of hermaphrodites,"^c—that they soon killed and wounded five or six hundred of the commandant's matchlock men. Nevertheless, the fortunate and brave commandant, victorious, with the horses and arms of those that had been slain, and taking his wounded with him, contrived, under the cover of the Makri jungul, to retire safely to Puttun. The remainder of the Mahratta picquets, on account of the darkness of the night, could not come to the assistance of those which were attacked, but fled into their own lines, and informed Trimuk of the plunder and dispersion of his advanced post; and he, being placed in great difficulties by the enterprise and stratagems of the

^c Whoever bears man's heart within his breast,
Will ne'er like base hermaphrodite be dress'd.



Nawaub's troops, fell into deep reflection, and, leaving his ground of encampment, marched by the route of Munda, towards Milekote. There he encamped, and remained, until the Nawaub, by the advice of the wisest of his counsellors, but extending his views particularly to the advancement of the peace and happiness of mankind, despatched a person, of the name of Apajee Ram as an agent, to arrange the terms of peace with Trimuk, (for it is a saying of the wise,—“ True and straightforward men have (often) no choice but to seek the friendship of the crooked.”—“ The arrow is compelled to obey the bow.”)

Trimuk, however, walking in his own conceited proud way, declined making peace; but still kept the Vakeel or agent near him, giving him sometimes a few words of good advice, and frequently boasting of his prowess. The Vakeel wrote all this to the Nawaub; but, after a short time, the Mahratta turned his heart from this country, (Mysore), and, being foiled on every side by the arms of the Nawaub, bent his thoughts on the pillage of Nuggur, a country very wealthy and populous; and, accordingly, he despatched his tents, (Paishkhana,) ^d in that direction. Hydur's agent informed his master of this plan; at the same time advising and press-



ing him to make some provision for defence in that quarter.

On hearing these tidings, the Nawaub was thrown into deep thought, and sent for the commandant, (Muhammad Ali), apprised him of the intentions of the Mahrattas, and consulted him as to the method by which their design might be defeated. The brave commandant again immediately took the whole responsibility of the expedition on his courage and ability, and rose up to depart; and the Nawaub ultimately sent him forth with six thousand veteran matchlock men, ten guns, and two thousand of his stable^e horse, to achieve the discomfiture of the Mahrattas.

As soon as he was dismissed, the brave commandant marched, by the route of Periaputtun, to the Koorg Ghaut, named Siddapoor. The Koorg chief, however, having at that time unfurled the standard of rebellion, by treacherously cutting off the heads of the Nawaub's garrison stationed in the fort of Murkera, and taking the whole country into his possession, had occupied the road in force; so that the commandant could not pass that way. The commandant did not consider his involving himself in hostilities with this wild but cunning race,^f as consistent with his views and convenience, and he

^e اصطبل

The Koorg people.



therefore retired, and continued his march, leaving the forests of Koorg to the left. Knowing, however, that the passage of troops, with heavy baggage, over mountains and through forests, was difficult, if not impossible, he took with him only four thousand well trained light infantry, and two hundred good horse, and left the rest of the troops, artillery, horse, tents and baggage, under the care of Assud Khan, commandant, and Jehan Khan, Khokur,^s Risaldár, and, having at night despatched them to the presence, he himself, without guns, and with his small force alone, took post on some high ground.

When the day broke, Trimuk became acquainted with the arrival of the lion commandant in the field, and, being aware of his having sent his artillery to Puttun, he immediately despatched troop after troop of his force, to pursue in that direction, and he himself mounted his horse and followed their track. The scouts or sentinels of the commandant, who were stationed on a small hill, and who had sent out spies in all directions, now reported to their commanding officer, that troops of Mahratta horse were marching on the road by which the artillery on the night before had proceeded. The experienced commandant, the moment he heard this intelligence, gave orders to his men to fire vollies in the air; his object being to attract the enemy to his

^s A tribe of Afghans.

quarter, that the artillery might arrive unmolested at the Presence ; and so it happened, for the Mahratta horse, at the report of the first discharge, immediately returned, and attacked his party. When the commandant had, by his address and ability, drawn off the Mahratta troops to his side, he faced about, and began to retire by easy paces through the jungul of Makri. Before, however, he could attain the skirts of the forest, Trimuk himself arrived ; and, with all his horse, surrounded and attacked him, sniping^h at him and galling him with a distant fire. The commandant had scarcely time to arrange and post his men in ambush, when, all at once, a body of fifty or sixty thousand horse, galloped on to the charge, and, with sword and spear, engaged rank to rank, and hand to hand. Having warned his men, who, ready formed on their ground, had loaded and were silent, the valiant commandant now gave the word to fire ; and the brave and experienced fellows arose and poured such close and heavy volliesⁱ on their enemies, that the earth trembled at the shock, and the ears of the heavens, were deafened at the sound.

For two hours the battle raged with the utmost violence ; the troops of the commandant advancing and firing ; and, from their heavy fire and desperate charges, it is estimated that not less

^h قراولي

ⁱ شلک

than ten thousand brave fellows of the Mahratta army, slept the sleep of death; for, they fought in such throngs, that they had no room to turn or retreat, and their lives were, therefore, thrown away. About forty or fifty chiefs of note among the Mahrattas were killed on this occasion. The standard and Howda elephants, and camels, bearing the kettle drums, were also killed or wounded by musket balls. (Translation of some verses, from the Shah Nama apparently)—“ In that field contested by the brave”—“ Strife was awake, and Safety asleep ”—“ Peace had fled many fursungs away ”—“ And Fate in the mean time was in the midst (of the throng) doing its own work ”—“ The road of Life was lost ”—“ The horseman fell under his horse’s hoofs,”—“ Death like a shadow fell on every one.”—“ So fast did the souls of men fly hand in hand, (to Paradise) that even Death bit his hand in grief ”—“ One shouting take, and kill,”—“ The other opening his mouth to wail,”—“ The brother bewailing his brother ”—“ The mother weeping for the blood of her son ”—“ The father mourning for his son,”—“ And the son shedding fast and bitter tears for his uncle and father.”—But, to return,—a river of blood flowed from that field, and the Mahrattas sustained a shameful defeat, and they fled so fast that the plain was too narrow for them, and the



Mussulmans, planting their feet firm in the field of honour, remained victorious.

On seeing the condition of his own army, and the intrepidity of the Muhammadans, Trimuk was greatly enraged, and became heated like a horse-shoe in a forge, and having sent for his artillery he established his batteries in front of the Mussulmans, and gave orders to commence firing. His artillery men fired from a considerable distance, but as if firing at a mark; and their balls gave great annoyance to the troops of the commandant, damping their ardour by breaking their arms and legs; so that one hundred and fifty excellent soldiers lost their lives without advantage. But, although it went very near that the discipline and order of the troops were entirely broken, and the page of the book of shame disclosed, still the able commandant, having given the curl of manhood and intrepidity to the moustache of perseverance, arrested the wavering of those who had acquired the properties of quicksilver, and, having calmed and allayed their disorder, he gave orders that those men who were desperately wounded, and the bodies of the slain of the Mahrattas, of whom a great number had fallen, should be dragged together, and piled round his troops like a breast-work. Then, he himself, with his confidence firm,

and a pure faith, performed his ablutions,^k after which, turning towards the Kibleh, he repeated with a loud voice the Uzan or call to prayer. He next encircled or stockaded his position with branches of trees,^l and made his men lie down in their ranks. From this time, the saintly influence of the commandant appeared evident; for, after he had repeated the call to prayer, though the Mahrattas fired thousands of cannon shot at his party, all passed over their heads, and injured no one. "If the sword of the world fly out of the scabbard"—
 "It will not cut a vein except by God's command."^m In fact, the Mahrattas, by the evening, had expended many Tumbrils of ammunition, but had effected nothing, and could obtain no advantage over this little party. At night, therefore, they drew off their guns, and returned to their encampment, which was about two Fursungs distant.

The commandant, who had so manfully fought, and with his brave companions, had maintained the field without food or water the whole day, and thereby gained so much honour, at night, finding the

^k تيمم rubbing the face &c. with sand or earth instead of water.

^l چوب

^m Though the sword of the world from the scabbard should fly,
 Not a vein could it, cut, unless bidden from on high.

coast clear, without fear marched with his men formed in order of battle towards Mysore, leaving all his wounded, whose power of movement had been cut off by the balls of the enemy, on the field of battle, telling them to be of good cheer, for that he would send Dooliesⁿ for them from Astara, a town on the road to Nuggur. The Mahratta picquets and videttes, on the flank on which they marched, although they were quite aware of his movement, and had mounted their horses, and formed to the right and left of the road, looking on, still offered no opposition to the night travellers; nor did they make any report of their march to Trimuk, but wilfully allowed them to pass, and even extolled their actions as they marched along. When the morning appeared, the foolish Mahratta, posted his guns in the same place they had before occupied, and commenced to fire;—but, when the sun had risen high, and the veil of cowardice was withdrawn from before their eyes, they found the field clear of the Mussulmans, and, running forward, soon obtained information of them from the wounded who were left the ground, and a clear detail of what had occurred the night before. Trimuk, therefore, hastened off to Astara; and the commandant, without opposition from any one, entered the fort of

ⁿ A kind of litter in which sick men are carried.



Mysore. On the same night the Prince, (Tippoo), with five or six thousand horse, and two or three thousand regular and irregular foot, attacked an escort of the Mahrattas, coming from Poona, consisting of eight thousand horse and ten thousand irregular infantry, conveying an immense supply of stores, provisions, and treasure, which was carried on thirty elephants, a hundred camels, and fifty mules, and accompanied, also, by merchants with gold and jewels of great value, and a supply of ammunition. These men were encamped near Chundraiputtun, perfectly at their ease, and not having the slightest intimation of a night attack, Tippoo, therefore, at once assailed them and put forth the hand of exertion to the slaughter and plunder of the convoy; in such wise, that he did not allow one among them to escape in safety, or fail to take every article of the least value belonging to the Mahrattas, including their treasure; and, this done, he sent them all off to the capital, Puttun, or rather to his illustrious father, while he himself marched towards Nuggur.

On hearing of this exploit, Trimuk let fall the hands of weakness on the earth of despair, and drew his head deep into the collar of reflection, being unable to divine what he should do in the end, or by what means he should subdue the victorious

Mussulmans. While he was in this state of suspense, a pair^o of Hurkaras^p brought news from Poona, that Raghoba had murdered his nephew Narayen Rao, and had seated himself on the Musnud, and was making his own arrangements in the government. On receiving this intelligence, Trimuk was immersed in the whirlpool of dismay and affliction, and considered that the best thing he could now do was to make peace; and, therefore, by the medium of the Nawaub's Vakeel, he began to trace his steps in the path of conciliation. He, however, insisted on being paid the expenses of his army; for which he had disbursed Krores^q of rupees. The astute Vakeel returned for answer, in the words of the Nawaub Bahadúr, that all the wealth of the (Mysore) state was taken at the field of Churkooli; that even the wearing apparel of the Nawaub was presented to the army of the Paishwa, on that occasion; and nothing was left—that the whole of the country had become a grazing field for the Poona horse; that, consequently, the state now, (instead of paying), required assistance; that the profits of present peace would be seen in the future prosperity of the Mysore^r state; that (the Nawaub hoped) Trimuk by any means would be

^o جوري Hindi.

^p Letter carriers.

^q A Krore is ten millions.

^r The terms used here are ambiguous.



generous enough to return to his own country ; and that he was to consider the increase of the prosperity of Mysore as an increase of his own dignity.

In fine, the offer of such cajoling and fool-deceiving words and the payment of two hundred thousand rupees, having satisfied Trimuk, he released the prisoners of Churkooli and the Nawaub was allowed to remain unmolested. Trimuk now from the pressing circumstances of the time, considering his own safety as victory and conquest, withdrew his garrisons from the forts depending on Seringa-puttun, and dismissed his prisoners with presents and honorary dresses ; and having appointed Bapojee Sindiah to the government of the Souba of Sura, he commenced his march to Poona ; and, from political motives, joined the camp of Raghoba. The Kuzzaks of the Nawaub, however, followed his camp to the river Tungbhudra, and under the cover of the hills and jungles, slew many of the Mahrattas, took many prisoners, and returned with great spoil. After enduring much mortification, and discomfort, Meer Ali Ruza Khan, by the mediation of Nana Furnavees, was allowed to quit the Mahrattas, and again joined the Nawaub, and Gurum Khoondah and Dindigul were again assigned to him in Jageer.



CHAPTER XVII.

The usurpation of Raghoba, the uncle of Narayen Rao, and his invasion of the Balaghaut country ; and, at length, his hopeless and fugitive retreat. Also, the conquest by the Nawaub, during this opportunity, of the countries of Badami, Hulihul, Nowulgoondah, Dharwar, &c. ; with other events of the year 1183, Hijri, A. D. 1769.

WHEN Narayen Rao was murdered at the instigation of his uncle Raghoo, by the instrumentality of the relations of Muhammad Yoosuf, commandant, Raghoo, who, from the time of the government of Balajee Rao and Madhoo Rao, had been in confinement, seated himself on the Musnud, and made his own arrangements to carry on the government ; sending some of the chiefs of the Mahratta state, whom he had attracted to his party, with a large force towards Hydurabad. The Názim * of that place although he with his troops and artillery soon entered the field to oppose the invaders, still, from the immense force of the Mahrattas,

* The author writes Názim for Nizám, out of contempt.



and because the Moghul soldiers are a motley assemblage of proud, indolent, and effeminate men, could not stand against the Mahrattas in the field, but in one battle was overthrown, and his troops fled, leaving their master at the mercy^t of the Mahrattas. When he saw that his troops would not fight, but that they fled to their own homes, abandoning their artillery, stores and ammunition, to the enemy, the chief of Hydrabad was obliged to sue for peace, Rooknuddowla, his minister, being unable to carry on the war any longer. Monsieur Raymond, a Frenchman, however, with two thousand regular infantry, and two guns, formed round the body guard and elephant of the Nizám, and, fighting the whole way, safely escorted him to the fort of Budur. Raghoba, nevertheless, still followed him, and besieged the fort, and compelled the Nizám to assign to him in the fullest and most satisfactory manner, the revenues of certain districts, such as Budur, Ourungabad, Berar, &c. He then turned his steps and his views towards the conquest of the Balaghaut, or the country belonging to the Nawaub, and marched thither. During this time, Furnavées, the prime minister at Poona, who had remained at the capital, pretending to be sick, now forming a deep plan, secretly wrote to the Nizám

^t The Author says they left him in the hands of the Mahrattas.

of Hyderabad, that Raghoba, being insane and instigated by an insatiable desire to obtain wealth and rule, had murdered his own brother's son, who was the rightful heir to the musnud, or throne of that country, and had himself usurped the chief authority, and that it was desirable the Nizám should unite with the Mahrattas, and put him out of the way. He also wrote and despatched letters in the same strain, to the Nawaub. The Nawaub, with his newly reformed army, was holding himself in readiness, and looking out for times and opportunities, when the minister above mentioned wrote also to the chiefs of the Mahratta government, who in the dialect or language of their nation are called Putkuh,^u and who from policy had accompanied Raghoba; that, they might be sure the sinner Raghoba had smeared the blood of his nephew on the forehead of his own condition,^v and that he had hung round his neck the Zoonnar, (or Braminical cord,) of infamy and shame, and was now dark and entirely reckless. It was therefore, he said, only consistent with their loyalty that they should unite and take revenge on him; that the wife of the murdered Narayen Rao was with child, and should be considered as the sovereign and heir to the go-

^u पुतक

^v Alluding to the custom of the Brahmins, who mark their foreheads with sandal, and a red powder, to denote their caste and sect.



vernment, and that they should not turn aside from her authority; and that it was evident what worldly advantages they might expect from a man who acted so barbarously to his own nephew. The Mahratta chiefs, with the army, when they were acquainted with the contents of this letter, became satisfied that no one could ever be profited by a connection with Raghoba, and therefore every day some one of them, with his contingent, returned without Raghoba's knowledge to Poona; and, besides this, troops of his best soldiers left the camp under the pretence of joining the picquets, or out guards, and thence returned to their homes. In fact, Raghoba's army in marching from Budur, to Rai Droog, to which place they had proceeded by the route of Gopul, Bahadúr Bundah, and Kunuk-giri, was completely disbanded, except the Kuzzaks or Pindarabs, a body whom he had himself collected, and which amounted to about thirty thousand men, and they were the only troops remaining with him. When Raghoba saw that so much disaffection had crept into his camp, that the key to the authority of the government was lost; that the chief of Hydurabad, according to the hint given him by Nana Furnavees, was also actively occupied in collecting troops, and military stores; also, that, the Poona Chiefs, who had separated them-

selves from his army, had united with an intention to punish him, were actually following him like a hawk pursuing a partridge ; and lastly, that the road of safety was closed, and the field of murder, and rapine wide open ; he became uneasy and perplexed, and began to seek the path of accommodation with the Nawaub. He therefore despatched a Vakeel, with a request for aid, and for the Chouth, or fourth part of the revenue of Mysore. The Nawaub, however, seeing his actual necessities, and the disordered state of his affairs, declined to grant his requests ; and, in apology, urged the ruined state of the country, and the plunder and destruction of his property and resources, and wrote plainly, in answer, that he must be excused from agreeing to any such measures. Raghoba, however, from policy again sought his protection, and offered the whole of the Souba of Sura ; and not only that, but declared that the whole of the country on this side of the river Kishna, to Badami, Jali Hulli, &c., should be given up to the Nawaub's officers ; but for this, the Nawaub was to furnish, by any means in his power ten Lakhs of rupees. As the Nawaub lent a willing ear to this proposition, Raghoba despatched his half brother, Bajee Rao, with three hundred horse, to withdraw the garrison from the fort of the Souba of Sura.



When this chief arrived there, he forwarded Raghoba's letter to Bapojee Sindiah, the governor, requiring the fort to be delivered up. Bapojee, however, got the guns of the fort in readiness, and sent for answer, that Raghoba was the murderer of his nephew, and what power or authority had a foolish, unfortunate man, like him, to issue orders to the officers of the Chief of the Poona State, that is, to the children of Balajee Rao Nana ;—and that if the messengers wished to preserve their lives, they had better take themselves off, as if they did not, he would blow every ungrateful rascal among them from the mouth of a gun. On hearing this sturdy message, Bajee Rao, losing all courage, took the road to Seringaputtun, where he was introduced to the Nawaub Bahadúr, and represented to him the measures necessary for the conquest of the Souba Sura &c. ; and, in consequence, the prince, (Tip-poo), was sent with him, accompanied by a large force.

At this very time, letters to the Nawaub arrived from the minister, above-mentioned (Furnavees), to the effect—"that he was on no account to move or act on the deceitful words of the murderer of his nephew, namely Raghoba ; that please God, after the punishment of that wicked man, all arrangements relative to the brave Nawaub's possessions and dig-

nity would be settled by the Chief and ministers of Poona on a sure footing (this part is rather obscure) and that, even now, the Nawaub was to consider the punishment of that villain Raghoba as incumbent on him."

The Nawaub therefore, in compliance with the request of the minister, marched with a large force from his capital, and encamped at Chundrai Puttun. Tippoo, on leaving his father had marched, with the Rao before mentioned, to Sura, where he found the Killadár ready for action. But having thrown up batteries, and attacked the works, he in two or three months took the fort, and, leaving a garrison there, moved on quickly to Mud Giri, and in four days finished the conquest of the fort of that place, and made all necessary arrangements. He then proceeded to Chundrai Droog, which he besieged, and, at the end of a month, by a gallant attack on the place, he took it.

The Nawaub having marched from Chundrai Droog, proceeded by slow stages to Tumkoor; when Raghoo, seeing the field of prosperity and safety closed against him on all sides, hearing of the warlike demonstrations of the Nawaub Bahadúr, his neglecting to send the money required of him, and the capture of his forts by the bravery of the Prince (Tippoo) and being grieved to the heart by



these accounts, he saw no remedy but to fly, and save his life as best he could. He, therefore, with the troops he had present, about sixteen thousand horse, commenced his return, bootless, and wound, like a black snake, his devious way to Hindustan through the mountainous and woody parts of the country; the troops of Poona and Hydrabad following him successively to Boorhanpoor, and from that to Khandees, and Gujurat.

The Nawaub, considering this opportunity very fortunate, now marched on, and, without the least opposition from any one, took possession of Gopul, Bahadúr Bunduh, Mondergi Droog, Gujindur Gurh, &c., all belonging to the Mahrattas. Some of the Talookas and forts were taken by force of arms; but mostly they surrendered from fear. He also collected Paishkush from all the Poligars of that neighbourhood; and, having honoured the Poligar of Surhutti with a Khilut and presents, he left the charge of that quarter to his management, and, marching on, in a very short time made conquests of Nowul Goondah, Jalli Hulli, and Badami; and, at length, arrived near Hoobli and Dharwar.

It is not to be concealed here, that, in former time, that is, after the conquest of Nuggur, the Nawaub, by management or stratagem, but according to the desire of Meer Rustam Khan Farooki, the



governor on the part of Asof Jah, took possession of Dharwar, and stationed a garrison of his own in it, giving the Meer above mentioned according to his rank, five hundred rupees a month, and afterwards the office of Bukshi, or paymaster of horse. When, however, Madhoo Rao marched towards the Balaghaut, he took this place, and retained it in his possession. The Nawaub Bahadúr now promised the Killadár, whose name was Biswunt Rao, a relation of Gopal Rao, the Chief of Mirch, certain Jageers and Inams, or presents, if he would give up the fort, but he, not agreeing to this proposition, the fort was besieged, and a fire commenced on it from a distance. While the siege was proceeding, Hydur formed a deep plan to take the fort; and, on the third night, he sent for a pair of Hurkaras of the Mahratta tribe, inhabitants of Mirch, who were acquainted with the names of the chief persons there, and with the Mahratta dialect, and ordered a letter to be written, as from the minister of the chief of the Mirch state, who, at that time was Soobrao Tatia, the elder brother of Purusram Bhao; but he having followed in pursuit of Raghoba, his agent, a man named Appaja Rao was in charge. The letter was to this effect :—" That information had been received that Hydur Alí Khan Bahadúr, with a strong force, had arrived at Dhar-



war, and that he intended to make a conquest of that place. It was therefore necessary that he, the Killadár, should perform well the duties of his station, and exert himself to repel the enemy, that relief should soon be sent, and that, until the arrival of this aid he was to take care he was not betrayed." When the letter was written, it was placed in a cover, and, the seal of Appajee Ram, one of the Nawaub's own servants being affixed, it was then forwarded on. Having changed their dresses, the Hurkaras entered the fort, and detailing the circumstances as from the agent of the Mirch state, presented the letter, promising aid. The commandant of the fort, at the contents of this letter, was highly pleased, and repaired and strengthened the walls and towers, and remained ready for the attack.

Three or four days after, the Nawaub selected two Risalas of foot and three hundred horse, from his Mahratta and Rajpoot soldiers, and, clothing them like Mahrattas, sent them on the road from Mirch towards the fort, and, encircling this detachment, the Nawaub appointed a separate body of troops, to fire at them from their guns and musketry, without ball. When the report of the firing was heard by the garrison, they were much (rejoiced that the aid which they expected had arrived,) and opened the gates of the fort in readi-



ness to receive their friends. The officer commanding Hydur's troops above mentioned accordingly entered the fort, and requested the Killadár to assemble his men in one place, and put them under his authority, that they might be in readiness to make a sortie at night, on the enemy and put them to the rout; and he also required that his (Hydur's) men should be stationed on the walls and at the gates, as they had travelled and were fatigued. The foolish Killadár did as he was directed, that is to say, he assembled all his men in one place. The experienced officer (Hydur's) having now sent a few matchlock men to different parts of the walls they made signs to the horsemen outside the fort, who immediately dismounted, and leaving their horses, ran on and laid hold on the Killadár, whose hands they tied behind his back; and then, having seized the arms of the garrison, they made prisoners of every one of them. The fort having been thus, by the felicitous fortune of the Nawaub, taken without opposition, his brave officer, after returning thanks to God, the giver of all gifts, fired a salute in honour of his success; and the Nawaub, hearing the guns, became certain that the fort had fallen into the hands of the Khodadad Sirkar. The next morning, therefore, he came to the fort, and having made the requisite arrange-



ments, (for the good keeping of his conquest) he returned to his tents.

Having thus in one year taken all these forts and districts, he placed in all the hill forts strong garrisons, with brave officers, to command them, and able civilians, to fill their respective departments. He also settled accounts with all the Poligars of that quarter, and collected from them an immense amount. Of this, however, he sent, by his Vakeel, five Lakhs of rupees, and some valuable presents, to the minister Furnavees, at Poona, to remove any bad impressions or feeling which might have arisen from his taking possession of the country; and then, victorious, he returned to Seringaputtun.

Bajee Rao, the half brother of Raghoo, was now sent for by the Nawaub, who told him that, if he wished, he might have permission to go to any place he chose; but Bajee Rao, aware of the unfortunate condition of his brother, and knowing that all the Ameers of Poona, and the Moghul chiefs of Hydurabad, were the inveterate enemies of him and his family, and were seeking their destruction by all the means in their power, and seeing, therefore, that he had no asylum but the Nawaub, and that his safety and prosperity in all respects were centered in him, said in reply, that he hoped the Nawaub would consider him as one of his old servants, and

employ him in some office, that he might have an opportunity of shewing his attachment, by his devotion to his service. The Nawaub, therefore, having cast an eye of compassion on this poor man, raised him to the command of five hundred horse, and gave him an elephant, Howdah, and standard, and enrolled him among his old servants.

About this time, a Brahman, named Poornea, who was in a low station, as a servant to a certain banker, named Andan Sheth, at an allowance of two Hoons, (Pagodas) a month, and who being a good accountant in the Kinhiri, (Canara) language, was also employed in some way connected with the Tosha Khana, and whose method of keeping the accounts had pleased the Nawaub, was taken from the service of the banker, and placed in charge of the Duftur^w of the Kinhiri accounts, with a competent salary. Kishen Rao, also a Brahman, had charge of the Hindi or Mahratta Duftur, and these two together kept in good order the accounts of the receipts and disbursements in the Tosha Khana and treasury.^x

As the Nawaub, after his return from his last expedition, employed himself in collecting arms and stores of all descriptions, and also in raising horse and foot, in a very short time, he collected and kept

^w Account book.

^x خزانہ عامرہ



ready in a very perfect degree the means of attack and defence ; for troops of brave and experienced soldiers, with horses and arms complete, flocked to his victorious standard, where they were entertained in his service, and placed in the receipt of pay according to their merits. His Dustahs that is, his stable horse, or household cavalry, became in appearance like a Gul Dustah, (a handful of roses) ; his matchlock-men, or infantry, were clothed in red, yellow, green, or black broad cloth ; and near a thousand head of camels, taken from the Mahratta army, were trained to carry swivels.⁷ He had also two or three thousand select cavalry, intelligent and brave men, clad in complete armour. His irregular infantry, blood-drinkers, were assembled from every country. He had, moreover, twenty thousand horse, and sixteen thousand regular infantry, with nearly forty thousand Karnatic foot, and having these always ready for service, he remained free from apprehension. The noise of his victories, and the destruction of his enemies, resounding through all parts of the world, troops of brave men, well equipped and mounted, flocked to him, not only from Hind, and the Dukhun, but even from Iraun and Tooraun ; and, giving them high pay, he retained them in his service.