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PRINCES AND CHIEFS OF INDIA

A Collection of Biographies, with Portraits

OF THE

INDIAN PRINCES AND CHIEFS

AND

Brief Historical Surveys of their Territories

BY

SORABJI JEHANGIR

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PREFACE.

IN 1889 my lamented father, the late Mr. Sorabji Jehangir, brought out the first volume of a projected series of illustrated Biographical Works relating to the careers of prominent Chiefs, nobles, officials, and distinguished public men, British and Indian, throughout the Indian Empire. As stated in the preface to that work —"Representative Men of India"--the continuation of the series was made dependent upon the reception accorded the initial effort. That reception was of the most gratifying character, the author receiving hearty congratulations, not only from the Press, but also from members of the Royal Family, from statesmen in the front rank of English public life, and from the most distinguished Anglo-Indian and Indian administrators of the day. The late Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone summarized the aspirations of the author in a sentence when he wrote of the volume as "eminently calculated" to deepen "the friendly association of Indian with British sentiments," and, under the stimulus of this patriotic ambition, my father soon turned his attention to the further prosecution of his plans. In view of the growing recognition by public opinion of the important part played by the Ruling Chiefs in the conservation of the Imperial fabric, as well as of the growing sense of their responsibilities in this regard, on the part of the Chiefs themselves, it was decided, after careful consideration, to postpone for the time being the issue of further biographies of officials, statesmen, and philanthropists, in order to bring

out in the first instance, a set of volumes dealing only with the careers of the great territorial potentates who hold sway over so large a proportion of the Indian population. The author was encouraged to adopt this plan by eminent friends whom he consulted, and it was pointed out to him that no work of the kind on anything approaching a complete scale, and giving, not merely historical summaries, but adequate biographical details respecting present rulers, had been attempted. The fact that the path to be taken was to a large extent untrodden added not a little to the cost and difficulty of the undertaking, but my father (determined that the high standard of accuracy and thoroughness reached in his first volume should be maintained) visited all parts of India to collect and verify the necessary material, to enlist the co-operation of those concerned, and to arrange for the photographs which add so greatly both to the contemporary and historical value of the undertaking.

Work of this description is beset by special difficulties in a country so vast and diverse as India, and, owing to causes beyond the author's control, and latterly to his failing health, the progress made with the undertaking was slow. By the end of 1900, however, my father had completed his preliminary labours and was engaged in preparing for the press the materials obtained, when his long-continued illness took a serious turn and terminated fatally. It was under a constraining sense of filial obligation that, in due course, I took up the threads where they had been dropped. In some instances biographies already prepared had to be re-written in the light of later information, and in other cases new material had to be obtained. The duty of completing the work has involved long and serious absence from professional labours, but the sacrifice has been the more cheerfully made because of the ready help I have had from high State officials, political officers, and others, whose encouragement, advice and information I take this opportunity to most gratefully acknowledge. But for the special difficulties to which allusion has been made, the present record would have been ready some months ago. In a most important respect, however, the delay has not been without compensation, for, as a consequence, the work is brought

out at a most appropriate time. It has made possible the inclusion, in this pen-and-portrait gallery of the Ruling Princes of India, of some record—mainly, of course, from the personal and biographical standpoint—of the great Assemblage at Delhi to acclaim the Coronation of the King-Emperor, Edward VII., as also of the visit of representative Princes to this country to participate in the actual Coronation ceremony. The appearance of these volumes at a time when the memory of the great events named is still fresh invests them with a significance and interest they would not otherwise have possessed. They also gain in value from being presented to the public at a time when at least a preliminary estimate can be formed of some of the fruits of a most memorable Viceroyalty which has had for the Native States the happiest results. Not only has Lord Curzon made the interests of the Native Princes his own, and seized every opportunity of personally acquainting himself with the Chiefs and their States, in order the more effectually to be their guide, philosopher, and friend; he has, to an extent scarcely dreamed of by most of his predecessors, made them his colleagues and co-operators in the burden of Empire. He has done more than any other statesman to promote the realization of the aspiration he has so eloquently expressed, for the coming of the time when the Indian Princes, "trained to all the advantages of Western culture, but yet not divorced in interests or in mode of life from their own people," will fill an even ampler part in the administration and defence of Empire than that to which he has inspired and led them.

The collection of memoirs included in these volumes does not profess to be complete, but the omissions are few, and arise either from the rulers concerned being mere infants, or from the necessary materials and photographs not having been obtainable. Biographies are given of every type of potentate and every degree of jurisdictional power, from the independent rule of the Nizam to the territorial responsibilities of typical representatives of that great branch of the Indian aristocracy, the Zamindars and titular Maharajas of Bengal. The order of arrangement has, in the absence of official guidance on this complicated subject,

been a matter of anxious consideration, and it is hoped that the plan finally adopted, after obtaining expert advice, will meet with general approval. The four Principalities under the direct supervision of the Government of India come first, in the order of seniority. The salutes to which the Chiefs are severally entitled have formed the main basis of the subsequent arrangement, but other matters have also been taken into consideration, including the revenue and area of the respective States, and the titles and honours borne by their Chiefs.

It is not for me to appraise the political value of this work, but I may at least be permitted to say that an object kept in view throughout has been to bring home to the reader a recognition of the fact, written plainly on the page of history, that the Native States fully share in the beneficent results of British rule in India. The biographies and historical outlines herein given confirm the fact, to which a thousand proofs attest, that England's work there has constituted a noble mission for good, evolving order out of chaos, and bringing in a lasting peace. Not least among the rewards of that beneficent work is the whole-hearted devotion of the Princes of India to the person and Throne of their Suzerain a devotion of which practical evidence has been given by spontaneous aid not only in men and munitions, but also in personal service, when British troops have gone forth, whether on the borders of India or across the seas, to fight for their Sovereign.

In renewing my expressions of gratitude to all who have so cordially assisted me in bringing this undertaking to completion, I may say that the melancholy gratification it has afforded me to discharge this filial obligation, no less than the encouragement I have received from the highest quarters, lead me to look forward to carrying out the further designs of this character my lamented father had in view.

F. S. JEHANGIR TALÉYARKHAN.

MIDDLE TEMPLE, LONDON,
May, 1903.

H.H. Mir Mahabub Ali Khan Bahadur, Asaf Jah, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Nizam of the Deccan.

MANY and complex as are the questions of precedence raised in determining the relative positions of the potentates who, under British protection, rule one third of the Indian Continent, no controversy has ever arisen as to the primacy amongst them. In extent, population, wealth and political importance the State of Hyderabad stands pre-eminent among the countries of India retaining an indigenous administration, its Prince belongs to a family of the highest importance and antiquity among Mahomedan rulers—a family whose alliance with the British Power has been more prolonged than that of any other reigning dynasty and his personal qualities are worthy alike of his ancestry and his unrivalled position. "His Highness the Nizam," said the Marquis of Lansdowne, on the occasion of his visit to Hyderabad, as Viceroy of India, in November 1892, "rules over an area of 100,000 square miles and a population of over eleven millions of human beings. It is perhaps instructive, in order to give a correct idea of the importance of the State, to recall the fact that its population is about five times that of Denmark, considerably more than double the population of the Netherlands, of Norway, Sweden and of Turkey in Europe, while it is also considerably more than double that of the great island Continent of Australia and of that vast Dominion of Canada in which I had for some years the honour of representing Her Majesty. His Highness's territories comprise some of the richest in natural resources of any in India, and it is not too much to say that, given a government founded upon justice and personal security, there is no reason why the State should not be what His Highness, I am sure, desires it to be—an example to the rest." Proceeding to assure the Nizam of the hearty goodwill of the Paramount Power, Lord Lansdowne added that those who had had official relations with His Highness were all agreed "in bearing witness to the personal qualities which have attracted to him the sympathy and goodwill of those with whom he has been brought in contact."

The potentate of whose dominion and personal qualities these authoritative words were spoken can trace back his descent to the first Caliph, Abu Bakr, the successor of the Prophet. The family first appeared in Hindustan in the reign of Shah Jehan, when Abul Kuh Khan, Kazi of Bokhara, crossed the Indus and rendered military service to the Moguls. At the siege of Golconda in 1686, he was killed by a cannon shot, when still engaged in consolidating the power of the Delhi Emperor in the Deccan. The work was carried on by his son Shahabudin, and his grandson, Mir Kamrudin. The latter, when but a youth, received from Aurangzeb the command of 5,000 horse, and the title of Chin Kulich Khan, but he is best known to history as the great Asaf Jah, the real founder of the Hyderabad dynasty. In 1713 he was appointed Subahdar or Viceroy of the Deccan, by the Emperor Farukh Siyar, with the title of Nizam-ul-Mulk (Administrator of the Country). Under the Emperor Mahomed Shah he was for a short time Prime Minister at Delhi, but his attempts to effect reforms and check abuses, inimical as they were to vested interests, exposed him to every species of intrigue on the part of the Emperor's favourites. He returned to his Subahdarship, and found Mobariz Khan, his substitute, prepared to resist his resumption of authority. The controversy was put to the arbitrament of the sword on the plains of Shakar-Khera, near Berar. The usurper was slain, and Nizam-ul-Mulk on resuming the administration received from his Royal Master an elephant, jewels and the title of Asaf Jah, and instructions to "settle the country, repress the turbulent, punish the rebels, and cherish the people." This was in 1724, and when Asaf Jah died in 1748 he was practically independent of the Court of Delhi. He had fixed the seat of his government at Hyderabad, the ancient capital of the Kootub Shahee kings, and his dominions were, roughly, co-extensive with the present State. There was professed subordination to the Mogul, but *de facto* the Deccan was surrendered to Asaf Jah's rule without a struggle, in large measure because he was the only available check to the growing power and harassing incursions of the Marathas. The first Nizam, whose span of life is said to have exceeded a century, is held in just renown, for, as one writer has said "his politic compass and tenacious hold of independent power were unstained by treachery or cruelty, and the later annals of the family are similarly clear of the grosser incidents of conquests."

Unhappily, however, much blood was spilled in the contest between four sons and a grandson of the first Nizam for his vacant throne. Nasir Jung, the second son, was in Hyderabad when his father died and, as his elder brother was understood to have renounced all claim to the succession, he won over the support of the army and seized the treasure. His most formidable rival was his nephew Muzaffar Jung, the son of Asaf Jah's favourite daughter, who alleged that the succession had been assigned to him by a special decree of the deceased ruler. At that time Dupleix, fired with the ambition to found a French Empire in India, had seized Madras, and the English and French were engaged in disputing the supremacy of the Carnatic. They were involved in the quarrel over the Hyderabad succession, the English, who had received military aid from Asaf Jah in obtaining the restoration of Madras, supporting Nasir's claims, and the French those of Muzaffar. The latter, upon the retirement of the French troops con-

sequent upon internal dissensions, became the prisoner of Nasir Jung. But, soon after, Nasir met his death at the hands of his own followers. By the aid of the French Muzaffar was proclaimed, but was killed in an affray arising out of disputes as to the rewards to certain chieftains who had supported his claims. Salabat Jung was now selected by the French, and on the death of Ghazi-ud-din, the eldest son of Asaf Jah, just when hostilities between the brothers were imminent, remained in undisputed possession. French support being discontinued, he entered into an alliance with the British, promising to dismiss the French from his service and have no further dealings with them. In 1761 a younger son of Asaf Jah, Nizam Ali, usurped possession and subsequently caused Salabat to be put to death. In 1766 he ceded the Circars to the British Government who in return agreed to provide the Nizam with a subsidiary force and to pay nine lakhs of rupees annually when the services of their troops were not required. This was the origin of the Hyderabad Contingent. In 1779 a British Resident was appointed to the Nizam's Court.

Nineteen years later when French influence had been finally overthrown the Nizam agreed by treaty to disband the French corps, to allow the British subsidiary force to be increased, and to refer his disputes with other powers to the arbitration of the British Government. The Nizam also undertook to furnish military aid to the British when required, but his troops proved inefficient in the first Maratha war. Various schemes of reform were proposed, and eventually battalions were raised which were clothed, armed and equipped like the troops of the East India Company. For the regular payment of this contingent, the Company made advances, on the understanding that if further loans became necessary, a territorial security for the payment of the debt would be demanded. As the debt continued to increase, a new treaty was concluded in 1853, and rendered obligatory the maintenance of an auxiliary force by the British Government of not less than 5,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry. To provide for its payment and the interest on the debt, the Nizam ceded the Berars, yielding a revenue of fifty lakhs of rupees. They are familiarly known as the Assigned Districts, and the surplus revenues derivable from them after defraying the cost of the contingent and of the civil administration, have been payable to the Nizam's Government. For some years the interpretation of the governing clauses of the 1853 treaty, as modified by that of 1860, was a subject of discussion between the Government of India and His Highness's Government, but, during the current Viceroyalty, a satisfactory solution of the problem has been arrived at, as will presently be explained.

It will be seen that, from the days when the great Asaf Jah assisted the British Power to recover Madras, an example followed by his ultimate successor, Nizam Ali, in the operations of Lord Cornwallis and Lord Wellesley against Tippu Sultan, and in campaigns against the Marathas and Pindaris, the relations between the rulers of Hyderabad and the Paramount Power have been of the most cordial character. The alliance was further cemented during the critical period of the Mutiny by His Highness Afzul-ud-Dowla, father of the present ruler, and his illustrious Minister, Sir Salar Jung. Their loyalty to the British connection was put to a severe strain, for it placed them in a

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position of grave personal peril. As Mr. Rice Holmes has told us in his "History of the Indian Mutiny," there was not throughout India a "more turbulent and dangerous mass" than the population of Hyderabad. "Nothing but sheer force could keep them down. Every man among them carried a weapon of some sort. It was estimated by the Resident . . . that there were more than a hundred thousand armed Mahomedan fanatics within the walls." The Resident, therefore, stood in no need of the telegraphed warning of the Governor of Bombay: "If the Nizam goes, all is lost." He reported the unswerving loyalty of the Chief, despite personal peril, and added that, were it otherwise, no force available could stem the torrent of revolt. "The eyes of all Mussalmans in Mysore and the Carnatic are turned in this direction, and . . . they are already impatient at the delay of their friends here in proceeding to action." It is certain that if the Premier State of India had countenanced, or even dallied with the rebels, British difficulties would have been so sorely aggravated as to render the restoration of supremacy almost beyond the power and resources even of the mighty "Mistress of the Seas." In any case, the whole of Southern India and probably the Bombay Presidency, would have been in a blaze, and the grim catalogue of horrors and suffering, of those memorable days would have been indefinitely extended. With the restoration of peace came some recognition of the invaluable services of Britain's oldest ally. Presents to the value of £10,000 were made to the Nizam, and a Grand Commandership of the Star of India was conferred upon him. Districts in the territory ceded to the Company in 1853, yielding an annual revenue of 13 lakhs. were restored to his Government, and the entire debt was remitted. The escheated principality of Shorapur, whose Raja had been seduced into the rebellion, was also incorporated into the Nizam's dominions.

The present ruler of Hyderabad, who, as we shall see, has fully maintained the glorious traditions of his House, was born on August 18, 1866, and was the only son of His Highness Afzul-ud-Dowla. On the death of that Prince on February 26, 1869, he was, though under three years of age, formally installed on the *masnad* by the Resident. A Regency consisting of the illustrious Sir Salar Jung and the Amir Shumsul Umra, was constituted, and on the death of the latter, the work devolved solely on Sir Salar Jung. As a boy of ten His Highness, with Sir Salar Jung and a large suite of nobles in attendance, took part in the Delhi Durbar for the proclamation of Queen Victoria as Empress of India. Six years later, the young Nizam accompanied by the Minister and other nobles, undertook a tour throughout a portion of his dominions, thereby obtaining considerable insight into the State administration. Unhappily, soon after the completion of the tour—on February 8, 1883—Sir Salar Jung died of cholera, and the young Chief was deprived of the wise counsel and ripe experience of one of the greatest statesmen of modern India. Nawab Mir Laik Ali, Sir Salar's son (who now took his honoured name) and Raja Naraindur Pershad were appointed joint administrators, the former being made Secretary of the Council of Regency, of which His Highness the Nizam became President. In addition to the two joint administrators, Nawab Bashir-ud-Dowla (the late Sir Asman Jah) and Nawab Shumsul-ul Umra were nominated to the Council.

February 5th, 1884, was a red-letter day in the history of the Premier State, for it witnessed the investiture of the Nizam with full sovereign rights by the Viceroy, the Marquis of Ripon. The ceremony, which derived additional significance from the occasion being the first on which a Viceroy of India had visited Hyderabad, was one of the most picturesque and imposing witnessed in the Eastern Empire in recent times, and the reception accorded the representative of the Paramount Power was worthy alike of the occasion and of the hospitality for which Hyderabad is justly famed. The *K'hilat*, or State present from the Suzerain consisted of a jewelled sword and belt (fastened to His Highness's waist by the Viceroy), a clock, a telescope, seven horses, a silver centre-piece, and two candelabra. His Highness was proclaimed Nizam under the titles of "His Highness Asaf Jah, Muzaffar-ul-Mumalik, Nizam-ul-Mulk, Nizam-ud-Dowlah, Nawab Mir Mahabub Ali Khan Bahadur, Fateh Jung." In the course of his speech, Lord Ripon said that his presence, in response to the strong wishes of the Nizam, might be taken as a mark, not only of the close and intimate ties which united the ruler of that great State to the Government of the Queen-Empress, but also of Her Majesty's deep interest in the welfare of His Highness. Having paid a high tribute to the memory of Sir Salar Jung, the Viceroy addressed to the Prince a few words of practical advice, assuring him of the constant support and never-failing assistance of the British Government. "And now, my friend, in whom I shall ever feel a deep personal interest," concluded Lord Ripon, "it only remains for me to place you on that *masnad*, and to express my earnest hope that it may please God to bless and guide you, to make your reign prosperous, and your rule just and honourable, so that the fair promise of this day may not be blighted, and that future generations of your grateful people may recall the date of your installation as the commencement of a bright era in the history of the State." The Nizam's brief reply was characterized by deep feeling. He expressed his profound gratitude to Lord Ripon for his presence, and for the advice he had so kindly tendered. The advice of His Excellency and of the Government of which he was the honoured head, he would continue to seek, and in doing so he would be consulting the best interests of himself and his subjects. He requested His Excellency to convey to the Queen-Empress an expression of the sentiments of friendship and devotion which he entertained towards her Imperial throne. The cordial sentiments of the day found further expression at the banquet given the same evening at the palace to upwards of three hundred guests. The Viceroy proposed the health of the Nizam, and His Highness returned the compliment - an exchange of courtesies invariably followed on the occasion of subsequent Viceregal visits to Hyderabad, where each of Lord Ripon's successors has in turn been entertained.

Amid the congratulations of the auspicious occasion, the newly-invested ruler did not forget his people. A proclamation was issued setting forth in detail the administrative policy which it was his purpose to pursue. "Nothing will afford me greater pleasure," wrote the foremost of Indian Princes, "than to see my people living in peace and prosperity, engaged in the development of their sources of wealth, in the acquisition of knowledge and the cultivation of arts and sciences, so that by their efforts the country may rise to a high state of enlightenment, and the State derive benefit and support from

their knowledge and intelligence. It is my earnest hope that the Minister and all the officers of State, relying on my protection and support, will always be zealous in the promotion of good and the suppression of evil, and will protect the rights of the people without fear or favour." The Minister referred to was Sir Salar Jung II., who was followed in 1887 by the late Sir Asman Jah, of the great and powerful Shamsiya family.

The Nizam, who two years after his accession received from the Queen-Empress the dignity of Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India, was not long in finding opportunities to afford tangible proof of the depth and sincerity of the assurances to which he gave expression at his installation. In 1885 he offered to the British Government the services of his troops for employment in Egypt. A few months later, when it seemed inevitable that the Russian attack on the Afghans at Penjdeh must lead to a declaration of war by Great Britain, the Nizam set the example, followed by brother Chiefs, of munificent offers of aid in money and men. Happily war was averted, but the spontaneous outburst of loyalty in which the Nizam had taken the initiative was destined to leave behind permanent results of the utmost value. It was the origin of the formation in some of the leading Native States of Imperial Service Troops, equipped and maintained by the rulers as free-will offerings towards the defence of the Empire. The first step in the creation of this important reserve was taken when His Highness the Nizam, on August 26th, 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, made a magnificent and patriotic offer to the Viceroy of India, in the subjoined epoch-marking letter :—

"HYDERABAD, *August 26.*

"MY FRIEND,—No inhabitant can be indifferent to the persistent advance of another great military power towards India; to the necessity that exists for putting the frontier in a proper state of defence; and to the burden it imposes on those charged with its safety and the care of the Empire. All who have the welfare of India at heart are bound to consider what should be done, and to show they are heartily in sympathy with those who are endeavouring to place the frontier in a proper state of defence, so as to ward off all danger from our hearths and homes. The Princes of India have not been blind to the movement of events. We realise the financial responsibility the present state of affairs imposes on the Indian Exchequer. It seems to me that the time has arrived for showing in some open manner that India is united on this question, and for that reason I write now to spontaneously offer to the Imperial Government a contribution from the Hyderabad State of twenty lakhs annually for three years, for the exclusive purpose of Indian frontier defence. This is my offer in time of peace. At a later stage you can count upon my sword.

"Your sincere friend,

"MIR MAHABUB ALI KHAN."

It is not too much to say that this magnificent offer, opening as it did new possibilities in the direction of Imperial solidarity and proving in the most practical manner the attachment of the greatest of the Indian Feudatories, created a profound impression on public opinion, not alone in the British Empire but throughout the civilized world. The feeling of all loyal subjects of the Crown was set forth in a remarkably well-informed and statesmanlike article in *The Times*. Pointing out that the offer was an intimation which no one could misinterpret, that the great Native Courts were perceiving that the advance of Russia towards India was a danger to them no less than to the British Power, the leading journal said that the feeling was shared by every potentate great or small, from Travancore to Kashmir: "Yet it has remained voiceless, not for want of will, but rather of knowledge as to how and when to speak. With remarkable acumen the Nizam has not only seen that the time has come, but he has chosen the very best and the most original mode of giving vent to the pent-up feeling of the Indian population. . . . We are fortunately not in any imminent risk of war or invasion, although we have sanctioned an expenditure of some ten millions sterling on frontier defence, and it is this which makes the Nizam's princely gift all the more gratifying and significant. There is absolutely no precedent in Indian history for the Nizam taking this step in time of peace, nor, indeed, for any Native Court admitting the least responsibility in regard to the financial embarrassments of the Central Government, even if caused by expenditure on objects from which that Court derives a direct benefit. The action of the Nizam, magnificent in itself, is enhanced by all the attendant circumstances. It is quite unexpected, the step having been taken by the Nizam entirely on his own initiative." The leading journal went on to assure His Highness that his generous and loyal action would wake a responsive feeling in the breasts of the British people, and to point out that the invaluable service rendered by "the great political chief among the fifty million Mahomedans of the Empire" was that "he has not only committed his own person and dynasty to a policy of implacable hostility to a foreign invader, but he has set all the Feudatories of the Indian Empire a splendid example. If any other Indian Chief had taken this step, the deed would have been in a personal sense quite as gratifying, but it would not have possessed the same political significance. When an Indian Mahomedan talks of the secular power of Islam, his expressed thought may be for the Sultan as Caliph, but his real conviction is that for him, personally, the Nizam is quite as important a personage. The Nizam has spoken not only as 'the oldest ally of the English in India,' but as the foremost Mahomedan potentate in our quarter of Asia." Having pointed out that the Nizam's letter had put an end to all possible ambiguity as to the cordial relations and good understanding subsisting between the Paramount Power and the chief Feudatories in India, and that its moral effect on the Continent would be great, *The Times* concluded: "It would be futile to talk of making the Nizam some adequate return, for there is no repaying such generosity and cordiality as he has shown. But we cannot do less than admit that he acquires an additional claim on our confidence and consideration by conferring an inestimable service on the whole of the Empire, and one which no one but he, as the first of Indian Princes, and the greatest magnate in alliance with the Crown, could have rendered with the same effect.

British politicians can learn from his action the moral that British authority in India is both popular and useful, and at the same time that the menace from Russia is regarded by the responsible representatives of the Peninsula as a real and growing danger. In the union of those who will suffer from it is to be found absolute security both now and in the future, and the Nizam has shown that this union exists."

The thanks of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress were conveyed to her most powerful Indian ally in a letter from Lord Dufferin, dated from Simla, on the following October 7th:

> "It is difficult for me," wrote the Viceroy, "to express in fitting terms my sense of the ready loyalty and goodwill which have prompted Your Highness to come forward at this time with so generous an offer, emanating as it does from the head of one of the largest and most important States in India. It is, indeed, a striking proof of the friendly feelings entertained towards Her Majesty and the British Government by the Princes of the Empire; and I had the greatest satisfaction in acquainting the Queen-Empress with the contents of your Highness's *kharita*. There is no doubt that the advance of a great military Power towards the borders of India has imposed on the Government the obligation of taking those precautions for the defence of our frontier which are adopted by all nations on becoming conterminous with each other, no matter how friendly their existing relations. This duty undoubtedly has considerably added, and will continue to add for some time, to the expenditure of the Government of India; and it is a convincing proof both of Your Highness's statesmanlike capacity, as well as of your generosity, that you should have been the first among the Princes of India to recognize the principle that the Native States are as much interested as the rest of the Indian population in assisting the Government to take whatever measures may be necessary to preserve the borders of the Empire from any dangers which may arise from external complications. Again thanking Your Highness in the name of my Government, as well as in the name of Her Majesty and the Government of England, for the noble example which you have set,
>
> "I remain, my friend, yours sincerely,
>
> "DUFFERIN."

The Nizam's lead was followed by other Indian Princes, and after careful consideration it was decided to allow their participation in the defence of the Empire to take the form of raising and maintaining small, but well-drilled and well-equipped, forces of cavalry and infantry, to be available for Imperial service if need should arise. Some observers were doubtful of the wisdom of this course. It was said that the offers made were more or less complimentary, and that even if any good promised at first, the Chiefs would tire of the self-imposed obligation as soon as the novelty wore of. It is a matter of history that these anticipations have been falsified, and that the scheme which

originated with the Nizam's patriotic proposal has been an unqualified success. In each of the contributory States there is a small compact force, composed for the most part of State subjects officered by their own nawabs and sirdars, a source of pride to their Princes, and, as has been proved alike on frontier expeditions and in China, thoroughly fit both in efficiency and spirit, to fight side by side with British soldiers for the Empire. It goes without the saying that the originator of the movement has lost none of the enthusiasm for association in the defence of Imperial interests which so well becomes an enlightened occupant of the *masnad* of the illustrious Asaf Jah. The Hyderabad Imperial Service troops are maintained in a high state of efficiency, at an annual cost of upwards of four-and-a-half lakhs of rupees. Representatives of the troops were included in the Coronation Contingent which spent the summer of 1902 in England, and in the various reviews and ceremonial functions in which the Contingent took part they were singled out for special admiration by all beholders who knew that it was on the initiative of their great Chief that the defensive reserves of the Empire have been supplemented to the extent of thirty thousand thoroughly trained men, free of cost to the Imperial or Indian exchequers. Though the turn for the Hyderabad Imperial Service troops to see active service has not yet come, several of the Nizam's officers have been included in recent campaigns; notably Major Afsur-ud-Dowlah, C.I.E., the commandant of His Highness's regular forces, who, after serving with distinction in China, proceeded to England as an officer of the Indian Coronation Contingent.

The regular forces alluded to, and the other constituent elements of the Nizam's Army, constitute by far the largest Army maintained in a Native State, costing annually some 73 lakhs of rupees. The total strength exclusive of Imperial Service corps, is 27,208, made up of 6,798 regular forces, 19,330 irregular troops, and 1,080 Sikhs. The command of the Pagah or Household troops, devolves by hereditary right on the Shamsiya family, which has almost uninterruptedly been allied to the reigning house by marriage since the State was founded, and from which two of the ministers of the present reign—the late Sir Asman Jah and the late Sir Vikar-ul-Umra—have come. The number of irregular troops is, no doubt, excessive, but the feudal constitution of Hyderabad society should always be borne in mind in attempting to form any estimate concerning, or indeed to gain any knowledge of, the internal administration. Alike in political *status* and in the hereditary rights of its great nobles, Hyderabad occupies a wholly unique position, the roots of which are deeply laid in history. Barely a century has elapsed since an Envoy of the Nizams resided at Calcutta, for Col. Achilles Kirkpatrick was the first Resident entrusted with the dual functions of representing both his own Government and that of the Nizam. For many years the Nizams bestowed titles upon the British Residents accredited to their Court, and though the practice has now ceased they retain the unique privilege of bestowing titles upon their own subjects. Until 1829, the ruler of Hyderabad spoke of himself in all official correspondence as *Ma Ba Dowlat* ("Our Royal Self"), while the Governor-General spoke of himself as *Miazmand* ("Well-wisher"). Since the accession of Nasir-ud-Dowlah the correspondence between Governor-General and Nizam has been couched in the customary terms of equal friendship.

We have to come down to the time of the accession of the present Nizam for the discontinuance of a custom, hardened into the usage of a century, under which the Resident and his staff entered the presence of the Hyderabad ruler shoeless, and seated themselves on the carpeted floor in the usual Oriental fashion. These customs were based, of course, on what Lord Curzon has admirably described as "an historic and hereditary friendship, a friendship which rests upon the identity of every practical interest, as well as upon ancient companionship in arms."

As is but natural, the course of time has effected fewer changes in the hereditary rights of the nobles than in the forms of political intercourse between the Paramount Power and its oldest ally. Half-a-century ago the right of certain nobles to coin money in their own name—a right leading to the circulation of some fifteen or twenty different coinages in the State—was abolished, to the manifest advantage of the general population. Again, the emoluments of high office in the State, though still very considerable, are not equal to those of former days. Mir Alim, the Prime Minister of a century ago, received 22 lakhs of rupees per annum, while, under Raja Chandulal, the Peshkari and other fees amounted to between four and five lakhs per annum. Although the Nizam's Government has a revenue of nearly four crores of rupees, about one-third of the country is held in jagirs on which no revenue is paid, though some of the holders are under the obligation to support bodies of irregular troops. In the case of the smaller holdings ancient quasi-independent privileges have been somewhat curtailed, but the great nobles still maintain a complete system of private government, with their own courts of justice and their own police. The feudal barons are, it is needless to say, tenacious of their privileges, and though, as a recent observer has said, they are "dignified, brave and honourable gentlemen," those privileges have to be reckoned with when improvements and retrenchment—as, for example, in the matter of reducing the irregular forces maintained —are under the consideration of the central authority.

The Nizam's well-known solicitude for the welfare of his subjects, his sound judgment and his enlightenment, have enabled him to overcome many of the obstacles to progress and reform placed in his way by conventional custom. The pre-eminent abilities of the great Sir Salar Jung and the long minority of the Nizam tended to deepen and confirm the tradition of Ministerial dictatorship and of the non-participation of the ruler in the details of State administration. The present Nizam's concern for the welfare of the people by whom he is so intensely beloved, made it impossible for him to regard with satisfaction the observance of such a tradition. Wisely eschewing what may be termed revolutionary methods, His Highness has from the first kept himself constantly and fully informed as to the state of public business, and thus prepared the way for the principal voice in the administration of affairs which custom denied him, but which he now exercises. The new and wholesome departure came to full fruition in the autumn of 1901, when Maharaja Sir Kishen Pershad Bahadur, a worthy descendant of the great Chandulal (who was Chief Minister of the State for four decades) was appointed to succeed the late Sir Vikar-ul-Umra as head of the executive. The Maharaja is a young man of great

intelligence, with a good head for finance, and is known to be devoted to the interests of his master. The Knight Commandership he received in the Order of the Indian Empire, on the occasion of the Delhi Durbar in January 1903, was on all hands regarded as a fitting acknowledgment of his services to the Government and to His Highness in respect to the Berars agreement. The understanding accompanying Sir Kishen Pershad's appointment to the post of Minister that the Nizam would take the reins more fully into his own hands gave great satisfaction to his people, for, as a European observer remarked at the time, his subjects "have unbounded faith in His Highness's sense of justice and wish to do good." The selection of Maharaja Sir Kishen Pershad Bahadur for the responsible position of Minister was most favourably received, and no one was surprised when the appointment, first made for six months, was confirmed. Various other changes were instituted, including the nomination of a Council to assist the Minister, and alterations in the constitution of some important departments. By the request of His Highness the services of Mr. Casson Walker, I.C.S., were lent to the State, to act as Financial Adviser. He was appointed Assistant Minister of Finance, subject to the control of the Minister, with a view to the reform of the spending departments—a reform rendered the more desirable by reason of the strain of famine and other exceptional burdens.

The cordial good-will with which the Government of India (now represented at Hyderabad by Colonel Sir David Barr, one of the wisest and most sympathetic Residents ever appointed to the State) regard the new departures indicated, was made clear *urbi et orbi* by Lord Curzon on the occasion of his visit to Hyderabad in April 1902. At a State banquet given by the Nizam, His Highness proposed the health of Lord and Lady Curzon in brief and fitting terms: "It is not for me," said the Nizam, "to speak of Lord Curzon's versatile genius, broad sympathies, and energetic statesmanship. All the world knows and admires those qualities in His Excellency. I would only take this opportunity to thank his lordship for the deep interest he has always shown in the welfare of my State and myself. My sincere acknowledgments are due to his lordship for the exceedingly kind advice and assistance he has extended to me from time to time, both directly and through my friend, Colonel Barr." In replying to the toast, Lord Curzon alluded to the great pleasure it had given him to entertain His Highness and suite at Calcutta for some days as State guests in January 1900. He remarked that the friendly recollections which, as his speech showed, the Nizam entertained of their meeting and conversations were fully reciprocated by himself. The meeting enabled him to testify to the unbroken continuance of the historic and hereditary friendship between the Government of India and the Hyderabad State, and also to make the acquaintance of His Highness and so of qualifying for inclusion among his personal friends. He proceeded to compliment the Nizam on his readiness to consider with the utmost courtesy and frankness any matter that might be under discussion, and to accept advice proffered to him in the interests of his State and its administration.

"I have further been struck by two things in the course of my relations with His Highness," continued the Viceroy, "which I hope that he will pardon me for mentioning in his presence. The first is his earnest desire to do that which is for the

real benefit of his State and his people, independently of what interested or suspicious persons may think and say. The second is the scrupulous fidelity with which His Highness discharges his obligations. If he says to me that he will do a thing, I know for certain that he will carry it through. If he enters into an engagement, that engagement is strictly observed. These experiences have led me to the conclusion that His Highness, by his character and his intelligence, has it in his power to render great service to his State. The more he personally concerns himself in its administration, the better I am sure it will be for the State and for its inhabitants. In Hyderabad, as elsewhere, there is often need for a watchful eye at the top. His Highness enjoys great authority and great prestige, and I pray him to be sparing of neither in the exercise of his responsibilities. Both are instruments which are capable of being turned to great advantage among the millions of people over whom he rules. Hyderabad has in recent years suffered from the financial embarrassments which, under the strain of famine and other burdens, has befallen many Native States. Its finances will require very careful handling for a long time to come. The existing sources of revenue require to be husbanded and fresh sources require to be developed. His Highness has assured me of his intention to give the fullest measure of support to those who have been entrusted with this responsible task, and I wish them all success in their efforts."

It is understood that a cardinal point in the policy which received this hearty Viceregal benediction is the further development of the economic resources of the State. In this (as in other directions) much has already been accomplished during the present reign, but progress would have been more marked were it not that a well-known commercial company which sixteen years ago secured from the Nizam's Government the right to develop the greater part of the ascertained mineral areas in the country has failed, presumably for want of funds, to exercise its rights. In spite of this obstacle further concessions have recently been applied for and granted to new companies, and the working of the Singareni coal seam yields an annual output of some half-million tons. The coal has greatly cheapened the working of the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway, which now returns a handsome profit to the State. The system comprises 350 miles on the standard gauge, and a feeder line on the metre gauge along the Godavari Valley, 391 miles in length. This important extension was opened by His Highness at the close of 1897, and is expected to ultimately link up the metre-gauge communications of the Empire north and south. It traverses the richest cotton country in India. A number of cotton presses are being constructed along the line, the first of which to complete a season's working declared a dividend of 65 per cent. Still more important developments are believed to be imminent, as the proprietors of some of the spinning and weaving mills of Bombay are understood to be contemplating removal to the Godavari. Three cotton mills in which some 31 lakhs of rupees are invested, have been successfully working in the State for some years. In the Public Works Department, much activity has been shown in the prosecution of irrigation works, the works now in hand including the cutting of an irrigation channel from the river Manjira, the estimated cost of which will be ten lakhs of rupees. The officer whose services have been lent by the Government

of India, has prepared a programme of irrigation works, consisting for the most part of remunerative projects for the repair of the elaborate tank system, now dilapidated, dating from the times of the Golconda kings.

The value of this form of agricultural protection and development was strikingly illustrated in the course of the great famine of 1900, which in certain districts, owing to a second season of inadequate rainfall, continued during the greater part of the following year. Irrigation could only partially meet the crushing effects of such a calamitous visitation, and the State was called upon to maintain for some time no less than half-a-million of necessitous people. Its resources were considerably strained by the obligation, but no efforts to adequately meet the situation were spared, and a loan of two crores of rupees for relief purposes was contracted from the Government of India. The report of relief operations was in due course forwarded by the Government of India to the Secretary of State, who, in acknowledging its receipt, expressed his satisfaction that the Nizam's Government met the situation with energy and exerted themselves to relieve the distress which prevailed.

Well deserved as were the congratulations of the Secretary of State, it was inevitable that the visitation, combined with successive invasions of plague from Western India, should tell materially on the population. Under the capable medical officers who have the chief direction of the medical and sanitary administration, the campaign to prevent, as far possible, the importation of plague, and to limit its ravages when it had eluded their watchfulness, has been remarkably successful. The total death roll to March 31st, 1902, was 10,384—a small number compared to the mortality in districts of Bombay within easy reach of Hyderabad. It is to famine, therefore, that we have to attribute, in the main, the reduction of the population during the last decade of the nineteenth century from 11,537,040 to 11,141,142. In the Berars, which are a part of the Nizam's dominions held on lease by the Government of India, the decrease was from 2,897,491 to 2,754,016. These deductions of 3·44 and 4·95 per cent. respectively, regrettable as they are, have unfortunately been far exceeded in many other States and agencies, amounting in the case of Rajputana to over 19 per cent., and in that of Central India to 16·38 per cent. The area of Hyderabad, exclusive of the Berars, is 82,698 square miles, comprising 78 towns and over twenty thousand villages, some ten millions of the inhabitants being rural dwellers, while no less than 448,000 reside in the capital. The number of inhabited houses is 2,283,447.

As already indicated, the Civil Medical Department is in an efficient state. A number of hospitals in the capital and other large towns are supplemented in the work of giving medical relief by dispensaries in every *taluka*. Midwifery is taught to native women in the Afzulgunge Hospital, and in the Medical School a lady doctor holds the appointment of Professor of Obstetrics. The importance of making provision for medical relief to be administered to women is also recognized in other ways, and the education of lady doctors is heartily encouraged, suitable candidates being in some instances sent to

England to complete their studies at the cost of the State. Similarly, promising youths of well-to-do families, destined for official or professional careers, owe to the Nizam's liberality the great benefits of a University education in England. A general service was rendered to the cause of clinical science by the Chloroform Commission promoted by the Durbar a few years back, its investigations and conclusions being embodied in a report which has taken rank among the standard authorities on the subject.

In educational matters His Highness has always evinced a keen interest. From the time of his accession to the present day the expenditure under this head has steadily increased, and now exceeds six lakhs of rupees. Schools for both sexes are distributed throughout the country, and, as in other departments, no special partiality is shown in the provision of facilities towards the adherents of the Nizam's own religious faith. There are three collegiate institutions teaching up to University requirements—the Nizam's College, a second grade College at Aurangabad, and the Dar-ul-Olum. Attached to the first named institution is the Madrasai-Aliya, a high school with kindergarten for infants. Though the College is nominally open to all, it is patronized almost exclusively by the sons of the upper classes. It is conducted on the model of an English public school, and careful attention is paid alike to the moral and physical development of the boys. There are fifteen high schools in the State, which also maintains a normal school in the capital with some 225 pupils, an engineering school at Warangal, and very successful industrial schools at Aurangabad and Warangal. The latter seminaries are tending to raise the standard of local industries, the work turned out by the pupils both during and subsequent to their school course being superior to the corresponding work done in the bazaars. The generous support given by the Nizam to the Mahomedan and Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh, which has done so much to stimulate the interest of Indian Mussulmans in higher education, should here be mentioned. But for His Highness's regular support the College could not have achieved the great results to which testimony was lately borne by those members of the Universities Commission who visited Aligarh. In respect to educational matters, His Highness has had the wise counsel and enthusiastic service of the cultured Hon. Syed Hussain Bilgrami. But there is no officer in the State service who, generally speaking, has higher claims on the gratitude of the Nizam—a fact of which His Highness is fully conscious—than Mr. Furidonjee Jamsetjee, who has for so many years discharged with suavity and tact the onerous duties of private secretary to His Highness's Prime Minister, and who was gazetted in the Durbar Honours List to a Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire. Writing of this "veteran, though ever juvenile and genial" officer, when the last change in the Ministry was made, *The Pioneer* remarked: "He is the one permanent institution of Hyderabad, without which we could not get on. Ministers may come and Governments may go, but the hope of all is that Mr. Furidonjee, like the brook—or the Vicar of Bray—may go on for ever. Always smiling and ready to help, one to whom the word 'No' to an applicant is a positive pain, he forms the chief connecting link between European and native society." Equally justified was the compliment paid to Mr. Furidonjee by the special correspondent of *The Times*, who in a contribution to that great journal published last

October, described him as "an experienced permanent official whose suavity and tact have eased many a period of strained relations between the Residency and the Nizam's Government." Happily, with so capable and sympathetic an official at the Residency as Sir David Barr, these "periods" may be said to belong to a day that has passed by.

The hospitality of Hyderabad on the occasion of Viceregal and Royal visits, is proverbial. Lord Curzon is the fifth successive Viceroy to have been entertained by His Highness, and amongst Royal tourists whom he has welcomed to his capital may be mentioned the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the late Prince Albert Victor, the present Tsar of Russia (when Heir-apparent), Prince Franz Ferdinand of Austria, the Crown Prince of Denmark, the Crown Prince of Greece, and Prince Damrong of Siam. These and other distinguished visitors, when seeing the wonderful sights of the capital and enjoying the shooting expeditions in the jungle provided for their entertainment, have been inclined to say, as did the Queen of Sheba, that the half has not been told them. They have found His Highness an adept at manly sports and in the chase, with a special *penchant* and skill for tent-pegging. They have examined with admiration some of the treasures included in the Nizam's private stock of jewels—one of the richest in the world. The stock has gradually accumulated from the time of the establishment of the dynasty, and comprises some of the finest gems in all India, one uncut diamond alone of 375 carats, being valued at thirty lakhs of rupees. Visitors have also marvelled at the magnificent palaces, with their costly contents, of the chief nobles of the State. But in the midst of all this splendour, they have been impressed by nothing more deeply than by the passionate attachment of the masses to their ruler, and by the extent to which he has inspired them with his own loyal devotion to the Paramount Power. Year by year, the anniversary of the Nizam's birthday is enthusiastically celebrated by a people who are drawn to such demonstration of their feelings not only because of his claims *ex officio* on their fealty, but because they have long since recognized his possession of personal qualities of a high order. They know him to have their interests deeply at heart, that his nature is gentle and benevolent, though firm in purpose and virile in action, and that he possesses a sincerity of manner which is singularly winning. The participation of the populace in celebrations of an Imperial character is no less spontaneous and hearty, as was shown on the occasion of the two Jubilees of Queen Victoria, and (under the impulse of wholly different emotions) when Her Majesty's long and glorious reign came to its inevitable close. At the Diamond Jubilee, His Highness was represented in England by his cousins, Sir Asman Jah and Nawab Zaffer Jung, who were honoured guests of Her late Majesty. It was the wish of the King-Emperor that His Highness should be present in person at the recent Coronation, as the foremost representative of the Feudatory States. But on family grounds, and also on account of the strain imposed on the State resources by famine, the Nizam (much to the regret of the English people, who would have given him a most hearty welcome), felt it his painful duty to decline the Royal invitation. The auspicious event, it need scarcely be said, was fittingly observed throughout the Nizam's dominions, and, as will presently be seen, His Highness was the central Indian figure at the subsequent Delhi celebrations of the Coronation.

It was on the occasion of Lord Curzon's visit that the new arrangements in connection with the Berars, already mentioned, were settled by a personal interchange of views between the Viceroy and the Nizam. They were approved by the Secretary of State, and were formally confirmed by a deed signed by the high contracting parties in November last. The agreement has put an end to the anomalous state of things hitherto prevailing, by leasing the Berars to the Government of India in perpetuity, at an annual rent of 25 lakhs of rupees. The deed thus re-affirms the sovereignty of the Nizam over the Assigned Districts, while giving the British Government full and exclusive jurisdiction and authority in the territory which has so long been under British administration. The Government may administer the leased area in whatever manner it may deem desirable, and may redistribute, reduce, reorganize and control the forces now composing the Hyderabad Contingent to such extent as may be thought fit, due provision being made for the protection of the Nizam's Dominions. The Contingent is, in fact, to be abolished as an independent auxiliary force, and the number of men at the stations it occupies will be reduced from 5,000 to 4,500 men, the Nizam on his part undertaking to reduce his irregular forces to 12,000 men, step by step, as opportunity offers. In the first instance, ten lakhs of the annual rent will be paid, the remaining fifteen lakhs being applied to the wiping off of the Berar and the Hyderabad famine loans, but after these have been liquidated, His Highness will receive the whole 25 lakhs of rupees annually. As the annual surpluses paid over to the Hyderabad Treasury since 1860 have averaged less than nine lakhs, the Premier State is a substantial gainer by the transaction. His Highness's sovereignty over Berar, to quote from the official correspondence, "will be not less, but if anything more clearly acknowledged by the grant of a lease than by the cession of an assignment." The laws of British India will only apply through the foreign jurisdiction of the Governor-General in Council. The flag of the Nizam is to be flown at the headquarters of the local administration in Berar upon the anniversary of the birth of His Highness, and a salute is to be fired in his honour upon the same occasion. In their despatch to the Secretary of State the Government of India point out the benefits of the agreement, under which both contracting parties "will be enabled to undertake long-needed projects of military economy and reform," and the Government will be in a position to carry out "the extinction of a separate and costly administration" by merging Berar into one of the adjacent British provinces. "In our correspondence with our Resident at Hyderabad," continued Lord Curzon and his Councillors, "we have already expressed our cordial acknowledgments of the friendly manner in which His Highness the Nizam has throughout participated in the recent negotiations. The language that has been used by his Minister in reply assures us that these sentiments are entirely reciprocated by His Highness, and leaves no doubt that the settlement of this most important matter which we have here recorded has been as heartily and spontaneously accepted by the Nizam, as it was frankly and sincerely put forward by ourselves. We now look forward with confidence to a future in which no cloud need again arise to obscure the historical and unbroken friendship that has for so long existed between the British Government and the Hyderabad State." In these sentiments in respect to His Highness, the Secretary of State cordially concurred in his answering despatch on behalf of the Home Government.

The correspondence was published a few days before His Highness left his capital to proceed to Delhi for the Coronation Durbar, and, if possible, added to the *éclat* and significance of his participation, on a scale of befitting magnificence, in the historic function. His Highness rented from the members of the Delhi Club, at considerable cost, the famous Ludlow Castle, in the heart of the civil lines, and also engaged several large buildings for his Minister and staff. His large camp there was described at length in many papers, and it is needless to say that he was the principal and most honoured of Indians at the various functions, naturally taking the lead in every ceremony performed by the Native Chiefs. In the elephant escort of the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught when they entered Delhi he had, of course, the place of honour, and at the Durbar he was the first Chief to be presented to proffer his congratulations to the King-Emperor. Addressing the Viceroy he said: "It has afforded me very great pleasure to be present here on this auspicious and memorable occasion. I am sure your Excellency is aware that it has been my life-long endeavour to maintain and strengthen the traditions of my House as the faithful ally of the British Throne. As such I would ask you to be so kind as to convey my most sincere congratulations to the King-Emperor, and to assure him on my behalf that His Majesty will always find in me and my House an ally ever faithful and true in every respect." As is customary with the Nizam, he accentuated at Delhi his premier position by the simplicity of his dress. "On many occasions," wrote Reuter's special representative, "when other Princes have been literally blazing with jewels, he has appeared attired in a black coat with a blue sash, and the Star of India for his only decoration. . . . Second to none, in spite of its simple nature, has been the regal splendour of his carriage and his escort, the latter clad in royal yellow." In the numbers of his retinue, the Nizam, of course, surpassed all other princes. "It required," said the correspondent just quoted, "nine special trains to bring the five hundred troops, besides retainers, including three hundred personal servants, who followed the Nizam, to the city. Eight great nobles, each with seventy-five retainers and a train of elephants, accompanied His Highness, while fifteen riding-horses, fifteen pairs of carriage-horses, and over twenty carriages were brought for his personal use, besides others for the staff. Moreover, the Nizam supplied twenty elephants for the procession on December 29th." His Highness gave a garden party which was largely attended by Ruling Chiefs and high English officials, and everything connected with the function was on a sumptuous scale. But details of this kind must be passed over to note the widespread approval with which the signal honour bestowed upon His Highness in connection with the Durbar and in recognition of the conclusion of the Berar agreement was received. "The Grand Cross of the Bath was never more worthily bestowed than on His Highness the Nizam," wrote Reuter's correspondent, "while the decorations given to his Prime Minister and Mr. Furidonjee, the latter's private secretary, also met with cordial approval." At a reception given to the Native Princes by the Viceroy, His Highness was invested with the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Bath by the Duke of Connaught, by special command of the King-Emperor. On his way back to Hyderabad His Highness made a stay of some weeks in Bombay, where towards the end of February he received a visit from H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught.

The Heir Apparent, Sahibzada Sahib Usman Ali Pasha, now a young man, is highly spoken of by those who have had opportunities of judging of his character and abilities. On the occasion of his recent visit to Hyderabad, Lord Curzon expressed his pleasure at the progress being made with the education of the future Nizam. "We all of us trust," said the Viceroy during his speech at the State banquet, "that the young Sahibzada may fulfil the highest hopes that a father's ambition can frame for him, and that one day in the far distant future he may prove himself a not unworthy successor."

The family banner of the dynasty is yellow in colour, and it bears in its centre a disc, which represents the "Lucky Chapati" of the first Nizam. It is related that on one occasion when Asaf Jah was setting out to warfare in the Deccan, a holy man came forward to give his benediction to the warrior, and presented to him a ***chapati***, as an emblem of good fortune. Asaf Jah carried the gift with him as an amulet throughout all his successful campaigns, and from that time forward the device, known as the ***kulcha***, has been borne on the Hyderabad banner.



H.H. The Gaekwar of Baroda.

H.H. Maharaja Sayaji Rao III., G.C.S.I., Gaekwar of Baroda.

THERE is no rose without its thorn, no human institution wholly free from blemish. Some writers have represented as a drawback to the inestimable benefits of the *pax Britannica* in India the loss of the "interestingness" with which the insecurity of olden days flavoured life for the classes. The powerful courtier of to-day might be the hunted exile of to-morrow, with his place and power taken, perchance, by a menial amongst his own retainers. Conspicuous valour in the field, or sheer force of intellect, often accounted for rapid advancement such as this, and sometimes flattery or fraud were the instruments by which ambitious and resourceful men climbed to the seats of the mighty, perhaps in their turn to be deposed. Under the law and order which now prevail there is little scope for any such romantic changes in Fortune's wheel. Yet it cannot be said that they are entirely without counterpart to-day, for the career of one of the Premier Princes of India is a conspicuous instance to the contrary. His Highness Sayaji Rao III. of Baroda, was taken in early youth from pastoral pursuits to fill a throne. But there was nothing arbitrary or unconstitutional in the transfer, for His Highness rules his important principality by right of birth, and a combination of favouring, though in some aspects regrettable, circumstances.

There is so much to be written in reference to the administration of what is known as "the model State" under His Highness, that it must here suffice to give the main outlines of the circumstances under which he exchanged the obscurity of a village home in Khandeish for the fierce light which beats upon a throne. The narrative will be best understood if prefaced by a bird's-eye view of the history of the dynasty of which His Highness is the representative. Its rise illustrates the "interestingness" of old days to which allusion has been made, for its founder, Damaji, was born to the humble office of

patel or headman, of a Deccan village some two centuries ago, when the great Maratha Confederacy was being firmly established to dispute the Mogul supremacy. Damaji distinguished himself as a soldier in the army of Shahu, Raja of Satara, and grandson of the great Sivaji. For his bravery and success at the battle of Ballapur, fought against the Imperial forces of Delhi, he received the title of Shamsher Bahadur, and was appointed second in command of the Satara forces. He was succeeded by his nephew and adopted son Pilaji, who successfully carried the standard of his Sovereign into Guzerat, and occupied many of the principal towns, including Baroda and the adjoining territories. He received the command of the army, with the title of Sena Khas Khel, which, with Shamsher Bahadur ("A Mighty Man of the Sword"), is still retained by the rulers of Baroda. Treacherously assassinated by a Mogul emissary, he was succeeded by his son, Damaji II., who, during forty years of almost incessant fighting, firmly established the Gaekwari power throughout Guzerat and the neighbouring districts of Western India. Baroda, which had been re-taken by the Moguls, was again captured in 1732, and from that time forward has been the Gaekwari capital. Damaji commanded a division at the decisive battle of Panipat; successfully invaded Kathiawar, and exacted an annual tribute from its Rajput chiefs which is paid to this day, through the British Government. Finally he conquered the ancient town of Anilvada Puttan, and Ahmedabad, the capital of Guzerat. On proceeding to Satara to receive from his prince the customary investiture in recognition of his conquests and acquired supremacy, he was, at the instigation of the Peshwa, treacherously coerced into ceding to the latter a moiety of his dominions.

This circumstance, conjoined to geographical considerations, largely determined the policy of Baroda when the British Power came into conflict with the Peshwas. Alone among the great Maratha houses, the Gaekwari dynasty never entered into conflict with the British arms. Fifteen years before the final overthrow of the Peshwas an offensive and defensive treaty was concluded with the East India Company by Ananda Rao Gaekwar. Under it a British Resident was appointed to the Court of Baroda, a strong British force was subsidized and territorial cessions provided for its maintenance. Ananda Rao's successor, Sayaji Rao I., enjoyed a long and outwardly prosperous reign, but one in which improvement and reform, though sadly needed in various branches of administration, were not attempted. Under the three sons who followed him in turn the administration became more and more reckless and corrupt, until, within three years of the accession of Mulhar Rao, the last of the trio, a culmination was reached rendering the intervention of the Paramount Power imperative. A Commission appointed to enquire into numerous charges of serious maladministration brought against this ruler, led to his receiving an emphatic caution from the Bombay Government, and he was informed that the abuses complained of must be remedied within eighteen months. Scarcely a sixth of the period of grace had expired when an attempt to poison the Resident, the late Colonel R. Phayre, was discovered, and circumstances pointed to Mulhar Rao being privy to the conspiracy. He was suspended from the exercise of power, and a Commission, consisting of three British officers of high standing and three Ruling Chiefs, was appointed in February 1875, to enquire into the charge against him. The proceedings before the

Commission were followed throughout India with an interest which was the more intense since it was suggested in some quarters that, as Mulhar Rao had no issue and the direct line of succession was at an end, the deposition of the incriminated Chief would result in the re-affirmation of the Dalhousian doctrine of "lapse."

Happily these fears were without warrant. Owing to a division of opinion among the Commissioners, Mulhar Rao's guilt in respect to the design on Colonel Phayre's life was not held to be established, but, on general grounds of incapacity and misrule, he was deposed and deported to Madras on the 22nd April 1875. Under the orders of Lord Northbrook, the Viceroy, prompt steps were taken to find an eligible successor from collateral branches of the Gaekwari family. Searching enquiries resulted in the selection of Gopal Rao, the subject of this memoir, who is the second son of Kasi Rao, the fifth in lineal descent from Pratap Rao, son of the founder of the dynasty. How it was that this branch of the family had lapsed into the humble position of Deccani cultivators is not clear, but of the purity of the descent from Damaji Rao there could be no question. The widowed consort of Khande Rao, the deposed ruler's predecessor, asked for and obtained permission to adopt the Gaekwar-designate. On May 27th, 1875, the boy, who on the previous March 17th had entered his thirteenth year, was formally adopted by the Rani and was installed on the *gadi* of his ancestors by Sir Richard Meade, Agent to the Governor-General, under the style and title of Sayaji Rao the Third. The ceremony took place in the presence of the principal officers and nobles of Baroda, and was marked by the presentation of a State dress to the young Chief by the representative of the Viceroy. The inheritance into which His Highness thus entered was in every sense complete, for not the slightest reduction was made in the possessions, powers and privileges enjoyed by the State under existing treaties. The only change made was one calculated to raise rather than diminish the political status of Baroda, for by it the supervision which up to that time vested in the Bombay Government was taken over by the Supreme Government, and the nomenclature of the British Resident was changed to that of Agent to the Governor-General. Baroda was thus put on the same political footing as the two other Premier States—whose rulers are also entitled to the maximum salute of twenty-one guns—Hyderabad and Mysore. The great heritage to which His Highness was called from his obscure village home is 8,570 square miles in extent, and it has a population of some two millions of souls. Including the tribute paid by Kathiawar Chiefs and by adjoining States of Guzerat, the total annual revenue is a crore-and-a-half of rupees. The regular military force consists of 3,000 infantry, 247 cavalry and 154 artillery, and in addition there is an irregular levy of over 6,000 men.

During his minority the young Prince received, under competent tutors, the training and education requisite for the fit discharge of the onerous responsibilities he has now discharged for twenty-two years. His docility as a pupil and his great natural abilities—happily not weakened or diverted into undesirable channels, as might have been the case had his early days been spent in the zenana—justified happy auguries for the future which have been more than realised, and were the subject of favourable comment in

successive Government reports. Meanwhile, under the capable guidance of Sir Madava Rao, the experienced Indian statesman selected by Government as Minister, order was gradually evolved from the chaos into which maladministration had brought the State. Great and beneficent reforms were effected, and thus the way was paved for the high standard of administrative efficiency which, on being invested with full power, the Gaekwar set before himself and has steadily maintained.

It was the happy fortune of His Highness to be brought into personal contact with the King-Emperor, then Prince of Wales, within a few months of his nomination to the Baroda throne. He was among the Indian Princes who received the then Heir-Apparent on his arrival in Bombay in the autumn of 1875, and the journals of the day give us some interesting glimpses of the appearance and deportment of the lad on that occasion. Sir W. H. Russell, the official historian of the tour, described him as "a small, delicately-framed lad . . . with a bright, pleasant face. He was weighted—head, neck, chest, arms, fingers and ankles with such a sight and wonder of vast diamonds, emeralds, rubies and pearls, as would be worth the loot of many a rich town." Another observer was struck by "the wonderful self-possession" the young Gaekwar displayed; he, who "a few months ago was only a village lad in comparative poverty, bears himself with perfect composure and dignity and appears to his inferiors every inch a king, as though he had sat on the *gadi* half-a-century." India's future Emperor received His Highness with every mark of cordiality, and graciously accepted his invitation to visit Baroda. The visit, which lasted from November 18th to the 23rd, was one of the most noteworthy features of the tour, the Prince's reception being marked by right royal magnificence. It is not too much to say that the acquaintance made between Prince and Maharaja in Bombay ripened into a friendship which has since been steadily maintained, and has been strengthened on the occasions of His Highness's visits to Europe. Another event of great political significance occurring early in the period of the Gaekwar's minority was the proclamation of Queen Victoria as Empress of India at Delhi. The young Chief was, of course, a prominent figure at the historic assembly, and he was invested by Lord Lytton with the title of *Farzand-i-Khas-i-Daulat-i-Inglishia* ("Favoured Son of the British Empire"). His Highness, who was accompanied by his Minister, his tutor (Mr. Elliott), and a large retinue, took the opportunity to visit the historic cities and shrines of Northern India, and thus, by personal observation, extending the knowledge he was steadily acquiring under the scheme of tuition planned by Sir Richard Meade—a scheme which kept well in view the physical, as well as the intellectual, development of the young Prince.

A year or two before attaining his majority, the Gaekwar was married to a niece of the Princess of Tanjore, who, as the Maharani Chimna Bai Saheb, endeared herself by her gentle and amiable disposition to her household and to her consort's subjects generally. After only six years of happy married life, the Gaekwar was overtaken by a sad domestic bereavement in her untimely death. To her memory he erected the Chimna Bai Market, and a clock tower also named after her was built by public

subscription. Of the three children of the union one only survived the mother, viz., Kumar Fateh Sing Rao, the heir-apparent, who was born on August 3rd, 1883. The Gaekwar's grief for his loss was keen and abiding, but both the custom of his race and political expediency rendered necessary another matrimonial alliance. In December 1885, His Highness married the present Maharani, Chimna Bai, of a noble family of Dewas, Central India. By her he has three sons, Jeysing Rao, Shivaji Rao, and Dhairysahib Rao, and one daughter, Indira Raje. Keenly alive to the value of a liberal education, the ruler of Baroda has spared no endeavour to obtain for his children the best culture, and they have been under good English tutors. The heir-apparent, after matriculating at the University of Bombay, entered at Balliol, Oxford, where he has been studying History and Law. The second son, Jeysing Rao, is now at Harrow.

It was on December 28th, 1881, that Sir James Fergusson, Governor of Bombay, on behalf of the Viceroy, invested Sayaji Rao III. with full sovereign powers. "From the reports I have received of your Highness's character, and of the progress you have made in fitting yourself for the high position you will now occupy," wrote Lord Ripon in his *Kharita* (or State letter), "I have every confidence that your rule will be characterised by unswerving loyalty to the British Government, and it is my sincere hope that, recognising the great responsibilities which have now devolved upon you, and assisted by the able officers who have already done so much for the Baroda State, you will conduct the administration with justice and wisdom, so as to secure the affection and promote the prosperity of your people." After he had been appropriately addressed by Sir James Fergusson, and the Viceroy's *Khilat*, consisting of jewels and dresses valued at Rs. 50,000, had been presented to him, the young Ruler, in simple yet dignified language, expressed his gratitude for the care and attention which had been bestowed upon his training, and pledged himself to the course commended to him in the Viceregal letter. "Relying on the sympathy and support of the Imperial Government, I shall," he declared, "always be solicitous for the welfare of my subjects. Whatever good may have been conferred upon them from of old will be preserved, and I shall earnestly strive for further steady progress towards the accomplishment of this foremost object of my ambition. I expect constant and cordial co-operation from all sides and from all classes. May God help me in the fulfilment of my duties"

To-day many a contented ryot sings at his plough how the pledges thus made, and repeated in a proclamation issued by His Highness immediately after his installation, have been fulfilled and redeemed. The Gaekwar entered upon his responsible duties with two circumstances greatly in his favour—one being the special political education he had received, and the other the possession of a very competent staff of executive officers, most of them specially selected during his minority. During the year preceding his installation, His Highness, under a scheme drawn up by Sir Madava Rao, attended a series of lectures, about a hundred in number, by the Minister and the heads of the several departments on subjects falling within their respective provinces, and embracing every branch of administration. His Highness devoted to these lectures all his powers

of mind, and they were described by his tutor as maintaining a very high standard of general intelligence and special experience. This is only what was to be expected from the Minister, who had a reputation for statesmanship not confined to his own land, and his chief associates in the administration. They included three able men who were destined to succeed him in office—the late Khan Bahadur Kazi Shahabudin, C.I.E., the late Dewan Bahadur Laxuman Jagannath, and the late Dewan Bahadur Manibhai Jasbhai; also Khan Bahadur Pestanji Jehangir, C.I.E., Khan Bahadur Cursetjee Rustomjee, C.I.E. (now Dewan of Ratlam), and Rao Bahadur Vinayek Janardhan Kirtane (afterwards Minister at Indore). His Highness evidenced his approval of the progressive policy which had prepared the way for the further improvements in every branch of the administration he was destined to effect, by retaining the services of the distinguished band whose names have been given. Realising that the success of a progressive policy depends greatly upon the instruments through whom it is carried out, the Gaekwar has always been careful to secure the best available talent for high executive appointments, quite irrespective of what are known as caste considerations. The great traditions established by Sir T. Madava Rao and the three successors whose names have been given, have been well maintained by the two subsequent Ministers—Dewan Bahadur Shrinivasa Raghav Aiyangar, C.I.E., who, when nominated, was filling the important post of Registrar-General under the Madras Government, and Mr. Ramchandra Dhamanasker, an old servant of the Bombay Government, the present Dewan.

Great as were the achievements of the minority administration it was impossible in the space of seven brief years to do more than make up some of the leeway due to protracted misgovernment and neglect. In every direction there was abundant scope for the policy of improvement and reform to which Sayaji Rao was committed, and he addressed himself to the task with zeal and thoroughness, tempered, however, by a discriminating judgment and careful all-round enquiry as the prelude of reform. Many pages could be filled by detailing the improvements which two decades of the Maharaja's rule have witnessed; but we must here be content to view them in broad outline only.

First and foremost in the list must be placed the reform of the agrarian administration, that all-important factor in the contentment of the mass of the Indian people. Under the superintendence of Mr. F. A. H. Elliott, the Gaekwar's old tutor, a land revenue survey was instituted. Thereby the land settlement was placed on a sound and satisfactory basis, and the ryots were delivered from the operation of an irregular and often capricious system of assessment. The revenue laws were carefully revised, and rules drawn up on many points formerly left to the arbitrary decision of revenue officers. An especial boon was the abrogation of the restrictions which prevented the cultivator from transferring a portion of his holding without surrendering the whole. Waste lands were allotted to the villagers on favourable terms, and facilities were afforded the ryots for the improvement of their holdings. Under the evil *régime* of former days, a large portion of the lands of the State had passed into the hands of private persons, often on very doubtful title, the deficiency thereby caused in the State coffers being made up by

excessive exactions from neighbouring lands that had not been recklessly alienated. An enquiry into the claims of *Barkhali* holders was instituted, and where the records established a sound title the land was redeemed at fair valuation. The cost of thus dealing with a glaring injustice was great, but was not too heavy a price to pay for the ultimate gain to the commonwealth. The abolition of petty and vexatious local imposts, and of invidious taxes on certain classes, is another direction in which the cultivators have been benefited. The establishment of a number of agricultural banks has done much to save the farmers from the usurious and tyrannizing *sowkar*, and they will be still further helped in this direction by the contemplated opening of other agricultural banks on the Post Office Savings Banks system.

These land reforms and others which could be mentioned, went far to enable Baroda to stand the great shock of the Guzerat famine of 1899-1900 better than some of its neighbours. Needless to say, there was great distress, and it was necessary for the State to provide for the thousands of labourers thrown out of employment by the drought. All possible provision was made, no less than sixty lakhs of rupees being spent upon relief works and gratuitous support of the famine-stricken. The ordinary resources of the State were supplemented from the private purse of its ruler, whose generosity to the needy, even in ordinary times, is proverbial. He made prolonged tours throughout his dominions to inspect and direct the relief administration. Revenue collections were suspended on a large scale; scarcity allowances were granted to low-paid servants of the State; and cheap grain shops were opened. It is a matter of history that the general distress was unprecedented. Had it not been for the liberal and humane measures adopted by the Durbar the mortality returns, heavy as they unfortunately were, would have been much more serious. The relief works, as far as possible, took the form of digging irrigation canals and of railway earthworks, with a view to future protection against famine. With the same object, advances were made to cultivators on easy terms, to enable them to sink wells in their holdings.

These measures, after all, were but the development, under stress of special circumstances, of the policy of material development and of amelioration of unhappy conditions steadily pursued throughout the present reign. In the matter of railway communication particular vigour has been shown, and almost all the important places in the State are now connected with each other by a network of small railways constructed from State funds, and in themselves adding largely to the industrial activity of the people. In this connection the establishment of a State bank, a cotton spinning and weaving mill, and a sugar manufactory may be mentioned. The new public buildings of the capital city– schools, colleges, departmental offices, hospitals—mirror to the visitor the material improvements of the reign. The philanthropic institutions His Highness has founded include a hospital for women and children under the charge of a lady medical graduate; infirmaries for lepers, lunatics and other incurables, and a hospital for animals. The city has also been provided with an abundant and pure water supply, costing thirty lakhs of rupees. Nor should it be overlooked that His Highness's munificence

is quietly exercised towards many a poor but deserving student in the Arts, Science, and Medical colleges of Bombay. He has endowed chairs at the Grant Medical College for lectureships on diseases of the ear and the throat and other subjects, and liberal assistance has been given to the London Society for the investigation of Tropical Diseases. He has also founded at Baroda a State Library and Natural Science Museum. These benefactions are supplementary to the scholarships given to students at Schools of Arts, or undergoing technical training for commercial undertakings. His Highness's charity knows no distinction of caste, creed or nationality, and is as discriminating as it is unostentatious. What too many of his predecessors would have frittered away on selfish, not to say degrading enjoyments, and on unworthy favourites, is expended by him on works of beneficence and the advancement of the moral and material prosperity of his subjects.

Prominent among the public buildings which give Baroda an appearance of beauty and elegance scarcely equalled by any other capital of a Native State, are the College and the Technical School—the chief concrete expressions of the Maharaja's enlightened, not to say enthusiastic, educational policy. The former, which is affiliated with the Bombay University, teaches up to the B.A. and B.Sc. standards, and has attached to it a law class, where students are prepared for the first LL.B. examination of the Bombay University. The Technical School is doing very useful work in imparting a knowledge of modern arts and industries to the people, and in developing and improving their various handicrafts. Classes for teaching native music on the English notation system, and a school of cookery, are in existence. The number of vernacular schools has steadily increased year by year, and they are now to be found in every district of the country—in fact, the State is pre-eminent in the provision of primary education. In one portion of His Highness's dominions free compulsory education has, for the first time in India, been established. The people have taken very kindly to this adaptation of the educational policy in operation in Great Britain, and no less than 98 per cent. of the children in the area in question are under instruction. Even the Dooblas, Dheds and other inferior races are not neglected in respect to "the clothing of the mind," several schools being carried on specially for them. The Gaekwar is particularly interested in female education, as his remarks on various public occasions, notably at a prize distribution at the Poona High School for Girls in September 1885, abundantly indicate. In his memorable speech at the ceremony named, he pointed out that India was passing through a transition period, and it was of vital importance that the whole body of the people should participate in the onward movement taking place. To deny their mothers and daughters the benefits of Western education would be to run the danger of making this change, by its narrowness and hard selfishness, do more harm than good. To the views thus publicly enunciated practical effect has been given in the State. Numerous schools have put education within the reach of girls of every class and condition. Even the girls of the aboriginal tribes inhabiting the Tapti Valley are provided for by a boarding school at Songadh. It is, of course, essential for the success of these institutions that the instruction should be imparted by women, and the supply is kept up by means of a training college for women presided over by a lady superintendent of established repute.

It goes without the saying that a ruler so keenly interested in the education of women is a promoter of other measures of social amelioration and advancement. The Hindu Widows Remarriage Act has been made applicable, with a slight modification, to his dominions. A measure has also been passed for the removal of disabilities of inheritance, attached by Hindu Shastras to converts and persons excommunicated for violations of spiritual injunctions which have lost their significance in these altered times. His Highness's sympathy with the cause of social reform has more recently been shown by proposals for enactments to regulate the marriageable age, as well as to widen the scope of matrimonial alliances. His progressive tendencies were indicated quite early in the reign by the codification of State regulations on the model of the British Indian Codes, but with due regard to the usages, prejudices and habits of life of the people. The services of Mr. Naylor, once Legal Remembrancer to the Bombay Government, were specially employed for the purpose, and, as a result of his labours, under the Maharaja's directions, the State possesses a well-considered and clear body of law. No less thorough has been the general revision of the various departments of administration, to the great benefit of the community.

To all the improvements and reforms that have been mentioned the Gaekwar devoted his personal attention, and he habitually takes a large share in the transaction of State business. He exercises a strict supervision over every branch of the administration. But for his business methods (his chief officers all have their appointed times to wait upon him week by week) it would be impossible for His Highness to get through the work he undertakes. He is accessible to any and every subject who has a grievance or request to place before him, and, in order to fully understand the condition and life of his people, he undertakes protracted tours in his dominions at convenient seasons. The fondness for field sports and for riding he acquired as a lad have done much to conserve the fairly strong constitution he possesses. But that constitution has been severely taxed repeatedly by his devotion to duty. Hence, under medical advice, His Highness has had to leave the work and worries of his exalted position on five occasions to recoup his health by European tours. The first of these visits was undertaken in 1887, Italy, Switzerland and France being toured on the way to England, which country was reached in November. His Highness and the Maharani Chimna Bai were most cordially received by the Queen-Empress at Windsor on December 5th. The Gaekwar was invested by Her Majesty with the insignia of Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India, and afterwards received from the Queen an enamelled medallion portrait of herself. Her Majesty also accorded a private interview to the Maharani. On the occasion of a later visit in 1892, the Queen-Empress personally conferred upon the Maharani the insignia of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India. These occasional visits to Europe, besides restoring the Gaekwar to health, have been of practical value to the State in enabling His Highness to study the political and social institutions of the West at first hand, and to examine their bearing upon the problems of government with which he has to deal. The knowledge and experience thus acquired have invariably been turned to good account in the advancement, by wise legislation and administration, of the moral and material condition of the people by whom the Maharaja is so greatly beloved.

Their affection is based not alone on the great benefits they can directly trace to the Maharaja's rule, but also upon those personal qualities of head and heart which distinguish him. The lapse of years has in no way diminished the applicability of a report penned by Mr. Elliott when the young Prince was still in his teens: "His disposition is frank and affectionate, his abilities are good. He has a special repugnance for what is impure, and he has kept strictly in the path of virtue." Since those words were written His Highness has sedulously cultivated the intellectual bent of his mind. All the time he can spare from arduous duty and necessary physical recreation is spent in literary studies. He revels daily amid the treasures of a well-equipped library. History and Political Science are his favourite studies, but Law, Philosophy and Psychology claim no small share of his attention. He is fond of sharing these mental exercises with the English professors of the Arts College, and is an eager auditor at learned discussions carried on by pandits and other Oriental scholars. He has published an epitome of Giblon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," and occasionally contributes to well-known English and Indian magazines. Thus, on the occasion of his last visit to Europe, he wrote an interesting autobiographical sketch for *The Nineteenth Century*, and only last year he contributed to *East and West* thoughtful articles on "The Education of Indian Princes," and on "The Education of the Backward Classes in India," in both of which his enthusiasm for the moral and mental development of his countrymen, whether prince or peasant, his gifts of constructive statesmanship and the high intellectual basis of his patriotism, are discernible in every paragraph. These qualities were even more conspicuously displayed in the remarkable address he delivered at Ahmedabad on December 15, 1902, in his capacity as President of the Industrial Exhibition held there. In it he considered the existing depressed economic condition of the Indian peoples, its causes and its remedies. The address, which was delivered with great feeling and eloquence as well as with knowledge derived from close observation in many lands and from personal experience of the difficulties which beset the problem of industrial advancement, attracted great attention, being given at length and commented upon by the Anglo-Indian and Indian journals throughout India. *The Times of India* described it as revealing "a clear-sighted perception of the actual needs of the country, which one would like to see largely prevailing among the people, and especially amongst the Ruling Princes of India." While lamenting the apathy, indifference and lack of business habits which have largely nullified past efforts, including those His Highness has himself put forward, the tone of the Gaekwar was one, not of despair, but of strenuous call to organization and effort on the part of his countrymen. His Highness set forth the practical measures calculated to meet and overcome existing hindrances to industrial progress, and the keynote of the address is to be found in one brief sentence: "Solve the economic problem," said His Highness, "and you have a great future before you, the future of a great people, worthy of your ancestors and your old position among nations."

Within a week or two of the delivery of this inspiring and suggestive pronouncement, His Highness again came prominently before the public as one of the greatest Feudatory Princes participating in the Delhi Durbar. Side by side with the Nizam,

he was to have headed the princely escort, mounted on elephants, which accompanied the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught when they made their State entry into the Mogul capital. But owing to the lamented death of H.H. the Maharani Radhabai, relict of Gaekwar Ganpat Rao, and to the date of the concluding funeral ceremonies connected therewith falling on December 29 last, His Highness was unable to reach Delhi in time for the State entry. The Baroda Ruler, however, took up his quarters in the great camp prepared for his reception in time to be present at the Proclamation Durbar. He immediately followed the Nizam in being presented to the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught and in expressing his congratulations. He was attired in rich, flowered silk and wore a breastplate of diamonds worth nearly a quarter of a million sterling. His Highness's part in the great events of that memorable fortnight was dwelt upon by all the Press correspondents present. But we must confine quotation to a description of his great camp as given by Reuter's special representative. "Among the outlying camps," he wrote, "none surpass the splendour of that of the Gaekwar of Baroda, for the completeness and beauty of its decorations and its perfect arrangement. The camp practically stands alone. The teak bungalow in which the Gaekwar resides was specially prepared at Baroda, brought to Delhi, and fitted together. It will be taken back to Baroda. The Gaekwar has erected a triumphal arch, bearing electric-flash portraits of the King and Queen, at the main entrance of the camp, which is splendidly lighted from a private electric plant. There are flower gardens, and in the evening a beautiful effect is produced by scores of tiny coloured lights. Admiring crowds of natives daily gather on the high road to gaze upon the famous Baroda cannons. One gun is entirely made of gold, with a heavy carriage of pure silver. The other is a silver gun on a gilded carriage. Both are drawn by oxen, caparisoned in magnificent gold trappings, and wearing pure golden sheaths upon their horns, and heavy golden anklets. . . . . Cases of jewels lie in a tent guarded by the Gaekwar's armed retainers. One necklace of pearls alone is worth thirty-six lakhs of rupees." The correspondent goes on to say that the Maharani's quarters were draped with pink silk, the carpets and cushions were magnificent, and gold mirrors, gold hair-brushes and gold hand-glasses, studded with gems, added to the splendour of the apartments. The gold and silver cannons referred to were included in the review of Native State retainers, and formed a unique contribution to the general effect of the display.

The administrative efficiency and general contentment attained under the Gaekwar's rule are little short of marvellous when regard is had to the years of misgovernment and selfish aggrandizement by which it was preceded. We may conclude by quoting a testimony to the change, both eloquent and just, uttered by the late Marquis of Dufferin, when, as Viceroy, he visited Baroda. "All who are inhabitants of this place," said his Lordship, "know that, thanks to the intelligent energy which has been exhibited by their ruler, few cities and few States have ever made greater progress than the State and city over which your Highness so auspiciously and benevolently rules. . . . The air of universal prosperity which characterizes your capital and district, which surrounds the contented and happy appearance of your people, are all marks of conscientious and intelligent administration which have met my eye on every side; the noble buildings which

are rising in all directions under Your Highness's auspices, and the amply generous provision which you have made both for the needs and gratification of your people, have confirmed me in the opinion, which I had already reason to entertain, that in Your Highness India possesses one of the most promising, high-minded and wise rulers with which she has ever been blessed. It is difficult to convey in words the satisfaction which a Viceroy experiences at being able to arrive at such a conclusion in regard to one of the most influential and important of Her Majesty's Feudatory Princes. In Your Highness I feel that the Queen-Empress possesses indeed the noble *arkon-i-dawlat*, a firm and trusted Pillar of State, and that the Indian Government is entitled to regard you as a sympathetic and worthy coadjutor in its great work of advancing the general happiness and prosperity of the inhabitants of Hindustan."



H.H. The Late Maharaja of Mysore.

H.H. the late Maharaja Sir Sri Chama Rajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Mysore.

NO CHAPTER in the history of the relations between the protected States of India and the protecting Power can be looked back upon with greater satisfaction, as reflecting credit to both, than that which tells the story of the Rendition of Mysore. It affords the most signal instance of the renunciation by the British Government, in spirit as well as letter, of the Dalhousian policy of "lapse." The complete success of the "bold experiment"—to use Lord Curzon's apt description—under the administration of the lamented Chief whose career we are about to trace, was the best possible vindication of a generous policy, the pursuance of which can never have been regretted by the Paramount Power. After the defeat and death of the famous Tippu Sultan, the Marquis of Wellesley, influenced by motives no less of generosity than of policy, took advantage of the survival of a descendant of the legitimate rulers of Mysore to re-create a Hindu sovereignty. While the administration was in the hands of Purnaya, Dewan and Regent, all went well. But the Maharaja Krishna Raja Wodeyar who succeeded in 1811, by his extravagance, want of administrative ability and other weaknesses, brought about a state of discontent, which culminated in the rebellion of 1830. The entire administration was transferred by Lord William Bentinck to British officers. The Maharaja was pensioned and retained his titular rank, but as he gave no indication of a change in his extravagant habits, he was not included among the Ruling Chiefs to whom *sanads* recognizing the right of adoption were granted after the Mutiny. His adoption a few years later of the third son of Chicka Krishna Arasu, of the Bettadakote branch of the Mysore family, who was born in 1863, was regarded by Government as a personal and domestic act which, though perfectly valid according to Hindu custom, carried with it no political rights. It seemed, therefore, unlikely that the adoption would be recognized as involving the right of succession to the throne.

In 1866 a deputation headed by Sir H. Rawlinson waited on the Secretary of State for India, Lord Cranborne (now Lord Salisbury) to urge the recognition of the adoption. A petition, to which several old Indian officers had added their signatures, was subsequently presented to the House of Commons by Mr. John Stuart Mill, praying that "Your Honourable House will take such steps as may seem in your wisdom most efficacious for ensuring, with the least possible delay, the re-establishment of a Native Government in the tributary State of Mysore, with every possible security for British interests and for the prosperity and happiness of the people of the country." Eventually, in 1867, Lord Cranborne stated to the House of Commons that the Government (of which Mr. Disraeli, subsequently Earl of Beaconsfield, was Prime Minister) had resolved to sanction the adoption, under the belief that the existence of well-governed Native States was a benefit to the stability of British rule. The decision which was the outcome of this new and enlightened policy was made known in India by a despatch to the Governor-General from Sir Stafford Northcote (who had become Secretary of State for India), dated the 16th April 1867. After stating that no hope could be held out that the previous decision regarding the reinstatement of the Maharaja himself would be reversed, he went on to say: "Without entering upon any minute examination of the terms of the treaties of 1799, Her Majesty's Government recognize in the policy which dictated that settlement a desire to provide for the maintenance of an Indian dynasty on the throne of Mysore, upon terms which should at once afford a guarantee to the people, and for the security of British rights and interests. Her Majesty is animated by the same desire, and shares the views to which I have referred. It is her earnest wish that those portions of India which are not at present under her immediate dominion may continue to flourish under Native Indian rulers, co-operating with her representatives in the promotion of the general prosperity of the country; and, in the present case more especially, having regard to the antiquity of the Maharaja's family, its long connection with Mysore, and the personal loyalty and attachment to the British Government which His Highness has so conspicuously manifested, Her Majesty desires to maintain that family on the throne in the person of His Highness's adopted son, upon terms corresponding with those made in 1799, so far as the altered circumstances of the present time will allow.

"In considering the stipulations which will be necessary to give effect to this arrangement, I have, in the first place, to observe, that Her Majesty's Government cannot but feel a peculiar interest in the welfare of those who have now for so long a period been subject to their direct administration, and that they will feel it their duty, before replacing them under the rule of a Native Sovereign, to take all the pains they can with the education of that sovereign, and also to enter into a distinct agreement with him as to the principles upon which he shall administer the country, and to take sufficient securities for the observance of the agreement. It is, therefore, the intention of Her Majesty that the young Prince should have the advantage of an education suitable to his rank and position, and calculated to prepare him for the duties of administration; and I have to desire you to propose to the Maharaja that he should receive this education under the superintendence of your Government. I have to request that you

will communicate with me as to the mode in which this can be best effected without separating the young Prince more than is necessary from those over whom he may hereafter be called on to rule. If at the demise of His Highness, the young Prince should not have attained the age which you, upon consideration, may fix for his majority, the territory shall continue to be governed in his name, upon the same principles and under the same regulations as at the present time. Upon his reaching that age, or at an earlier period, if you should think it desirable, it will be the duty of the British Government, before confiding to him the administration of the whole or any portion of the State, to enter into an arrangement with him for the purpose of adequately providing for the maintenance of a system of Government well adapted to the wants and interests of the people. As regards the rights and interests of the British Government, it is sufficient now to point out that, as the cost of supporting troops has largely increased since the date of the Subsidiary Treaty of 1799, it will obviously be necessary that the terms of that treaty should be revised and some addition made to the subsidy. The great increase which has taken place in the resources of Mysore since 1799, and more especially since the assumption of the Government by Lord W. Bentinck, will prevent such addition being felt as an undue burden. The precise terms of the revision may be left to be settled when the young Prince is put in possession of the administration."

Though this decision gave the final blow to his own pretensions, the Maharaja was gratified with the recognition of his adopted heir and the friendly tone of the despatch. He selected Colonel Haines, a former Officer of the Mysore Commission, to be the guardian of the young Prince, and to superintend his education and training. Next year he died, on the 27th of March 1868, having reached the ripe age of 74 years. Immediately on the occurrence of this event the following Proclamation was issued: —"His Excellency the Right Honourable the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council announces to the Chiefs and people of Mysore, the death of His Highness the Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar Bahadur, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India. This event is regarded with sorrow by the Government of India, with which the late Maharaja had preserved relations of friendship for more than half-a-century.

"His Highness Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, at present a minor, the adopted son of the late Maharaja, is acknowledged by the Government of India as his successor and as Maharaja of the Mysore territories. During the minority of His Highness the said territories will be administered in His Highness's name by the British Government, and will be governed on the same principles and under the same regulations as heretofore. When His Highness shall attain to the period of majority, that is, the age of eighteen years, and if His Highness shall then be found qualified for the discharge of the duties of his exalted position, the government of the country will be entrusted to him, subject to such conditions as may be determined at the time." Though the terms of this Proclamation appear sufficiently explicit as to the intentions of the Government, a general desire was expressed by the inhabitants of the Province that the young Prince should

be actually installed on the throne. With the sanction of the Secretary of State this ceremony was accordingly performed with all due formality on the 23rd of September 1868, during the Dasara festival, by the Commissioner, Mr. L. Bowring, who reported that "during the whole of the fatiguing ceremonies attendant on his installation, the young Maharaja showed great self-control and composure, and it was not a little remarkable to see a child of his tender years behave with so much dignity."

Upon the Government of India was laid the responsibility of making arrangements for the suitable education of the young Prince. Colonel Haines having resigned in 1869, Colonel G. B. Malleson was appointed as guardian and tutor. Under his guidance, aided by Mr. C. Ranga Charlu, Controller of the Palace, the Maharaja went through a course of study on the English public school system, that of Winchester being taken as the model. A Royal school was formed, composed of boys of suitable age and position, among whom he took his place in lessons and games as one of them. Under these arrangements satisfactory progress was made, and on the retirement of Colonel Malleson in July 1876, Captain F. A. Wilson was temporarily appointed as tutor. The Maharaja had already made a trip to Ootacamund, and a residence was being prepared for him in Bangalore. On the first of January 1877, accompanied by the Minister and other high officers of State, he attended the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi, when the Queen was proclaimed Empress of India.

Later in the year the Viceroy, Lord Lytton, visited the province in connection with the great famine to organize adequate arrangements for relief. Mr. J. D. Gordon, Judicial Commissioner of Mysore, was now appointed guardian to the Maharaja, and Mr. W. A. Porter, Principal of the Cumbaconam College, was engaged as tutor. In this year the Maharaja's marriage took place with the accomplished Princess Vani Vilasa, named Kempanan Jammanni, who had been educated on the same system. The Maharaja subsequently paid visits to Ootacamund, Bangalore and Calcutta, and also made a progress through his own country with Mr. Gordon, who was now Chief Commissioner as well as guardian. Under this diversified training his character and abilities rapidly developed; in 1880 Mr. Gordon reported:—"His power of observation is keen, and his judgment of persons and things remarkably sound. For a boy so young he shows caution and prudence in an unusual degree. He has a cheerful, tractable, gentle disposition, with habits of regularity and application As far as I can judge he bids fair to become, if he pursues the course he has commenced, a just and benevolent ruler. I hope to make His Highness sufficiently familiar with all the practical details of the administration, within the time which is still before us, and to fill his mind with sound ideas and healthy instincts on matters connected with the duties and responsibilities of the high position which will, ere long, devolve upon him."

The attitude of the people towards the Maharaja was very noticeable. Of his visit to the Cauvery Falls, Mr. Porter writes: "The interest shown in him all along the route was in fact very remarkable, and in many cases, touching and impressive. Though

connected with the good administration of our territories and the well-being of our subjects." Besides these arrangements, a Representative Assembly was before long instituted, the nature of which was thus stated in an order issued in August: "His Highness the Maharaja is desirous that the views and objects which the Government has in view in the measures adopted for the administration of the Province should be better known and appreciated by the people for whose benefit they are intended, and he is of opinion that a beginning towards the attainment of this object may be made by an annual meeting of the representative landholders and merchants from all parts of the Province, before whom the Dewan will place the results of the past year's administration and a programme of what is intended to be carried out in the ensuing year. Such an arrangement, by bringing the people into immediate communication with the Government, would serve to remove from their minds any misapprehensions in regard to the views and action of Government, and would convince them that the interests of the Government are identical with those of the people."

The new administration entered upon its work at a time of no little difficulty. For, owing to the 1877 famine, which had swept away one-fifth of the population, the accumulated surplus funds of former years had disappeared, and a debt of 80 lakhs had been incurred to the British Government. There was also the enhanced subsidy of 10½ lakhs a year to be met. Extensive retrenchments had already been carried out, and with a few exceptions British officers were replaced by natives on a lower scale of pay. On a review of the circumstances, and in order to give the new administration a good start, the British Government resolved to postpone the payment of the increase to the subsidy for five years, which was afterwards extended for ten years more. This greatly relieved the financial pressure. At the beginning of 1883 Mr. Ranga Charlu died, and later in the same year, Sir James Gordon, who had been knighted and appointed Resident at the time of the Rendition, was forced by illness to retire.

Meanwhile, the Dewanship had been conferred on the late Mr. (afterwards Sir) K. Sheshadri Iyer, under whom the State was destined to advance to a condition of the highest prosperity. It is impossible to do more here than give a brief summary of the measures carried out during the Maharaja's reign. In order to combat a visitation such as that from which the State had just emerged, railways and irrigation at first received special attention. The 58 miles of existing railway thus rose to 373 miles, and the irrigated area increased from 1,203 to 1,558 square miles. The Malnad tracts were specially opened up, the mileage of roads being raised from 3,903 to 5,107. A careful revision was made of all the departments of Government, and vast improvements were set on foot throughout the country. The sources of revenue were made more productive, not by increased taxation in any shape, but by improved arrangements, which were aided by good seasons, and by natural growth under the stimulus of freer means of communication. A department of agriculture and statistics was formed, the revenue laws were codified, and agricultural banks were established. Coffee planting was assisted by the substitution of an acreage assessment on the land in the place of the old ***halat*** or duty levied on the

the journey was perfectly private, the arrangements requisite for conveying so large a party necessarily made the fact known at the chief places along the route, but the interest of the people was shown in a way which was evidently wholly spontaneous. On the part of the simple villagers, the feeling manifested had something in it of almost religious veneration. Away on the outskirts of the crowd, too far away to receive any notice or recognition or serve any object except to gratify his feeling of reverence, a poor ryot would drop on the ground; and this simple act of devotion over, would rise and stare with all his eyes. Or a woman, equally far from the scene, with a child in her arms, would put it down at full length with its face to the ground and then drop beside it. Any one could see, by unmistakable signs, that loyalty to the ancient dynasty of Mysore is still a living and powerful feeling."

At length the eventful time for the Rendition arrived, and the eyes of all India were fastened on Mysore to see in what manner this would be effected by the British Government. The 25th of March 1881, was the date fixed upon, after consultation with all concerned, and at 7 o'clock on the morning of that day, amid signs of universal rejoicing, the great ceremony was publicly performed in the Palace at Mysore. The late Right Honourable W. P. Adam, Governor of Madras, representing the Viceroy, discharged the duty of inauguration in a most impressive manner. A Proclamation was read, stating that "His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council announces to the Chiefs and people of Mysore, by command of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, that His Highness Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur is hereby placed in possession of the Territories of Mysore and invested with the administration of the Mysore State, and His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council declares further to the Chiefs and people of Mysore that the administration of the aforesaid Territories by the British Government has on this day ceased and determined."

Mr. Adam then addressed the Maharaja, congratulating him on his investiture, and referred to the training which had been given to prepare him for his high position. "Having, therefore, confidence in your good qualities,' he added, "and believing also in the attachment of the Chiefs and people of Mysore to your Highness, and in their steadfast loyalty to the British Government, I now, on behalf of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, present you with this instrument of transfer, and pray that God who watches over us, whatever our creed, may guide you aright in all that you undertake, and may bless the act that we perform this day." The instrument of transfer referred to, specified in detail in 24 sections, the terms on which the Government was entrusted to the Maharaja.

A Proclamation by the Maharaja followed, confirming all existing officers in their appointments, and stating that all laws in force should so continue. For the executive administration, Mr. C. Ranga Charlu was appointed as Dewan, with a Council of three members to assist him, whose duty it was "to submit for our consideration their opinions on all questions relating to legislation and taxation, and on all other important measures

produce. Cotton and woollen mills were brought into operation, and the silk industry revived. But the most remarkable industrial development was that of gold-mining in the Kolar district. Encouraged by liberal terms, this was firmly established, and provided a new and most profitable source of revenue. The royalty payable to the Mysore State, and the sums deposited for leases, under this head rose from half a-lakh to 7¼ lakhs. Concurrently with the increase of the general revenue, there was a liberal expenditure on public works of all kinds. The water-supply and sanitation of the capital cities and chief towns were provided for. Municipal institutions were much extended. Educational facilities were greatly increased; and medical relief made available in all parts. The well-being of the people during the reign may be gauged by the estimate that the average duration of life rose from 24·93 to 25·30. In all measures for the good of the country H.H. the Maharaja took a keen personal interest, and his popularity grew with his years. He was respected and beloved alike by Europeans and natives. He was a good horseman and whip, fond of sport and a liberal patron of the turf. The Maharaja generally divided the year between Mysore, Bangalore and Ootacamund, with trips in the cold weather to other parts of India.

Mysore was visited by successive Viceroys from time to time. The Earl of Dufferin was there in 1886, and the following extract from one of his speeches indicates the impression made upon his mind by what he saw:—"Under the benevolent rule of the Maharaja and of his dynasty, good government, enlightened progress, universal peace and the blessings of education are everywhere ascendant, and there is no State within the confines of the Indian Empire which has more fully justified the wise policy of the British Government in supplementing its own direct administration of its vast territories by the associated rule of our great Feudatory Princes." The Marquis of Lansdowne followed in 1892, and, among other expressions of approval, said:—"There is probably no State in India where the ruler and the ruled are on more satisfactory terms, or in which the great principle, that government should be for the happiness of the governed, receives a greater measure of practical recognition." Another notable visitor was H.R.H. the lamented Prince Albert Victor, who was a guest of the Maharaja in 1889. Among the entertainments provided for such persons of distinction may be mentioned, as of special interest, the elephant *Kheddas* in the Kakankote and other forests, where were witnessed the exciting and interesting operations of the driving, capture and tying-up of wild elephants.

The year 1894 was destined to be the last of the Maharaja's beneficent reign. He was on a visit to Calcutta at the end of the year, with all his family, when he was attacked with diphtheria, and in spite of the best medical aid, succumbed to the disease on December 26th. The people of Mysore were stunned by the shock which this sad news created, and it may be truly said that never was a Prince more deeply and sincerely mourned by his subjects. The entire Press of India, with leading journals in England and other countries, joined in lamenting that a career so promising had been prematurely closed, for His Highness's virtues and the success of his administration had become widely known.

The deceased Maharaja left five children, two sons and three daughters. His eldest son, Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar, has lately been invested by Lord Curzon with full governing powers on the attainment of his majority. Before proceeding to deal with his career, we may appropriately quote a recent estimate by that great Anglo-Indian daily, *The Pioneer*, of the results of the Rendition under Sir Rajendra's administration. "It may be recalled," wrote that journal, "that Lord Salisbury's decision to hand back the State to Native rule was at the time considered a daring experiment, in the face of the weightiest authority. But testing the results, from the point of view both of British interests and the welfare of the people, we may confidently say that the experiment under the conditions imposed has proved a success. It would be idle to deny that the machinery with which we equipped the State may have deteriorated in parts, or that it is worked at less high pressure by a Native administration than would be the case in a British district; but the general government is undoubtedly good, and the people are prosperous. Further, it must be placed to the credit of Mysore that, more than any other State, it is rendering to the Indian Empire the service of trying experiments, which until recently the Imperial Government have hesitated to attempt. Not to speak of the enterprise shown by the Durbar in providing probably the best-equipped bacteriological laboratory in India; in engaging an expert agricultural chemist for the benefit of the coffee plantations as well as the staple crops; in the solid inducements offered to attract the Tata Institute to Bangalore, and in pioneering the conversion of water power into electricity, we may remember the new lines on which Mysore has struck out so bravely in legislating against infant marriages, in establishing a representative assembly, and in starting agricultural banks."

H.H. Maharaja Sri Krishna Raja Wodeyar Bahadur, Maharaja of Mysore.

BY a remarkable and undesigned coincidence, the installation of the Maharaja of Mysore upon the *gadi* of his fathers, by the representative of his Suzerain, took place almost concurrently with the historic Coronation of the King-Emperor and his Consort in Westminster Abbey, the two ceremonies being separated only by a single day. His Highness's accession to power was greeted with the utmost satisfaction by his subjects, and their prayers for his long life and prosperity on the occasion were as heartfelt, if less numerous, than those which were simultaneously being uttered for his Suzerain in all parts of the British Empire. His Highness, who succeeded on the death of his father when he was but a boy of ten, came into full possession of his princely prerogatives and responsibilities under the most happy auspices, and under the inspiration of noble parental examples. Of his lamented father we have already spoken. During the eight years of his minority, his mother came into prominence as Maharani-Regent, assisted by a Dewan and Executive Council, and fully maintained the progressive policy laid down in the half-century of British administration, and developed during the fourteen years' rule of the late Maharaja. Possessing an excellent education and exceptional knowledge, Her Highness has borne bravely and well the burden imposed upon her by the death of her husband, and has brought to bear upon her duties capacities which entitle her to front rank in the brilliant gallery of gifted women who have figured with credit and distinction in the history of Indian rule. In the State her name is held in universal veneration, and great satisfaction was caused by Lord Curzon's announcement at the Installation Durbar that the King-Emperor had acceded to His Excellency's suggestion that her salute of nineteen guns as Regent should be continued to her for life. "As head of the Government of India," said the Viceroy, "I have pleasure in stating that the smooth progress of events during the minority has been largely due to the unfailing tact and discretion of Her Highness. If I may be allowed to

say so, she has set an example of public and domestic virtue which has been of equal value to her people and to her family, and which has earned for her the admiration and respect of all . . . It is our hope, now that she is retiring from the responsible position which she has so long and so successfully filled, that she may observe the fruits of her sagacious example, and may meet with the rewards of her motherly devotion in the conduct and career of her son."

The period of minority was also greatly favoured in the character and attainments of the statesmen by whom the Maharani-Regent was surrounded. The Dewan, the late Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer, K.C.S.I., to again quote Lord Curzon, "for eighteen years wielded an authority that was a reflex of his powerful character and abilities, and that left its mark upon every branch of the administration." A man of commanding intellect and force of character, he originated important schemes with equal courage and foreseeing grasp of detail, and his name as a successful statesman will long be remembered with pride, not only in Mysore, but by his countrymen throughout India. Sir Sheshadri Iyer has left a lasting mark on the history of this State, and among many material monuments of his fame will ever be recalled the Marikanave Reservoir, which can boast the second largest masonry dam in existence, and the Cauvery Electric Power Scheme, which constitutes the first instance in India of the utilization of water power to generate electricity for industrial purposes. The power is transmitted a distance of 91 miles to the Kolar Gold Fields, and the scheme ranks among the largest electric installations in the world. Sir K. Sheshadri Iyer retired on account of ill-health in March 1901, and his death followed only six months later. A movement is now on foot for the suitable perpetuation of his memory in Mysore, and has the very hearty support of Lord Curzon, who, in forwarding a subscription of Rs. 500, wrote that the State owed a lasting debt of gratitude to Sir Sheshadri Iyer, "to whose abilities and labours are largely due the flourishing condition in which the young Chief takes over the administration." Happily His Highness has, as Dewan, a most worthy successor to the late statesman in Sir Purnayo N. Krishna Murti, who, at the Coronation Durbar, was promoted from a Companionship to a Knight Commandership of the Order of the Indian Empire. Sir Purnayo was, when nominated to the Dewanship, the Senior Councillor, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., being the other Member of Council. The Dewan is an officer of the highest character and well-proved abilities, and his appointment was greeted with popular satisfaction, one reason being that he is the jaghirdar of Yelandur and the great grandson of the famous Dewan Purnaiya, who re-constructed Mysore after the restoration of the Hindu dynasty at the close of the eighteenth century.

In June 1896, the Maharaja was placed under the care of a tutor and governor, Mr. S. M. Fraser, I.C.S., of the Bombay Service, an officer who had already conducted the training of the Maharajah of Kolhapur and the Thakore Saheb of Bhavnagar, and whose services in the present case—also recognised in the Coronation Honours List by the conferment of a Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire—were characterized by singular devotion, large practical experience, and great ability. In the six years

available a definite scheme was pursued, beginning with a sound general education, particularly in such subjects as history, political economy and science, and passing on to special training in the principles of law, land revenue, and the various departments of the administration. During the concluding moiety of the period the principles of Government learnt in the schoolroom were illustrated in long tours in the State, which formed an invaluable portion of the Maharaja's training. Accompanied by his tutor and governor and the smallest possible suite, the young Chief, in the course of the 1,700 miles travelled by road, visited every part of the State, and free from the ceremonial which makes it generally difficult for a Maharaja to get below the surface of things, he saw, almost like a private individual, the actual working of the machinery of Government and how it affects the ryots. Everywhere he was greeted with the utmost enthusiasm by the thousands of his subjects who gathered to welcome him. Nor were His Highness's travels limited to his own province. In 1900 he took the sea voyage from Madras to Calcutta, and thence visited the famous places of Northern India; and in 1901 he spent over a month in an extended tour through Burma.

The modern English education which he has received has not made him any the less orthodox in his religion and mode of life. For six years he was under strict discipline and removed from the unwholesome influence inseparable from a palace; but it has been a feature of the system to keep him in touch with his enlightened mother, the Maharani-Regent, and the singularly happy home life he enjoys with his brother and three sisters. In character His Highness shows development and balance which is often vainly looked for in men who are twice his age. Of a reserved, cool temperament which will save him from the mistakes of impetuosity, he is just-minded and slow to anger, but none the less does he possess the firmness and self-reliance which mark the ruler of men. His tastes are manly, and, though short, he is of excellent physique, a good rider and polo player, a thoroughly practical whip, who knows every detail of his horses' harness and idiosyncracies, and a keen racket player. In him the Mysore Imperial Service Cavalry, of which any ruler might be proud, has a specially competent Chief. At Ootacamund he has, since a small boy, been a prominent rider to hounds, and both there and at Bangalore has always been a strong, but discriminating, supporter of sport. His Highness is, of course, a thorough master of English, and is quite at home in European society, where his high-bred courtesy, and easy, but dignified, manners make him a favourite- in this respect reminding many of the personal charm which his lamented father possessed. The Maharaja has a natural ear for music, and turns to his piano and the violin for amusement in his leisure hours.

In June 1900, His Highness was married to Soubhagyavathee Sri Pratapa Kumari Bai, daughter of the Rana Saheb of Wana, a Rajput Chief in Kathiawar of the highest Jhala family. The formal ceremony took place when both parties were still quite young, in order that the remaining days of childhood might be utilized to give the youthful Maharani an education similar to that enjoyed by the Maharani-Regent herself. The selection of a bride outside the Province, and one re-uniting the Kshatriya blood of Mysore with the Rajput families of the North, was a notable and gratifying innovation.

The Maharaja's student days ended with his eighteenth birthday in June 1902, when he took up his residence at the Palace with his bride. On the following August 8th, His Highness was installed as already mentioned, by Lord Curzon, who, although it was the middle of the monsoon season, had travelled sixteen hundred miles to personally entrust to His Highness the administration of his territories. Lord Curzon, after briefly reviewing the history of the Rendition and the Regency, addressed to the Maharaja remarks which made a deep impression on His Highness and all who heard them. Rulers, he said, were not made virtuous by installation homilies, but by the instincts of their nature, by a diligent training, and by a willingness to profit by the wisdom and experience of others. He cited the case of Fenelon's lectures to the grandson of Louis XIV. and Solomon's advice to his son as instances of wasted homilies. "I am not going, therefore," he added, "to give you a text-book of moral maxims. I will only ask you to remember this--the young man of eighteen who becomes a ruler enjoys one of the noblest opportunities, but also one of the greatest responsibilities in the world. Upon you, to a large extent, will depend the happiness and comfort of several millions of your fellow-creatures who already look upon you with reverence, who, if you rule well, will regard you with devotion, but if you rule badly, with indifference and despair. You are put in this place, not for your own sake—to think that is the greatest of human errors--but for theirs. If you act conscientiously and dutifully you may leave a name that will live for generations in the memory of your people. If you throw away your chances and become a sluggard, or worse, your name will be written in water and your memory will pass like a puff of smoke from the minds of men. Therefore I beg of you, at this turning point in your life, to remember these things: put your heart into your work; be just; be courageous; be merciful to the lowly; be considerate to all. Work as though you were going to live, not for fifty years, but for five; for duty, believe me, cannot afford to loiter and there ought to be no blank spaces in a ruler's diary. For my own part, I shall always look back upon having installed you as one of the pleasantest memories of my term of office. While I am here you know that you can count upon my confidence and support, and when I am gone and other Viceroys come here to visit you in Mysore, I shall hope to hear from them that you have fulfilled the bright expectations of your youth, and that you are yearly marching forward from strength to strength."

After His Highness had been formally installed and the *khilat* had been presented, he replied in most appropriate terms to the Viceregal address. He said that it was with no mere conventional loyalty and gratitude that he acknowledged the great honour conferred upon him in receiving from the Viceroy the charge of his State. Its history must ever inspire in its ruler a feeling of gratitude to the British Throne, and this added a special quality to the allegiance which it was his first duty to publicly tender to the person of His Gracious Majesty King Edward VII., whose restoration to health was nowhere hailed with greater thankfulness than in Mysore. "To your Excellency," continued His Highness, "I owe something more than ordinary thanks. In common with the rest of the Chiefs of India I am indebted to your Excellency for the many acts by which you have proved yourself to be our friend, most of all, perhaps, for the ennobling

ideal of duty ever held before us; and the words of weighty advice which your Excellency has now addressed to me will, believe me, sink the deeper into my mind from the example and authority of the illustrious Viceroy who has uttered them." Having expressed his "particular and personal" obligation to the Viceroy for his presence, the Maharaja proceeded: "How important are the responsibilities which now devolve upon me I fully realise, and this it is my ambition to prove by performance rather than by words. The inheritance to which I succeed is no ordinary one, and I appreciate what Mysore owes to the administration of wise statesmen and the care of the British Government under the Regency of my revered mother. But at the same time, I know full well that I cannot rest on the laurels won by others, and that my utmost efforts are needed, not only to maintain for my subjects the benefits they already enjoy, but to press onward to a yet higher standard of efficiency. How far I may be granted the ability to cope with the problems before me, the future only can show; but it is a comfort for me to feel that I shall, for some time, at any rate, enjoy the assistance of my well-proved friend, Colonel the Hon. Donald Robertson, as Resident. Speaking with all diffidence, I am able to say that I begin my task with some knowledge of its difficulties thanks to the education I have received from Mr. Fraser, to whom I hope to prove that his labours for the past six years have not been without fruit. This much, at any rate, can confidently be affirmed, that the desire and the effort to succeed shall not be lacking. I have now seen a great deal of my State, with its beautiful country and its loyal people, and it would be a poor heart indeed that was not filled with pride and love for such an inheritance. May Heaven grant me the ability, as well as the ambition, to make a full and wise use of the great opportunities of my position, and to govern without fear or favour for the lasting happiness of my people."

In the afternoon the Maharaja was the recipient of no less than 39 congratulatory addresses, many of them in handsome caskets, and to each of the deputations which waited upon him with them he made brief and sympathetic replies. It says much for the universal popularity of the young ruler that the addresses represented interests so varied and diverse as those of the North and South Mysore Planters' Associations, the Mysore Freemasons, the Eurasians of the Province, non-resident Mysoreans, the inhabitants of Coorg, Hindu Sabhas, the Catholic community, Protestant missionary societies, inhabitants of the French settlement of Pondicherry, and the municipal administrations of Bangalore and Mysore and other places. In every part of the State the auspicious day was celebrated in the most hearty and enthusiastic manner. But we must pass over incidents inevitably and fittingly associated with the installation of so popular a Prince to give a few particulars respecting the fair domains which he now rules. The State has an area of 29,444 square miles, comprising 125 towns and nearly 17,000 villages. Happily, the famines which have told so disastrously on many other parts of India in the last few years, though not leaving Mysore wholly scathless, have brought about no recurrence of destitution, such as that witnessed in the great famine of the later seventies. The best proof of the maintenance of prosperity is afforded by the last Census returns, which show that, instead of the calamitous decreases reported in Central and Western India, the

population grew during the last decade of the nineteenth century by no less than 12·05 per cent., and now numbers 5,539,399 persons. The policy of famine protection by means of irrigation has been steadily pursued for many years. The most important work of the kind now under construction is the Marikanave Reservoir, which, estimated to cost 39 lakhs of rupees, will be one of the largest artificial lakes in India, and will fertilize the arid district of Chitaldrug. The question of systematically restoring the minor tanks of the Province—they number no less than 30,000—so as to arrest the process of deterioration, is one to which the Maharaja and his counsellors are now addressing themselves. Of the extent to which, under the stimulus of Durbar participation and encouragement, the material resources of the State are being developed in other directions, some mention was made in the preceding sketch, more particularly as regards the great Cauvery electric power scheme, and the rapid rise of the gold-mining industry, the progress of which is the main *raison d'être* of the Cauvery scheme. The value of the gold extracted from the twelve mines at work in 1901 was nearly two millions sterling. The leases have very recently been extended for a further period of thirty years, on terms mutually advantageous to the State and to the mining companies. Other industries, such as tea- and coffee-planting, cotton-spinning, silk-weaving and woollen manufacture need not be detailed, though some indication of the industrial activity of the province may be obtained from the statement that, apart from State and privately-owned concerns, there are nearly a hundred joint-stock companies carrying on industrial operations, exclusive of corporations working on sterling capital raised in England. In every direction the principality is being, or has been, opened out by railways under State control, or with State encouragement. The Mysore section of the Southern Maratha Railway covers in all 296½ miles, in addition to which a branch of the Madras Railway, on the standard gauge, runs from Bowringpet to Bangalore, and other lines are projected. The liberal encouragement given by the Durbar to scientific investigation is, in itself, a stimulus to well-directed industrial enterprise. No less marked is the exceptionally advanced position occupied by the State in educational matters. The Maharani's High Caste Girls' School is especially famous, and constitutes the most successful attempt India has seen to put the ladies of the country on the same intellectual level with their husbands and brothers. The generally progressive policy pursued has, of course, tended to an increase of wealth in which the State has justly shared, and the revenue in the last financial year was no less than 180 lakhs of rupees.

The solemn undertakings given by the Maharaja in his installation speech have already been translated into deeds, and during the few months that have since elapsed he has taken an active and real part in the administration of his State. With the hearty approval of the Government of India, he promulgated on his installation a scheme of administration, under which he is assisted by a Council, consisting of the Dewan (Sir Purnayo N. Krishna Murti, K.C.I.E.), and two members—Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., Revenue Commissioner, and Mr. C. Sreenivas Iyangar. The executive work of the State is distributed by departments between the Dewan and the two Councillors, and at the periodical meetings of the Council they are to "advise His Highness in all important

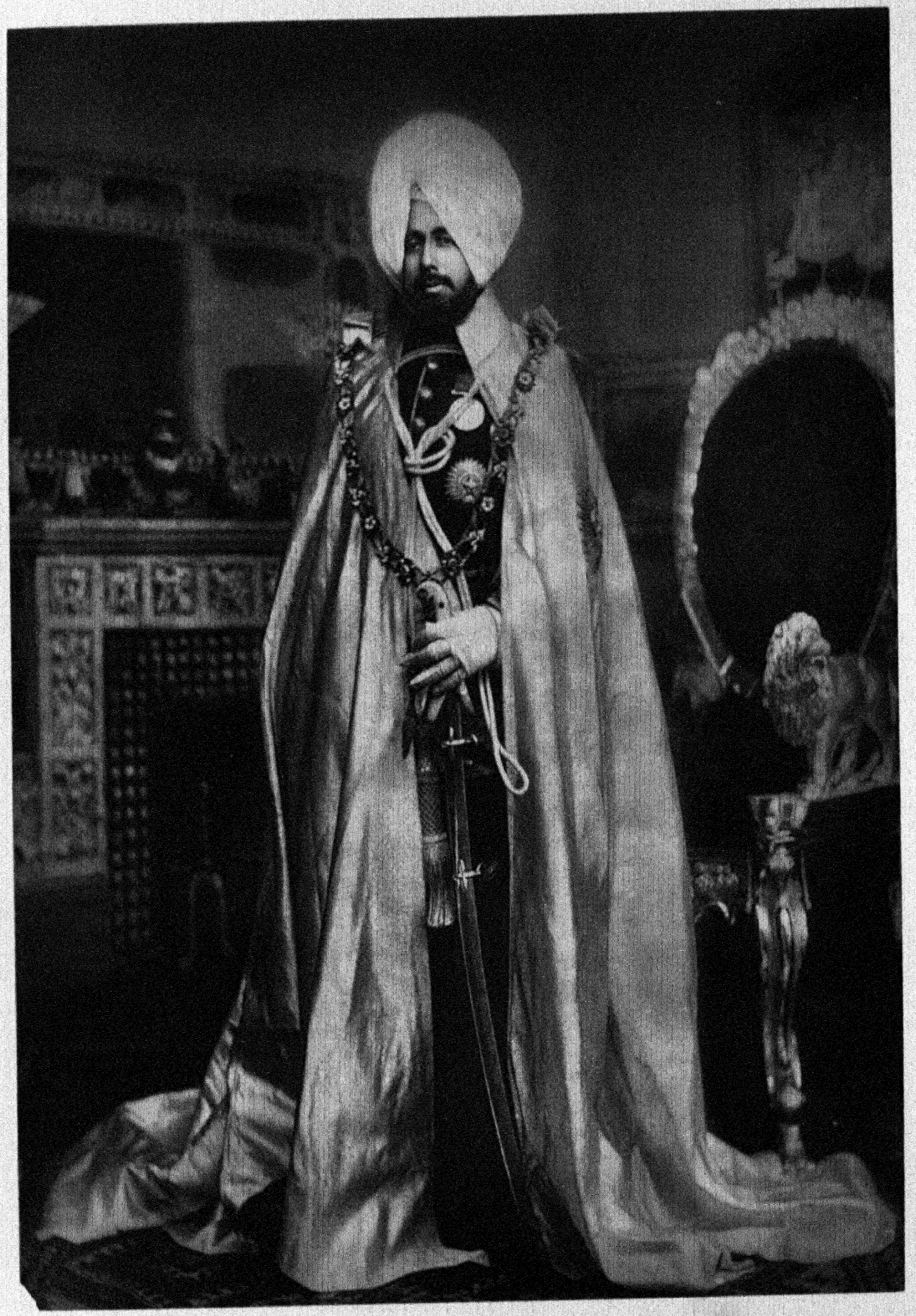
matters." After their observations have been considered the "scheduled" or important business is disposed of by the Maharaja. The "non-scheduled" business, after passing through the hands of the Councillor to whose department it belongs, is disposed of by the Dewan, as the executive head of the Government, the Councillors, however, retaining a certain amount of supervision over the affairs of the departments included in their respective portfolios. In the event of friction arising between the Dewan and Councillors a reference is to be made to the Maharaja, whose decision in these, as in other matters, will be final. Taken in conjunction with the Representative Assembly, the scheme of government outlined above, ensures on the one hand, the active participation of the Prince in the administration of his territories, and on the other, a well-regulated machinery of executive devolution, and occasionally, of popular consultation. In Mr. E. Maconochie, I.C.S., the Maharaja has been provided with a most capable private secretary, who, while relieving His Highness as far as possible, from the drudgery of excessive technical detail under which some other Princes have abandoned all attempts to personally participate in the administration, will help him to come to a right decision on the broad general questions placed before him.

The aims and principles the Maharaja had in view in promulgating the scheme of government now in operation, were explained by him at an extraordinary meeting of the new Council which met a few days after his installation. His Highness pointed out that they were once again at the beginning of a new experiment in Mysore. Whether it would be a success, or the reverse, depended greatly on his Councillors and the devotion on their part to the interests of the State, of which he was assured. He was aware that no human institution was perfect, and no doubt some defects in the scheme would be revealed as time went on. But he hoped and expected much from the system of administration adopted, and it was his earnest desire that it should succeed. What was needed was single-hearted and unselfish co-operation on the part of each member. "It cannot be expected," continued His Highness, "that you will always agree with one another, or that I shall always agree with you. It may be that at times you may feel some soreness individually, or even collectively, at being over-ruled. At such times I ask you to give credit to those who disagree with you for being actuated by the same sense of public duty as yourselves, and to reflect that, in giving your honest opinion and urging it to the utmost of your powers, you have done your duty and retained your self-respect. I ask you to banish, in these instances, any sense of resentment and to address yourselves to the next question before you with undiminished courage and good will. If this spirit animates your labours, I can, relying on your mature experience and proved abilities, look forward with confidence to the future. In conclusion, I desire to assure you, collectively, of my loyal support, and individually, of my unfailing sympathy and consideration. May Heaven guide us always, to the lasting good of my dear people."

Last winter His Highness took advantage of the Delhi Assemblage to travel in Western and Northern India, as a means of coming into further contact with European

administrators, brother Chiefs and Indian statesmen and scholars. From Bombay the Maharaja proceeded to Delhi, and took up his temporary residence in the large camp prepared for his use. Six special trains were required to convey the Maharaja's Imperial Service Lancers, followers, horses, carriages and retainers to Delhi. In the unavoidable absence of the Gackwar, His Highness rode side by side with the Nizam, in the front rank of the elephant escort of the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught on the occasion of their State entry into Delhi. Mounted on one of the most magnificent elephants in the whole procession, His Highness wore a dress of gold brocade, with magnificent diamonds, strings of pearls and a pendant of rubies. At the Durbar, he was the third Prince the Nizam and the Gackwar preceding him—to be presented to the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught, and to request the conveyance of his congratulations to the King-Emperor. At the review of troops and on other occasions, the martial bearing of the Mysore Imperial Service Lancers (an exceptionally large contingent of which attended) was noticed and rewarded by the hearty cheers of thousands of spectators.

As one of the three Premier Princes of India, the Maharaja receives a salute of twenty one guns. He maintains a military force of 1,173 cavalry, 3,425 infantry and ten guns, exclusive of his substantial contribution to the Imperial Service Troops, comprising a most efficient cavalry corps, and a more recently constituted Transport Corps of 300 carts and 700 ponies. As we have seen, His Highness is already a ruler in deed, and not in name only. In view of his own high character and the favourable conditions, parental and tutorial, of his training, there is every reason to share the anticipation of *The Times* that His Highness "will not suffer himself to be turned from the path of noble performance which he has marked out for himself by any of the malign influences that have too often blighted the lives of the most promising Indian Princes," and that "under his hand the Mysore State will enter upon an epoch of further development, and of prosperity greater than it has known in the past."



H.H. The Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir.

Major-General H.H. Sir Partab Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.

CELEBRATED in history and in literature for the beauty of its scenery and the charm of its climate, Kashmir is so widely known throughout the civilized world that Macaulay's proverbial schoolboy, wherever he might be found, could be trusted to pass an impromptu examination as to its geographical whereabouts and its chief physical features. Knowledge is now much more widely diffused than it was a century ago, and yet, well-nigh at that distance of time, Thomas Moore represented Feramorz as asking :

> Who has not heard of the Vale of Cashmere,
> With its roses the brightest that earth ever gave ;
> Its temples, and grottos, and fountains as clear
> As the love-lighted eyes that hang over their wave?

Conquered by Akbar in 1586 and incorporated in the Mogul Empire, this fair land came into the possession of the present dynasty in 1819 by virtue of the martial powers of the famous Maharaja Gulab Singh, the grandfather of the reigning Chief. Commencing his career in a comparatively unimportant position in the army of Ranjit Singh, "the Lion of the Punjab," Gulab Singh steadily rose, by meritorious service, and ultimately received from his sovereign the satrapy of Jammu, a *raj* whose foundations were laid by Jambu Lochana, descendant of Agni Giri, the first scion of the Solar dynasty who removed from Ajodhya to that part of India. Subsequent to the establishment of the Jammu *raj*, Dayakaran, one of the sons of Jambu Lochan, conquered Kashmir, establishing a dynasty which maintained its sway there for fifty-two generations. In the middle of the eighteenth century Jammu was ruled by the well-known Ranjit Dev, son of Raja Dhrub Dev. Ranjit Dev had three brothers, the second of whom was Surat Singh. The Gulab Singh, by whom the two countries were brought under one rule, was the great grandson of Surat Singh. After Ranjit Dev's death, his principality was thrown into confusion by

internecine strife, and only emerged therefrom on being brought under subjection by Gulab Singh, while in the service of the Lahore Durbar. Ranjit Singh recognized that he had hereditary claims to the country, and, not only appointed him to the Governorship, but permitted his holding the province in fief.

Upon the downfall of Sikh dominion, which followed Ranjit Singh's demise, the Kashmir State, as now constituted, was called into existence by the Treaty of Amritsar. That instrument, dated the 16th March 1846, assigned the whole of the hill country between the Indus and the Ravi, exclusive of Lahoul, to Raja Gulab Singh on payment of 75 lakhs of rupees. The Maharaja (for this title had now been conferred upon him) subsequently relinquished Chamba in favour of the British Government. The Ladakh territory, which he had subjugated prior to the death of Ranjit Singh, was brought under effective control. Gilgit was also conquered, and the taluka known as Bhaderwali subsequently came under the Maharaja's sway. The dual principality thus built up, and now held by the subject of the present sketch, covers an aggregate area of 80,900 square miles. The population has risen from 2,543,952 in 1891, to 2,905,578 at the last Census, being an increase of 14·22 per cent. This remarkable advance speaks unmistakably of the prosperity of the people, and was not equalled in any other of the 27 Provinces, States, or Agencies into which the Indian Empire is divided. Unhappily some parts of the Empire have, on the contrary, suffered very serious diminution of population in consequence of the concurrent calamities of plague and famine. As is natural in so mountainous a region, the great mass of the people are rural dwellers, only 158,000 odd of the population being returned as town residents. How diversified the subjects of the Maharaja are in race and creed may be gathered when it is stated that the prevailing vernaculars in different parts of the country are five in number—Dogri, Kashmiri, Pahari, Panjabi, and Ladakhi—and that the dialects of these tongues bring up the number of languages in use in His Highness's territories to thirteen. The Kashmiri tongue itself is very closely related to Sanskrit. The fine physique of the men of the country and the beauty of its women, have been remarked on almost as frequently as its natural productiveness. Fruit of almost every description grows profusely in the lower valleys, and is now largely cultivated for the manufacture of wine. But this land of great beauty and fertility is not wholly exempt from liability to famine. That of 1878, together with earthquakes, and the effects of emigration, very materially reduced the population some years back, but, as we have seen, there is now remarkable expansion in this respect.

By the treaty of 1846 Maharaja Gulab Singh bound himself to acknowledge the supremacy of the British Government, and to assist the British with troops when required. He was giving full effect to these obligations in the early days of the Mutiny, when, in August 1857 he passed away. His successor, Maharaja Ranbhir Singh, his third and only surviving son, in whose favour he abdicated shortly before his death, carried to completion the measures for loyally assisting the Paramount Power which had been planned by the first Maharaja. A contingent of 2,000 infantry, 200 cavalry and six guns was sent to Delhi, and rendered valuable service there. In recognition thereof, Lord Canning

offered the Maharaja a rich taluka in Oudh, but he refused the gift, remarking that he had come forward to share the burden resting on the Paramount Power as a true friend and devoted ally, and not as a mercenary thinking only of material gain. Subsequently his troops co-operated with the British in the first Swat campaign, and his loyalty was recognized in ways which he could do no other than gratefully accept. Lord Lawrence gave him an assurance that should heirs male of his body fail him without a formal adoption being made, his wishes in regard to the succession of a collateral relation would be respected. Subsequently the claim of the British Government to the receipt of an annual tribute was renounced. The Maharaja ruled his people well, but was slow to break away from traditional practices. The army was so improved that the State soon came to be recognized as the strongest amongst the allies of the British Crown on the northern borders of India. His Highness was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India, and had his salute raised to twenty-one guns as a personal distinction. In 1876 he had the honour of receiving King Edward, then the Prince of Wales, at Jammu, and in the following year, on the occasion of the Proclamation Durbar at Delhi, he was gazetted a General in the Army and created a Councillor of the Empress. He did good service in connection with the British Mission to Yarkand, and was a munificent patron of learning.

His Highness Sir Partab Singh succeeded to the *gadi* on the death of his illustrious father in September 1885, having then reached the mature age of 35. In his youth he had carefully studied Sanskrit, and, besides acquiring a general knowledge of law, science and medicine, he gained an acquaintance with English literature. It was his misfortune to assume power at a somewhat critical time, the affairs of the State having become disorganized, owing to the ill-health which marked the closing years of Sir Ranbhir Singh's life and his consequent inability to rule with the firmness and discretion displayed during the great part of his long *régime*. Complications resulted, and the relations between the Maharaja and the British Government became somewhat strained. In consequence of this state of affairs, His Highness voluntarily abdicated his full powers, for a period of five years. A State Council was established, and the younger brother of His Highness, Raja Sir Amar Singh, was appointed President. As will be seen in the sketch of Sir Amar Singh to be found elsewhere in this volume, he filled the important and delicate duties of the position with tact and conscientiousness. But there was no small disadvantage in the manifestly provisional nature of an arrangement which left the Maharaja outside the Government carried on in his name. Mr. R. Logan, the Comptroller, put the accounts of the State into order, and drew up a report in which he outlined a number of desirable reforms. These met the approval of His Highness, and after he had conferred with Lord Lansdowne, the Viceroy, who specially visited the State for the purpose, he expressed his willingness to resume the reins of administration. Accordingly he was reinstated two years before the quinquennial period had expired. His Highness, who thereupon received the decoration of Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India, became President of the Council, which continues in existence, the system having been found to work very satisfactorily.

Of the many reforms carried out during the present reign, none have contributed more fully to the material well-being of the people than the introduction of a land settlement on the basis of the system followed in British India, to replace the antiquated, inequitable and uncertain methods formerly followed. The work was carried out under the able direction of Sir Walter Roper Lawrence, who was created a C.I.E. in recognition of the successful accomplishment of a most difficult task. Sir Walter (advanced to a Knighthood in the Order, as a fitting reward for the zealous, tactful and able discharge of his duties as private secretary to Lord Curzon) has told the story of the settlement in "The Valley of Kashmir" which he published in 1895. The system of revenue farming, which lends itself to extortion, was abolished, and the cultivators were further benefited by the discontinuance of the arbitrary claim of the Durbar to buy lois, ghee, horses, wool and other articles at merely nominal prices. A number of imposts have also been swept away under the existing administration, including the export duty on certain descriptions of goods; Zar Nakhas, Nauskhat and Rawangi dues; and duties on vegetables. Remissions have been made of the taxes known as Pouj Nazral (which was at the extortionate rate of twelve annas per rupee), and Thanapati, or marriage dues, as also of the Mahomedan marriage tax, and the Dharmarth, temple and education cesses. The system of Begar, both as regards labour and provisions, and that of engaging skilled workmen for the Durbar at very low rates of remuneration, have disappeared before the touchstone of the enlightened principles on which the State is administered. The Durbar has also bidden goodbye to the restrictive monopolies under which bricks, lime, paper and certain other manufactures were not open to private enterprise. Such enterprise is now encouraged in every way, and has found outlets in the introduction of houseboats and in prospecting for the mineral wealth of the country, more particularly coal. The improvement of the means of communication effected by the Public Works Department established on the British Indian model (amongst its undertakings may be mentioned the completion of the Jhelum Valley and the Gilgit roads, and the construction of the Muzafferabad Bridge) has, side by side with the reforms mentioned, done much to stimulate trade both within and beyond State limits. The modification of restrictions formerly placed on the residence of Europeans in Kashmir has, of course, tended in the same direction. The country is now visited by thousands of Europeans, who settle there for the hot months of the year, and have established a well-known summer station at Gulmarg, which is higher and cooler than Srinagar, the capital. The influx has tended to increase the demand for Kashmir silver and copper work, which is rapidly acquiring a distinctive character and rising in importance amongst Oriental arts, while the shawl-weaving and lacquer work for which the country is famous is also in greater request. Year by year the value of mercantile transactions with British India steadily expands. Excluding gold and silver it stood at 156 lakhs of rupees in 1898 1899, while in the year ended on March 31st, 1902, it had risen to no less than 257½ lakhs. The Jammu and Kashmir State Railway, on the standard gauge, runs from the frontier of the State to the left bank of the Tawi river near Jammu, and was opened in March, 1890. Under agreement between the Durbar and the Government it is worked by the North Western Railway. The mountainous character of the country adds

materially to the financial and engineering obstacles to railway development, but the Durbar has under consideration a scheme for a light line, *viâ* the Banial pass from Jammu to Srinagar, so as to bring the capital into direct railway communication with British India. Projects have also been prepared for a railway to Kashmir both on the standard and metre gauges by alternative routes, from Kala-ki-Sarai *viâ* Abbotabad, or from Mandra *viâ* Panjar. On the metre gauge the cost would be about 245 lakhs of rupees, and on the standard gauge three crores, the distance being about 200 miles. The matter is not being lost sight of, but in the meantime canals both for communication and for irrigation have been improved, extended or constructed.

In the administration of law and order progress has been no less marked. The practice of farming out the exclusive right of trying suits among certain classes of people has been abolished, as has the no less reprehensible custom of punishing the innocent relatives of army deserters when the runaways successfully evaded detection and capture. Kidnapping was in former days a very common practice, but it has now been suppressed. Another uprooted evil was the custom, obtaining among the hill people, of pawning men and women to secure loans. An essential element in the introduction and permanence of the reforms and improvements that have been indicated was the virtual reconstruction of the administrative machinery. In many Oriental lands subordinate officials can at least plead, in extenuation of the extortion they practise, that their salaries are paid at infrequent and uncertain intervals. Such excuses would not hold good in Kashmir, where all salaries have for some years past been paid monthly, instead of quarterly and half-yearly. Leave and other rules affecting the public services have been introduced, and in the general reorganization of departments a much higher standard of efficiency than formerly prevailed has been required. The supply of well-educated and honest officers locally available being inadequate, men of character and ability were engaged outside the State for the purpose of raising the general standard, while the pay of old and well-tried officials was increased in certain instances as an encouragement to official honesty and diligence. Manuals for the guidance of district officers, tahsildars and kanungos were issued, with appropriate specimen forms for their use. The account system was entirely reorganized, and this has aided to no insignificant extent in bringing about the prosperous financial position to which the State has been raised, another contributory cause being the conservation of the great forest areas, after the model of the system obtaining in British India.

In the "East India (Progress and Condition) Report" presented to Parliament in 1901 it was remarked that the Kashmir revenue "continues to exhibit a healthy tendency towards elasticity and expansion. During the five years ending March 1901, there has been growth in both revenue and expenditure. The invested surplus of the State has, in the same period, been increased from £228,000 to £285,000. The Budget for 1900–01 gives a total of receipts of £438,000 and of expenditure of £419,000. The great spending departments are the Military and Public Works. The former has decreased in expenditure in recent years, and now requires about £80,000 a year. The actual Public Works expenditure in 1899-1900 exceeded £110,000, but the estimate for the following

year is taken at £80,000. Considerable outlay is being devoted to sericulture, from which large financial returns are already accruing to the State. The question of the construction of a railway through Jammu to the Kashmir Valley is being carefully considered. Money has been allotted for the survey, and a grant is also made for the construction of a road along the route, which would be useful in the event of the railway project being sanctioned." The report for the following year was no less favourable. It showed that, after meeting an expenditure of £436,000, there was a surplus of £36,000. The year closed with an invested balance of £330,000, and a working balance of £270,000. It was again intimated that "large returns are anticipated from the outlay for the development of silk culture and manufacture. A railway to Srinagar is in contemplation, and a road taking the course of the proposed railway from Jammu to Udhampore, where coal has recently been discovered, is being constructed."

Under the efficient direction of General Raja Sir Amar Singh, the Military department has been reorganized, and the army brought up to a high standard. The army consists of about 8,000 cavalry and infantry and 288 guns. As we have seen in the earlier part of this sketch, the pledge given by Maharaja Gulab Singh, when he made peace with the British at Amritsar in 1846, to place the sword of Kashmir at the disposal of the Paramount Power whenever required, was faithfully observed by him and his successor. Maharaja Sir Partab Singh has worthily maintained the traditions of his dynasty in this respect. Kashmir was one of the very first States to organize and equip their quotas to the Imperial Service Troops. It was only a short time prior to handing over the reins of Government to Lord Lansdowne, that the late Marquis of Dufferin announced that the loyal offers of the Ruling Chiefs to assist in the defence of the Empire would be accepted on the basis of fixed contingents from each of the contributory States. Yet, during the first year of Lord Lansdowne's Viceroyalty, the organization of the Kashmir quota was taken in hand, and a very valuable and efficient force soon resulted. The soldiers of His Highness participated in the Black Mountain expedition sent out at the beginning of 1891, to quell the wild tribes raiding the settled borders of the Samana range. The Kashmir Corps was also engaged in the Hunza Nagar operations, and on both occasions won the high encomiums of the general officers in command. Still more noteworthy was the service rendered in the Tirah campaign of 1897-98, in which the Kashmir Mounted Battery gained special fame for activity, vigilance and valour. It was in recognition of the loyal aid eagerly rendered when required that the Maharaja was given in 1896, the honorary rank of Major-General in the British Army. Sir Amar Singh, to whom reference is made elsewhere, is the right-hand man of His Highness, and in his position as Vice-President of the State Council he has been a consistent and active supporter of the progressive policy which characterizes the administration. Another brother of His Highness, now deceased, Raja Sir Ram Singh, was created a Knight Commander of the Bath in recognition of his services to the Crown. The Maharaja receives a salute of twenty-one guns within his own territories and one of nineteen guns in the rest of India.

With the Maharaja of Travancore, the ruler of Kashmir rode immediately behind the Nizam and the Maharaja of Mysore in the procession of Chiefs who, mounted on

richly caparisoned elephants, escorted the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught when they made their State entry into Delhi for the Durbar. Sir Partab Singh's camp was one of the largest on the Delhi plains, containing no less than 400 tents for housing the personal staff and retainers of His Highness (who reached a total number of 1,500), and large numbers of the Indian nobility and gentry, as well as illustrious Lamas, friends from Turkestan, Bhutias from the hills, the Mirs of Hunza and Nagar, the Raja of Punah and other frontier Chiefs feudatory to Kashmir, all of whom were guests of His Highness. In the Viceregal State entry and also at the great Coronation assemblage on New Year's Day, the Maharaja appeared in splendid, yet simple costume, with the beautiful plume emblematical of the Dogra Raj waving from his turban. The message the great Northern ally sent to the King-Emperor was couched in the following appropriate words: "I congratulate your Excellency with the innermost sense of loyalty and devotion on this happy occasion, and I beg you to communicate my congratulations to His Imperial Majesty King Edward, together with my heartfelt prayers to God Almighty to preserve the ever-growing prosperity of the British Throne, and to grant protection and peace to all Indians great and small." His Highness was able, thanks to the extent, the insularity and the unique features of his dominions, to contribute very largely to the spectacular effect of many of the ceremonies of the Durbar fortnight. This was especially the case at the review of Native State retainers, when, on the principle of keeping the best till last, Kashmir wound up the remarkable procession. "Besides the usual profusion of elephants, horses, retainers and troops," cabled the special correspondent of *The Times*, "Kashmir boasts two giants, probably the champion giants of the whole world, both well over eight feet, with abnormal hands and feet. From far Ladak, Kashmir has drawn the weirdest group of all her warriors with huge helmets of yellow cloth shaped like caricatures of Pallas Athene, and others with winged hats of scarlet, whilst before them walk and dance a band of real goblin men in enormous, hideous, grinning masks, personating the fabled monsters of Buddhist mythology, such as figure in sacred dances of Tibetan lamasseries. With Kashmir this unequalled pageant comes to a close, and leaves one almost dazed by a long-drawn succession of living pictures, some stately, some grotesque, some crude, some exquisitely beautiful, and always intensely real."

A brief account may here be given of a country producing giants and men of the kind described above. To begin with the State capital, Srinagar has been appropriately called an Eastern Venice, on account of its extending for about two miles along the bank of the River Jhelum, and being intersected by canals. The right and left banks of the river are united by seven bridges. The city has a population of over 122,000, having increased by nearly 4,000 between 1891 and 1901. The Maharaja's palace, the fort, the gun factory and the mint are the principal public buildings. Both here and at Jammu municipalities have been established, and sanitation has been greatly advanced in recent years. On the right bank of the river at Srinagar travellers' bungalows have been erected in fine orchards for the convenience of visitors. Behind the bungalows a hill known as Solomon's Throne rises 6,000 feet above the sea-level, its summit capped by a fine old temple erected by Jaloko more than two centuries before the Christian era. On

another hill to the north of the city stands the fortress built by Akbar about 1590 at a cost of a million sterling. The avenues of poplars which here, as elsewhere, line the river banks, lend to the scenery a peculiar grace distinctive of the country. The city lake is a delightful spot, hemmed in by lofty verdure-clad mountains, and bearing on its placid surface floating gardens composed of masses of vegetation from two to three feet thick, formed of intertwined blocks of aquatic plants. The Baradari Palace is the principal residence of the Maharaja, and is adjoined by the royal temple, the roof of which is covered with thin plates of pure gold. It may here be mentioned that His Highness is a very devout and orthodox prince. He spends several hours daily in *puja* and the observance of religious rites and ceremonies. This devoutness has the counterpart by which it should ever be accompanied: His Highness is described by those who are brought into contact with him as of sympathetic temperament, and as one whose strict sense of justice is tempered by mercy.

The rich and varied architecture of Srinagar, including as it does the "magnificent Shalemar," which Moore has made familiar to English readers, the Sher Garhi, and the Shah Hamadan Masjid, by no means exhausts the interest the Happy Valley has for the archæologist. "Its architecture," says Ferguson, "has attracted more attention in modern times than that of any other part of India," because the dates of its temples "extend through six centuries—A.D. 600 to A.D. 1200—and are unlike in style to any other. The early style is almost identical with that of the Grecian Doric. The temple of Martana, five miles east of Islamabad, the ancient capital of the valley, is the architectural lion of Kashmir." But it is the natural beauty of the Kashmir Valley which must ever be the predominant attraction for the visitor. The "Vale" extends for about 120 miles from N.W. to S.E., with a mean breadth of 75 miles, at a distance of about 130 miles from Rawal Pindi. The flat part of the valley is not more than 80 miles long by 20 wide, with a variable elevation above sea-level of from 5,000 to 7,000 feet. Here are two lakes, the Dul and the Wulwur; through the latter the Jhelum flows ere changing its course to the westward and passing through the mountains to the Punjab plains. The valley is surrounded by snow-capped mountains, the lower spurs of which descend gently in terraced slopes, which are abundantly irrigated for rice cultivation, rice being the staple crop of the country. About the lakes and scattered through the whole extent of the valley, are magnificent groves of chinar or plane trees. Occasionally the traveller notices that they are laid out with great regularity and taste to form gardens and country seats, these having been in bygone days the favourite resorts of the Mogul emperors.



H.H. The Maharaja of Travancore.

H.H. Sir Sri Rama Varma, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Travancore.

LYING, as it does, in the south-west corner of the apex of the Indian Peninsula, and therefore beyond the beaten track of cold-weather tourists, the great State of Travancore is comparatively little known to the "globe-trotter," and even remained outside the range of Viceregal tours until Lord Curzon included it in the itinerary of his second autumn tour. Yet in many respects Travancore has unique attractions for the lover of nature, the archæologist, and the student of history or of sociology. On the occasion of his visit, Lord Curzon summarized the more noteworthy of these attractions in a few glowing sentences. Remarking on the exuberant natural beauties, the old-world simplicity, and the Arcadian charm of Travancore, His Excellency asked: "Who would not be fascinated by such a spectacle? Here Nature has spent upon the land her richest bounties; the sun fails not by day, the rain falls in due season, drought is practically unknown, and an eternal summer gilds the scene. Where the land is capable of culture, there is no denser population; where it is occupied by jungle, or backwater, or lagoon, there is no more fairy landscape. Planted amid these idyllic scenes is a community that has retained longer than any other equally civilized part of the Indian continent its archaic mould, that embraces a larger Christian population than any other Native State, and that is ruled by a line of indigenous princes who are one in origin and sentiment with the people whom they govern. Well may a Viceroy of India find pleasure in turning hither his wandering footsteps; good reason has he for complimenting such a ruler and such a State." To this glowing picture it may be added that Travancore is 6,730 square miles in extent, about two-thirds of this area consisting of hills and forests. Its valleys are clad in perpetual verdure, and the backwaters or lagoons which skirt the Eastern seaboard have their banks covered with a dense and unbroken mass of cocoanut and areca palms. In the virgin

forests of the hills many useful varieties of timber are procurable—teak, blackwood, ebony, jack, and *anjili* amongst them—and wild animals of many kinds roam the jungle, including the elephant, the tiger, the leopard, the bison, and the sambhur.

His Highness Sri Bala Rama Varma, who rules this fair and favoured land, belongs to one of the most ancient of Indian dynasties, tracing back its origin to Puranic eras. The Chera family, of which he is the modern representative, divided with the Pandyan and Cholun dynasties the sovereignty over the countries south of the Deccan in far-off times. Recent epigraphical and archæological researches show that the Travancore Raj once embraced a considerably larger area than is now included within its boundaries. St. Francis Xavier, in descriptions of his missionary wanderings, mentions "the great King of Travancore," and speaks of him as "having authority over all Southern India." Early in the fourteenth century a King of Travancore appears to have "made the Pandians and Cholas subject to the Keralas." In subsequent wars, however, the State lost its possessions beyond the Ghauts, and, taking advantage of the military preoccupations of the Durbar, several petty chiefs within the State broke off their allegiance and set up as independent rulers. No attempt appears to have been made to regain possession of the external territories, but the petty chiefs within the State were all subdued, and the whole country within the present boundaries was consolidated and brought under one rule and system during the reign of Martunda Varma (1729-58). The position of the State on the Malabar coast brought it into commercial relations with Europe as far back as the time of the ancient Romans. The discovery of the Cape route by Vasco de Gama brought, first, the Portuguese, then the Dutch, and lastly the English, on the scene. The relations of the first two nations with the State were mainly commercial, but those of the English, though having a trading basis originally, were transformed as time went by into a political character. With the permission of the Raja, the English settled at Anjengi, a few miles to the north of Trivandrum, and built a factory there in 1684. Three quarters of a century afterwards we find Travancore rendering valuable assistance to the East India Company in its military operations in Tinnivelly and Madura. Again throughout the wars ending in the overthrow of Tippu, Sultan of Mysore, the ruler of Travancore was the steadfast ally of the British Power. In 1795 the Raja Bala Rama Varma entered into subsidiary alliance with the British Government, receiving a guarantee of protection. His successor came into still closer relations with the Paramount Power in 1805. A rebellion occurred among the Nairs five years later, but was promptly suppressed by the British troops, and from that time forward the country has enjoyed profound peace and undisturbed prosperity.

Under no sovereign has that prosperity been more stimulated by wise and beneficent rule than under the present Maharaja, who succeeded to the *gadi* on August 4, 1885, at the age of 28. His accession was in accordance with the Marumakkathayam law of inheritance. Under this law, observed in Travancore from the earliest times, succession follows the line of sisters and children by the sisters of the Raja, the next heir being the younger brother or nephew (sister's son) according to seniority in age. In the

absence of sisters or sisters' daughters, there is a danger of extinction, and adoption becomes necessary to perpetuate the family. Adoptions, generally of females, have been made from time to time into the royal family with the approval of the British Government. His Highness came to the throne equipped with a sound English education, and also with a knowledge of several Indian languages—Sanskrit, Tamil, Hindustani and Malayalum, the latter being his mother-tongue. His oratorical gifts, and the high ideals by which he is inspired, are illustrated in the brief speech he made on the occasion of his installation on August 19, 1885. The ceremony took place in the old Audience Hall in the Fort, which, as the scene of the installation of a long line of the Maharaja's predecessors, was appropriately preferred to the new Durbar Hall. There, in the presence of a distinguished assembly, including all the great Officers of State, the Maharaja was conducted to the throne by the Resident, who at the same time presented to His Highness the plumed and jewelled turban which is, in Travancore, one of the symbols of sovereignty. A cordial letter of congratulation, received through the Resident, from Sir M. E. Grant Duff, then Governor of Madras, having been read, His Highness said that, coming as he did after an illustrious line of ancestors—not the least eminent and wise of whom had been his two lamented uncles and immediate predecessors—he felt his unworthiness to undertake the grave responsibilities of that exalted position. But he was thankful that he saw not a little in the circumstances in which he was placed to encourage and cheer him. "This ancient kingdom," continued His Highness, "under the fostering care of my predecessors, has entered on a career of material prosperity never before known; the finances are in a flourishing condition, and the foundations of future prosperity have been laid broad and deep. I have, therefore, only to work on the lines chalked out for me: and in endeavouring to do this, it is no small encouragement to me that I shall have the cordial aid and counsel of the British representative at my Court, and the support and protection of the Paramount Power, to whose fortunes those of my House are, fortunately, indissolubly linked; from whom, in the long course of our happy connection, we have never experienced anything but uniform kindness and friendship, and to whom we have always owed, and will continue to owe, unswerving loyalty . . . I devoutly pray that the Author of all good, who in His infinite and inscrutable wisdom has seen fit to cut short a most useful and valuable life in the midst of a bright and successful career, may 'what in me is dark illumine, what is low, raise and support;' guide me in the straight path of my duty; give me the will and power to follow in the footsteps of him whose premature loss we all deplore, and enable me, to the best of the light vouchsafed to me, to strive to promote the well-being and happiness of nearly two-and-a-half millions of peaceful and industrious subjects, so unexpectedly committed to my care."

One signal proof that these high ideals and aspirations have been faithfully followed, is to be found in the fact that in the few years that have elapsed since they were spoken the population has risen to nearly three millions. The 1891 census gave a total of 2,557,840; that of 1901 shows a rise to no less than 2,951,038. The bulk of the people are Hindus, belonging to as many as 420 castes. A noteworthy circumstance is that His Highness rules over a larger proportion of Christians

to population than are to be found in any other Native State, or in any province of British India Tradition ascribes the introduction of Christianity to St. Thomas the Apostle, who is reputed to have laboured in Southern India in the middle of the first century of the Christian era. Whether this tradition is or is not correct, there can be no doubt that the rulers of Travancore in ancient and mediæval times displayed a toleration of missionary propaganda comparing very favourably with the hard spirit of those days. In more recent times this traditional policy has been upheld, and it is steadily maintained by the present Maharaja. Here and in the State of Cochin there are some 400,000 adherents of the Syrian Church, and Catholic and Protestant missions are actively working, both the Roman and Anglican Churches having established episcopal sees. Travancore has within its borders some 1,200 buildings dedicated to Christian worship. It is needless to add that this freedom of religious faith and practice is confined to no creed. Hindu temples, Moslem mosques, and Jewish synagogues stand close to Christian churches to testify to the freedom of religious belief possessed by the subjects of the Travancore Raj long before British paramountcy was so much as thought of.

From his boyhood His Highness has been fond of European society, and has indulged in various manly sports. The cares of State leave little margin of time for the chase, but His Highness obtains recreation in tennis, golf, billiards, croquet and badminton. Somewhat below middle height, and rather slightly made, he possesses handsome, regular features. While an admirer of all that is best in European civilization, he retains a scrupulous regard for the customs of his people, and strictly observes the ceremonies enjoined by the religion of his ancestors and the traditions of his House. Endowed with a most retentive memory, and aided by the regular and methodical habits formed in early life, the Maharaja gets through a great deal of administrative work, without fuss, hurry or confusion. He controls with diligence and prudence every wheel and spring of the machinery of government, and no one can be brought into official contact with him without noticing that he has great mastery of detail. An observer of order and despatch himself, he looks for the same qualities from his officers. The mystery with which some Eastern potentates shroud themselves is foreign to his nature, and he knows that it would not conduce to the well-being of his subjects, which is ever his first concern. He is accessible to all who have business to transact or petitions to prefer, whatsoever may be their class, caste or creed. The various tours he has made in British India have enabled His Highness to make the acquaintance of many prominent men outside Travancore, and also to study at first hand the working of administrative methods or experiments other than those with which he is familiar. He regards the British Resident not as constituting an inevitable evil, but as a friend and counsellor whom he freely consults on questions of State policy. As already indicated the two immediate predecessors of His Highness placed the administration of the State on a sound basis, and the work to which he has zealously directed his energies has been to perfect and supplement the measures of improvement and reform which they inaugurated. On the occasion of his visit to the State towards the close of 1900, the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, justly described His Highness as "a kindly and sympathetic and diligent ruler,

whose merits have been tested, and for whom the affection of his people has been continuously enhanced, by fifteen years of prosperous administration," and as "combining the most conservative instincts with the most enlightened views," a characterization endorsed and emphasized by Lord Ampthill, Governor of Madras, when he visited Trivandrum in October, 1902.

That this eulogy was fully deserved will be apparent from the necessarily brief and inadequate summary of the progress achieved under His Highness's *régime* which follows. An outstanding feature of that progress has been the constitution of a Legislative Council, composed both of officials and non-officials, the latter being nominated on a representative basis. The Maharaja has also conferred local autonomy on towns, by authorizing the establishment of municipalities. Still more important have been the measures adopted for the benefit of the agricultural community, on whose prosperity the commonweal in a country like Travancore so largely depends. The long-standing disputes between the hereditary landlords and their tenants were made the subject of exhaustive enquiry, preparatory to the passing of a Regulation in 1896, designed to settle, so far as State intervention could do so, this complex agrarian problem. The respective rights of the two classes were defined by the measure, which, while securing to the tenants the inestimable boon of permanent occupancy rights, provides an easy and convenient procedure for the recovery of rent, the punctual payment of which is, of course, a condition of the fixity of tenure. Loans for agricultural improvements have been freely granted on moderate terms, and the prosperity of the most ancient of all industries has been further stimulated by the execution of irrigation works of varying magnitude throughout the country. The most important scheme now in hand is the Kotiyar project, which is estimated to cost 27 lakhs of rupees, and in magnitude stands next only, among present Indian undertakings, to the great Cauvery scheme to which reference is made in the biographical notices given elsewhere of the Maharaja of Mysore and of his late lamented father. The Kotiyar irrigation will benefit a considerable proportion of the culturable area within the Travancore dominions. Another boon to the cultivators has been the abolition of the Viruthi service. It was the remnant of a quasi-feudal system of bygone days, under which the holders of certain lands were bound to render a variety of menial services and supply provisions at nominal rates in connection with certain State institutions and ceremonies. The great task of land survey and settlement has been most carefully carried out. "The impression left by the consequent enquiries into land tenure," it was intimated in a Blue-book presented to Parliament in 1902, "is that the State demand on a cultivator in Travancore is extremely light. It is this which makes it easy to collect almost the whole of the land revenue in the course of the year." The introduction of an improved and scientific method of forest administration has been of substantial benefit to the people. Mention should also be made of the agricultural demonstration farm established at the capital,

The abolition of the cardamon monopoly, which was found by experience to hamper instead of develop the industry, is but one measure among many whereby the

country's resources have been fostered. The increase in and improvement of the means of communication carried out by the Public Works Department has, of course, been beneficial in this direction. In the last official year for which figures are available the external trade of the State amounted in value to £1,750,000. It may be expected to attain still larger dimensions when the Tinnivelly-Quilon Railway has been constructed. For such portion of the line as runs through the State, the Maharaja has granted the land required to the South Indian Railway Company, and has guaranteed the interest on the capital outlay, measures on which the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, heartily congratulated him when at Trivandrum. His Excellency also commented on His Highness's possession of "a large and carefully accumulated balance in the Treasury," and remarked that his enlightened zeal would doubtless suggest to him fresh opportunities of utilizing it for the development of the country. The Parliamentary report, already quoted, shows that this balance amounts to about a crore of rupees, which is equivalent to a little more than a year's revenue.

In no respect is the record of Travancore more gratifying than in the care and thought bestowed upon the education of the people. As Parliament was informed in 1901, "the standard of education is relatively very high." In the last-issued "East India Progress and Condition Report" it was stated: "Education statistics in Travancore are very encouraging; the percentage of attendance at school among children of a school-going age rose during the year to 43·8 for boys, and to 14 for girls." This is, it need scarcely be said, a much higher percentage than generally obtains in India, especially in the case of girls. In the capital alone provision for female teaching comprises a vernacular high school and two Colleges, one a Government institution and the other State-aided. The Education Department has been thoroughly re-organized, and care is taken to provide instruction of a diversified type to stimulate a variety of occupation. Agricultural and technical schools are doing useful work, and liberal grants are given to technical and industrial institutions. The introduction of an Archæological survey, and the establishment of a Sanskrit College and of a State School of Art at the capital, are amongst the measures that have been taken during the present reign. Scholarships for the pursuance of technical studies in Europe have been founded, and the two first exhibitioners are studying Mining and Geology in the Royal College of Science at South Kensington. The students of the excellent and well-equipped Maharaja's College at Trivandrum are, therefore, not without opportunity to follow the advice given them by Lord Curzon, in replying to their address of welcome, to "get out of the rut" and to remember that "the whole of life is not summed up in the office or in the law courts." "Take as a stimulus to your imaginations," said His Excellency, "the singular variety and interest of the State to which you belong. I do not suppose that in the whole of India there is a State with greater fertility of resources, with more picturesque surroundings, with ampler opportunities for work, with richer prospects of development. It is also a very patriotic State. Every good Travancorean thinks that there is no place like Travancore, no college like Trivendrum College, no prince like His Highness the Maharaja (loud cheers). Well, with this fund of patriotism to start with, which should

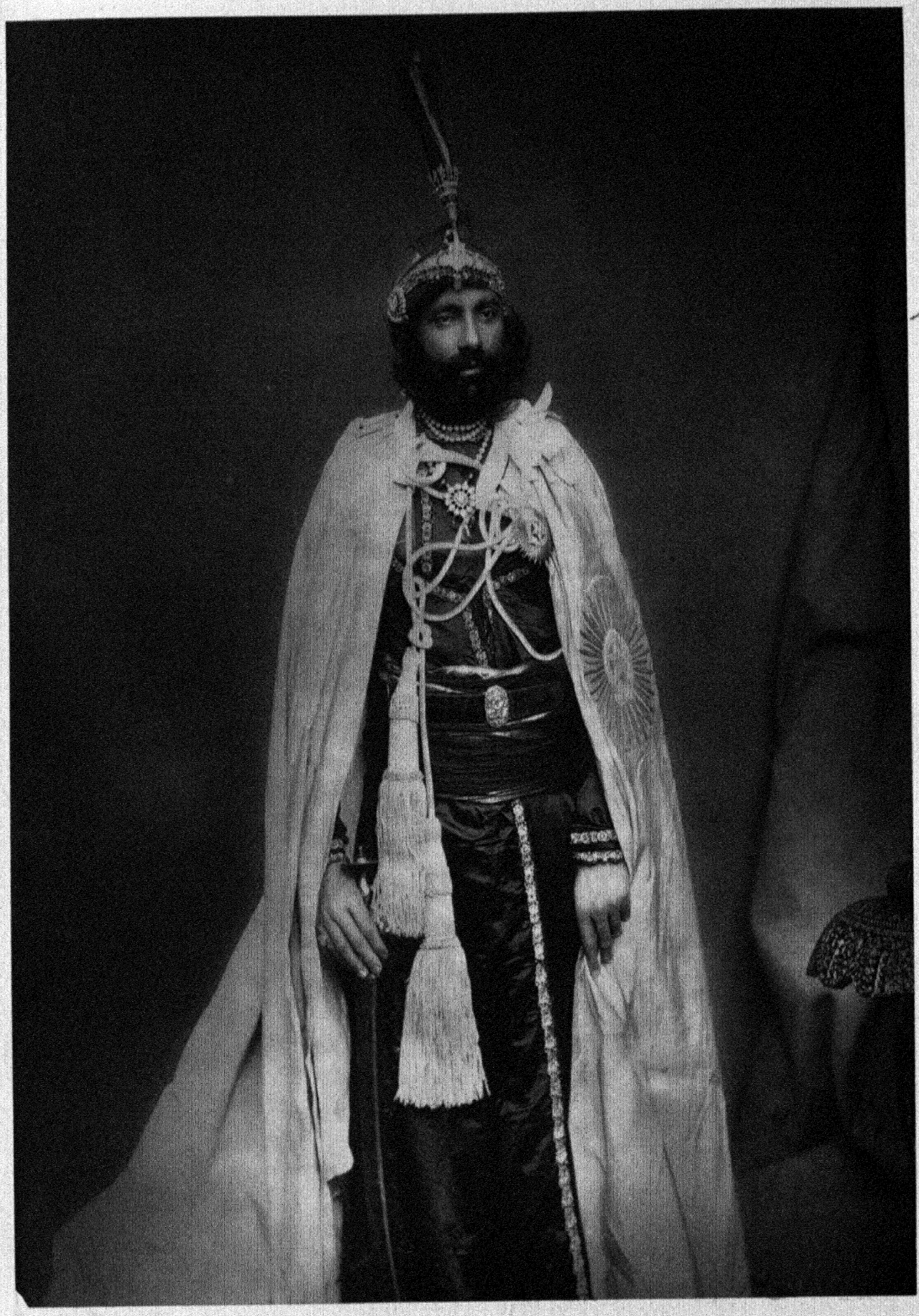
supply you with initial impetus, I say:—Look about you while you are still young, test your own aptitudes, and make up your mind as to the manner in which, when your academic education is over, you are going to serve the State." Having expressed the opinion that "there is scarcely a single branch of scientific or technical education which is not capable of practical and remunerative pursuit in Travancore," His Excellency observed that in striking out fresh lines, the students would meet with "the warmest encouragement from the European professors of the College, and not less from His Highness the Maharaja himself. The Maharajas of Travancore have always been distinguished for their patronage of learning. His Highness takes the keenest interest in the welfare of this College; and I have heard with pleasure, with reference to one of the fields of study I mentioned just now, viz., that of scientific forestry, that he is sending four pupils to study in the Forest School of the Government of India at Dehra Dun."

Space does not permit of more than mere mention of other directions in which the State has been steadily progressing under His Highness's rule, such as the extension of the boon of medical relief to all classes of subjects; the provision of an excellent Women and Children's Hospital at the capital, of liberal scholarships in connection with the Dufferin Fund, and of grants-in-aid to medical institutions and Native *vydiasalas*; the organization of a special Sanitary Department; the consolidation and amendment of enactments for the guidance of the civil and criminal Courts; the improvement of the tone and *personnel* of the judicial administration by raising salaries; and the introduction of a scheme of State life insurance to enable public servants, especially those in the subordinate ranks, to make some provision for their families. In the carrying out of these reforms and in the pursuance of his progressive policy generally, the Maharaja has had the whole-hearted co-operation and advice of his able minister, Dewan Bahadur K. Krishnaswamy Rao, who, in 1902, received from the King-Emperor the honour of admission to a Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire. The nomination was much appreciated in Travancore, where, as a leading Madras journal wrote at the time: "His honesty of purpose, kindliness of heart, and winning courtesy to everyone, without distinction or difference, have won for him warm esteem and affection."

In various ways the Government of India have evidenced their recognition of the high qualities, both personal and administrative, of the Maharaja. In 1888 he was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India; his salute has been raised as a personal distinction from nineteen to twenty-one guns; and he was invited by the King-Emperor to be one of the chosen representatives of the Ruling Princes at the Coronation—an invitation which, he was reluctantly compelled for family and State reasons to decline. His Highness was, however, one of the most conspicuous and honoured of the Feudatories present at the recent Coronation Durbar at Delhi, and with the Maharaja of Nabha was singled out by his Sovereign to receive the distinction, in connection with the occasion, of a Knight Grand Commandership of the Order of the Indian Empire. He is now, therefore, in the premier rank of both Indian Orders. The insignia of his new honour was bestowed upon him at a special investiture of the Orders by Lord Curzon, as Grand

Master On the occasion of the State entry of the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught into Delhi, His Highness rode in the escort of Native Princes, abreast of the ruler of Kashmir, immediately behind the Hyderabad and Mysore Chiefs. His Highness was accompanied to Delhi by a large retinue, and his camp was laid out with a magnificence appropriate to his status and the importance of the occasion. Unfortunately, the Maharaja suffered from indisposition and had to leave Delhi some days earlier than he had intended, but not until the main functions associated with the Assemblage had taken place. On reaching his capital, the Maharaja received an extraordinary demonstration of the devotion of his subjects. A large reception *pandal* was erected for the presentation of costly addresses of local welcome, the streets of the city were illuminated and decorated on an unexampled scale of profusion, and during the day 23,000 poor were fed in four centres of the town. The whole cost of the proceedings was borne by spontaneous public subscription, and the Maharaja was deeply moved by what he aptly termed "the evident manifestations of rejoicing" at his safe return.

It should be added that His Highness is a Fellow of the Madras University, a member of the Royal Asiatic Society of London, and an Officer De L'Instruction Publique. He maintains a military force of 61 cavalry, 1,442 infantry and six guns.



H.H. The Maharana of Udaipur.

H.H. Maharana Dhiraj Sir Fateh Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I., Maharana of Udaipur.

LIKE the Nizam, India's Premier Prince, the Maharana of Udaipur was included in the original list of invitations from the King-Emperor to proceed to England as His Majesty's guest at the Coronation. But as his State had suffered severely from the great famine of the closing months of the nineteenth century, the Maharana's high sense of duty led him to most regretfully decline the invitation. Hence it was that King and people in England were deprived of an opportunity to fitly welcome and honour a Prince who would have been eminently representative of Rajputana, of whose twenty States Udaipur, or Mewar, is the foremost. Comprising a total area of 12,670 square miles, it measures from north to south 148 miles, and has an average breadth from east to west of 163 miles. But what gives its chief claim to precedence in Rajput eyes is not its extent or population, but the position of its ruler as head of the Sesodia clan, and therefore the "Sun of the Hindus." As head of the elder branch of the *Surajbansi* or Solar race, he is the legitimate heir of the semi-divine Rama, the first in blood of all Hindu princes. Not only is he chief of "The Thirty-six Royal Tribes," his is the only dynasty in India which still rules over territory that acknowledged the sway of his ancestors for centuries before Mahomed of Ghazni first crossed the Indus a thousand years ago. While other Hindu princes saw their territories subjugated or dismembered by successive invasions, the House of Mewar has been able to boast that no daughter of theirs was ever given in marriage to any of the Mahomedan Emperors—a fact which eloquently indicates the uninterrupted maintenance of Mewar independence.

The unique position of the Prince is illustrated by the status which membership of his clan confers, and the marked difference of Mewar from other States in her policy and institutions. The title of Rana or Maharana (adopted in the twelfth century in lieu of the

more ancient "Rawal," in celebration of the conquest of the Mandor Rana) is proudly borne by every considerable Sesodia Prince in Central and Western India, in token of kinship with the most honoured bearer of the name. Such kinship is the chief pride and glory of every clansman, and if he be but the holder of a *charsa* of land he speaks of and addresses the ruler of Udaipur as *Bapaji* (father). In his monumental "Annals of Rajasthan," Colonel Tod pointed out that "the honours and privileges and the gradations of rank amongst the vassals of the Rana's House exhibit a highly artificial and refined state of society. Each of the superior rank is entitled to a banner, kettle-drums preceded by heralds, and silver maces, with peculiar gifts and personal honours, in commemoration of some exploit of their ancestors . . . Only those of pure blood in both lines can hold fiefs of the Crown; the highest may marry the daughter of a Rajput whose sole possession is a 'skin of land'; the sovereign himself is not degraded by such an alliance." The Mewar nobles enjoy unique rights and privileges, and their lands comprise about one-third of the territory of the Principality. The Court maintained at their own estates is almost an exact counterpart of that of their Prince. The Thakurs of the first class are those whose estates represent a yearly value of half-a-lakh of rupees and upwards. They are the hereditary councillors of the Maharana, but appear at his Court only on special invitation. The second-class Thakurs, whose rent rolls are never less than Rs. 5,000, were formerly always required to be in attendance on the Maharana, and from them the military officers and *Faujdars* were appointed. Next in rank come the *Gols*, or holders of small estates, and the *Babas*, or "Children of Mewar." The latter consist of the numerous younger branches of the reigning family, and within a certain period they are entitled to an appanage. Foremost amongst them are the Rajas of Bunera and Shahpura, whose grants are renewed by the Maharana at each succession, and who receive from him the *khilat* of investiture. A still greater Feudatory is the Rawat of Salumbar, who holds the fourth place in Durbar, and claims the office of chief hereditary councillor as the descendant of Prince Chonda, elder son of the Rana Lakha Ram.

The jealous conservation of purity of descent which has characterized the Sesodia clan for so many centuries led, in Mogul times, to a withdrawal from the neighbouring States of Jaipur and Jodhpur of the honour of marriage with scions of the House of Mewar, on account of their having given daughters in marriage to the Delhi Emperors. At the commencement of the eighteenth century, however, the three States found it necessary to enter into a defensive alliance in which Mewar consented to a renewal of the privilege her allies valued so highly. It was further stipulated that sons of princesses of the Udaipur House should, in all cases, succeed to the throne in preference to the elder sons by other mothers. This provision was, unfortunately, the cause of bitter family dissensions and internecine warfare. Thereby resistance to Maratha ravages and exactions was considerably weakened. Towards the end of the century the rulers of Jaipur and Jodhpur waged disastrous war on each other because they were rivals for the hand of Princess Krishna Kunwar of Udaipur. On the suggestion of his Dewan, Rana Bhim Singh restored peace to Rajasthan by poisoning his daughter. But the ravages of the Marathas and the Pindaris under Amir Khan continued, and threatened to depopulate

the country till, in 1817, the Maharana Bhim Singh made a treaty with the British Government, by which the latter agreed to protect Udaipur and to use its best exertions for the restoration of the territories that had been lost, when this could be done with propriety. On his death in 1828, Bhim Singh was succeeded by his son, Jawan Singh, who reigned ten years. The rulership passed by adoption, in default of male issue, to Sardar Singh, Chief of Bagor. In 1842 he was succeeded by his younger brother and adopted son, Sarup Singh, who distinguished himself by his loyal services during the Mutiny. Next in succession were Simbhu Singh and Sajan Singh.

Maharana Sajan Singh, after a reign of ten years, died without issue or adopted heir in 1884. For the vacant *gadi* the unanimous choice of the family and leading men of the State fell on the first cousin of the deceased ruler, Fateh Singh, the present Maharana, whose succession was approved by the Government of India. He was then in the high noon of life, having been born in 1850. The third son of the late *jagirdar* of Seorati, Maharaj Dal Singh, and the adopted son of his brother, Maharaj Gaj Singh, he would ultimately have held high position as a councillor of State, had he not been summoned to the place of prime importance in Rajput administration. He had married, in 1867, the daughter of the late Thakur of Khod in Marwar, who died in 1877. In the following year he married the daughter of Chanda Kol Singh, of Barsoda, in Mahi Kantha, Gujarat. The only surviving son is Kunwar Bhupal Singh, the heir, who was born some fourteen months after his father's accession.

Cautious progressiveness and sincere attachment to the Paramount Power have marked the two decades of His Highness's rule. The country is rich in mineral wealth, but agriculture is the principal industry, the chief products being cotton, oil-seed, Indian corn, barley, wheat, sugar-cane, opium and tobacco. The disastrous famines with which the nineteenth century closed inflicted great suffering and loss on the bulk of the population, which, largely owing to emigrations into British territory, was reduced in numbers from 1,862,478 in 1891, to 1,021,664 in 1901. The pressure would have been still more severe but for the liberal policy of the Durbar in respect to irrigation. The Banas is the only large river in the State, but there are plenty of minor streams, and in the Joisamand, Mewar possesses one of the largest sheets of fresh water in the world. Another fine lake is that of Rajnagar, the construction of which took seven years and cost £960,000. Not a town or village is devoid of an artificial lake or a tank. In the five years preceding the last great famine close on two lakhs of rupees were expended on irrigation works. The Udaipur-Chitor Railway, also constructed during the present reign, and extending on the metre gauge over 67 miles, was another valuable weapon in the fight against famine. In that fight some of the State *jagirdars* adopted a somewhat obstructive policy, but, thanks to the persistence of the Maharana, the difficulty was overcome. Amongst other obstacles may be mentioned the backwardness and isolation of the aboriginal Bhils, and the pride of race which led many a Rathor to choose starvation in preference to the reception of charity. Udaipur was the scene of the "old world tale of a Rajput Chief" which Lord Curzon recited to his Legislature in the course of the

statement on the famine on the 19th October 1900. This chief, "dwelling in his bare house, among his destitute tenants," distributed to them the grant allotted to his village, but refused any gift for himself, with the remark "I am a Rathor, I could not take charity," and was with difficulty induced to take a small loan. The reports of Lieut.-Col. Sir W. H. C Wyllie, who was then Officiating Agent to the Governor-General, in Rajputana, bear testimony to His Highness's constant recognition of his obligations to his subjects, and his earnest desire to save life. One of the relief works undertaken with the hearty approval of the Resident, was the construction of earthwork for a small branch line 14½ miles long, from Maoli on the Udaipur-Chitorgarh Railway to Nathdwara, the great Vishnoi place of pilgrimage. These measures for relieving distress reflected credit both on the Maharana and on the joint Chief Ministers—Kothari Balwant Singh and Sahiwalla Arjon Singh.

On the occasion of the celebration of Queen Victoria's first Jubilee in 1887, rather more than three years after the Maharana had ascended the *gadi*, His Highness received the highest Indian decoration open to the Native Rulers, that of Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India. A few months later in the same year, the Imperial Order of the Crown of India was presented to Her Highness the Maharani. The ruler of Udaipur is one of the eight Princes entitled to a salute of nineteen guns, but as a personal distinction two guns have been added in the case of the Maharana, thus bringing the salute up to the maximum of twenty-one guns Only two other chiefs, the Maharajas of Jaipur and Travancore, have received from the British Government a similar honour. It is difficult for the Western reader to adequately realise the importance attached by the Indian peoples to such a mark of honour as this. As the late Lord Lytton wrote to Lord Beaconsfield (then Mr. Disraeli) in connection with the Delhi Proclamation Assembly, such distinctions are "quite as highly prized" by the Princes, "as the more substantial benefits (of augmented territory or revenue) conferred in earlier times upon their family by an Aurengzebe or an Akbar." The clansmen and subjects of the Maharana are, we may be sure, as proud of this signal mark of Imperial favour conferred upon their *Bapji* as he is himself. His Highness maintains a military force of 5,560 cavalry, 18,344 infantry, and 464 guns.

"The Maharana is a conscientious and hard-working ruler, who lives a simple and exemplary life, and devotes himself assiduously to the interests of his people." This is the apt description of His Highness, which was given by Lord Curzon on the occasion of his visiting Udaipur, when on his Rajputana tour in November 1902. It occurred in the brief speech he made at the State banquet given in his honour and that of Lady Curzon, in reply to the toast of their healths. He said that it was the desire of every Viceroy to pay an official visit to a State so distinguished for its loyalty as Mewar, and to make the acquaintance of its illustrious and hospitable Chief. It had gratified him to learn from the Maharana that, with better crops and brighter times, his people were rapidly recovering from the effects of the late devastating famine. It would take a long time to make up all the leeway that had been lost, but he earnestly hoped that there might be no leeway or

set-back in the process of recuperation. His Excellency paid an eloquent tribute to the "fairy surroundings in which we find ourselves, and to the hospitality of which we are the recipients." Most beautiful among the beauties, grandest amid all the grandeur of Rajputana, Udaipur seemed a fitting framework "for a dynasty of immemorial age; for incidents of romance and daring; and, for a Chief who is himself an embodiment of the pride, the dignity, and the patriotism of his race." Mewar might not always retain the primitive simplicity of the ancient model, but, as it moved forwards and onwards, they hoped that its rulers would always be animated by the same nobility of character and sentiment that characterized its present Chief, whose health he proposed with a pleasure he could not exaggerate.

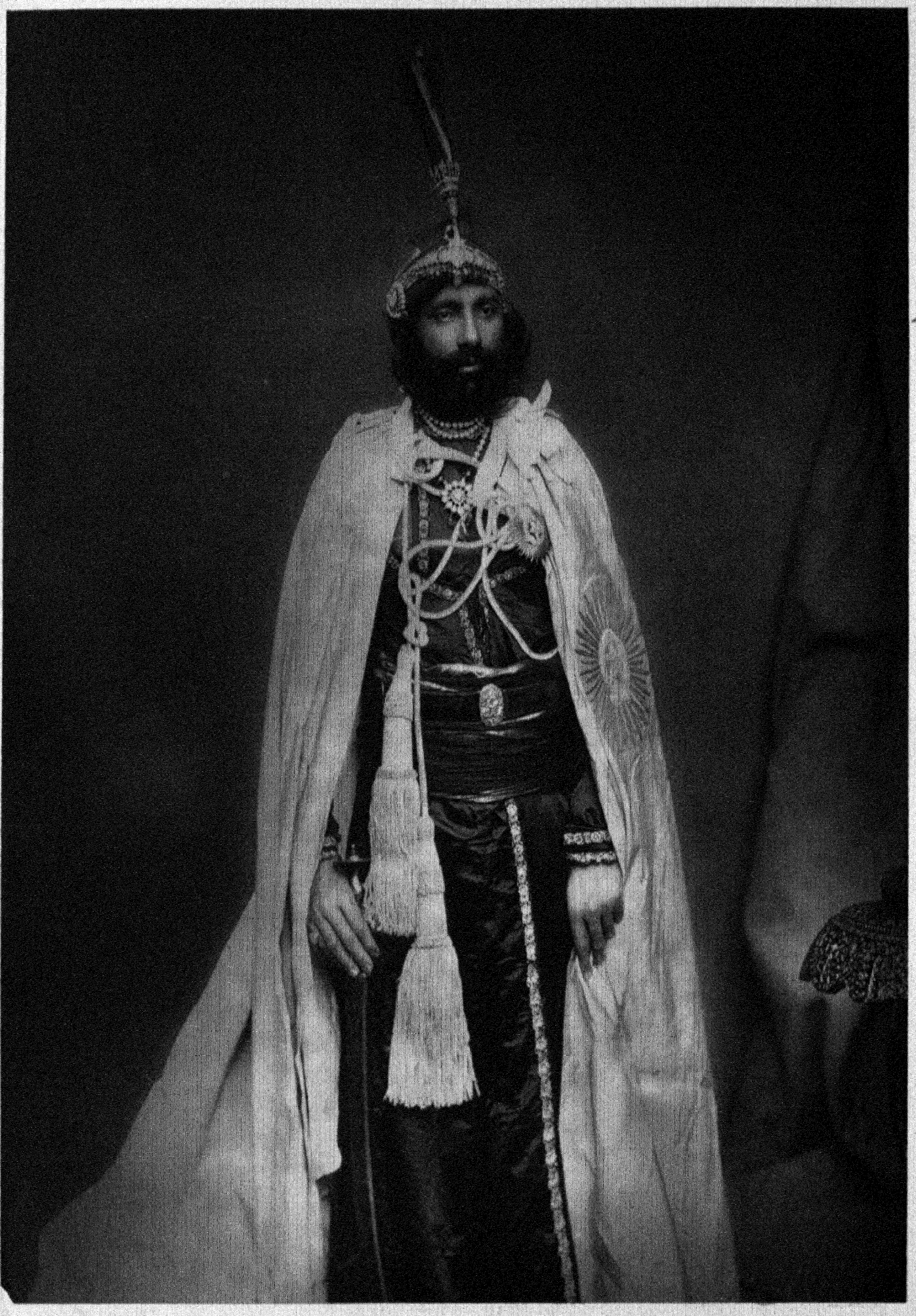
Owing to the illness of the heir-apparent, the Maharana did not reach Delhi in time to participate in the elephant procession which escorted the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught on their State entry into the ancient Mogul capital for the Durbar, but he was an honoured and conspicuous figure at the later functions. He was attended at Delhi by no less than a thousand retainers, and his camp was one of the most ornate upon the plains surrounding the city. At the review of Native State retainers his followers made an imposing and martial appearance.

The ancient records of the Rajput clan of which the Maharana is the head, constitute one of the most fascinating of Indian historical studies. They are examined at length in Tod's "Annals of Mewar," which forms the most interesting and important part of his "Rajasthan." It tells of the emigration of Loh, son of Rama, to Guzerat, where his descendants reigned till their capital, Balabhi, near the present city of Bhavnagar, was destroyed by an invasion of foreigners early in the sixth century of the Christian era. In the course of the flight of the family a prince was born near Mount Abu, who afterwards reigned at Idar, which was held by his descendants for eight generations. His son Bapa, to whose name much legendary lore is attached, sought refuge with the Mori chief of Chitor, then the ruling lord of Malwa, and defeating a Mahomedan invasion from Sind, he ultimately made himself master of Chitor, and founded the kingdom of Mewar.

Goha, Bappa, and Samarsi are the great names of the earlier centuries of the Mewar dynasty. With Rahup's accession at the close of the twelfth century the record becomes clearer and more authentic. It was he who conquered Mokal, the Purihar Rana of Mandur, and assumed the title of Maharana, ever since held by the Sesodias. Ninth in descent from him was the Rana Lakumsi, whose reign witnessed the famous sack of Chitor by Ala-ud-din, the Pathan Emperor of Delhi, at which the *johur*, or sacrifice of the women, was for the first time performed, preparatory to the last sortie of the besieged host, who were exterminated to a man. The great Rana Hamir, who succeeded in 1301, recaptured Chitor, and in a reign extending over 64 years restored the fortunes of his family. The power and prosperity of Mewar were steadily maintained during the remainder of the Pathan period, and at the battle of Bakrol one of its Ranas, Khait Singh, successfully defied the Emperor of Delhi. Still more notable were the

military achievements of the Rana Kumbo in 1440. With an army of 100,000 horse and foot and 1,400 elephants, he routed the combined forces of the Mussalman Kings of Malwa and Guzerat, and made the first-named ruler his prisoner, but magnanimously set him at liberty free of ransom and with rich gifts. These achievements are recorded on the triumphal pillar which, eleven years later, the victor set up at Chitor. He strengthened his defences by the construction of thirty-two fortresses, of which the most famous in Mewar history is the huge Kumbhomer.

It was under the famous Rana Sanga that Mewar reached the high tide of its prosperity. One of the "Pagan" heroes of the "Memoirs of Babar," he was defeated by the Mogul Emperor at the battle of Kanua, in which many of the greatest Hindu princes of India were slain, fighting under Sanga as their lord paramount. Chitor, however, withstood the Mussalman foe, until finally stormed by the great Akbar himself, and, after terrible slaughter, destroyed. The Rana Ude Singh escaped and founded a new capital in a more remote district. He called it Udaipur after his own name, and ever since it has been the capital of Mewar. The wars with the Moguls, led by the generals of Akbar and Jahangier, continued with varying fortunes during subsequent reigns. But amidst these and later vicissitudes the standard of the Sesodia Rajputs still floated proudly at Udaipur, and no break occurred in the continuity of this most ancient and honourable of Rajput dynasties.



H.H. The Maharana of Udaipur.

H.H. the late Maharaja Dhiraj Sir Jaiaji Rao Sindhia Bahadur, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Gwalior.

IN MANY respects the most remarkable Indian Prince of the nineteenth century, the late Maharajah Dhiraj Jaiaji Rao Sindhia of Gwalior, left behind him a reputation for statesmanship, for exemplary rule of his territories, and for loyalty to the Paramount Power, which was not excelled, if even it was equalled, by any contemporary Chief. The State he ruled consists of several detached districts intermingled with other principalities and with other British territories, but its largest and most compact area is bounded on the north-east and north-west by the Chambal River, on the east by British districts, and on the south by a number of Native States. The area of the State, as a whole, is larger than that of Scotland and Wales combined; it had a population in Jaiaji Rao's days of three-and-a-half million persons and a revenue of nearly two crores of rupees. For two centuries the House of Sindhia was the most powerful member of that great Maratha Confederacy which was among the last of Native Powers to acknowledge the paramountcy of Britain. The founder of the family, Ranoji Sindhia, was the son of a Dekhani patel. He became a member of the household of Peshwa Balaji Rao, and so great was his fidelity in this capacity that he rose rapidly from one position to another until he became head of the bodyguard. In the wars of conquest waged by the Peshwa he was a most successful commander. Ranoji Sindhia was succeeded by his second son, Mahadaji Sindhia, great alike in war and in statesmanship. His gallantry was specially conspicuous at the battle of Panipat in 1761, he being amongst the last to leave that memorable field. The lessons of the disaster were not thrown away on him. He disciplined and strongly organized his army, chiefly under French officers, and, though nominally the servant of the Peshwa, he was practically independent. He made the Gwalior State one of the strongest in India; the Rajput

Chiefs fought in vain against his battalions, and even the Delhi Emperor sought his protection. After having been the most powerful Prince in Hindustan for a period of thirty years, he died in 1794. His grand-nephew and successor, Daulat Rao Sindhia, was also for a time the predominant partner in the Maratha Confederacy, but had to give way to the gathering tide of British supremacy. The battles of Assaye, won by Sir Arthur Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington) in 1803, and of Laswari, won by General Lord Lake, in 1804, the Treaty of Sarji Anjangaon in 1805, and the Pindari war in 1817, gave the British Power the paramount position in the Maratha country which it holds to-day. On his death Daulat Rao Sindhia commended his State and his younger widow, Baija Bai, to the care of the Government. Jhankuji Sindhia, who married the grand-daughter of Baija Bai, subsequently succeeded to the *gadi* by adoption. Family dissensions ensued and Baija Bai, who had been Regent for some years, had to leave Gwalior in 1833. Jhankuji Sindhia died in 1843 without children and without having nominated a successor. His widow, with the concurrence of the principal zamindars, adopted Baghirat Rao, a lad eight years of age, belonging to a branch of the family. The adoption was recognized by the British Government, and the Chief whose career we are about to delineate succeeded under the name of Jaiaji Rao Sindhia.

The early days of the regency of the deceased Maharaja's widow were marked by an uprising of the State troops. A British force advanced on Gwalior to restore order, and on the 29th of December 1843, defeated the mutinous army in the concurrent battles of Maharajpur and Paniar. In order to prevent a recurrence of such disturbances Lord Ellenborough insisted on a reduction of the army, and placed the relations of Gwalior with the Paramount Power upon a solid basis by the conclusion of a treaty with the Regent. The treaty provided for the retention of the administration in the hands of Sindhia, and for the conduct of affairs during his minority according to the advice of the British Resident. Government pledged itself to hold intact the territorial rights of Gwalior, a territory yielding a revenue of 18 lakhs being ceded to the British Government for the maintenance of a Contingent force, and other lands for the payment of debts due and the expenses of the war. The army was reduced to 6,000 cavalry, 3,000 infantry, and 200 gunners with 32 guns.

The treaty resulted in peace, an improved administrative system, and, what proved to be a noteworthy feature of it, gratitude on the part of young Sindhia, who gave practical proof of his loyalty in the dark days of 1857, when the aid of so martial a Prince, if thrown in the wrong scale, would have gravely affected the ultimate outcome of the Mutiny. From youth, the Maharaja displayed strong military instincts. It was officially reported of him in 1856 that he "seemed to take pleasure in no occupation save drilling, dressing, ordering, transforming, feasting, playing with troops, and the unwearied study of books of evolutions; and he grudged no expenditure connected with this amusement." A man of this character might have proved dangerous to himself and to others if he had fallen into bad hands, but, happily, this was not the case. His Dewan, the famous Raja Sir Dinkur Rao, was the trusted guide of both his youthful and mature years. The

Dewan's sympathies were enlisted on the side of all that contributed to a good and stable government, and that was calculated to raise the character of the Prince. As to the British Political Agent, Government had in Major (afterwards Colonel) Charles Macpherson a representative of the good old type of soldier statesmen, possessed of large human sympathies and political views of a catholic character. Perfect cordiality accordingly prevailed between the young Maharaja and the British Agent at his Court.

In 1854 Maharaja Sindhia, having attained his nineteenth year, was entrusted with the full administration of the State and soon had an opportunity of affording a practical proof of the reality of the loyal assurances he had given. In the face of great temptations, and at no small personal risk, he remained true to the British Government at a time when the power of the Maratha Confederacy was still remembered by the aged, and when dreams of its restoration would have induced many men in his position to join in the desperate effort to drive out the British power. It so happened that His Highness had paid a visit to Calcutta in March 1857, shortly before the storm burst, and had had an audience with Lord Canning, the Governor-General. The political atmosphere was then thick with rumours of annexation, and many Indian Princes were apprehensive as to the perpetuation of their rights and dynasties. Lord Canning, who saw the necessity of allaying these anxieties, spoke words of kindness and assurance to the Maharaja which made a deep impression upon him, and the remembrance of which he carried back to his capital with the liveliest feelings of joy and gratitude. A few weeks later, when news was received at Gwalior of the outbreak of the Sepoy regiments at Agra, and of the embarrassments which consequently confronted Mr. Colvin, the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces, Maharaja Sindhia sent to Agra his body-guard, composed chiefly of Maratha horsemen "of his own kindred or caste." He had begun to feel a distrust of the Gwalior Contingent, the men of which he had some reason to fear were in sympathy with the mutineers of the Bengal Army. This mistrust increased each day, though (as happened in so many other cases) the confidence of the Contingent officers in the fidelity of their men remained unshaken to the last.

On the 28th May, the fears of the Maharaja were verified by a rising of the troops. A few hours earlier the European women and children had taken refuge in the Residency, owing to the strong rumours that a rising was imminent. On this news being conveyed to the young Chief he went on horseback, with a strong escort, to the Residency and placed troops around it. His Highness suggested to Colonel Macpherson the advisability of removing the European women and children to a spacious building erected in European style near his own palace, where they would receive shelter from his own people. But the sepoys of the Contingent resented this proposal as an imputation upon their honour. The Resident listened to them and thought it unnecessary to act upon the advice of the Maharaja. But Colonel Macpherson soon discovered his mistake. The Contingent troops posted at out-stations were found to have broken out into revolt. The impression became general at Gwalior that the British power in India was shaken to its foundations. The Maharaja and his Dewan, Sir Dinkur Rao, were among the very few persons who

neither shared in this belief nor desired its fulfilment. The Durbar Army, being greatly attached to its young Chief, continued loyal, but it was feared that the Contingent might at any time join the rebellious movement which was rapidly spreading in the North-West.

The disaster which the Maharaja had foreseen came swiftly and suddenly. On the night of Sunday the 14th June, the sepoys of the Contingent rushed out of their quarters evidently bent upon mischief. The excitement was great, and in the darkness and confusion of the night British officers were shot down by the men of the Contingent. Several ladies and children escaped. The majority fled either to the Residency or to Sindhia's Palace. When this news of the outbreak reached the Maharaja, he was in great anguish of mind and was completely perplexed as to what course to take. The Resident hastened to join the Prince and Dinkur Rao, both of whom recognized their utter inability to protect the British. It was, therefore, decided to order out carriages and palanquins for the removal of the fugitives to Chambul or to Agra, provision being made for a section of the body-guard to escort the party. Colonel Macpherson deemed it advisable to leave Gwalior with the other Europeans. His Highness was in a perilous situation; but he remained staunch to the last. On the approach of Tantia Topi, the Contingent drove him from his capital, and he and his minister Dinkur Rao fled to Agra.

The success of the mutineers was short-lived. Five days later, Sir Hugh Rose attacked Gwalior with a large force and re-took the fort. The Prince, who had displayed such courage and unswerving loyalty towards the British Government, was again placed in possession of his capital. His services and steadfast loyalty did not lose their reward. In November 1859, when the last sparks of the Mutiny had died out, Lord Canning met the principal Chiefs of Central India and Rajputana in Durbar at Agra—a brilliant gathering rendered memorable by the promulgation of the important principle of recognition by the Paramount Power of the right of adoption of heir-apparents. Lord Canning delivered short addresses to several of the assembled Chiefs. Turning to Maharaja Sindhia, he said:—"I am glad to receive your Highness at Agra. It was from Agra, a few days after the outbreak of rebellion, I received the news of your prompt and loyal tender to the Lieutenant-Governor, the lamented Mr. Colvin, of the services of the most trusty of your own personal guard." The Governor-General then referred to the various services by which the Maharaja had upheld the British Government with his whole strength. He announced to His Highness that, in acknowledgment of these services, and to augment his power and dignity, lands to the annual value of three lakhs would be added to his territory, and the limitation imposed upon the number of his infantry troops would be relaxed; that the arrears due from his Durbar on account of the assigned districts would be remitted, and that henceforward no payment would be claimed from His Highness's Government when the proceeds of those districts fell short of the sum stipulated by the Treaty of Gwalior. But the last assurance conveyed to the Maharaja Sindhia was one which appealed most to his heart. "I have already told your Highness," said Lord Canning, "that if, unhappily, lineal heirs shall fail you, the

Government will see with pleasure your adoption of a successor according to the rules and traditions of your family. Your Highness, and all Your Highness's subjects, may be sure that it is the earnest desire of the Paramount Power that the loyal and princely house of Sindhia shall be perpetuated and flourish."

Further honours still awaited His Highness. The Queen-Empress conferred upon him a Knight Grand Commandership of the Star of India, and also made him a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, a Companion of the Indian Empire, and last, but not least, an honorary General in the British Army. The hereditary titles of His Highness engraved on the Gwalior seal of State were as under: Mukhtar-ul-Mulk, "master of the country"; Azim-ul-Ikhtidar, "great in power"; Rafi-us-Shan, "high in prestige"; Wala-Shikoh, "exalted in Majesty"; Mutasham-i-Dauran, "the great man of the age"; Umdat-ul Umara, "pillar of the nobles"; Maharaj, "the great Raja"; Dhiraj, "raja of rajas"; Alijah, "the high of place"; Maharaja Jaiaji Rao Sindhia Bahadur; Srinath Mansur i-Zaman, "the victorious of the period"; Fidwi-i-Hazrat Malika Muazzama Rafi-ud-darjai Inglistan, 1863, "Vassal of Her Majesty the honoured and exalted Queen of England, 1863." The old flag of the Sindhias, so well known on Indian battle-fields, was of the orange or brick-red colour called bhagwa, with a serpent represented on it; after a fable that a cobra once sheltered the founder of the family with its hood, as he lay asleep in the sun. In 1862, however, a kind of Union Jack was adopted in place of, or in addition to, the old banner, having two patches of orange on it, with the figure of the serpent on each patch. The ruler of Gwalior is entitled to a salute of nineteen guns in British territory and of twenty-one in his own, but, as a personal distinction, the salute in British territory was raised to twenty-one guns in the case of His Highness Sir Jaiaji Rao.

Gratified as Maharaja Sindhia was with the various marks of Imperial favour he received, he cherished for many years an unsatisfied desire for a further proof of the confidence and esteem of the British Government. Every inch a soldier, it was his ambition to obtain the rendition of the fortress of Gwalior and a consequent withdrawal of the British garrison there. It was distasteful to one whose loyalty had stood such severe tests to have an armed British force within his gates. Lord Canning had promised that the fortress should be restored at a convenient season, but one Viceroy after another came and went without giving effect to this undertaking. Happily, however, Lord Dufferin recognized the reasonableness of the request, and one of his earliest Viceregal acts was to carry out the promise, much to the satisfaction of the valiant Chief.

Possessing, as he did, strong military instincts, the Maharaja took very great pride in his army, and spent most of the time he could spare from pressing administrative duties in taking steps to increase its efficiency. So well trained were his troops that on the occasion of the visit of the King-Emperor (then Prince of Wales) to Gwalior at the beginning of 1876, the review he witnessed was acknowledged to be one of the outstanding events of his Indian tour. The review, in which 8,000 picked men took part, was followed by a sham fight, His Highness commanding one detachment and his

Commander-in-Chief the opposing force. The enthusiasm of the English correspondents at the splendid appearance of the Gwalior army lent some colour to the absurd story, that Sindhia was passing his whole male population through it on the German system. "The men," said *The Telegraph* correspondent, "marched past as well as the best troops in the world." Long before, Sir William Mansfield, when Commander-in-Chief, had expressed a wish that all brigadiers in the British Army were as able as Sindhia. It is said to have been the desire of the Maharaja's heart to be allowed to take the field on behalf of the British in our frontier campaigns, and had he lived to see the inauguration of the Imperial Service Troops, he would doubtless have thrown himself with great enthusiasm into the project, both on account of his martial predilections, and of his unswerving loyalty to the British Power.

At the conclusion of the review the future Emperor of India expressed to the Maharaja his warm congratulations upon the efficiency of his troops. His Highness was not a man of many words and had no great oratorical gifts, but his speech in bidding His Royal Highness farewell, coming as it did from one whose heart was full, is well worth quoting: "I can command no language to express my gratitude for the honour the Prince of Wales has conferred upon me in thus visiting Gwalior. What can I say? On the Sindhias who have preceded me many honours have fallen, but on no one has there been the honour like this. This day will never be forgotten in Gwalior. I have nothing to show worthy of His Royal Highness. My palace, my troops, what are they to him? His attendance at my parade this morning in the heat and dust, the interest the Prince took in it, were out of his consideration for me. I am an ignorant man, almost without education. I know nothing of the English language. What I did this morning with the troops is an instance of what can be done by observation and labour, nothing more. Again and again I desire to express gratefully my appreciation of the favour the Prince has shown me; and when he sees the Queen, let him tell her from me that I am, with hands clasped, her faithful servant for ever." He spoke these words with strong emotion and glistening eyes, and then, perhaps, remembering the Gwalior fortress, he said: "One thing I would add. When the time comes for the Prince to ascend the throne I hope he will recollect Sindhia."

In the year in which the Maharaja received the future King-Emperor at Gwalior, he was called upon to discharge a far less pleasant duty. The Government of India showed their confidence in His Highness by appointing him one of the Commissioners to try Malharao Gaekwar on the charge of attempting to poison the Resident. The other members of the Commission were the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, Sir Richard Couch (President), the Maharaja of Jaipur, General Sir Richard Meade, Raja Sir Dinkur Rao, and Mr. P. S. Melville. After an exhaustive enquiry the British members of the Commission came to the conclusion that Malharao was guilty of the offences imputed to him. Their colleagues did not concur in this view, and individually sent in reports giving their reasons for holding that the charge of attempting to murder the Resident was not proved. The Government of India did not, as is sometimes alleged,

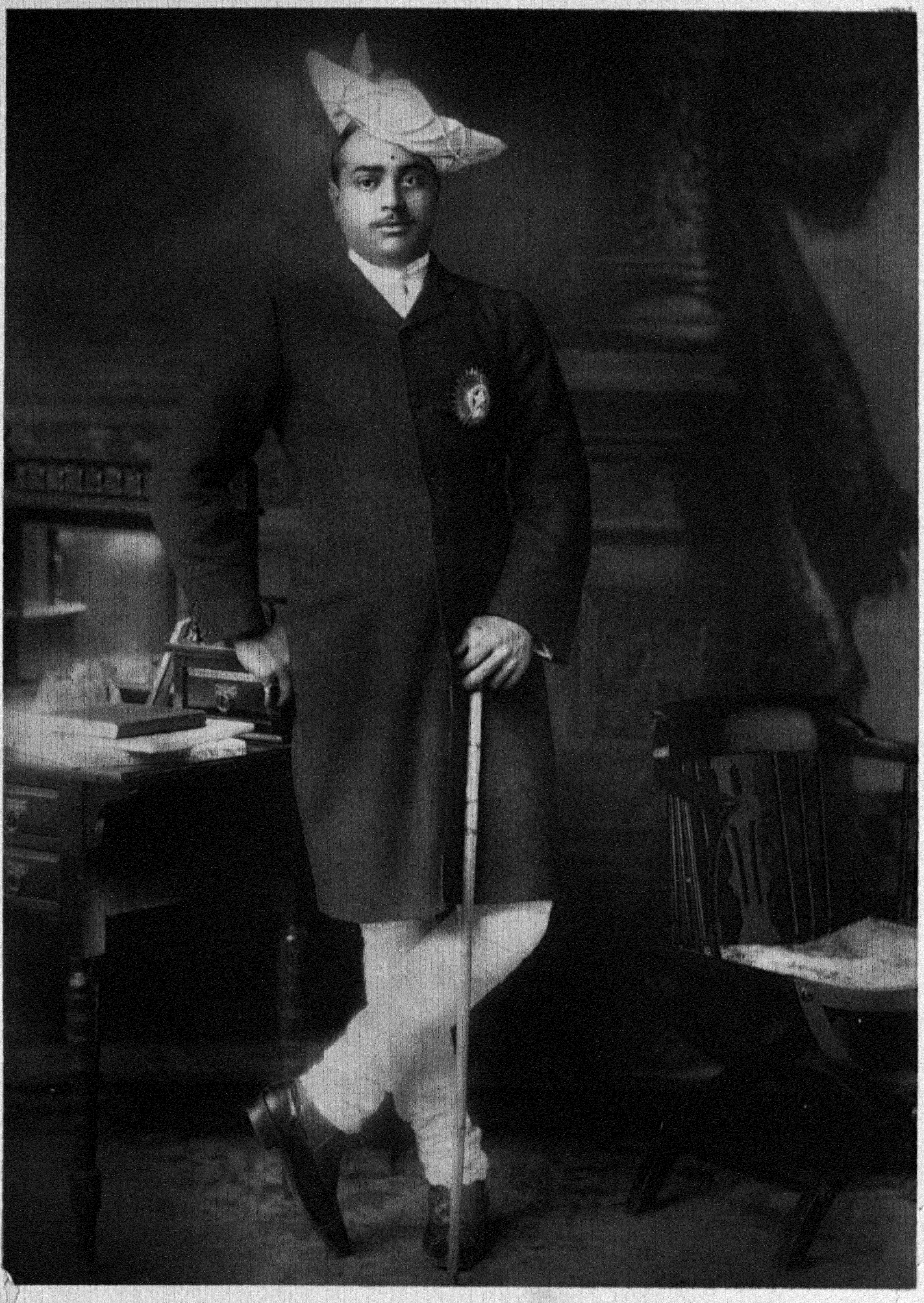
brush aside without ceremony the finding of Maharaja Sindhia and his two princely colleagues, for the decision to depose and deport Malharao was expressly based on other grounds than that of the alleged attempt to poison the Resident, viz., on "his notorious misconduct, his gross misgovernment of the State, and his evident incapacity to carry into effect the necessary reforms."

Two years later, the Chief of Gwalior was a prominent figure on an occasion of still greater historic interest. On January 1st 1877, the late Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India by the Viceroy, Lord Lytton. The proclamation was made at a Durbar of then unparalleled magnificence, held in the old Delhi cantonment behind the historic ridge where, twenty years before, the British had recovered the revolted fortress. Maharaja Sindhia was the spokesman of the great Feudatories after the Viceregal declaration had been made. His speech was brief and to the point; there was the ring of manifest sincerity about it. He said:—"Shah-in-Shah Padishah: May God bless you. The Princes of India bless you, and pray that your sovereignty and power may remain steadfast for ever."

As was to be expected of one whose fondness for the profession of arms was a second nature, His Highness possessed a most active mental and physical temperament. He chafed against the forced inaction even of ceremonial functions, and was never so happy as when engaged in military and administrative duties. Mr. Val Prinsep declared him to be the most powerful Chief, and at the same time the worst "sitter" he had ever met. "He is not steady for a moment," wrote Mr. Prinsep. "If Sir Henry Daly were not here, I would not sit at all," remarked the Prince, on one ceremonial occasion. "This is worse than the hardest day's pooja I ever had; and, after all, what is the use? I don't get anything by it," he added. Mr. Prinsep told this story to the Rajah of Nabha, a Sikh, who laughed, and said, "It was not sitting Sindhia found so unpleasant, but being obliged to sit." The activity of mind and body, of which this restlessness was the outcome, was the keynote of Maharaja Sindhia's character, and although he was in later years a sufferer from dropsy, it remained his characteristic until the last. Although pre-eminently a soldier, His Highness was not lacking in administrative gifts. He had the good sense to surround himself with capable advisers and administrators, and during the thirty years that he was at the helm, the State, delivered from the internecine feuds which marked the rule of his predecessor, made substantial progress. The Dewan was in charge of the general administration, and he was assisted by no less than eight Naib Dewans, each of whom had a department under his care. The Maharaja took a deep personal interest in each branch of administration. He was always ready to listen to the advice of the political officers attached to the State, and the years of his rule were marked by quiet but steady advancement.

Maharaja Sindhia was greatly beloved by his people, and his death in 1886 from dropsy and kindred complications, at the age of fifty-two, caused them poignant sorrow. His Highness had been ill for some little time when he left his capital for Bithor- a sacred

place in the eyes of Hindus—in the belief that he might end his days there. Before leaving Gwalior, he called a Council of his Sirdars and Ministers, and expressed his unbounded confidence in the abilities of his Dewan, Sir Ganpat Rao. He provided for the conduct of State affairs by the Dewan, in concert with the British Resident, Colonel Bannerman, and requested the latter to communicate the same to the Agent to the Governor-General. In the second week of June, news was received from Cawnpore that the Maharaja was in a most precarious condition. He returned to Gwalior on the 15th, Colonel Bannerman called upon him on the evening of the 17th, and after consultation with Sir Ganpat Rao, assured him that the request preferred to the Government of India for maintaining intact the arrangements he had made had been complied with. Colonel Bannerman called every day and gave orders for His Highness to be placed under the treatment of the Residency physicians. The Maharaja was very much emaciated and his voice was almost inaudible, as, in addition to his other ailments, he was suffering from an ulcerated throat which prevented him from taking food. Sir Lepel Griffin, who was then Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, proceeded to Gwalior on learning that the Chief was sinking, but did not reach the city in time to speak again to his old friend, who died at seven o'clock on the night of June 20th, 1886. The expressions of regret at the loss of so great a Prince were deep and widespread, and the Government of India issued a special resolution intimating its sorrow at losing so proved and faithful an ally. By a singular coincidence Maharaja Sindhia's death followed very closely indeed upon that of his neighbour, the Maharaja Tukaji Rao Holkar, and thus at one blow the Native States lost two of their most exemplary rulers. They were exactly the same age, fifty-two years, they both owed their high position to adoption, they were great personal friends, and on State occasions they generally appeared side by side; and they reflected in their internal and external policy all that is highest in statesmanship." No important questions affecting Native States, whether relating to their armies, their internal government, the settlement of their boundaries, or their relations with their feudal barons and ryots, were decided by the Government without knowing something of the views of these two great Princes of India. Maharaja Sindhia especially was a man of great activity of mind and body, and his wonderful gifts as a soldier and administrator mark him out as one of the most notable Indians of the century. He was succeeded by Sir Madho Rao Sindhia, an account of whose career is given in the ensuing biography.



H.H. The Maharaja Sindhia of Gwalior.

Colonel H.H. Maharaja Dhiraj Sir Madho Rao Sindhia Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., A.D.C., Maharaja of Gwalior.

IT HAS often been remarked that exceptionally distinguished men are seldom blessed with sons able to fully uphold the lustre of the name they bear. Very few of the men who have left their mark deeply graven on the pages of history have seemed to transmit their own extraordinary powers in any completeness to their immediate descendants. But there have been brilliant exceptions, and this contemporary history of the Native States of India would be a defective record if it did not show that one of these exceptions has occurred in the case of the son and successor of the late Maharaja Jaiaji Rao Sindhia of Gwalior, tribute to whose high qualities has been paid in the preceding sketch. "I can imagine no more honourable group," says an old writer, "than a royal father among his sons earnestly instilling into them the high laws of the kingly office which he himself most religiously observes." It was the misfortune of the present ruler of Gwalior to lose his illustrious father when he was only a child of ten, but there can be no doubt that he owes the development of his talents in no inconsiderable measure to his father's words of counsel and admonition in seeking to train him, even in his childhood, as a preparation for the "kingly office" to which in after years he was to be called.

His Highness Mukhtar-ul-Mulk, Azim-ul-Igtidar, Rafi-us-Shan Wala Shikoh Muh-tasham-i-Dauran, Umdat-ul-Umra, Hisam-us-Saltanat, Maharaj Dhiraj Alijah, Sir Madho Rao Sindhia Bahadur, Srinath Mansur-i-Zaman, Fidwi-i-Hazrat-i-Malika Muazzama Rafi-ud-Darja Inglistan, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, Counsellor of the Empress, was born on the 21st of October 1876. As mentioned in the preceding sketch, a few days prior to his death on 20th June 1886,

the Maharaja Jaiaji Rao wrote to Sir Lepel Griffin, who was then Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, asking that the arrangements by which the administration was carried on under the direction of a Council should remain intact, in case the disease from which he was suffering proved fatal. A favourable reply was received, and the day before the end came, a telegram reached the Maharaja from Simla expressing the sorrow of the Government at his illness and containing the assurance "in case of your life being cut short the Government will be anxious to act according to your wishes as far as practicable."

In compliance with the undertaking thus solemnly given, the present Maharaja was installed on the *gadi* as a minor on the 3rd of July 1886, a fortnight after the lamented death of his father, and a Council of Regency was formed with Sir Ganpat Rao Khadkey, the able Dewan of the State, as President. The installation ceremony was conducted, in the unavoidable absence of the Viceroy, by Sir Lepel Griffin. The Viceroy's *Kharita* having been read, Sir Lepel Griffin made a speech in the course of which he said: "It has been my pleasant duty to-day, on behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, to formally acknowledge the succession of His Highness the Maharaja Madho Maharaj to the Chiefship of this great and important State, and to renew to him those assurances of friendship and protection which the Viceroy expressed last November to his father. The future administration of the Gwalior State will be conducted by a Council of Regency, of which the President is Rao Raja Sir Ganpat Rao Khadkey, and the members are Baba Sahib Sitole, Bapu Sahib Jadao, Apa Sahib Angria, Bapu Sahib Avar, Santoba Sahib Taimak, Rai Bahadur Anaudi Prasad and Sahibzada Ghulam Ahmad Khan Ahmadi. These gentlemen have been specially selected for their near relationship to the Maharaja, for their high rank, or for their special acquaintance with public business." Having sketched the directions in which he deemed it advisable that the Council of Regency should, by judicious reforms, advance the material and moral prosperity of the State, Sir Lepel Griffin concluded: "What the British Government requires from the Council is loyalty to the Queen-Empress of India; devotion to their rightful chief, the young Maharaja, sympathy and consideration for the people of the State, peasants, traders and artisans; and a wise and liberal policy in developing the resources of the country. If the present members of Council, and those who succeed them when their term of office has expired, do their duty honourably, loyally and efficiently, there is good hope that when His Highness Maharaja Madho Maharaj attains his majority, and assumes full and independent powers, he will find a prosperous and well-ordered State, and a contented and happy population."

In replying to these remarks, Sir Ganpat Rao gave expression to the deep sense of irreparable loss felt by the nobility and people of Gwalior in the death of their famous Chief, and thanked Sir Lepel Griffin, as representing the Government of India, for their kindly sympathy, and their acquiescence in the wishes of the late Maharaja as to the future of the State. The system of administration adopted for the minority worked well, and the Council, under the experienced chairmanship of Sir Ganpat Rao, and with the widowed Maharani as Regent, more than fulfilled expectations. It consisted of eight members,

prominent amongst them being Bapu Sahib Tadhu (afterwards Sir Krishna Rao Bapu Sahib Tadhu, K.C.I.E.) the maternal grandfather of the young Prince, who succeeded to the Presidency of the Council on the lamented death, two years later, of Sir Ganpat Rao. The young Maharaja received his education in the first instance at the hands of Surgeon Lieut.-Col. A. M. Crofts, who was also his medical officer. The cordial relations established between the youth and his tutor greatly assisted in the successful prosecution of his studies. His Highness's amenability to control was no less marked than his activity of mind and body, and his engaging manners. His singularly observant and enquiring disposition enabled him to make the best of such opportunities as were afforded him for acquiring experience of men and manners. In 1890, Mr. J. W. D. Johnstone was appointed tutor, and remained in this post till the Maharaja reached his majority in 1894.

A great deal was done by the Council during the eight years of its existence to develop the resources of the country and improve the condition of the cultivators. Its very first reform was the abolition of the transit duties which had formerly proved so hurtful to commerce. The neighbouring State of Indore having decided on a similar reform about the same time, the greater part of Central India became free for the unhampered movement of merchandise. Numerous small irrigation works were constructed in the Malwa districts, partly by State agency and partly by advances made on easy terms to the ryots. Metalled roads were made to open up the fertile districts of Malwa and connect them with the lines of railway east and west. A Department of Land Records was formed under Colonel D. G. Pitcher, and carried out a survey of the State as a necessary prelude to the revenue assessments which followed. The medical wants of the people were not neglected; a large general hospital was built at the capital as a memorial to the late Maharaja, and dispensaries in charge of trained medical officers were opened in the more important towns. Amongst other public buildings commenced or completed during the Regency may be mentioned the Victoria College, the Palace at Ujjain, His Highness's private museum and stables, the Guest House, and the Imperial Service lines at Lashkar. But work of far greater importance than any of the buildings referred to was undertaken in the construction of railways out of State capital from Bina to Guna and from Bhopal to Ujjain.

The civil and judicial administrations were improved. An Inspector-General of Police was appointed, and the department was re-organized and separated from the judicial branch of the service. A regular police force, well trained and disciplined, having been established, arrangements were made for assisting other States and the British Government in the arrest of dacoits and other offenders. The re-organization of the judicial department was accompanied by the promulgation of Codes carefully compiled for both the civil and criminal branches. Improvements were made in the pay and position of officers of the State, and a system of pensions was devised to secure them provision in old age, and to do away with any plausible extenuation of corruption. The educational needs of the people were provided for by the opening of primary schools throughout the

State, and of two colleges for higher education, one at Lashkar, and the other at Ujjain. Both these cities were granted local autonomy by the formation of municipalities, which have done good work in widening and metalling roads and in draining the areas under their respective managements The Army was placed on a better footing, and troops were stationed in the districts which had before suffered from dacoits. The State very heartily co-operated in the proposal for the establishment of Imperial Service Troops in the native territories, and supplied for the purpose two regiments of cavalry, each six hundred strong, and a transport train of 500 ponies and 200 carts. It should be added that the Dowager Maharani heartily co-operated with the Council during her period of Regency, and worthily upheld the traditions of the ruling House. Her Majesty the Queen-Empress was pleased, in recognition of the Maharani's work, to confer on her in 1889 the Order of the Crown of India.

The years passed swiftly by, and in December 1894 it became the pleasant duty of Colonel (now Sir D.) Barr, the then Agent to the Governor-General for Central India, to invest Sir Madho Rao with full ruling powers. Colonel Barr thanked the President and members of the Council of Regency, for the manner in which they had performed their duties and on the improvements they had carried out, which he proceeded to describe. He then remarked: "Surgeon-Major Crofts, who was appointed Medical Officer, and placed in special charge of Your Highness in 1886, has combined the duties of his profession and the supervision of the Medical Department of the State, which under his charge has been one of the marked successes of the administration, with the education and training of your boyhood; and the constant and devoted attention he has paid to you throughout the years of your minority, has not, I am sure, failed to secure for him Your Highness's gratitude and most sincere regard. In February 1890, Mr. Johnstone, Principal of the Daly College at Indore, was appointed tutor to Your Highness, and to this gentleman also you are indebted for much careful labour bestowed on your education, and for friendly assistance in all matters connected with your daily life—your pursuits and amusements, as well as your studies. His Excellency the Viceroy in his *Kharita* has remarked that the 'circumstances under which Your Highness's career as a Ruler will begin, are in every sense propitious and encouraging.' Your Highness has succeeded to a goodly heritage of a noble name among the Princes of India—a name to which great lustre was added by the loyalty and devotion to the Crown of England shown during the troublous time of the Mutiny by your father Maharaja Jaiaji Rao Sindhia—the heritage of the ruler of a State extending over 30,000 square miles, containing a population of 3½ millions, and yielding a revenue of 1½ crores of rupees. Under the care of the Government of India, your State has been administered during your minority by Sirdars and officials of Gwalior, in such a manner that you are able to-day to take up the reins of government with every prospect of maintaining its efficiency. Your Highness has received education and training to fit you for your important duties, and you have already given many proofs of your ability, and of your anxiety to become a good and wise ruler. It is, I am sure, in accordance with Your Highness's wish that you should, at first, have someone upon whom you can rely for aid, counsel and advice,

and you are fortunate in having at hand, to consult in all important matters, such an able adviser as Colonel Robertson, Resident at Gwalior, an officer of the highest qualifications and one who has already gained, as I am well aware, your Highness's confidence and esteem. I cannot give you better counsel than to act under his guidance, and to maintain those friendly and cordial relations which so happily now subsist between your Highness and the Resident. On this auspicious day, when your Highness's minority ends, and you enter upon your duties as a Ruler, I would ask you to resolve so to rule your actions that you may uphold the dignity and honour of your name and secure the peace, prosperity and happiness of your State and your people."

The well-delivered reply of His Highness began with a filial and appropriate reference to his father. He said: "It is exceedingly difficult for me on such a momentous occasion to express adequately what I feel, but I must commence by an expression of my grateful thanks to you as the representative of His Excellency the Viceroy for the great honour conferred upon me to-day in the presence of this distinguished gathering, and I would specially ask you to convey through His Excellency to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress my earnest assurance that the devotion and loyalty to the British Government which animated my father through his life will never be found wanting in his son. Had Lord Elgin's other engagements permitted of his coming to Gwalior to personally invest me with governing powers in my State, I feel sure he would have given me the pleasure and honour of receiving him to-day. As this was not possible, it is a sincere gratification to me to be able to welcome you here, not only as the head of local Administration, but as one of my oldest and best friends, who, for many years, superintended my training when holding the office of Resident at Gwalior. The valuable advice you have, on the present occasion, been kind enough to give me, will encourage and sustain me in the difficulties which must beset a young ruler at the outset of his career, and though it is not in my power to command success, I have no hesitation in promising that I will strive continuously to deserve it. Successive Agents to the Governor-General in India and Residents at Gwalior have always taken a warm interest in Gwalior affairs, and I have full confidence that these kindly sentiments will be maintained by you and my friend Colonel Robertson." The speech concluded with expressions of thanks to various British officers and to the members of the Council of Regency.

From that day forward the Maharaja has continued and developed the wise and liberal policy pursued by the Council of Regency. He soon familiarized himself with all the intricate details of the administration, and devoted himself with great assiduity thereto. On the dissolution of the Council of Regency, Sir Michael Filose, Sir-Subah of Malwa, was appointed Chief Secretary, with a staff of under-secretaries and assistants. A Board of Revenue was formed, and has done much useful work in systematizing the State accounts and promoting economy side by side with efficiency. The policy of developing the resources of the country by increasing the facilities for the conveyance of produce from distant but fertile culturable tracts has been zealously pursued. It has long been

demonstrated that there are many cultivated areas in India whose needs in this direction can be met without incurring the heavy outlay incidental to the making of railways on the ordinary large gauge. This principle has received recognition at the hands of the Maharaja by the construction of the Gwalior Light Railway, which was opened for traffic on December 2nd, 1899. It is on the 2 feet 6 inch gauge, and extends from the capital to Sipri (74 miles) in one direction, and to Bhind (52½ miles) in another. A third line from Gwalior to Sukalgarh, 57 miles in length, is under construction, and will bring up the total length of these important feeders to the Indian Midland trunk line running through the State, to 183 miles.

The great famines of 1897 and of 1900 both affected Central India, and were severely felt in Gwalior. They were most strenuously combated by the Maharaja and his officers, abundant labour being provided for the relief workers, and a generous policy being pursued in respect to the gratuitous support of the aged and infirm and of others incapacitated from labour. To less fortunate States, famine loans were granted at low rates of interest. On both occasions testimony was borne by British officials to the efficiency and energy of the famine administration in Gwalior. In the annual State report issued early in 1901 it was notified that Malwa, which had been specially hard hit, and had suffered severely from the immigration of starving wanderers from Mewar and Marwar, still felt the effects of the visitation, but other parts of the State, aided by a favourable season, had already won their way back to a condition of almost normal prosperity. As a leading Anglo-Indian journal remarked at the time, Gwalior was exceptionally favoured in having a treasury well furnished with the sinews of war for the campaign, and still more, "in owning allegiance to a ruler who made the care of his distressed subjects a personal charge, and who freely devoted the resources of the State to the relief of distress and repairing, in part, the havoc wrought by the drought."

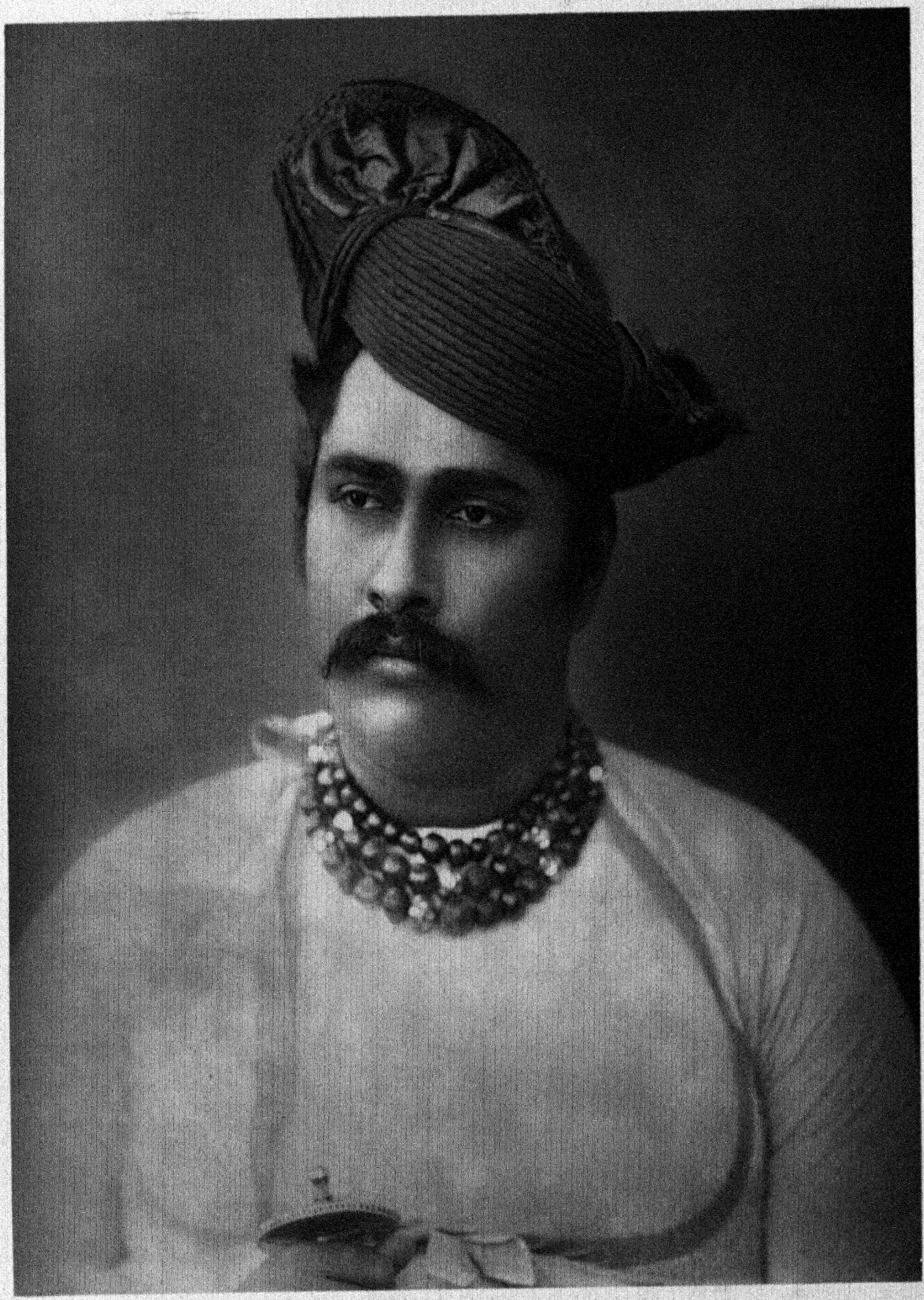
The efficiency and benevolence of Maharaja Sindhia's rule (of which many other examples could be given did space permit) has from the first been associated, as so often happens, with a cordial devotion to the interests of the Empire. To use a familiar figure of the East, a good father to his people has made a good son to his Suzerain. Very soon after the full charge of his State had been conferred upon him, the formation of the Chitral expeditionary force gave him an opportunity to translate into deeds the assurances of loyal fealty given at the Investiture Durbar. His offer to Government of the use of his Transport Corps of 500 ponies and 200 carts was thankfully accepted. The Corps proved most serviceable amid the difficulties of transport in the mountainous country dividing the base of operations from the beleagured garrison in Chitral Fort. Similar assistance was offered and accepted in 1897, when a wave of fanaticism spread along the North-West Frontier, and led to military operations by the Government of India on a larger scale than on any occasion since the last Afghan War. Two years later, when troops were hurried from India to South Africa for the Boer campaign, the Maharajah made a timely contribution of 390 horses to the equipment required. Still more notable was his assistance to the British Raj in connection with the China expedition. His Highness not only accompanied the Indian contingent to China, but presented, for the use of sick

and wounded soldiers, the hospital ship *Gwalior*, which he equipped with every medical requirement and a trained staff. Many a sick soldier sent back from China had reason to bless the bounty of the Prince, in bringing within his reach accessories to recovery on the journey such as he could not possibly have obtained otherwise. Of His Highness's personal services on the Staff in the campaign, General Gaselee reported in terms of warm commendation.

His Highness received the highest honour obtainable in the Indian Orders—a Knight Grand Commandership of the Star of India—on the occasion of Queen Victoria's birthday in 1895, and, five years later, he was awarded the Kaiser-i-Hind medal of the first class. But greater distinctions awaited him, in his nomination by the King-Emperor to His Majesty's staff as honorary A.D.C., and in his selection as one of the Princes chosen to be guests of the nation at the Coronation. The deservedly high favour with which he was received in Court and society circles in England, the enthusiasm with which he was greeted in the streets of the Metropolis by the general public, his noble bearing in the Coronation procession in his capacity of A.D.C., his generous donation of £10,000 to the Hospital Fund associated with the name of the King-Emperor—these are features of Maharaja Sindhia's visit to England fresh in the memory of newspaper readers. A very favourable impression was created by the excellent speech His Highness delivered at the banquet of the Royal Asiatic Society to the Indian visitors, on June 17, in replying to the toast of the evening, proposed by Lord Reay, the President, who had incidentally referred to the Maharaja's interest in education. The reference well befitted the occasion of a Coronation banquet, for it was in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee that His Highness erected a splendid College, which has become the centre of an educational system embracing a State school for nobles, another for military men, another for youths training for civil employment, one for law students, and also schools for girls. Referring to the last-named institutions, the Maharaja admitted that he was surprised at the success of the undertaking in view of the opposition and prejudice which had to be overcome when the first school for girls was inaugurated by him four years earlier. He added that a special institution had been established within the last few months for the daughters of his nobles —"a class who keep their daughters in seclusion, and who, a short time ago, would have been most unwilling to send them to school." As many of his hearers knew, the Maharaja has, in regard to female social advancement, set an excellent example to the nobles: at the moment at which he was speaking his Rani was the guest of Lady Curzon at Simla, where she remained for some weeks. His Highness said that the distress which prevailed in his territories in 1897 prevented his visiting England for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and it would be one of the greatest regrets of his life that he never looked on the face of that Sovereign of blessed and glorious memory. A modest reply to Lord Reay's remarks respecting his services in China, led up to an expression of his pleasure "to see here among the Indian Chiefs some of the comrades who served with me in that distant land, and whom I now meet on the opposite side of the globe, assembled for a common purpose, namely, to testify to our undying loyalty to His Most Gracious Majesty, the King-Emperor."

Side by side with the Maharaja of Jaipur, the ruler of Gwalior came immediately after the four premier Princes who headed the elephant escort of the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught when they made their State entry into Delhi, on December 29. "Among the most popular Princes here," cabled Reuter's representative from Delhi, "is the Maharaja Sindhia, who is a regular attendant at all the functions. His camp is laid out in a semi-circle and is lighted by gas. The Maharaja is accompanied by the British Resident, the Dowager Maharani, the Maharani Sindhia, nine Sirdars, four European officers, and about 1,500 retainers, including detachments from various irregular corps maintained by the State, with eighteen elephants. Two special trains conveyed the party to Delhi. The Maharaja's dress at the State entry consisted of a dark red silk coat, richly embroidered with gold, while the Sindhia turban jewellery consisted of superb diamonds. At the Durbar his embroidered coat was pink, and his jewels pearls. At the Investiture he wore eight yellow jewels, diamonds and an emerald. He sent the following message to the King, through the Viceroy, at the Durbar: 'Convey my most respectful congratulations to His Most Gracious Majesty." At the review of Native State retainers, the Gwalior contingent comprised a magnificent show of elephants followed by spearmen, body guard, heralds and six mounted retainers in the richest dresses of Sivaji's time, with footmen walking at their left stirrup. During their tour subsequent to the Durbar, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught were the guests of the Maharaja for four days. The Duke reviewed the State troops, led by the Maharaja in person, and subsequently invested His Highness with the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order, by command of the King Emperor, having a month earlier conferred upon him at Delhi the Coronation Medal. Everything possible was done to make the visit of their Royal Highnesses memorable and interesting, and at the farewell banquet, responding to the toast of their health proposed by the Maharaja, the Duke expressed his hearty gratification with the arrangements that had been made.

It should be added that His Highness maintains a military force of 5,504 cavalry, 11,040 infantry and 48 guns. He is entitled to a salute of nineteen guns, which is raised to twenty-one within the limits of his own territory.



H.H. The Ex-Maharaja Holkar of Indore.

H.H. Maharaja Dhiraj
Sir Shivaji Rao Holkar Bahadur, G.C.S.I.,
ex-Maharaja of Indore.

THOUGH one of the most important, Indore is far from being one of the most ancient of the Native kingdoms of Hindustan. Its founder, Malhar Rao, like the astute statesman who carved out for himself and his heirs the neighbouring domain of Gwalior, was a Maratha of humble origin. The son of a shepherd, he was born in 1693 at the village of Hol in the Deccan, and from this circumstance the family derives its surname of Holkar. The tending of sheep did not suit the ambitious spirit of Malhar Rao, and he seized the first opportunity that presented itself to enter the service of a Maratha chief as a member of his body of cavalry. His prowess and daring soon brought him to the notice of the Peshwa, the over-lord of the Maratha nobles, and before he was thirty years of age he was in command of five hundred troopers. Four years later, in 1728, his distinguished services had already earned for him the grant of large tracts of land forming the nucleus of the State he afterwards founded. He had only been in the Peshwa service eight years when he attained to the position of Commander-in-Chief, and in that capacity went out against the Mogul Viceroy of Malwa, and defeated him with heavy loss, obtaining possession of a large tract of country of which Indore was the centre. The greater part of these newly-acquired territories was granted to Malhar Rao for the support of his troops, and he was appointed Commander of the Maratha forces north of the Narbada. The succeeding twelve years found Malhar Rao almost constantly in the field against one or other of the enemies who disputed with the Maratha Confederacy the rule of Western and Central India. Malhar Rao was sixty-eight years of age when he divided with Sindhia the command of the right wing of the Maratha army at the great battle of Panipat, but withdrew his contingent before the defeat of the native forces had become an utter rout. The old warrior devoted his

remaining years—they were only four in number—to the consolidation of his vast possessions, and the framing of regulations for their administration. When he died in 1765, the Principality brought in an annual revenue of 7,600,000 rupees. His grandson Mali Rao succeeded, but died after only nine months' rule. His mother, Ahalya Bai, thereupon assumed the administration, and in conjunction with her Commander-in-Chief, Tukaji Rao, ruled the State for thirty years with a prudence and courage which entitle her to be placed in the front rank in the roll of illustrious Indian stateswomen. Her death in 1795 was soon followed by that of her trusted Commander-in-Chief. Family disputes, and the jealous factions existing in the once invincible Maratha Confederacy, were in a fair way of bringing the House of Holkar to dissolution, when Jaswant Rao, an illegitimate son of Tukaji, arose to retrieve its fortunes. Having suffered defeat in an engagement with the army of Sindhia, Tukaji re-organized and disciplined his troops with the aid of European officers, to such good purpose that in 1802 he took the city of Poona from the united army of Sindhia and the Peshwa. He was not allowed, however, to remain in possession of the Deccan capital. The British Power, by the Treaty of Bassein, restored to the Peshwa his capital as a chief in subordinate alliance. Jaswant Rao Holkar returned to his own dominions, where he formed the idea of aggrandizing himself at the expense of Sindhia. But once more his purpose was frustrated by the alien Power whose supremacy was year by year being established. The treaty between the British and Sindhia negotiated by Sir J. Malcolm rendered the accomplishment of his scheme quite hopeless, and yet, with the intrepid daring of his race, he made the attempt.

After repeated defeats, which would have completely broken a less martial spirit, he was compelled to retire to the Punjab. He was relentlessly followed by Lord Lake, to whom he surrendered in December 1805. On the banks of the Bias River he signed a treaty assigning to the British the territories they had occupied in the course of the war. But these possessions were afterwards restored to him. In 1811 he died, and during the minority of his son, Malhar Rao, the regency of the State was placed in the hands of Tulsi Bai. She found the task greater than she could manage; the State was torn by internal dissension, and the mutinous conduct of the army gave to Pindari freebooters opportunities for rapine and plunder of which they took every advantage. The terrified Regent was negotiating with the British authorities for their protection, when the nobles of her Court gave their countenance and help to the Peshwa in his sudden attack upon the British Power, with which he had fifteen years earlier entered into alliance. The Queen Regent was seized and murdered, but the British were not long in asserting their supremacy both over the Peshwa and Holkar's army. The latter was defeated at Mahidpur, and the resulting treaty reduced Holkar to the position of a protected Prince and deprived him of some of his territories. Malhar Rao Holkar died in 1833, at the age of twenty-eight, without children. A child named Martand Rao was adopted by the widow, but her choice proved unpopular, and the lad's deposition in favour of Hari Rao was welcomed by the people. But the new ruler, who had spent fifteen years in prison for treason, had a most unsuccessful reign. He died in 1843, and his adopted son survived him by only a few months. Tukaji Rao, the

second son of Bhau Holkar, was chosen upon the nomination of the mother of Hari Rao Holkar. He proved in every way worthy of the signal honour bestowed upon him. He shared with his friend and neighbour, the late Jaiaji Rao Sindhia, the distinction of being one of the wisest and most prudent Princes whom India has produced; and was one of the most notable figures in the nineteenth century history of Hindustan. In the troublous days of the Mutiny, His Highness, like Sindhia, remained faithful to his treaty engagements with the British Power when there were overwhelming temptations to an opposite course. For his services on this memorable occasion, as well as for the wisdom of his rule, the Maharaja received many tokens of the favour of the Queen-Empress. His decease in the spring of 1886, preceded by only a day or two that of his life-long friend and contemporary, Maharaja Sindhia.

He was succeeded by His Highness Maharaja Dhiraj Raj Rajeshwar Sawai Sir Shivaji Rao Holkar Bahadur, who reigned until the early part of 1903, when ill-health led to his voluntary abdication. His Highness, who was born in 1859, received a good English education at Indore College, and this has enabled him to maintain throughout his career a keen interest in the life and thought of the day. He was twenty-seven years of age when he came to the *gadi* of a territory comprising no less than 8,400 square miles of country, with a population of 1,100,000 souls, and a revenue amounting to nearly 90 lakhs of rupees per annum. The early years of his reign were devoted to the carrying out of reforms initiated by his illustrious sire and the introduction of other changes which seemed to him to be called for. This work was interrupted for a few months in 1887, when His Highness proceeded to England to participate in the celebration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty the late Queen-Empress. During his stay he received the decoration of Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India at the hands of her late Majesty. The proposal to commemorate the Jubilee by the Imperial Institute found in him a warm supporter, and he subscribed the munificent sum of a lakh of rupees towards the fund raised for the purpose. Being fond of travel His Highness took the opportunity afforded by his journey to England to visit France, Switzerland and Italy *en route*. It should be mentioned that he has made several tours in India and has visited almost every part of it. One of the most important reforms he effected in Indore was the re-organization of the land revenue system and the amelioration of the condition of the agricultural classes. Considerable reductions were made in the revenue demand in cases where the assessment was found to be burdensome. The systematic illegal exactions by subordinate officials so common in India, were rendered impossible by the introduction of the *pawti* (receipt) system. The absence of reliable information as to the area of villages led to the establishment of a special Survey Department. Another direction in which the cause of agriculture was advanced was the suppression, by firm but conciliatory policy, of the depredations of the aboriginal tribes of Gonds and Bhils. The latter race is one of the wildest in India, living for the most part on plunder from the crops of the peaceful villagers inhabiting the valleys below the ancestral hills of these freebooters. Encouragement was given to the Bhils to follow more honest pursuits for a livelihood. They are employed as soldiers and police and in other State capacities, many of them

being granted lands to till on favourable terms. It is satisfactory to know that, these measures have resulted in reducing considerably the number of Bhils who subsist on plunder in the State.

Soon after the succession of Sir Shivaji Rao, the loose system of book-keeping which prevailed was abandoned in favour of the English method of keeping accounts as far as this was practicable and expedient. Steps were taken to ensure the regular and punctual submission of balance sheets by the various departments and their annual compilation, a separate office being opened for the adjustment of the old accounts. Numerous other departmental abuses were checked and stopped when the Maharaja took the examination of administrative details into his own hands. From the first Sir Shivaji Holkar saw that the encouragement of trade and industry would be an important factor in the progress of the State, and one of his earliest acts was to abolish transit duties and other vexatious imposts and cesses. The wisdom of this policy is seen in the great progress made in industrial arts and manufactures. The cotton-spinning industry gives employment to a considerable number of people, some mills being owned by the State and others by limited liability companies. The manufacture and export of opium is another direction in which employment is found for the non-agricultural portion of the population. In this connection reference may be made to that valuable auxiliary to commercial progress, the railway which runs from Khandwa Junction to Indore city, a distance of eighty-six miles. The line was constructed out of a loan of a crore of rupees, made by the late Sir Tukaji Rao to the British Government for a period of 101 years, to bear interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, the State also receiving one-half of the surplus profit of the line. In view of these very favourable terms it is not to be wondered at that the railway is a source of considerable revenue to the Durbar. Beyond Indore the line is carried to Nasirabad, thus linking the capital with Delhi and Agra and the other cities of Northern India. Educationally, Indore compares very favourably with other leading States. The Rajkumar College at the capital city has done much to advance the education of the sons of the Chiefs and aristocracy of Central India. In 1891, the Maharaja raised the Indore High School to the status of a full grade College, and placed it under an able European Principal, who is assisted by an efficient staff of professors. The College is most liberally equipped for educational purposes, and ample provision is made for the physical development of the students. For the encouragement of the study of Sanskrit, a free College is maintained by the Durbar. In addition a large district school and a technical school are maintained. The improvements effected in sanitation are reflected in the reduced mortality. Water works have been opened at Indore, and substantial grants are made year by year for the deepening, cleaning, and repair of tanks and wells in the villages. Increased medical aid has been provided for the people, a free general hospital has been opened at Indore, in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, and is liberally maintained, together with a number of branch dispensaries all over the State. The police system has been re-modelled. The principles of local self-government have been applied to the city of Indore with results regarded as satisfactory. The Courts and Secretariat offices at

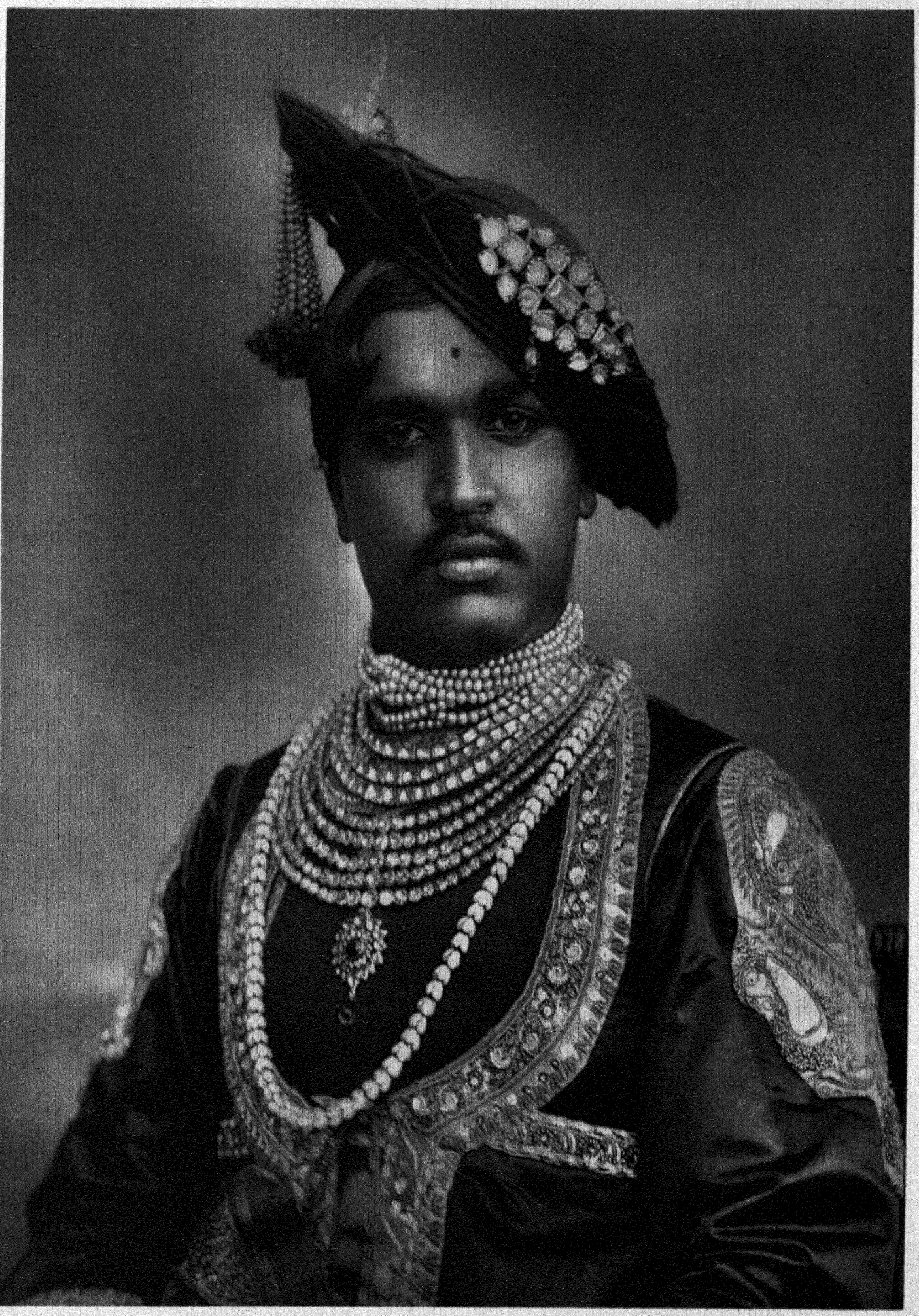
Indore have been removed from their old locations into commodious and substantial buildings, well in keeping with the extent and importance of the Principality.

When the scheme for raising contingents of Imperial Service Troops was initiated, Sir Shivaji Holkar raised and equipped for the purpose a regiment of cavalry 500 strong. Lines were built for the sowars and a bungalow for the accommodation of the inspecting officers, who have invariably reported very favourably in regard to the efficiency of the regiment. For his spontaneous assistance to the Crown in this matter, the Maharaja Holkar received the warm personal thanks of Lord Lansdowne, the then Viceroy of India, on the occasion of his visit to Indore in 1891. In the course of a speech his lordship paid the following tribute to the Maharaja: "I am glad to learn that His Highness takes a personal interest in public affairs, and I heard with special satisfaction of the zeal which he has shown in promoting the cause of education amongst his subjects. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing something of the schools and colleges which have been established here by the State or under its direct encouragement. His Highness's thorough knowledge of the English language, of which he has given us a striking proof this evening, shows that he has himself not neglected the education which he received at Indore College as a youth. I am also glad to know that His Highness has done much for the medical care of his people, and that a large free hospital has recently been opened in the city at the expense of the State, a boon for which, I feel no doubt, they will be grateful. I wish also to congratulate His Highness upon the successful measures which he has taken, since I have been in India, for the suppression of dacoity and for the dispersion of some of the gangs whose depredations were, until lately, a serious source of danger and a public scandal in this part of India." Lord Lansdowne's successor, Lord Elgin, was no less complimentary on the occasion of his visiting the State at the close of 1896.

In common with adjacent territories, Indore suffered greatly from the recent memorable droughts, the second of which followed so closely on the heels of the first. In the 1897 famine, the distress in the Principality being far less severe than in the Deccan, some three thousand people were brought in from the ancestral province of the Maharaja and set up as agriculturists; lands, dwellings, and farming stock being gratuitously provided for them. The supply of grain in the State—distributed very largely by the agency of State shops—being more than adequate for the necessities of the population, the Maharaja forwarded food stuffs to the value of Rs. 12,000 to affected districts, such as Poona, Sholapur and Ahmednagar, and to Bundelkhund. Relief works were provided on an adequate scale, and some 500 destitute orphan children were collected and provided for by the Durbar until in a position to earn a living. The measures taken in the more recent famine were no less active, and Indore, like Gwalior, was able to give a helping hand to its smaller neighbours by the grant of famine loans on favourable terms. The State possesses a capable Minister in Rai Bahadur Nanak Chand, C.I.E., who received the decoration named in recognition of his untiring services in the cause of the famine-stricken in 1900. No less fortunate is the State in retaining the services of Mr. Khanderao

C. Bedarkar, the previous Minister, who retired after five years' tenure in 1895, but was induced to return to Indore in the capacity of Judicial Adviser to the State Council, formed in 1899. This Council has been instrumental, as recent Blue-books attest, in effecting many reforms and improvements and in redressing grievances.

Sir Shivaji Rao took an active part in the Delhi Coronation Durbar, and was one of the foremost of the Chiefs selected to ride in the elephant procession on the occasion of Lord Curzon's and the Duke of Connaught's state entry into Delhi. The month of January 1903 was a most memorable one in his experience. On the first day he tendered to the representative and the brother of the King-Emperor, in the great Delhi assemblage, his congratulations upon the recent Coronation; on the last day of the month he formally gave effect, in public Durbar at Indore, to his voluntarily-expressed desire to abdicate in favour of his youthful son. The step was decided on in the previous August, and a public announcement was only postponed to enable him to attend the Delhi Durbar in the capacity of a ruling Chief, a postponement indicative of his loyal attachment to the Throne. He had; to quote the words of the special correspondent of *The Times* (who was a witness of the formal abdication), "always been a loyal Feudatory of the Empire, and he entertained special veneration for the late Queen-Empress, whose gracious personality deeply impressed him when he visited London for the Jubilee in 1887. During the South African War he had again been foremost among the Indian Princes in their generous offers of assistance." At the Durbar, which was attended by the Councillors and nobility of Indore, by the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India (Mr. Bayley), and the Resident at Indore, with their staffs, His Highness announced that repeated attacks of illness had led him to renounce his sovereign prerogatives and to vest them in his son Tukaji Rao, a lad of twelve. A set speech was then read, and contained earnest exhortations to the lad to loyalty to the Paramount Power and to the fulfilment of the religious and moral duties of a ruler. Mr. Bayley intimated the acceptance of the late Maharaja's abdication by the Government of India and recognition of his son as Maharaja Holkar of Indore. Sir Shivaji Rao has retired to his residence at Barwahai, some fifty miles from the capital, and, ample provision having been made for his maintenance, it may be hoped that he will live for many years to enjoy the retirement he has earned after nearly seventeen years of rule. During the minority of Tukaji Rao ruling powers are vested in the Minister, Rai Bahadur Nanak Chand, C.I.E., assisted by a Council of Regency, and with the guidance of the British Resident. The present Maharaja, who was born on 26th November 1890, is under the efficient tutorship of Captain A. L. Forbes. He is entitled to a salute of twenty-one guns within the limits of his own territories, and of nineteen elsewhere. A military force of 3,231 cavalry, 6,128 infantry and 65 guns is maintained, independently of the 500 Lancers provided for purposes of Imperial defence.



H.H. The Maharaja of Kolhapur.

H.H. Sir Shahu Chhatrapati Maharaj, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Kolhapur.

WHATEVER controversies may have arisen in regard to the defensibility, or otherwise, of some of the acts of Sivaji the Great in his dealings with his enemies, there can be no dispute as to his claim to be regarded as the most able general and statesmanlike monarch that the Maratha race has ever produced. The fact that His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur is a direct ruling representative of the famous founder of the Maratha Empire, gives him a greater hold upon the esteem of the Marathas as a race than that possessed by any contemporary Princes and Chiefs, and his claims upon their affection are enhanced by the manner in which he upholds all that is best in the traditions of his family. In these days of profound internal peace there is no occasion to emulate the martial achievements of the illustrious founder of Maratha independence. But the spirit of daring and valour which was shown on the field of battle by his ancestors is exhibited by the Maharaja in the more pleasurable arena of sport. As a statesman, too, he is a worthy descendant of Sivaji, whose stringent critics in the line of historical research have never denied his exceptional ability as an administrator. "A serious and solemn task lies before me not only to preserve for my subjects the benefits they already enjoy, but to ensure steady progress in the promotion of their welfare," said the Maharaja when installed upon the *gadi* of Kolhapur by Lord Harris in April 1894, and it is in the spirit of this declaration that his administration has been carried on from that day to this.

The territory lying around Kolhapur and in the north-west part of the Belgaum district was in the possession of the third branch of the Silahara family from about the end of the tenth century to about the thirteenth A.D. It then passed to the Devgiri Yadava dynasty, which was in turn subverted by the Bahmani Kings of the Deccan. It was next ruled by the Moslem Kings of Bijapur, from whom it was wrested by Sivaji the Great

in 1659. The ruling House traces its descent from Rajaram, a younger son of Sivaji. After the death of Rajaram in 1700, his widow placed her son Sivaji in power at Kolhapur. Seven years later Shahu, the grandson of the great founder of the Maratha power, was released from captivity, and he claimed sovereignty over all the possessions of his grandfather, fixing his capital at Satara. His claims were disputed, so far as Kolhapur was concerned, by Tarabai, widow of Rajaram, and it was not until the year 1731 that an understanding was arrived at. Under the provisions of a treaty then signed, the Kolhapur family agreed to yield precedence to the Satara Prince, who, in turn, undertook to recognize Kolhapur as an independent State. Kolhapur first came in hostile contact with the British in 1765, when the Bombay Government had to send an expedition against the State to put an end to the piracy that had been practised from the port of Malwan. A few years later the power of the State was greatly weakened by the drain imposed upon its resources by constant warfare with the principalities of Patwardhan, Sawantwari and Nipani.

Under the circumstances the protection of the Power which was then becoming predominant was sought. By a treaty with the British Government, signed in 1811, the Kolhapur Maharaja was guaranteed against the attacks of other Princes, and engaged to abstain from hostilities towards them, referring all disputes to the arbitration of the British Government. The adherence of the Chief to these conditions stood the severe test of the Peshwa conflict in 1817. In recognition of this the tracts of Chikodi and Manoli, which had been wrested from him by the Chief of Nipani, were restored to him. However, in 1829, these districts were sequestered by the British, owing to the breach of treaty engagements by the then Raja Shahaji, whose conduct led to a force being sent against him on more than one occasion. On his death in 1838 a Council of Regency was formed to govern the principality during the minority of Sivaji the Third. The disputes which arose amongst the members of the Council led to such anarchy that the British Government appointed a minister of its own. The reforming zeal of this officer was so great that it gave rise to a general rebellion, which it took some time to suppress. In consequence of this all the forts were dismantled, and the system of hereditary garrisons was abolished. Sivaji III. in due course came to the *gadi* in 1863, and ruled the State until his death in 1866. He adopted as a successor his sister's son Rajaram. In 1870 this young prince proceeded on a tour in Europe, but never lived to return to his native land. Sivaji Maharaja Chhatrapati IV. succeeded him by adoption, but owing to his mental disability the Government of Sir James Fergusson, in 1882, appointed a Council of Regency, headed by Jayasingrao Abasaheb, Chief of Kagal senior, who was the son of a sister of Sivaji III., as Regent. The unfortunate Prince died in 1883 at Ahmednagar. The eldest son of the Regent Yeshwantrao was adopted as his successor, under the name of Shahu, and it is he who now governs the State.

The minority lasted for a period of eleven years, and the education of the future ruler was conducted in the beginning under the personal superintendence of the Regent, who was an enlightened, capable statesman. His Highness was then sent to the Rajkumar College, Rajkote, for a short time, and eventually Mr. S. M. Fraser, of the

Indian Civil Service, to whose sympathetic and sagacious guidance he owes the development of some of his best characteristics, was appointed his tutor and guardian. With him he travelled over the whole of India and also visited Ceylon. Meanwhile, the affairs of the State were carefully administered by the Council of Regency, which for some years had the father of the prospective ruler as its President. After the lamentable death of the Regent, whose loss was a public calamity for Kolhapur, the Council was presided over for a short time by Mr. (now Sir) W. Lee-Warner, then Acting Political Agent, Kolhapur and S. M. Country. Subsequently the Dewan of the State, Mr. Meherjibhai Kuvarji Tarapurvala, C.I.E., was appointed President by Government, and continued to hold that office until the administration was handed over to His Highness. The reforms carried out by the Council of Regency included the placing of the land revenue system upon a more satisfactory basis than that previously adopted; the laws in force were codified; various complicated questions regarding hereditary customs were settled; and commerce was freed from the harassments which it had undergone by the levy of import and export duties. Kolhapur was the first among the States of the Bombay Presidency to abolish these duties. More important still, the capital town was connected by a State railway with the main line of the Southern Maratha Company, thus opening up some of the principal markets of the country.

Upon coming of age in 1894, His Highness was installed upon the *gadi* by Lord Harris with all due formalities. In the course of his speech the then Governor of Bombay said that he deemed himself fortunate that it fell to him to confirm the pledge the Paramount Power gave to the people of Kolhapur when it selected His Highness to succeed to the throne which he and his ancestors derived from the immortal Sivaji. He could well understand that after the misfortune that attended His Highness's House for nearly thirty years, the people of the State anxiously, perhaps impatiently, looked forward to the day when the rightful heir should ascend the throne. He congratulated them that that day had arrived, brightened by the fact that their future ruler was a Prince of high and amiable character. Lord Harris then reviewed the chief incidents affecting Kolhapur since His Highness's selection and adoption. With regard to the future, His Excellency thought His Highness had decided wisely to retain the Council for the present as an advisory body. The Government were ready to give advice, but the responsibility for decision rested with His Highness, and in its discharge he (Lord Harris) prayed that His Highness might be guided by an influence more potent and beneficent than any on earth.

In the course of a felicitous reply, the Maharaja expressed his sincere gratitude to the British Government for the great progress that had been made in the State during his minority, and for the measures taken from his childhood to ensure his own personal welfare, specially referring to his deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Fraser, his tutor, for "his fatherly care." With regard to the future of his State, the young Maharaja said, "It is with full sincerity that I declare my intention to show loyalty to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, and to faithfully abide by the engagements, treaties, and *sanads* which regulate my relations to the Paramount Power. Further as regards my people,

while recognizing all that has already been done and the favourable circumstances under which I begin my rule, at the same time I understand fully that in government there is no standing still, that a serious and solemn task lies before me not only to preserve for my subjects the benefits they already enjoy, but to ensure further steady progress in the promotion of their welfare. In this task I look with confidence to receive the loyal support of my feudatories and jaghirdars, and while upholding their rights, I trust to find them real pillars of the State, as in early days their ancestors were to mine. Setting before myself a high standard, I shall endeavour to take advantage of the great opportunities which lie open to me; and in beginning my duties I am encouraged by the hope that from future Governors of Bombay I shall receive the same countenance in manhood as I have received during my minority from your Excellency and your predecessors; and that the Political Agents, whose advice I shall welcome, will prove friends such as those I have so far known."

The people of Kolhapur hailed with delight the investiture of the Prince, not only because it put an end to the long succession of minorities and disappointments, but also because of the great personal esteem and affection in which even at that early stage they held Shahu Chhatrapati. Their feelings in regard to him, and indeed the general sentiment of all who had come in contact with His Highness, were admirably summed up by Lord Harris at a banquet given on the evening of the day of installation. The health of His Excellency was proposed by the Maharaja, and, in the course of his reply, Lord Harris said —"The manly tone of your Highness's speeches, the excellent matter contained in them, and the sympathetic tone which pervades them will, I feel sure, well satisfy all who have heard them that the State of Kolhapur may look forward to one who will bear himself as a Prince should do before his subjects, and at the same time will not be above interesting himself in their meanest affairs. It has been my good fortune to have made your acquaintance from my earliest entry into this Presidency, and it has been a sincere pleasure to me to notice how rapidly the strength of your mind has developed, how keen is now the interest you take in public affairs, and how clear is the perception you have formed on many subjects which I have discussed with you. I augur from that, that in the important work you have now to undertake you will bring these same qualities to bear, with the result that your subjects may look up to one who when their affairs are before him, will, as an official should, weigh each side calmly in the balance in order that he may arrive at a just and fair conclusion."

The prophecies contained in this speech of Lord Harris have been abundantly fulfilled. The Maharaja has proved himself a most capable administrator, and has initiated a number of very useful reforms. One of the first steps he took upon receiving full powers was to order a speedy conclusion of the industrial survey of the State initiated by the Council of Regency. The survey occupied about a year-and-a-half, and the published report thereon is a veritable mine of information regarding the economic and social condition of the largest Principality under the political control of the Bombay Government. A pleasing feature of the report was the candour with which defects in the

economic condition of the people were explained, and proposed remedial measures discussed. In Kolhapur, as in British India, a most difficult economic problem is presented by the impoverishment of the cultivators at the hands of the money-lender. The survey brought to light the fact that only from 30 to 35 per cent. of the ryots "enjoy land and cultivate it," the remainder of them being a vast rack-rented tenantry without interest in the land. The ruler of Kolhapur soon showed that he realised his responsibilities in the matter, by devising measures for the improvement of agriculture and the relief of the cultivators. The Civil Procedure Code of the State has been amended so as to take from the Civil Courts power to sell the lands of a judgment-debtor in the execution of decrees, or to imprison him for failure to pay the decreed debt. All that the Courts can do is to hand over the possession of the land to the mortgagee till the money is paid off, and the ryot can take back his land at any time by paying the amount of the decree. A great factor in bringing about agricultural prosperity is the construction of roads and other means of communication between the producer and his markets, and, here, too, the State has done all that could be reasonably expected. An extensive system of forest conservancy, which has proved of great benefit to the people, has been brought into operation. As an object lesson in good cultivation a large agricultural show is annually held at Chinchali; and a model agricultural farm has been established, as well as a large veterinary dispensary. A committee was appointed to consider the question of educational reforms, and among other improvements made in the method and extent of public instruction, the Rajaram College was placed upon a better basis.

As ignorance lies at the root of the indebtedness of the cultivators the Maharaja decided, on receiving the report of the survey, to increase the primary education grant. He also introduced improvements into the tenancy law so as to check unprincipled and excessive sub-letting, rack-renting and eviction. Efforts were made to relieve the pressure on the land by the introduction and development of non-agricultural industries. The forest officer of the State was early in the present reign deputed to Mysore and other places to study the organization of tea and coffee plantations, preparatory to the introduction of the cultivation of these products in the State. Inamdars burdened with old standing debts were relieved by State loans at low rates of interest. The provision of banking facilities for the cultivator under a proper organization of credit was carefully thought out. Fraudulent practices in the bazaars and the oppressive system of forced supplies were suppressed. The promotion of State servants was placed upon a satisfactory basis, the various lists being amalgamated.

After these reforms had been introduced His Highness found himself in a position to dispense with the services of the Council of Administration. For the disposal of the business carried on by the Council, a new department called the Huzur Office was created, the principal officer in charge being designated Huzur Chitnis, and under his signature all orders of His Highness issue. Sir Richard Temple's watch-word as an administrator was "Verify, verify," and the Kolhapur Maharaja has an equal belief in the value of personal investigation. Not infrequently he goes about amongst his subjects

incognito so as to learn from them their wants, their wishes and their grievances. An altercation between the villagers of Kodoli and the convert population was satisfactorily terminated on one occasion by a visit from His Highness in the capacity of an arbitrator. The Maharaja has done much during his reign to improve, by the erection of public buildings and by sanitary reforms, his capital as well as other towns in his well-managed territories. The careful supervision which he exercises over the administration is shown by the standing order for the submission of weekly returns of accounts and of monthly reports from the heads of each department, specifying the work done during the month, and the orders for work left undisposed of. The Maharaja's energy and devotion in the introduction of well-considered reforms and in the supervision of the administration have had for him their best reward in the unique success that has attended the campaign against both famine and plague in these last few trying years. The populations of the smiling plains of the Deccan have suffered severely from both visitations, since they made their appearance suddenly and simultaneously in the cold weather of 1896–97. One of the first districts of Western India to which the plague was carried from Bombay city was Satara, which is contiguous to Kolhapur, but so thorough were the preventive measures adopted by His Highness that, even when the deaths in Satara were reaching the alarming total of nearly 1,000 per week, the fell disease was kept at arm's length throughout his dominions. No less noteworthy has been the comparative freedom of Kolhapur from the intensity of distress occasioned in neighbouring territories by the two great famines of the close of the nineteenth century. The favourable climatic situation of Kolhapur partly accounts for this, but it is at least equally due to the energy, resource and devotion with which, under the Maharaja's direction, the great and long-continued battle for humanity and for agricultural conservation was fought. No surer testimony could be given to the comparative scathlessness with which Kolhapur has emerged from these calamities than the fact that, while the aggregate populations of the whole of the Native States under the Bombay Government decreased between the two last Census enumerations from 8,082,107 to 6,908,648, the diminution in Kolhapur was only from 913,131 to 910,011. Similarly, the revenue was practically maintained at the satisfactory figure to which it has been brought by such progressive measures as the adoption of the British land revenue system, viz., 34 lakhs of rupees. It may here be mentioned that the State is 2,816 square miles in extent, and has eleven feudatories, the most important being those of Vishalgarh, Bavda, Kapshi, Kagal, Ichalkaranji, Torgal and Datva.

The labours of the Maharaja for the good of his people soon won for him the confidence and esteem of the Paramount Power. In less than twelve months after his installation the late Queen-Empress conferred upon him the high dignity of Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India. A further mark of confidence was the removal of the restriction imposed by the treaty of 1862, under which sentences of death confirmed by the Kolhapur ruler had to be referred to the Government of Bombay. His loyalty and his rank and position among the Chiefs under the political control of that Government were also recognised in his being raised from the title of Raja to that of Maharaja. But

the most signal proof of the esteem of the Paramount Power was supplied by his inclusion in 1902 among the very few Ruling Princes who were honoured by the King-Emperor with an invitation to visit London as a guest of the nation at the Coronation. His Highness accepted the gracious invitation, and was received by King and people in England with all the honours due to his exalted station and his high personal qualities. Amongst the deserved compliments paid His Highness during the visit may be mentioned the cordial references to him made by Earl Roberts and Lord George Hamilton (Secretary of State for India), on the occasion of the Royal Asiatic Society's banquet to the Indian Princes, and the conferment upon him of the honorary degree of LL.D. by Cambridge University. This was in recognition, as the Public Orator (Dr. Sandys) stated at the time, of the Maharaja's successful famine administration, and of his general labours for the welfare of his people. All who came in contact with him were struck by his great personal gifts as by his dignified, commanding presence. With some 800 followers he attended the Delhi Coronation Durbar, and was an active participant in the various functions of the occasion. He was the foremost of the Bombay Chiefs in the elephant procession when the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught made their State entry into Delhi, and at the review of the retainers of Native Chiefs, the Kolhapur Contingent led the way, with a huge elephant and a strong detachment of infantry in dark green with red facings. At the Durbar he desired the Viceroy to express his most loyal and respectful sentiments towards their Imperial Majesties; and the sincerest wishes for their long life and happiness, and for "the lasting peace and prosperity of our grand Empire."

The Maharaja has a charming consort in Lakshmibai Saheb, whom he married from the Gaekwari family in April 1892, and who has borne to him two sons and a daughter. The birth of the heir-apparent early in 1897, was hailed with great satisfaction by the Maharaja's subjects, whose deep attachment to the ruling house led them to regard with anything but satisfaction the long period during which, prior to His Highness's accession, they had been without a personal ruler. A pleasing feature of the Maharaja's domestic life is the great affection which exists between him and his younger brother, the Chief of Kagal, and another the warm personal interest of His Highness in the welfare of his personal servants and attendants.

The feats of the ruler of Kolhapur in the world of sport and the sphere of physical endurance deserve a prominent place in any record of his career. An excellent shot, the Maharaja often goes on long hunting expeditions, walking great distances with his *nasta*. His Highness is especially fond of pig-sticking. On one occasion, in the excitement of the sport, he followed a boar right into a flooded stream. His riding feats are no less remarkable. In May 1895, he rode from his capital to Mahableshwar, a distance of 110 miles, in nine hours, inclusive of stoppages. Though so good a rider, he is still fonder of driving, and no diversion is more pleasing to him than that of breaking-in obstinate horses in harness. He drives horses in all sorts of combinations, and has sometimes been seen managing a carriage and twelve in six pairs. He is quite at home in the

games of polo and tent-pegging, having often carried off gymkhana prizes for the latter sport. The institution of a racing week at Kolhapur at Christmas time is amongst the changes he has introduced, and he is a very liberal supporter of the Turf. His Highness keeps a good racing stud, and its members have often carried off prizes at race meetings in various parts of Western India.

Kolhapur is an irregular belt of the Deccan plateau, extending about sixty-five miles from north to south and eight to fifty miles from west to east. Being at an elevation of about 1,800 feet above the sea, it enjoys, on the whole, a temperate climate. Rice, millet, sugar cane, cotton and tobacco are the principal agricultural products. The manufactures of chief importance are pottery, hardware, coarse cotton, woollen cloth, felt, paper, liquor, perfumes, and lac and glass ornaments. Somewhat extensive deposits of iron ore exist in the State, but their profitable working is rendered impossible by the want of adjacent fuel deposits. Kolhapur, the capital of the State, is a picturesque city thronged by traders from many parts. The Rajaram College, the New Palace, and the Albert Edward Hospital are amongst the handsome edifices with which the capital has in recent years been adorned. The city has long been held in high esteem for its many ancient temples. Numerous Buddhist remains discovered from time to time in the immediate neighbourhood of Kolhapur attest to the antiquity of the place. For instance, a crystal relic casket found in a large *stupa* in the year 1880 bears on its lid an inscription in Asoka characters and dates from the third century before Christ.

His Highness's present Minister is Rao Bahadur Raghunath Venkaji Sabnis, B.A., who, by his administrative ability and devotion to the public welfare, has already earned the respect and esteem of the Maharaja and his subjects. His Highness, who maintains a military force of 255 cavalry, 1,902 infantry and 67 guns, receives a salute of nineteen guns.



H.H. The Maharaja of Jaipur.

H.H. Sir Madho Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., Maharaja of Jaipur.

HE WHO reverences his conscience as his King is always held in high esteem by right-thinking men, however much his religious beliefs may differ from their own. The elaborate precautions taken by the Maharaja of Jaipur, on the occasion of his presence at the Coronation as a guest of the King-Emperor, to maintain inviolate his caste rules and religious observances, were noted with respectful sympathy by the British people, to whom he will henceforth stand as the type of a benevolent and devout ruler. Great as was his popularity among the Hindu millions of India it has, if possible, been increased by his determination, successfully carried out, to allow neither cost nor convenience to stand in the way of religious duty while sojourning from his own land. The spirit in which he accepted the gracious invitation of the King-Emperor is indicated in the remark he made to Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P., when entertaining him at his capital a few months before the journey was undertaken. Speaking of the difficulties and inconveniences of the course on which he was resolved, the Maharaja said: "These things must not weigh with me when my King-Emperor invites me to his Coronation; and I hope to prove by my conduct now and hereafter to my people that a Rajput, even if he crosses the ocean, may yet be an upright Hindu whilst he does his duty as a vassal of the British Crown." How His Highness fulfilled this self-imposed obligation by chartering a special steamer for the voyage to England and back, and by taking with him a sufficient number of retainers and a sufficient quantity of food, water, etc., to enable him and his Brahman retinue to keep their caste as intact upon the ocean and in England as in their own country, is a familiar story, and was the subject of innumerable newspaper paragraphs during the visit. Some of the stories which gained currency were exaggerated, but the fact remains that, although owing to the King-Emperor's illness the stay was unexpectedly extended, the supplies of Ganges

water were adequate for all the ceremonial purposes required; from first to last there was no necessity to purchase food from, or have any service performed by, non-Hindus; and during the Maharaja's lease of the s.s. *Olympia* no morsel of beef or veal was put on board. In every respect caste was maintained.

The Maharaja's determination to preserve the traditional religious practices of his race can be the better understood when it is remembered that he traces his lineage directly back to the Sun God, for he is head of the Kuchhwaha clan of Rajputs, one of the thirty-six royal races springing from Kush, son of Rama, hero of the "Ramayana" and King of Ajudhya. His ancestors established themselves first in Narwar and Gwalior, where, according to the careful researches of Cunningham, they held sway for eight-and-a-half centuries. A large part of Tod's learned "Annals of Rajasthan" is devoted to the history of this family, which, indeed, as has been remarked, "is no unimportant part of the history of India." Between Dhola Rao, the founder of the Jaipur State in 967 A.D., and the present ruler, there are enumerated 106 generations. In the twelfth century a descendant of Dhola Rao, named Hunaji, conquered Amber from the Minas, and fixed his court there. Amber remained the capital until the time of Jai Singh II., who transferred it to Jaipur in 1728. Jai Singh—after whom the new capital was named—was famous both as a warrior and as an astronomer. His instruments, still kept in good repair at the Jaipur Observatory, are remarkable as being much in advance of the astronomical knowledge of his age. After the death of Jai Singh II., contests with the decaying power of the Moguls, Maratha raids, and Rajput rivalries and defections were the outstanding features of Jaipur history until the State came under British protection in 1818. Good service was rendered to the Paramount Power throughout the Mutiny by the predecessor of the present Maharaja, Sir Sawai Ram Singh. As a reward his salute was twice increased, he was made a G.C.S.I., and at the Delhi Proclamation of Queen Victoria, he received a suitable addition to his titles and territory.

After a reign extending over forty-five years, the late Maharaja passed away in 1880, having adopted on his deathbed the present ruler, who was the son of the Thakur of Isarda, and belonged to the Rajawat sept of the Kuchhwaha clan, this being the sept from which the rulers of Jaipur are adopted when direct succession fails. The Maharaja, who was then nineteen, was invested with full governing powers in September 1882. The inheritance which passed to his charge comprises an area of 14,465 square miles, and has a population of some two-and-a-half millions. Its importance is further enhanced by the feudal fealty which several of the Rajputana Chiefs owe to His Highness. Its glory, from the spectacular standpoint, is the capital city, without a visit to which no tour to India is complete. This beautifully-situated home of some 160,000 people is entirely of one colour. A city of white marble, dyed deep with the rays of the rising sun, would look as Jaipur always looks morning and evening. The rose-coloured dwellings are broken only by the fantastic façades of palace or temple, in design and construction so light and graceful, so curious and costly, so infinite in cunning variety of outline and ornament, that here the "Arabian Nights" seem translated into

fact. Amber, which lies some seven miles to the north-east, is a vision of deserted loveliness in ivory and marble, looking silently down upon her rose-tinted supplanter from a fair hillside.

Amid all the beauty of the unique creation of the artistic faculty of Jai Singh, the visitor cannot fail to notice the evidences abounding on all hands that Sir Madho Singh, while adhering as rigidly to the faith of his forefathers as though Western education had never been introduced into India, is prompt to adopt such Western ideas as are calculated to conduce to the welfare of his people. The city is well paved, drained and lighted, and has been supplied from the Maharaja's own resources with a noble hospital and other philanthropic institutions, whose housing, equipment and endowment might well serve as a model for Western towns to copy. The Albert Hall, in which is housed the best equipped museum to be seen in India outside the Presidency cities, the Maharaja's College and the Ramnawas Public Gardens, are conspicuous examples of improvements effected in the capital during the present reign, and the abundant supply of water pumped into the city goes far to conserve the public health. Colonel Sir S. S. Jacob (who accompanied the Maharaja on his Coronation visit to England), has been in charge of the Public Works Department of the State since 1867. With his co-operation and under his advice, the Maharaja has pursued a liberal and enlightened policy of development throughout the country, the total expenditure on public works during the reign up to the end of 1901 coming within measurable distance of two crores of rupees. A large part of this amount has gone towards improving the means of communication, and a branch line of railway is now under construction from the capital to Sewai Madhopur and the frontier of the grain-producing territory of Kotah, for more fully opening up the southern portions of the State. Road-making has been a prominent feature of the public works policy of the Maharaja, and the State now contains 300 miles of metalled and 224 miles of unmetalled roads.

The thoroughness and efficiency of the department at whose operations we have glanced is typical of the whole administration. His Highness has proved himself to be a wise, capable and enlightened ruler, and competent authorities are agreed in regarding Jaipur as one of the best governed States of India. In its administration His Highness is assisted by a Council, consisting at present of ten members. The prosperity of the State sustained a severe set-back in the great famines which marked the close of the nineteenth century in many parts of India. Energetic measures were taken, and that effectively, to meet the dire calamity of successive droughts. Writing of the Maharaja's appearance at the annual feast of the sun early in 1902, Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P., who was present, says: "Here was the father of his people indeed; a ruler who, with boundless energy and bottomless purse, has combated famine in a way which has endeared him beyond all expression to his faithful subjects. Blessed with great riches, the savings of a frugal sovereign during long years of fatness, he has poured them out like water to alleviate the sufferings and arrest the misery which the lean years since 1897 have brought with them." Many States were much less fortunate, since they lacked the

resources requisite to deal promptly with the distress. Their predicament and the widespread character of the calamity suggested to His Highness the idea of founding a permanent Famine Relief Fund, to be available in any part of India where it may be required. Thus it was that, in the words of Lord Curzon, who gave his hearty support to the scheme when proposed to him, the Maharaja "extended his princely munificence not only to his own people, but to India at large." He subscribed sixteen lakhs of rupees to form the nucleus of the People's Famine Trust, and in memory of the late Queen-Empress added another four lakhs thereto in January, 1901. The trustees comprise several highly-placed officials and Indian noblemen.

Mention of the Maharaja's generous supplementary gift to the Trust, in memory of Queen Victoria, may be suitably followed by reference to the evidences we have of his deep attachment to the Paramount Power. His contribution to the Imperial defensive forces consists of a Transport Corps, organized in 1890, and maintained as a voluntary gift to the British Government. The Corps, which won the hearty commendation of the Duke of Connaught when he reviewed it in February 1903, comprises a superintendent, eight officers, 695 non-commissioned officers and men, 1,126 ponies, 490 carts, and nine tongas. It has seen active service on two occasions—in the Chitral Relief operations in 1894, and in the Tirah campaign of 1897, when it was employed for a period extending over seven months. To again quote Mr. Ian Malcolm—"Not only is the whole Corps ready to start for a campaign at three hours' notice to any part of the Indian Empire; not only has it achieved the foremost reputation for efficiency and grit in all the recent frontier campaigns; but also in time of famine it has performed prodigies of endurance as an ambulance corps spread all over the wide territories of Jaipur—collecting the feeble, feeding the aged, and burying the dead." Another instance of Sir Madho Singh's loyal interest in the maintenance of British power and prestige was his offer of the Corps for service in the Boer War. In common with other offers of a similar character, the proposal had, on political grounds, to be gratefully declined. But the Maharaja found another outlet for his generous sympathy in the Transvaal War Fund, to which he subscribed no less than a lakh of rupees.

In many ways the British Government have marked their appreciation of the statesmanship, generosity, and loyalty of Jaipur's ruler. In 1888 he was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India, and similar exalted rank in the Order of the Indian Empire was conferred upon him in 1901. The Jaipur salute consists of seventeen guns, but as a personal distinction His Highness receives a salute of twenty-one guns, the maximum number accorded to any Indian Prince. The selection of His Highness to represent Rajputana at the Coronation was a still greater honour, for it is well known that rank and prestige were not alone taken into consideration in making choice of representatives—that, as far as possible, invitations were sent to rulers who had shown the highest sense of the responsibilities of their great position. On arrival at Dover, the Maharaja, who was accompanied by a suite of 125 persons, received a cordial message of welcome from the King-Emperor. The Queen joined His Majesty in sending His Highness a large bouquet. Moray Lodge, Campden Hill, was placed at the disposal of

the Maharaja during his stay in England, and every honour and courtesy due to his exalted rank and character were paid him by the Sovereign, the Government, and the people. His dignified bearing and the exceptional magnificence of his bejewelled dress were noted with admiration by the crowd on all occasions on which he was seen in public, and he was one of the most popular of the Coronation visitors. While careful to observe all the requirements of his caste, as already mentioned, His Highness was most assiduous in attendance at functions promoted in honour of himself and other Indian representatives. He evinced a keen and intelligent interest in the diversified life of the Metropolis, and wherever he went he remembered, as is his wont, the poor and needy. For instance, on landing at Marseilles he presented Rs. 2,000 to the British Consul-General for charitable distribution, and gave the same amount as a donation to an orphanage in the town. At an early stage in the King-Emperor's recovery from the serious illness which necessitated the postponement of the Coronation, His Highness gave a thanksgiving offering of no less than £5,000 to King Edward's Hospital Fund. *The Times* aptly described the contribution as in keeping with the well-known charity of the donor, and added: "Just as in India he has chosen the most pressing need for his generous help, so in England he has, after much enquiry and thought, selected for his munificence perhaps the most deserving of all English charities, and to the loyal Rajput Chief a charity specially congenial, as having sprung from the philanthropic efforts of the King." The special attention shown His Highness throughout his stay "filled his breast with pleasure," to quote the statement of one of the Sirdars in the Maharaja's suite. On several occasions the Maharaja was received in audience by their Majesties and by the Prince and Princess of Wales. At a farewell interview with the monarch, whose crowning at Westminster Abbey he had witnessed, he presented as a personal gift a sword richly studded with costly stones. It was of Jaipur manufacture, and engraved upon it were words to the effect: "The humble present of Sawai Madho Singh to his King-Emperor as a token of heartfelt loyalty." In graciously accepting the present His Majesty said it was the most costly one he had received, and promised to wear it at the review of the Indian Contingent. The Queen-Empress was pleased to accept a Jaipur-made cup, lined with diamonds, emeralds, sapphires, and other precious stones.

The Maharaja was welcomed back to his capital by a people confident that his brief experience of Western life had not led to his losing touch in any way with them and their traditions. This view was confirmed by the simple, dignified, and straightforward remarks His Highness made in proposing the healths of Lord and Lady Curzon at the State banquet given in their honour when they visited Jaipur at the close of 1902. This speech was rightly regarded as of such importance that portions of it were cabled to the English newspapers. His Highness admitted his partiality for the old customs and the religious traditions of his country, and that as he grew older and saw the changes around him, even in Rajputana, he felt like a man living in a thatched shed when his neighbour's *chappars* had caught fire. He expressed his gratification that Lord Curzon had urged the Native Chiefs to be loyal to their religious traditions and people, and that when he visited England he found that the "good and kind" people there liked him none the worse for determining

to observe all his own customs and ways, even in a foreign country. Dealing with the then impending Delhi Durbar, he remarked that the ceremonies proposed were entirely in accord with Hindu ideas, both from the State and the religious standpoint. In the course of his reply, Lord Curzon characterized the remarks they had just heard as striking and notable. He dwelt upon the benefits which the continued existence of these Principalities confers upon Indian society, and strongly repudiated the idea that the Government desire to Anglicise the Feudatory States. "If a Native State is ruled well in its own way," said His Excellency, "I would not insist that it should be ruled a little better in the English way. A natural organism that has grown by slow degrees to an advanced stage of development has probably a healthier flow of life-blood in its veins than one which is of artificial growth or foreign importation. Therefore, it gives me pleasure to visit a part of India where these old fashions still survive as in Rajputana, and still more to be the guest of a Chief like your Highness, whose State is ruled efficiently and well, but ruled upon native lines." After pointing out the service the British power rendered the Rajput Chiefs when they were in danger of being overwhelmed by mercenary hordes, Lord Curzon said he looked forward to the time when the Chiefs "trained to all the advantages of Western culture, but yet not divorced in instinct or in mode of life from their own people, will fill an even ampler part than at present in the administration of this Empire." That time would not come if the Indian Chief was a spendthrift, an idler, an absentee. "Your Highness, if I may say so," he continued, "has set a noble example of what such a ruler may be. We know your princely munificence in respect of the Famine Trust and many other good works, and we are aware of your single-hearted devotion to the interests of your State. . . . I hope that your Highness's example may be followed by those who come after you, and that it may leave an enduring mark in Indian history."

Space does not permit of detailed reference to the Maharaja's share in the Coronation Durbar, at which, alike in the procession at the State entry of Lord Curzon and the Duke of Connaught and on other occasions, he took the first place among the Chiefs of Rajputana. But mention must be made of his senior Rani's generous donation, in honour of the occasion, of a lakh of rupees to the Famine Trust originally created by the munificence of the Maharaja. In acknowledging the gift, Lord Curzon wrote to His Highness that it showed that "the first interest of your noble House continues to be for the good of the people, and the Maharani, like yourself, regards great public occasions as incentives to acts of private munificence." In the course of their Indian tour after the Durbar, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught were the guests of His Highness for three days at Jaipur, and during the visit the Duke, by command of the King-Emperor, formally invested His Highness with the insignia of a Knight Grand Commandership of the Royal Victorian Order.

H.H. the late Maharaja Rajendra Singh Mahendra Bahadur, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Patiala.

THE LATE Maharaja Rajendra Singh of Patiala, whose premature death occurred early on the morning of the 8th November 1900, was known throughout India and also in Great Britain as a most enthusiastic sportsman. A generous and hospitable gentleman, he had all the qualities of a *preux chevalier*, and when occasion demanded he maintained the traditional loyalty of his House toward the British Raj by the offer of troops and personal service in the field. As the most powerful of the Phulkian Chiefs, His Highness held a unique position among the independent Princes of the cis-Sutlej States. The family of Patiala has an exceptionally interesting history, and though a younger branch of the renowned Phulkian House which has given Chiefs to Nabha, Jhind, and Faridkot, has so distinguished itself as to virtually take the leading place in family prestige. The Maharajas of Patiala are Sikhs of the Sidhu Jat Clan, who, though no longer controlling the country north of the Sutlej, hold great power south of that waterway. The common ancestor of the Sidhus was the Rajput Chief Jaisal, who founded the State and City of Jaisalmir, from which he was driven by rebellion towards the close of the twelfth century. A descendant of Jaisal in the twenty-ninth generation was Phul, the second son of Rupchand, who was killed in a fight about 1618. Phul had seven children, from whom have descended many noble families, and it is from his second son Rama that the Patiala family established their descent. Rama and his elder brother Tilokha, from whom the Chiefs of Nabha are descended, jointly founded, about 1680, the village of Bhai Rupa, which is yet held in equal shares by the whole of the Phulkian Chiefs. Rama, however, early began to carve out an independent State for himself. A successful attack on a large body of marauders

who were passing Bhai Rupa provided him with a considerable amount of wealth, which enabled him to found the village of Rampur. From this centre, after the fashion of the times, he made descents upon his neighbours, spoiling them and adding to his own possessions.

The period was a favourable one for adventurous spirits, for the Delhi Empire was rapidly breaking up. Through the influence of a cousin, Rama was appointed by the Mahomedan Governor of Sirhind to control the waste districts beyond the Jumna. Ultimately a quarrel arose between the cousins, and Rama, learning that his relative Chen Singh was endeavouring to get his appointment revoked, caused him to be murdered. In revenge the sons of Chen Singh killed Rama in 1714, when he was nearly eighty years of age. Rama had established himself at Hodiana, which he had conquered, and at his death the possession fell to his third son Ala Singh. Of the six sons of Rama, the elder Duna founded the Bhaddur family, the second died leaving a son who succumbed within a few months of his father, and thus Ala Singh came into possession of Hodiana. From this period actually dates the rise of the Patiala House which quickly overshadowed the other kindred families. Ala Singh, though only twenty-three when his father was murdered, quickly displayed the qualities of a successful leader. Two years after his father's death he avenged him by seizing the first opportunity to attack his murderers and their followers, upon whom great loss was inflicted. Barvala having fallen into ruins, he rebuilt that place and took up his residence there. The growing fame of Ala Singh was increased by a battle, in 1731, outside the walls of Burnala, in which the powerful Rai of Khot, though assisted by an Imperial General and his troops, suffered a disastrous defeat. Men flocked to the standard of the rising Sikh leader and he continued to extend the area of his conquests. Among other territories which fell into his arms was the district of Chaurasi in which was included the village of Patiala, now the capital of the State. This territory was acquired in 1752, and the next year Ala Singh built a mud fort there. His numerous military successes included the routing in 1757 of his hereditary enemies, the Bhattis, on whom he inflicted great loss. Early in 1762 Ahmed Shah, the Durani monarch of Afghanistan, made one of his numerous expeditions into Hindustan. His advance was opposed by the forces of the whole of the Phulkian Chiefs, but against the disciplined Afghan troops the Sikhs were powerless and they were heavily defeated. The battle was fought near Burnala, where, on the town being taken by the Afghans, Ala Singh was captured. Ahmed Shah fixed the ransom for the six chieftains at four lakhs of rupees, a sum raised with difficulty. The Afghan monarch, being anxious to conciliate his enemies, embraced Ala Singh, gave him a dress of honour and conferred upon him the title of Raja. The attitude of the other Chiefs, however, compelled Ala Singh, as soon as Ahmed Shah had returned to Kabul, to join in an expedition against the Mahomedans of Sirhind. In the battle which ensued the Sikhs were victorious and the province of Sirhind was divided among the conquerors, Raja Ala Singh being given possession of the town and its neighbourhood. When Ahmed Shah invaded Hindustan again in the next year he cordially received Ala Singh and conferred on him the Chiefship of the district of Sirhind, in consideration of a contribution of three and a half lakhs of rupees a

year. Only a portion of the first year's revenue appears to have been paid. The following year, 1765, Raja Ala Singh died at Patiala. Unquestionably one of the most distinguished Sikh Chiefs of his time, Ala Singh, by valour and sagacity, firmly laid the foundations of the Patiala State and established himself as the most powerful of the cis-Sutlej Chiefs.

He was succeeded by Amar Singh, the second son of Sardul Singh, the eldest of his own three sons. Amar Singh, then a youth of eighteen, was placed upon the *gadi* by his grandmother, a woman of very exceptional gifts. The Patiala family has indeed been remarkable for the ability of its Ranis, several of whom during periods of regency have displayed no small sagacity in statesmanship. The succession of Amir Singh was disputed by his elder brother, Himat Singh, the issue of an irregular marriage, but after several actions in the field the dispute was settled by Amar Singh being left in possession of Patiala, and Himat Singh retaining almost the whole of the territory which he had captured from the Afghans of Maler Kotla. Amar Singh soon extended his possessions by conquests, and in 1767, the second year of his accession, the title of Raja, granted to his grandfather, was continued to him by the Delhi Emperor, with additional honours and presents, including a flag and drum as the symbols of independence. He directed numerous expeditions against his enemies, and his successful generalship soon caused his name to be held in terror. His brother, Himat Singh, relying on hopes of support from the other Phulkian Chiefs, rebelled against the Raja, and in his absence seized the fort of Patiala. But the neighbouring Chiefs, dreading the anger of Amar Singh, declined to help the rebel, who being shut up in the fort was obliged to surrender to his brother when, aided by friendly Chiefs, Amar Singh appeared with a great force before Patiala. Two years later Himat Singh's intrigues were terminated by his death from excessive drinking. Raja Amar Singh continued his career of conquest until his death, in 1781, at the early age of thirty-five. Unfortunately he died before he had consolidated all the territories which he acquired, and immediately on the accession of the child who succeeded him the kingdom was torn by rebellion. The new Raja was Sahib Singh, who was but a boy of six years. Dewan Nannu Mal, who had served Amar Singh faithfully and well, was appointed Prime Minister, and immediately had to resist revolts on all sides. He owed his appointment to Rani Hukman, the grandmother of the young Chief, but he was too honest and capable a man to please all who surrounded the youthful Raja. Not only had he to fight against rebellion, but had also to withstand the repeated attacks of neighbouring Chiefs. In these circumstances he formed an alliance with Dhara Rao, a leader of Marathas who appeared in the country about Delhi. Eventually his relations with the Marathas brought about his downfall, for suffering under a sense of injustice he himself rebelled against his Chief, with disastrous results to his own fortunes. Raja Saheb Singh was distrustful of his appointed ministers, and the only person in whom he had faith was his sister Sahebi Kour, who was married to Sirdar Jainal Singh Kanheya, who held sway over the greater part of the Bari Doab. At her brother's request the Sahebi Kour came to take charge of the affairs of Patiala, and both as leader of the forces in the field and in directing the administration, she exhibited wonderful courage and capacity. This redoubtable lady

headed the Sikhs in 1794 when they met an invading Maratha force. Before the superior discipline and numbers of the invader the Sikhs began to retreat. Stepping from her chariot, she drew her sword and cried out that the Sikhs would be eternally disgraced if they allowed her, a woman and the sister of their Chief, to be slain, for she was determined never to retreat. The troops rallied and continued the fight until nightfall, when the battle was still undecided. The Sikh Chiefs, fearing defeat on the morrow, sought to prevail on the lady to return to Patiala, but she refused and proposed instead a night attack on the Maratha camp, which was completely successful. Shaken by the surprise and loss of that attack the enemy next day withdrew. The gallant Sahebi Kour in subsequent campaigns repeatedly distinguished herself. She headed the Patiala troops which joined the confederacy of the Phulkian Chiefs to make an attack on the English adventurer, George Thomas, at Jhind. Thomas was compelled to retire, but the next night he attacked the Sikh camp, inflicting great loss and demoralising the allies. The growing power of the Sahebi Kour created enemies for her as it had for the able minister Nannu Mal, and even her brother the Raja turned against her. She fled to Bhirian, and died there in 1799. Disputes in turn arose between the Raja Saheb Singh and his wife the Rani Aus Kour, with results which affected all the neighbouring States. The Rani attacked Jhind and Nabha, who eventually invited Ranjit Singh of Lahore to mediate in the quarrel with Patiala, and to settle the disputes which had arisen in the State itself. The result of his interference was merely to benefit the Patiala Sirdars and the Rajas of Jhind and Nabha, for as soon as Ranjit Singh had taken his departure the trouble between Raja Saheb Singh and the Rani broke out afresh. The effect of this strife upon the internal affairs of the State was deplorable. Ranjit Singh was again invited to intervene, and ultimately a compromise was effected by which an estate worth Rs. 50,000 was settled upon the Rani for the maintenance of herself and son.

The growing power of Ranjit Singh of Lahore led the cis-Sutlej States to turn, in 1808, to the British Power for protection, and in the earlier negotiations the Raja of Patiala was represented by Sirdar Chen Singh, his confidential agent. For the moment the British were more concerned to establish friendly relations with "the Lion of the Punjab," and they were slow to interrupt his designs upon the cis-Sutlej States. His discourteous treatment of a diplomatic mission, however, decided the British on a firm policy, and ultimately, in the early part of 1809, Colonel Ochterlony, on behalf of the British Government, was empowered to extend to the cis-Sutlej Chiefs the protection they desired. On Colonel Ochterlony's arrival at Patiala he was welcomed with great cordiality. The connection then established has been since loyally maintained by the Chiefs of Patiala. In 1810 the title of Maharaja was bestowed upon the Chief by the Emperor Akbar II. of Delhi, the nominal suzerain, on the recommendation of Colonel Ochterlony. The internal affairs of Patiala did not improve, owing to the weakness of Raja Saheb Singh, and, on the invitations of that Chief and the Rajas of Nabha and Jhind, Colonel Ochterlony visited Patiala in January 1811, with a view to restore order. On his recommendation, the administration was placed in the hands of the Rani Aus Kour, subject to advice in certain matters by the Rajas of Jhind and Nabha. A marked

improvement was at once visible in the affairs of the State. Corrupt officials, however, plotted against this capable woman with such success that the Raja was induced to believe that she wished to be independent and threw her into prison. Once more the State fell into disorder and Saheb Singh was compelled to restore his wife to her former position. She was supported by the British, who again interfered through Colonel Ochterlony. Swayed this way and that by the interested advice of those about him, Saheb Singh behaved in such a way that Colonel Ochterlony was obliged to make a display of force and followed this up by a proclamation investing the Rani Aus Kour with sole authority in the State. A further curtailment of the Raja's power subsequently became necessary. He died on the 26th March 1813, and was succeeded by Karam Singh. The new Chief was inclined to leave the conduct of affairs in the hands of his mother and her Dewan, Misir Noudha, whose ability secured him an unpopularity which found expression in attempts on his life. The next year the Paramount Power was driven to declare war against the Goorkhas, and for his assistance in this campaign the young Raja was given a considerable addition to his territory. Raja Karam Singh, after a few years, took the direction of affairs into his own hands, and, disputes arising between the Chief and his mother, the British Government again interfered, effecting a settlement in 1823. Raja Karam Singh had next to meet the claims of his half-brother, Kour Ajit Singh, who usurped a title to which he had no right. After most extravagant pretensions Ajit Singh accepted a generous provision made for him by his brother in 1828. In the year preceding this settlement, Raja Karam Singh gave a proof of his loyalty and good-will to the British Government by subscribing twenty lakhs of rupees to a loan which was raised at a time of financial difficulty. In 1830 the sanatorium and territory of Simla, the summer capital of India, were obtained from Maharaja Karam Singh in return for lands in Baranli. The loyalty of this ruler to the British Government was shown in the Sutlej campaigns of 1845 6. As soon as it became clear that hostilities with the Lahore Government could not be avoided, Maharaja Karam Singh declared his readiness to furnish all necessary supplies for the British Army and a contingent for active service. He was, however, at that time at the point of death, and he expired on the 23rd December 1845.

His son, Narendra Singh, who succeeded him, displayed an even greater readiness to assist the Paramount Power. At the close of the war his aid was acknowledged by the grant of a *sanad*, and the addition to his territory of estates confiscated from those who had sided with the Maharaja of Lahore. Eleven years later the loyalty of Narendra Singh was again signally displayed. During the great Mutiny of 1857 he rendered conspicuous service to the British Government. As the recognised head of the Sikhs his loyalty was of incalculable value. During the darkest and most doubtful days he never wavered, but, on the contrary, redoubled his exertions when less sincere friends thought it politic to relax theirs. Among the special services which he rendered were the despatch of a force to Delhi, the maintenance of communications on the Grand Trunk Road, the sending of troops to Gwalior and Dholpur, and the ready assistance to refugees. As a reward for these notable services his territorial titles and powers were increased. The Government

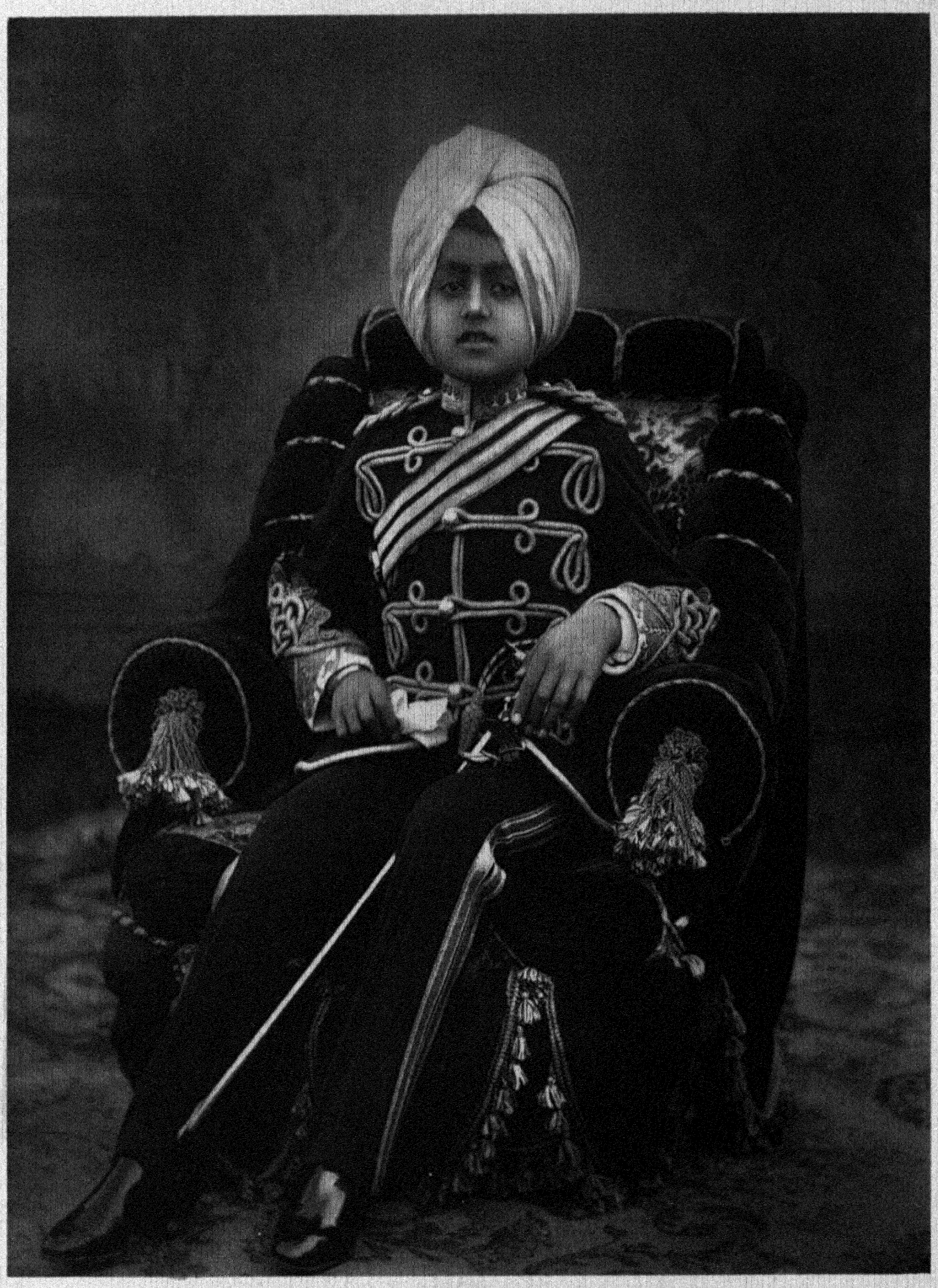
further acceded to the request of the loyal Chiefs of Patiala, Nabha, and Jhind, that in case of a minority in any one of these Houses, a Council of Regency should be appointed and granted the right of adoption in the event of the failure of male issue. At an open Durbar at Umballa in January 1860, Lord Canning, the Viceroy, in investing the Maharaja with a *khilat*, or dress of honour, expressed the thanks of the Government for the services rendered by the Patiala Chief in the Mutiny. In November of the next year Maharaja Narendra Singh was decorated with the Order of the Star of India, and was appointed a member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council. Narendra Singh was unquestionably the most enlightened ruler the State had had up to that time, and his death in the prime of life and usefulness, in November 1862, was a great loss to Patiala. The Punjab Government, in a "Gazette Extraordinary," expressing the deepest regret at his demise, acknowledged that he had performed the most eminent services to the Crown, and had administered the government of his territories with exemplary wisdom, firmness, and benevolence. He was succeeded by his only son, Mahindar Singh, a boy of ten years, a Council of Regency being appointed to carry on the administration during his minority. The young Maharaja was invested with full powers in 1870, and in the same year an important irrigation scheme, which has been of the greatest benefit to Patiala, was decided upon. This was the construction of a canal from the Sutlej to irrigate the districts of Patiala and Umballa. The same month witnessed the Maharaja's nomination as a Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India. Mahindar Singh unfortunately died in 1876, while but twenty-three years of age, and after he had held sole power for only six years. The succession passed to the late Maharaja Rajendra Singh, who was then a child of four, having been born in 1872.

During the minority the administration was carried on by a Council of Regency. Ten months after his accession the lad was, in January 1877, placed upon the *gadi* by Lord Lytton, then Viceroy of India. In the interval between that date and his investiture with full powers careful attention was paid to his education. When His Highness attained the age of eighteen, Lord Lansdowne personally conferred sole authority upon him, and on that occasion His Highness assured His Excellency that he would be found as faithful, as firm and as staunch an ally as his predecessors had been. That pledge was loyally kept, and his willingness to serve the Imperial Power was readily acknowledged. As already indicated the late Maharaja was widely known as a generous and hospitable Prince. Undoubtedly he had the defects of his qualities. Endowed with a love of sports and manly exercises amounting to a passion, he was surrounded by kindred spirits, some of whom took undue advantage of his unbounded generosity. His love of the Turf was a snare to him, but he was more sinned against than sinning. Nor was the administration of his State neglected. In fulfilment of the promise given when full powers were conferred upon him he displayed a great anxiety for the welfare and happiness of his people, reflected in their deep attachment to him. Among the notable enterprises carried out during his minority and reign was the construction of the Patiala-Bathinda Railway at a cost of fifty-four lakhs provided from the State exchequer, to which has to be added the cost of the Patiala line, making a total of some 67½ lakhs expended by the State on railway

construction. Nearly half-a-crore of rupees was spent during his administration on irrigation undertakings which are of the greatest possible benefit to the State. Protective works to prevent damage by floods were completed at a cost of over two lakhs of rupees, and a city drainage scheme was carried out at rather more than half that outlay. Among other matters to which considerable attention has been given are forestry, sanitation, medical arrangements and education. His Highness evinced special interest in the provision of facilities for learning. At the date of his decease the State possessed 197 schools with an attendance of 2,795 pupils, together with a college which educates a large number of students, including a good proportion from neighbouring territories. There were seventeen schools for girls with an attendance of 429 pupils, and at Rama a State-aided school was established, as well as a private institution called the Rajendra Pertap Khalsa School attached to an orphanage founded by the late Dewan Pertap Singh. Besides the assistance he gave to education in his own State, His Highness made many munificent grants for educational purposes elsewhere. H.R.H. the late Prince Albert Victor during his Indian tour in 1890 included Patiala in his itinerary, and in commemoration of this visit the Maharaja presented Rs. 55,754 to the Punjab University for the foundation of scholarships. The Rajendra Victoria Diamond Jubilee Library, which may be also included in this account of educational measures, was established in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen-Empress, and at the same time a lakh of rupees was spent on various other works of public utility, which included the construction of a hospital at Srinagar in memory of the Maharaja's tutor, Dr. J. Sime. His Highness also gave Rs. 4,076 to the Punjab University for a gold medal to be awarded as a prize and in 1890 he made a grant of a lakh and a half rupees in aid of the Khalsa College. Under his administration the number of hospitals was increased from two to eight and the medical dispensaries raised to sixteen. Side by side with the execution of these works administrative reforms were carried out which generally had the effect of improving the condition of the people and at the same time increasing the revenue. The last vestige of forced labour was abolished, the organization of the Police Department was improved with excellent results in regard to the peace and order of the State. During the famine of 1897 adequate arrangements were made for the relief of distress, nearly two lakhs of rupees being expended for this purpose, and the State was incurring no less heavy burden in connection with the famine of 1900 at the time of the Maharaja's death. His love of horses led him to take particular interest in the State stud, which has had the result of greatly improving the breed of stock.

His Highness maintained the best traditions of his house in respect to loyal attachment to the British Raj. During his minority the Council of Regency, with his cordial approval, offered to organize a body of 1,000 foot and 600 horse for the Imperial Service Contingents then being organized, and the offer was thankfully accepted by the Government of India. Six months after the completion of the Corps His Highness was invested with full powers, and one of his earliest acts was to increase the number of men at the disposal of the Suzerain. The maintenance and equipment of these troops involved an annual charge on the State Treasury of over five lakhs of rupees in addition

to the expenditure of nine lakhs incurred in the provision of barracks and hospitals. In 1891 on the occasion of the Manipur Expedition, and again in 1895 when an expedition was despatched to Chitral, His Highness offered himself and his troops to the Government but no necessity for their services then arose. On the outbreak of the North-West Frontier disturbances in 1897, however, the Government accepted the service of the 1st Infantry, which joined the Mohmand Field Force, afterwards co-operating with the 3rd Brigade of the Malakand Field Force, and later on taking part in the Tirah Expedition. The Maharaja himself served on the Staff in the field, and at the conclusion of the operations he was thanked by the Imperial Government for his services and the insignia of the G.C.S.I. was conferred upon him. The Earl of Elgin personally invested His Highness with the exceptional decoration. Unhappily the seeds of early death were in the Maharaja's constitution. He suffered from heart disease and was medically warned against violent exercise which, however, was to him one of the greatest charms in life. He died suddenly on November 8th, 1900, and throughout India there was universal regret at his demise when but twenty-eight years of age, and after a direct rule of only ten years. His people were plunged in grief, and recalled the fact that both his father and grandfather had similarly been cut off in early life. The multitudinous friends of His Highness all over India, and in England, recounted to each other the unique exploits of the racing stud of Patiala, including the many occasions when it had carried off the blue riband of the Indian Turf; the dash and determination of the Patiala Polo Team when captained by its Chief; His Highness's success and daring in the chase; his geniality and *bonhomie*. As was remarked at the time, his equal as an all-round sportsman among the Chiefs of India has never been, and probably never will be, seen. This brave, generous, and loyal Prince was succeeded by his son, some account of whom is given in the succeeding sketch.



H.H. The Maharaja of Patiala.

H.H. Maharaja Bhopendra Singh, Maharaja of Patiala.

THE widely-known ruler of Patiala whose family history and career have been traced in the foregoing sketch, was but four years of age when his father passed away, and the minority administration extended over fourteen years. For the third time within four decades the State is once more under a Council of Regency, the son and heir of the late Maharaja having only just completed his ninth year when he acceded to the *gadi* in November 1900. These interregnums have in the past been marked by much steady, patient work in the direction of retrenchment and reform; grievances have been redressed, and parasitical excrescences have been removed from the body politic. The present Council was most carefully selected, and in its administration, Patiala history is once more repeating itself. The Council consists of Sirdar Gurmukh Singh, Khan Bahadur Khalifa Mahomed Hussain, and Rao Bahadur Bhugwandas, each one of whom is conscientiously and ably discharging his duties as a trustee for his juvenile master and for the Patiala people at large. They gave a modest account of their stewardship, as far as it had gone, on the occasion of the installation of the Maharaja in October 1901—eleven months after his accession—by Sir Mackworth Young, then Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. The President, Sirdar Gurmukh Singh, reminded His Honour that they took over charge when, consequent upon two severe famines in rapid succession, and upon other circumstances, the difficulties of the State, both financial and administrative, were immense. He announced that, with the able assistance of the Political Agent, they had made a start in introducing much-needed financial reforms, and the foundation of a sound financial system had been laid. The *personnel* of the administration in all its branches had been overhauled, and measures had been devised for grading the services and testing the fitness of applicants for Government employment. A considerable number of the Imperial Service horses sent to South Africa, as a freewill

offering to the Suzerain, had been replaced, and it was proposed to increase the pay of the Imperial Service troops. A generous policy in respect to public works, especially of a reproductive character, was being formulated; the postal department had been re-organized; sanitation and medical relief were receiving attention; the land settlement was undergoing careful revision at the hands of a British officer lent by Government; the expenditure on the police administration had been enhanced to secure a higher standard of efficiency; the judicial branch of the public service was to be overhauled; and educational facilities were to be extended.

This summary by no means an exhaustive one—of the progressive policy now being pursued in Patiala gives ground for the most confident anticipations that when, a few years hence, the Maharaja receives full charge of his important State, it will be in a sound and prosperous condition. What is more, there is reason to anticipate that, by reason of his inherent good qualities and the careful training he is receiving, His Highness will worthily maintain the high standard of administration now observable. His bearing at the installation ceremony created a very favourable impression on all observers. In view of the straightened finances of the State, and the fact that the period of mourning for the late Queen-Empress was not then over, the function was carried out with as little pomp and circumstance as possible consistently with the political importance of the event. Owing to Her Majesty's death, the ceremony had to be postponed until the Maharaja had borne that name for nearly a year, and, as the native ceremony of enthronement was accomplished with full Sikh rites at the time of his accession, any elaborate and costly arrangements in connection with the installation would have been somewhat belated.

Sir Mackworth Young, in the course of a noteworthy speech, described the object of the British Government as twofold—to prepare the Maharaja for his high duties, and to secure that during his minority the administration shall be efficiently carried on. Owing to the tender age of His Highness, arrangements of a temporary character had been made, but, in accordance with the wishes of the Viceroy, it was intended that at no distant time an English tutor and guardian should be appointed, and that, from the age of fourteen, the Maharaja should go through a course at the Aitcheson College, Lahore. By assuming the sole responsibility in regard to the training of the minor Chief, the Government hoped to provide in due course, a duly qualified administrator, whose aim should be his people's good, in preference to his own delectation. The appointment of a Political Agent for the Phulkian States could not be said to have been decided upon with sole reference to the needs of Patiala, since that measure had been under consideration for some time, but the death of the late Maharaja and the appointment of a Council of Regency furnished at once the opportunity and the warrant for the consummation of that policy. The Lieutenant-Governor then proceeded to address some words of encouragement and advice to the Council of Regency. He spoke of the task before them as a very great one, requiring the highest qualities of patience, disinterestedness, courage and rectitude. Then turning to the boy Chief, His Honour said:—"Maharaja, you are too

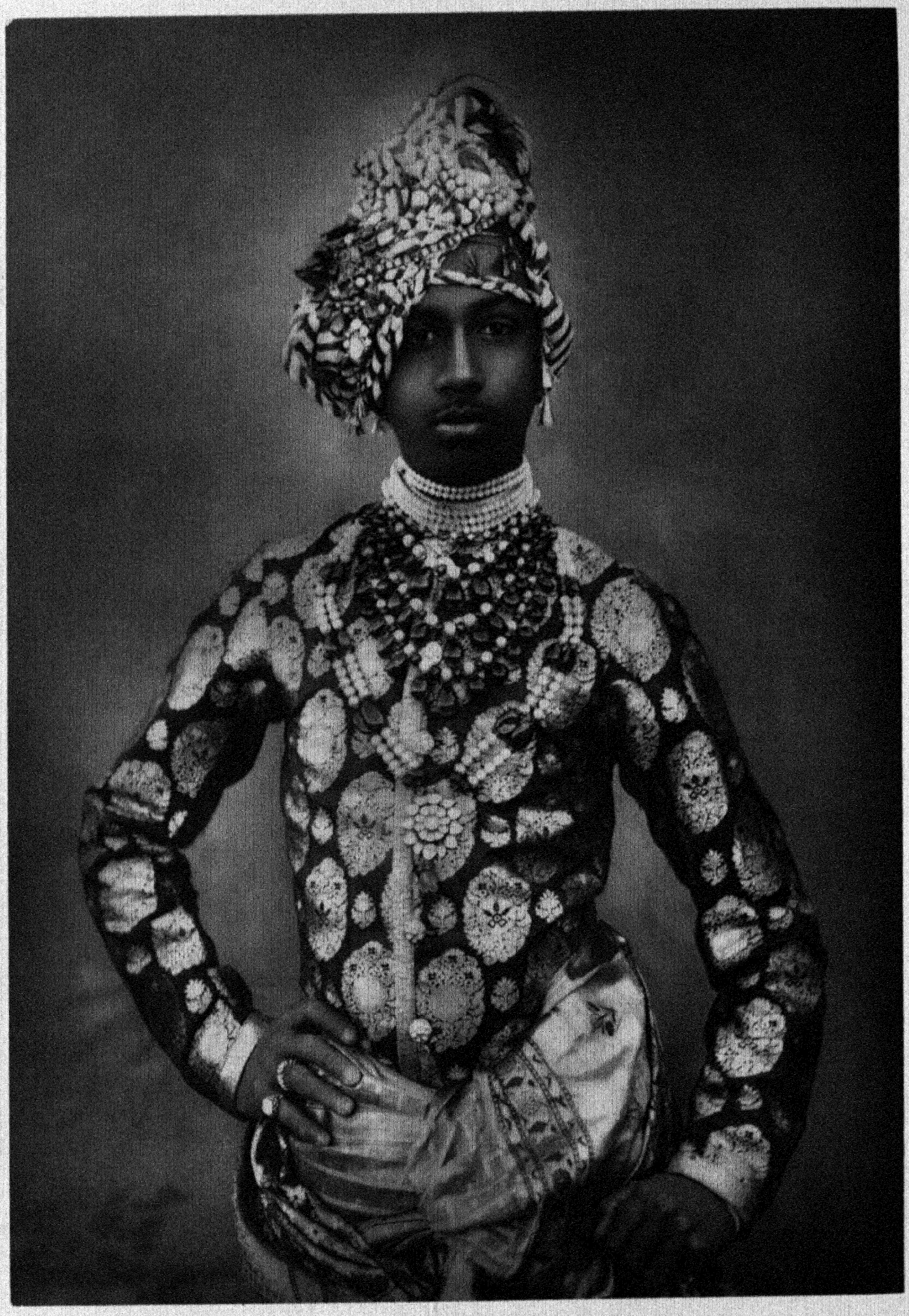
young to understand much of what I have been saying, and I am afraid you must be tired at listening to my long speech. I have nothing to say to you at present but kind words. You come of a loyal line and are destined for a great inheritance. May God give you all the qualities you need to fill your high station, and bless you with good health and long life. Let the ceremony I am about to perform be to you the token that you are the Farzand-i-Khas of the British Crown, and may you always deserve that honourable title."

The installation *khilat* having been presented, and His Highness having been seated on the *masnad* by the Lieutenant-Governor, he at once rose and in a steady voice spoke the following brief sentences in English: "Your Honour, I thank you very much for placing me on the throne of my fathers. I will do my best to make my people happy and to be a loyal friend of the British Crown, and with God's help I hope to succeed." This spontaneous utterance quite won the hearts of the hearers for its youthful author. The European eye-witness who represented *The Civil and Military Gazette* at the installation wrote to that journal: "Everyone remarked with interest and pleasure the correctness of this little boy's behaviour. Attired in rich silken apparel, his head swathed in a heavily-jewelled turban, his little figure was full of princely dignity, and his composure withstood all the many trials of the occasion. Throughout the long, and for him, no doubt, rather tedious proceedings, he bore his part with perfect self-possession, listening to the long speeches as attentively as if he understood everything, though much of what was said, as the Lieutenant-Governor was constrained to remark, was necessarily above his head. His own little speech, in thanking the Lieutenant-Governor for installing him, was also delivered with clearness and deliberation, and the audience could not refrain from bursting into applause—the only demonstration of the kind throughout the ceremony—when the little man, after finishing, looked straight into the Lieutenant-Governor's face and then resumed his seat."

By way of marking the auspicious occasion, the Council of Regency caused to be remitted the balance of revenue-demand due from the people for all the years prior to 1872, the sums thus written off aggregating to 15½ lakhs of rupees. It was also resolved to feed the poor of the State at the cost of the Durbar, and finally poor-houses were started in the capital city and at Narnoul. The foundation-stone of the Patiala poor-house, which was also intended to serve as a memorial to the late Queen-Empress, was laid in the afternoon by Sir Mackworth Young, with the assistance of the Maharaja. The day's proceedings concluded with a State banquet. In proposing the health of the Maharaja, Sir Mackworth expressed the hope that His Highness would grow up with the amiable qualities and personal accomplishments of his father, and with the political wisdom and purposefulness of his grandfather. Kunwar Ranbir Singh returned thanks for his nephew, and in toasting the Kour Saheb, the Lieutenant-Governor evoked very hearty applause by remarking that he was held by all of them in very great affection, and the Government hoped that it might be possible to find some occupation for him in Patiala that would be worthy of his abilities and of his rank.

The State of which the Maharaja will, in a few short years, take full charge has an area of 5,419 square miles, and its population at the last census was 1,586,030, being an advance of 118,597 over the figures for 1891. The approximate revenue is £411,000. In addition to the Imperial Service troops, comprising 600 lancers and two infantry regiments of 600 men each, the State maintains a military force of 2,423 cavalry, 4,147 infantry and 109 guns. The Chief receives a salute of seventeen guns, and his crest is an elephant, with a lion and a bay horse as supporters. The family motto is "Phularka Kirana Prabha." In Viceregal Durbars the ruler of Patiala ranks second of the Punjab Chiefs, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir alone having precedence of him. That the youthful ruler will prove worthy of this exalted position is the confident anticipation of his well-wishers.

Although some years must elapse before His Highness Bhopendra Singh can be invested with ruling powers, he was actively associated by Lord Curzon in the historic proceedings at the Delhi Assembly to proclaim King Edward as Emperor of India. On the occasion of the State entry of the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught into Delhi, the youthful Prince headed the eight Punjab Chiefs selected, in order of precedence, to be included in the gorgeous elephant procession. His Highness also took part in all the principal functions of the Durbar in which the Feudatory Princes were associated, and on January 6th, the anniversary of the birth of the son and successor of Teg Bahadur, ninth Sikh Guru (who foretold the advent of British rule when martyred by Aurangzeb for refusing to embrace Islam), the Maharaja headed a procession of Sikh Chiefs to the Guru's shrine, where they offered up prayers and renewed in each other's presence their vows of fealty to the King-Emperor. This spontaneous and improvised illustration of Sikh loyalty made a profound impression, and was regarded as one of the most significant features of the historic Assembly. Two days later, at the review of British and Native troops, the Maharaja, like his brother Chiefs, rode at the head of the contingent of Imperial Service Troops from his State. "There could be no more graceful figure," cabled *The Times* correspondent, "than that of the little Maharaja of Patiala, in a silk robe of palest yellow, with the palest sea-green turban and flashing aigrette, sitting erect and dignified on a beautiful white Arab, his boyish face, naturally bright and laughing, composed to the solemnity of the occasion . . . . . It was noticeable that the young Maharaja of Patiala came in for a specially friendly greeting from the Duke of Connaught." The same writer, describing the review of Native State retainers on January 7th, remarked that the Patiala procession, though coming after many dazzling sights, was bound "to quicken fresh enthusiasm," since the elephants were "simply mountains of gold," a statement he proceeded to make good by detailed description. The procession ended with the Maharaja's State carriage, drawn by four pure white steeds, its "frame and shafts sheathed in gold with silver wheels and splashboards." The Great Durbar was further rendered memorable in the annals of Patiala by the inclusion in the Honours List of Kunwar Ranbir Singh, the Kour Saheb, who received a Knight Commandership of the Order of the Star of India.



H.H. The Maharaja of Jodhpur.

H.H. Sir Sardar Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Jodhpur.

HEAD of the great Rathor tribe, which claims direct descent from the hero of the greatest of Sanskrit epics, the young Chief who rules the most extensive of the Rajputana States, gathers up, in the eyes of "The Children of the Sun," traditions not merely noble but sacred. As Tod, the standard historian of Rajasthan, has well said: "a series of splendid deeds which time cannot obliterate has emblazoned the Rathor name on the historical tablet," and, with that of the Chauhan's, the tablet has gained a place on the very pinnacle of the Temple of Fame. It would be pleasing to linger on so fascinating a record, but, as our concern is mainly with contemporary events, it must suffice to give two or three finger-posts for those who may desire to pursue the interesting study. It was Sivaji, grandson of Jai Chand, the last of the Rathor kings of Kanauj who, by migrating westward to Marwar early in the thirteenth century, laid the foundations of Rathor rule there. His descendant Chanda conquered Mandor, the ancient capital of Marwar, about the year 1382 A.D. Chanda's grandson, Jodh, founded the city of Jodhpur some eighty years later, and made it his capital. It is from this fact that the State takes the name of Jodhpur in common parlance, though its ancient and more correct designation is Marwar—"the land of death," a term applied formerly to the entire Indian Desert from the Sutlej to the Indian Ocean. Jodh fought against, but had ultimately to acknowledge, the power of the Moguls, and it was his grandson Sur Singh who was in command of the forces by which Guzerat and the Deccan were added to the Imperial domain. In later years the displeasure of Aurangzeb was incurred; he attacked Rajputana in person, sacked Jodhpur, and ordered the conversion of the Rajputs to Mahomedanism. The famous warrior Ajit Singh was then occupant of the Marwar *gadi*, and by forming a league with Udaipur and Jaipur he held in check the proud conqueror from the north. Unhappy stipulations of the league in respect to inter-marriage between the ruling families of the signatories led to sanguinary

disputes, of which in later years, the Pindaris and Marathas were able to take advantage to the furtherance of their predatory designs. The land had peace only when Jodhpur, in common with other Rajputana Principalities, came under British protection in 1818. On the death of Raja Man Singh in 1843, the nobles and Court officials, in the absence of direct issue, elected Takht Singh, Raja of Ahmednagar, a descendant of Ajit Singh, to the vacant *gadi*. He rendered good service in the Mutiny, but his reign was characterized by continuous disputes between the feudal chiefs and his State officials and by an absence of administrative progress.

Happily Maharaja Jaswant Singh, G.C.S.I., father of the present ruler, was a man of different calibre, and from his accession in 1873 dates a new era for Jodhpur. In 1878 when a Dewan was required he appointed his brother, the famous Sir Pratap Singh, now Maharaja of Idar, and gave that enlightened administrator his hearty co-operation and support in the policy of reform and consolidation he was directed to undertake. At that time a debt of more than half a crore of rupees had been piled up, and the expenditure regularly exceeded the revenue of thirty lakhs. Public works had for years been at a standstill; schools and dispensaries were not provided; Bhils, Minas and other lawless tribes plundered with impunity, the country being policed only by an irregular and disorganized body of men armed with rusty matchlocks, and constituting the native army. The full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases wielded by the Thakurs on their estates constituted the main obstacle in the pathway of reform. Their internecine quarrels sometimes resulted in bloodshed, and they only united when opposing what they regarded as encroachments by the Raj on their traditional privileges.

When, on the death of his father in October 1895, the present Maharaja ascended the *gadi*, a great change had been wrought: Chief and Dewan, with the co-operation of the British Government, had evolved order out of chaos throughout the 37,445 square miles of territory constituting the State. The Thakurs had been induced to accept a scheme which, to quote the description given by Colonel G. H. Trevor, C.S.I., formerly Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, "while making the State's courts of justice and decrees everywhere supreme, invested them with magisterial powers on a graduated scale, and thus made them a part of the judicial executive. Robbery and turbulence," continues Colonel Trevor, "had been repressed with a strong hand, and a considerable number of men belonging to the criminal classes by birth and profession, were settled down as peaceful cultivators under supervision on lands allotted by the Raj. The old debt was paid off, and the revenue, increased to nearly fifty lakhs when not reduced by famine, balanced a normal liberal expenditure under the control of a Treasury which enforced attention to carefully prepared annual budgets. A civil police force was established, which is yearly increasing in efficiency; taxation and land settlements were revised, and roads, irrigation, and other public works widely extended; while schools and dispensaries were planted and fostered, and a system of forest conservancy introduced. Crowning feat of all, a railway running south-west to the border of the State, will soon establish through communication with the port of Karachi, so that, with a second line

running northward to Bikanir, Marwar has to-day nearly four hundred miles of open railway, affording a fair return of interest on the cost of construction." Colonel Trevor, whose remarks we quote from *The Empire Review* for December 1901, seems here to have put the case very mildly, for official figures at that time available show the net profits of the Jodhpur Railway in 1899-1900 yielded a return of no less than 14¼ per cent. on the capital outlay of £551,000.

Such was the vastly improved heritage which passed to Sir Sardar Singh on October 24th, 1895, when he was but a lad of fifteen. Unfortunately, the prosperity of his fair domains has, in the initiatory years of his rule, received a set-back from a succession of scanty rainfalls culminating in the famine of 1900. Energetic measures were, however, taken by the Durbar, and the afore-mentioned railways proved of incalculable benefit in the distribution of foodstuffs to the various relief camps. Official and independent observers agreed in describing the condition of the people in receipt of relief as satisfactory, in view of all the circumstances. The special correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian* (who from a perhaps too exclusively humanitarian standpoint was inclined to be dissatisfied with the general famine administration), complimented the Marwar Durbar on maintaining the workers in a condition far better than that of those he saw in many parts of the Bombay Presidency. The State, as is well known, is the native land of those keen and saving men of business, the Marwaris, who, after amassing wealth in the large cities of British India, return to the scenes of boyhood to end their days. Like all money-lenders they have a reputation for hard-heartedness, but it is worthy of record that in many places in Jodhpur their charity was beneficently and freely bestowed in aid of their less fortunate fellow-countrymen. They were doubtless stimulated by the example of those in high places, from the young Maharaja downwards. The Maharani (a daughter of the late Maharao Raja of Bundi), undertook the presidentship of an orphanage for girls, the first ever instituted in Marwar, opened at Jodhpur by the Durbar. Lady Pratap Singh was honorary secretary, and with a very few attendants lived in the orphanage for some weeks to direct and supervise the work. To this example of self-sacrificing benevolence Lord Curzon referred with gratification, in his famine statement to the Legislative Council in October 1900. In the same year Jodhpur abandoned its local silver currency in favour of the Government rupee, a step calculated to greatly facilitate business intercourse between the State and its neighbours.

Though the early days of Sir Sardar Singh's rule were clouded by the calamity to which reference has been made, there has been a contemporary aspect of Marwar history to which he will be able to look back through the years which lie before him- may they be many—with unalloyed satisfaction. His father was among the foremost of the Ruling Princes to take practical steps in connection with Lord Dufferin's announcement at Patiala that the Government were prepared to accept the loyal offers of the Feudatories to participate in the defence of the Empire by raising and maintaining a limited number of troops for that exclusive purpose. Sir Jaswant Singh's offer of a force of cavalry was accepted. The command of the "Sirdar Rissala" or Jodhpur Lancers was entrusted to

Sir Pratap Singh, whose martial instincts and attachment to the Sirkar made the work very congenial to him. In efficiency and valour, the troop is not excelled, even if it be equalled, by any other section of this Imperial reserve, and it was but natural that when it was decided, in response to earnest invitations, to use this reserve in connection with the 1900–01 operations of the Allies in China, the Jodhpur Lancers should be amongst the favoured few selected for the high honour. They were commanded by Sir Pratap in person, and, as the despatches of Sir Alfred Gaselee, the Commander of the British Forces, abundantly testify, they maintained to the full the high reputation in which they have from the first been held. The significance of the honour conferred upon Jodhpur by their selection was enhanced by the circumstance that this was the first occasion on which the Imperial Service Troops (raised originally only for employment in India and about her frontiers) crossed the seas to fight the battles of the King-Emperor in a foreign land. It should be mentioned that a year earlier, when the 9th Lancers were ordered from Muttra to South Africa, a regiment of the Sirdar Rissala took their places at that station. The Rissala also furnished 194 horses with equipment for service in the South African War.

Sir Pratap Singh's accession, by selection of the Government, to the vacant *gadi* of Idar early in 1902 was a great loss to the State of which he had been Prime Minister for well nigh a quarter of a century. Happily the young man whose career he has watched almost daily from infancy to the receipt of full governing powers over one-and-three-quarter millions of people is of like spirit to himself. Sir Sardar Singh has his uncle's martial ardour and attachment to the British Raj, characteristics for which some scope has been found by his selection, with four other ruling Chiefs, to be one of the original members of the Imperial Cadet Corps, of which Sir Pratap himself is honorary commandant. His Highness was the most prominent member of this *corps d'élite* when it appropriately made its first public appearance at the late Delhi Coronation Durbar. His dashing bearing and "knightly figure" at the State entry and other ceremonial functions attracted the notice of many of the Press correspondents, being referred to in their various messages. The special correspondent of *The Times*, after narrating that at the State entry Sir Pratap Singh headed the Corps, wrote: "In pairs behind that fine old soldier rode the young Maharaja of Jodhpur, the chief of the Rathor Rajputs, whose ancestry goes back to the remotest periods of legendary history, the Maharajas of Kishangarh and Dholpur, the Raja of Rutlam, the Nawab of Jaora, and twenty other representatives of the noblest Houses of Hindustan."

A few weeks before the Durbar, His Highness had the pleasure of receiving the Viceroy and Lady Curzon at his capital, in the course of their Rajputana tour. During the visit their Excellencies were entertained at a State banquet, at which the Maharaja proposed their healths in an interesting speech. "It is needless for me to say," he remarked, "that myself, my family, and my State shall always be found ready to place all their resources at the service of His Gracious Majesty, the King-Emperor. It was my great ambition to have taken part in the late China expedition, but ill-health unfortunately prevented me from fulfilling this desire of my heart. I have, however, taken the liberty

of communicating to His Excellency the Viceroy my earnest desire that I may be accorded the high honour of serving under the British flag in the Somali expedition. Now that I have so far recovered as to be fit for active service in any part of the Empire, I would like very much to be found useful." He went on to thank Lord Curzon for inviting his participation in the Imperial Cadet Corps scheme, and for the generous help, material and moral, afforded him during the great famine. He remarked that the policy of railway extension inaugurated by his father had received his earnest support, and during the last seven years 135 miles had been added to the Jodhpur line, while by the linking of the Marwar railway with the Kotah-Baran line a shorter connection between Calcutta and Karachi than had before existed would be established. In the course of his reply, Lord Curzon said that the future of their host was before him: it was for him to sustain the traditions of the noble Rathor Clan, of which he was Chief, of his predecessor and father, under whose rule the people prospered, and of the State itself, which had a record of loyalty and chivalry second to none. He was glad to hear from His Highness that he esteemed it a privilege to belong to the Imperial Cadet Corps, a capacity in which he had been keen and painstaking in his duties. In respect to the Sirdar Rissala, he was proud to think that it had been reserved for him, not merely to praise them, as his two immediate predecessors had done, but to employ them, and this not in local service or in frontier warfare, but in an Imperial campaign on a distant field. He believed that in time to come this employment of the Jodhpur and other Imperial Service troops sent to China would be regarded as the first step in a policy of military co-operation which would place the forces of the great Feudatories of the British Crown in India alongside of their British and Indian comrades of the regular Army upon many a battle ground, should battles have to be fought for the sake of a common Empire. In such a case," he continued, "Marwar is one of those States upon the loyalty of which the British Government knows that it can always most firmly reckon, and which may be depended upon to seize any opportunity for an advance to the front, wherever that front may be. I also believe that His Highness spoke with perfect sincerity when he volunteered his personal services in Somaliland or in any other part of the Empire, and I acknowledge the loyal and manly spirit of his offer." In conclusion, the Viceroy complimented his host upon the development of the resources of the State, more especially in the matter of railway communication. The offer made by His Highness was to head 600 men of the Sirdar Rissala, mounted on camels, in the expedition against the Mullah, and he undertook to have the force ready within eight days of the acceptance of the proposal.

The young Maharaja follows in the footsteps of his famous uncle, not only in his martial ardour and loyalty, but also in his attachment to manly sports, as the British public had some opportunity of noting when he had a brief sojourn in London in the autumn of 1901, to pay his respects to the King-Emperor. Under his leadership the Jodhpur Polo Team showed at the Crystal Palace that, though it has lost the captaincy of Sir Pratap, under which it has constantly carried off the palm in Indian tournaments, it can still give a very good account of itself. It came very near to winning the International Cup at the Delhi Durbar, the final contest being between Jodhpur and Alwar,

which carried off the trophy. Upon horseback the Maharaja is worthy of his training and lineage, and Sir Pratap, the most distinguished of riders, is known to be proud of him in this connection. He has still deeper cause for gratification, in Sir Sardar Singh's determination to maintain the high level of efficiency in the administration of Jodhpur which his Dewanship created.

His Highness, who receives a salute of seventeen guns, had the exalted dignity of Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India conferred upon him on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee in 1897. He maintains a military force of 3,162 cavalry, 3,653 infantry, and 121 guns. The family cognizance is the falcon, the sacred *garur* of the Solar Rajputs.



H.H. The Maha Rao of Kutch.

H.H. Maharaja Mirza Shri Khengarji, G.C.I.E., Maha Rao of Kutch.

"A YOUNG Chief, well educated, well gifted, and devoted to the interests of his people." It was in these words that Lord Curzon, ever just and discriminate in his praise or blame, indicated, on the occasion of his visit to Bhuj in the autumn of 1900, the outstanding characteristics of the ruler of Kutch. The well-marked individuality of His Highness may be said to reflect, in some measure, the unique features of the land he rules. Stretching along the Gulf of Kutch and the Indian Ocean between Guzerat and Sind, the State has for centuries been famous in the Eastern world by reason of the enterprise of its merchants and the excellence of its products and manufactures. "The Kutch trader," to again quote Lord Curzon, "is an equally well-known figure in the markets, and on the wharves, of Zanzibar, Aden, and Bombay." With an extreme length of 170 miles and a breadth of fifty miles, the State, exclusive of the "Rann" which figures so prominently on the maps of the Indian Empire, is 6,500 square miles in extent. The area of the Rann is no less than 9,500 square miles, but its only inhabitants are herds of wild asses and clouds of flies. In the dry season a desert of caked, hard ground, it is converted by the heavy rains and pent-up tides of the south-west monsoon into a sort of shallow lake. It is supposed to have been originally a permanent inlet of the ocean, and to have had its level raised by one of the earthquakes to which, as modern history shows, the State is subject. As recently as 1819, indeed, such a visitation, being of unusual severity, besides shaking every fortified city to its foundations and destroying many hundred lives, is known to have changed the level of part of the Rann. The southern coast of Kutch is flat, and in places arid, but inland the country is hilly, there being three ranges of hills whose heights vary from 600 to 1,400 feet. Here are to be found many fertile tracts which yield cereals and cotton, and feed a large stock of horses, kine, buffaloes and camels. The climate is generally temperate, but the chief physical defect, and one which inevitably contributes to sparsity of population, is scarcity

of water. Alum, coal, iron, iron-pyrites, clays and marbles are amongst the mineral productions, and the State gives its name to a commercial substance extensively used in tanning and dyeing.

The Maharao is chief of the Jareja Rajputs, who crossed from Sind into Kutch early in the fourteenth century, under the leadership of his ancestor, the Jam Lakha Phulani, who completed the conquest of the Principality about the year 1320. For more than two centuries the Jams ruled over Kutch, which was divided into three provinces, but about 1640 Rao Khengar, on whom the King of Ahmedabad had conferred the territory of Morvi for valour when lion hunting, made himself sole master of Kutch, fixing his capital at Bhuj. Jam Rawal, his uncle, fled to Kathiawar and founded the State of Navanagar, the rulers of which are still called Jams. Rao Lahkpatji (1741–60) set up a cannon-foundry and introduced other manufactures from Europe by the aid of an adventurer named Ramsingh The mechanical skill and artistic capacity in the manufacture of silver and other metals for which the craftsmen of Kutch are so famous, may be said to date from this reign. The British connection with the State commenced in 1809, when Rao Raidhan II. sought the aid of the East India Company in respect to the ambitious designs of the Prime Minister, Fatch Mahomed. A treaty was signed and was followed by a further compact entered into in 1812. On the death of the Rao in the following year, he was succeeded by his son, Rao Bharmal II. But there was so much disorder in the State that British intervention was requisite on more than one occasion. Finally the Rao was deposed, and his son, Rao Desalji II., succeeded as a minor. This Chief, the grandfather of the present ruler, had a notable and happy reign extending over forty years The Jareja Rajputs had been notorious for the practice of female infanticide, from the days of their founder Jara, who, according to tradition, killed his seven unmarried daughters because he could not find suitable partners for them. But Desalji II. had not the slightest sympathy with such practices as infanticide and *suttee*, which had been but feebly put down up to the time of his accession. He took vigorous measures for their suppression, as also for the abolition of the slave trade. The official British estimate of his life and career was thus expressed by the Bombay Government, in formally announcing his death in 1860: "Marked by a love of truth and plain dealing, Rao Desalji was, probably more than anyone else in Kutch, learned in the traditions and customs of the province. He was a careful and painstaking judge, and a staunch and devoted ally of the British Government. With the help of a few Chiefs and court servants, he managed the whole business of the country, and by his knowlege of their character, friendly intercourse and timely concession, avoided any struggle with the Jareja Chiefs." These Chiefs, it should be mentioned, are the *Bhayad*, or brotherhood, of the ruling family, being all descendants of the first Rao. The present ruler has as great cause to be proud of the memory and example of his father, Rao Pragmalji, as of that of his grandsire. Ruling from 1860 to 1875, he effected great reforms in the management of the State, promoted education, made liberal grants for public works, and furthered in every possible way the moral and material advancement of his people. He was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India in 1871, and fully merited the description,

penned by the highest British authorities, of "a most enlightened and liberal" Prince, and a "loyal, consistent, and devoted friend" of the Paramount Power. His deeply lamented death took place on December 19, 1875, when he was succeeded by the present Rao, who was then in his tenth year, having been born on August 16, 1866.

A Council of Regency was formed to carry on the administration during the minority. It consisted of the Political Agent as President, the Dewan, a member representing the interests of the Durbar, a Jareja Chief, and a member of the mercantile community. The young Prince was placed under the tutorship, first of Mr. Chotalal Sewakram, and subsequently of Capt. J. W. Wray. Col. Parr, the then Political Agent described him as "a most promising boy of ten," and such good progress did he make, that in 1882 the Bombay Government wrote: "Kutch will soon be provided with a ruler whose personal example and administration will entitle him to the esteem of the Paramount Government and the devotion of his subjects. The success of His Highness's education is shown not only in knowledge and reasoning power, but in manly habits and disposition, and in a gentlemanlike bearing. The acquirements and character of His Highness have induced Government, with the authority of the Government of India, to introduce His Highness into the Council of Administration at an unusually early age, whereby it is hoped that he will be fitted to undertake the duties of Government at the earliest period at which they are entrusted to the Princes of India." Accordingly, in September 1882, the Rao joined the Council. Subsequently, Col. Phillips, the Political Agent, reported that he had found His Highness most regular and punctual at the weekly meetings, and that he followed the business transacted with intelligent interest. "The Rao has acquired," he added, "more general information than is usually found in young men of his age, not only in his own rank of life, but even among the professional classes. He is anxious now to devote more time to acquiring a practical knowledge of the revenue management of his State, and he already sits with the Dewan to hear appeals." The Dewan, it should be mentioned, was the late able and accomplished Dewan Bahadur Manibhai Jusbhai, afterwards Minister to the Gaekwar, and one of whose sons is now doing excellent service as a Kutch official.

The period of probation was so well employed that, before yielding up its functions, the Council was able to report that His Highness had "developed into an educated, capable and highly enlightened ruler, with wide sympathy for all that is good." This testimony stands justified by the course of events in the intervening years. It was no mere formality for the young Rao, on being invested with full powers of State when he attained the age of eighteen in August 1884, to intimate in a proclamation to his subjects, that it was his earnest desire that they should "always be happy and contented, that their welfare should increase from day to day, that the country should go on prospering and advance intellectually, morally and materially." He added that, in promoting this object, he relied on the loyal co-operation of the territorial, mercantile and official communities, and all other subjects. The actual ceremony of installation was postponed until the then Governor of Bombay, Sir James Fergusson, was able to visit

the State on the 13th November. In the course of a high tribute to the disposition and character of the young Prince, preparatory to placing him on the *gadi*, Sir James Fergusson said that he possessed a kind heart, as well as a clear judgment, and cherished a resolute adherence to the call of duty, and in him Government would possess a valued and faithful ally. The Maharao made a brief, pointed and heartfelt response, in which he reiterated his intention, in humble dependence on the Divine aid, to so rule his people as to promote their happiness and welfare. As an earnest of these pledges, the assumption of full powers was marked by numerous reductions in the customs dues, the high rates of which were unfavourable to commercial progress; by the abolition of the Izara or farm at Mandvi, which had in it an element of gambling; and by the institution of a fund of a permanent character for the relief of destitute or indigent Kutchis, whether residing in the province or beyond its limits. To this fund His Highness contributed half a lakh of rupees, the first of a long series of princely charities and donations for philanthropic, educational, literary, social, memorial and general purposes, the mere enumeration of which would take up considerable space. A computation made in 1900 showed that up to that time His Highness's donations had reached an aggregate of over 3½ lakhs of rupees, exclusive, of course, of much private charity.

The early years of the Maharao's rule were marked by many events of personal and family importance. The year of his accession saw his marriage with a daughter of the Thakore of Sayala, and a daughter of Rana Jalamsinghi, cousin of the Raj Saheb of Dhrangadra. The occasion afforded an illustration of the progressive tendencies of His Highness. For the old custom of giving *Fulekas* (grand dinners and a nightly procession) there was substituted a Durbar, at which the *nazars* presented were remitted so as to be utilized in furthering the cause of female education, in which the Rao takes a special interest. The heir-apparent, Madabhai, otherwise called Vijayaraji, was born in September 1885, and another son, Manabhai, was born three years later. On March 2, 1885, at a special Durbar, the Maharao was invested with the hereditary title of "Sawai Bahadur" conferred on the rulers of Kutch by the Paramount Power. Two years later, by request of Lord Reay, then Governor of Bombay, the young Chief proceeded to England to represent the Princes of the Presidency at the celebrations of the Jubilee of the late Queen-Empress, the administration being entrusted during his absence to the then Dewan, Rao Bahadur Motilal Lalbhai. His Highness had the honour of presenting a personal address to Her Majesty, and during the visit was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire.

Quite recently the Maharao has been a prominent participant in another outward and visible symbol of the opening of a further chapter of Imperial history—the Coronation Durbar at Delhi. Next to the Maharaja of Kolhapur he took first rank among the Bombay Chiefs who, riding on elephants, escorted the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught into Delhi on the occasion of their State entry. As befitted his high relative status, he was one of the Chiefs who sent a message to the Throne at the Proclamation Durbar. Addressing Lord Curzon, he said: "Will your Excellency graciously convey my

heartfelt homage to His Majesty on his accession to the Throne, and at the same time add the assurance of my hope that his reign may be as glorious as that of his illustrious mother." Reuter's correspondent wrote: "The Rao of Kutch, who is one of the most enlightened Chiefs in Western India, attended the Durbar with a suite of about 600 men. One of the principal attractions of his camp is the Durbar tent, which was made of velvet, under the orders of His Highness's grandfather. Its cost is fabulous. This tent is supported on eighteen silver poles, and at night, with the assistance of the electric light, it is a veritable fairyland. . . . His Highness's jewels are of enormous value, and many ladies have looked with longing eyes upon the strings of pearls, emeralds, and diamonds which he and the members of his family wore at the various functions." Describing the review of Native State retainers, the special correspondent of *The Times* cabled: "The Rao of Kutch claims to be the Lord of the Inner Sea, and the standard borne by his State elephant with its splendid purple trapping bears a goldfish as a device, and tridents form a conspicuous part of the State insignia. But the two historic banners presented to Kutch, one by Shah Alum and one by the representative of the Queen-Empress at the 1877 Durbar, are borne aloft in the centre of the procession on camels with riders scarlet-coated and purple-turbaned."

Incidental mention has already been made of the interest His Highness takes in the advancement of education. Space does not permit of a full summary of the practical ways in which this interest has been manifested. It will suffice to cite the institution of a Sanskrit *Pathshala*, in memory of His Highness's mother; the foundation of numerous scholarships, both for male and female students, designed to widen the avenues along which educated Kutchis seek their vocations in life; the provision of a fund enabling deserving students to complete their training in England or America; the formation of the Fergusson Museum and Library at Bhuj; and the commissions annually given to competent Indians to write essays on various subjects and to translate standard English works into Guzerati, with a view to spreading knowledge among the people. The latest figures available show a total of 127 educational institutions in the State, including fourteen girls' vernacular schools, and an annual expenditure under this head of about Rs.70,000. It is as much out of the question to enumerate fully the results of the liberal public works policy of His Highness as to set out his educational benefactions. They include the improvement of Mandvi harbour, the extension of means of communication, and water and irrigation works. Special attention has been paid to well irrigation, as it has been found to be best suited to the peculiar requirements of the Province. In addition to the thousands of ordinary wells sunk, other methods of irrigation have been adopted, including the sinking of artesian wells at Gudh Shisa and Anjar. This important branch of State policy may be regarded as mainly responsible for the extension of the cultivated area in the State, since His Highness came to the throne, by some 100,000 acres

Kutch has had its full share of the calamities by which in recent years India has been visited. An extensive trade is carried on by coasting vessels between Mandvi and Bombay, and when the latter port was visited by a plague epidemic Mandvi was one of

the very first places to which the disease spread. In spite of the thorough and sustained efforts of the Durbar a very heavy mortality ensued, and State resources to the extent of four lakhs of rupees had to be provided for the detection and suppression of the disease. Still heavier was the burden imposed by the severe famine of the close of the nineteenth century, some thirty lakhs of rupees being allotted for the relief of distress. But such expenditure, rendered possible without the incurrence of heavy debt liabilities by the economical management of the State finances in ordinary times, was in no sense grudged by His Highness, who, indeed, must have felt more than rewarded for it by the testimony of the head of the British Government in India as to its successful application. Lord Curzon's visit to Kutch took place at a time when the cloud of famine still hung over Western India, though it had begun to disperse. But in replying to the toast of his health at the banquet given in his honour by the Maharao, he was able, after speaking of the signs of commercial prosperity which he had seen on landing at Mandvi, to add: "As I advanced further into the interior I could not fail to be struck by the thriving and healthy appearance of the people. I did not see a single emaciated form, I observed no shrunken features, and when I remembered that this country had been sorely afflicted by drought during the past year, and that only two years ago the plague was so bad that it is said to have carried off 10,000 persons, I thought that what I saw spoke well for the natural vigour and the recuperative power of the people, but I thought it spoke even better for the generosity and patriotism of the Chief who spent, from his own resources, over twenty lakhs of rupees upon relief works for the employment of his subjects, and who thereby showed himself what it is the highest ambition of any ruler to be, namely, the saviour of his people. . . . We could desire no better tribute to the success of our own system [of relief administration] than that it has found so worthy a disciple."

Further details as to the progressive and enlightened administration of the Maharao (in which he is ably assisted by the Dewan, Rao Bahadur Ranchhodbhai Udairam) must be passed over, to mention that the population of his State at the last Census was just under half-a-million, and that the annual revenue (exclusive of Bhayadi, Dharmada and Service holding) is about twenty-six lakhs of rupees. His Highness, who receives a salute of seventeen guns, maintains a military force of 354 cavalry, 1,412 infantry and 164 guns. A thorough sportsman, he is fond of pig-sticking, shooting and all manly exercises. A better example of the finest type of Indian Prince it would be hard to name.



H.H. The Raja of Cochin.

H.H. Raja Sir Sri Rama Varma, G.C.S.I., Raja of Cochin.

THERE were many expressions of regret in England when it was announced that, although selected for the high honour of inclusion in the first list of Indian Princes invited by the King-Emperor to attend his Coronation, the Raja of Cochin was unable to leave his important territory for the purpose. Not only would the British public have been gratified to welcome His Highness for his own personal qualities; it was felt by the well-informed that his presence at the crowning of the Lord-Paramount of India would have added to the historic significance of the occasion, inasmuch as the history of the State he rules is inseparably associated with those early struggles between Portuguese, Dutch and English for the capture of the ocean highways of Asia which laid the foundations of the undisputed supremacy of the latter through the length and breadth of the Indian Peninsula. Four centuries and more have elapsed since the first act of the great drama was played by Vasco da Gama's discovery of the Cape route and his alliances with the Rajas of Cochin and Cannanore and the Rani of Quilon. It was in 1503 that the great Affonso de Albuquerque commanded an expedition from Portugal, and arrived on the Malabar coast in time to succour the Raja of Cochin when hard beset by the Zamorin of Calicut. A fort was built at Cochin, and the 150 Portuguese soldiers left in charge constituted the first European garrison to be established on Indian soil in modern times. It was the defeat of the Zamorin of Calicut by this force on sea and land, when he ventured to renew his attack on Cochin, that raised the prestige of the Portuguese to the zenith, and led to the extension of the area of their influence. But in essaying the conversion, as well as the conquest of India, the Portuguese attempted a task altogether beyond their strength, and in the long contest of European nations for India England emerged the prize-winner. Again and again Cochin figured in those struggles, and the Portuguese fought hard to maintain the alliance with the Raja whose seaport and capital was consecrated in their eyes as the death-place of Vasco da Gama. In the time of Haider Ali, however, Cochin was tributary to Mysore, and in 1798 a treaty was signed by the Raja acknowledging the supremacy of the British

Power. Cochin, which lies between the British district of Malabar and the Travancore State, with the Arabian Sea on the south-west, has an area of 1,361 square miles. It contained 722,906 inhabitants in 1891, but ten years later their numbers had risen to 815,218. Five-and-a-half lakhs of the people are Hindus, 54,000 are Mussalmans, and nearly two lakhs are Christians, mainly of the Syrian and Roman confessions. For some of the circumstances under which the Christian faith was planted on the southernmost shores of India at an early stage in its history, the reader may refer to the biography in this work of the ruler of Travancore. It is sufficient here to state that the enlightened toleration of Travancore from very early times has been no less conspicuously exhibited in Cochin.

His Highness the Raja, who was born on the 27th December 1853, belongs to a Hindu family of pure Kshatriya blood, claiming descent (with the Royal house of Travancore) from the Perumals who ruled over the vast stretch of country from Gokura in North Kanara to Cape Comorin. The dynasty follows the Marumakkathayam law of succession general in the Malabar country. Inheritance lies with the offspring of the female members of the family, amongst whom the next eldest male is always the heir-apparent. His Highness became Elaya Raja, or heir-apparent, in 1888. He had in youth led the life of an earnest and hardworking student, and besides being a fair English scholar had attained high proficiency in Sanskrit. He thus had an excellent educational equipment for the participation in State affairs to which he was called by his cousin the late Raja, Sir Veera Kerala Varma, K.C.I.E., who sought his advice and co-operation in all important matters. This period of direct association in the important work to be committed exclusively to his care lasted seven years, terminating on 11th September 1895, by the lamented death of his predecessor. His Highness had then reached the high noon and summit of life, being forty-two years of age. Though it may seem to some a curious survival, the Malabar succession law has, at least, the advantage of ordinarily ensuring the passing of the *gadi* to princes who have attained a sufficient age for their judgment to be mellowed by experience. The present Maharaja of Travancore was twenty-eight when he succeeded, and the Cochin heir apparent, Prince Rama Varma, is only five years junior to his cousin who now occupies the *gadi* so worthily and well.

The Raja, who maintains a military force comprising sixteen cavalry, 300 infantry and four guns, receives a salute of seventeen guns, and on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen-Empress, was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Star of India. His Highness is a good rider, an excellent shot, and a keen *shikari*, but the cares of State to which he conscientiously devotes himself leave little or no margin of time for the fascinations of the chase. The years of his rule, few as they are at present, have been marked by steady progress. One of the first improvements effected by the Raja after his accession was the re-arrangement of the State accounts. The then existing system was found to be extremely faulty, but with the assistance of an expert British officer the old accounts were audited and adjusted, and a new and scientific plan was adopted. Even more important has been the introduction of a

careful revenue survey, to the necessity for which the Madras Government had called the attention of the Durbar on several occasions, but which was only taken up after the accession of the present ruler. Under the supervision of a trained British officer, nearly a third of the total culturable area of the State had been surveyed in 1902, and field inspection preliminary to the general revenue settlement had been started.

Another old-standing problem satisfactorily solved by His Highness is that of the need for a railway from Ernakulam, the capital of the State, to connect with the Madras Railway at Shoranore. In one form or another the project had been discussed for thirty years, but the various schemes put forth had proved abortive. Soon after ascending the *gadi* His Highness ordered a scheme to be prepared for the construction of the line out of funds to be provided by the Durbar. The scheme received the sanction of the Government of India in 1899, work was commenced forthwith, and in July 1902, the line, which is 65 miles in length, was opened for traffic. Traversing, as it does, rough country for a considerable distance, the line has cost upwards of half-a-crore of rupees. It is the property of the Durbar, and is worked on its behalf by the Madras Railway Company. The utilization of the reserve funds of the State for the railway marks a noteworthy and salutary departure in the financial policy of the Durbar. The old practice was to invest a part of any surplus that might be available at the end of each year in Government securities, and to lock up the remainder in the State treasuries. This policy of the buried napkin, to use Lord Curzon's simile, no longer prevails, and besides the railway, other methods have been found for utilizing the financial reserves to provide important reproductive works. No less than a third of the area under His Highness's rule is covered with magnificent forests, rich in valuable timber and other produce, which have, however, remained unexploited for want of means of communication. In 1901 the Raja authorized the construction of a forest tramway and two timber slides, and this work, the first of its kind in Southern India, is now in progress. It will serve to tap these potential sources of wealth. As Lord Curzon said, in replying to the hearty welcome accorded him when he visited Cochin, "This is a State which, under enlightened administration such as it now enjoys, should open wide and varied fields of labour and of distinction to its citizens. Botany, forestry (in which so much has already been done, and so much remains to be done), and agricultural chemistry are all waiting to be taken up." How much the progressive policy of His Highness has already contributed to bring about the latter result may be gathered from the fact that, whereas in the first year of his reign the receipts and expenditure of the State were Rs.18,21,000 and Rs.18,48,000, in the last financial year for which figures are available, the corresponding sums were no less than Rs.27,61,000 and Rs.25,14,000.

The remarks of the Viceroy just quoted were more particularly addressed to the students of the Ernakulam College, whom His Excellency was inciting to strike out from the beaten track of professional or official life. He took the opportunity afforded by their presence to congratulate the Durbar on the forward condition of both State-aided and voluntary education. In the "Statement Exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress of India," presented to Parliament in 1902, the educational figures for Cochin were described

as "most favourable, the percentage of boys and girls at school out of those of school-going age being 49 and 19 respectively." In the Report for the previous year, it was remarked that "credit is due to the administration for the prompt and easy collection of revenue, its speedy administration of criminal justice, the order at last introduced into its accounts, its new energy in forest management, its hospitals and its schools."

At the banquet given by the Raja in honour of Lord and Lady Curzon in November 1900, His Highness proposed their healths in most appropriate terms, remarking on the great honour done the State by this, the first Viceregal visit it had received. Cochin had not the resources to enable it to give a welcome equal to those a Viceroy received at some historic capitals, but in attachment to the British Throne, and in loyalty to the Paramount Power, it yielded the palm to no other State or ruling House. Four centuries had now rolled by since Vasco de Gama established his first factory at what is now British Cochin, and ever since the State had maintained cordial and friendly relations with the West. In acknowledging the toast, Lord Curzon assured His Highness that there was no need to deprecate the welcome he had received. Like everything else that he personally superintended (and the speaker was happy to think that he personally superintended most things in Cochin), the welcome had been exceedingly well done. The fact that no preceding Viceroy had visited the State might be taken as a compliment, since it was a tribute to the tranquility Cochin had so long enjoyed. It had not even been deemed necessary to cast a passing eye upon a Principality that could so well manage to look after itself. He could assure His Highness, however, that his own visit was intended as a compliment. His Excellency went on to pay the following tribute to his host:—"Since I have been in India I have kept a careful watch upon the circumstances and development of the various Native States, and nowhere have I seen signs of a more intelligent and progressive administration than in Cochin. His Highness, during the five years he had been on the *gadi*, has shown that he is a hard-working and conscientious ruler, who is devoted to the interests of his people. Already—assisted by the capable officials by whom he has surrounded himself—he has made many gratifying improvements in the administration. There still remain sufficient fields—it is unnecessary for me to point them out—to occupy his energies for many years to come. I wish him long life and health and strength to carry out the beneficent task which lies before him, and which will permanently endear him to his people."

Substantial evidence of the sincerity of these words of eulogy on the part of the representative of the King-Emperor was afforded by the signal mark of honour and regard conferred upon him by his Sovereign in connection with the recent Delhi Coronation Durbar. He was bracketed with Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, as the only recipients of Knight Grand Commanderships of the Star of India, an Order to a Knighthood in which, as already stated, His Highness was nominated in 1897. He was an active participant in the great functions associated with the Durbar, his camp and retinue being of large dimensions, as befitted a Chief of so high a status, and one so widely known and esteemed.



H.H. The Maharaja of Bikanir.

H.H. Major Sir Siroman Sri Gunga Singh, K.C.I.E., Maharaja of Bikanir.

THE YOUNGEST by some years of the Ruling Princes to whom fell the coveted distinction of representing the independently-governed territories of the Indian Empire at the Coronation of the King-Emperor, was the gallant Maharaja of Bikanir, who had not then attained his twenty-third year. But the cordiality with which he was received by Court and people was due, not merely to his high status, or the promise of the future; it was also a tribute to achievements already a matter of history. Nearly two years before, His Highness had received his baptism of fire and had given proof of his loyal attachment to the British Government, as a volunteer in the campaign for the relief of the besieged Legations of Pekin. Throughout the operations he was an officer of the 4th Infantry Brigade, consisting largely of Indian troops, and his services won the eulogies of Lieut.-General Sir Alfred Gaselee, the commander of the British forces, being specially mentioned by him in despatches. The honours list for the campaign was gazetted on July 24, 1901, His Highness receiving the high and well-merited distinction of Knighthood in the Order of the Indian Empire. The Maharaja's special work in connection with the Brigade to which he was attached was the command of the Camel Corps maintained by him as a free-will contribution towards the defensive resources of the Suzerain Power. The original intention of the Government in accepting the loyal offers of leading Native States to equip and maintain Imperial Service troops (Bikanir was one of the first Principalities to move in the matter) —was to hold them in reserve for purposes associated with the defence of India and her frontiers. Accordingly, the Kashmir Corps participated in the Hunza Nagar operations, and regiments belonging to Punjab States went through the frontier expeditions of 1897. But sincere fealty to a Sovereign knows no geographical limits, and when British lives were in jeopardy in Pekin, consequent upon the Boxer rising, a number of the Indian

Princes hastened to offer the services of their respective Imperial troops. These loyal solicitations were the more appreciated as the cloud of war was then ominously looming on the South African horizon. To the Jodhpur Lancers, the Bikanir Camel Corps, the Alwar Infantry, and the Maler Kotla Sappers fell the high honour of being the first Imperial Service troops to cross the seas in the defence of British interests. The Bikanir Corps had the further and unique distinction of being led by the Chief in person, but two other Ruling Princes the Maharajas of Gwalior and Idar (the latter, however, had not then succeeded) also participated in the campaign. The Maharaja had a memorable reception in Calcutta on his return from China, demonstrations on a grand scale having been prepared for by the large and affluent Marwari community of the city, some thousands of whom assembled to do honour to a Chief closely associated by ties of kindred with the raj of their native land Jodhpur. The welcome (in which there was official participation, His Highness being met by an A.D.C. to the Viceroy, and officers of the political and military departments) was renewed even more enthusiastically when the young warrior reached his capital.

A Rajput of the Rathor clan, His Highness Maharaja Raj Rajeshwar Siroman Sri Ganga Singh Bahadur is fourteenth in descent from Rao Bika, son of Rao Jodha of Marwar, and the twenty first occupant of the Bikanir *gadi*. Rao Bika commenced the conquest of the State, which adjoins that of Marwar, in 1465, and with the help of his brother Bida, and his uncle Kandhal, carried out his aims so expeditiously that in the same year he founded the city which takes his name. For some eighty years, however, Bika and his immediate successors found much difficulty, in face of the opposition of disaffected Thakurs and external enemies, in keeping their hold upon the country. The work of consolidation was, however, achieved by Kalyan Singh, and he left the State in good order to his son, Rao Rai Singh. This Chief, seeing the growing power of the Moguls, deemed discretion the better part of valour, and accordingly did homage at Ajmere to the Emperor Akbar, by whom he was employed in Guzerat and the Deccan. For his services he received a grant of fifty *parganas* in which were comprised not only the whole of the present Bikanir State, but certain territories which are now included in Jodhpur and the Punjab, as well as a *jagir* in Guzerat. His grandson, Raja Karn Singh, was long employed in military service in the Deccan, where he received the grant of a *jagir* situated in what is now the Nizam's territory. This land is still held by the Bikanir chiefs. Raja Anup Singh, who followed Karn Singh, received from the Emperor Aurungzeb the title of Maharaja in recognition of his services at the siege of Golconda. The titles now held by the Bikanir Chiefs were conferred in 1752 by the Emperor Shah Alum. Less than a century ago the attention of the British Government was first directed to Bikanir by the receipt of a request from the Maharaja Surat Singh for protection against attacks from Jodhpur. This request was refused, but ten years later—in 1818—a prayer for help was granted on the occurrence of an insurrection headed by the Thakur of Churu and supported from outside. A treaty was then entered into, whereby the British Government guaranteed the integrity of Bikanir, the Chief, on his part, undertaking to act in subordinate co-operation with the protecting Power, and to form

no connections with other Chiefs or States. These pledges were loyally observed during the Mutiny, and the Durbar was rewarded in 1861 by the transfer to it of the *pargana* of Tibi from the Sirsa district. By this grant the total area of the State was raised to 22,340 square miles.

It was in the reign of Maharaja Sardar Singh that the events last named took place. On his death in 1872 he was succeeded by his adopted son Maharaja Dungar Singh, who ruled fifteen years. He died on August 19th, 1887, without issue, but had previously adopted Gunga Singh, the present Maharaja, who was his sole brother, and then only seven years of age. The British Government confirmed the adoption, and during the minority of His Highness the State was administered by a Council of Regency, over which the Political Agent presided. Meanwhile the young Maharaja received a suitable education at the Mayo College, Ajmere. It was during this period that the Durbar entered into an agreement for the construction of a railway from Jodhpur to Bikanir on the metre gauge, the capital being jointly provided by the two States. The progressive policy of the Council of Regency, of which this is the main illustration, has been fully adhered to by His Highness since entering upon the full exercise of his inherited powers, at the age of eighteen. The Bikanir section of the line referred to was fifty-three miles in length, but under the Maharaja's *régime* a very important extension has been undertaken to Bhatinda, via Dulmera, a distance of 160 miles.

The wisdom of improving the means of communication in the State by steadily increasing the railway facilities it possesses was demonstrated in the late famines which laid so heavy a hand upon Rajputana. One of the three "Desert States" of that province, Bikanir is not physically capable of receiving that protection against drought by irrigation which has been so beneficially provided in many other parts of India. When commissioned, towards the close of the last famine, to investigate the irrigational possibilities of Rajputana, Sir Thomas Higham, Inspector-General of Irrigation, reported to the Government of India that in these three States—Bikanir, Jeysulmir and Jodhpur—"the most that can be done is the construction of small field bunds to hold whatever rain may fall. It appears to be hardly worth while to attempt any investigation of storage prospects in these States." Little can be done, therefore, by artificial means to avert the distress and suffering which follow in the wake of drought. But in the last great famine, the Maharaja was determined that the misery which it was beyond human power to prevent should be mitigated as far as possible. The reports of the Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana bear witness, again and again, to the skill, energy and judgment with which His Highness personally supervised the campaign. For example, writing in June 1900, Lieut.-Col. Sir W. H. C. Wyllie informed the Viceroy that "the young Maharaja keeps up his keen interest in famine affairs," and a month later announced that His Highness with Major Robinson, I.M.S., "continued to make frequent inspections of the various camps, and closely supervised their working." In announcing a greatly improved condition of affairs, consequent upon good monsoon rains, Col. Wyllie spoke of the heavy strain that had been imposed on all the officers

concerned, adding "From the Maharaja downwards no one has spared himself." It was in recognition of this self-sacrificing devotion to his people in their hour of need that the Maharaja received, on the late Queen-Empress's birthday in 1900, the decoration of a Kaiser-i-Hind Medal of the first class.

To the Maharaja's services in China, undertaken after the famine had spent its force in his territories, reference has already been made. On his return from the campaign, he set himself assiduously to the task of assisting the cultivators, by every means open to a well-administered State, to regain the position of which the famine had deprived them. Unfortunately the loss of life from scarcity and the twin calamity of cholera, here as well as elsewhere, had been heavy, and emigration was resorted to on an enormous scale, with the result that the 1901 Census showed that the population, which stood at 831,955 in 1891 had been reduced to 584,712. Good progress had, however, been made with the work of economic restoration when His Highness received the gracious invitation of the King-Emperor to attend the Coronation as His Majesty's guest. On arrival in England a further honour awaited him, for he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. In that capacity he rode in the memorable procession to and from Westminster Abbey on August 9th, immediately before the Aides-de-Camp to the King-Emperor. During the interval between the postponement of the Coronation and its solemnization, the young Prince, with the Political Officer who accompanied him to London, paid a visit to the Continent, and thus had further opportunity for the exercise of those powers of observation which have been noticed by all who have conversed with him.

Shortly after his return from England, the Maharaja had the pleasure of entertaining Lord and Lady Curzon in Bikanir, on the occasion of their tour in Rajputana. The day after their Excellencies' arrival, Lord Curzon formally opened the Victoria Memorial Club, and the adjacent Curzon Gardens, after the Maharaja had explained that the Club, which had been built by public subscription, was intended for the promotion of social intercourse between himself, the European community, the Sirdars and the gentry of the place. The upper story is exclusively a ladies' club to provide a meeting place for European and Indian ladies, and land has been allotted, at the cost of the State, for two polo grounds, a polo stand, a gymkhana stand and ground, two football grounds, a galloping track, a skating rink, swimming bath, racquet and tennis courts, etc. In the evening a State banquet was held, and in proposing the healths of their Excellencies, the Maharaja took the opportunity to give a brief and succinct account of his efforts to fulfil the promise made when Lord Curzon's predecessor visited the State, that he would do his duty towards his people and his country. He explained the measures adopted in connection with the famine, to which reference has already been made, and with regard to the reduction in population revealed by the Census he said that the figures by no means indicated that the falling-off represented a corresponding loss of life. The loss was due in the main to large numbers having emigrated to, and taken employment in, more fertile lands. While regretfully recognizing that physical configuration and characteristics stood in the way of a general resort to irrigation in Bikanir, he

expressed his gratitude to the Viceroy for the appointment of the Irrigation Commission, which would no doubt consider the possibilities of "bringing a good canal in." Since his return from England, the Bikanir-Bhatinda section of his railway has been opened, thus directly connecting the capital with the Punjab, and also rendering possible the opening up of the Bhatinda colliery. He was glad to say that apart from twelve lakhs borrowed from Government for completing the railway (a loan rendered necessary by the strain of famine upon the State resources), Bikanir was free from debt. He had lately received permission to introduce tentatively a revised scheme of administration which he hoped would have the effect of bringing him into closer touch with all departments and of promoting general efficiency. Speaking of his gratification with his visit to England, His Highness announced that in commemoration of the Coronation he had remitted a considerable amount of arrears of land revenue. "I need hardly assure your Excellency," he continued "of my loyalty to His Majesty and that the services of myself and those of my Camel Corps are always at His Majesty's disposal, and I would beg that our services should be utilized for Somaliland."

In the course of his reply, Lord Curzon said that it was no secret that the personality and career of no Ruling Chief in India had excited in him, as Viceroy, a warmer interest than those of His Highness, for he possessed "such keen capabilities, such excellent chances, and so splendid an opening." In glowing phrase, he proceeded to point out the great opportunities lying before a young Chief "in the fresh morning of manhood, with all life before him, and the world, so to speak, at his feet." A youthful ruler who used wisely and well these opportunities, could see the work of his hands fructify around him in his lifetime, and could read his own epitaph, before he died, in the affection and gratitude of his people. This was the sort of future which, he fondly hoped, lay before the Maharaja. "I am glad to say," proceeded the Viceroy, "that he has started on the right lines, and the four years that have passed since he received full powers have been packed full with experience of many kinds and in many different lands." Alluding to these experiences and the honours which followed, the Viceroy especially emphasized the fact that His Highness was his own famine officer throughout 1899 1900, and "conducted his campaign with indefatigable energy and skill." A graceful reference to the birth of an heir-apparent followed: "One may almost conjecture that a fairy godmother must have presided over His Highness's birth, for he had no sooner returned from England the other day than the highest wish of a father and ruler was gratified in the birth of a son and heir. He now has the double stimulus to exertion supplied by his own sense of responsibility and by the legacy that he will one day bequeath to his son." On the day following the banquet, Lady Curzon laid the foundation stone of the new Zenana hospital at Bikanir, and was presented by the Maharaja with a silver trowel and ivory mallet in honour of the event.

The earnest request of His Highness that his Camel Corps should be permitted to participate in the Somaliland operations has been acceded to by the British Government. Early in 1903 the Corps, consisting of 250 Rajput sowars, nine officers and the commandant,

with a corresponding number of camels, all specially picked, embarked at Bombay, and a few weeks later saw active service in the waterless regions of Somaliland, where they rendered invaluable aid in the expedition against the Mad Mullah. The thought that, for a second time within three years, he was to contribute a substantial quota to the military tasks of the Empire across the ocean must have heightened, if possible, the Maharaja's pleasure and interest in the Delhi Coronation Durbar. His camp there contained over two hundred tents, and his retinue numbered about 500. He had five elephants present, and used one of them to ride in the procession of Princes who escorted the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught into Delhi when they made their State entry. Bikanir's contribution to the Native Retainers' Review was described in *The Times* as comprising "silver *palkis* borne by footmen in sky blue, and a State bullock-cart with a silver canopy and elephants cased in silver; there was also a grim array of spearmen in chain armour mounted on camels with green and scarlet saddle-cloths, impassive, dark-visaged figures carved out of bronze and steel." It should be added that in the course of their tour in India, after the Durbar, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught paid a three-days' visit to Bikanir. Their Royal Highnesses enjoyed some excellent sport in the Gajnar woods, and were most hospitably entertained by the Maharaja.

In his "Gazetter," Col. Powlett tells us that there is no State in Rajputana in which the old feudal tenure has so nearly passed away, and the power of the Chief is so absolute as in Bikanir. Thus it has come about that no single noble is in a position to resist or even very seriously trouble the Durbar. The result is that the Chief is in a better position than some of his neighbours to carry out the progressive and enlightened policy, of inclinations towards which he has given many evidences. He is entitled to a salute of seventeen guns, and has judicial powers of life and death. The State has an annual revenue of twenty-one lakhs of rupees. A valuable financial reform effected a few years ago was the adoption of British currency in place of State coinage, on the exchange of which outside Bikanir, losses had to be sustained.



H.H. The Nawab of Bahawalpur.

H.H. Nawab Mahomed Bahawal Khan V., Nawab of Bahawalpur.

THIS illustrative of the strength of the attachment which has existed without a break for nearly a century between the British Power and Bahawalpur that His Highness the Nawab was selected for the unique honour of being the only Indian Prince to receive, while still a minor, an invitation from the King-Emperor to be a guest of the English nation for the Coronation. The compliment was the more noteworthy since the list of Chiefs who had not attained the requisite age to receive full governing powers, included at least one having a higher salute than himself. It was with deep gratification that His Highness accepted the gracious invitation of his Lord Paramount. But as the King-Emperor's own hopes were frustrated by illness, circumstances of a like, though happily much less serious, nature intervened at the last moment to rob His Highness of the great privilege and pleasure which he was eagerly anticipating. All arrangements were duly made and the young Nawab set forth on his journey, travelling from his State to Karachi, and thence to Bombay, where he was to embark for Europe. But severe indisposition, partly arising from sea-sickness, compelled His Highness, much to his disappointment, to cancel his passage, and, when able to travel, to return to his capital. The vacant place was filled by another Indian Prince; otherwise the unexpected postponement of the Coronation in consequence of the illness of the King-Emperor might, after all, have rendered the Nawab's presence at the great "solemnity" possible. Much sympathy was expressed for him and for his people, who, of course, shared the disappointment of their constitutional head, and regrets were general in London that circumstances beyond his control had prevented the presence of the only Mahomedan Chief who had accepted the Royal invitation. The Prince and his subjects, when at last the Coronation Day arrived, consoled themselves by a specially hearty series of local celebrations of the auspicious event.

His Highness Nawab Mahomed Bahawal Khan V., Abbasi, Ruka-ud-Dowla, Nasrat i-Jung, Mukhlis-ud-Dowla, Hafiz-ul-Mulk, belongs to the Daudpotra section of the great Abbaside Dynasty, which derives its tribal name from Daud Khan II., a lineal descendant of Sultan Ahmad II., Abbasi, who about the year 1317 A.D., with a number of attendants, marched into Sind, by way of Kech and Makran. Rai Dhourang, the ruler of Sind, opposed the advance of the invader, but being defeated, had to purchase peace by transferring to him one-third of his territories. The successors of Sultan Ahmad II. gradually increased their power in Sind until they gained possession of a very considerable proportion of the province. The head of the tribe was then known by the title of Amir, and their capital was Sikarpur, founded by Amir Bahadur Khan. The early years of the eighteenth century found the Abbasi settlers divided into two rival families, the Daudpotras and the Kalhoras. The country under their control being too small for their requirements, Amir Sadiq Mahomed Khan, the head of the first-named branch, marched northward to the then waste districts now constituting the Bahawalpur State. In the course of a few years he subjugated the surrounding tribes, and had founded a number of towns. In 1733 he wrested the fort of Derawar from Rawal Aghi Singh, the ruler of Jesalmir. Dying in 1746, he was succeeded by his son Mahomed Bahwal Khan, who, during his brief reign, continued the development of the country begun by his father. The most important of the towns he built was that to which he gave his own name, and from which the nomenclature of the State is derived. His reign only lasted three years, and on his death, without issue, in 1749, his younger brother Mubarakh Khan assumed the reins of government. He added the towns of Pakpatan, Mailsi, Dunyapur, and Keliror to his dominions. His successes, however, attracted the attention of the rapidly-rising Sikh Power. Jhanda Singh and Hari Singh crossed the Sutlej and invaded the State. The expedition failed, as did that sent out by Ahmad Shah Durrani under Commander Jehan Khan. On the death of Mubarakh Khan in 1772, the principality passed to his nephew, Bahawal Khan II., who seven years later received from the Emperor of Delhi the honorific titles that have already been quoted as being borne by the present ruler. In spite of internal feuds and external aggression the Nawab succeeded in preserving the integrity of his dominions and consolidating them.

The connection of the State with the British Power was not formally entered into until 1833, but a quarter of a century before an incident occurred which paved the way for the cordial understanding which ultimately followed. In pursuance of his mission to Kabul, Mr. (afterwards Sir Mountstuart) Elphinstone passed through the State in 1808. On his arrival at Bahawalpur visits were interchanged between him and the Nawab, who was profuse in the respect and hospitality shown to the honourable representative of the British Power. The throne had passed first to Sadiq Mahomed Khan II., and then to Bahawal Khan III., before the friendship then formed bore direct political fruit. In 1833 the invasion of the State by the famous Ranjit Singh, the "Lion of the Punjab," seemed imminent. Consequently, Nawab Bahawal Khan III. sent a message to Lord William Bentinck, the Governor-General of the day, requesting his intervention to dissuade the great Punjab Chief from his project. Lord William acceded to the request, and Ranjit

Singh abandoned his aggressive purposes. By the treaties of Lahore Ranjit Singh was confined to his ample domains beyond the right banks of the Sutlej, and Bahawalpur was delivered from the constant menace which had disturbed its peace for so many years. A treaty, concluded with the British in 1833, recognised its internal independence, and laid down rules for the interchange of articles of commerce between it and British India. The agreement was renewed in 1838.

In the course of the next few years many things occurred to test the fidelity of Bahawalpur to the protecting Power, and on no occasion did this loyalty break down. On the contrary, it proved to be both strong and self-sacrificing. On the occasion of the first Afghan war the Nawab rendered invaluable assistance to the British by collecting provisions, boats and camels for the troops marching through his territory on their way to Kabul. His services were rewarded in 1842 with the grant of Bhong and Kote Tabzal, which still form part of the State. In 1848, on the outbreak of the Multan war against Dewan Mul Raj, the Nawab offered all available resources to the Government. He sent out no less than 9,000 well-equipped men to join the forces under Sir Herbert Edwardes and General Cortlandt, and thus contributed very materially to the defeat of the Dewan at an early period, and the passing of Multan into British hands. The Government fitly acknowledged this great service by conferring on the Nawab a life pension of a lakh of rupees annually. He did not long enjoy it, for in 1852 he passed away, to be succeeded, in accordance with his will, by his younger son, Sadat Yar Khan, who took the title of Sadiq Mahomed Khan III. But this nomination was against the long established custom of succession, and the elder son, Nawab Fatch Khan, won the leading nobles to his side in attaining by force the *gadi* for the succession to which the late ruler had passed him over. His efforts were successful, and, the British Government declining to interfere on behalf of the deposed prince, Nawab Fatch Khan remained in possession and was recognized by the Paramount Power. Sadat Yar Khan was sent to Lahore with his family, and the State granted him in perpetuity a monthly pension of Rs. 1,600 which his descendants continue to receive to this day.

Nawab Fateh Khan promptly responded to the call for help which reached him on the outbreak of the Mutiny in the Punjab. Mr. Oliver, Superintendent of Sirsa, wrote requesting him to despatch all the troops forming the garrison of Bahawalgarh to Bangla Fazilka, so as to be available for service in case of need. In compliance with this and a subsequent letter from Sir John Lawrence, a force of 500 foot and 500 horse was sent to Sirsa, and subsequently 3,000 additional infantry were despatched. In the following year Nawab Fateh Khan died and was succeeded by his son, Nawab Bahawal Khan IV., who reigned for eight years. At the time of his death his son and successor, Nawab Sidiq Mahomed Khan IV., was only four years and five months old, and during his long minority the State came under British administration. Native officers were, however, almost exclusively employed, and when the Nawab came of age and was invested with full powers in 1879, there was practically no break in the continuity of the well-ordered system that had been adopted. His Highness rendered important services in providing

transport for the last Afghan war, and in recognition of them was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India. After a peaceful and progressive reign extending over twenty years, he died on the 14th February 1899. The succession passed to his eldest son, the present Nawab, who was then in his sixteenth year, having been born on October 23, 1883. The ceremony of his *Dastarbandi* took place on March 10, 1899, when he was formally recognized by the Government as the Chief of Bahawalpur.

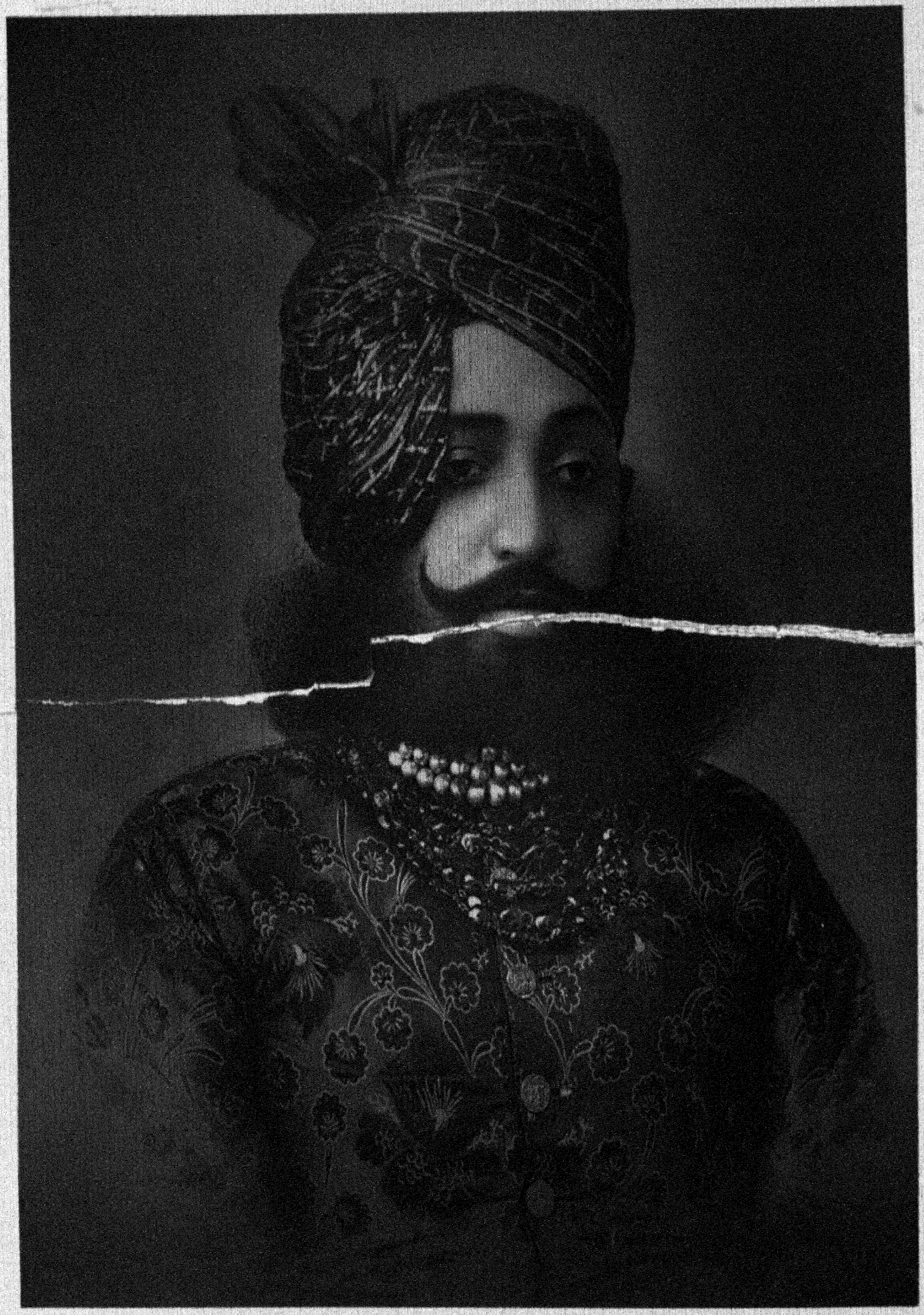
The State of which he then became possessed has an area of 17,285 square miles. The remarkable progress made under the enlightened administration of the late Nawab—a progress of the maintenance of which by H.H. Bahawal Khan V. there can be no doubt —is illustrated by the growth of population during a decennium which, as a consequence of famine, saw heavy reductions in the number of inhabitants of many neighbouring States and districts. In 1891 Bahawalpur had a population of 650,042 persons; in 1901 the total had increased to 720,662, comprising 395,684 males and 325,193 females. Nearly six lakhs of the inhabitants follow the religious faith of their ruler, and save for some 8,000 Sikhs and a mere handful of Christians the remainder of the people are Hindus. The growth of revenue has been even more marked than that of population. According to the latest figures published by the India Office it is close on twenty-one lakhs of rupees, as against only sixteen lakhs a few years ago. This highly satisfactory progress may to a large extent be attributed to the vast improvements made under the late Nawab and during his minority in the irrigation system of the country, which depends upon irrigation canals for the greater part of its cultivation. Existing works were entirely remodelled and new canals were constructed. Another reproductive undertaking carried out during this period was the establishment of railway communication, first through the western half of the State in 1880, and next through the eastern half in 1898. Both lines are the property of the British Government, but the land required for their construction was granted by the late Nawab free of charge. The increase in the area of cultivation brought about by the improved irrigation led to the founding of three new towns. Courts of Justice were established, under the general control of a Chief Court, presided over by three native gentlemen, and are greatly valued by the people. A central jail was built and the prison system was brought into conformity with enlightened modern principles. A co-ordinated system of public instruction was established, and to-day the State possesses an Arts College, a high school, seven Anglo-vernacular middle schools and thirty-two primary schools.

A Prince so alive to the educational necessities of his people, naturally did not neglect those of his heir-apparent. The future ruler was at first put under the training of a private tutor, but in March 1897, he was sent to the Chiefs' College, Lahore. Admitted to the fourth primary class, His Highness soon worked his way to the top of the form, and in the examinations won a number of prizes and medals. Such was the intelligence and application he brought to bear on his studies that in three years he went through a five years' course and passed the Middle School Standard examination for 1900. Twelve months—half the usual period—sufficed for him to qualify to appear

in the entrance examination of the Punjab University in 1901, which he passed with credit. Thus at eighteen he had completed his education, and was able to return to his capital to devote himself exclusively to a course of training for the high administrative responsibilities about to devolve upon him. During the minority the State has been administered by a Council, under the supervision of Colonel L. G. H. Grey, C.S.I., the Superintendent. With the help of that most capable officer, the Nawab has been thoroughly initiated into the work and has evinced a keen interest therein. During the summer of 1901 he made a careful tour of the whole of his State, spending three months in acquainting himself at first hand with the economic and general conditions under which his subjects live. It will have been gathered from a comparison of the population with the great area of the State, that a vast portion of it out of reach of the Sutlej and the Indus remains the desert it has been from the remotest times. But in so far as further irrigation schemes will render possible the bringing of some portions of these desert regions under cultivation, His Highness, judging from the keen interest he took in the subject during his tour, may be trusted to carry them out to the extent the resources of the State permit. His Highness's wedding to a daughter of his great-uncle Sahibzada Mohabbal Khan took place on 11th July 1901, the occasion being marked by the wide generosity which is a tradition of his House. To the Indian People's Famine Trust, the permanent relief fund originated by the generosity of the Maharaja of Jaipur, he contributed no less than three lakhs of rupees.

Ranking third in order of precedence among the Princes of the Punjab, His Highness is entitled to a salute of seventeen guns and to a return visit from the Viceroy of India. In the elephant procession which accompanied the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught into Delhi on the occasion of their state entry for the Durbar, His Highness was placed next to the Maharaja of Patiala among the Punjab chiefs, and occupied the same relative position at other functions of the great Imperial Assemblage. His Highness maintains a camel transport for Imperial service, comprising a Baggage Corps of 407 men and 1068 camels and a Mounted Rifle Company of 129 men and 118 camels. The detachment present at the Delhi Durbar came in for much favourable comment, and there is no doubt that had it been deemed necessary to accept the Nawab's offer to Government to send his camel squadron to Somaliland, the Bahawalpur troops would have given a good account of themselves in the operations against the Mad Mullah. In addition to Imperial Service troops, the State maintains the following military force: Nizam regiment, 482 men; orderly troop, 61 men; band, 42 men; artillery, 92 men and 25 guns; Paltan No. 3, 229 men, and a police force of 518 men. His Highness's capital lies near the left bank of the Sutlej, which here is crossed by the fine "Empress Bridge" of the Indus Valley railway. The town has a circuit of four miles, part however of the enclosed space being occupied by groves of trees. There are manufactures of scarfs and turbans, silks, chintzes and other cottons, and the immediate neighbourhood produces grain, sugar, indigo, and butter. The visitor will find that good provision is made for the medical needs of the people, the State maintaining ten hospitals, one of which is for females.

The splendid promise of the youthful years of His Highness, no less than the political *status* he has inherited, fully justified his selection for the great honour of inclusion in the strictly limited list of Indian Princes specially invited to the Coronation. To the disappointment of himself and his deeply attached subjects at his inability to complete the journey to England which he commenced, reference has already been made. That illness should have intervened is the more to be regretted since, as a consequence, no Indian ruling Prince of the Mahomedan persuasion witnessed the moving and historic scene in Westminster Abbey on August 9th, 1902. As *The Daily Telegraph* remarked when it was first announced that the Nawab of Bahawalpur would be a guest, his presence would have been "a welcome token to remind the world that King Edward VII., Emperor of India, is ruler of more Mahomedan subjects than any other power or potentate." But this was not to be. However, though the British people were deprived of an opportunity to give His Highness a welcome to the world's capital, those of them who know anything of his promising career have no doubt whatever that he will, in the coming years, well sustain the proud traditions of a dynasty which has always been absolutely faithful to the British Raj, and will worthily follow in the footsteps of his father.



H.H. The Maharaja of Rewah.

H.H. Maharaja
Sir Venkat Raman Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I.,
Maharaja of Rewah.

AMONG the Native States whose administrations constitute models of good government for their neighbours is the ancient Principality of Rewah, in Central India. The present Chief, though young in years, has followed carefully on the lines laid down by the British administrators during his minority, and the result is that Rewah is now one of the best ordered Principalities in the Central India Agency. In pride of ancient ancestry the Maharaja can vie with the proudest, for he claims to have sprung from the mythical Chaulukya Deva, who, as the legendary chronicles state, was created by Brahma to deliver the earth from the oppression of the demons. The race founded by this hero is called Chaulukya Kshatriyas. In historical times a descendant of the mythical hero, by name Vyaghra Deva, who was born of the royal house of the Solankis in Guzerat, established himself, partly by force of arms and partly by a judicious marriage, in the territory now known as Rewah. He fixed his capital at Bandhogarh, an isolated impregnable hill fort some 1,000 feet high and about 90 miles from Rewah. Vikramaditya, who ascended the throne in 1618, founded the city of Rewah at a spot where the rivers Bichia and Bihar join their streams. While out hunting, his hounds started a hare which, after coursing for some time, turned and faced the pack. The King attributed this exhibition of pluck by an animal usually timid to the wonderful nature of the soil, and, believing that a place which produced such hares must bring forth human beings of extraordinary strength and valour, he built a fortress there and founded a new capital. His own palace was constructed over the very spot where the hare turned at bay. Third after Vikramaditya Singh came Bhava Singh, monuments of whose reign are the temple of Jagadish erected at the confluence of the Bichia

and Bihar, the Moti Mahal and the Amarpatan Fort. His Maharani caused a reservoir to be constructed which is called Rani Talao. Anirudh Singh, the adopted heir of Bhava Singh, succeeded to the *gadi*. But within five years of his accession in 1710 A.D., when he led an army against the Sengars to suppress their aggression, he was accidentally killed by a bullet from Raghunath Singh, one of the Sengar Thakurs. A period of great disorder ensued. The heir, Abdhut Singh, was but six months old, and the Bundelas under the Chief of Panna, taking advantage of the situation, invaded Rewah with a large force. The troops of Rewah were overpowered and the Queen-mother fled with the infant Raja to her paternal home. Hence she appealed to Mahomed Bahadur Shah Alamgir, the reigning Emperor of Delhi, to aid in the recovery of her son's patrimony. The Emperor, in grateful recognition of what the ancestors of Abdhut Singh had done to rescue and give refuge to his forefathers in time of need, sent an army to annex the State of Panna in the interests of Abdhut Singh. The Bundela Chief at once proceeded to defend his hereditary estate, leaving only a small force at Rewah. The nobles of Rewah who had held out in the fortress of Uparhati, seizing this opportunity, sallied out and drove the remaining Bundelas from the State. The young Prince was afterwards installed on the *gadi*. His rule, however, was not a success. He was succeeded by Ajit Singh. Ali Bahadur, a grandson of the Peshwa Baji Rao, overran Bundelkhand in 1796 and as Ajit Singh declined to submit, Rewah was invaded by a force headed by Jaswant Rao Naik. The Baghel Karchuli and other Sirdars of Rewah, inspired by the high-spirited (Chandelin) Rani Kundan Kunwari, who bade the nobles swear fealty to their king, routed the invader in a battle fought on the 4th December 1796, in which Jaswant Rao Naik was slain. In 1800 Ali Bahadur personally led a force against Rewah and offered Ajit Singh the alternative of paying the cost of the Naik's campaign, together with an annual tribute, or of deciding the matter by a pitched battle. The Maharaja despatched Kalandhar Singh Kachuli as ambassador to the camp of the enemy to negotiate more favourable terms. The ambassador was well chosen, for his diplomacy succeeded and Ali Bahadur agreed to be content with an indemnity of a lakh of rupees for the Naik's campaign. As Rewah was unable to pay the money at once Kalandhar Singh remained as a hostage until the amount had been borrowed from Ishwar Singh of Manda, who took the district of Tyonthar in mortgage for the loan. After the loan had been repaid, the Chief of Manda refused to give up the mortgaged territory, which became the subject of a conflict that ended in the defeat of the Manda Chief. A dispute concerning boundaries with the Nawab of Lucknow was also settled in favour of Ajit Singh after an appeal to the arbitrament of war fought by the river Sayi, where some five thousand men of the enemy were drowned while fighting.

When Ajit Singh died in 1809 he was succeeded by his son Jaya Singh Deo, who two years later strongly opposed the Pindaris and in 1812 laid the village of Mirzapore in ruins. Compensation was awarded by the British Government to the sufferers, and under the terms of an agreement then drawn up the Maharaja of Rewah undertook to submit any question in dispute with the neighbouring Chiefs to the arbitration of the

British Government. Under the same agreement an English force was stationed near Simaria in the Badhra district. A subsequent treaty permitted the appointment of an Agent at the Court and the establishment of a Post Office. In 1813, the Maharaja handed over the management of his State to his eldest son Bishawanath Singh. The State treasury was then almost empty, but the Prime Minister Bhondu Lal, whom the young Prince appointed, managed the finances on such sound lines that in a few years the whole debt was paid off, and the Durbar coffers were replenished.

The claims of a pretender named Angad Rai were opposed during this reign, and he was arrested and banished. In 1835, the old Maharaja died and Vishwanath Singh was installed on the *gadi*. Several notable works which he wrote, and a number of travellers' rest-houses which he built at the sacred place of Chitra-Kote, indicate his character and tastes. Some of the Sirdars of the State stirred up his son Prince Raghuraj Singh to rebellion, but the Chief, more grieved than angered, speedily effected a reconciliation with his heir. The fomenters of the discord were compelled to quit Rewah and sought service at the Court of Lahore. In 1843 Vishwanath Singh relinquished the government in favour of his son, Prince Raghuraj Singh. He visited Pushkar Raj and compelled the Karchuli Sirdars to pledge themselves to discontinue female infanticide. He also suppressed the practice of *suttee* throughout his dominions.

Maharaja Ram Singh of Jaipur married the two sisters of Raghuraj Singh, who spent 5½ lakhs of rupees on the wedding. For his services to the British during the Mutiny of 1857, he was given the districts of Sohagpur and Amarkantak. In 1864, he was made a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India. He attended the Imperial Durbar at Delhi, in January 1877, and on that occasion his salute was increased from seventeen to nineteen guns. Maharaja Raghuraj Singh died in 1880, when he was fifty-six years of age. He was succeeded by his son Maharaja Venkat Ram Singh—the present Chief—who was born on the 23rd July 1876 and at his accession was but a child of 3½ years. The young Prince was formally installed in October of the same year, the Political Agent in Baghelkhand being made Superintendent of Rewah, to act under the direction and control of the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India. Ramraj Singh, who held the appanage of Madhogarh in fief, died without issue in 1881, and as the Maharaja of Rewah was the nearest male kin, Madhogarh reverted to the State. In 1881 a consultative Council of Sirdars was appointed to advise on matters connected with the Maharaja's family and the traditions and the usages of the State. The education of the young Chief was conducted in the capital by Surgeon-Majors S. J. Goldsmith, and G. H. Gimlette and Rai Sahib Pandit Puran Mull. In 1887, in celebration of the Jubilee of the late Queen-Empress, His Highness built the Victoria Hospital, set free forty-five prisoners and subscribed Rs.2,000 towards the Imperial Institute. The Maharaja came of age in 1895, and was invested with full ruling powers on the 15th November of that year. Rewah did not escape the ravages of the famines which devastated Central India in 1896-97 and in 1899–1900, but most complete arrangements were made to deal with the distress. For his efforts to cope with the earlier distress, His Highness was made a Knight

Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India. His administration has generally been in keeping with the sympathetic and considerate spirit he displayed in connection with these calamities, and Rewah is now regarded as in many respects a pattern Principality. His Highness is ably assisted by his Secretary, Col. Jonardhan Singh. In the law courts the Maharaja has substituted Hindi for Urdu, and he takes especial interest in the spread of education throughout his State. His Highness has travelled extensively throughout India, having toured through the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and through Rajputana and Central India, not to mention visits to Calcutta and Bombay. He is an accomplished sportsman, riding and shooting well. His Highness actively participated in the Delhi Coronation Durbar, and in the Chiefs' escort of the Viceroy and the Duke of Connaught on the occasion of their State entry into the ancient Mogul capital he was placed third among the Central Indian Chiefs, being preceded only by the Maharajas of Gwalior and Indore. His Highness enjoys full judicial powers and receives a salute of seventeen guns. He maintains a force of 759 cavalry, 2,149 infantry and 73 artillerymen, with 57 guns.

The State of Rewah has an area of 13,000 square miles, with a population at the 1901 Census of 1,326,454 (ten years earlier it stood at over one-and-a-half millions) and a revenue of about twenty-three lakhs of rupees. Rewah possesses valuable coal mines, and the rights to work those at Umaria were, in 1885, conceded to the British Government in consideration of a certain royalty on the production, but resumed by the Durbar on 1st January 1900. The colliery is now entirely worked by the State and is a source of considerable income.



H.H. The Maharao Raja of Bundi.

H.H. Sir Raghubir Singh Bahadur, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Maharao Raja of Bundi.

MANY centuries have elapsed since the Hara branch of the Chauhans settled in the tract of Rajputana now occupied by Bundi and Kotah, to which it has given the name of Haraoti, and it is to that ancient sept that the Chiefs of both the States named belong. They trace their descent to a legendary hero named Anhil. His descendant, Bisaldeo, who flourished about the beginning of the eleventh century, and was the progenitor of the Chauhan kings of Delhi, became, through his grandson, Ishtpal, the founder of the Hara family, one of whom, Rao Bakt Singh Deoji, founded the State of Bundi about the year 1242 A.D. The Haras went through the ordinary course of incessant fighting with rival clans for lands and dominions, but gradually acquired the predominance in the eastern districts which they still hold. With the Sesodia Chiefs at Chitor, only sixty miles distant from Bundi, peace was seldom long maintained, and the Haras in resisting Sesodia claims to supremacy had the advantage of protection by a range of hills and wilds from easy invasion out of the Mewar plains. But, in common with their Sesodia rivals for the upper hand, they were hard pressed by the powerful Mahomedan dynasty of Malwa. A brief period of Rajput revival, due to the military genius of Rana Sanga, ended with the great defeat of the Rana at Fatehpur Sikri. Bahadur Shah of Guzerat soon afterwards sacked Chitor, when Rao Arjun of Bundi fell with his Haras. Sher Shah, the Afghan, subsequently took Chitor, but after his death the Haras got possession of the great fort at Rantambor, which had long been an Imperial outpost. They held it as feudatories of the Sesodia Chiefs until Akbar, on undertaking the pacification of Rajputana, induced Rai Surjan, the Hara Chief, to transfer his allegiance to Delhi, and the supremacy of the Sesodias ceased, never again to be restored.

Several of the Bundi Chiefs took service with the Mogul Emperors, obtained high rank at the Imperial Court, and received large grants of land which were alternately resumed and restored as the Chief lost or gained favour, by taking the wrong or right side in the dynastic struggles for the Crown. They actively participated in the political revolutions of the time, and their bravery in the field is again and again attested by the Mahomedan historians. The Bundi Chief contemporary with Jay Singh of Amber (Jaipur) contracted a feud with that powerful ruler which resulted in his expatriation, and the annexation of large portions of his territory by Amber and Kotah. His successor appealed to Mulhar Rao Holkar, who forced the Amber Raja to restore the annexed territory, but kept Patan as payment for his intervention. In later years Rana Ursi of Udaipur was killed by the Rao of Bundi during a hunting party, whence arose a feud between the two great Rajput houses which is remembered to this day. In common with neighbouring States, Bundi suffered much in the eighteenth century from Maratha incursions. It is not a matter for surprise, therefore, that its ruler should have assisted Col. Monson's expedition against Holkar in 1804, and should have given friendly aid when Monson was forced to retreat. The history of the succeeding thirteen years is one of constant Maratha and Pindari ravages. The situation of Bundi made its co-operation in the work of cutting off the Pindari retreat in 1817 a matter of considerable strategic importance. Maharao Bishan Singh readily gave such co-operation, and early in the following year entered into an alliance with the British Government for the protection and integrity of his State. The Maharao was succeeded in 1821 by Maharao Raja Ram Singh, then a boy of eleven. His reign extended over the very exceptional period (particularly for an Indian Prince) of sixty-seven years. Though his loyalty somewhat wavered under the stress of the great temptations presented by the Mutiny, his rule was on the whole satisfactory, and on the occasion of the Delhi Proclamation in 1877 he received a Knighthood in the Order of the Star of India, and was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire.

On Maharao Ram Singh's death on March 8, 1888, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Maharao Raghubir Singh, who was then in his twentieth year, having been born on 21st September 1869. His Highness had received a good Oriental education, being proficient in Sanskrit and Hindi, but as his father belonged to the old conservative school he had not been sent to the Chiefs' College at Ajmere. Many thoughful observers have doubted the wisdom of giving to heir-presumptives of Indian Principalities an exotic education which may, and in some cases has, alienated their association in thought and sentiment with their subjects. Without taking this view, the observant visitor to Bundi will leave the State fully convinced that a Native administration may be as efficient when its head is without a college training as when what is often but a veneer of Western education has been put on. "I dwell among my own people" might well be the motto of the present ruler of Bundi, who has shown throughout his reign that he is not unmindful of the distinction recently drawn by Lord Curzon, when he told the young Maharaja of Mysore that he was on the *gadi* not for his own sake, but for the sake of his people. Invested with full governing powers in April 1899, he has in the intervening

years devoted himself in no small measure to the promotion of the welfare of his subjects. An outline of the more important improvements and reforms his reign has witnessed may be given.

The police administration has been reorganized, and the work of suppressing the hereditary lawlessness of criminal tribes has been entrusted to a special department. Rules have been carefully framed for the working and guidance of the civil and criminal Courts, and of the Revenue and Registration Departments. The postal service has been placed on an improved footing, and the Court of Wards has been reconstituted. Amongst important undertakings of the Public Works Department may be mentioned earthwork preparation for the Baran-Ajmere-Marwar railway, which will be of very great benefit to the State; additions and improvements to the Naolaka tank in the capital; the laying out of a public pleasure garden on the embankment of the tank, and a new garden at Sukh Mahal; the metalling of the Deoli-Kotah road for a distance of forty-one miles; the construction of a kothi for His Highness at Phoolsagar; gas and telephone installations, etc. A cotton press has been established at Baori, and ice and soda-water factories at Bundi. Side by side with increases of land and customs revenue, resulting from the improved standard of administration, the Accounts Department has been regularised, and annual budgets estimating the income and expenditure for the ensuing twelve months are now framed. Great benefit has been derived from the introduction of a standard weight for the *seer*, equivalent to eighty tolas, in place of the differences formerly current. The high school at Bundi has been raised to the Entrance examination standard. Mention may also be made of the improvement of the State Army, and the introduction of a system of enlistment of cavalry to serve as a bodyguard for His Highness. The military force of the State comprises 446 cavalry, 1,835 infantry and 144 guns. The Maharao, who is entitled to a salute of seventeen guns, was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire on New Year's Day, 1897, and four years later received from the King-Emperor a like position in the Order of the Star of India.

Unhappily, the recent great famines told heavily upon the population of Bundi, as of other Rajputana States. With an area of 2,300 square miles, it had in 1891 a total population of 257,701, but ten years later the number of inhabitants had sunk to 171,227, and this in spite of the earnest and zealous efforts carried out, under the personal direction of the Maharao, to relieve and forestall distress. To those efforts Lord Curzon bore public testimony on the occasion of his visit to the Maharao in November last the first visit Bundi has had from a Governor-General for eighty years. At a State banquet, at which His Highness proposed the healths of Lord and Lady Curzon, the Viceroy, in a brief reply, said that it gave him great pleasure to break the long spell of Viceregal absence, and to see the Chief of this old-world and conservative State in the picturesque surroundings of his ancestral home. He continued: "Even the most out-of-the-way places are now brought into contact with civilization, and parts of India hitherto isolated and remote are being drawn together by forces which none can resist. For instance, the late famine in 1899–1900, which hit Bundi very hard, and for his services in connection

with which I had the gratification of recommending the Maharao Raja for a G.C.I.E. in 1901, has taught the State the advantages of a railway, and His Highness pointed out to me yesterday what he hopes will be the site of the Bundi station on the future Baran-Marwar line." He added that Lady Curzon and himself would always retain agreeable recollections of the Maharao's gracious entertainment of them at his capital city, unique and famous even among the many beauties of Rajputana. At Delhi, a few weeks later, their Excellencies renewed their acquaintance with the Maharao Raja, who, followed the Maharaja of Jaipur among the Rajputana Chiefs, who rode on elephants, when Lord Curzon and the Duke of Connaught made their memorable State entry into the ancient Mogul capital. His Highness was a conspicuous participant in the various functions of the great Assembly, and in the Review of Native State retainers, Bundi is described as having "its knights in armour and steel helmets, their jousting horses richly caparisoned, with squires bearing their tilting lances."

His Highness, who, it will be seen, is a very fine representative of the old school of courtly, orthodox and conservative Chief, was thrice married in early life, two of the unions being with sisters of the Maharaja of Jodhpur, and the other with a daughter of the Maharaja of Jhabua, in Central India. By his first wife he has a son, Raghu Indar Singh, who was born in 1891. Only one wife surviving, he contracted a matrimonial alliance with the sister of his neighbour the Maharaja of Rewah during his visit to Delhi for the Durbar, and the wedding took place on February 2, 1903. The flag of the family is coloured yellow, with the motto "Sri Rangesh Bhagt Bundesh Ram Singh." There are in all twenty-three nobles of the State, of whom seventeen, being Hara Chauhans, sit in Durbar on the right of the Chief. Succession is by primogeniture and is subject to the sanction of the Durbar, adoption not being permitted. The nobles are in receipt of cash allowances, and their *jagirs* are held subject to resumption by the State for misconduct.



H.H. The Late Maharaja of Patiala.