

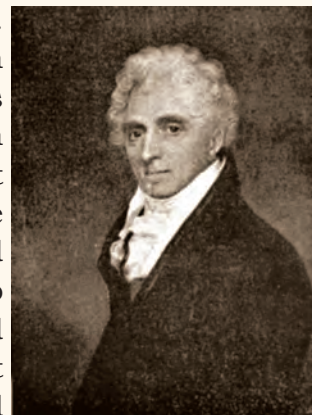


Chapter 4

● Supplementary Treaty – 1807

Not only did the Mysore contingents help in all the military encounters faced by the Company, but they provided their army with supplies which were not easy to secure. Even in 1802, during the uprising of the Nayar Chieftains of Wynad, the Mysore army had helped the Company to suppress them. In fact, Purnaiah adhered to all terms of the Subsidiary Treaty of 1799 to the great satisfaction of the Company's Government including Article 3.

Governor-General Wellesley announced this himself. On 29 January 1807 a Supplementary Treaty between Mysore and the Company was signed by Resident Major Wilks on behalf of the Company. The object of the Treaty was to render Article 3 of Subsidiary Treaty which obliged the State to make an indefinite contribution in wars fought by the Company. This was commuted for fixed maintenance of a certain body of horses in peace and war. Thus the State was relieved from making any financial contribution which was liable under Article 3. Further, the State was not obliged to maintain a contingent of 4000 horses for the Company. While this did not need to be maintained by the State regularly, yet it must be in a position to mobilise the number whenever the Company required the contingent to accompany the Company's army. It further stated that beyond the borders of the State, all expenses of their maintenance would be met by the Company when such contingents were taken, but after one month. They were to be paid at the rate of 4 Star Pagodas per horse and man per month, and a



Major Wilks

bhatta at the rate of Four Star Pagodas per month. The State was also to make its utmost effort to supply an additional 4000 horses, if Company demanded this, with an augmented salary at the rate of Eight Star Pagodas. Thus the State was absolved of the obligation of maintaining the cavalry free for the service of the Company.

“An important effect of this Treaty,” says Hayavadana Rao “was that it reserved for the State a responsible part of the excellent cavalry of Mysore.” He also points out that in 1817 when the Pindaris played havoc, the cavalry was useful in putting them down.¹

Suppression of Palegars

Purnaiah had been ordered in 1799 not to allow anybody to claim any territory in Mysore State as per a letter from Maj. Gen. Kirkpatrick. Some had already revolted and such recalcitrant Palegars (true and pretentious) had been suppressed. Many former *Palegars* who came to claim their territory were comforted by giving them a regular pension. They were allowed to stay in the capital with their families but were under surveillance. Whenever Purnaiah left the capital, they accompanied him as they had to be kept under the watchful eyes of Purnaiah’s retinue.

The Palegar of Koligundur Kota made many inroads into Mysore territory. He was suppressed by Purnaiah². Kudupatti Nayaka of Sunnakally near Mysore was also a constant menace to the State and he too was silenced. The Palegars of Savanur repeatedly made inroads into Mysore territory. To counter these recalcitrant Palegars, a contingent of 1500 cavalry, 3000 infantry and 5000 *Kandachar* peons were stationed at Manjarabad³.

Medekeri Nayaka, a member of the Nayaka family of Chitradurga was in captivity at Srirangapatna from the days of Hyder. Purnaiah had won him over, made him a commander under Tipu and sent him to Kerala to establish order there. During the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, he joined the British against Tipu. The British by sending him to Mysore in 1802, orally suggested Purnaiah to return Chitradurga territory to him, as this was oral, Purnaiah did not act according to this suggestion though he received the Nayaka well. Purnaiah went on procrastinating under some excuse or the other and fixed a pension for him. Similar was the fate of the Madhugiri Palegar, who was given a pension.⁴ Later Medekeri Nayaka came to Challakere.⁵ B.Rajashekarappa further points out that a pension of 105 Pagodas was fixed for him. He came to Challakere, stayed at Katappanahalli and died in 1825.⁶

1. Hayavadana Rao, pp.2208.

2. R.Gopal, Diwan Purnaiah (Kannada), K.Krishnakumar, “*Mysuru Rajyada Palegararu*”, p.130. (Henceforth *Dipu*).

3. *Ibid*.

4. *Ibid*. p 132.

5. *Ibid*. p 133.

6. *Ibid*. p. 135.

M.G.Nagaraj points out many more such instances. The Palegar of Tarikere, Krishappa Nayaka had been apprehended. After many entreaties, Purnaiah released him and fixed a pension. He returned to Tarikere and engaged himself in agriculture.⁷ Similarly the Palegar of Shivagiridurga near modern Ramanagaram (Closepet) was also reined in by Balajirao, the Killedar of Ramagiri.⁸ The author also points out how the former Palegar of Gummanayakana Palya was treated with kindness by Purnaiah. He sought protection and *rahadari* to visit Mysore, and accordingly the Palegar came to Mysore. He was also honoured by providing an opportunity to meet Krishnaraja Wodeyar. The Palegar had no territory under him, but was engaged in agriculture.⁹

Purnaiah did not allow any former Palegar to secure power, but treated them with compassion if they were obedient, and suppressed the recalcitrant with an iron hand to strengthen the Mysore State and monarchy. The territorial integrity of the Mysore State was maintained when Resident Close persuaded some Palegars to reconcile to the arrangement offered by the Dewan.

Charity to Holy Places

Purnaiah had been instructed not to alienate lands to religious centres or to Brahmins. He was however allowed to continue the *Jagirs* and *Inams* for religious purposes granted under Hyder Ali. He gave an account of such grants which as pointed out by Rice¹⁰ are as follows:

- 1,39,959 Pagodas - Devasthanams and Agraharas
- 20,000 Pagodas - Mathas and Brahmans
- 20,000 Pagodas - Muhammadan establishments as allowed by Hyder and Tipu Sultan

Rice further says that “The particular attention of the Resident directed to the diminution and check of these expenses, and chiefly to guard against the alienation of land to Brahmans, an abuse considered not improbable under a Hindu Government administered by Brahmans.

“The Dewan in the first instance assumed the possession of lands of all descriptions, principally with the view of revising the grants of every kind, and this enabled him to make many commutations of land for money payment, with consent of parties.”¹¹ To the Krishna Matha of Udupi, Purnaiah made a substantial personal grant through lands in Canara which were under British Rule. This



Krishna Matha (Temple), Udupi

7. *Ibid.* Nagaraj, M.G., “Mysuru Rajyada Palegararu mattu Adhikarigalu”, p.158.

8. *Ibid.* p. 164.

9. *Ibid.* p.164-65.

10. Rice, p.608.

11. *Ibid.* p. 609.

has been pointed out by P N Narasimha Murthy. However, the grant was executed after his death in 1818. The problem in this delay in execution of the grant is not clear. His successors had faithfully fulfilled his wish by granting 1301 Pagodas and 7 panas from 104 land holdings in Canara. This amount was to be equally distributed among the eight Mathas, with the name of the Matha and the incumbent Swamy in each of the Mathas being mentioned. They were to use the grants for the services of God Krishna. This grant is recorded in a copper plate now under the custody of the Shirur Matha.¹²

The Shringeri Matha had also a *Jagir*, administered by the Matha, with a cluster of villages under its administrative control. The grants had been made



Shringeri Matha, Shringeri

by generations of rulers and individuals. Neither Hyder nor Tipu disturbed them. Tipu had deep faith in the 'spiritual powers' of the Matha and made cash grants to them for performing various rituals for his success and victory. Purnaiah had ordered that materials supplied (carried) to the Matha were to be exempted from *Sayar*, as pointed out by A.K.Shastry.¹³ Shastry has also pointed out that as the Vidyashankara Temple

was getting dilapidated (*gaccugare shithilavadaddarinda*), Purnaiah ordered the Amildar at Koppa to provide all material and men for its conservation in 1807.¹⁴

An order that those employees of the Matha who were loitering and misusing the Matha's name and those disobeying the Matha must be apprehended and sent to the Matha, was issued to the Amildars of Nagar taluk and Killedars in 1810.¹⁵ To uphold the dignity of the Swamy and Matha, Purnaiah issued orders to various local officers outlining the steps they have to take when the Swamy was on tour and during visits to their places.¹⁶ This included arranging for a place of stay for the Swamy, providing protection to the Swamy and his retinue and helping them with all facilities and provisions.

Keladi Venkatesh Jois has pointed out that two villages, Hanumanahalli and Marabagatte, granted to the Kudali Sringeri Matha had been confiscated and they were regranted by Purnaiah in 1799.¹⁷ Exemption was granted for payment of *Sayar* to items transported to the Matha.¹⁸ In 1802, two more villages were regranted to the Matha namely Shettihalli and Javalli, as the grant enjoyed by the Matha had been earlier cancelled.¹⁹ Francis Buchanan

¹². *Dipu*, p.22-30.

¹³. *Ibid.* p.35.

¹⁴. *Ibid.* p.34.

¹⁵. *Ibid.*

¹⁶. *Ibid.*

¹⁷. *Ibid.*

¹⁸. *Ibid.*

¹⁹. *Ibid.* 57.

reports that the Biligiri Ranga temple in Bilikal village had been granted land by the Dewan.²⁰

Seetharam Jagirdar, with the help of Persian records has mentioned the grant of land to a mosque at Chennagiri by Tipu, Purnaiah and Krishnaraja Wodeyar III.²¹ He also points out with the help of an inscription, that Purnaiah donated a *mantapa* made of gold to the Swamy of Vyasraya Matha (Sosale) for installing an image of God Rama.²²



Vyasraya Matha (Sosale)

The grants extended by Purnaiah on his own account, as in the case of Udupi Krishna Matha and on behalf of the State are numerous. He also rebuilt the



Dariyadault Paintings

Svetha Varaha Temple in the Mysore Palace premises. The image had been brought as a war trophy from Srimushnam in Tamilnadu by Chikkadevaraya Wodeyar which was installed in a new temple at Srirangapatna. This temple was destroyed and the image was reinstalled by Purnaiah in a temple, built by using the material of a dilapidated Hoysala temple from a far off place. Inner walls of the new temple had a number of beautiful paintings. Thomas Hickey, the well-known portrait painter, urged by Arthur Wellesley, visited Srirangapatna between 1799-1800. Several historical paintings in the Dariya Dault palace were undertaken by him.²³

In fact Gen. Wellesley advised his brother, Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General that the administration of Mysore may be looked after by the Supreme Government at Kolkata instead of the Fort St. George. “How far the opinion of General Wellesely influenced the Governor-General to reach a conclusion later it is difficult to know,” says Shama Rao.²⁴ On 5th October 1804, the Governor-General issued instructions to Lord William Bentinck, the Governor of Madras intimating him of the transfer of control over Mysore to the Supreme Government. This was the arrangement related to Hyderabad State from the beginning. But the transfer was not appreciated by the Court of Directors in England. In December 1806, after Wellesley’s term as Governor-General was over, the Madras Government continued to look after Mysore affairs.

There was also a proposal to shift the Company’s army which was stationed at Srirangapatna as the place was marshy. The British officers found the place not congenial for their health as malaria was pervasive. There was a proposal to shift the army to Bangalore, but Arthur Wellesley and Lord Wellesley did

20. Ibid.

21. *Ibid.* p.60.

22. *Ibid.* p. 77

23. *Ibid.* p. 12

24. Shama Rao p.376

not agree to this. Soon after they left India, the troops from Srirangapatna were shifted to Bangalore in 1809. Bangalore Cantonment was established around Halasoor tank and Srirangapatna was returned to the administration of Mysore State. With this, a twin town to Bangalore slowly started growing.

The process of shifting troops to Bangalore had started in 1806 and the Cantonment under British Administration came into existence in 1809 with an area of 12 ½ square miles. Since this was an Assigned Tract, it was directly under British rule, the Resident being its Governor and a separate Collector. It came to have its own administrative arrangements.

End of Dewanship

Purnaiah had requested the British since 1806 that the Dewanship of Mysore be made hereditary in his family but the idea was not accepted by the Company as they had their own definite reasons. They granted him a hereditary *Jagir* at Yelandur in 1807 (Dec 27) and honoured him with presents like an elephant and a costly *khillat*.

His request for hereditary Dewanship disturbed the palace circles. There were certain developments that forced the Prince to demand the retirement of the Dewan. The Prince assumed power when he attained the age of 16 and thus ended Purnaiah's Regency.

Purnaiah received One percent of the State's revenue as his remuneration. Resident Wilks observed that Purnaiah's calculation of this One percent was unfavourable to him. Arthur Wellesley, who left India in March 1805, wrote to Purnaiah that, "For six years I have been concerned with the affairs of the Mysore Government and I have contemplated with greatest satisfaction in its increasing prosperity under your administration. The experience has proved the wisdom of the arrangement which would under no other arrangement have been possible for the British Government to derive such advantages from the country which you have governed."²⁵

The Supreme Government had been advising Resident Cole to bring about a reconciliation between the palace parties who were critical of Purnaiah, and Purnaiah himself. This went on for seven months, but Cole did nothing positive. The Supreme Government too did nothing in this direction relying on Cole; later the Supreme Government passed severe strictures against Cole for his passive behaviour. This shows the Supreme Government's eagerness to continue with Purnaiah as Dewan in recognition of his efficient administration.

Through his systematic administration, maintenance of law and order, collection of revenue, re-organization of judiciary and irrigation programmes, Purnaiah made Mysore a prosperous state. In 1804, when there was a famine to the north of the Tungabhadra, people from that region migrated to Mysore where there was abundant supply of food. Governor Bentinck wrote a letter

25. Ibid., p.360.

and complimented the Dewan on the fact that, “Mysore continued to enjoy the blessings of abundance due to the Dewan’s unrelenting zeal and vigilance in the internal administration.

“The country became prosperous indeed under the new administration that it was able to find funds not only for the regular payment of the subsidy due to the Company for the maintenance of the Subsidiary Force, which had to be remitted in 12 equal monthly instalments, but also for meeting the extraordinary military charges that His Highness’ Government had to provide in connection with the Maratha War and for public improvement that were vigorously pushed on by Purnaiah to bring the country to its former position. More than that, Purnaiah’s financial measures enabled the State, as he states in a letter dated 30 October 1801 to Lord Clive to reimburse the Company in the amount remission in the subsidy of the first year,” says Hayavadana Rao. This first year’s Subsidy was for the “unsettled state of the country in the commencement of any management, appeared to render a proper indulgence,” says Purnaiah himself.

The Company officials and Clive were surprised by this honest stand of Purnaiah as nobody had demanded subsidy for this unsettled period of one year.²⁶ Clive wrote to Purnaiah regarding his gesture, “Recent dispatches from England make honourable mention of the punctuality observed in the performance of engagements.”

Col. Malcolm, the Resident wrote on 2nd November 1807 to Governor-General in Council, which summarises all the compliments that are due to Purnaiah. “Placed at the creation of this Government (restored Mysore Government) in the possession of all authority and charge of its infant Prince, he not only exercised his great power in a manner that has promoted the prosperity and increased the revenue of the State he ruled, but by deep attention to the happiness of the inhabitants of Mysore, and the education of the young prince, and his undeviating adherence to principles of alliance with the English Government, he has merited and received uniform support of the power; nor can I call to mind, during the period of eight years that he has governed Mysore not even in one instance in which his conduct has been censured by those authorities to whose inspection and control he has been during the whole of the period.”

His Highness was brought up in the traditional code of Hindu learning and soon became proficient in Kannada, Marathi, Persian and Sanskrit. Purnaiah took personal interest in the disposal of public business, till the prince reached the age of 16. “With the increase in years and the growth of knowledge, the desire was kindled in His Highness to take more direct share in the daily work of administration of the State. Purnaiah, unaccustomed to control, misapprehended the Prince’s ardour,” says Hayavadana Rao.²⁷

In 1811, the Prince expressed his wish to assume his royal office to Resident

26. C.H; pp.2799-800.

27. Ibid., p.2024.



Purnaiah's Bungalow before Conservation, Yalanduru

Cole. Purnaiah, on hearing this, chose to retire in December 24th of the same year. He moved to Srirangapatna and died the next year on 27th March 1812.

The reason for the differences between the Prince and the Dewan are not recorded but among the likely causes could be Purnaiah seeking to secure hereditary Dewanship, a retinue of the Prince in the palace trying to carry tales on the Dewan of the errors that the Dewan could have committed due to the failing memory of a highly taxed mind for over 50 years. Malcolm stated that “the enemies of Purnaiah succeeded in poisoning the mind of the young Prince” against the able minister. Purnaiah was sanctioned a life pension of 6000 Pagodas per year by the Prince on his retirement.

The Prince was shocked to hear the news of the early death of Purnaiah. He directed that the palace in the Fort at Srirangapatna be placed at the disposal of Purnaiah's family for conducting Purnaiah's funeral rites. He also proposed a pension of 500 Pagodas per month in recognition of the achievements of Purnaiah.

Purnaiah's work had established an absolute identity of interest between the Prince's government and government of the Company. This proved beneficial to the Prince as well as the Company. It was the abundant treasury of Mysore which helped the Company to fight six wars during the first decade of the 19th Century. Purnaiah also used his opportunities for the advantage of the State



he administered. His administration proved the capacity of Indians in the political and administrative fields, beyond doubt.

Wilks in his *History of Mysore* states that “Lord Wellesley had the satisfaction of being enabled to declare at the close of his memorial of administration in India that actual success of the arrangement of Mysore had fulfilled most of his expectations.” Such a satisfaction could be experienced only by the personality and performances of Purnaiah.²⁸

Men like Lewin Bowring and Rice have described Purnaiah’s administration to be “arbitrary” and “absolute”. However, the policies formulated by Purnaiah were not justifiable in normal situations. Yet, the age and the circumstances demanded such an attitude where the subsidy and other demands made on the State by the Company were equally responsible for his monetary policy as it had put a heavy responsibility on Purnaiah’s shoulders.

Having accumulated about Rupees two crores by 1811 in the Treasury, was no doubt at the expense of the State and welfare of the people. But the Subsidiary Alliance and Article 4 and 5 therein forced him to resort to economy and traditional ideas of financial management since the British made the State shoulder the extraordinary war expenditure in their fight against Dhondji Wagh and the Second Anglo Maratha War which was deep in Maharashtra. These savings were the result of the prudence of an able and responsible administrator who had nobody to help him in a financial crisis. Banking had not developed in those days, nor was Purnaiah a free or arbitrary person to borrow from bankers as Hyder or Tipu did.

When he was invited by the British to surrender in 1799 and being assured that he had no cause for alarm, his reply was “How can I hesitate to surrender to a nation who are protectors of my tribe from Kasi to Rameshvaram?” He realised that the British were going to be the masters of the country and made his own assessment of the type of religious tolerance the British practised as against the proselytising zeal of his previous master Tipu, who had once asked even Purnaiah to accept Islam.

Purnaiah was a dutiful, loyal bureaucrat who set an example to succeeding generations of administrators of Mysore. Among the Gems of Mysore Administrators, he is the most lustrous.



28. Wilks, History of Mysore, Vol II, p.386-87.

● **Jewels of Administration**



Aerial View of Srirangapatna