

CHAPTER VIII.

Investiture of Chamaraja Wodeyar X with Ruling Powers.

All preliminary arrangements for transferring the State to the Maharaja's hands having been completed, a Durbar for formally effecting this transfer was held in the Palace at Mysore on the morning of the 25th March 1881. Lord Ripon was not able to be personally present at the Durbar and under his instructions the Right Honourable W. P. Adams, Governor of Madras, represented the Viceroy on behalf of the Government of India. The Governor arrived at the Palace gate with his personal staff escorted by a body of troops and was received with the usual honours. A short time after, the Governor, the Maharaja and J. D. Gordon the Chief Commissioner entered the Durbar hall and took their seats on a raised platform, the Governor seating himself in the centre with the Maharaja on his right and the Chief Commissioner on his left. The British civil and military officers, the Mysore officers and all others invited for the occasion were seated to the right and left of the platform.

The Governor of Madras then rose and said that at the request of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India he was there as his representative, as the Viceroy was unable to be present in person. It gave him, the Governor said, great pleasure to be present on the occasion considering the intimate relationship of the Presidency of Madras with the State of Mysore. He then called upon R. Davidson, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, to read the following proclamation:—"Whereas in the year 1868 the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council announced by proclamation to the chiefs and people in Mysore that His Highness Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, the adopted son of the late Maharaja Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar Bahadur, had been acknowledged by the Government of India as successor to Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar and as Maharaja of the Mysore territories and declared that when His Highness should attain the age of eighteen years the Government

of the country would be entrusted to him, subject to such conditions as might be determined at the time.

“Now, therefore, 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 Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur is 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.”

After the proclamation was read, the Maharaja was formally installed at 7-15 a.m. and the Governor on delivering the Instrument of Transfer to His Highness said:—“Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, Maharaja of Mysore—As the representative of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and in obedience to the proclamation which has just been read, I now invest you with the administration of the State of Mysore and in doing so I desire to offer you my warmest congratulations and on behalf of the Queen-Empress and the Viceroy as well as for myself and all here present I wish you success and prosperity and that you may long continue to rule over a peaceful, happy and contented people. Her Majesty the Queen-Empress always mindful of the gracious words she used in the proclamation to the Princes, Chiefs and people of India in 1858 has by the great act which we celebrate this day given a further practical proof of her desire scrupulously to adhere to that proclamation both in letter and spirit.

“Your Highness—The Queen and Viceroy are well aware of the high and responsible trust which the British Government this day commits to Your Highness’ charge. But happily they also know that you have endeavoured to render yourself fit for the great duty that devolves upon you and that under the guidance of Mr. Gordon, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, you have studied the

principles of Government and by the interest that you have shown therein and also by your own manly life and conduct you have given every indication of becoming a wise, liberal and enlightened ruler. Having therefore this confidence in your good qualities, 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 Maharaja in response said:—"Your Excellency—I am deeply sensible of the generosity and kindness which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has invariably shown to my Family. In now installing me as ruler of the territory of my ancestors Her Majesty has given a further proof of the justice and generosity which the Mysore House has ever experienced at the hands of the British Government. I beg Your Excellency to convey to Her Majesty an expression of my deep, grateful loyalty and attachment to the British Crown and my assurance that it shall be my earnest endeavour by promoting the welfare of the people to prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me. I would ask Your Excellency to accept my thanks for the kind interest shown in me on this occasion."

The usual khillats from the Viceroy were then presented to the Maharaja. At this time a telegraphic message arrived from the Viceroy which ran as follows:—"I am commanded by the Queen-Empress to offer to Your Highness Her Majesty's congratulation upon your installation and to express Her Majesty's best wishes for Your Highness' prosperity and that of your country. The Queen-Empress also commands me to thank Your Highness warmly for the very kind and loyal telegram which Her Majesty has received from you." A gentle shower of rain fell at the time the Durbar was held and this incident and the birth of a daughter to His Highness on the 11th March previous were regarded as happy auguries for the future and caused rejoicings among the people.

In the afternoon addresses were presented to the Maharaja from various taluks, towns and districts as well as from Societies and Associations. Among the addresses was one on behalf of the Catholic community of Mysore presented by His Lordship Dr. Coadou in Latin. It was a unique address full of meaning and good sense and a translation of it in English was read by T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty a prominent member of that community and who held a high position in the Mysore Service. The address after offering the felicitations of the community concluded with these words: "We also pray with our whole heart and beseech God that He may grant that wisdom with which He enlightened the heart of King Solomon. May He grant you so to rule that your reign may be a reign of peace and justice, so to govern that under your auspices the good may walk without fear in the path of righteousness and the bad may be frightened out of their evil ways. May God grant that as the throne on which you sit is of refulgent gold so may Your Highness be resplendent with virtues which become a King. May God grant that during your reign the ministers who help you with their counsel and stand round your throne may walk in the ways of justice and that the people subject to your sceptre may enjoy undisturbed peace and happiness....."

His Highness in reply said:—"Those who labour in the cause of religion are always a help to Government and your religion especially may well be credited with inculcating principles of peace and loyalty in the minds of the people. The 26,000 Canarese Christian population of my territories peacefully and zealously following their industrial occupations without any collision with fellow countrymen of other faiths bear testimony to the fact how while propogating your faith you sacredly avoid breaking social institutions or impairing mutual good-will. Permit me, my Lord Bishop, to assure you of my support and sympathy in your disinterested godly work. I am touched by the piece of Jewish history quoted by you. I assure you that trust in God and submission to His Will have ever ruled and shall ever rule the conduct of my family and myself and I look to that high power as my help and guide and for crowning with success my endeavours in the good government of my country and of my people."

On the evening of the same day a second durbar was held at which the following proclamation issued by His Highness was read and was also published in all parts of the State :—“Whereas the Government of the territories of Mysore heretofore administered on our behalf by the British Government has this day been transferred to us by the proclamation of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, dated this 25th day of March 1881, we do hereby notify and declare that we have this day assumed charge of the said Government and we call upon all our subjects within the said territories to be faithful and to bear true allegiance to us, our heirs and successors.

“We do hereby further declare that all laws and rules having the force of law now in force in the said territories shall continue to be in force within the said territories.

“We do hereby accept as binding upon us all grants and settlements heretofore made by the British Government within the said territories in accordance with the respective terms thereof, except in so far as they may be rescinded or modified either by a competent court of law or with the consent of the Governor-General in Council.

“We hereby confirm all existing courts of Judicature within the said territories in the respective jurisdictions now vested in them and we confirm in their respective appointments the judges and all other officers, civil and military, now holding office within the said territories.

“For the conduct of the executive administration of the said territories under our commands and control we have resolved to appoint a Dewan. And we placing trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability and judgment of Chettipaniam Veeravalli Rangacharlu, C. I. E., do hereby appoint the said Chettipaniam Veeravalli Rangacharlu, C. I. E., to be our Dewan for the conduct of the executive administration of the said territories.

“His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council having complied with our request to lend us the services of

the present Judicial Commissioner Mr. John Doublas Sandford, Bengal Civil Service, Barrister-at-law and Master of Arts to aid us in the administration of justice in our territories, we hereby confirm the same John Douglas Sandford in his appointment under the designation of Chief Judge of Mysore.

“ We have further resolved that a Council shall be formed to be styled ‘ the Council of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore ’ which shall consist of the Dewan for the time being as ex-officio President and of two or more members to be specially appointed by us from time to time. It shall be the duty of the members of the said Council to submit for our consideration their opinions on all questions relating to legislation and taxation and on all other important measures connected with the good administration of our territories and the well-being of our subjects. We are accordingly pleased to appoint Chettipaniam Veeravalli Rangacharlu, C. I. E., Dewan, ex-officio President, Trichnopoly Rayalu Arogyaswamy Thumboo Chetty, Judge, ex-officio member, Purna Krishna Rao, Attupakam Ratna Sabhapathy Mudaliar to be members of the said Council, to hold office as such Councillors for the term of three years or during our pleasure.”

Thumboo Chetty before he joined the Mysore Service was Munsiff of Purghi in the Bellary district. In February 1867 he was appointed Head Sheristadar of the Judicial Commissioner’s Court at Bangalore and at the time of his appointment as senior member of the Council was holding the post of District and Sessions Judge of the Nandidoorg Division. He belonged to the Catholic community and had earned a name for assiduous work and upright conduct. The other two, Purna Krishna Rao and Sabhapathi Mudaliar, were retired officers who had held high positions in the days of the British Commission.

J. D. Gordon (later Sir James) who had shown himself a genuine friend and sincere well-wisher of the young Maharaja was appointed the first Resident of Mysore. He retired from his post as Resident in 1883 on account of illness. In grateful memory of

his services to Mysore a statue was erected later and stands before the public offices at Mysore.

The cantonment area of Bangalore was demarcated and the jurisdiction over it was transferred to the British Government for administrative purposes. The introduction of the Act III of 1880 was regarded as superfluous inasmuch as it was intended for military cantonments in British India, while Bangalore was never merely a military cantonment and was not a part of British India, it being regarded as a mere station in a foreign territory. The Civil and Military Station was to be administered by the civil officers of the British Government under the laws introduced from time to time with the Governor-General's authority. But the Maharaja was to retain sovereignty over the territory, though by the terms of the Instrument of Transfer His Highness renounced the exercise of jurisdiction within it. The Bangalore fort continued to be in the possession of the British Government as the arsenal was kept there and it was not till 1888 that it was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Maharaja in exchange for the Residency.

The Maharaja's Civil List was fixed at Rs. 13 lakhs per annum with the proviso that during the next five years only 10 lakhs were to be appropriated. This amount of 13 lakhs was based on the annual average sum given to Krishnaraja Wodeyar III as 1/5 share of the net revenues of the State. From this amount was to be incurred all charges classed as Palace Charges at the time and generally all expenditure relating to the personal wants of the Maharaja and his family, his relations and dependents apart from the public requirements of the State. The Government of India at the same time looking to the numerous and miscellaneous charges that would fall upon the Civil List admitted the desirability of its revision from time to time.

There was a State banquet at the Jagan Mohan Palace on the night of the day of installation and the Madras Governor in his speech referred to a variety of topics. "In the first and foremost place," he said, "let your Government always be guided by truth.

You have been brought up in the observance of it ; insist upon it in others. Without absolute and pure truth no Government can long stand. I hope you will be recognised as a mild and gentle ruler, but if you show the utmost severity in any cases of deviation from truth, you may be sure of this that the British Government and all good men will support you. Choose your ministers with the utmost care and circumspection, but when you have once chosen a man to act in a confidential position give him your fullest confidence, have no concealment, no corner in your mind which your confidential adviser does not know. Allow no intrigue or outside influence to undermine him in your estimation.....
 Whoever your Resident may be make a friend of him and go to him for advice in any difficulty. You may depend upon it that he can have no ulterior motive or end to serve and that the advice he gives is meant for your good and for the good of the State of Mysore. You have a large Province to administer. Do not waste too much time in details but endeavour to grasp the large questions and see the country for yourself.”

On the 1st April 1881 the Maharaja sent a formal letter to the Viceroy intimating his assumption of the Government of the Mysore territories. “I have to announce to Your Excellency with grateful feelings,” said His Highness, “my assumption of the Government of my territories on the 25th March 1881 under the proclamation of the Government of India of the same date and under the Instrument of Transfer which has been delivered to me in due form by His Excellency the Governor of Madras on Your Excellency’s behalf. I am deeply sensible of the generosity and kindness which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has invariably shown to my Family and in now installing me in the Government of the territories of my ancestors Her Majesty has given a further proof of the justice and generosity which the Mysore House has ever experienced at the hands of the British Government. I beg Your Excellency to convey to Her Majesty an expression of my deep and grateful loyalty and attachment to the British Crown and to accept my grateful acknowledgments to yourself and my assurance that it shall be my earnest endeavour by promoting the

welfare of my people to prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me."

The Marquis of Ripon on receipt of this letter sent a reply in which among other matters he stated that he had read with pleasure His Highness' assurance that in administering his dominions it would be His Highness' earnest endeavour to promote the welfare of his people and to prove himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him. "It is my sincere hope," concluded the Marquis of Ripon, "that bearing in mind the important duties that now devolve upon you, Your Highness will conduct the administration of your dominion with justice and firmness, so that while securing the affection and prosperity of your people you will maintain the honour of the Mysore State and preserve the cordial relations now existing between the British Government and Mysore."