

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### **Removal of Tippu's family to Vellore and ultimately to Calcutta.**

As previously stated, it was settled by Lord Mornington that the Mysore State should be reconstituted with reduced dimensions. But it however became a somewhat difficult question as to who should be selected as ruler of this re-established State. The usurpation of Haidar and Tippu had, it was considered, become complete and it was at one time feared that the Mahomedan interests were too strong to exclude Tippu's family from the throne. The jealous policy followed by Tippu in concentrating all administrative power in his own hands and using even his high officials as mere executive instruments to carry out his behests however facilitated the solution of what at first sight appeared to be a thorny problem. It was found that the Mahomedan officials had really no great influence in the country and that they would be satisfied if their personal interests were attended to. The following extract from a letter written by Lt.-Col. Close, one of the commissioners appointed to settle the affairs of Mysore, fully confirms this view. "That Tippu loaded the departments of his Government with dronish Mussalmans cannot be denied, but the characteristic of his domination was to reserve all power to himself and allow no hereditary claims or fixed offices that might in any shape oppose the dictates of his will. Individuals holding the principal offices of the State doubtless exercised authority and from such cause possessed some influence, but of these how many remain? Burhanuddin was killed at Seringapatam, the Benki Nawab fell at Siddeswar, and Syed Sahib, Mir Sadak and Syed Gaffar at the storming of Seringapatam. Purnaiya is forthcoming and rests upon our will. Kamruddin rests upon our generosity and is perfectly at our devotion. Where then is the Mahomedan influence to embarass us or to give a turn to our politics? Tippu's infantry are discharged, his Silledar horse are dissolved, his Killedars pay us obeisance, his Asophs if so disposed have not the means to resist us, the stabel horse remain and look to our pleasure for subsistence and at best they are but so many loose

individuals connected by no head and kept apart by separate interests. They are ours for actual service at a nod."

If any one of Tippu's sons was placed on the throne of Mysore, it was impossible, Mornington considered, that he could forget the grandeur and glory of his two predecessors and that he must ever feel the humiliation of his own position as contrasted with that of his illustrious progenitors. Further, such a prince could not be expected to think with calmness of those to whom was due the downfall of his family greatness from mighty power and royal independence, and it was quite possible that when an opportunity occurred he would endeavour to recover his lost dominions, the control of which had rendered his father and grand-father the terror of the Deccan and the Carnatic.

On the other hand, it was regarded that policy, humanity and generosity all combined to favour the restoration of the ancient Hindu royal family to the throne. It was not unnatural to suppose that they would be grateful and attached to that power which rescued them from unmerited obscurity and oppression and restored them to their rightful place. Sensible that their continuance on the throne depended upon the British Government they would, it was believed, maintain at all times cordial friendship with the British to whom they owed gratitude for the great service rendered to them. Accordingly, Lord Mornington's verdict was given in favour of the reinstatement of the Hindu royal family.

Both decorum and consideration for the feelings of the deposed family required, it was thought, that before the installation of the Hindu Raja on the throne of his ancestors Tippu's family should be removed from Seringapatam to another place. The Nizam had expressed a desire that a part of the family should be allowed to reside in his dominions but Lord Mornington did not agree to such a plan both on grounds of political expediency as well as consideration for the feelings of the family as a whole. Accordingly he chose Vellore in the Company's territories as the place of residence and appointing Lt.-Col. Doveton as the commander of the fort impressed upon him to spare no reasonable expenditure to render

the habitation of the dispossessed family suitable to their former rank and expectations. Colonel Arthur Wellesley had also drawn the attention of the Governor-General to the advisability of maintaining as much state as possible about them and by allowing them whenever they went out an escort as well to keep off the crowd as to do them honour. There were more than 600 women in the zenana belonging to the families of Haidar and Tippu and the latter's surviving children numbered 25, 12 daughters and 13 sons, the eldest son Fateh Haidar being 26 years old and the youngest child being 18 months. The family also was allowed to be accompanied by such attendants as they selected, provided the number were not so great as to endanger public tranquillity or to form a point of union to the adherents of the late Sultan. A sum of 2,40,000 Canteroi pagodas (3 rupees per pagoda) was allowed annually for the maintenance of the family.

The detailed arrangements for removing the deposed family were entrusted to Colonel Arthur Wellesley who was believed to combine in himself both feelings of humanity as well as prudential precautions. It was decided to remove first the four elder sons of Tippu with their families, as it was found not possible to remove the whole family at once on account of deficiency of carriage. Having made the necessary preparations for the departure of the four elder princes, Colonel Wellesley waited on the 16th June upon Fateh Haidar the eldest of the four and communicated to him the instructions he had received for the removal of a part of the family to start with.

Colonel Wellesley first explained to Fateh Haidar that after due consideration the Governor-General had not thought it compatible with the interests of the British nation and of its allies to place him or any of his family upon the musnud. Fateh Haidar's conduct in voluntarily surrendering himself had not passed unnoticed and that in consideration of his conduct as well as that of the other members of the family the Governor-General had decided to give them a liberal allowance of Rs. 7 lakhs a year. To soften the unpleasantness of this decision, Wellesley observed that it must be unpleasant to his feelings to see the government

of this country pass into the hands of others, and that for his own sake as well as for the ease and convenience of the Government to be established in Mysore, it was desirable that he should remove into another country, announcing at the same time that his departure from Seringapatam had been fixed for the next day. Fateh Haidar expressed surprise at the peremptoriness of the order, especially as he had surrendered himself under the protection of a cowl and he also referred to the usual practice of the British Government in India of restoring to the conquered their governments as were done in the cases of Tanjore and Oudh. At the same time Fateh Haidar further urged that even supposing it was not thought proper to retain him as the ruler, there was no reason why he should be removed from the country itself and that he would never consent to move from the tombs of his father and grand-father, nor to leave his father's family and asked emphatically what was to become of them if he should leave them.

Colonel Wellesley in reply said that he did not conceive there was anything in the cowl which had been sent to him, to give him hopes that he would be permitted to govern this country or that prevented the Governor-General from exercising the power that all Governments in India had of ordering their subjects to quit one place and reside in another. "I admitted that the British Government," continued Colonel Wellesley, "had shown generosity in the instances to which he had alluded, but in the present case such generosity was not compatible with its interests, especially when Tippu and his family were intimately connected in politics with the irreconcilable enemies of the British with the sole object of driving the British out of India. Further, I observed that there was no intention of separating him from the families of his father and grand-father longer than was necessary to procure conveyances for the latter to the Carnatic and that, in the meantime, they would be under my protection and that they had not suffered and he had no reason to fear that they would suffer from his absence upon the present occasion. I then told him that what had been proposed was for his sake as well as for the ease of the government of the country, that he must be aware that he would be an object of

suspicion at all times and that he must expect that the smallest indiscretion on his part would occasion the detention of his person. He still quoted the cowl, and having expressed an anxiety to know what part of the allowance for the family he was to have, I told him that it was to be half a lakh of rupees annually. He then said that he would consult some of his friends upon the subject and I told him that what I had said to him was the commander-in-chief's order which it was my duty to see obeyed and that I would send Captain Marriot to him in an hour to take his directions respecting the carriage of his baggage and family.

“Next I repeated what I had said to Fateh Haidar to the other princes, and Abdul Khalik and Moizuddin expressed no anxiety excepting about the amount of their allowance. The other Moieuddin said that he would consult his friends. I told him that I conveyed orders and that whatever might be the result of the consultation they must be obeyed. He agreed that they should. Fateh Haidar and Moieuddin called upon me in the evening and expressed a desire to carry away half of the family of Haidar Ali and half of that of Tippu Sultan. I told them that they might carry away as many as they pleased, but that the carriage at present was calculated and provided for the members of their own families and that it had been thought most advisable to defer sending the families of their father and grand-father to a future opportunity. In the morning they called again with a long list of dhoolies, camels, elephants, bandies, etc., which they wanted for the removal of the families of Haidar Ali and of Tippu, but having informed them that we had means of carriage for their own families, they expressed themselves satisfied and prepared to depart.”

On the 18th June the four princes named and their suite, attended by Captain Marriot and escorted by detachments of troops numbering about 1,500, quitted Seringapatam on their route to Vellore.

Captain Marriot a little time before he began his return journey after handing over his charge to Lt.-Col. Doveton visited each of the princes to know if they had any wishes to be communicated to the authorities at Seringapatam. All the brothers are said to have

generally expressed satisfaction at the accommodations provided for them and the arrangements made for their comforts, but at the same time each expressed some particular wish or made some remark indicating thereby their natural dispositions and habits. Fateh Haidar showed himself restless and jealous of his family privileges and requested to have a tract of country as jahagir from which he could procure his own supplies of straw, firewood and other articles. He also observed that as he had brought his mother and other female relatives with him who properly belonged to his father's establishment, he expected that some additional allowance would be made to him for their maintenance. Abdul Khalik who was careless of show and to some extent unprincely in his ideas and apparently extremely avaricious only pointed out that the great difference in the prices of rice might be considered between the bazaars of Seringapatam and Vellore. Sultan Moieuddin amiable, engaging and attentive to everything which constituted true politeness only expressed that apologies might be made for any apparent negligence on his part in not replying to the complimentary letter he received from the Governor-General on leaving Seringapatam, stating that as he had with his brothers been since wholly occupied with the journey, it was more owing to want of opportunity than to any want of respect. Moizuddin passionately attached to his amusements, particularly his horses and to the society of Englishmen, and heedless of everything else observed that Captain Marriot was perfectly acquainted with his situation and that he had no request of any kind to trouble him.

Thus ended the rule of the house of Haidar after a short period of about 40 years and the awful tragedy which brought about the termination of the rule of that family, on reflection even at this distance of time, appears more like a natural catastrophe than as a mere resultant of the conflict of human passions showing themselves in overt acts of blood and rapine. Whatever might have been the feelings of the contemporary generation towards Tippu, it cannot be denied that his family hurled in so short a time from a position of lustre and glory to the depths of misery and utter dependence were entitled to the fullest sympathy on the part of those who witnessed their fall.

Before proceeding to the succeeding events, it may be mentioned here to satisfy the curiosity of our readers that one of the members of Tippu Sultan's family having been found to have had a share in the incitement which brought about the Sepoy Revolt of 1806 at Vellore, the whole family was removed to Calcutta.

### THIRD PERIOD

Krishnaraja Wodeyar III till the establishment of  
the British Commission.

1799—1831