

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

### **General and economic conditions of Mysore in the early part of the 19th Century—(continued).**

Buchanan left Seringapatam on his second tour on the 5th September 1800 and adopting the route already mentioned he left Sivasamudram on the 6th October. He then travelled in the Company's districts of Coimbatore, Malabar and Canara and re-entered the Mysore territory at Chandragutti on the 18th March 1801.

Palhalli is said to have at one time contained a thousand houses. But during the last siege of Seringapatam, as it was in the immediate rear of General Harris' camp it was entirely destroyed. At the time of Buchanan's visit, a hundred houses had been rebuilt and a number of inhabitants had returned. There were before the siege many cocoon gardens but they were wholly destroyed by the British army in order to procure materials for the trenches and firewood for cooking. They were however being replaced. A good deal of sugarcane was grown here at the time and jaggery was manufactured largely and sugar also was attempted to be produced by some people. More than half of the dry fields were found waste, the stocks being sufficient only to cultivate the watered lands.

In the villages near about the Lakshmanathirtha river at some distance from Palhalli there were found a number of Mussalmans who preferred to earn a living as day-labourers or farm servants or as petty traders to enlisting in the service of the Company along with the non-Mussalmans. Katte Malalavadi contained about 50 houses. Formerly it was stated to have been a flourishing town. On account of the ravages of the army accompanying Lord Cornwallis the town had become desolated and had not recovered subsequently. In the last war the town was burnt by orders of Tippu and the fort was dismantled so as not to afford shelter to the Bombay army. At Periapatna the fortifications were all in ruin, the Sultan having blown up the best works. In the inner fort there were no inhabitants and tigers had taken entire possession of its ruins. The outer fort contained a few houses of Brahmins who on account of fear o

tigers were forced to shut themselves up at sunset. The pettah was recovering faster, though the ruins yet occupied by far the greater space and the small number of inhabitants were only able to form pathways through the rank vegetation that occupied the streets.

From Periapatna Buchanan went to Heggadadevankote and from there reached Nanjangud. At this holy place the temple of Nanjundeswara was under repairs at the expense of Butche Rao the Naib Dewan. The fort was in ruins and contained at the time 120 houses of Brahmins and 200 belonging to other classes. Between Nanjangud and Mysore a very large proportion of the fields lay waste and several of the tanks were out of repair. At Mysore however there were two remarkably fine tanks. Tayur where next Buchanan halted had a well-built mud fort and formed the headquarters of an amildar. It contained 141 houses with 11 in a suburb. Between Tayur and T-Narsipur the country was very beautiful and well cultivated. Every field was enclosed with quickset hedges, the whole being dry ground without rice fields. The stocks at the time being inadequate, only the richer grounds near the villages were cultivated. T-Narsipur contained about 200 houses mostly inhabited by Brahmins and the houses were better built than in the neighbourhood and had two large temples. Of the villages Buchanan passed in this part of the country Calur was the last place in the Mysore territory.

On the 4th October 1800 Buchanan went to Sivasamudram and visited the two grand waterfalls of the Kaveri river Gagana Chukki and Bhara Chukki. There were two Mussalman hermits at Gagana Chukki and the hermitage was a hut open all round, placed opposite to the tomb of Pir Wully, and surrounded by some neat, smooth areas and a number of flowering and aromatic trees introduced from the neighbouring forests. One of these hermits at the time was absent on business and the other had no defence against tigers which frequented the place. The hermit's confidence however in the holiness of the place and in his own sanctity is said to have been so great that in them he considered he had sufficient defence. He is stated to have told Buchanan with great complacency that he had offended Major Macleod by not answering that gentleman's

questions having been at the time more inclined to read the Koran than to converse with a layman. From here Buchanan passed on to the Company's territory and finishing his investigations in Coimbatore, Malabar and Canara re-entered, as already stated, the Mysore country at Chandragutti after an absence of nearly five and a half months.

From Chandragutti Buchanan went to Sagar. The latter was a trading town and was the headquarters of an amildar. The temple at Ikkeri was under repair at the time and workmen from Goa had been brought for the purpose but the place was mostly in ruins. In the amildar's opinion, Tippu's Government when compared with that of the Mahrattas was excellent and notwithstanding all the evils the people suffered from the extortions of the Asophs and the attacks of the invading armies they enjoyed comparatively great security. The Government never subsisted by open plunder, whereas among the Mahratta chiefs there were very few who did not support their troops by avowed robbery.

On his way from Sagar to Nagar, Buchanan found the country extremely hilly and overgrown with woods in which there were fortified defiles and passes that were guarded by armed men in the service of the Mysore Government. At Nagar there was a British garrison stationed for the defence of the country around. The palace although rebuilt by Tippu was almost in ruins. There were about 1,500 houses besides huts and 150 new houses were under construction and merchants were resorting to it from all quarters. The mint was maintained and every encouragement was given to merchants. Buchanan however prophetically declared at the time that the place could not be expected to attain its former greatness as it was neither the seat of court nor of any public works and possessed no manufactures, its mainstay being only trade. He left Nagar on the 29th March 1801 and reached Shimoga on the 2nd April leaving behind the forest-clad hilly country of Kavaledoorg, Mahishi, Tudur and Mandagadde. Shimoga at the time of Buchanan's visit contained about 500 houses and was increasing fast. It had suffered considerably at the hands of Parasuram Bhow and Dhondoji Wagh. Parasuram Bhow at the time of

Cornwallis' campaign is stated to have destroyed almost all the houses in the town numbering about 6,000 and his men are said to have ravished several women and carried away the handsomest. The Mahratta troopers did not spare even the matam of the Kudli Swami who was their Guru or religious head. But the enraged Swami held out to Parasuram Bhow threats of instant excommunication and thereupon is said to have been pacified by a present of 4,00,000 of rupees. On the fall of Seringapatam, Shimoga became once more a prey of Dhondoji who remained for 15 days plundering the inhabitants and burning the neighbouring villages.

From Shimoga Buchanan passed through Kudli, Sasivehalli, Basavapatna and reached Harihar on the 8th April 1801. The fort of Harihar contained a temple and a hundred houses of Brahmins, while the suburb contained 300 houses of other castes. Many families were found living within the walls of the temple and the area was defiled by cowdung, mud broken bricks, straw, dung-hills and other impurities. Davangere contained above 500 houses and a new bazaar was under construction. In the centre of the town was a small mud fort. Some years before, it was a poor village and its rise was owing to the encouragement given to settlers by Appaji Rao, Haidar's agent, who had obtained this place as a jahagir. Even after Appaji Rao's death, Tippu continued to give encouragement to this place and hence its rise. The country between Davangere and Chitaldrug was thinly peopled and poorly cultivated and it had also suffered from the ravages of Parasuram Bhow. Hiriyrur possessed several temples, one of which, that of Gunavathi was of considerable size. During the time of Haidar the town suffered largely from the Mahrattas and was later plundered by Parasuram Bhow. The ravages of this chief were followed by a dreadful famine which swept away most of the inhabitants. In 1799 about 50 houses had again been occupied. Some of the dealers in grain that followed the camp found their way even to this distance and plundered the wretched inhabitants. At the same time Bharamanayak a member of the old palegar family of Chitaldrug assembled some followers and entered the territories of his ancestors to try his fortune. He had constant skirmishes with the Sultan's garrison in Chitaldrug

and in each of these two or three villages were plundered by one or the other of the parties. On protection being given to the town after the fall of Seringapatam, 300 houses were rebuilt. Leaving Hiriyur on the 2nd May 1801 Buchanan passed through Muthodu and Hosadurga and reached Banavar on the 10th May.

Banavar had a mud fort and owing to its strength it had escaped from the ravages of the Mahrattas. The ruins of the palace of one of the old palegars occupied considerable space and was surrounded by a high wall which was in good repair. The buildings within however were dilapidated. On the fall of Seringapatam, an uncle of the Tarikere palegar seized the fort and remained in possession for two months and a half. But on the approach of the British detachment, his followers dispersed and the amildar who was in the neighbourhood with Candachar peons seized and hanged the palegar immediately. The country around Halebid was found deserted. The famous temple there had gone so far to decay that it could only be repaired with great difficulty. Belur had a fort built of stone and a suburb which contained about 600 houses. The Kesava temple at Belur was in good repair and was a large building which although inferior to those of Halebid was much ornamented. Near about the village of Haltoray, robbers were numerous and were of Mahratta extraction. They went in bands of 12 to 20 and possessed themselves of whatever came in their way. Murder and torture were frequently added to their other outrages. At the time of Buchanan's visit they were all in the service of the Ballum palegar and the Mysore troops were unable to prevent small parties of them from issuing out of the woods and committing occasional depredations.

At Hassan the fort was by far the best constructed of mud and rough stones and was in excellent repair. Haidar made a covered way and a central battery or cavalier which served as a tower. When Buchanan visited, there were only 500 houses in both the fort and the pettah, of which 100 were occupied by Brahmins and 20 by Jains. At this place there were scarcely any trade or manufactures. Chennarayapatna had a weekly fair and a well-built fort. In the neighbourhood was Sravanabelagola and

contained the colossal image of Gomateswara on a hill adjacent to the place and was then as now a celebrated seat of Jain worship. There was a Jain matam in the village and a handsome tank.

Buchanan reached Seringapatam on the 3rd June 1801 after his long journey and found the place recovering apace, though it was still a sink of nastiness. The suburb Shahar Ganjam was found increasing rapidly and care had been taken to form the streets wide and straight. Trade had begun to revive and considerable quantities of produce of Malabar passed that way. The lands were increasing in value and the people who had formerly deserted to adjacent districts were returning with the utmost eagerness and were reclaiming their former possessions. The climate however was very unhealthy, the Resident Colonel Close himself suffering from illness at the time.

Buchanan left Seringapatam on his return journey to Madras on the 4th June 1801. At Malavalli he found a large fort separated into two portions by a transverse wall. The upper portion inhabited by Brahmins was in good repair but the other portion was in ruins. Malavalli had been given by Haidar as a jahagir to Tippu and consequently it enjoyed considerable favour. Adjoining the town was a fine reservoir that gave a constant supply of water to a fruit garden which the Sultan had planted. This was of great extent, but the soil was poor and in some places it was indeed so bad that the trees had died and the ground had been again converted into rice fields. There were 2,400 trees of which one-half were mango trees and these were loaded with fruits at the time of Buchanan's visit. The oranges also were very fine. In the centre of the garden was a small but neat cottage from which grass-walks diverged in all directions. Halaguru was an open village which contained about 120 houses. Both during the invasions of Lord Cornwallis as well as during that of General Harris the place had been burnt. Kankanhalli was the residence of an amildar and had a petty fort. Maralvadi before the invasion of Lord Cornwallis is said to have contained 300 houses. Tippu in order to prevent it from being of use to his enemies burnt it and most of the wretched inhabitants perished from hunger and disease.

Though it was left unmolested in 1799, the place had not recovered its former prosperity containing as it did only 68 houses. On the 14th June Buchanan quitted the Mysore State and re-entering the Company's territory reached Madras on the 5th July 1801.