

## CHAPTER XLVIII.

**Appreciation of General Wellesley's work by the inhabitants of Seringapatam—His return to Europe—His letter to Purnaiya—Observations of Wellesley on some of the topics of the day.**

Major-General Wellesley left India for good in March 1805 after a stay of about eight years during which period he enhanced his reputation by a brilliant display, as we have seen, of his military genius. He was presented with a number of addresses in appreciation of his services and the one presented by the inhabitants of Seringapatam composed of independent sowcars and other persons was specially noteworthy. In this address they conveyed their deep regret for the General's departure from their midst and expressed gratitude for the tranquillity, security and happiness they enjoyed under his auspicious protection. Admiration for the brilliant exploits he had achieved and reverence for his benevolence and affability would, they said, ever remain in their hearts. Among the signatories were three of the sons of Benki Nawab who was killed at the battle of Siddeswar.

On the 4th March 1805 Wellesley replied from Fort Saint George in these terms:—"I have received your affectionate address upon the occasion of my departure for Europe and I am much gratified by the proof which it affords that my endeavours to extend to you the benefits to which the subjects of the Honourable Company are entitled under the existing regulations have been successful and that you are fully impressed with the advantages of your situation. I have had frequent opportunities of observing and reporting your loyalty to Government and I request you to be convinced that I shall not cease to feel the most lively interest in everything which concerns you."

Before his departure, Wellesley also addressed the following farewell letter dated the 2nd March 1805 to Purnaiya:—"Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm will have informed you that affairs having begun to have a more settled appearance in the Deccan, I

have obtained permission to go to England and I shall commence my voyage in a few days. I part with you with the greatest regret and I shall ever continue to feel the most lively interest for the honour and prosperity of the Government of the Raja of Mysore over which you preside.

“For six years I have been concerned in the affairs of the Mysore Government and I have contemplated with the greatest satisfaction its increasing prosperity under your administration. Experience has proved the wisdom of the arrangement which was first made of the Government of Mysore and I am convinced that under no other arrangement would it have been possible for the British Government to derive such advantages from the country which you have governed, as I have shared in the various difficulties with which we have contended since your authority was established. Every principle of gratitude, therefore, for many acts of personal kindness to myself and a strong sense of the public benefits which have been derived from your administration render me anxious for its continuance and for its increasing prosperity and in every situation in which I may be placed, you may depend upon it that I shall not fail to bear testimony of my sense of your merits upon every occasion that may offer and that I shall suffer no opportunity to pass by which I may think favourable for rendering you service.

“Upon the occasion of taking leave of you, I must take the liberty of recommending to you to persevere in the laudable path which you have hitherto followed. Let the prosperity of the country be your great object. Protect the ryots and traders and allow no man whether vested with authority or otherwise to oppress them with impunity. Do justice to every man and attend to the wholesome advice which will be given to you by the British Resident. You may depend upon it that your Government will be as prosperous and as permanent as I wish it to be.

“I recommend to your constant favour and protection Bishtopunt, Govinda Rao, Raghunatha Rao, Ranore and all the Sirdars and troops who served meritoriously with me in the last war, Seshaiyah and the harkars belonging to you who accompanied me. They are all deserving of your favour.

“ You know that for some years I have had under my protection Salabat Khan \* the supposed or adopted son of Dhondoji Wagh. I have given him a sum of money and placed him under the guardianship of the court at Seringapatam and I request you to take him into the Raja’s service hereafter, if you should find him to be worthy of your favour.

“ As a testimony of my sense of the benefits which the public have derived from your administration, of my sincere regard and of my gratitude for many acts of personal kindness and attention, I request your acceptance of my picture which will be sent to you from Bengal.”

General Wellesley’s observations on several of the topics of the day relating to Mysore are interesting even now and they are given as far as possible in his own language to preserve their freshness and directness.

**Destruction of official character.**

“ The clerks in the office at Madras not being aware, I presume, of the value of character write public letters which become public records, whereby with a stroke of their pen they deprive an officer of that valuable gem. It is very easy to misrepresent the best intentions and when they are misrepresented, I don’t see any remedy excepting a public appeal and trial which are worse than submitting to the misrepresentations.”

(Letter to Colonel Sherbrooke,  
Dated 7th September 1799).

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\* When Dhondoji was killed, Salabat Khan about 4 years old was found concealed among his baggages and taken to Arthur Wellesley who took care of him afterwards till his departure from India. The boy was then placed in the hands of Colonel J. H. Symons, Collector of Seringapatam, with some hundred pounds for his maintenance. When Symons retired, the British Resident A. H. Cole procured for him a post in the Mysore Service. He is said to have been a fine, handsome and intelligent youth. But he did not survive long having died of cholera in 1822.

**Impressment of coolies without payment.**

“Many complaints have been made by Purnaiya that the people of the country are pressed by the officers of the army to act as coolies, they are driven by the sepoy and afterwards dismissed unpaid..... I shall be obliged to you if you will give some general warning against this practice, which, if continued, will be made known to Government and will occasion its severest censures.”

(Letter to Lt.-Col. Dalrymple,

Dated 11th September 1799).

**Wardrobes to Tippu's family.**

“Since my return to this place, I have received frequent applications from the ladies of the Mahal of the late Haidar Ali and Tippu Sultan for a supply of clothes. I have, in consequence, made enquiries upon the subject and have had statements before me of what would be necessary for them for one year and the expense.

“This amounts to a sum exceeding Rs. 29000 and is about equal to the estimated amount for this article which was laid before the Commissioners for the affairs of Mysore. Notwithstanding this and that I am authorised to incur any necessary expense of this kind for the family of the late Sultan, I don't wish to incur so large an expense as this is without apprising the Governor-in-Council thereof and knowing his sentiments respecting it.”

(Letter to Josiah Webbe,

Dated 29th November 1799).

**Christian women detained in Tippu's Zenana.**

“Within these few days I have received an application from a very respectable man Pere Dubois to have returned to their husbands the wives of about 200 Christians and other unmarried Christian women whom Tippu had carried off from their husbands and friends upon different occasions when he visited the Malabar coast and Canara and who are placed and are now supposed to be in his Zenana. I have refused to comply with this request,

although the refusal is unjust, because the Company having taken this family under protection, it is not proper that anything should be done which can disgrace it in the eyes of the Indian world or which can in the most remote degree cast a shade upon the dead or violate the feelings of those who are alive. Le Pere Dubois has made another request upon this subject which I can do neither and he places it upon such strong grounds that it does not appear to me to be possible to refuse compliance. He says that the husbands of these women who were taken from them in the most tyrannical manner accompanied by acts of cruelty which it is unnecessary here to detail are desirous of marrying again, and he says that he cannot perform the marriage ceremony unless he ascertains whether their former wives are really dead. The means of ascertaining this fact are possible and therefore until they are resorted to, he will not perform the ceremony. This appears to me so reasonable that I have not thought it proper to refuse compliance and I have, accordingly, desired to have a list of the names of the Christian women still alive in the Mahal. Some difficulty has been made in giving it and I have not received it yet, but I hope to get it in a day or two. I understand that many of these women went to Vellore with the Princes and I shall be obliged to you if you will endeavour to procure a list of the names of those who are still alive. I make no doubt but that upon representing the cause of the request and upon giving an assurance that it is not intended to ask for a single woman, the good sense of the young men will induce them to grant what we are obliged to ask. I must observe that although I have given this assurance here and press you to give it at Vellore, I am by no means certain that if the matter came before the Government they would not be obliged to give up every woman of them. Justice and all our prejudices and passions are on the side of the Christians and there is nothing which can induce the Government to refrain from doing what is just excepting the consideration which I have above mentioned has weight with me, which after all is only one of policy and that not of a very urgent nature."

(Letter to Captain Doveton,

Dated 24th December 1799).

**Indifference of the people as to their Governors.**

“If we allow Scindia to be our neighbour or if the country goes to any other through his influence, we must expect worse than what has passed—thieves of all kinds, new Dhondojis and probably Dhondoji himself again. If we take the country ourselves, I do not expect much tranquillity.

“In my opinion, the extension of our territory and influence has been greater than our means. Besides, we have added to the number and description of our enemies by depriving of employment those who heretofore found it in the service of Tippu and of the Nizam. Where we spread ourselves, particularly if we aggrandise ourselves at the expense of the Mahrattas, we increase this evil. We throw out of employment and of means of subsistence all who have hitherto managed the revenue, commanded or served in the armies or have plundered the country. These people become additional enemies. At the same time by the extension of our territory, our means of supporting our Government and of defending ourselves are proportionately decreased..... As for the wishes of the people, particularly in this country, I put them out of the question. They are the only philosophers about their governors that ever I met with, if indifference constitutes that character.”

(Letter to Major Munro,  
Dated 20th August 1800).

**Dearth of Money.**

“The great want in the country is that of money. There is plenty of everything to bring it into the country. But as it is entirely cut off from the sea and has no navigable streams, there is no commerce and accordingly in many parts of the country the revenue is paid in kind and the common purchases are made by barter. As the Company will take nothing but money in payment of subsidy, I am always afraid that Government will at sometime or other be reduced to borrow upon the crops from the Madras

sharks, and the first time they do that they take a stride towards their downfall which will soon be followed by others."

(Letter to Henry Wellesley,  
Dated 10th October 1801.)

**Purnaiya's Ignorance of European Politics.**

It is impossible for a man to be more ignorant of European politics than Purnaiya is. Indeed, he does not appear to me to have had any knowledge of late orders from Europe and the proposed changes of men and measures at Madras which were so likely to affect his own situation. I attribute his salutary ignorance upon these points to his not having any communication with Madras dubashes who know everything."

(Letter to Josiah Webbe,  
Dated 27th February 1802).

**Desirability of placing Mysore under the Supreme Government.**

"In respect to Mysore, I recommend that a gentleman from the Bengal Civil Service should be Malcolm's successor there. The Government of that country should be placed under the immediate protection and superintendence of the Governor-General in Council. The Governors of Fort St. George ought to have no more to do with the Raja than they have with the Subha of the Deccan or the Peshwa. The consequence of the continuance of the existing system will be that the Raja's Government will be destroyed by corruption, or if they should not be corrupt, by calumny. I know no person either civil or military at Fort St. George who would set his face against the first evil or who has strength of character or talents to defend the Government against the second. In my opinion, the only remedy is to take the Raja under the wing of the Governor-General and this can be done effectually by appointing as Resident a gentleman of the Bengal Civil Service and by directing him to correspond only with the Governor-General. To fill this office with advantage to the public will not require any extraordinary talents when this arrangement shall be made. Good

character and decent, respectable manners will be far more important.”

(Letter to Major Shaw with the Supreme Government,  
Dated 14th January 1804.)

**Rewards to Govinda Rao and Bishtopunt questioned by Purnaiya.**

Regarding the rewards recommended by Wellesley to be given to Govinda Rao and Bishtopunt by the Supreme Government, Purnaiya took objection to the recommendations made without previous reference to the Mysore Government as they were servants of that Government. Wellesley accepted the objection and expressed his apology to Purnaiya through the British Resident.

“ I am decidedly of opinion that we ought to be very cautious in our interference with the servants of the Raja’s Government and I have always proceeded upon that principle..... I think, however, that it is not inconsistent with the principle not to interfere with the Raja’s servants to give rewards to those of them who may serve the Company usefully and with fidelity, particularly if care be taken, as it will be in these instances, to bring forward the Government of Mysore as much as possible and to provide that the rewards given shall go through the hands of the Raja’s Government and shall be dependent upon the continuance of the faithful services of the receiver and in a great measure upon pleasure of the Dewan. ....You may explain all this to him and tell him, in fact, that the business had gone so far before I received his letter that I was apprehensive if I should urge the Governor-General not to give these rewards, he would suppose Purnaiya of being insensible of the merits and services of the persons in question towards the Company or that Purnaiya was himself jealous of their services.

(Letter to Captain Wilks,  
Dated 9th September 1804.)