

## CHAPTER LIX.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar III—1811—1831.

#### Visit of the Maharaja to Chennarayapatna and other places.

On the advice of Casamaijor, Krishnaraja Wodeyar agreed that it was expedient that he should make a personal tour which alone was considered would tend to the effective subsidence of the rebellion. Accordingly His Highness set out from Mysore on the 14th December 1830 for Chennarayapatna and reached on that day the first stage Darsguppe. Casamaijor preceded His Highness by a day with Chowdiah. His Highness was accompanied by Rama Rao Bakshi of the Sowar Cutcherry, Bakshi Putta Basappaji Urs of the Sandal Cutcherry, Bakshi Dasappaji Urs of the Shagird Pasha, Babu Rao, Bakshi Bhima Rao, Annappa of the Sowar Cutcherry with 1000 Sowars and 200 of the body-guard and Mamoo Meyah, Bakshi of the Barr Cutcherry, with three battalions of infantry. The total strength of the Mysore army at this time was 4000 horse and two regiments of Barr sepoy. The discipline of these troops however was not of a high order. On the occasion of Sir Thomas Munro's visit to Mysore in 1825 when he was saluted by a body of Silledar horse, Munro finding that the word of command was given in English by a native officer who was imparting instruction to them in drill similar to that given to the Company's troops had discouraged the introduction of such drill without the previous sanction of the Madras Government and had expressed the opinion that the old Indian method of discipline was enough for the Mysore troops. Besides, these troops were ill-armed. In a Biradari or body of twelve men, half were furnished with pistols, the other half with spears and muskets and all with swords. The Raja at this time is stated to have urged upon Casamaijor the advantage of employing the subsidiary force of the Company to aid him in this difficulty. But the latter was averse to the proposal believing that the Raja should depend upon his own resources and in this view the Madras Government also concurred. As was usual at the time with the Indian princes, the Maharaja

took with him cloths, gold bracelets, necklaces and various other articles to distribute as presents among the people.

At Darsguppe a large body of ryots waited upon the Maharaja at a durbar held the next day. They represented that the renters of betel-leaf and tobacco greatly annoyed them by searching their women and children when they went to the bazaar for the purpose of selling bratties or coddung cakes and prayed that these duties might be remitted or added to the land-rent. In Purnaiya's time the Government share of the produce had been converted into cash rent at the rate of eleven fanams per candy and in some cases money rents had also been fixed on lands. The ryots now represented that as the selling rates of grain had declined there might be a reversion to the old system of payment as they had been involved in much loss. His Highness on hearing all the representations promised to allow an abatement in the duties paid but saw no reason to reduce the land-rent. On the 16th December the camp moved to Attiguppe (now Krishnarajpet). On the 17th the amildar and sheristadar of Bookankere being found guilty of embezzlement and oppression as complained by the ryots were severely punished and a new amildar was nominated. The Raja arrived at Chennarayapatna on the 18th December and found the Resident with Chowdiah already there.

The next day Casamaijor paid His Highness a visit. On his way to His Highness' tent he saw the ryots of Kickery standing in large numbers on a rising ground armed with swords, sticks and slings and also furnished with horns and drums and advised the Raja to direct the removal of the instruments which the assembled people had in their possession. Basappaji Urs carried out the instructions given to him and also brought ten people to the presence of His Highness. Among this number was one Kusappa who had formerly been a Government official but had now placed himself as a leader of the insurgents and this individual was ordered to be detained in custody. The amildar of Kickery was on enquiry found guilty of oppression and the seals of his office were accordingly taken away from him. The ryots were assured that a new amildar would enquire into all their grievances. Some of the

principal ryots were then given a repast of milk and rice in a tent and others were supplied with split pulse and jaggery with flattened rice and curds.

The next day all the ryots came in a body to obtain leave from His Highness to depart to their homes and were served with *pansupari* and were about to leave, when Venkataraj Urs arrived from Budihal. On meeting His Highness, Venkataraj Urs mentioned to him that the ryots of Budihal, Chiknaikanahalli and other places would not come to terms, that they were guilty of gross misbehaviour and that therefore no consideration should be shown to any of the malcontents. Thereupon His Highness observed that the Dewan's advice amounted to the inauguration of a new policy and that it was desirable to take the opinion of the Resident on the matter. Subsequently Venkataraj Urs returned with Chowdiah after visiting the Resident and a private consultation was then held at which Veene Venkatasubbiah, Dasappaji, Anoo Rama Rao and Tosheekhane Nanjappa were present. After about two hours, the Raja returned to the public durbar tent and sending for Bakshi Rama Rao who was a man of long experience and was acquainted with the working of the past administrations sought his advice on the message brought by Venkataraj Urs and Chowdiah from the Resident. Venkataraj Urs said that it was the Resident's opinion that without some drastic measures such as hanging, whipping, fining and confinement the insurrection might spread even to the Company's territories and that it was therefore necessary to act decisively. Chowdiah added that the Resident had said to him that the Raja was a tender-hearted man but that the necessities of the moment demanded severe action and that His Highness might entrust the whole affair to the Dewan. Rama Rao in reply expressed that he agreed with the Resident and that if permanent peace was to be established, his suggestion should be adopted. Thereupon the Raja gave orders to Venkataraj Urs, Vyas Rao, Mallaraj Urs and Seebiah to institute an enquiry into the affairs of the ryots. On the 20th December Casamaijor informed the Maharaja in writing that if a large number of persons were employed in making the enquiry each person would be talking at pleasure and the enquiry would be prolonged and that it was

desirable that His Highness should order that the Dewan and his Mutsaddies should alone conduct the enquiry and suggested also that the Dewan might wait on the Resident in the evenings and report to him all directions given by His Highness in furtherance of the enquiry. The Resident also visited the Raja and confirmed what Chowdiah had told His Highness. On the same day a durbar was held in the evening, when Chowdiah and Belvadi Subba Rao came to the durbar together with a list of persons to be executed and delivered the same to His Highness. The Raja then handed over the list to the Dewan to act according to the Resident's wishes. At this juncture Motikhane Narasinga Rao prostrating himself before His Highness urged that as the ryots were the children of the Sircar it was cruel to execute any of them and that punishments might be limited to whipping, confinement or fine. Thereupon Chowdiah is stated to have got up in anger and to have enjoined silence on the part of Narasinga Rao.

On the following day a tom-tom was sent round to proclaim that two men were to be hanged at Chennarayapatna and two at Kickery and these executions were accordingly carried out on the same day. It had been settled likewise that two persons were to be hanged at Hole-Narsipur. But one of them was reprieved at the instance of the Resident and the other was hanged. In all eight or nine persons were hanged at different places as a warning to the inhabitants against joining the cootum or seditious gathering.

On the 26th December the Raja left Chennarayapatna and made a halt at Nuggehalli. The Resident also accompanied him. At this place the amildar against whom many complaints were made was dismissed. The next stage was Mallaghatta in the Turuvekere taluk and the other stages were Sampige, Kadaba, Gubbi, Tumkur and Hebbur. In all these places the ryots were conciliated and the usual formality of distributing *pansupari* was observed. At Kadaba the amildar who was found guilty of persecuting the ryots was whipped and deprived of his office. From Hebbur the Resident proceeded to Madras and Venkataraj

Urs towards Nagar and Chitaldrug for settling the disturbances there. The royal camp moved from Hebbur to Yedeyoor and from there to Nagamangala. Mysore was reached on the 10th January 1831.