

CHAPTER LXI.

Krishnaraja Wodeyar III—1811—1831.

Visit of the Governor of Madras to Mysore—Employment of more subsidiary troops in Nagar—Transfer of the administration to the Company.

Casamaijor now found that the advice he had given to the Maharaja to adopt severe measures against the rebels at Chennarayapatna and other places had not produced the result he had anticipated. He had reported to the Madras Government on the 5th January 1831 that the Maharaja who was always averse to spill the blood of his subjects having been prevailed upon to exercise his legitimate authority and to make examples of some of the principal leaders peace and order had been restored, that the insurrection had been put an end to, and that the ryots had begun to pay their taxes willingly and quietly. As a matter of fact, however, the severe measures adopted at Chennarayapatna were found to have further inflamed the minds of the people and to have induced many of them to throw in their lot with the pategars. The Government of Madras found that far from quiet having been established, the discontent of the people in South Canara also had become intensified and that the pategars had by enlisting adherents in the Company's territories kept up the agitation. Some obstruction to trade with Bangalore which was a military station was also caused by the adherents of the pategars. S. R. Lushington, the Governor of Madras, now thought that it was necessary that he should pay a personal visit to Mysore and satisfy himself regarding the real situation. He arrived at Mysore on the 1st May 1831 and at the interview which followed, His Highness urged on the Governor the inadequacy of the number of Mysore troops to suppress a scattered rising like the one that was going on and the advisability of employing the full strength of the subsidiary force. It was then settled that more of the subsidiary force should be used and that the Resident and the Dewan should proceed to Nagar and that the latter should be invested with full powers to grant cowls and to carry out every

measure deemed essential for establishing peace, especially in the northern taluks of the Nagar Division.

On the 10th May the Resident applied to the Maharaja from a place called Gandasi that he should be authorised to issue cowls in his own name and the Maharaja agreed to the proposal. On the requisition of the Resident at this time, besides the two regiments of native infantry and a brigade of light guns which had already been employed on this service, there were now added a third regiment of infantry, a squadron of native cavalry, two companies of the King's 62nd Regiment and a brigade of 12 pounders. Casamaijor arrived at Holehonnur on the 19th May where he learnt that the adherents of the Tarikere palegars were creating disturbances at Mandagadde and that they had established their headquarters at Luckwalli. He accordingly sent Major Clemons with some Mysore troops also to Luckwalli, together with a cowl neroop. On Major Clemons reaching Luckwalli, there was some fight between his troops and the palegar's men. But the latter after a time quitted the fort and fled, the palegar Rangappa Naik being one of them. This was on the 22nd May and a garrison of 150 Mysore troops with one gun was established at the place. Major Clemons then proceeded towards Mandagadde and on his approach the palegar's men fled into the jungles. The British troops, however, remained at this place for several days for the purpose of establishing confidence among the people in the neighbourhood.

On the 22nd May Casamaijor left Holehonnur and reached a place called Gopala near Shimoga and halted there for eight days to collect supplies for the army and to wait for the Company's regiment. The troops were now divided into five detachments, each consisting of about 1000 men and one detachment was allotted to each of the following places—Nagar, Chandragutty, Shikarpur, Tarikere and Wastara. Annappa was invested with general powers of supervision over all the detachments. Casamaijor then resuming his journey preceded the remainder of the force by one march, inviting the people by conciliatory proclamations to meet him on the march and promising redress of their grievances. Two of the persons employed by the

Resident in circulating the conciliatory proclamations were found murdered and lying close to the road traversed by this force with the proclamations torn open lying by their side apparently in disregard of the authority which issued them. On Casamaijor's arrival at Nagar some of the palegar's people, a few ryots and a number of Halepykas or local militia who were in the fort fled from there and retired into the jungle.

On the 11th June Rochfort was sent to Anantapur to reassure the ryots and to make a proper settlement. Here it was found that the ryots were ready to return to their homes but were afraid of being murdered or of their houses being burnt by the palegar's people. Major Clemons who was also deputed on an errand similar to that of Rochfort fell in at a village called Gouja with a picket of 12 men who on seeing him rushed into the jungle, where they joined the main body. Clemons thereupon taking off his sword and leaving it behind, proceeded unarmed to where the gathering was in order to convince them that his errand was a pacific one. On reaching the main body, Clemons observed considerable symptoms of suspicion and distrust, which he succeeded in disarming by requesting a Pathan who had his matchlock pointed close to him with a match in one hand, to allow him to light his cigar, offering him one at the same time and the effect of this act of courtesy seemed immediately to alter their feeling from one of distrust to that of confidence in him as a friend. He was invited by some of the people to seat himself on a mat which was spread for him and was treated with every respect. Clemons after hearing all their grievances promised to use every effort in his power with the Resident and the Dewan to obtain for them a cowl guaranteeing to them their lives and property if they returned quietly to their villages.

Another commander of a body of subsidiary troops Captain Cameron had as desired by the Resident proceeded to give protection to the taluks of Chikmagalur and Wastara about the latter end of May 1831. Some days before, Hanumappa Naik, son of Rangappa Naik, with 2000 adherents had invested the fort of Chikmagalur. One night after the fort gates had been closed, the

palegar's men approached the ditch around the fort and the sentries who were on the watch opened fire on them, when they retreated a short distance. The Killedar then mounting the bastion of the fort opened fire on them, when the enemy moved forward and surrounded the fort. Thereupon the amildar of the taluk sent for all the public servants and some of the civil inhabitants also and urged them to courage and activity in defence of the town as the only means of preserving their lives and property. As a result, all the adult male inhabitants of the town of every class and caste mounted the ramparts and defended the fort with such energy and courage that several of the palegar's people were killed or wounded and the survivors fled towards Wastara carrying with them the wounded and the dead. Subsequently Cameron on proceeding to Wastara found that an attempt had been made to take that place but on his approach the palegar's men withdrew into the jungles.

In the meanwhile, the Resident and the Dewan interviewed a large number of ryots at Nagar and came to a settlement with them that the taxes should be collected only on cultivated land while remissions were to be allowed on all waste lands and that no 'Bitty' or unpaid work was to be exacted by the officials for their private purposes. On the 30th May the Madras Government was informed by Casamaijor that the measures he had adopted since his arrival at Shimoga for the restoration of tranquillity promised the most favourable result and that the contingent of the subsidiary force would not be long required. On the 12th June the Resident believing that there would be no further use for any large number of the Company's troops kept only 300 sepoy's under the command of Captain Clemons and sent the rest away to Bangalore and Harihar before the monsoon rains began. At the end of June, however, it was found that the conciliatory measures adopted had not established the anticipated peace and the Raja was informed that the patels and others were still under the influence of the palegar and that the latter's men were committing great outrages in total disregard of the proclamations circulated. About the middle of July, the Resident and the Dewan returned to Mysore judging that tranquillity had been sufficiently restored to enable them to do so, although the Maharaja in a written communication to the Resident

expressed the fear that as the palegars were still at large the return of the Resident and the Dewan as well as of the Company's troops would, inadequate as the Mysore troops were, afford occasions for fresh outbreaks on the part of the rebels.

Later, information having reached the Maharaja that the Nagar Pretender had fled to the country of the Nizam, Annappa was directed to discover his whereabouts. The spies sent out brought information that the palegar had placed himself under the protection of a jahagirdar in the Nizam's territory and that one Siddaramiah an adherent of the palegar was marching towards the Mysore frontier on a marauding expedition with a body of infantry and horse. The Collector of Dharwar having also received intelligence of this expedition issued orders to his subordinates to be on the look out for the enemy. But the marauders succeeded in reaching Savanoor. As desired by the Sub-Collector of Dharwar, Annappa sent a body of his troops to Savanoor who defeated the palegar's men and captured Siddaramiah, though the palegar himself was not found. According to the Sub-Collector's instructions, Siddaramiah was delivered over to the Company's troops and his followers were driven beyond the Company's frontiers. About this time Annappa received information that the administration of Mysore had been transferred to the Company's hands.

FOURTH PERIOD

The Days of the British Commission up to the
death of Krishnaraja Wodeyar III.

1831—1868