

CHAPTER LXVII.

Thomas Babington (afterwards Lord) Macaulay's visit to Mysore—Colonel Mark Cubbon (afterwards Sir) appointed sole Commissioner—His treatment of the palegars—Abolition of the Residency.

Thomas Babington Macaulay, the famous English author who had been appointed Law Member of the Supreme Council of India, arrived at Madras on the 10th June 1834 and travelled through the Mysore State to meet Lord William Bentinck who at the time was staying on the Nilgiri hills for recruiting his health. Macaulay left Madras on the afternoon of the 17th June in a palanquin with a following of 38 persons. His personal servant was a half-caste catholic and Macaulay has recorded that on the day they set out, this servant crossed himself and turning up the whites of his eyes recommended himself to the protection of his patron saint and then assured his master that he was quite confident that they would perform their journey in safety. On the morning of the 19th June, Macaulay crossed the Mysore frontier and reached Bangalore on the 20th of the same month and rested there for 3 days in the house of Colonel Cubbon who was then the Commandant of the place. He next proceeded to Seringapatam travelling all night and found himself at the place the next morning. Here he was met by an officer of the Residency who had been deputed to show him all that was to be seen. He found the town depopulated, but the fortress remained entire. On entering the town he found everything silent and desolate. The palace of Tippu had fallen into utter ruin. The courts were found completely overrun with weeds and flowers but the hall of audience once considered the finest in India still retained some very faint traces of its magnificence.

During his stay at Mysore, Macaulay had an interview with the Maharaja who showed all his wardrobe and picture gallery including a picture of the Duke of Wellington, the old Colonel Arthur Wellesley who commanded the garrison at Seringapatam during Purnaiya's time. While at Mysore, an amusing incident occurred which may be given in Macaulay's own words;—"I alighted at a

bungalow appertaining to the British Residency. There I found an Englishman who without any preface accosted me thus: 'Pray, Mr. Macaulay, do you think that Bonaparte was the Beast?' 'No, Sir, I cannot say that I do: 'Sir, he was the Beast; I can prove it. I have found the number 666 in his name.' 'Why, Sir, if he was not the Beast, who was?' This was a puzzling question and I am not a little vain of my answer. 'Sir,' said I, 'the House of Commons is the Beast. There are 658 members of the House; and these with their chief officers,—the three clerks, the Sergeant and his deputy, the Chaplain, the door-keeper and the librarian—make 666.' 'Well, Sir, that is strange. But I can assure you that if you write Napoleon Bonaparte in Arabic leaving out only two letters, it will give 666.' 'And pray, Sir, what right have you to leave out two letters? And as St. John was writing Greek and to Greeks, is it not likely that he would use the Greek rather than the Arabic notation?' 'But Sir,' said this learned divine, 'everybody knows that Greek letters were never used to mark numbers.' I answered with the meekest look and voice possible—'I do not think that everybody knows that. Indeed, I have reason to believe that a different opinion, erroneous no doubt, is universally embraced by all the small minority who happen to know any Greek.' So ended the controversy.

On the evening of the 24th June he was again on the road and about noon on the following day he began to ascend the Nilgiris. When he reached the summit, the view burst on him of an amphitheatre of green hills encircling a small lake whose banks were dotted with red-tiled cottages surrounding a pretty Gothic church and the largest house there was occupied by the Governor-General. At the time Macaulay saw Bentinck, he found him sitting by a fire in a carpeted library. The whole distance of about 400 miles from Madras to Ootacmund was travelled in a palanquin on men's shoulders.

The constant differences of opinion between the two Commissioners and the unpleasantness created thereby to the Supreme Government had reached the ears of the Court of Directors in England and in a despatch dated 6th March 1833 to

the Governor-General they expressed the opinion that two Commissioners with equal powers appointed by two different Governments, the one a military and the other a civil servant could hardly be expected to act harmoniously together and that an officer appointed by one Government and accountable to another was also not likely to give satisfaction. It was unfortunate, the Court of Directors further said, that two officers were appointed where one if properly selected and allowed the number of assistants necessary to relieve him from the burden of details would not only have been sufficient but preferable and especially when all the necessary qualities could be found in one man, unity in the directing head had numerous advantages. They further directed that as soon as an opportunity offered itself, instead of a Commission of two members a single functionary properly qualified and aided by the requisite number of European assistants should be appointed under the superintendence of the Government by which he was appointed. Within a little more than a year after Briggs had left Bangalore for Nagpur, the change in the constitution of the Mysore Commission to which Lord William Bentinck was so averse was made in compliance with the peremptory orders of the Court of Directors. Macleod the Junior Commissioner left the Mysore Service in February 1834 and Colonel Cubbon was appointed in his stead. Later Colonel W. Morison having been made a member of the Supreme Council in June 1834, Cubbon took his place as sole Commissioner without the encumbrance of any Board or colleague. In the same month Casamaijor was transferred to the Residency of Travancore.

Cubbon was the son of a clergyman and was born in the Isle of Man in 1785. After receiving what was regarded as an indifferent education, he was appointed in his 16th year a cadet in India through the influence of his uncle Major Wilks and was at first attached to the 2nd. Madras Battalion. In 1810 he was appointed to the Commissariat Department at Hunsur in the Mysore State and in the following year he was given the place of assistant Commissary-General which, he himself declared, was a distinction far above his rank or claim on the service. In 1827 he became Commissary-General. Lord William Bentinck appointed

him a member of the Committee which investigated the cause of the insurrection, and after the conclusion of that work he succeeded John Macleod as Junior Commissioner and when Morison was appointed as member of the Supreme Council at Calcutta, Cubbon succeeded him as sole Commissioner of Mysore on the 6th June 1834 and continued in the same office till March 1861 without interruption.

During the early period of Cubbon's career, some of the pategars created trouble. These pategars were generally not content with the position assigned to them. The pategar of Tarikere, Surjappa Naik, as has been already stated, continued in opposition till 1834, when he was caught and hanged. In May 1835 Belagutti Thimmappa Naik and Mariappa Naik installed the son of the former named Digambarappa as pategar of Belagutti in the present Honnali taluk and forced several of the inhabitants to pay homage to him. But these malcontents had no large following and no serious result accrued. In 1849 a member of the family of the pategar of Chitaldrug attempted to raise a rebellion. But the rising was easily suppressed as no interest was evinced in the family by the people in general. Cubbon however pursued a generous policy towards these men of bygone greatness in contrast to that adopted by Lt.-Col. Briggs. Cubbon while allowing these pategars moderate stipends for their maintenance encouraged them also to take to profitable occupations in life. A leading member of each pategar family was required to live at Bangalore under light surveillance.

After Lord Ellenborough became Governor-General, the question arose as to the necessity of maintaining a separate Resident in Mysore when the Commissioner was available to undertake his duties. It may be stated here that when Mysore was placed under the British Commission, generally speaking, the Maharaja found the Residents more sympathetic towards him than the Commissioners. On the transfer of Casamajor to Travancore in 1834 his place was taken by Colonel J. S. Fraser in June of the same year, to whom was entrusted the charge of the Coorg country also which had become a British possession. This latter officer was quite straightforward in his conduct and was a true and sympathetic

friend of the Maharaja. In 1836 in a letter addressed to the Governor of Madras he plainly wrote regarding the suspension of the Maharaja's rule:—"Our system of non-interference or at least of abstinence from regular and well-considered guidance in his youth did the mischief and then we pounced upon the prey which our policy had driven into toils." Again in a letter addressed to Major Stokes who had taken his place in 1836, in expressing his opinion which he had been invited to give regarding the privilege claimed by Krishnaraja Wodeyar of settling all disputes and other matters of whatever nature among the Rajbindees who were all his kinsmen, Fraser stated that such a right belonged to the Maharaja. "With respect to the abstract right of the Raja," said General Fraser, "to exercise this authority, it may be difficult perhaps to form a clear and unexceptionable opinion. His right as to marriages, the adoption of children and other caste usages could hardly, I think, admit of a doubt. The division or disposal of property may be more questionable. But to express a definite opinion on the subject I should know, what I do not know, the position in which the Raja stands. Is he or is he not ever to have his country restored to him? If we are merely, as I believe we profess to be doing, administering the country until we bring it into good order and secure ourselves from eventual future loss but still regarding the Raja as the de jure ruler and sovereign of the country, I have no hesitation in saying that I think we ought to concede to him the privilege you have alluded to in its utmost extent. Delicacy and the respect due to his rank and station demand it; and it is rendered proper, I conceive, and almost indispensable, by every consideration referring to the relative position in which he and the Rajbindees will hereafter stand towards each other. But if he is never to be re-seated on the musnud and is to remain for life but a wretched and powerless dependant on our bounty, the necessity for which I now contend might perhaps not be so imperative. But even in this event, under the circumstances of the case, I would concede to him the right in question and I would not hesitate to recommend this measure to the Supreme Government. I should think it was by no means more than was due to this most unfortunate and (I cannot but think) hardly used prince. But I think that the event alluded to is hardly

to be contemplated, and in that case every motive for conceding this authority to him would necessarily press upon me with ten-fold force. Either as Resident or Commissioner these, I think, would be my sentiments and this my course of proceeding." Colonel R. D. Stokes was equally a good friend of the Maharaja and left Mysore for his native country when the Residency was abolished from the 1st January 1843 and his duties were thereafter combined with those of the Commissioner.

The abolition of the Residency was very unwillingly accepted by the Maharaja and the friction that existed in administrative matters between him and the Commissioner by no means abated in the early years of the abolition. As an illustration, it may be stated that when Cubbon sent a requisition for the attendance at Bangalore of three of the principal officers of the Maharaja's household for examination as witnesses at the Huzur Adalat court, the Maharaja protested against such requisition and said that it was derogatory to him to call Arsus closely related to him and holding important offices to attend the Adalat in person. It was open, His Highness further said, to hold the examination in the place where they were by means of interrogatories or through the European Superintendent of the Ashtagram Division. On Cubbon however insisting upon their attendance, the Maharaja desired that they should be received at Bangalore with the military honours due to their rank and that they should be examined by the Commissioner himself and not by any of the judges of the Adalat court. In course of time however, the abolition of the Residency brought the Commissioner in his capacity as Resident into closer relations with the Maharaja and their acquaintance became more intimate and in 1861 when Cubbon finally left the State for his own country, no one regreted his departure more sincerely than Krishnaraja Wodeyar.