

CHAPTER LXVIII.

**Some early administrative changes and improvements—
Visit of Lord Dalhousie—End of the patriarchal system of
Government—Some men of Cubbon's time—Attempted
transfer of Mysore to the control of the Madras
Government.**

Cubbon when he became sole Commissioner was vested with all the powers which the Maharaja exercised, subject to the control of the Supreme Government. The first assistant to the Commissioner discharged the duties of Secretary in all branches of the administration both of Mysore as well as of Coorg and was also employed as his personal assistant. The four Superintendents each with an assistant combined in their several territorial limits the duties of judge, magistrate and revenue collector. There was a military assistant who in addition to the duties of his office performed also the work of an inspecting officer of both the cavalry and infantry. The second, third and fourth assistants were, as a general rule, employed by the Commissioner in his own office in those branches of the administration for which each was suited. There were also two other junior assistants, one to carry on the minor duties of the former Resident and the other to be employed where the absence or sickness of any member of the Commission rendered his services necessary.

Subject to the control of the Commissioner in all respects but working independently of the Secretariat, there came to exist the following offices which corresponded to the modern Departments:—

1. The Revenue.
2. The Post.
3. The Police.
4. The Public Works.
5. The Military.
6. The Medical.
7. The Public Cattle.
8. The Judicial.
9. The Public Instruction.

The head of the first office was a head Sheristadar whose duties were similar to those of the former Dewan in his revenue capacity. The heads of the Anche, Kandachar and of the Sowar and Barr were called Bakshis. The post of the Sowar Bakshi was abolished in 1839 and that of the Kandachar Bakshi in 1841. The remaining

five departments were under the control of Europeans who were styled Superintendents in the Maramat, Medical and Amrut Mahal departments, Judicial Commissioner in the judicial and Director in the public instruction sections.

The country was divided into four divisions instead of six Foujdaries. The number of taluks was reduced by amalgamating some of the smaller ones with others. The Superintendents of Divisions were invested with very large powers and all Amildars were allowed to communicate direct with the Commissioner.

The Double Duftar was abolished and either Marathi or Kanada became the sole language of official correspondence in every taluk office. One of the two languages was used in letters between the offices of the Superintendents. All accounts and reports submitted to the Commissioner's office were in Marathi as far as possible. But the practice of sending them in Kanada became gradually general.

Publicity in the proceedings of the Government was secured by notifications, circulars and proclamations. Rules and regulations were put up in conspicuous places in Kanada. Circulars on matters of general importance were sent to the Superintendents and the Amildars. Proclamations were reserved for serious purposes and were often accompanied by elaborate ceremonial. The people, on the one side, were free to bring charges of corruption, incapacity or other serious laches against the officials on condition that they furnished security to prove their veracity and the Amildars or other officials, on the other side, were given assurance that they might depend upon the support of Government in prosecuting malicious libellers. The Commissioner declared his willingness to welcome representations of real grievances either by petition or in person, adding at the same time that he would punish all unlawful gatherings or the spreading of false reports or attempts to terrorise officials.

Lord Dalhousie the Governor-General visited Mysore in 1855 and soon after several changes were introduced. These changes were, it may be stated, not exclusive to Mysore but were

common to all parts of India and arose out of the renewal of the Company's charter in 1854. The period of Dalhousie's visit to Mysore or the year 1855-56 may be considered to have marked the termination of the exclusively patriarchal and personal system of Government. For the first time from 1856-57 commenced the publication of the annual report of the administration. Prior to 1854 all accounts were kept in canteroi pagodas. In that year under Dalhousie's orders the old system of calculation was abandoned and a new one based on the Company's currency was instituted commencing from 1855.

Under the orders of the same authority, Tippu's Summer Palace at Seringapatam known as the Daria Dowlat was repaired and re-painted in November 1855. The work which was almost entirely of an artistic character, namely, re-painting the picture of Baillie's defeat and renewal of the interior paintings were completed in a little over 3 years at a cost of Rs. 37,000. In 1859 the inlaid doors of the tombs of Haidar and Tippu at Seringapatam were replaced and other improvements were also made. The famous Hoysala temple at Halebid, a work of exquisite art, also received attention.

Babu Rao having died in 1834, the Dewan's office was amalgamated with that of the Commissioner and an officer with the designation of Huzur Head Sheristadar was placed in charge of this branch. Kollam Venkata Rao of Travancore was appointed to this place and the designation of his office was changed to that of Native Assistant to the Commissioner. Venkata Rao went to Travancore as Dewan in 1838 but reverted to the Mysore Service in 1840. Morison on the eve of his departure in 1834 described Venkata Rao as a public servant whose labours were always found ready in promoting the public interests. Colonel Fraser who was Resident in Mysore described him as a man of energy, capacity particularly in the Revenue Department, with conciliatory and gentlemanly manners. Venkata Rao died in 1843 and a chatram or rest-house in the Bangalore city even now bears his name. Kola Krishnamma Naidu was appointed in 1844 as Huzur Head Sheristadar which name was revived on the death of Kollam

Venkata Rao. He had previously for sometime served as the head of the English Department in the palace and next as a Munsiff under the British Commission. Krishnamma Naidu held the place of Head Sheristadar till 1858 and was succeeded by his brother Vijayarangam Naidu who vacated it in 1866. Seshagiri Rao of Cochin was the first judge of the Huzur Adalat, of whom Morison recorded that he had never known any native so completely independent in the performance of his public duties.

Early in 1860 an intention was expressed to transfer Mysore to the supervision of the Madras Government from that of the Supreme Government. This transfer was distasteful to Krishnaraja Wodeyar and His Highness wrote to Cubbon on the 15th March of the same year that the transfer of Mysore to the supervision of a subordinate Government like that of Madras was a breach, if not the letter, certainly of the spirit of his treaty with Lord Mornington and nothing would exact from him acquiescence to this measure. The step was also distasteful to Cubbon and he tendered his resignation. The Maharaja also sent a letter of protest to Lord Canning and the latter in a letter addressed to His Highness on the 30th March 1860 gave an assurance that the sentiments expressed by His Highness would always command his respectful attention and intimated that he had suspended the execution of the transfer. Canning then referred the matter to the Secretary of State in England with the observation that the appeal for not introducing any change, coming as it did from so venerable and loyal a Prince as Krishnaraja Wodeyar, deserved consideration. Canning also further said that the Maharaja of Mysore possessed a strong claim to have his feelings and wishes considered by the British Government and that it was ungenerous and impolitic to set them aside. Thereupon the old arrangement was allowed to continue.

Cubbon's favourite retreat was Nandidoorg where he spent several months in the year and a house built by him for his residence overlooking the whole plain around is even now maintained in excellent order by the Mysore Government for the benefit of visitors resorting to this hill to improve their health. Cubbon was intensely conservative and passionately fond of horses and kept

up to fifty or more, chiefly Arabs, in his stables as pets. He was particular in enforcing the observance of Sunday as a day of rest in all courts and offices and did not receive native visitors on that day. Lady Canning the Governor-General's wife and her companion the Hon. Mrs. Stuart visited Bangalore in 1858 and recorded their impressions of him. Mrs. Stuart's account is in these words:—
“At seven in the morning (22nd March) drove up through the lines of the 60th Rifles to General Cubbon's charming bungalow at Bangalore. We found the whole house prepared for us, the chivalrous old man of 74 having put himself into a tent. He is a very handsome, keen-eyed, intelligent man, and the quantity of anecdotes of the deepest interest which he has told us has been more entertaining than I can describe.” Lady Canning writing from Nandidoorg said:—“I am visiting a charming old General, Sir Mark Cubbon, 1500 feet above the table-land of Bangalore and with a view over about 150 miles of the country on all sides. It is cool fresh air and a very pleasant spot and the old gentleman is very delightful. He has been all this century in India but seems to know all that has gone on all over the world and is almost the most grand seigneur old man I almost ever saw.”