

Rare section

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Bennrose, Colln., Derby.

TEMPLES AND GHAT ABOVE LAKE, LONAR.

3

Rare section

CENTRAL PROVINCES
DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

BULDANA DISTRICT

VOLUME A
DESCRIPTIVE

EDITED BY A. E. NELSON, I.C.S.



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PREFATORY NOTE.

The Tāluk Reports of the original settlement were written by Major Anderson (Malkāpur and Khāmgaon) and by Captain Elphinstone (Jalgaon, Mehkar and Chikhli), and those of the revision settlement by Mr. F. W. Francis. The old Berār Gazetteer (1870) by Sir A. C. Lyall is a work of permanent value, and quotations from it have been freely inserted in this Volume. Large extracts have also been taken from Mr. E. J. Kitts' Census Report of 1881, which is still the main authority for the castes and religion of Berār. Part of Chapter I and a few of the articles in the Appendix have been written by Mr. Wilson, I.C.S. Mr. Fermor of the Geological Survey is responsible for the articles on Geology and Minerals. Chapter II, History and Archæology, is the work of Major Haig. The Sections on Botany, Wild Animals and Forests are based entirely on notes supplied by Mr. Shrinivāsulu Naidu, Divisional Forest Officer. The Chapter on Agriculture is from the pen of Mr. Clouston, Deputy-Director of Agriculture. Mr. Currie, Deputy Commissioner, has contributed the Chapter on General Administration (IX) and has also read the whole book through in proof. The Editor is also indebted for information on various subjects to Mr. Dāmle, Pleader of Buldāna, and Mr. L. G. Deshpānde, Extra Assistant Commissioner. Mr. Hīra Lāl, Assistant Superintendent of Gazetteer, has given much assistance in the compilation of the Volume.

A. E. N.

NAGPUR :
30th June, 1909.

BULDANA DISTRICT GAZETTEER.

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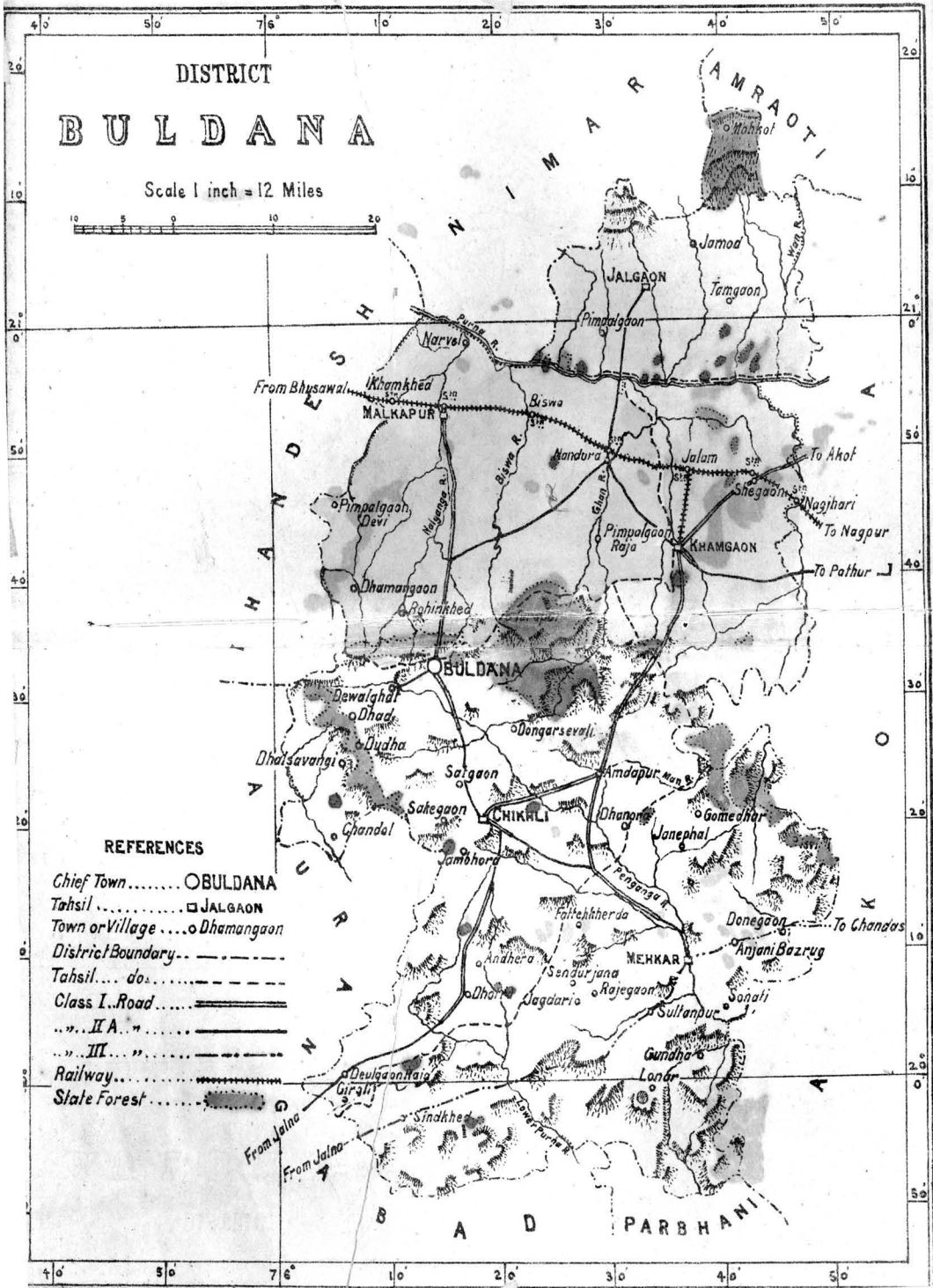
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DISTRICT BULDANA

Scale 1 inch = 12 Miles



REFERENCES

- Chief Town ○ BULDANA
- Tahsil □ JALGAON
- Town or Village ○ Dhamangaon
- District Boundary
- Tahsil do
- Class I. Road = = =
- II A = = =
- III = = =
- Railway - - - - -
- State Forest [Hatched Pattern]

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List of Deputy Commissioners who have held charge of the Buldāna District, with the dates of their periods of office.

NAMES.		PERIOD.	
		From	To
North Berār.	1. Mr. T. H. Bullock ..	1853	13-9-1857
	2. Captain Meadows Taylor	14-9-1857	End of Feb., 1858
	Mr. T. H. Bullock ..	End of Feb. 1858	End of Dec., 1858
	3. Captain J. G. Hamilton	Jan. 1859	..
	4. Lieut. J. G. Bell ..	1861	..
	5. Captain J. Stubbs ..	1862	20-5-1864
	4. Captain J. G. Bell ..	21-5-1864	1866
	6. Major J. Allardyce ..	Jan. 1867	27-3-1868
	7. Mr. C. Hordern ..	28-3-1868	27-3-1869
	8. Mr. Taj-ud-din Husain	28-3-1869	5-4-1869
	9. Captain H. C. Menzies	6-4-1869	31-7-1869
	10. Captain K. J. L. Mackenzie	1-8-1869	21-1-1870
	Major J. Allardyce ..	22-1-1870	9-3-1872
	11. Mr. A. Elliott	10-3-1872	11-3-1872
	12. Captain A. Farrer ..	12-3-1872	7-4-1872
	13. Captain R. Bullock ..	8-4-1872	6-11-1872
	14. Major R. H. Hudleston	7-11-1872	17-4-1876
	15. Lieut.-Col. J. T. Bushby	18-4-1876	25-4-1879
	16. Major R. S. Thompson..	26-4-1879	25-7-1879
	Lieut.-Col. J. T. Bushby	26-7-1879	24-9-1880
Major R. S. Thompson..	25-9-1880	6-10-1880	
17. Mr. A. J. Dunlop ..	7-10-1880	31-12-1880	
Lieut.-Col. J. T. Bushby	1-1-1881	29-3-1881	
18. Mr. H. B. Knowlys ..	30-3-1881	6-7-1881	
Lieut.-Col. J. T. Bushby	7-7-1881	11-9-1881	
Mr. H. B. Knowlys ..	12-9-1881	24-10-1881	
19. Lieut.-Col. D. W. Laughton	25-10-1881	23-12-1881	
Lieut.-Col. J. T. Bushby	24-12-1881	31-12-1881	
Lieut.-Col. D. W. Laughton	1-1-1882	6-4-1882	
Colonel H. C. Menzies ..	7-4-1882	6-11-1884	
Major R. S. Thompson..	7-11-1884	16-11-1884	

NAMES.	PERIOD.	
	From	To
Colonel H. C. Menzies ..	17-11-1884	19-6-1885
20. Lieut.-Col. J. FitzGerald	20-6-1885	3-10-1885
Colonel H. C. Menzies ..	4-10-1885	21-6-1886
21. Mr. H. S. Nicholetts ..	22-6-1886	20-8-1886
22. Lieut.-Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	21-8-1886	17-11-1886
Lieut.-Col. R. S. Thomp- son	18-11-1886	7-4-1887
23. Mr. R. Obbard, I.C.S. ..	8-4-1887	22-9-1887
Mr. H. S. Nicholetts ..	23-9-1887	26-11-1888
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	27-11-1888	4-2-1889
Mr. R. Obbard, I.C.S. ..	5-2-1889	19-2-1889
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	20-2-1889	2-8-1889
24. Mr. Muhammad Yasin Khan	3-8-1889	4-11-1889
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	5-11-1889	15-11-1889
Mr. Muhammad Yasin Khan	16-11-1889	19-12-1889
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	20-12-1889	21-5-1891
Mr. Muhammad Yasin Khan	22-5-1891	14-6-1891
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	15-6-1891	4-6-1892
25. Kumar Shri Harbhamji Rawaji	5-6-1892	5-7-1892
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	6-7-1892	19-3-1893
26. Col. E. J. Gunthorpe ..	20-3-1893	30-11-1893
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	1-12-1893	14-4-1894
Kumar Shri Harbhamji Rawaji	15-4-1894	14-6-1894
Col. H. C. A. Szcze- panski	15-6-1894	23-8-1894
27. Mr. H. Godwin-Austen	24-8-1894	24-12-1894
28. Major W. Hastings ..	25-12-1894	21-9-1895
29. Lieut. D. O. Morris ..	22-9-1895	21-10-1895
30. Mr. F. W. A. Prideaux ..	22-10-1895	8-12-1895

NAMES.	PERIOD.	
	From	To
31. Captain R. P. Colomb ..	9-12-1895	31-3-1898
Mr. H. Godwin-Austen..	1-4-1898	14-7-1898
32. Mr. Rustomji Faridoonji	15-7-1898	16-10-1898
Mr. H. Godwin-Austen	17-10-1898	22-7-1900
Major R. P. Colomb ..	23-7-1900	9-7-1901
Mr. Rustomji Faridoonji	10-7-1901	3-9-1902
33. Munshi Aziz-ud-din ..	4-9-1902	18-9-1902
Mr. Rustomji Faridoonji	19-9-1902	15-3-1903
34. Captain T. C. Plowden..	16-3-1903	1-4-1903
Kumar Shri Harbhamji Rawaji	2-4-1903	31-8-1905
35. Major R. P. Horsbrugh	1-9-1905	13-3-1906
36. Mr. B. Clay	14-3-1906	15-11-1906
37. Mr. F. L. Crawford ..	16-11-1906	25-5-1907
Lieut.-Col. R. P. Colomb	26-5-1907	7-11-1908
38. Mr. A. C. Currie ..	8-11-1908	..

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER OF TALUKS, TOWNS, IMPOR-
TANT VILLAGES, RIVERS AND HILLS.

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER OF TALUKS, TOWNS, IMPORTANT VILLAGES, RIVERS AND HILLS.

Ajantā¹ (or Inhyādri) Hills.—The southern portion of the Buldāna District is covered by the Ajantā hills. This range, also called the Chāndor, Sātmāla, or Inhyārdi hills, and Sahyādrīparbat in Hyderābād territory, consists of a series of basalt pinnacles and ridges of the same geological formation as the Western Ghāts, from which it breaks off at right angles near Bhanvād in Nāsik District (Bombay) and runs nearly due east, with a general elevation of 4000 feet or more, for about 50 miles, to near Manmād, where there is a wide gap through which the Great Indian Peninsula Railway passes. From Ankai, south of Manmād, the range runs eastwards at a lower level for about 20 miles, widening into the small tableland of Rājāpur. At Kāsāri there is a second gap, from which the hills run north-eastwards for about 50 miles, dividing Khāndesh District from Aurangābād, to near Ajantā. Thence they again turn eastwards into Berār, entering the Buldāna District, and pass on into Akolā and Yeotmāl. The Hyderābād Districts of Parbhani and Nizāmābād are traversed by the southern section of the range, locally called Sahyādrīparbat. The length of the latter is about 150 miles, and of the section called Ajantā about 100. The range forms the northern wall of the Deccan tableland, and the watershed between the Godāvāri and Tāpti valleys, rising in parts of Berār into

¹ The article on the Ajantā range is a reprint from the Imperial Gazetteer.

peaks of over 2000 feet in height. The old routes followed by traders and invading armies from Gujarāt and Mālhwā enter the Deccan at the Manmād and Kāsāri gaps, and at the passes of Gaotāla and Ajantā. At the last-named place in the Nizām's Dominions, are the famous Buddhist cave-temples of Ajantā. The range is studded with hill forts, most of which were taken from the Peshwā's garrisons in 1818. The most notable points are Mārkinda (4384 feet), a royal residence as early as A.D. 808, overlooking the road into Bāglān, and facing the holy hill of Saptashring (4659 feet); Rauliyā-Jauliyā, twin forts taken by the Mughals in 1635; Dhodap, the highest peak in the range (4741 feet); Tudrai (4526 feet); Chāndur, on the north side of the Manmād gap; Ankai, to the south of the same; Mānikpunj, on the west side of the Kāsāri gap; and Kanhira, overlooking the Pātna or Gaotāla pass. The drainage of the hills, which in Bombay are treeless save for a little scrub jungle in the hollows at their feet, feed a number of streams that flow northwards into the Girnā or southwards into the Godāvāri. Beyond Bombay the hills are well wooded and picturesque, and abound in game. In Hyderābād they form the retreats of the aboriginal tribes, and in Yeotmāl District are peopled by Gonds, Pārdhāns and Kolāms, as well as by Hindus. The hills are mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* under the name of Sahiā or Sahsā.

Amrapur.—A thriving village in the Chikhlī tāluk, situated 14 miles west of Chikhlī on the road to Khāmgaon. The population in 1901 was 3174; its area is 11,076 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 8662. There are Urdū and Marāthī schools and a police Station-house. A weekly bazar is held but the trade is of little importance. On the summit of a small hill about half a mile to the south of the village stands a fine modern temple dedicated to Bhawāni, of whom there is an image



COLOSSAL FEET AND HAND. AMDAPUR.

Burmese, Colles, Domb.

bedaubed with red lead in the sanctuary which is curiously lit from above in such a way as to throw the full light upon the image; to the spectator, seeing it only through the chink in the door, the *mandap* being nearly dark, the effect may be somewhat startling. On the temple is an inscription of eight lines, the characters of which are illegible. Near it are some fragments of two colossal statues, consisting of two pairs of feet, so that the statue must have stood about fifty feet high. Other fragments built into and lying round a temple dedicated to Mahādeo seem to point to the former existence of an older building, probably a Hemādpanthī temple. This is confirmed by local tradition. The village contains a local Board school, a P.W.D., inspection bungalow, a *sarai*, a police station-house, a sub-registrar's office, and a branch post office. A weekly market is held on Wednesdays.

Anjani Khurd.—A village in the Mehkar tāluk, 9 miles south-west of Mehkar on the old Bombay-Nāgpur road. Its population in 1901 was 995, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 3792. It has a Board school, an opium shop, and a cattle pound. A weekly market is held on Saturdays. The village contains an old step well with a flight of steps, and a little room on the south side; also an unfinished *masjid* built up solidly to the crowns of the arches all around. In general design the building is similar to the mosque at Fatekhheldā.

Asalgaon.—A village in the Jalgaon tāluk lying on the main road from Jalgaon to Nandurā, 3 miles south of Jalgaon. The population is 2508, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 8696. A large weekly bazar is held every Tuesday which is attended by about 7000 people. The bazar has been equipped by the local Board with *chabūtras* and shelters, and shade is also afforded by numerous fine *nīm* trees. The principal articles dealt in are teak-wood, bamboos, cloth, cattle, hides, grains, betel leaves,

meat, fruit and vegetables. The village contains a large Local Board vernacular school, a branch post office, and a *sarai*. A ginning factory belonging to the Khāmgaon Ginning Company is also located here.

Badner.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying 10 miles to the south-east of Malkāpur on the right bank of the Vishwagangā river. It is also called Badner-Bhulji from one Bhulji Marāthā who was its first inhabitant. Its population in 1901 was 3248 as against 3067 in 1891. The land revenue of the village is Rs. 8878, and its area 6582 acres. A weekly market is held on Saturdays.

Bālāghāt.—The upland country of Berār above the Ajantā ridge sloping southwards beyond the *ghāts* or passes which lead up to it from the north. Here is the extreme northern limit of the tableland of the Deccan; the sides and summits of the outer hills are covered with low forest; from their crests the main slope of the lands is southward; wide basalt downs follow each other in successive expanses of open fields sloping down to shallow channels which carry off the water like gutters between two pents of a low roof. The trees are finer and the groves more frequent than in the valley below; water is more plentiful and nearer to the surface. This is the character of much of the Bālāghāt highlands in the west of Berār where they fall southward toward the Nizām's country by a gradual decline and by a series of ridges or steppes. But the whole face of the Bālāghāt has no uniform features; it stretches into downs and dales where it is most open; then it gets broken up into flat-topped hills and steep ravines; while in its eastern section the country is still more sharply accentuated by a splitting up of the main hill range, which has caused that variety of low-lying plains, high plateaus, fertile bottoms and rocky wastes which is sketched in the description of

the Yeotmāl District. The country comprised in the tāluks of Chikhlī and Mehkar forms part of the Bālāghāt.

Bān River.—A river which, rising in the Melghāt, flows down from the north for some distance along the eastern boundary of the Jalgaon tāluk and thence turning a little to the west runs past Wankhed and Pāturda and eventually empties itself into the Pūrna. The Bān is a speciality and the best of the District streams. As traced on the map she seems, with a few wriggles and curves, to run in an almost direct course from her source on the hills into the Pūrna. This causes her water in some places to flow rapidly; and up to or within a mile or so of the Pūrna her bed is stony. On quitting the hills she passes for five miles through the undulating inferior soil at its foot and there does not differ from other district streams. About here after the rains, she subsides into a succession of pools at various distances from each other. When she enters the region of black soil the stream takes a stony channel laid on a deep loam deposit varying in width between false banks from one-eighth to half a mile. These false banks of *muram* and trap rock, rugged and washed-out looking, become more and more prominent as the river approaches its confluence with the Pūrna. The loam deposit between the stream and these false banks is occupied with permanent gardens irrigated from wells except where the strip is too narrow for any but a little casual cultivation. From Warkhera to Kati-kher, 6 miles, the channel is a dry bed; but from the latter point to the Pūrna it contains water dammed here and there all through the year. The course of this river, in strange contrast with the brown line of rugged bank, can be traced by a continuous green line marked by the trees growing along its real banks which are so low that the tree tops can only be seen when near at hand.

Its distance within the District, roughly measured from the map, is about 25 miles.

Buldāna Town.—The headquarters town of the District situated in $20^{\circ} 32'$ N. and $76^{\circ} 14'$ E. on the metalled road 28 miles to the south of Malkāpur station of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. There is a daily mail tonga service between Buldāna and Malkāpur. The area of the town is 495 acres, and it stands at an elevation of 2190 feet. The climate of the town is good, and it is the coolest place in Berār next to Chikaldā. Buldāna is probably a corruption of *Bhīl-thāna*, the place of Bhīls. Very little is known of its early history, but when Berār first fell into the hands of the British in 1853 it was divided into two districts, one of which was known as North Berār with its headquarters at Buldāna. North Berār included the whole Pāyānghāt valley, that is to say, the present Amraoti District, the northern half of Akolā, and part of Buldāna. In 1857, the year of Mutiny, Colonel Meadows Taylor was appointed Deputy Commissioner of North Berār, and in his autobiography he quotes the note he received from the Resident: 'Go to Berār directly and hold on by your eyelids. I have no troops to give you, and you must do the best you can. I know I can depend upon you and I am sure you will not fail me.' Colonel Meadows Taylor refers to the beautiful wooded ravines and the picturesque morning rides at Buldāna, but his stay there was very short, as his important work lay in the valley below. After the Mutiny the province was reconstituted, and Akolā became the headquarters of West Berār. In 1867 Buldāna again came into prominence, when it was selected as the headquarters of the District. Its population in 1867 is unknown, but it was 2979 in 1881, 3243 in 1891, and 4137 in 1901, thus showing an increase of 39 per cent. in 20 years. In 1901 the

population comprised 3229 Hindus, 795 Mahommedans, 23 Jains, 114 Christians, and 12 others. Buldāna pays a land revenue of Rs. 1726. The Malkāpur-Chikhli road practically divides the town into two portions—that lying to the west of the road being called the old village, and that lying to the east of it being called the new town. The Civil Station lies to the south-west of the town.

As the headquarters of the District, Buldāna contains the usual executive and civil courts with the exception of a tahsil which is located at Chikhli 14 miles to the south. It also has a hospital, a veterinary dispensary, a jail, an observatory, a circuit house, a combined dāk and inspection bungalow, a *sarai*, a fine camping ground, a European club (located in the old magazine), a native club with a library, and a cemetery. In the new town there is a Government school for girls in which education is given free of cost. The average daily attendance is 55. A weekly market is held on Sundays, but the trade of the place is small, and it is only during the cotton season that any business is done. Foreign and country liquor shops, *gānja* and opium shops are located here. There is a combined post and telegraph office.

The Municipality was established on the 1st of April, 1893. The Committee is composed of 12 nominated members. The Municipal area is 530 acres. The average annual receipts, derived mainly from Government contributions, water tax and cattle pounds, during the seven years ending 1907-08, amounted to Rs. 13,181. The average annual expenditure during the same period was Rs. 13,085, the main heads of expenditure being water-works, conservancy, arboriculture, public garden, education, hospital and dispensaries. The Hindustāni and Marāthī schools for boys are main-

tained by the Municipality, the daily average attendance in them being respectively 22 and 208. Four English classes have been attached to the Marāthī school and are chiefly maintained from the annual contribution, locally raised, amounting to Rs. 780. The opening of a High School is under contemplation. The public garden has till recently been in charge of the Municipality. The annual income derived from the sale of mangoes, other fruits and vegetables, together with a fixed annual contribution of Rs. 300 from Government, amounted to Rs. 931 in 1906-07, and Rs. 623 in 1907-08. The expenditure during the same period amounted to Rs. 1155 and Rs. 1335, respectively. From the 1st of April, 1909, this garden was transferred from Municipal to Provincial management.

The town of Buldāna is supplied with drinking water from the Satrābar tank (so called after the large *bar* (banyan tree) situated close to the north-western extremity of the tank) about a quarter of a mile east of the Buldāna Civil Station. The tank was constructed in 1891, and water began to be supplied in March 1892. The total outlay on the construction of a tank amounted to Rs. 98,902. The Satrābar tank has a catchment area of 410 acres, the tank itself having an approximate area of 7 acres. The water is pumped by means of two direct acting Duplex Cornish suction and force pumps into a reservoir which commands practically the whole of the Civil Station and town of Buldāna. The reservoir is divided into two compartments, each with a capacity of 55,000 gallons, and the water is passed down from these through 6" pipes and distributed to the Civil Station and town by means of 30 stand-posts and 53 private connections. The daily authorized supply of water is 40,000 gallons at 10 gallons per head of population for 24 hours ; but this

supply could not at first be maintained on account of the weakness of the band puddle. The tank was overhauled in 1908 and a fresh puddle laid up to 115 reduced level, and the waste weir level was raised from 110 to 112 which will enable an additional volume of water, representing about three months' supply, to be impounded. The total capacity of the tank is now 4,338,701 cubic feet. With a view to reduction of expenditure which works out at 5 as. 8 pies per 1000 gallons, the question of substituting an up-to-date oil engine with suitable pumps for the present machinery is under consideration. This change is expected to reduce the expenditure to about 3 as. per 1000 gallons. The water-works are in charge of the Public Works Department, and are maintained at an average annual cost of Rs. 3500, of which one-fourth is provided from Provincial Funds and the remainder from Municipal funds. Besides the Satrābar tank there are five other tanks, *viz.*, the ' Bullock tank ' which supplies water to the public garden, the ' Chinch Talao,' the ' Dhobi Talao,' the ' Lendi Talao,' and the ' Tar Talao.' These tanks only hold water for about eight months and dry up in the hot weather.

Chandol.—A fairly large village in the Chikhli tāluk 14 miles west of Chikhli. Its population in 1901 was 1629, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 4743. It contains four old temples, one dedicated to Narsinha, one to Mahālakshmi, and two to Mahādeo. The principal building of the temple of Narsinha is octagonal in form; the hall in front quadrangular. It is profusely sculptured. Repairs are sometimes carried out by subscription and the top has been rebuilt of brick and mortar. It has an *inām* land of an annual rental of Rs. 6 for its support. The temple of Mahālakshmi is in good repair, and is covered with sculpture. The temples of Mahādeo are octagonal in form, and the front halls or *mandap* rec-

tangular, most of which have fallen. The top of one of the temples has been rebuilt of bricks in mortar.

Chandur (or Biswa Bridge).—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk, and a station on the Nāgpur branch of the G. I. P. Railway to the east of Malkāpur. To the west of it runs the Vishwagangā or Biswa river, over which a railway bridge has been built. Hence the village is sometimes called Bishwā Chāndur or Biswa bridge. Its population in 1901 was 2732 as against 2712 in 1891; its area is 3073 acres, and the land revenue demand Rs. 5562. The District Board maintains a Hindustāni and a Marāthī school. The village has a branch post office and a Local Board *sarai*. A weekly market is held on Sundays.

(Chikhli Tāluk.)—A tāluk lying between 20° and $20^{\circ} 37'$ N. and $75^{\circ} 57'$ and $76^{\circ} 42'$ E. with an area of 1009 square miles.

Physical features. It consists of 299 Government and eight jāgīr villages. The Chikhli or Deulghāt tāluk as it was formerly called, is one of the hill tāluks of Berār and lies entirely in the Bālāghāt, the southern plateau of Berār. It is bounded on the north by the Malkāpur tāluk; in the east it borders upon Mehkar and Khāmgaon tāluks, and in the south it abuts on the Mehkar tāluk and on His Highness the Nizām's Dominions which it likewise touches in the west. The greater portion of its lands lies on the Ajantā range of hills which enters the Berār Districts from the south-west and forms the basis of an extensive tableland which comprises a large portion of southern Berār. The tableland inclines gently towards the south-east; in which direction the Pengangā, which is its main drainage, takes its course, dividing the plain in almost equal halves and finally debouching in the Wardhā. (The elevation of the tableland as a whole is about 1800 feet above the sea-level, and this, small as it is, makes a very perceptible difference in the

climate which is far cooler than that of the valley below. The pargana of Dhār on the western boundary lies at a lower level, being separated from the remainder of the tāluk by a *ghāt* some 300 feet in height. The tāluk, measured from north-east to south-west, has an extreme length of 56 miles, its greatest breadth from east to west being 42 miles. But south of the town of Chikhli the width of the tāluk rapidly decreases until in the south-west corner in the neighbourhood of the village of Deulgaon Rājā it has dwindled to a few miles only. The north-eastern portion of the tāluk is of a very rugged description; many of the villages here situated still remain unpopulated, and cultivation is scanty; it is here that the Geru-Mātargaon forest reserve has been formed, much of the country being fairly well timbered and more fitted for forest growth than for cultivation. (The tāluk on the whole consists of a series of plateaus intersected by ravines containing generally a plentiful supply of water. There are no rivers of any importance in the tāluk except the Pengangā already alluded to, but it has hardly assumed the character of a river until it has left the tāluk.)

The population of the tāluk in 1901 was 129,590 persons or 21 per cent. of that of the District. In 1891 the population was 150,098, and in 1881, 140,111 persons. The increase in the first decade was 7·2 per cent. as against the District figure of 5·7, and the decrease in the second decade was 13·7 per cent. against the District figure of 9·6. The decrease was due to the two famines of 1896-97 and 1899-1900. The tāluk contains three towns, Chikhli, the headquarters (5889), Deulgaon Rājā (6293), and Buldāna, the headquarters of the District (4137), and 310 villages of which 41 are uninhabited; 12·59 per cent. of the population live in towns, and 87·41 per cent. in

villages. The total density of population was in 1907 128 persons to the square mile, and that of the rural population 112. Besides the three towns, the following three villages in the tāluk contained a population of more than 2000 persons in 1901:—Amrāpur, Undri, and Deulghāt. There were also 16 villages having a population of more than 1000 persons.

The tāluk cannot boast of that luxuriance of vegetation which is one of the characteristics of the valley of Berār, and the soils here are very much inferior to those found in Maikāpur, Khāmgaon and Jalgaon tāluks.) (However, the climate and soils permit of the *kharīf* as well as some of the *rabi* crops being cultivated with success, the latter especially in the valleys of streams. The *kharīf* crop consist of juāri, cotton, tūr, etc., and the *rabi*, wheat, gram and masūr only. Linseed, which is one of the chief *rabi* crops in the valley of Berār, does not thrive at all as the ground is too dry for it.) At the revision settlement the figures for five years (1890-1894) show that out of the total area of 459,708 acres under cultivation juāri was the crop most largely cultivated, 130,000 acres or 24.6 per cent. being annually devoted to its growth; this was followed closely by cotton with 100,000 acres or 21.6 per cent. The next in importance was wheat with 70,000 acres or 15.3 per cent. The area under grass and fallow, 82,000 acres or 18 per cent. of the whole, was very extensive, but the nature of the country in a measure accounts for the excess. A large proportion of this area lies in the uninhabited villages in the north-east of the tāluk, but (the steep faces of the ravines with which the rest of the country abounds are incapable of being brought under cultivation, and tend to swell the total. They are, however, serviceable as affording grazing areas for the village cattle.) In 1907-08 out of

the total village area of 513,316 acres, excluding State forests, 482,467 acres or 94 per cent. were occupied for cultivation. The total cropped area, excluding double-cropped area, was 366,449 acres or 76 per cent. of the occupied area; of this juāri occupied 130,435 acres or 36 per cent; cotton 126,781 acres or 34½ per cent., and wheat 25,006 acres or 7 per cent. The irrigated area was 10,124 acres.

At the original settlement (1866-67) the 305 Government villages were divided into four groups and settled with a dry crop maximum acreage rate varying from R. 1 to R. 1-12. The occupied land for cultivation was 223,151 acres, and the assessment was Rs. 1,68,083, the incidence per acre falling at As. 10-3 per acre. During the currency of the settlement the occupied area increased, and at the time of the revision settlement it stood at 458,316 acres with an assessment of Rs. 2,95,592, the incidence per acre being As. 10-4. At the revision settlement which came into force in 1896-97, the villages were divided into three groups and rated at R. 1-6 to Rs. 2. The occupied area according to revision survey was 457,655 acres, and the revised assessment increased to Rs. 3,68,777, giving an incidence of As. 12-11 per acre. The increase in revenue thus amounted to Rs. 75,185, being 24·8 per cent. in excess of the previous demand. The land revenue demand for 1907-08 was Rs. 3,66,925, of which Rs. 3,65,247 were collected during the year.

For purposes of land records the tāluk is divided into five Revenue Inspectors' circles, with headquarters at Buldāna, Dhār, Amrāpur, Andhēra and Chikhlī. The tāluk forms one police circle under an Inspector with six station-houses at Chikhlī, Buldāna, Dhār, Andhera, Amrāpur, and Deulgaon Rājā, each under a Sub-Inspector. The

tāluk is well provided with roads. Buldāna, the District headquarters lying in this tāluk, is connected with the railway by a made road 28 miles in length running to the Malkāpur station.

Chikhli Town.—The headquarters of the tāluk bearing the same name. It is situated in 20° 21' N. and 76° 18' E. on the high road which runs from Malkāpur to Mehkar at a distance of fourteen miles from Buldāna. A metalled road runs from Chikhli to Khāngaon *via* Amrāpur. The population was in 1901 returned as 5889, having increased from 4672 in 1891 or by 26 per cent. The principal inhabitants are Hindus, numbering 4629, and next to them come Muhammadans with a figure of 1165. The area is 4446 acres, and land revenue Rs. 3928. The largest bazar in the tāluk is held here on Mondays at which a considerable amount of business is done. Messrs. Ralli Brothers have a ginning factory of forty gins here, and there is a small factory owned by some native traders. The tahsili, inspection bungalow, Anglo-vernacular school, 'dispensary', combined post and telegraph office, and police station-house are the principal official buildings. There are also an Urdū school, a girls' school, and a *dharmshāla* known as 'Coronation Dharmshāla.' A bonded warehouse is under construction. Chikhli has about 20 shops of moneylenders and over 50 shops of cloth merchants and others. For sanitary purposes a small conservancy establishment is maintained by the District Board. There is a *dargāh* or tomb of Madan Shāh Wali in whose honour an *urus* or anniversary is held every year at which about 500 people assemble from the surrounding villages. The *dargāh* has some *inām* land for its support. A temple of Mahādeo to the west of the village is of some archæological importance. The top was rebuilt about 40 years ago, and other buildings have been added to it.

Datała.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying about 6 miles south of Malkāpur. To the west runs the Nal-gangā river, and to the east passes the Malkāpur-Buldāna road with its mail tongā service. The village has a large colony of Pājne Kunbīs who are very hardworking cultivators. Its population in 1901 was 2224 against 1948 in 1891; its area is 4759 acres and the land revenue demand is Rs. 8836. The District Board maintains a vernacular school. The village has a branch post office and a Local Board *sarai*.

Deulgaon-Mahi, or Deulgaon-Pathān.—A village situated on the banks of the Lower Pūrna on the high road to Deulgaon Rājā at a distance of about 38 miles to the extreme south of Buldāna in the Chikhli tāluk with a population of 901 persons; an area of 4725 acres, and paying a revenue of Rs. 2921. The village is called Deulgaon-Mahi from the goddess 'Mahi' worshipped by Kasārs who originally inhabited the village. Certain Pathāns of Jaffrabād, which lies about 12 miles to the west of the village in His Highness the Nizām's Dominions, are said to have rendered some assistance to the Nizām who conferred on them certain *inām* lands and the patelki of the village; and since then it has been called Deulgaon-Pathān. Some of the descendants of these Pathāns are still living, and hold the office of patel in rotation. The village contains an old *garhī* mostly in ruins and occupied by the Pathāns, a Marāthī school attended on an average by 43 boys every day, a branch post office, opium and liquor shops, and a comfortable dāk-bungalow. A weekly bazar is held on Sundays. Blankets are locally manufactured by the Dhangars.

Deulgaon-Rājā.—A town in the Chikhli tāluk situated on the Khāngaon-Jalna road, 49 miles to the south of Buldāna, and lying in 20° 1' N. and 76° 5' E. Its

original name was Dewalwāri, from a *wāri* or hamlet close by. This *wāri* is said to have been increased in extent and population by Rāsoji, a natural son of a descendant of the Jādhao Rājās of Sindkhed, some time in the seventeenth century. Rāsoji invited people of all trades and professions to come and settle at Dewalwāri, whose name was changed to Deulgaon as the place increased. The shape of the town is that of a gnomon and its area is 102·8 acres. It was once fortified by a wall, which is now in ruins. This wall has seven approaches—five large gates and two small ones. There is a small range of hills close by on the northern side of the town, down which flow two tiny streams. A small rivulet called Amni forms the southern boundary of the town. There is on the east of the town a very pretty little domed tomb called the Moti Samādh of Chimakābai Sāhib, daughter of Anandrao Mahārāj of Deulgaon Rājā. It is of cut stone in the Muhammadan style, and is as chaste and well proportioned a little building as it is possible to find. It is a square building with a minaret rising from each of the four corners of its roof with clusters of miniature *minārs* round the base of each. Over the centre rises a well proportioned dome with other little *minārs* around its dome and surmounted by a remarkably well designed finial. An ornamental open work parapet and deep cornice surround the top of the roof, and the whole building is set up on a very ornamental high basement of the same design as the beautiful green stone sarcophagus at Bijāpur. At the census of 1867 the population of the town was 9298, which had declined to 7025 or by 24 per cent. in 1881. During the decade ending 1901 it had again fallen to 6293 or by about 15 per cent. The present population comprises Hindus 4940, Musalmāns 955, and Jains 372. Formerly the town was a centre of the cotton and silk trade; but the

trade is now declining and the weavers are in straitened circumstances. Amongst the traders, the Shrāwak or Jain are said to have come from the north about 300 years ago. Of all the *dewasthāns* in Berār that of Bāljāi at Deulgaon is the most celebrated. An annual fair, the largest in Berār, is held in connection with it in October. It is much frequented by traders and pilgrims from very distant parts. The paved yard in front of Bāljāi's temple, about 360 by 30 feet, is for the occasion overshadowed with a sort of canopy supported by posts. The offering given to Bāljāi is called *kāngi*, and its annual value has been known to exceed Rs. 1,00,000. This amount, besides defraying the expenses of the temple (which are about Rs. 1500 per mensem), leaves a large balance. The temple managers spend during the fair Rs. 15,000. Large dinners are given to pilgrims, wandering devotees, mendicants, and all other persons distinguished by piety or religious learning. Owing to a dispute between the descendants of the Jādhaō family who claim the temple and the income as their own, and the people of Deulgaon Rājā, the District Judge at Akolā has, pending the settlement of the dispute, appointed a receiver who receives 4 per cent. on the collection of the *kāngi* for managing the 'Sansthān.' The town contains a Government second grade Anglo-vernacular school, a girls' school, and a Local Board Hindustāni school. It also contains three *dharamshālas*, a police Station-house, a dāk-bungalow, a dispensary, a sub-registrar's office, and a branch post office. The total area of the town is 1617 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 770.

Deulghat.—A village situated in the Chikhli tāluk in latitude 20° 31' N. and longitude 76° 10' 30" E. on the Pengangā river, 6 miles to the south-west of Buldāna. The population was 3594 in 1867; 3867 in 1881; 3916

in 1891 ; and 3735 in 1901. The total area of the village is 3352 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 2832. It is a town of considerable antiquity. It appears originally to have been a very small village, about one-third of its present size. Its oldest name was Deoli, probably derived from Hemādpanthī temples, of which ruins still exist. From the fact that such temples, for whatever object, have almost invariably been built in retired places, it is to be supposed that the town is of later date than these ruins, and possibly this village was first built during the troubled period of the Muhammadan invasions, which caused the people of the plains to disperse and seek shelter in secluded parts of the hill-country.

In the time of the Emperor Aurangzeb the village was considerably augmented (about A.D. 1700). One of his chiefs, Nasār-ud-dīn, had been sent into the Deccan to quell disturbances. The seat of the pargana was Girḍā, on the hills, about 8 miles from Deoli. Nasār-ud-dīn on his arrival found Girḍā quite unsuited for headquarters, and looking out for a better place, the extensive plains of Deoli at once decided him in its favour ; and he settled there with his whole army and retinue. The intolerant proselytizing spirit of the master was not asleep in the deputy ; and Nasār-ud-dīn displayed his hatred of Hindu institutions by immediately pulling down the magnificent temples near his residence ; the materials were utilized in constructing private buildings, and a small fort (now the Nawāb's house) on the boundary of the village. The memory of the old boundary is still preserved with the ceremony of killing a buffalo on the Dasahra holiday every year. The place has been called Deulghāt at the least from the end of the seventeenth century, as it is mentioned by Thevenot, who passed it on his road from Golcondā to Burhānpur. The pass up the hills just south of the town is evidently,

therefore, of some antiquity, and was once much more frequented than it is now.

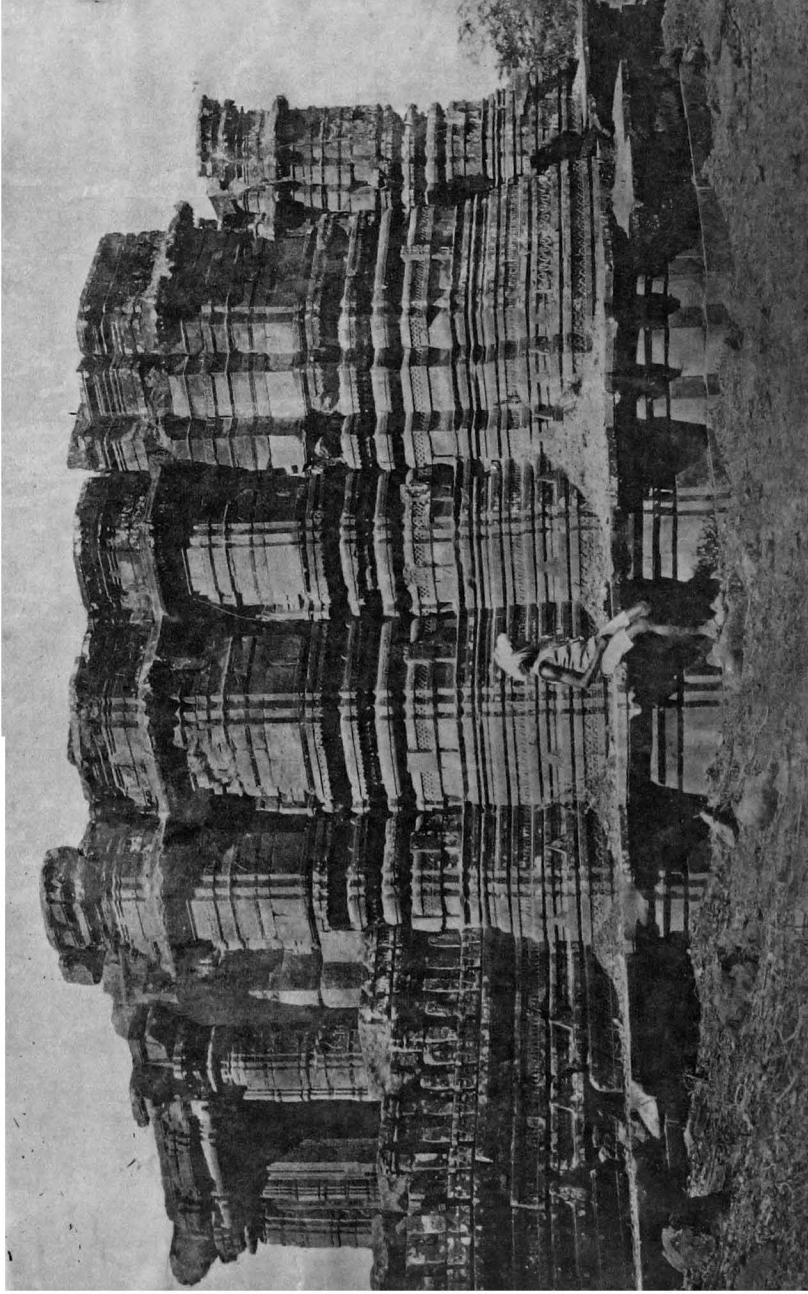
It was an able Tahsildār named Sakhānand who raised the rampart round the town to keep out marauders, who planted the numerous mango trees round the village, and who laid out most tasteful gardens, of which the remains are still to be seen. In the time of Sakhānand the population of the village was mostly of the Rājput caste, whom he enlisted as good soldiers. After the death of their patron the Rājputs were supplanted by Muhammadans, who had then great political preponderance, and this accounts for the greater proportion of Muhammadans at Deulghāt as compared with other towns.

The court of a special magistrate, presided over by Khān Bahādur Nawāb Muhammad Salām-ullah Khān, who exercises first-class magisterial powers, is located here. A weekly market is held on Fridays. A school for Muhammadan girls is maintained by Government; a Mārāthī and a Hindustāni school are supported by the District Board. The village contains a branch post office and a *sarai*. It is a neatly laid out village and in good sanitary condition.

Dhalsawangi.—A small village in the Chikhli tāluk 15 miles to the south-west of Buldāna. The population in 1901 was 2000 and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 1539. Close to it an old temple of Devī called Murdadi is situated in a picturesque spot in the midst of hills covered with forest. This has been partly rebuilt and consists of three shrines. The principal shrine holds the image of Murdadi which is very large, ferocious looking, and coloured all red; while the side ones have those of Kālikā and Mahādeo. Behind the temple is a square masonry cistern into which three separate springs are led through cowhead (*Gaomukh*) gargoyles. The temple is owned

by the Mohite family of Dhār. Two fairs are held each year in honour of the deity on the 15th day of the bright fortnights of the months of Kārtik (November) and Chaitra (April). The assemblage at the fairs is, however, not great, between 200 and 300 persons coming to make their offerings. The *pujāri* is a Gurao by caste, but the *ināmdar* is a Brāhman, by name Tulsirām Bhat, who enjoys an *inām* of about 19 acres of land of the annual rental of Rs. 12. Some dispute is now going on between the Deshmukhs of Dhār and the Guraos in connection with the rights attached to the temple, and the income of the temple is being held in deposit.

Dhanora.—A small village in the Jalgaon tāluk about 6 miles south-west of Jalgaon. Its population is 1174, its area is 3058 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 4,711. An annual fair lasting for a week is held here in February in honour of a saint Mahāsiddha to whom a temple has been dedicated. According to the legend, the saint came to this place in the train of two deities, who selected the spot and vanished, leaving him invested with full miraculous powers. The shrine is noted for its power over snakebites, and scrofulous symptoms. A large two-storied gate to its inclosure was erected by the gratitude of a wealthy tailor, who was here healed of sore disease of the loins. Cures from mad-dog bites are also ascribed to the shrine. The temple is 29 by 16 feet, built partly of stone and partly of brick and mortar. The fair is attended by cloth and metal dealers from such distant places as Poona and Nāsik. The principal trade is in brass and copper utensils, and the value of the trade is estimated at Rs. 50,000. A ceremony in honor of Mahāsiddha takes place on the 15th of Māgh (February), a peculiarity of which is that persons favoured by the deity are required to bark like dogs in the temple and through the fair. After this ceremony,



Bemrose, Collo., Derby.

OLD TEMPLE FROM NORTH-EAST, DHOTRA.

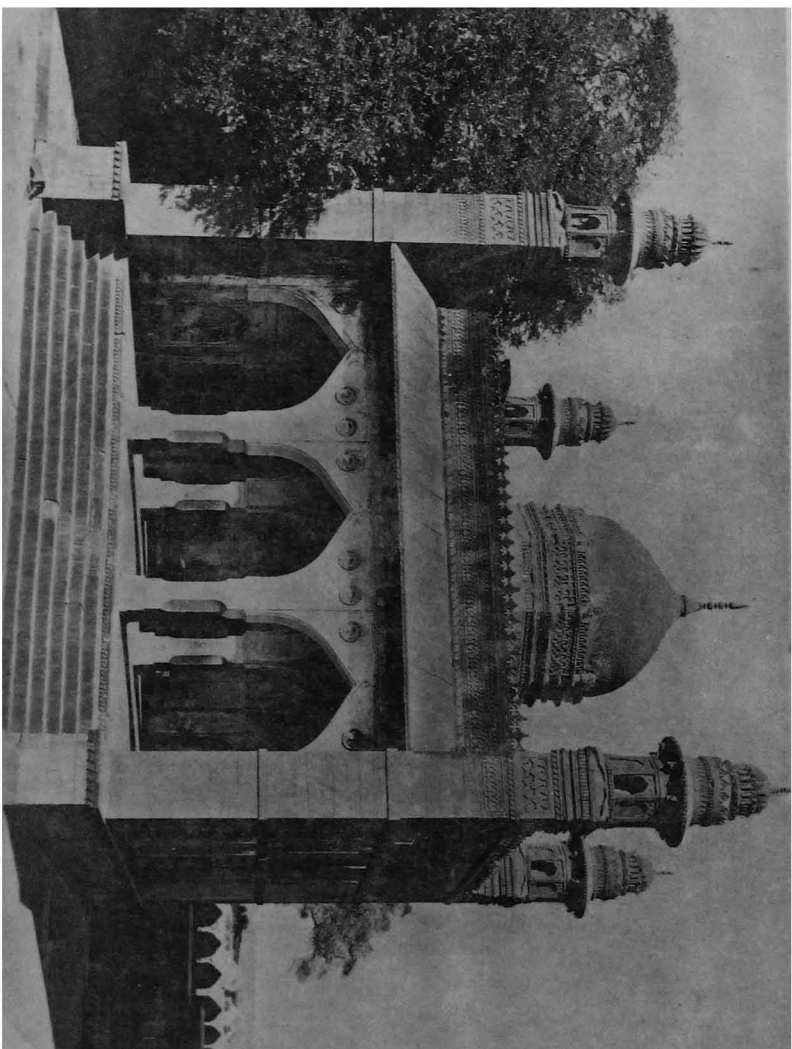
which takes place in the night time, is over, a dinner consisting of bread and meat is partaken of by all the votaries indiscriminately. The village has a Local Board vernacular school.

Dhotra.—A small village in the Chikhli tāluk 18 miles south of Chikhli, containing 39 houses and 140 inhabitants. The area is 3478 acres and it pays a revenue of Rs. 1368. The village has three old temples. The one about a quarter of a mile south of the village, in the fields, is the most important. It is a temple of Siva and faces the east. It consists of a shrine and closed *mandap* (canopy) and has but one entrance on the east. Upon the south and north sides of the *mandap* where other temples would have two other entrances with their porches, there are here two deep recesses off the *mandap* like shallow shrines without doorways. Four plain pillars support the ceiling of the *mandap*. The pilasters are built in sections with the courses of the wall masonry, and are not as in earlier work single shafts built into and against the wall; this is a sign of late work. The bracket capitals of the pillars have the cobra ornament upon them. In the shrine is a *linga*. The dedicatory blocks over the doorways have been left plain, no image having been carved upon them. The exterior of the temple is fully moulded in ornamental bands, but there are no images whatever, not even the usual three inches round the walls of the shrine. There seems little doubt that these temples, more or less devoid of figure sculpture upon the exterior, represent the true Hemādpanthī class if we believe that Hemādpanth or Hemādri, minister to the Yādava kings of Deogiri, set a particular style and built a good deal himself. In this temple bands of chequered squares are used as ornament, *i.e.*, the surface of the stone is marked out into inch squares and every alternate one is sunk. This was a favourite and often characteristic ornament in

very early temples such as those of the Gupta period. This building is conserved by Government. On the west of the village is another old temple, but it is very much dilapidated. It consists of a shrine and *mandap* with a porch and entrance on the east. The whole of the *mandap* has fallen with the roofing of the porch. The exterior was severely plain. On the north-west of the village is another old ruined shrine with a closed *mandap*, the outer casing of the walls having gone. The shrine is empty. The temple faces the east. In a row over the shrine door-way are nine faces, the third from each end having carved tusks at the corners of the mouth; otherwise the faces are alike. These temples represent the true Hemādpanthī class.

Dongaon.—A large and purely agricultural village in the Mehkar tāluk situated 10 miles to the east of Mehkar on the old Nāgpur dāk line on the banks of the Kach river. Its population in 1901 was 3050, its area is 10,724 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 12,405. The village has a dispensary, a Marāthī school, and a branch post office. A weekly bazar is held on Wednesdays. It was once noted for its *sāris*, and though the industry has now decayed considerably, there are a few weavers who still turn out good work. There is an old *garhī* or fort strongly built, but now in ruins.

Fatekhelda.—A village in the Mehkar tāluk situated in 20° 13' N. and 76° 27' E. on the small river Bhogāwati, an affluent of the Pengangā, 12 miles north-west of Mehkar. Its population in 1901 was 4198, its area is 6855 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 4956. The original name of the village was Shakarkheldā which, according to tradition, it received from a well close by, which yields sugar. The place is of considerable antiquity, and a local tradition says that a saint named Palasi Siddha settled in Sankhedi, a hamlet of the town.



MOSQUE AT FATTEHKHERDA.

Basmass, Ceylon, Dandy.

On being invited to come to live in the town he replied that he would not go to the town but that the town would come to him. The town gradually spread till it reached the hamlet, but it has again receded, and the tomb of the saint is at present at some little distance from it. It was here, in 1724, that the battle which decided the Nizām's supremacy in the Deccan was fought between Nizām-ul-Mulk and Mubāriz Khān who represented the Mughal Emperor. In memory of the victory the name of the town was changed to Fatekhheldā. The present appearance of the town shows that it is much decayed, the chief causes of its ruin being the plunder of it by Sindhia's troops on their way to Assaye in 1803 and the great famine of that year. A ginning factory has been established but does not seem to flourish. A weekly bazar is held on Fridays, and there are schools for boys and girls, a police station-house, and a branch post office. A very fine little mosque much resembling that at Rohan-khed in the Malkāpur tāluk built by Khudāwand Khān Mahdavi, and in an excellent state of preservation, is situated in the highest part of the town with a Persian inscription showing its date to be 1581 A.D. It has a three-arched facade and four free standing pillars. The latter have octagonal shafts with square caps and bases. Simple little rosettes decorate spandrils of the arches. Nearly all the decoration is above the cornice. The roof has one central dome which stands upon an ornamental octagonal drum and four little lantern *minārs* one at each corner. The mosque is surrounded by a garden and a walled enclosure. It enjoys an *inām* of 12 fields worth Rs. 170 for its upkeep. It is managed by Khān Bahādur Abdul Baki Khān of Mehkar on behalf of Ināmdār Maulvi Māsum Hasan, resident of Hyderābād. It is under Government conservation under the Preservation of Monuments Act. There is a tomb of Mubāriz Khān who

was killed in the battle, referred to above, for the upkeep of which an *inām* of two fields is held by the same Inām-dār of the mosque.

Geru-Matargaon.—A small village situated in the reserve forest known as Geru-Mātargaon about 22 miles to the east of Buldāna at a height of 1769 feet above sea-level. Its population is 216, area 2579 acres, and land revenue Rs. 227. Surrounded by hills and forest with the river Gyān running through its centre it affords some beautiful scenery. In the bed of the river there is a large *doho* (pond) where some good-sized fish may be found. During the Mughlai administration the village was the chief town of the pargana of the same name, and formed the headquarters of the Kolis, who then lived generally on plunder. It contains an old *dargāh* (a Muhammadan place of worship) which has the following inscription in the Urdū character: 'I will try to find out what it is.' The majority of the people are Kolis, and Banjārās who make *gonīs* or gunny bags. There is a forest rest-house here, and some good sport may be obtained in the neighbourhood.

Girdā.—A small village situated about 16 miles to the west of Buldāna, containing 33 houses and 134 inhabitants. The area is 3343 acres and land revenue Rs. 2143. About half a mile from the village among the hills a narrow path leads to a very old Hemādpanthī temple dedicated to Mahādeo. Close to the temple is a big well; both temple and well are now in ruins. The stones of the hills here are exceptionally black and produce what is generally known as *shilājīṭ* (bitumen) or mineral oil, much used by natives for medical purposes. The cliff where this substance is obtained is called by the natives 'Kālī Bhīnt' (black wall), but owing to its inaccessible situation little use is made of it. Good sport may be obtained in the neighbourhood.

Gyan (Ghan or Dyanganga) River.—A river which takes its source from a spring of water issuing from under an *umar* tree (*Ficus glomerata*) near the temple of the god Mahādeo at Dongershewāli, a village lying on the tablelands north of the valley of the Pengangā in the Chikhli tāluk. It passes through the hills in the centre of which the village Bothā is situated, and collecting their drainage runs in a northerly direction past Pimpalgaon Rājā and Nāndurā. Close to the latter place it is crossed by a railway bridge and thence taking a north-easterly course it enters the Khāngaon tāluk where it takes a sharp bend towards the north-west and finally falls into the Pūrna. During its course it receives many streams and in the hot weather it is dry. Indigenous sandal wood is found round the headwaters of this stream, and it is hoped with care to increase the stock from self-sown seedlings. The total length of the river is 50½ miles, the whole of which lies within the District.

Itkhed.—A small village in the Jalgaon tāluk about 12 miles south-east of Jalgaon on the river Pūrna. Its population is 391, its area 264 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 361. The village owes its importance to the existence of a temple of Dattātreyā which is visited every Thursday by numbers of people in search of relief from various ailments. Those afflicted with evil spirits are supposed to derive especial benefit from a visit to the shrine. They burn camphor, burst into paroxysms of dancing and crying before the god, and then plunge three times into a deep pool of water, whence they emerge cleansed and freed from their afflictions. Three *dharm-shālas* have been built for the accommodation of visitors. A religious fair is held here in the light fortnight of Chaitra (April), and the value of camphor then consumed is estimated at Rs. 500.

Jalamb.—A village in the Khāngaon tāluk 8 miles

north of Khāmgaon. It is a railway station of the Nāgpur branch of the G. I. P. Railway, and the junction of the State Railway to Khāmgaon town. Its population was 2308 in 1901 as against 2326 in 1891. Its area is 7180 acres, and its land revenue demand Rs. 11,328. The land is rich and produces more *rabi* than *kharif*. The village contains a primary school for boys, a dāk bungalow, a branch post office, and an encamping ground. A weekly market is held on Saturdays, the articles brought for sale being grain and groceries. The reserved forest of Mātargaon, where good shooting is available, is about 7 miles from the station.

(Jalgaon Taluk).—A tāluk of the Buldāna District lying between $20^{\circ} 65'$ and $21^{\circ} 13' N.$

Physical features.

and $76^{\circ} 23'$ and $76^{\circ} 48' E.$ with an area of 410 square miles. (It is the smallest tāluk in Berār in respect of area, and except the Meīghāt, of population also. It contains 217 *khālsa* and 8 *inām* villages) (Until August, 1905, when it was transferred to the Buldāna District, the tāluk formed part of the Akolā District.) It occupies the extreme north-west corner of Berār. In the north it abuts on Holkar's territory from which it is separated by a branch of the Sātpurā range of hills. On the east it adjoins the Akot tāluk, on the south it is bordered by the Pūrna river which separates it from the Khāmgaon and Malkāpur tāluks, and on the west it adjoins the Khāndesh Districts. (Jalgaon is one of the campaign tāluks of Berār, lying in the Pūrna valley so well known for its fertility, and especially for its cotton-producing qualities. From one end to the other the tāluk presents an uninterrupted open plain carefully cultivated and in parts well wooded with fine shade and fruit-bearing trees. The more than usual luxuriance of the crops and the valuable gardens that meet the eye in every direction have earned for the tāluk the name of the Garden of West

Berār.) (Towards the north where the hills are approached the soil changes rapidly to one of a poorer nature, more shallow and stony.) The hills themselves, although covered with jungle, cannot be said to be well wooded, the growth being poor and the trees stunted and of not much value. (The predominant surface soil is a black alluvial earth of decomposed vegetable matter, varying in depth from one to eight feet and covering the whole face of the country from almost the very foot of the hills in the north to within a mile or two of the banks of the Pūrna, where the soil is of a very variable nature. This surface soil is underlaid by a stratum of a light coloured earth of considerable thickness and of a very inferior quality. The chief river of the tāluk is the Bān which, rising in the Melghāt, flows down the eastern boundary and eventually falls into the Pūrna. It contains water throughout the year for the last eight miles, of its course. In addition there are several streams running in almost parallel lines from the hills south-west and debouching into the Pūrna. These streams are very sluggish and deficient in water, but their slow flow enables large accumulations of light but rich soil to settle in sheltered places along their banks; these accumulations are in some places very extensive, and the people taking advantage of the vicinity of water have turned these plots into gardens.)

The population of the tāluk in 1901 was 87,798 persons or about 13 per cent. of that of the District. In 1891 the population was 977,908 persons and in 1881, 1,06,132. There was thus a decrease in both the decades; in the first decade the decline being 7·9 per cent., and in the second 10·8 per cent. This falling-off may be attributed to the periodical thinning of population by epidemics and other diseases as well as to the two great famines in the last decade. The density of population is 213 persons per square mile,

Population.

and that of the rural population 192. The bulk of the population consists of cultivators, most of the artizans and others having taken to agriculture which they found more profitable employment than plying their own trades. The tāluk contains one town, Jalgaon, the headquarters, and 221 villages, of which 47 are uninhabited according to the census village lists; 9·73 per cent. of the population live in towns, and 90·27 per cent. live in villages. Besides the one town the following four villages contained a population of more than 2000 persons in 1901, viz., Aṣalgaon, Pimpalgaon, Sungaon, and Sonāla. There were also 12 villages whose population exceeded 1000 persons.

The crops principally grown in the tāluk are the *kharif* or autumn crops; and the *rabi* or spring crops, such as wheat, gram, etc., are very sparingly cultivated though the soil is suited for the cultivation of both. (Of the *kharif* crops cotton, the area of which has largely increased owing to its commercial importance, is the most important. Next to it comes juāri, which is the staple food of the people. The garden cultivation is also of some importance in this tāluk. There are numerous plantain gardens, to which the soil and climate seem especially suited. The betel creeper, which produces the well-known *pān*, one of the luxuries fi not necessities of life of the Indian, be he Rājā or ryot, is cultivated most extensively in the northern part of the tāluk. The villages of Jalgaon, Sungaon, and Jāmod are particularly famed for its production.) The figures for the five years 1887-1891 worked out at the revision settlement show that out of the total area of 205,585 acres occupied for cultivation, 88,670 acres or 43 per cent. were devoted to cotton, 71,338 acres or 34·7 per cent. to juāri, 3452 acres or 3·4 per cent. to linseed. The area devoted to

garden crops was 1206 acres or 6 per cent. of the total. In 1907-08 out of the total village area of 226,111 acres, excluding State Forest, 211,024 acres or 93 per cent. were occupied for cultivation. The cropped area during the year was 196,954 acres or 93 per cent. of the area under cultivation. Of this *juāri* occupied 62,697 acres or 32 per cent., cotton 115,168 acres or 58 per cent., and wheat 131 acres only. Irrigation is chiefly carried on from wells, and the area so dealt with was 1312 acres.

At the original settlement in 1864-65 the villages of the *tāluk* were divided into three groups and settled with maximum dry crop rates varying from R. 1-8 to Rs. 2-4. The land occupied for cultivation was 197,056 acres, and the amount of assessment was Rs. 310,916. The average incidence per acre was R. 1-8-10. During the currency of the settlement the occupied area increased, and at the time of the revision settlement it stood at 201,583 acres with an assessment of Rs. 3,12,837, the incidence per acre being R. 1-8-10. At revision settlement the villages were divided into two groups with maximum rates of Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-12. The assessment was raised to Rs. 3,92,422, giving an incidence of R. 1-15-2 per acre. The increase in revenue amounted to Rs. 79,585 or 15 per cent. in excess of the previous demand. The land revenue demand for the year 1907-08 was Rs. 3,82,160, the whole of which was recovered during the year.

For the purposes of land records the *tāluk* has been divided into three Revenue Inspectors' circles, with headquarters at Pāturda, Bāwanbīr and Jalgaon. Jalgaon *tāluk* forms with Khāmgaon a single police circle under an Inspector and contains two station-houses at Jalgaon and Khāmgaon, each under a Sub-Inspector. The *tāluk* is not well off

for communications, the only made road being that connecting Jalgaon with Nāndurā railway station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway along which all the export trade of the tāluk is carried. This road is not bridged over the Pūrna, which is crossed by a ferry during the rains, and trade is occasionally interrupted by floods.

Jalgaon Town.—The headquarters of the Jalgaon tāluk situated in $21^{\circ} 3' N.$ and $76^{\circ} 35' E.$ It is 8 miles south of the Sātpurā range of hills, and 16 miles from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway station at Nāndurā, with which it is connected by a *muram* road. The town is called Jalgaon-Jāmod from a village near it to distinguish it from Jalgaon in Khāndesh. It is mentioned in the Ain-i-Akbarī as a pargana town in the Sarkār of Narnāla. Its area is 3453 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 6735. The population in 1901 was 8487, and the decrease during the preceding decade was 8·8 per cent., the figure for 1891 being 9307. Jalgaon is an important centre of the cotton trade and contains five ginning factories, two presses, and a cotton market. Upwards of 12,000 *bojhās* of cotton are annually ginned here. The firms of Ralli Brothers and Gadam and Company have their agents here for the purchase of cotton. A Cotton Market Fund was established five years ago and the receipts of the Fund in 1907-08 were Rs. 350, while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 781. A considerable trade is also done in betel leaves by the Barai community. Jalgaon has a second-grade middle school, in two standards of which the teaching of English is arranged for by private subscriptions, a girls' school with an attendance of from 30 to 40 and a boys' Urdū school for the Muhāmmadan community with over 100 pupils. It also has a dāk bungalow, a branch dispensary, a combined post and telegraph office, a police Station-house, and four *sarais*. There is a depôt for the supply of liquor to the shops in the tāluk. A

weekly market is held on Sundays. To the north-west of the town stands a temple dedicated to Rājā Bhartrihari in whose honor a fair is held on Nāgpanchamī day in August. There is a small *masjid* in the town which has an inscription partly in Arabic and partly in Persian, and some *inām* land has been set apart for its maintenance.

Jambhora.—A small village in the Chikhli tāluk lying 18 miles south of Buldāna with a population of 175 persons, area of 1312 acres, and paying a land revenue of Rs. 897. The village was formerly granted as an *inām* to Yelluji, a favourite deity of carpenters, to which caste the patels of the village belong; the latter still hold a *sanad* engraved on an iron plate bearing the seal of the Emperor Shāh Jahān of Delhi, dated 1121 Fasli, corresponding to 1711 A.D. The temple dedicated to Yelluji is said to have been built about 200 years ago. Of about the same date are two large *bāravs* (wells with steps) with a small tank in the centre; behind which flows a small stream called *Sīta-nhāni* or the bathing place of Sīta, the wife of Rāma.

Jamod.—A village in the Jalgaon tāluk situated 6 miles north-east of Jalgaon, with a population of 3128 persons, an area of 5683 acres and paying a land revenue of Rs. 6220. It was once a place of considerable importance and famous for its vines, but it has now decayed though it still does a good trade in betel-leaves. To the north of the village is a temple of Mahādeo with a reservoir on its south side which never fails. There is a *dargāh* or mausoleum of a Muhammadan saint Pīr Pawalād Shāh said to have been built in the time of Alā-ud-dīn Ghorī, Emperor of Delhi, and also a *masjid*. A gathering annually takes place at the *dargāh* at the time of Bakar-Id. The village has a branch post office and a Local Board vernacular school. A weekly market is held on Sundays.

Janephal.—A village in the Mehkar tāluk, about 10 miles north of Mehkar, which was for a year or two previous to 1867 the headquarters of the District. It has a population of 2195 persons, an area of 5699 acres, and pays a land revenue of Rs. 4262. Although the village is not a large one, the weekly bazar held here on Saturdays is the most important in the tāluk, and is the occasion for a large cattle market. A ginning factory has recently been established. The village is pleasantly situated with many fine trees in the neighbourhood, and here and there may be traced the foundations and gardens of the old bungalows. A made road formerly ran through from Jānephal to Akolā. The village *garhī* is of unusual size, but of no special interest. It formerly belonged to the Yādava family of Deulgaon Rājā. In the middle of the village there is a *dīpmāl*, a pillar-shaped monument for lighting purposes, the only curious point about which is that it shakes with ease when touched. The police station-house, a Marāthī school, a branch post office and a sub-registrar's office, are the only public buildings.

Kalambeshwar.—A fairly large village in the Mehkar tāluk, 12 miles north of Mehkar. Its population in 1901 was 1407, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 2232. In the middle of the village is an old square *kund* or reservoir. It is in good condition and is in use. Steps leading down to the water surround its four sides with a platform half way down, and a little shrine of Padmāvati Devī is upon one side. Two images of a Devī are placed outside the shrine. In the shrine is a shapeless red lead stone representing the Devī.

(Khamgaon Taluk.—A tāluk formerly belonging to the Akolā District and transferred to Buldāna in 1905) and lying between 20° 26' and 20° 55' N. and 76° 32' and 76° 48' E. with an area of 443 square miles. Originally the tāluk

Physical features.

was included in the old Bālāpur tāluk of the Akolā District, but in 1870, 144 *khālsa* and 4 jāgīr villages were separated and made the present Khāmgaon tāluk. In 1872 one Government village was granted as jāgīr. There have been no changes since, and the present tāluk therefore contains 143 *khālsa* and 5 jāgīr villages. It is bounded on the north by Jalgaon tāluk, on the west by Malkāpur, on the south by Chikhli and on the east by Bālāpur tāluk. In shape the tāluk is roughly an oblong with a broad base. The northern and central portions of the tāluk consist of a slightly elevated plain containing rich black soil of the most fertile description. But in the valley of the Pūrna and Mān which bound the tāluk on the north and east, for some miles on their left banks the soil has been much cut up by drainage and has assumed a lighter colour ; it has become mixed with nodules of lime and gravel and is of an inferior quality. In the southern portion where the hills are approached the soil changes rapidly to one of a poorer nature, more shallow and stony. This southern portion is rocky and irregular in every direction, with a slight general slope from south to north. Along the banks of the river Pūrna which separates the tāluk from Jalgaon tāluk and at Mātargaon Buzruk, a few miles to the north-west of Jalamb are valuable *bābul* reserves managed by the Forest Department. (The drainage of the tāluk is chiefly towards the east, falling into the Mān river, a tributary of the Pūrna ; but there are no streams of importance.)

The population of the tāluk in 1901 was 102,948 persons or 16·7 per cent. of that of the District. In 1891 the population was 99,785 and 1881, 96,179. This is the only tāluk in the District which shows an increase of population in both decades ; in the first decade the increase was 3·7 per cent., and in the second decade 3·2 per cent. The

increase is chiefly attributed to immigrants attracted by trade. The density of population is 232 persons per square mile and that of the rural population, excluding towns, is 157 persons. The population in towns is largely commercial and industrial, while in the interior it is purely agricultural; 32·44 per cent. of the population live in towns, and 67·56 in villages. The tāluk contains two towns, *viz.*, Khāmgaon (18,341), and Shegaon (15,057), both of them leading cotton marts of Berār; and 146 villages, of which 12 are uninhabited according to the village lists. Besides the towns the following three villages contained more than 2000 persons in 1901, *viz.*, Mātargaon Buzruk, Pāhur Jīra, and Jālamb. There were also ten villages with more than 1000 inhabitants.

(The soil of the tāluk in general is suited both for Agriculture. *kharīf* and *rabi* cultivation, but the former having been found more profitable predominates, cotton and juāri being by far the most important crops.) The average statistics for five years (1887-1891) worked out at the revision settlement, show that of the total area of 242,642 acres in cultivation, cotton occupied 82,960 acres or 34·2 per cent., and juāri 74,961 or 30·9 per cent. Wheat occupied 7·3 per cent. and linseed 3·7 per cent. In 1907-08, out of the total village area of 263,234 acres, excluding State forests, 248,494 acres or 94 per cent. of the total were occupied for cultivation. Of this the cropped area during the year was 217,501 acres or 87 per cent. The area under cotton has largely increased since settlement, and it now (1907-08) occupies 110,633 acres or 51 per cent. of the total cropped area; the area under juāri has also increased and it now occupies 82,944 acres or 38 per cent. The area under wheat is 817 acres. The area under irrigation which is principally *motasthal*, *i.e.*, by wells, is 1135 acres.

The Khāmgaon tāluk was originally divided into four groups and settled between 1864-66 with standard dry crop acreage rates varying from R. 1-6 to Rs. 2, the average incidence being As. 15-3. At the time (in 1891-92) of the revision settlement which came into force in 1895-96, the area of Government occupied land was 241,819 acres and the assessment was Rs. 2,30,799, giving an incidence of As. 15-3 per acre. At the revision settlement the tāluk was divided into two groups and rated at Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-12 per acre. The Government occupied area according to revision survey was the same, and the revised assessment was Rs. 3,26,668, giving an incidence of R. 1-5 per acre. Thus the increase in revenue amounted to Rs. 95,868, being 41·5 per cent. in excess of the previous demand. The land revenue demand in 1907-08 was Rs. 3,30,445, the whole of which was collected during the year.

For purposes of land records the tāluk has been divided into three Revenue Inspectors' circles with headquarters at Khāmgaon, Alasnā, and Atalīs. It forms with Khāmgaon a single police circle under an Inspector, with five station-houses, two at Khāmgaon and one each at Shegaon, Jālamb and Hiwarkhed, each under a Sub-Inspector. The Khāmgaon State Railway, connecting Khāmgaon with Jālamb on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, lies within the tāluk.

Khamgaon Town.—The headquarters town of the Khāmgaon tāluk situated in 20° 43' N. and 76° 38' E. It is also the headquarters of the Khāmgaon subdivision consisting of the Khāmgaon, Jalgaon and Malkāpur tāluks. A State railway, 8 miles in length, connects the town with the Nāgpur branch of the G. I. P. Railway at Jālamb station. The municipal area is 1316 acres.

The population in 1901 was 18,341 and the number of houses 3870. Since the census Khāmgaon has suffered severely and repeatedly from plague, the number of deaths in 1902 being 241; in 1903, 1043; in 1905 823; and in 1907, 174. The population is now estimated at 16,242. The total area of the town is 2778 acres, and its land revenue demand Rs. 2419. The cotton trade dates from about the year 1820, when a few merchants opened shops and began to trade in *ghī*, raw thread and a little cotton. The place is said to owe its start in commercial life to the good management of one Jetal-khāṇ, a revenue collector, who harboured and encouraged traders. But the settlement of capitalists here is ascribed to a characteristic accident. The great camps of Pindāris were followed by many merchants and brokers, who made great gains by buying up the booty. In 1818, Colonel Doveton broke up a large horde of Pindāris at a village close to Khāmgaon; they were forced to disband and scatter, so the honest prize-agents of this camp settled at Khāmgaon, and their descendants are virtuous cotton dealers.

In 1870, Khāmgaon was said to be the largest cotton mart in all India. This is no longer the case, but it still despatches in an ordinary season 70,000 bales of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. each, and it contains 13 ginning factories and eight cotton presses. The weekly market is held on Thursdays, and is very largely attended during the busy season.

The general appearance of the town is picturesque. It is surrounded by low irregular hills, while in the hollow, in and about the town, trees are plentiful. The northern side of the town is occupied by the railway station, the Assistant Commissioner's court, the civil courts, the tahsīli, the municipal office, a dāk bungalow, a P.W.D. bungalow, the hospital, post office, telegraph office, and

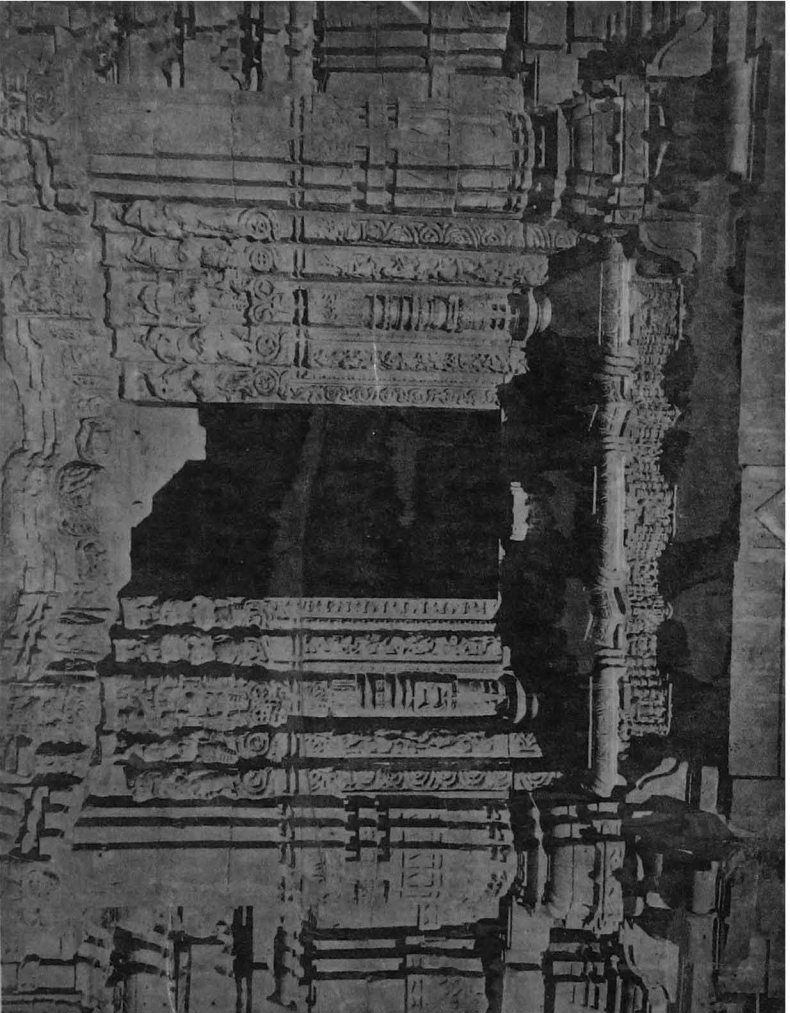
Anglo-vernacular school. The eastern side is largely occupied by ginning and pressing factories and by the sites of the cotton market and the weekly market. The town proper is split in two by a large nullah which runs from east to west. To cross it, there are a large bridge on the Amrāpur Road, and a large causeway in the heart of the town. The bulk of the town is to the south of this nullah. Other public buildings are—Marāthī and Hindustāni boys' and girls' schools, a municipal *sarai*, a daily vegetable market, meat markets, and town and tāluk police stations. The civil courts were opened in 1907 and form a large and handsome building. The municipal office was a club building many years ago when there were several Europeans in Khāmgaon. There is a large fort belonging to the Deshmukh. Outside it again there is a large *wes*, or gateway, which clearly belonged to the fortifications of the former village. There are also slight remnants of the ancient wall. There are a temple of Māroti, which is possibly of some age, a handsome temple of Bālājī, two fine Jain temples, a few lesser temples and four small mosques. Khāmgaon is a 'wealthy town and carries on an important trade, but there are practically no well-built shops. There are very few handsome modern dwelling houses, and well-to-do people in general find it difficult to get sites quite to their liking. There is a library, not in a flourishing condition. There has been since 1888 an institution for the protection of cows.

Khāmgaon was created a Municipality in 1867. The committee consists of nine elected and three nominated members. The average annual receipts and expenditure for the five years ending 1907 have been Rs. 32,000 and Rs. 27,000, respectively. The income is derived chiefly from ground rent, taxes and cesses, and the expenditure is mainly on conservancy, drainage, water-supply, roads

and education. In 1907, there was a large balance in hand of Rs. 44,831 in the Government treasury, and Rs. 27,500 in promissory notes, but the whole will be needed for further improvements in the drainage scheme of the town.

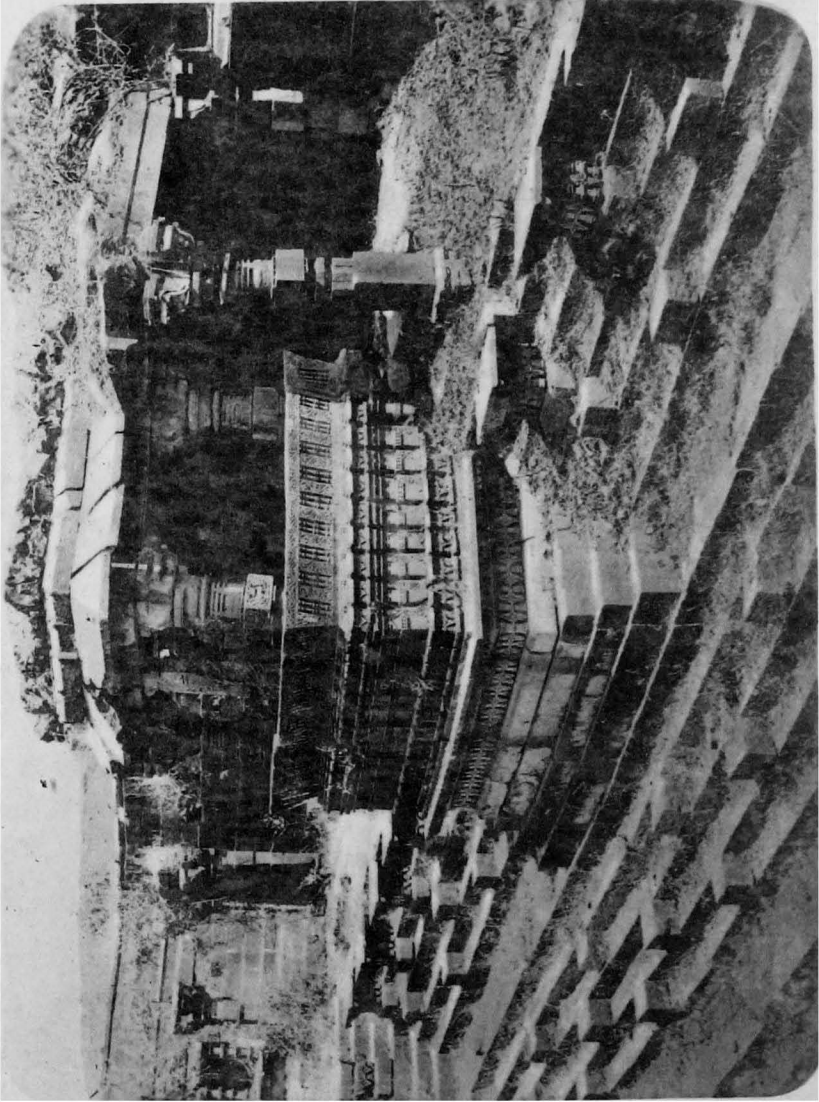
The town is supplied with water from a tank in Janunā, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the town. This was constructed between 1882 and 1885. It is calculated to hold 156,000,000 cubic feet of water, and to supply a population of 15,000 with 20 gallons a head per day. It sufficed both for the scarcity of 1896 and the famine of 1899. The cost of construction was Rs. 1,70,000, of which the Municipality bore Rs. 50,000 and Government the rest. The tank is managed by the Municipality under the advice of the P.W.D. The Municipality has a large garden close to the tank. The town is well supplied with stand-pipes. A number of private pipe connections have also been made. The water has been developing an appearance of impurity for some years and remedies are under consideration, but no ill effects have as yet been traced to its use.

„ Kothali.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying about 15 miles to the south of Malkāpur, and about 12 miles to the south-west of Pimpalgaon Rājā, at the foot of the Ajantā hills on the Vishwagangā river. Its population in 1901 was 1276 as against 1133 in 1891; its area is 4511 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 2409. Two old temples of the Hemādpanthi class are found here. The largest, the temple of Mahādeo, is in the village on the bank of the Vishwagangā river and consists of three shrines with one central *mandap*. It faces the east and has Ganesh over the shrine doorway. The doorways are elaborately carved. On either side of the shrine doorway are five figures with Vishnu in the centre. In the main shrine is an old square *salunkā* with a circular hole for



ENLARGED VIEW OF TEMPLE ENTRANCE, KOTHALI.

Remains, Colln., Derby.



Bemrose, Collo., Derby.

LARGE TANK AND EAST OF TOWN WITH BALCONY, LONAR.

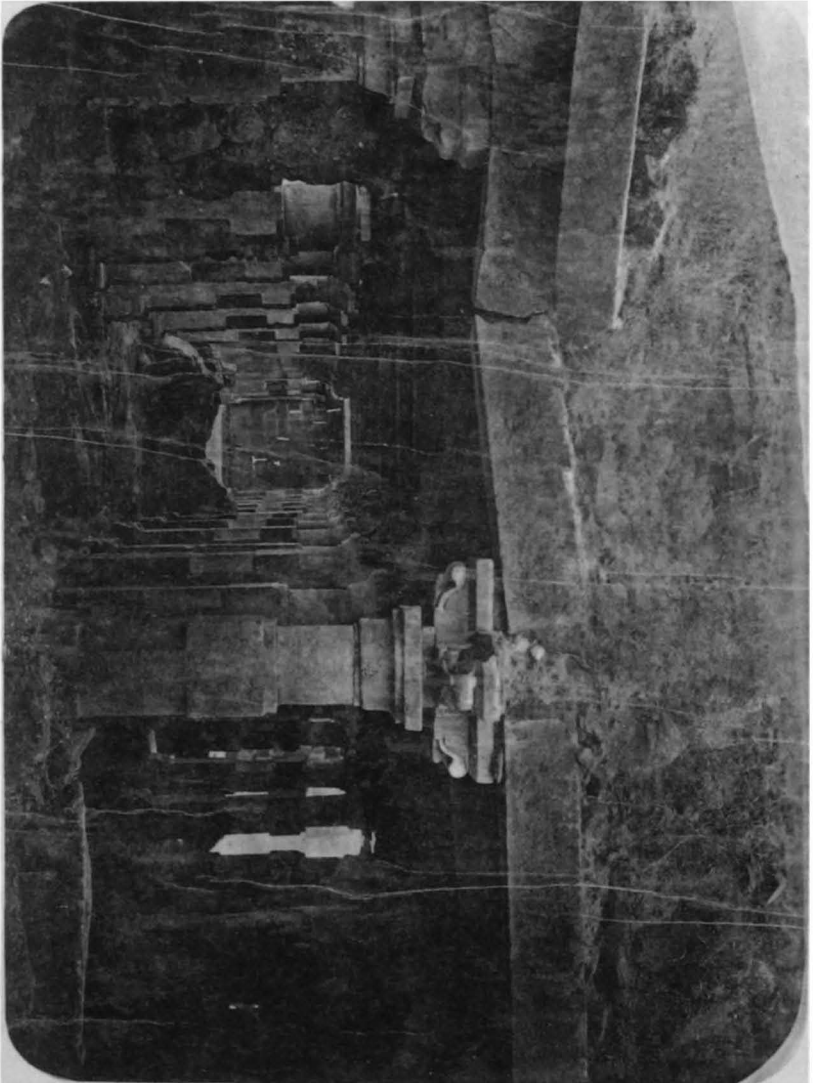
a *linga* ; but the latter has gone. In the side shrine on the north is a *linga* while the shrine on the south is empty. The *mandap* has no pillars. The porch in front of the entrance has fallen, the platform only remaining. In front of this porch stand the ruins of what was once, perhaps, the Nandi pavilion, but it is ruined. Beyond this, again, are the remains of the main entrance to the temple courtyard with its steps. The *sikhara* was probably built of brick work, since some brick masonry remains upon the roof and no carved *sikhara* stones exist. The roof is carved with bushes and shrubs, and the building is surrounded by houses and is in a filthy state. The second temple is outside the village to the south-east. It is dedicated to Chintāmani Mahādeo and faces west. It consists of a shrine and *mandap*, the latter being supported on four pillars; Ganesh is on the lintel. The shrine doorway is carved, but not so elaborately as in the first temple. On each side of the shrine doorway are three figures, Siva being in the centre. Both side porches are closed with mud walls. The temples are now under Government conservation. The village contains a Board school and a branch post-office.

Lonar.¹—A town in the Mehkar tāluk situated in 19° 59' N. and 76° 33' E., about 12 miles to the south of Mehkar. The town is one of the oldest in Berār, tradition ascribing its foundation to the *Krita Yuga*, the first of the four Hindu ages. The story of the giant Lonāsura is given in the *Skanda-Purān*, and the legend runs that the giant lived in a subterranean abode from which he issued to devastate the surrounding country, even aspiring to wage war against the gods themselves. They, becoming alarmed, petitioned Vishnu to destroy him, and he, assuming the form of a beautiful youth—Daitya-

¹ See also the articles on Geology and Minerals.

sūdan—and having won by his beauty the assistance of the giant's two sisters, discovered his abode. With a touch of his toe he is said to have unearthed the giant, and having overcome him in single combat, buried him in the pit which was his home. The present lake is the den of the giant, and a conical hill near the village Datephal, some 36 miles to the south-west, is said to be the lid of the giant's den which Vishnu removed with his toe. The water of the lake is supposed to be the blood, and the salts which it contains, the decomposed flesh of the giant.

At the head of the path which leads down to the lake is a perennial spring, which is locally supposed to come from the Ganges. The story is alleged to have been proved by a sage who threw a stick into the Ganges at Benares and running all the way to Lonār arrived just in time to see it issuing from the spring. A picturesquely situated group of temples, held in great veneration and visited annually by many thousands of pilgrims, surrounds the spring which issues from a *Gaomukh* and falls into a small tank in which the pilgrims bathe. There are numerous temples round the lake itself, most of which are in a somewhat ruinous condition. In the centre of the town, built in honour of Vishnu's victory over the giant Lonāsūr, is the temple of Daitya-sūdan, the finest specimen of early Hindu architecture in Berār. It is of the Hemādpanthī class and is built in the form of an irregular star, the exterior walls being covered with carved figures, the profusion and inferior workmanship of which seem to point to a fairly late date for the construction of the building. It stands on a plinth some four or five feet in height, and the unfinished roof seems intended to take a pyramidal form. The town of Lonār, the population of which has increased from 1865 in 1870 to 3085 in 1901, is a trading centre of some importance, and a considerable number of Mārwaṛīs are settled here. A ginning



INTERIOR OF DHARAMSALA, LONAR.

Bemrose, Colln., Derby.

factory has been established for some time. There is a branch post office, a police station-house, and primary school. An indigenous girls' school has also recently been started.

Lower Pūrna River.—A river which rises in the hills of the Ajantā range to the west of the District, and flowing past Dhār and Mhālsā in a south-easterly direction enters the Nizām's territory about three miles south of the village Chāndol. Then flowing for some distance in the same direction eastward of Jafarābād through the Nizām's territory it again enters the District near Chinchkhed, and after traversing a distance of about 30 miles leaves the district to pass into the Nizām's Dominions a few miles north of Pokhari village. Its course through Buldāna is parallel to that of the Pengangā. It does not flow in the hot weather. The drainage of the southern portion of the Chikhli tāluk feeds it in the rains. Its total length is $86\frac{3}{4}$ miles, of which $38\frac{1}{4}$ are within the District.

Madha.—A village in the Chikhli tāluk, situated 14 miles to the west of Buldāna. The population in 1901 was 545, area 2602 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 1522. The river Pengangā takes its rise from a small spring of water at the foot of a low hill near the village. There are traces of a small tank in the village, some portion of which still contains water; but the water is stagnant and the tank silted up. The village has also an old Hemādpantī temple of Mahādeo standing at the source of the Pengangā, which is all in ruins. It is said that in ancient times a *rishi* (sage) lived here, and traces of his abode (*math*) are still to be seen in the stones close by the stream.

Malgi.—A village in the Chikhli tāluk 20 miles to the south of Buldāna, containing 82 houses, and 201 inhabitants. The area is 1837 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 1006. Here is a temple dedicated to Mahā-

deo and a subterranean spring the water of which collects in a large *bārav* (well with steps). This water is reported to benefit the covered buffaloe and to cure persons of their lameness. A cure requires three successive visits, and the place is very popular during the Hindu month Chaitra (March—April).

(Malkapur Taluk.) A tāluk lying between $20^{\circ} 33'$ and $21^{\circ} 2'$ N. and $76^{\circ} 2'$ and $76^{\circ} 36'$

Physical features.

E. with an area of 792 square miles and (containing 330 *khālsa* and 9 *jāgīr* villages.) It is bounded on the north by the river Pūrna separating it from part of the Khāndesh District and the Jalgaon tāluk, on the east by Khāmgaon, on the south by Chikhli, and on the west by the tāluks of Jāmner and Bhusāwal of the Khāndesh District. (It lies between the fertile valley of the Pūrna and the hills of the Bālāghāt, and consists of a level plain containing rich black soil of a most fertile description, the commencement of the well-known valley of Berār.) In the valley of the Pūrna for some miles on its left bank the soil has been much cut up by the drainage, and has assumed a lighter colour; it has become mixed with nodules of lime and gravel, and is of an inferior quality. In the south where the hills are approached the soil changes rapidly to one of a poorer nature, more shallow and stony. The hills themselves, though covered with jungle, cannot be said to be well wooded, the growth being poor and the trees stunted and of not much value. (The river Pūrna which runs along the northern boundary of the tāluk has three considerable tributaries, the Nalgangā, Vishwagangā, and Gyān rivers, all of which, rising in the hills of the Bālāghāt, run parallel from south to north, containing more or less water throughout the year. Flowing mostly in deep beds between high banks, they are ill-adapted for purposes of irrigation and drain the country rather than water it.)

The population of the t̄aluk in 1901 was 173,234 persons or 28 per cent. of that of the District. The population in 1891 was 177,877 persons, and in 1881, 168,508. Between 1881 and 1891 the increase was under 6 per cent. During the last decade the population decreased by a little more than 2½ per cent., this being equivalent to a loss of more than 9000 persons. The bulk of this decline must have occurred during the famine of 1900. The density of population was 219 persons per square mile in 1901 as against the District figure of 168. Excluding the towns, Malkāpur is much more thickly populated than any of the other t̄aluks of the District, with a density of 194 per square mile. The t̄aluk contains two towns, Malkāpur (13,112), and Nāndurā (6669), 286 inhabited and 51 uninhabited villages. Besides the towns, the following villages contained a population of more than 2000 persons in 1901: Chāndur, Datāla, Dhāmangaon, Nāndurā Khurd, Nīngaon, Pimpalgaon Rājā, Rohankhed, and Badner. No less than 34 villages also contained over 1000 persons.

(The soil of the t̄aluk being of a rich black description, very retentive of moisture, is adapted to the growth of either *kharīf* or *rabi* crops; and the climate being mild during the cold months of the year, the cultivation of *rabi* crops is likely to be particularly successful. But as in the rest of the Berār valley *kharīf* cultivation predominates, and cotton and juāri are by far the most important crops, The figures for five years (1887-1891) worked out at the revision settlement show that of the total area of 427,517 acres under cultivation cotton occupied 144,896 acres or about 34 per cent., and juāri 138,058 acres or more than 32 per cent. Wheat occupied 19,652 acres or 6 per cent., and linseed 21,757 acres or 5 per cent. The area under

grass or fallow was 48,566 acres or 11·4 per cent. ; this consists of land unfit for cultivation, and is taken up by the ryots who readily pay the light assessment to secure pasturage for their cattle. In 1907-08 out of the total village area of 458,098 acres excluding State forests, 436,529 acres or 95 per cent. of the total were occupied for cultivation. Of this 403,934 acres or 92 per cent. were cropped during the year. The area under cotton has largely increased since settlement, and it now (1907-08) occupies 180,807 acres or about 45 per cent. of the cropped area; the area under juāri has declined a little and it now occupies 135,746 or 35 per cent. The area under wheat has decreased to a large extent, and it occupies only 2577 acres. (The area under irrigation, which is principally *motasthal*, i.e., from wells, is 4256 acres.)

The Malkāpur tāluk was originally settled between 1862 and 1867. It was divided into five groups with maximum rates varying from R. 1 to Rs. 2. At the time (in 1891-92) of the revision assessment which came into force in 1895-96, the Government occupied land according to the former survey was 421,527 acres with an assessment of Rs. 4,07,481, giving an incidence of As. 15-5 per acre. At the revision settlement the tāluk was divided into two groups and rated at Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-12 per acre. The Government occupied land according to the revision survey was the same, and the revised assessment was Rs. 6,21,603, the incidence per acre being R. 1-7-7. The increase in the demand thus amounted to Rs. 2,14,122, being 52 per cent. in excess of the previous demand. The land revenue demand for 1907-08 was Rs. 5,65,056, the whole of which was collected during the year. This demand is less than that assessed at settlement, and it may be explained that in 201 villages of the tāluk the full revision

Land revenue.

survey assessment rates are not to be recovered till the expiry of the first fifteen years of the settlement.

For purposes of land records the t̄aluk has been divided into four Revenue Inspectors' circles, with headquarters at Sarolā, Nāndurā, Pimpalgaon Rājā, and Malkāpur. It also forms one police circle under an Inspector with five station-houses at Malkāpur, Nāndurā, Pimpalgaon Rājā, Borākhedi, and Dhāmangaon, each under a Sub-Inspector. The t̄aluk is well provided with communications. The Nāgpur branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway runs through the t̄aluk, and Buldāna, the headquarters of the District, is connected by a metalled road with Malkāpur station on the line. Metalled roads also pass through the t̄aluk from Nāndurā railway station to Molā on the Malkāpur-Buldāna road and to Khāmgaon.

Malkapur Town.—The headquarters of the Malkāpur t̄aluk, 28 miles to the north of Buldāna situated in 20° 53' N. and 76° 15' E. on the Nalgangā, a tributary of the Pūrna, at an elevation of 900 feet. Malkāpur is a station on the Nāgpur branch of the G. I. P. Railway, 308 miles from Bombay and 213 from Nāgpur. The town has within the decade ending 1901 increased in population from 9222 to 13,112, or by 42 per cent. The increase is due to the development of its cotton trade which will no doubt still continue to add to its population. The bulk of the population are Hindus, but the Muhammadans number 3829. The area of the town is 7398 acres and the land revenue demand of Malkāpur Rs. 12,923. Two bunds or dams cross the Nalgangā here, one of which is said to have been constructed about 200 years ago to facilitate communication with the *peth* or suburb, and the other about 50 years later to fill the town ditch with water and thus protect it from surprise by marauders. The old rampart of dressed stone, with five gates and

twenty-eight bastions, surrounds the town, which is divided into four principal quarters. One of the gates bears on it an inscription to the effect that it was erected in 1729 during the rule of Muhammad Malikkhān. Malkāpur is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbarī* as the headquarters of a pargana in the *sarkār* of Narnāla. The town is said to have been founded about 450 years ago by a prince of the Fārūkī house of Khāndesh and to have been named by him after the princess (Malikā) his daughter, but the story is improbable, for we have no record of any journey in this direction by Mīran Ghani Adil Khān, the Fārūkī prince of the period. In 1761 the town was rich enough to pay Rs. 60,000 to the army of Raghunāth Rao Peshwā for exemption from plunder. The Nizāms used to keep a force of about 20,000 men in this frontier District of their dominions. Daulat Rao Sindhia and Raghuji Bhoṣla were encamped near Malkāpur when the British envoy Colonel Collins, after presenting General Wellesley's ultimatum, quitted Sindhia's camp on August 3rd, 1803.

Malkāpur was the scene of several petty battles between zamīndārs, rival tālukdārs, Rājputs and Musalmāns during the period between the beginning of the nineteenth century and the Assignment of Berār. An interesting account of one of these fights which took place in 1849 is given on page 52 in the History Chapter. Malkāpur is now an important industrial centre containing five ginning factories and six presses. It was created a Municipality in 1905. Figures of its receipts and expenditure for the year 1905-06 are not available, but in 1906-07 the total receipts were Rs. 7753 and expenditure Rs. 6377. In 1907-1908 the total receipts amounted to Rs. 11,708 chiefly derived from a cess on professions and trades, from conservancy fees and from the revenue from markets and slaughter-houses; and the expenditure was Rs. 10,379, principally under public health and education.

A cotton market fund also exists, the receipts of which during 1907-1908 were Rs. 1705, while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 3198.

A subordinate civil court under a munsiff, and a Bench of Honorary Magistrates exercising third class powers are established at Malkāpur, which also contains a tahsīli, a dispensary, a combined post and telegraph office, two police station-houses, a sub-registrar's office, and P.W.D. dāk and inspection bungalows. Education is carried on by means of a government Anglo-vernacular school with a hostel for the boarders; two Hindustāni and one Marāthī school managed by the Municipality; and a Government girls' school. A mosque known as the Jami Masjid near the Kāzi's house is said to be older than the town. There is also a temple of Shri Rāmchandra in which there is an illegible inscription of about ten lines in Nāgari character.

Man River.—A tributary of the river Pūrna from the south, takes its source near the village of Shebsur in the Chikhli tāluk of the District, and flowing in an easterly direction past the large village of Amrāpur leaves the District a few miles south of the village of Kinhai. Thence taking a northerly course through the Bālāpur tāluk of the Akolā District it is met by the river Mosi at Bālāpur forming an island on which the town stands. The channels at this point contain water all through the year; this greatly benefits Bālāpur. From about five miles to the north of Bālāpur until it joins the Pūrna, it forms the natural boundary between the Akolā and Buldāna Districts. The country on both sides of the river, from Bālāpur down to its confluence with the Pūrna, is cut up and bulged out far inland on both banks by ravines and alluvial mounds.

Masrul.—A village in the Chikhli tāluk 16 miles to the south-west of Buldāna with a population of 904

persons, area of 2861 acres, and paying a land revenue of Rs. 2137. The Ajantā caves are at a distance of about 14 miles from this place. There is a very old Hemādpanthi temple here, still in good condition, although the roof leaks in several places. The temple contains an image of Ganpati. It is made all of stone with ornamental work over the pillar and the gate. The ornamental work consists of flowers, creepers, etc., and is of the most ordinary kind. The temple is said to be used as a *sarai*. The village contains a Marāthī school, the average daily attendance of boys being 39.

-Matargaon Buzruk.—The largest village in Khāmgaon tāluk three miles to the north-east of Jālamb railway station. Its population was 3490 in 1901 against 2999 in 1891. Its area is 5402 acres, and its land revenue demand Rs. 8701. The village contains a primary school for boys, a camping ground, and a branch post office. A weekly market is held on Fridays, the principal articles of trade being grain, groceries and cloth. There are extensive *bābul bans* near this village which are conserved by the Forest Department.

(Mehkar Tāluk.)—The southern tāluk of the Buldāna District lying between $19^{\circ} 52'$ and $20^{\circ} 25'$ N. and $76^{\circ} 2'$ and $76^{\circ} 52'$ E. with an area of 1008 square miles. The tāluk formerly contained 344 Government villages and 14 jāgīr villages; but in August 1905, five forest villages, one from the Ghātbori forest of the Khāmgaon tāluk, and four also from the Ghātbori forest of the Bālāpur tāluk, were added to this tāluk when the boundaries were revised with a view to the forest boundaries being made conterminous with those of the revenue tāluk. The tāluk forms a part of the south-western tract of the country known as the Bālāghat or Berār above the Ghāts, but the valley of the Pengangā, and the southern Pūrna which traverse

it, contain fertile tracts. The tāluk is bounded on the west by the Chikhli tāluk, on the east and north by Akolā District, and on the south by His Highness the Nizām's dominions. The tāluk is very irregular and roughly shaped like a boot, having an extreme length of 60 miles, the average width being about 25 miles. (In climate and physical features it closely resembles Chikhli where the general contour of the country may be described as a succession of small plateaus intersected by ravines decreasing in elevation from the northward where the greatest height is attained to the extreme south where a series of small *ghāts* bound the tāluk and separate it from His Highness the Nizām's dominions.) (The succession of plateaus and ravines is, however, more rapid in Mehkar, and communications are consequently somewhat more difficult.) (In a country of this description soils are very variable, and although the tāluk contains a large amount of wheat-growing soil of a fertile description, it does not approach the uniformity of the rich black soils of the plain tāluks of Berār. The villages in the north of the tāluk are of a very hilly and rugged description, and a considerable extent of land is here reserved as forest. The large village of Deulgaon Sākarshā in the extreme north lies beyond the range of hills and partakes of the nature of the plain villages of the Bālāpur tāluk. The drainage of the tāluk is from north-west to south-east, and there are two rivers of importance, the Pengangā and the Lower Pūrna, both of which run parallel through the tāluk and hold water throughout the year. There are many smaller streams, tributaries of these rivers which are useful for shorter periods, and on the whole the tāluk is plentifully supplied with water.)

The population of the tāluk in 1901 was 120,972 persons or about one-fifth of that of the District. In 1891 the popula-

Population.

tion was 153,046, and in 1881, 131,244. The increase between 1881 and 1891 was the largest of all the t̄aluks, being 16·6 per cent. against the District figure of 5·7; and the decrease between 1891 and 1901 was also the largest, being 21·07 as against the District figure of 9·6. Part of this large decrease in the last decade may be attributed to the cycle of bad years and the ensuing famines. The density of population was 120 souls per square mile, being the lowest of all the t̄aluks. The rural density was 115 per square mile. Only 4·41 per cent. of the population live in towns. The t̄aluk contains one town Mehkar (5330) and 357 villages, of which 44 were uninhabited according to the census village lists. Excluding the town the following five villages contained more than 2000 persons in 1901, *viz.*, Kheldā *alias* Fatehkhelda, Jānephāl, Dongaon, Lonār and Sindkhed. There were also 11 villages which contained a population of more than 1000 persons.

Major Elphinstone and Major Prescott, who carried out the original settlement 42 years ago, pointed out that Chikhli and Mehkar closely resembled each other in soil and climate, but regarded the latter as being on the whole somewhat inferior to the former. The average statistics for the five years (1892-96) worked at the time of revision settlement (1896-97) show that (out of the total cultivated area of 511,247 acres wheat covered an area of 126,621 acres or about 25 per cent., and was more largely cultivated than either juāri or cotton; the three taken together absorbed three-quarters of the area under cultivation. Cotton did not appear to be much in favour with the ryots of this t̄aluk,) only 83,529 acres or 16·3 per cent. being devoted to its growth. Juāri occupied 107,938 acres or 21 per cent. of the total cultivated area. The area under grass and fallow 75,529 aḡres, or about 15 per cent. of the

whole, was extensive, but as with the Chikhli tāluk it is largely accounted for by the nature of the country. Where the numerous plateaux terminate abruptly in steep drops there must of necessity be a considerable area that is incapable of cultivation, and can only be devoted to grazing purposes.) (There is no well irrigation here, and the area of lands irrigated by channel from streams and tanks, known as *pātasthal bagait*, was only 583 acres) In 1907-08 the total village area excluding State forests was 556,278 acres, of which a proportion of about 92 per cent. was occupied for cultivation. The total cropped area during the year, excluding double-cropped area, was 367,562 acres or 72 per cent. of the occupied area; of this, wheat occupied 40,610 acres or 11 per cent., cotton 128,248 acres or 35 per cent., and juāri 135,710 acres or 37 per cent. The total irrigated area was 4814 acres.

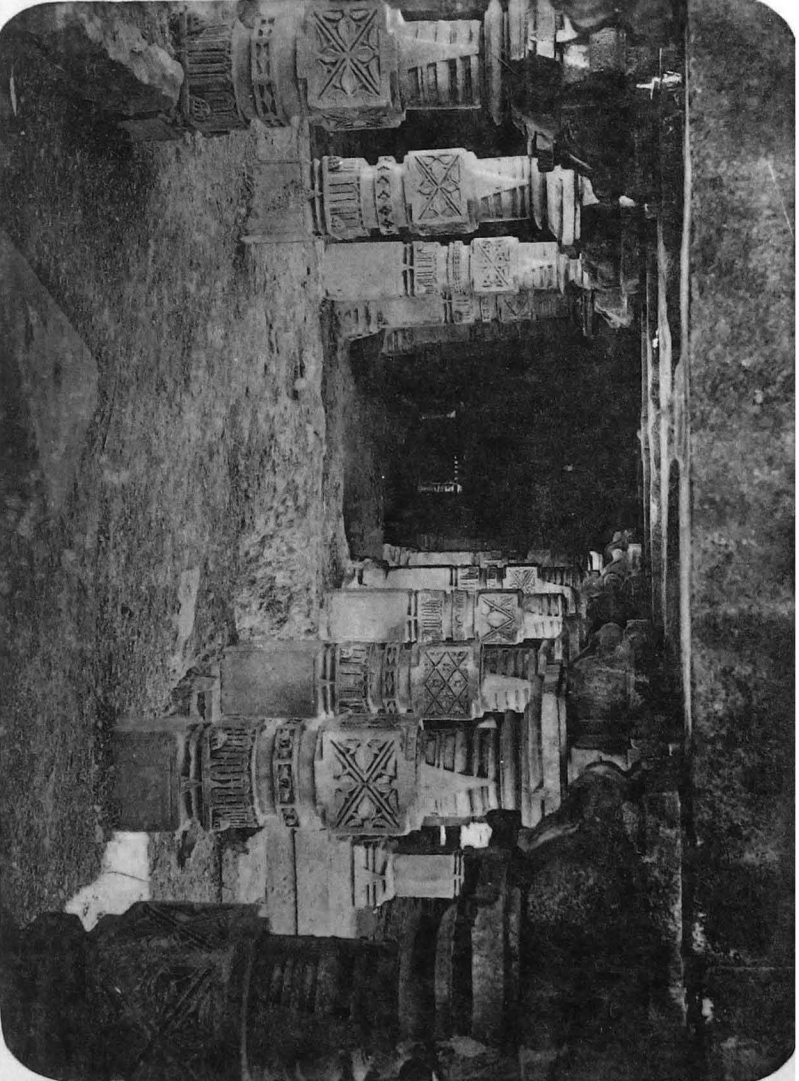
At the original settlement (1868-69) the 344 Government villages were divided into four groups according to their proximity to and facility of communication with market towns and large villages, and assessed with a maximum dry crop standard acreage rate varying from As. 14 to R. 1-8. The average incidence per acre fell at As. 7-10 per acre. In the first year of the settlement there were 423,370 acres of occupied land paying an assessment of Rs. 2,57,279, the incidence per acre falling at As. 9-8. During the currency of the original settlement the occupied land increased, and at the time of revised settlement amounted to 488,111 acres; and the assessment was Rs. 2,81,233, giving an incidence of As. 9-2 per acre. At the revision settlement all the Government villages were divided into three groups, and assessed with rates varying from R. 1-2 to R. 1-12. The area of Government occupied land according to revision survey was 487,951

Land revenue.

acres, and the revised assessment was Rs. 3,66,224, giving an incidence of As. 12-3 per acre. The increase of assessment at revised settlement amounted to Rs. 84,991, being 32·2 per cent. in excess of the previous demand. The land-revenue demand in 1907-08 was Rs. 3,73,991, of which Rs. 3,70,538 were collected during the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 3453 to be collected.

For purposes of land records the tāluk is divided into five Revenue Inspectors' circles with headquarters at Lonār, Mehkar, Loni-Gaoli, Sendurjanā and Sindkhed. The tāluk forms a single police circle under an Inspector with five Station-houses at Mehkar, Jānephal, Fatekhheldā, Lonār and Kingaon Rāja, each under a Sub-Inspector.

Mehkar Town.—The headquarters of the tāluk bearing the same name. It is situated in 20° 10' N. and 76° 37' E., 42 miles to the south-west of Buldāna, with which it is connected by a metalled road. The population was in 1901 returned as 5330. The area is 8403 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 7713. The myth connected with the name of Mehkar is that many thousand years ago there lived a demon by name Meghankar who, like the giant Lonāsur, devastated the surrounding country and threatened even the gods themselves. Vishnu, appearing in the incarnation of Shārangdhar, put the demon to death, and the scene of the fight has since borne his name in the corrupted form of Mehkar. There are, outside the town, traces of a Hemādpanthī temple, which may be connected with the legend. A Muhammadan poet tells us that Mehkar is 795 years older than the Hijra era. Mehkar is mentioned in the Ain-i-Akbarī as the headquarters of a *sarkār* or revenue district. In 1769 the Peshwā Madhao Rao accompanied by Sindhia and Ruku-ud-daula, the Nizām's minister, encamped at Mehkar while on his way to punish the Bhonsla



NORTH COLONNADE OF TEMPLE, MEHKAR.

Bamruvi, Colls., Dewy.

for assisting in Raghunāth Rao's insurrection. General Doveton also encamped at Mehkar in 1817 on his march to Nāgpur against Appa Sāhib Bhonsla who had broken the treaty of Deogaon. Formerly the town contained a thriving community of weavers and Momins, the latter being so rich that about 400 years ago they fortified the place and built up the fallen rampart on the gate which is still called by their name. An inscription on the gate fixes the date at 1488 A.D. The town was in a very prosperous state until the inroads of the Pindāris began, and these, together with the famine of 1803, completed its decline. It was formerly famous for the excellence of its *dhotis*, but these have now been driven out of the market. Mehkar at one time gave its name to the District. Of the Hemādpanthī temple mentioned above nothing is now left except the retaining walls of the site on which the temple stood. Close by is a partly ruined *dharmshāla* which was probably merely a subsidiary building to the temple. It was used during the late famine as a kitchen and much of the building has fallen in the last thirty years. The *dharmshāla* is about 72 feet square inside, and is formed by a deep covered colonnade with two rows of pillars surrounding a small central square courtyard 23 feet square. Twenty-five of the sixty pillars still stand and many others are scattered about the town. The marked absence of figure sculpture, and the confinement of the decoration on the pillars to geometrical and conventional leaf design, indicate a period later than the earliest inroads of the Muhammadans into Central India. On the high ground to the east of the town there is an old Muhammadan shrine called the Panch Pir, and about a mile to the north-east are the remains of a palace which are known as the Kasbin's Mahal. There are no other buildings of architectural merit in the town. The modern temple of Bālājī finely situated in the centre of the

town with a magnificent outlook over the surrounding country was recently built at a cost of a lakh and a half of rupees subscribed by the public to house an image of Vishnu which was found on the site in 1888 while some excavations were in progress. The image is of black marble finely carved and is about ten-and-a-half feet in height. Of its origin and date nothing is known. The temple has an extensive *sabhā-mandap*, and close to it there is a big *dharmshāla*. The temple has no fixed source of income; but its estimated income is nearly Rs. 600 a year, while the expenditure amounts to Rs. 700. It is managed by a body of 11 members elected by the public. The town is situated on the old Dāk line from Bombay to Nāgpur on the slopes of a small hill at the foot of which flows the river Pengangā, from which the main water-supply of the town is derived. The tāluk officials are the Tahsildār and Naib-tahsildār. A munsiff also holds his court here. The tahsīli, inspection bungalow, police station-house and lines, Anglo-vernacular school and boarding house, dispensary and veterinary dispensary, Coronation *sarai* and library are the principal official buildings. There is also a combined post and telegraph office. An Urdū school and a girls' school are situated in the town. A weekly bazar is held on Sundays at which a fair amount of business is done.

Nalganga River.—A river in the Malkāpur tāluk which rises in the hills of the Ajantā range adjoining the forest village of Nalkund about 27 miles to the south-west of Malkāpur and flows north-west past Rohan-khed as far as Shelāpur. It then takes a course due north and runs past Datāla and Malkāpur, where it is crossed by a railway bridge, and following the same course empties itself into the Pūrna after its junction with the Wagar river. In the hot weather this river dwindles into a mere series of unconnected pools. The

total length of the river is $40\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the whole of which lies within the Mālkāpur tāluk of the District.

Nalkund.—A small village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying about 27 miles to the south-west of Malkāpur. It is now included in Amdari reserve forest (A Class) and is deserted. In the adjoining hills of the Ajantā range a series of natural cisterns have been formed one above the other. On the top of the ninth cistern stands an *umar* tree (*Ficus glomerata*) of holy repute. Hard by is a cave, once the abode of *rishis* who here performed their religious duties and sacrifices, as is evidenced by the sacred ashes still found therein. The village owes its name to the cisterns which are associated with the name of Rājā Nal, husband of Damyanti, the only daughter of Bhīma, an ancient king of Berār. Their story is told in the Mahābhārat—how Nal lost all by gambling and wandered about the forests without a morsel of food, followed by his faithful wife whom he deserted in the hope that she might find her way to her father's and not kill herself by following him. The Nalkund seems to mark the place where Nal probably quenched his thirst.

Nandura Buzruk.—A town in the Malkāpur tāluk situated in $20^{\circ}49'$ N. and $76^{\circ}31'$ E. It is a railway station on the Nāgpur branch of the G. I. P. Railway, and is 324 miles from Bombay. It is divided from a town of the same name by the river Gyāngangā. Its population in 1901 was 6669 against 6471 in 1891. The bulk of the population consists of Hindus who number 5374, while there are 1240 Musalmāns. The land revenue demand is Rs. 6291, and the area is 2877 acres. The town which previously was a small village was largely populated by dyers fleeing from the depredations of the Pindāris and of Mahādji Sindhia in the pargana of Pimpalgaon Rāja towards the end of the eighteenth century. It now has

some commercial importance, possessing as it does two cotton presses and three ginning factories. It is also famous for its dyeing industry, and the *sāris* woven here have some repute. The potters of the place make a special kind of red *chatti* which is largely used at railway stations. Education is carried on by means of three schools, a Government girls' school and District Board Hindustāni and Marāthī schools. A bench of Honorary Magistrates exercising second class powers is located here. The town contains a dāk bungalow, a combined post and telegraph office, a police station-house, and a sub-registrar's office. It is also the headquarters of a Revenue Inspector of the Land Record staff. A weekly market is held on Mondays which is noted for the cattle and carts brought for sale. The carts known as *damnīs* are sold for prices varying from Rs. 35 to Rs. 70, and people from long distances come to buy them. It is also a large market for the sale of cloth, timber and grain of all kinds. The estimated weekly sales amount to Rs. 11,200.

Nandura Khurd.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk separated from Nandurā Buzruk by the river Gyāngangā. Its population in 1901 was 2654 against 2514 in 1891; its area is 1159 acres and the land revenue demand is Rs. 2149. Like its namesake it is noted for its *sāris* and its dyeing industry.

Narwel.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying 7 miles to the north of Malkāpur. A temple of Koteswar Mahādeo stands near the junction of the Nalgangā and the Pūrna rivers, and some *inām* land has been assigned for its support. A small annual fair is held here every year in the month of January. The village is noted for its excellent tobacco. Its population in 1901 was 1878 as against 1924 in 1891. The land revenue demand is Rs. 7657, and its area is 4323 acres. The village contains a Board school and post office.

Pahur Jira.—A large village in the Khāmgaon tāluk 6 miles to the north of Khāmgaon, a little distance off the Nāndurā road. Its population in 1901 was 2644 as against 2537 in 1891, its area is 6475 acres and its land revenue demand Rs. 7046. The village owes its name to the large colony of Jire Mālis residing here. It contains a primary school for boys, a camping ground and a branch post office.

Pāturda.—A large village in the Jalgaon tāluk situated 14 miles south-west of Jalgaon with a population of 4247, an area of 4153 acres and paying a land revenue of Rs. 8019. The village contains a vernacular middle school, in the upper two classes of which the teaching of English is carried on by means of private subscriptions, and also an Urdū school. A Local Board *sarai* and a branch post office form the public buildings. Pāturda is famous for its sweet *ber* (*Zizyphus jujuba*) fruit; and a considerable weekly market, next in importance in the tāluk to that of Asalgaon, is held here on Mondays.

Pāyanghāt—The lowland country comprised in the valley of the Pūrna river, the principal affluent of the Tapti. The valley running eastward lies between the Melghāt or Gāwilgarh hills in the north, and the Ajantā range on the south, like a long back water or deep bay varying in breadth from 40 to 50 miles and broader toward the end than at its mouth. The surface of this valley is not flat or even; it rises and descends by very long low wanes with their troughs cutting mostly north and south, flowing up westward to a point just beyond Amraoti; here this formation is broken up by a chain of low hills that run in a north-westerly direction across the plain. These hills mark a change in the country's watershed. Westward of them the main slope of the valley is toward the west from the point where the Pūrna river makes almost a right angle by its sudden turn; but

eastward of Amraoti the streams take an opposite direction and their course is to the Wardhā or some of its affluents. Except the Pūrna, which is the main artery of the river system, scarcely a stream in this tract is perennial. The Pāyānghāt valley contains all the best land in Berār ; it is full of that deep rich black alluvial soil called *regār* of almost inexhaustible fertility, and it undulates just enough to maintain a natural system of drainage which is probably very favourable to the productive powers of the land. Here and there are barren tracts where the hills spread out ample skirts far into the plain, covered with round stones and scrub jungles ; or where a few outlying flat-topped hills, often with hummocks or humps looking like huge cairns on their crown, stand forward beyond the ranks to which they belong. But there is nothing picturesque about this broad strip of alluvial champaign country ; it is very destitute of trees, except near the villages close under the hills. In the early autumn it is one sheet of cultivation and looks fresh enough, but from the beginning of the hot season, when the crops have been gathered, its generally monotonous plain is relieved by neither verdure, shade nor water, and the landscape is desolate and depressing. The tāluks of Malkāpur, Jalgaon and Khāmgaon of the District belong to the Pāyānghāt valley.

Penganga River.—A river having its source in the hills beyond Deulghāt on the western border of the District in $20^{\circ} 31' N.$ and $76^{\circ} 2' E.$ After running right across the District diagonally in a south-easterly direction past Mehkar and a portion of the Akolā District it forms the southern boundary of Berār, joining the Wardhā, which forms the eastern boundary of the Province, at Jugad in the south-eastern corner of the Yeotmāl District ($19^{\circ} 52' N.$ $79^{\circ} 11' E.$). That portion of the river which lies in this District collects the drainage of the Mehkar

and partly that of the Chikhli tāluks and is almost dry in the hot weather, in parts quite so; and even near its source the river cannot be said to be perennial. It has no tributaries of any importance within the District, and does not assume the character of a river until it leaves the District. The course of the Pengangā from its source to the point where it is joined by the Wardhā exceeds 200 miles in length, of which 65 miles lie within the District. Its principal tributaries beyond the District are the Pus, the Arna, the Aran which unite before they flow into it; the Chandrabhāga, the Waghāri which displays on its banks a curious laminated formation of Purāna sandstone, and the Waidarbhā, the name of which is the adjectival form of the name of the old kingdom of heroic times. All these tributaries flow into the Pengangā from the north.

Pimpalgaon Devi.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying 14 miles south-west of Malkāpur. It owes its name to the existence of a temple of Devī (goddess) in the village. A big fair is held here annually in honor of the Devī in the month of January (Paush Purnimā) which lasts for about 15 days and is attended by 25,000 people from Khāndesh and Berār Districts. Temporary shops for the sale of all kinds of goods are established, and the value of the sales is said to average Rs. 7000 annually. Carts of all description are largely brought in from the Khāndesh District and form one of the principal articles of trade. The population of the village in 1901 was 633 against 826 in 1891, and its area is 3824 acres. The land revenue demand is Rs. 2612. The village contains a Board school.

Pimpalgaon Kale.—A large village in the Jalgaon tāluk 8 miles east by south of Jalgaon, with a population of 4681 persons, an area of 5327 acres and paying a land revenue of Rs. 11,399. A considerable trade in cotton is

carried on, and a ginning factory was established in 1901-02, with a capital of about Rs. 50,000. The village has a vernacular middle school and a branch post office. A weekly market is held here on Fridays.

Pimpalgaon Nath.—A small village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying about 18 miles south-east of Malkāpur and 7 miles west by south of Pimpalgaon Rājā. Its population in 1901 was 515, its area is 756 acres and the land revenue demand is Rs. 439. A great sage called Kambal Nāth lived here in former days. He was one of the nine Nāths described in the 'Nao Nāth Granth,' and was so famous that all the surrounding villages affixed 'Nāth' to their name by way of distinction from villages of the same name elsewhere located. The village contains a large temple dedicated to the sage, and a small annual fair is held here.

Pimpalgaon Raja.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk lying on the river Gyāngangā, 26 miles to the south-east of Malkāpur and 10 miles from Nāndurā. It is said to have been founded about eight hundred years ago by a Rājā or prince of the cowherd caste named Pirat-singh. Another tradition is that a Rājā and his family were buried alive here in order to ensure the successful building of the fort. In the 18th century Pimpalgaon Rājā was an important town and the headquarters of a pargana, but it was harassed by the Pindāris about 1787 A.D., who forced a large colony of dyers to emigrate to Nāndurā and other places. Its ruin was completed by the blackmail levied by Sindhia Mahadjī in 1790, when he passed through Berār on his way to Poona from the expedition against Ghulām Kādir Beg of Delhi. Since the introduction of British rule the town has recovered some of its prosperity. Its population in 1901 was 4808 against 4696 in 1891, its area is 5259 acres, and its land revenue demand Rs. 7781. There is a large

Muhammadan community. Outside the village on the south, close to the river, is the subterranean rock-cut cell of Renukā Devī. The image is only a face painted upon the rock in the cell at the bottom of a flight of steps. In front of the cell is a water cistern. A police station-house is located here. The village has also a branch post office, a sub-registrar's office and a Local Board *sarai*. About 1619 A.D. there flourished here a Hindu author of various works on theology by name Ganesh Devajnya.

Pimpalner.—A village in the Mehkar tāluk lying 14 miles to the south-east of Mehkar. Its population in 1901 was 453, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 1279. The village was originally owned by a rich *Deshmukh* surnamed *sarkate* (beheaded), but in the time of Aurangzeb it came into the possession of two Muhammadan leaders Nawāb Kartalab Khān and Nawāb Yeshwas Khān. They built a strong *garhī* or fort and a *bārādari* (a high tower with twelve windows), the ruins of which still remain. A stone *masjid* was also erected by them. The village contains two large well-built tanks, but they no longer hold water and one of them has been included in Government forest and the other made available for cultivation. A descendant of the Nawābs—Omraobeg—was until recently living in the village. He and his family draw a *deshmukhi* pension of Rs. 425, and he also owns the *patelki* of the village which he manages through an agent.

Purna River (the ancient Payoshni).—A river having its source in the southern slopes of the Gāwīlgarh hills in 21° 36' N. and 77° 36' E. The river, after flowing in a south-westerly direction for about 50 miles, runs in a westerly course about midway between the Gāwīlgarh and Bālāghāt hills, draining the central valley of Berār. It enters the District from the east at a point about

6 miles to the south-east of the village of Pāturda in the Jalgaon tāluk, and forms the southern boundary of that tāluk, separating it from Malkāpur and Khāmgaon, and receives the whole drainage of the country. It also forms a natural boundary between part of Malkāpur tāluk and the Province of Khāndesh, and finally falls into the Tapti. It has within the District four considerable tributaries running from south to north, the Nalgangā, Vishwagangā, Gyān and Mān rivers, and one from north to south, the Bān. During the high floods the water of the river cuts across the original course and comes up to the village sites. The Pūrna may certainly be called a perennial stream as it contains water all the year round, but its banks are so high and its sluggish waters so small in quantity, that it is quite useless for irrigation; and owing to the very gradual fall of the river the water collects here and there in large *dohos* or pools which, especially in the hot weather, become covered with a green scum and emit exhalations which are anything but agreeable or healthy. The people living on its borders are said to suffer much more from fever than those further from it. In the cold season when the supply of water in the river is still somewhat abundant, broad sheets of water in some places are seen suddenly to change into narrow scarcely perceptible rills in others. The banks of the Pūrna are so high and abrupt that they present serious obstacles to cart traffic, and the soil composing them being soft and of a friable nature cannot resist the inroads of the channel water; and in each rainy season the banks fall in considerably. The total length of the river Pūrna is 180 miles, of which a course of 32 miles lies within the District.

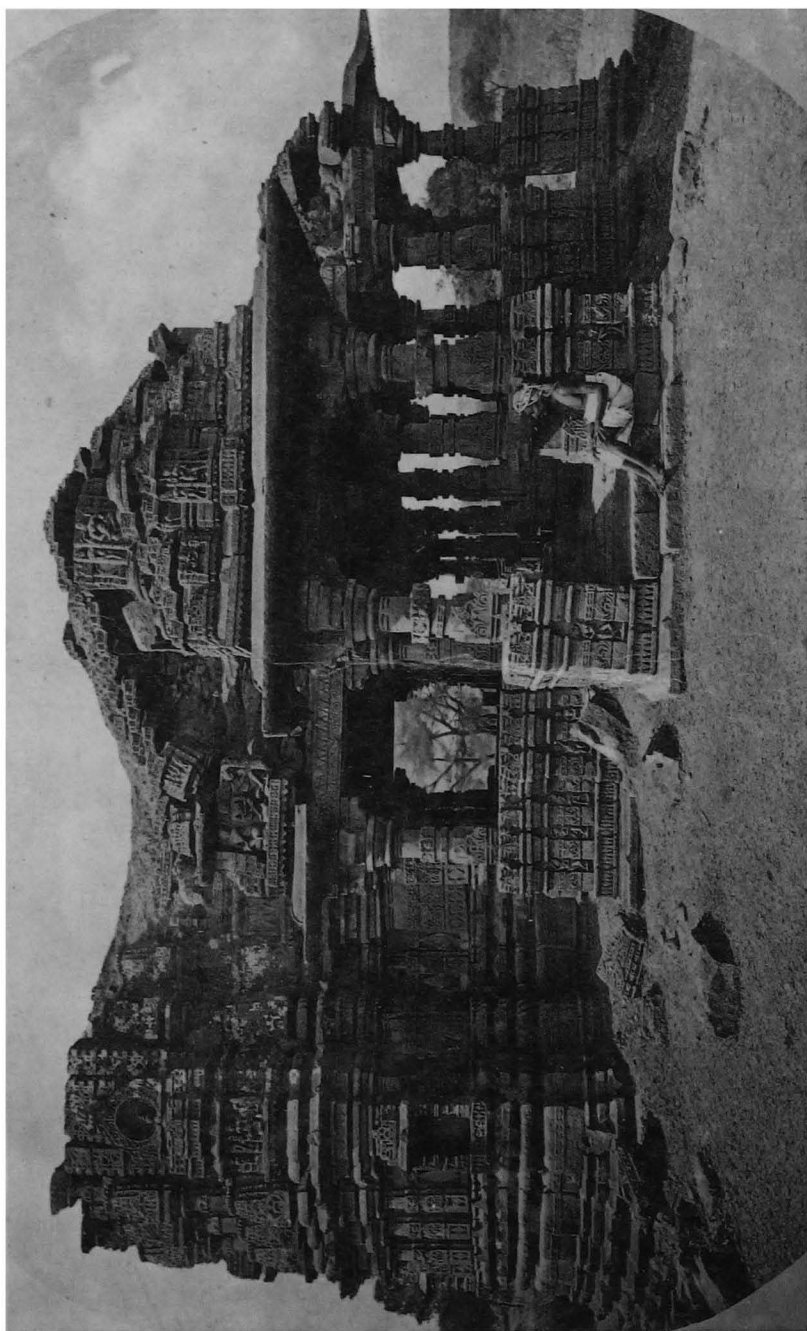
Rajura.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk, 22 miles to the south of Malkāpur. The population has increased from 584 in 1891 to 1085 in 1901. Its area is 3266 acres

and land revenue demand Rs. 2067. An anicut has been built here on the Nalgangā river for the storage of water. There is an old temple of Rāmeshwara in a dilapidated condition. It faces west and has a deep-sunk shrine approached by a flight of steps. The *mandap* has fallen, save the four pillars which stand alone. In the shrine is the *linga*. The shrine doorway is well carved. The *sikhara* or tower of the shrine has fallen and a modern dome has replaced it. Old carved stones are scattered all through the village. There is also a temple of Devī on a hill half a mile from the village. The village is close to the Ajantā hills and the reserved forest of Amdari, where shooting can be had.

Rohankhed.—A village in the Malkāpur tāluk situated 20 miles south of Malkāpur in 20° 37' N. and 76° 11' E. immediately below the Bālāghāt plateau. Its population in 1901 was 2130 as against 1657 in 1891; its area is 8163 acres and the land revenue demand is Rs. 4115. The village has been the scene of two battles. In 1437 Nasir Khān, Sultān of Khāndesh, invaded Berār to avenge the ill-treatment of his daughter by Alā-ud-dīn Bahmani to whom she had been married. Khalaf Hasan Basri, governor of Daulatābād, who had been sent against the invader, fell upon Nasir Khān at Rohankhed, routed him and pursued him to his capital Burhānpur, which he sacked. In 1590 Burhān, a prince of the Ahmadnagar dynasty, who had taken refuge in the Mughal Empire, invaded Berār in company with Rājā Ali Khān, vassal ruler of Khāndesh, to establish his claim to the kingdom of Ahmadnagar against his son Ismail who had been elevated to the throne by a faction headed by Jamālkhān. The invaders met the forces of Jamālkhān at Rohankhed and utterly defeated them, Jamālkhān being slain and the young Ismail captured at Rohankhed. There is a small but handsome mosque built in 1582 by Khudāwand

Khān the Mahdavi, a follower of Jamālkhān. The mosque is built much on the same lines as that at Fatehkheldā in the Mehkar tāluk, but is now in a dilapidated condition. It has an inscription in Persian characters, for an account of which the section on Archæology may be consulted. The village has also a temple of Kāleshwar Mahādeo, partly rebuilt but much ruined. The village was once called Raunakābād. A weekly market is held on Sundays.

Sakegaon.—A village in the Chikhli tāluk situated 14 miles to the south of Buldāna and 6 miles west of Chikhli. Its population is 338, area 1721 acres and land revenue Rs. 1175. It has an old temple of Mahādeo of much the same style of work as the temple at Sātgaon. It faces the east, and consists of a shrine, an ante-chamber and a *mandap*, with a porch in front of the entrance doorway which is on the east. It was surrounded by a heavily-built wall enclosing a courtyard and having its entrance upon the north side. To the south of the main building is a small subsidiary temple facing the north, against which the surrounding wall abuts upon either side, *i.e.*, the temple stands athwart the wall and cuts through it. It is, therefore, evident that the wall was built after the shrine, and perhaps long after the big temple. The masonry of the walls and the pillars of the courtyard gateway are of the same style and age as those of the temple at Mehkar, and therefore later than the temple itself. The walls of the *mandap* and shrine are quite free of images, save for those in two of the three niches round the shrine, and decorated with the usual basement mouldings and bands of geometric ornament. The back-wall of the shrine, or rather its outer casing, has fallen, carrying with it a great part of the spire upon the site. The back niche has gone with it. In the niche on the south side is a figure of the Tān-



Bemrose, Collin, Derby.

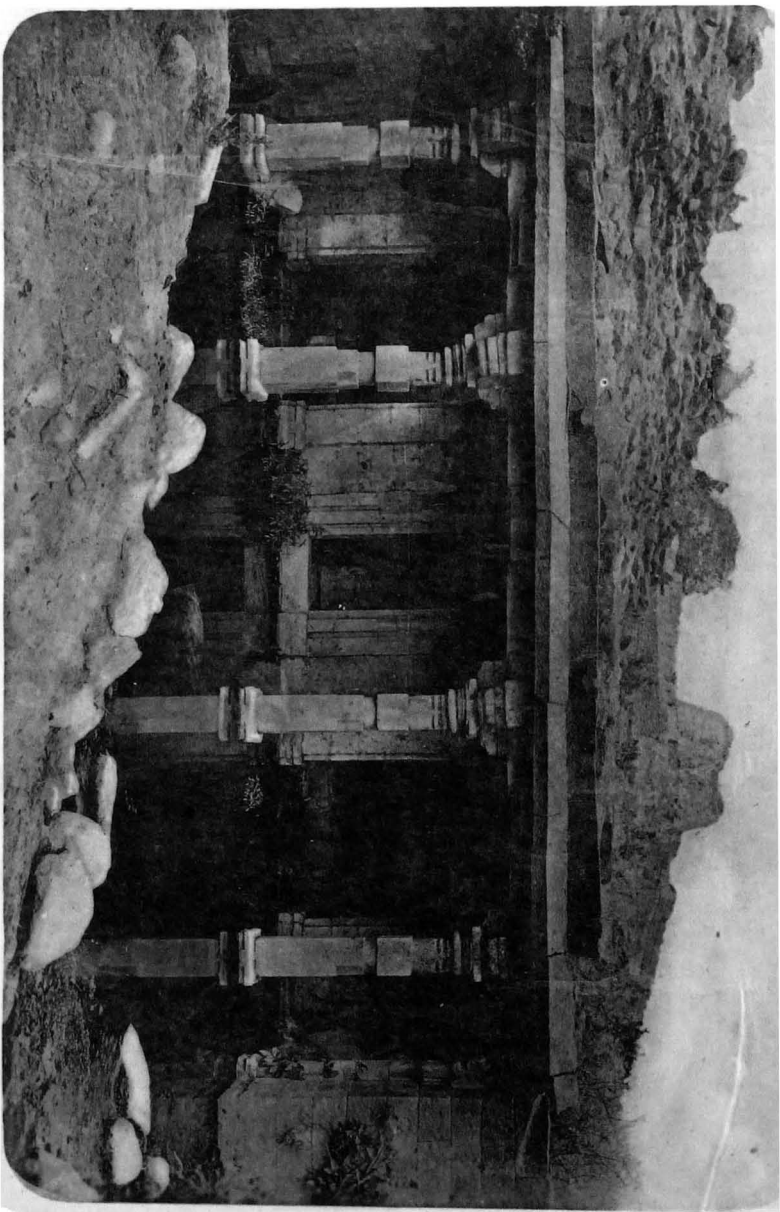
LARGE TEMPLE FROM NCRTH, SATGAON.

dava of Siva, and in the niche on the north side is that of Mahākālī. The front of the tower is decorated with the tri-foliated *chaitya* arch; under it are the images of the Tāndava and of Siva and Pārvatī, while on the sides of the same are those of Bhairava, Mahishāsura-mardini, and Ganpati. Within the shrine is the *linga*. In the small temple, on the south side of the main building against the back wall, is a seat for an image; but it is now vacant, and it is not known to whom the shrine was dedicated. These Hemādpanthī temples are under Government conservation.

Satgaon.—A small village in the Chikhli tāluk situated 10 miles on the main road to the south of Buldāna; it has a population of 829 persons with 182 houses, and an area of 5682 acres, yielding a land revenue of Rs. 4596. There is a Marāthī school in the village with an average daily attendance of 29. The village is of some importance by reason of its antiquarian remains, showing the existence of Jainism side by side with Brahmanism. There are ruins of temples and statuary which show that out of four temples now traceable three were Hindu and one was Jain. They are all in a dilapidated state, one of them being a total wreck. The principal temple is that of Vishnu to the west of the village. It is somewhat peculiarly built in that it faces the west instead of the east as usual. The image of Vishnu is broken and lost, leaving only his feet above the figure of Garuda which is his conveyance, and which is still *in situ*. The temple is much dilapidated, but it is a fine structure. The ceilings of the *mandap* and the exterior walls of the shrine are well decorated, and in style seem to stand half way between the later temples of the 13th and 14th centuries and those of the 11th. To prevent further decay, the Archæological Department have taken it under their charge. At a short distance behind the Vishnu

temple is a remnant of a small temple of Mahādeo, which is in a very ruined condition ; the entrance to it is from the east side, local mud walls having recently been built in the verandah of the *mandir*. Inside the temple there is a *linga* and outside the Nāndia ; the door is elaborately carved and has the Ganesh on the dedicatory block, above which there are niches with figures of Vaishnavi, Brāhmi and Pārvatī. These are all goddesses, the wives of the gods constituting the Hindu Trinity. It is, however, noticeable that there are no figures of gods to be seen there. The third Hindu temple is to the north of the Vishnu temple and, as already stated, is a wreck. Of the fourth, which was apparently a Jain temple, all that now remains are four standing pillars. A short distance to the north-west of this is a large pīpal tree with a high platform around its base on which are some fragments of old images. Among them is the lower portion of an image of the Jain god Pārasnāth with an inscription of two lines beneath, dated Saka 1173 (A.D. 1251). It is Digambara, its nakedness being distinctly indicated. Apparently it was originally enshrined in the temple of which the four pillars remain. Another noticeable image on the platform is that of a Devī which is broken, but above her head there is a wreath of flowers at the top of which is seated a little Jīna, indicating that the Devī does not belong to the Hindu but to the Jain pantheon.

Sendurjana.—A large village in the Mehkar tāluk, 14 miles to the west of Mehkar. Its population in 1901 was 1298, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 3517. It contains a Board school, post office and a liquor shop. A weekly market is held here on Fridays. Here is a Hemādpanthī temple dedicated to Mahādeo. By its side is a small tank whose water, though by no means deep, never diminishes or dries up. A few yards away is a spot 'Sita Nhāni,' the bathing place of Sīta, wife



TEMPLE AND TANK, SENDURJAN.

Benares, Capt. Duff.

of Rāma. Both the tank and the bathing place are held in great veneration.

Shahpur.—A village in the Khāmgaon tāluk situated on the Mān river, 20 miles to the south-east of K̄hāmgaon. Its population in 1901 was 1094, its area is 2583 acres, and its land revenue demand Rs. 2493. The land of this village is of inferior quality. The village is said to have been founded by Prince Murādshāh, son of the Emperor Akbar. It was the residence of a famous saint Nipānīshāh, who never drank water. The story goes that Murādshāh entertained the saint at a feast, whereat the food burnt the latter's stomach. He, therefore, cursed Murādshāh with the words, *merā dūja* and *terā tīja*, which being interpreted mean: 'I will die to-morrow and you will die the next day.' He also laid a curse on all Muhammadans who took up their residence there. Murād died on the third day with all his force, and no Muhammadan has been brave enough to live in the village since.

The village contains the ruins of a *mahal* or palace built by Prince Murād.

Shegaon Town.—A town in the Khāmgaon tāluk, situate in 20° 48' N. and 76° 45' E. It is a railway station on the Nāgpur branch of the G. I. P. Railway, and is 340 miles from Bombay and 180 from Nāgpur. The municipal area is 1421 acres. The town lies in an open situation in the middle of the Berār plain. Shegaon was of little importance before the opening of the railway in 1863, and in 1867 it was still described as a large agricultural village. Its subsequent progress has been remarkable. In the decade 1891-1901 its population increased from 11,422 to 15,057 or by 31 per cent. The bulk of the population are Hindus (13,259), while there are 1607 Muhammadans. The town is now an important centre of the cotton trade, containing five

presses and seven ginning factories. The weekly market is held on Tuesdays, and a considerable trade in grain and cattle is done. The land revenue of Shegaon is Rs. 32,838. The village lands cover a much wider area than the municipal area. The land revenue is larger than that of any other town or village in Berār:

To the north of the railway there are a ginning factory, and two quarters occupied principally by labourers. The bulk of the town lies to the south of the railway. On the western portion are to be found a few large factories and bungalows connected with them, the bungalows of railway officials, the headquarters of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of U.S.A., the railway station, a dāk bungalow, a municipal *sarai* and a police station. These are separated from the town itself by the cotton market and weekly bazar. The town proper is divided into two parts by a nullah running from south-west to north-east. The nullah is crossed by a causeway, but is dry for most of the year. Shegaon has a small Roman Catholic chapel, two mosques and 16 temples. Three *sarais* for travellers have been built by Mārwaris on the west side of the nullah. There are in the town a Government charitable dispensary, an Anglo-vernacular school, vernacular Marāthī and Hindustāni boys' schools, and a Marāthī girls' school.

The Municipality was constituted in 1881. The Committee consists of nine elected and four nominated members. The average receipts and expenditure for the five years ending 1907 were Rs. 16,000 and 11,500 respectively. The income was derived chiefly from ground rent, taxes and cesses, and the expenditure was mainly devoted to drainage, conservancy, roads and education. In 1907 there was a balance of Rs. 25,000, but a large outlay is required in connection with schemes of water-supply and drainage.

The water-supply of the town is very scanty; a tank with an area of 250 acres was made in 1877 at a cost of Rs. 30,000, but it dries up in the hot weather. Below its *bund* a supplementary tank was made in the famine of 1899, but this also is of little use save for watering cattle. A scheme is now in hand for utilizing these tanks for the provision of an adequate water-supply. Drains have been constructed in the principal streets of the town, but the general drainage is still very defective.

Sindkhed.—A village in the Mehkar tāluk of very considerable antiquity, situated in 19° 57' N. and 76° 10' E., 32 miles south-west of Mehkar with a population of 2711, an area of 7730 acres and paying a land revenue of Rs. 4746. According to one account the village received its name from the King Sinduram who is said to have founded it. Another derivation of the name is from *Siddha kshetra*, *i.e.*, a village of saints, but the fact seems to be that like many other villages it derives its name from the *sindi* tree. The pargana of Sindkhed was granted as a jāgīr to the Kāzi of the town about 1450 A.D., and was after about a century made over by him to the Jadhao family, the most famous member of which was Lakhji who had recently settled there. Lakhji was, according to one account, a Rājput from Karauli in Hindustān, but the family has also claimed descent from the Yādava Rājās of Deogiri. Lakhji obtained a command of 10,000 horse under the Ahmadnagar government, but afterwards espoused the Mughal cause, receiving a command of 15,000 horse in the imperial army. He was entrapped by Māloji, grand-father of Sivāji, into giving his daughter in marriage to Shāhjī, and she thus became the mother of the famous Sivāji. Notwithstanding this connection the Jadhaoes were, except on one occasion, steady imperialists throughout the wars between Mughal and Marāthā, and held high rank in the

imperial army. The family enjoyed the pargana of Sindkhed for another hundred years, but about 1650 an envoy of the Emperor, Murshid Alī Khān, being displeased with the reception given him by the Jadhaos, restored the jāgīr to the Kāzi. To the north-west of the town lies the half-finished fortress built by the Jadhao family, the construction of which was stopped by this envoy. The fort, still an uncompleted structure, is of solid black stone cemented with lead, and has a look of immense strength. The family lost their possessions in 1851 owing to an act of rebellion by Arab troops under their command. Various buildings, tanks and palaces bear testimony to the ancient glories of the House of Jadhao. The temple of the god Nilkantheswar to the south-west supposed to have been built by Hemādpanthī is the oldest structure in the town. It bears an inscription which, however, has become illegible, being some feet under water in the tank by the temple. There are two tanks to the west of the village, one of which has a lofty masonry embankment and supplies water for irrigation purposes to the fields below. Sindkhed was held by Sindhia for nearly 60 years and was restored to the Nizām in 1803. It is described by Wellesley in 1804 as being a nest of thieves. The decline of the village was hastened by marauders whose names Mohan Singh, Rudlām Shāh, Ghāzi Khān were long remembered with terror. Bājirao, the last of the Peshwās, while pursued by the English in 1818, encamped for some days near Sindkhed. The water-supply is good and the climate is healthy; the village is surrounded by good mango groves. It contains Marāthī, Hindustāni and girls' schools, a Local Board *sarai*, and a branch post office.

Sivani.—A small village in the Mehkar tāluk about 36 miles south-west of Mehkar, with a population of 258 and paying a land revenue of Rs. 721. On the top of a

hill close by is a reservoir of water with a canopy of stone supported by pillars. Near this is a temple dedicated to the goddess of Tuljāpur. Formerly military officers from Jālna used to sojourn here during the hot season. The village also contains a ruined mosque.

Sonala.—A village in the Jalgaon tāluk lying at the foot of the Sātpurās about 13 miles north-east of Jalgaon, with a population of 3832, an area of 5302 acres and paying a land revenue of Rs. 7481. It was once the headquarters of a pargana, and is still the residence of some Deshmukh and Deshpāndia families. The village is famous as the birthplace of a saint by name Sonāji Bowā. The latter, by origin a cowherd, is said to have healed the sick and performed other miracles and was worshipped during his lifetime. His tomb is still visited by many people in search of health, and a temple has lately been built to his memory. In his honour a fair is held annually in November, during which in the night time a carriage procession passes through the streets of the village and back to the temple. The carriage is of costly construction. A grandson of the saint still lives in the village, and acts as manager of the tomb and temple. The village has a Local Board vernacular school, a *sarai*, and a branch post office. A weekly market is held on Mondays.

Sonati.—A village in the Mehkar tāluk, lying 6 miles to the east of Mehkar, with a population of 738 persons and paying a land revenue of Rs. 2465. It contains an old Hemādpanthī temple of Mahādeo which has been recently repaired by the villagers. An annual fair is held here in December in honour of the Hindu deity Khandobā. It lasts for about a month, and is attended by about 12,000 persons. Temporary shops are opened for the sale of provisions and ordinary articles as cloth and utensils. During the fair a bazar cess

is levied, and about Rs. 200 are realized from it. A weekly market is held on Mondays.

Sungaon.—A large village in the Jalgaon tāluk about 3 miles north of Jalgaon, with a population of 3832 at the last census. Its area is 4507 acres and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 5304. The population is principally composed of Bāris, and the village is noted for its betel-leaves in which a very large trade is done, buyers coming from Nāgpur, Burhānpur, Khāngaon, Akolā and other places. The plantains grown here also have some local reputation. To the south-east of the village stands a temple built in honour of Aoji Bowā, the special deity of the Bāris. The latter will not do anything without the special sanction of their deity whose wishes they ascertain according to the fall of *bel* (*Ægle Marmelos*) fruit placed upon the leaves of a *nirgundi* (*Vitex Negundo*) tree. It is said that the inhabitants abstain from using tiles for their houses and burning kerosine oil for their lamps in consequence of some fancied prohibition on the part of the deity. The village has a Local Board school and a branch post office. A weekly market is held on Saturdays.

Tarapur.—A deserted village in the Chikhli tāluk, 8 miles north-east of Buldāna. Among the hills close to it is an old temple of Devī, which is much decayed and has partly fallen. It faces the north and is built of old bricks upon a stone foundation. It consists of a shrine and a *mandap* with three doorways, the western one of which is now closed up with stone and mud. The walls are plain. Attached to the front entrance is a verandah in which are placed some odd stone statues, among which are three of the seven mothers, *viz.*, Vaishnavi, Shaivi and Brāhmi; one of Ganesh, and one of a *jogi*. There are inscriptions each in three lines in five different places on this temple, but they are illegible. On

some of the stones are roughly inscribed pilgrims' names. An annual fair is held at Navrātra.

Undri.—A village situated on the Khāmgaon-Mehkar road on the banks of a small stream called Masse, at a distance of about 18 miles to the north-east of Chikhli and 20 miles to the south-west of Khāmgaon, at an elevation of 1879 feet above the sea-level. It contains 454 houses and 2234 inhabitants. The area is 2344 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 1917. A Marāthī school with an average daily attendance of 39 boys, a branch post office, liquor and *gānḷa* shops form the public buildings. The *garhī*, which is used as the village *chāwdī*, is called the Atole's *garhī* after a rich banker who is said to have built it many years ago. It is now in ruins. During the Mughlai rule the village was the headquarters of a Naib, and a small irregular force was stationed here. The mass of the population are cultivators, but the village also contains a number of bankers and merchants.

Vishwaganga River.—A river which takes its rise at Buldāna itself and runs due north parallel to the Nalgangā. It flows past Jaipur, Badner and Chāndur, being crossed at the latter place by a railway bridge known as Biswa Bridge and, following the same northerly course, finally falls into the Pūrna. It is not a perennial stream. Its total length is $42\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the whole of which lies within the District.

Wadhawa.—A village in the Mehkar tāluk 15 miles to the south of Mehkar. Its population in 1901 was 712, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 2062. It contains an old mud fort once occupied by one Lakshmanrao Naik, a notorious freebooter and a terror to the country side in the Mughlai days. His family is now extinct, and the *garhī* is in the possession of the Deshpāndias.

Warwand.—A village in the Chikhli tāluk lying 7 miles south-east of Buldāna. Its population is 1160,

its area 5038 acres, and it pays a land revenue of Rs. 2794. It contains a Marāthī school with an average attendance of 24 boys. There is also a forest rest-house, and good sport may be obtained in the neighbourhood. There is an old temple here dedicated to Eknāth, which is said to have been built 800 years ago. The temple is still in good condition. Two small Hemādpanthī temples are in ruins. Rough woollen blankets are manufactured here.