

The Ganges.

HISTORYNTS OF IA

HINDOSTAN;

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THE

TRANSLATED

FROM THE PERSIAN.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED

TWO DISSERTATIONS;

THE FIRST CONCERNING THE HINDOOS, AND THE SECOND ON THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF DESPOTISM IN INDIA.

BY ALEXANDER DOW, ESQ.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE nature of a government is best understood from the power which it communicates to its officers. The Author of the preceding History has thought proper to subjoin to his Work, the forms of commissions granted by the Emperor to his servants in the provinces. They will serve to justify his observations, on the policy of the Imperial house of Timur, who were too jealous of their own authority to commit their power, without reservation, to the hands of their deputies. The Despot derived the stability of his throne from the opinion which the people formed of his paternal care of their happiness and prosperity. Wanton oppression is an act of folly, not of true despotism, which leaves to mankind a few' rights, which render them worthy of being commanded.

NUMBER I.

Tenor of a Nabob's Firman.

THE mandate of the Emperor, the shadow of God, from the source of his bounty and favour, issues forth like the worldenlightening sun; conferring upon the most respected of nobles, the pillar of the empire, the strength of fortune, the pattern of true greatness, Mubariz-ul-dien Chan Bahadur, the high office of Lord of the Subadary, commander and governor of the province of Allahabad, giving into his hands the full power of contracting, dissolving, appointing, and dismissing, as he shall think proper and necessary in that province. But notwithstanding we have many proofs of his justice, humanity; experience, and valour, he must conform to the scope and meaning of the following directions, nor permit the minutest article of them to pass unobserved.

He must watch over the safety and happiness of that country, taking particular care that the weak shall not be oppressed by the strong, nor in any manner dispossessed of those tenements which have been long occupied by themselves and their progenitors.

He shall make the usages of the country, and the fights of the subject, his study; and shall be accountable for the revenues to commissaries of the royal exchequer, after a deduction of the necessary expences of the province, and what shall be received by the agents of Jagieerdars.

2 в 2

He shall punish such as refuse to pay the usual duties and stipulated rents, as an example to others; and he shall, from time to time, and repeatedly, transmit an account of all his transactions to the presence.

Be it known unto all Mutaseddys, Crories, Jagieerdars, Zimindars, Canongoes, Chowdries, Mukudums, and Riôts; that this most respected of nobles is created Lord of the Subadary, that they may not on any account dispute his just commands, and that they shall subject themselves to his authority. And should any Jagieerdar, Zimindar, or others, refuse to comply with his just orders or demands, he shall, dispossess them of their lands, and send a particular account of their behaviour to court, that we may judge of the same, and, if thought proper, send others from the presence to supply their places. In this proceed according to order, nor deviate from it.

NUMBER II. 🕖

Q A Dewan's Commission.

As it is some time since the particular accounts of the collections and disbursements of the province of Multan have been transmitted to the Imperial presence, we have reason to suspect that it is owing to the negligence of the present Dewan. On that account we have thought proper to appoint the most economical and exact of our servants, the experienced in business, Chaja Abdul Astar, to the office of Dewan, from the commencement of the ensuing term. He is therefore commanded to proceed in that business, according to the established rules and customs; to inspect the collections of the Malajât and Sairjat of the royal lands, and to look after the Jagieerdars, and in general all that belongs to the royal revenues, the amount of which he is to send to the public treasury, after the gross expences of the province are discharged according to the usual establishment; the parti-

cular account of which, he is at the same time to forward to the presence, as well as the accounts of the former Dewan. He is commanded to treat the Riôts with mildness and humanity, that they may employ themselves without disturbance in their buildings, cultivation, and other occupations; that the province may flourish and increase in wealth from year to year, under our happy government. Let all officers of the revenues, Crories, Canongoes, and Jagieerdars of the above-mentioned province, acknowledge the aforesaid as Dewan by our royal appointment, and they are commanded to be accountable to him for all that appertains to the Dewanny, and to conceal nothing from him; to subject themselves to his just commands, in every thing that is agreeable to the laws, and tending to the prosperity and happiness of our realms. In this proceed according to the tenor, nor deviate from it.

NUMBER III.

Tenor of a Jagieer.

THE illustrious mandate, necessary to be obeyed, issues forth commanding, That the sum of thirty lacks of Dâms, arising from different lands in the Pergunna of Chizer-abâd, possessed by the flower of nobility Mirza Feridon Beg, is from the commencement of the first harvest of the present year, confirmed and settled in Jagieer upon the most favoured of servants attending the royal presence, Muckirrib Chan Bahadur. Let all Chowdries, Canongoes, and tenants, who have any concern with, or who occupy the above-mentioned lands, acknowledge him as Jagieerdâr, and pay unto him or his agents, the usual rents belonging to the Dewanny without delay or refusal; and let the balances that may be due at that term be discharged to the former incumbent. In this matter let there be no obstruction, and let it proceed according to the order.

NUMBER IV.

A Firman granting lands to a Zemindar.

On this auspicious day, the Firman that communicates joy and happiness is issued forth. We have of our royal grace and favour conferred upon the learned, devout, and experienced Shech Sadi and his children, the extent of two thousand bigahs of arable land, in the Pergunna of Byrampoor, in the Sircar of Kinnoge, for his benefit and subsistence, free of collection, to commence from the beginning of the autumnal season of the current year; that he may appropriate the produce of that estate to his own use, and exigences from season to season, and from year to year, and continue to pray for the happiness and permanence of our Let the lords and public officers of that country reign. assign the above-mentioned quantity of land, in a good soil, well measured, and properly terminated, nor afterwards upon any account whatever, make any encroachments upon him; nor charge him with rents, customs, entrance money, yearly present, measurement, &c. charges and imposts of the Dewanny, nor for the dues of the empire. For it is our pleasure that he shall enjoy our bounty free and unmolested, nor be troubled from time to time for confirmations of this Firman. Proceed according to the order, nor depart from it.

NUMBER V.

The Tenor of a Cazi's Firman. The Order that issues forth like Fate.

As in the number of our auspicious designs, it is proper that the people of God should be conducted from the dark and narrow paths of error into the direct road of truth and reason, which intention can only be accomplished, when an upright and devout judge vested with his powers, shall be established in every city and country, to unfold the doors of virtue and justice, before the faces of wicked and designing men.

The laudable qualifications being found in the disposition of the learned in the laws, the extensive in knowledge, Easul-dien-Mahommed; we have, on that account, favoured him with the high and respectable office of Cazi of the city of Cabul; commanding him—To give the necessary application to that duty—To observe the established course of the noble law in his enquiries—To pass judgment in all disputes and arbitrations according to the same noble law, nor permit the smallest differences in the case to pass unobserved—To regulate his proceedings in such a clear and distinct manner, as if to-morrow were the day of examination on which every action must answer for itself.

Be it known to all rulers, and officers, and people, public and private, that the aforesaid learned in the law, is confirmed Cazi of the above-mentioned city of Cabul; that they shall pay him all due respect, and revere his decisions totally and particularly, paying all due obedience to his orders, by such officers as he shall appoint for executing the laws: receiving such of his words as are agreeable to the noble law into the ears of their understanding. In this business proceed according to order, and let none oppose it.

NUMBER VI.

Tenor of a Cutwal's Firman.

As a particular account of the capacity, experience, and bravery of Mahommed Bakar, hath reached our high and sacred presence, We have of our royal favour confirmed and appointed him Cutwâl of the city of Dowlatabad. He is commanded to make the practice of fidelity and truth his study, that he may be enabled to execute the duties of his office with propriety. He is to take care that the guards and watches of that city be strictly kept, that the inhabitants. may be secured and protected in their persons and property, that they may bless our happy reign, and pray for its duration.

He is to use his utmost endeavours that no thieves, gamblers, or other miscreants, shall make their appearance, and that no nuisances shall be permitted to remain in the streets, or before the door of any person. That no insidious old women, pimps, or jugglers, who lead the wives and daughters of honest men into the ways of evil, be tolerated, but have their hands shortened from such iniquitous practices. That he will as much as possible prevent forestalling of grain, provisions, and other things, that the markets may be kept low, nor the people suffer from any combinations amongst the Bunias. What events may arise of a particular nature, he is to send a true and faithful account of them to the presence.

Be it known unto all Mutasiddies, and officers, and all men public and private of the above-mentioned city, that the aforesaid Mahommed Bakar, is confirmed and appointed Cutwâl, and that all quarrels and vexatious disputes which may arise in that city, shall be referred to his decision, and that they shall submit to his arbitration according to the esta.

blished customs of the empire. Let this business be proceeded on according to order, and let none oppose it.

, NUMBER VII.

Commission or Perwanna for a Carkun, or Chief of a , District.

To all Chowdries, Canongoes, Muckudums, and others of the Pergunna of Noor-poor, be it known, That we have appointed the chosen in office, the servant of the faithful, Kinwir Ram to the office of Carkun of the above-mentioned. They are therefore to acknowledge him as such, Pergunna. and to make him acquainted with every general and particular transaction, 'in settling or collecting of which he is to keep an exact and faithful daily register, which must be attested by the Shackdar, Chowdries, and Canongoes of the Pergunna, and transmitted regularly every quarter to the royal exchequer. He is to take care that the ancient usages and customs of the Pergunna shall not be violated, nor any. new imposts or other innovations be permitted, and to examine the books of the above-mentioned Shackdars, Chowdries, and Canongoes, from time to time, that they are regularly kept. He is to receive his own pay from the Fotadar of the Pergunna. He is to demean himself with moderation. justice, and integrity, that he may be beloved and respected. In this business proceed according to order, without variation.

NUMBER VIII."

Commission or Purwanna for a Crorie.

To all Chowdries, Canongoes, Muckudums, and Riots of the Pergunna of Rehimabâd, be it known: since by the mandate that subjects the world, and is refulgent as the sun, the office of Crorie of the said Pergunna is conferred upon Chaja Mahommed Mauzum, from the commencement of next term, they are commanded to acknowledge him as such, and to be accountable to him for the usual rents and established rights of the Dewanny from term to term, and from year to year, without scruple or refusal, nor in any manner oppose his authority in the just execution of his duty in all that respects the royal revenues; nor conceal any thing general or particular from him, that properly ought to come under his cognizance.

The above-mentioned is ordered to study economy in his department, and to apply with diligence to his duty, without permitting the minutest transaction in that district to pass unobserved. To behave with justice and humanity to the Riôts, that they may have no cause of complaint, but be encouraged to apply themselves diligently to their various occupations, and that the annual collections may increase yearly, as well as the happiness of the inhabitants. He is from time to time to lodge his collections in the provincial treasury. In this proceed according to the tenor, without deviation.

*NUMBER IX.

commission of a Fotadar, or Treasurer of a District.

To our honoured and faithful Mirza Abrahîm, Crorie of the Pergunna of Mahommed-abâd, be it known: That as the office of Fotadâr of the above-mentioned Pergunna hath become,vacant, we have been pleased to appoint our trusty and diligent servant Jaffier Beg to that office. You are therefore commanded to give into his custody all the rents and customs of the Dewanny in that district, and he shall lodge it with care in his treasury; and you are to take his receipts, which you are to send monthly to the royal exchequer, nor are you permitted to keep one Dâm of the revenues in your own hands after the stated periods, and you must beware of treating any of his agents ill, which he may send to demand the collections. And should there be any deficiencies in his 'accounts, you are to be answerable for the same. Know this to be confirmed, nor deviate from the order.

GLOSSARY TO THE APPENDIX.

Canongoes.	Literally, speakers of the law : Registers of a district
Carkun.	The chief officer of a district, who let the lands, au- dited the accounts, and preserved the ancient usages
Cazi.	A judge.
Chowdrie.	The constable of a small district.
Cutwal.	A mayor of a town.
Crorie.	The collector of the revenues of a district.
Dâm.	An imaginary coin, the fortieth part of a rupee.
Dewan.	The receiver-general of the revenues of a province.
Dewanny.	The imperial revenues of the Dewan's department.
Firmân.	A royal commission or mandate.
Fotadar.	The treasurer of a district.
Jagicer.	An estate generally granted during pleasure; as also the imperial grant itself.
Jagieerdâr.	The possessor of the crown rents of a certain tract of land
Malajot.	The land rent.
Muckudum.	The principal clerk of a small department, or the chie of a village.
Mutasiddy.	A clerk of the cheque, or any writer employed abou the revenues.
Nabob, or Nawáb.	The King's lieutenant or viceroy of a province, properly Naib; but changed to the plural number by the na- tives, who address all great men in that manner.
Pergunna.	A district.
Perwanna.	A commission of an inferior nature to a Firman.
Riôts.	Tenants, husbandmen.
Sairjât.	All kinds of taxation, besides the land rent.
Sircur	A district, sometimes comprehending several per- gunnas; as also the principal man of any business
Shechdar, or	7 A kind of justice of the peace, or the most venerable
Shackdar.	f man in a town or district of the Mahommedan faith
Zemindar.	A possessor or farmer of lands.
Zemindary.	The country farmed by a Zemindar, which was some- times of a great extent, and formed into a kind of county, having its own courts and particular juris- dictions.

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THE END.

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but an insult on his dignity he would never forgive. His passions were naturally strong; he broke often forth like a flash of lightning; but when he was most agitated a calm was near; and he seemed to be ashamed of the trifles which ruffled his temper. He loved justice for its own sake; and though his excesses in wine gave birth sometimes to folly, they never gave rise to an act of injustice. He was fond of the company of women; and his love of variety produced the distemper of which he died.

Upon the death of Shaw Abâs, his uncle remained in the command of the Persian army. He sent a messenger to Aurungzêbe, acquainting him of the death of his nephew; and that he left him to choose either peace or war. The Emperor returned for answer, That his own empire was ample; and that all he wanted was to defend it from insult and invasion. That the disrespectful words of Abâs vanished with his life; for, conscious of his own integrity and power, that he neither feared the abuse nor dreaded the arms of any Prince. He condoled with the family of Sheick Sefi, for the loss of a monarch, whose most exceptionable action was his unprovoked attempt upon India. Aurungzêbe, however, left a powerful army on his frontiers. The Persians might be induced to derive advantage from the immense preparations which they had made; and he resolved to trust nothing to their moderation. The Prince Shaw Allum was, in the mean time, recalled to Delhi. The Emperor, full of circumspection and caution in all his actions, was resolved to remove temptation from his He feared that an army unemployed in a foreign son. war, might be converted into an instrument of ambition Shaw Allum copied his father's moderation at home. and self-denial upon every occasion, and he, therefore, was not to be trusted.

During the alarm of the Persian war, the tributary sovereign of Bijapour began to shew a disrespect for the Imperial mandates; and though he did not absolutely rebel, his obedience was full of coldness and

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delay. Dilêre Chan, by orders from the court of Delhi, led an army against the refractory tributary. He laid waste the country, and besieged the Prince in his capital. Adil Shaw was soon reduced to extremities for want of provisions; and he was upon the point of surrendering himself at discretion, when orders arrived from the Emperor, in the camp of Dilêre, to break up the siege, and to return immediately with the army to These unseasonable orders proceeded from the Delhi. jealousy of Shaw Allum. He knew that Dilêre was in the interest of his younger brother; and he was afraid that a conquest of such splendour would give him too much weight in the empire. He had insinuated, therefore, to his father, that Dilêre had entered into a treasonable correspondence with the enemy. Aurungzêbe was deceived, and the siege was raised.

Shaw Allum, who had returned to the Decan, resided in the city of Aurungabad. To disappoint Dilêre in his prospect of fame, was not the only view of the Prince. He meditated a revolt, and he was afraid of His father's orders were favourable to his Dilêre. He had received instructions from court to wishes. seize the person of the suspected lord, should he shew any marks of disaffection; or to subdue him by force of arms should he appear refractory. Thus far the designs of Shaw Allum succeeded. Dilêre, apprised of the Prince's schemes, broke up the siege, though with regret, as the place was on the point of surrendering. He moved toward Delhi with a disappointed army of thirty thousand Patan horse and the like number of infantry.

Dilère arriving within six miles of Aurungabåd, encamped with his army in an extensive plain. The Prince lay under the walls of that tity with eighty thousand men. Dilère sent a messenger to Shaw Allum, excusing himself for not waiting upon him in person that evening; but he promised to present himself in the tent of audience by the dawn of next morning. The Prince called a council of his principal officers, who