

THE MAHRATTAS AND THE MOGHULS.

M. W. BURWAY.

श्रीराम.

THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN
THE MAHRATTAS AND THE MOGHULS.

BY

MUKUND WAMANRAO BURWAY, B.A.

Judge Small Causes Court,

INDORE.

BOMBAY:

PRINTED AT THE "TATVA-VIVECHAKA" PRESS.

[*All rights reserved.*]

1914.

Rs. 2 Cloth-bound.]

[Rs. 1-8 Paper-bound.]

Bombay:— Printed by Bhiwaji Hari Shinde, at the Tatva-Vivechaka Press No. 1, 2, 3 Khetwadi Back Road, and Published by Mukund Wamanrao Burway B. A., Judge Small Causes Court Indore.

DEDICATED
TO THE REVERED MEMORY OF
H. H. THE LATE
Maharajah Tukoji Rao Holkar II.

G.C.S.I., C.I.E., Counsellor of the Queen Empress,

THE LATE
Mr. Justice M. G. Ranade

M.A., LL.B., C.I.E.

AND
THE LATE
Mr. Justice K. T. Telang

M.A., LL.B., C.I.E.

As a token of Admiration and Gratitude

By The Author,
M. W. BURWAY.

ERRATA.

—:—

	<i>Line</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read.</i>
P. 23	23	post	poet
" 24	21	Introduction	work
" 35	26	khowing	knowing
" 55	20	Jinji was	Jinjiwas
" 74	4	brother	son
" 83	10	o	of
" 106	24	topp'd	lopp'ed
" 127	22	from	form
" 124	6	Nizab	Nazib

Presented to the Library
of
The Servants of India Society
by the author
H. W. Dunsen

PREFACE

The present work was formerly published in 1902 under the title of "Introduction to the History of Gwalior," and several English and Indian scholars spoke well of it. Some gentlemen* suggested that the work may well be published independently and that to make it serve as an Introduction was little short of lessening its worth. The suggestion had a strong force in it and I accepted it heartily. I again place the work in an enlarged and modified form before the public. The cordial reception, which was extended to my "Life of Rao Rajah Sir Dinkar Rao" by the People and Princes of India and by eminent British Officers, encourages me to hope that the present publication may also be worthy of their generous kindness.

In publishing this work, it is my aim to put before the public a brief histori-

* Dr. Y. G. Apte, B.A., L.M. & S., was the first to make this kind suggestion.

cal survey of the Mahratta Empire, from the time of its foundation to its fall, based not only on the standard works of History but also on the new material that is seeing the light of the day, through the exertions of Professor Rajwade and Rao Bahadur Parasnis. I rejoice to find that the kind suggestion of Sir Narayan Rao Chandawarkar and Dr. Y. G. Apte has been carried out to some extent at least. Heavy work in Court, however, precludes the possibility of my undertaking the publication of the Mahratta History as mentioned in the Preface to the 'Life of Raja Sir Dinkar Rao.'*

(*) Sir Narayan Rao wrote to me as follows in this connection :—

Pedder Road, Bombay,

Dated the 12th April, 1909.

Dear Mr. Eurway,

I have duly received a copy of your "Life of Raja Sir Dinkar Rao" which you have kindly sent, and I have read it through with much pleasure and interest. I appreciate the labour you have bestowed on the subject and trust your Mahratta History will soon be published and will prove a very useful production.

Yours sincerely,

Ed. N. G. Chandawarkar.

In the appendix B of this work, I have tried to point out how unfounded is the belief of those writers, who say that the Mahratta Empire found its grave in the battle of Panipat of 1761.

The present writer hopes that a perusal of these pages would well serve to show how groundless is the assertion made by some historians to the effect that the Mahratta Empire is a misnomer. The said assertion is also contradicted by the semi-official words of Mr. J. Talboys Wheeler, the author of "The History of the Imperial assemblage at Delhi (1877)." Mr. J. T. Wheeler says on page 4: "The history of India before the advent of the British power tells of the rise and fall of three great Empires,—the Rajput, the Mahomedan, and the Mahratta. Each in turn was a paramount power. Each in turn was broken up into small kingdoms, which became feudatory states of a new Empire.....".

I beg to express my sincere thanks to my revered father, the late Rao Bahadur

Wamanrao Tatyā Burway, Sir Narayan Rao Chandavarkar, Kt., the Hon'ble Mr. J. B. Wood, C.I.E., I.C.S., and Major Luard M.A., for their kind suggestions and support. I heartily thank Mr. Anant Ganesh Sathaye M.A., LL.B., of the Bombay High Court, for all the troubles he has so kindly taken. My cordial thanks are also due to Mr. S. M. Bapna, B.A., LL.B., F.S.C., and Mr. D. V. Kirtane, Barrister-at-law, for their kind help in this work and to Mr. T. H. Morony for the loan of several valuable books.

In conclusion, I pray Parmeshwar for the prosperity of the Indian people and Princes under the happy Rule of Britain and trust that the Hindu and Mahomedan Communities will profit by the perusal of the noble deeds of wisdom of Shivaji and Akbar and the blunders of Aurangzebe.*

* Mr. Ismailjee, of the Indore Bar, informs me that the Guru of the Bohora community named Sayad Kutubudin of Ahmedabad was killed with seven hundred Bohora followers by the orders of Aurangzeb. The Guru was a Shiah and Aurangzeb a Sunni.

INDORE. }
1st March 1914.

M. W. Burway.

APPENDIX. C.

After the death of the Peshwa Sawai Mahdau Rao, on the 25th October 1795, there arose again the disputed question about the Succession to the Peshwaship. The "Confederacy of the Twelve" had ousted Raghoba, whose son Baji Rao II was equally odious and unfit for the duties of the Peshwaship. Except Nana Phadnavis, all the other members of the "Confederacy" had joined the majority. Nana Phadnavis was deadly opposed to the succession of Baji Rao, whose worthless character and fickleness of disposition were well known to that great statesman. But Baji Rao had secured the aid of Daolat Rao Sindhia, a person almost possessing the same moral calibre as his nominal master Baji Rao. This was galling to Nana Phadnavis, who was compelled to make virtue of necessity. When Nana Phadnavis clearly saw that the whole might of Doulat Rao Sindhia was

to be utilized for Baji Rao's succession to the Peshwaship, he (Nana) himself undertook to anticipate Sindhia's intentions and arranged to place Baji Rao on the Gadi. Baji Rao had no love for the great statesman, who served the Mahratta Empire for about forty years and whose noble views and unsurpassed industry and intellect were warmly admired by eminent English Statesmen and Generals. Baji Rao prevailed upon Doulat Rao Sindhia, by a promise of two crores of Rupces, to bring about the arrest and imprisonment of Nana Phadnavis. Sarge Rao Ghatgay was present on the scene and lent his pernicious aid to the plot. At Sarge Rao Ghatgay's instigation, Major Filose effected the arrest and imprisonment of Nana, who was sent to the Nagar Fort in 1797.

Major Richmond's letter to Major Filose, who ultimately disapproved of the affair, is interesting:—"I have no other interest in speaking of this but that which

I take for every European whose reputation is dear to me, for we have not yet had an example of European officers having falsified their oaths. I perceive a considerable storm which is forming and which undoubtedly would burst to the disadvantage of Daolat Rao Scindhia. The English, the Nizamalli, Raghojee Bhosale and even Tipu Sultan would be fully sufficient to give liberty to Balaji Pandit (Nana's full name was Balaji Janardan Bhanoo)." Such was the influence of Nana Phadnavis. With Nana Phadnavis' death in 1800 A. D. departed the wisdom and moderation in the Mahratta Empire, which tottered down actually in 1818 A. D., after witnessing the wild and aimless peregrinations of Baji Rao II, (i) who had thrown

(i) It was in the Baji Rao—cum—Doulat Rao Sindhia regime that the Second Mahratta war (1803-1805) and the Third Mahratta war (1817-1818) took place. General Sir Arthur Wellesley inflicted a crushing defeat on Sindhia at Assaye (September, 1803). General Lake defeated Sindhia at Aligarh, Delhi and Laswari and Sindhia's military strength melted away.

away to the winds the famous General Bapu Gokhale's advice. (ii) In short

(ii) General Bapu Gokhale had advised Baji Rao's keeping friendly relations with the English, whose irresistible might the Mahrattas were unable to cope with. Baji Rao insulted General Gokhale by calling him a coward, whereupon the valiant General resolved to sacrifice his noble life for the whims of his unworthy master. Admired and esteemed by the British General and soldiers, the spirited Gokhale fell fighting in the battle on the field of Ashta, while leading a terrible charge. Elphinstone and Malcolm, whose sympathy and liberal views are still remembered by many a noble family, were sorry to find that Baji Rao had hopelessly been misguided. Malcolm even went the length of remonstrating with the Peshwa for reconsidering his conduct in leaving Poona and wandering about in an aimless way. The good General, Sir John Malcolm, had even spoken to Baji Rao about ceding six annas of the territory and keeping ten annas for himself, but Baji Rao was inexorable and desired to abdicate. Malcolm and Elphinstone were prone to make, rather than unmake, kings, (vide Cotton's "Elphinstone"; "Life of Malcolm"; and Gleig's Life of the Duke of Wellington for a clear view of those times.) The writer of these pages had the opportunity of meeting some men on the establishment of Baji Rao II, who died in 1853.

There was much of interest that could be gathered from the words of these old men.

(1) It is a remarkable coincidence that the last Peshwa, the last Rajah of Zansi and the last Nawab

Baji Rao's misatkes expedited the fall of the Mahratta Empire, which was doomed to fall after the death of Mahadji Sindhia and Nana Phadnavis.

M. W. BURWAY.

ॐ नतु सत ।

Vazier of Oudh were persons given to impious indulgence in pleasure. They lost their thrones at different periods during the last Century. See Prinsep's History of Political and Military transactions in India and Compton's Military Adventurers of Hindustan; In Colebroke's "Life of Elphinstone," the reader will find very interesting details.

"Now Wajid-Ali-Shah, the last Nawab or king of Oude, was utterly worthless. Surrounded by fiddlers, prostitutes, poetasters, eunuchs, he wasted half the revenues on these creatures, by whom he was led about, a silly imbecile, with drugged brain and diseased body." Vide General Sleeman's Journal for details.

OPINIONS.

The book shows wonderful industry and research.

(Sd.) SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSH.

I was much interested in your book and think it is very well done.

(Sd.) A. M. T. JACKSON, M.A., I.C.S.

I think a great deal of credit is due to you for this able production.

(Sd.) N. C. MARTELLI, COLONEL.

I have read your book through and have found it interesting reading. You have consulted a wide range of authorities. A valuable addition to one of the most important epochs of Indian History.

(Sd.) D. MACKICHAN.
Vice-Chancellor, Bombay University.

I have read with much interest the first part of the History of Gwalior. The early history of Maharashtra is clearly though necessarily succinctly told and your recital of the story of the struggle for supremacy between the Mahrattas and the Moghuls holds the attention rivetted to the end.

(Sd.) L. A. FORBES.

Major.

An excellent thoughtful Essay and Study of the times.

(Sd.) Y. G. APTE, B.A., L.M. & S.

I have read with much interest your account of the rise of the Mahratta power and of the policy of Aurangzeb which resulted in making the Hindus of the Deccan combine and overthrow the Mahomedans.

(Sd.) A.D. BANNERMAN, C.I.E., C.V.O.

It gives promise of an interesting addition to history.

(Sd.) J. L. KAYE, LT. COL

I consider it an extremely interesting work.

(Sd.) E. A. DEBRETT, I. C. S.

I have gone through your book (Introduction to the History of the House of Scindhia) and have found it extremely interesting and full of facts. The charming style in which you have written it has given it a degree of attractiveness.

(Sd.) M. V. KIBE, M. A.
Sirdar, Rao Bahadur.
