SHRINIVAS PANDIT PRATINIDHI

[Frontispiece]
A HISTORY OF THE MARATHA PEOPLE

BY

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VOL II
FROM THE DEATH OF SHIVAJI
TO THE DEATH OF SHAHU

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TO THE MARATHA PEOPLE
THIS WORK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
A FEW words only are needed by way of introduction to the Second volume.

The main authorities for the lives of Sambhaji and Rajaram are the Chitnis Bakhar, the Shedgavkar Bakhar, Khafi Khan, the Musulman works translated by Scott and known as Scott's Deccan, Orme's Fragments and the Parasnis Papers. I must also express my grateful acknowledgments to Professor Sarkar's History of Aurangzeb, Vol. IV, and to Mr. Irvine's translation of the Storia do Mogor. For my account of the Maratha wars against the Portuguese, my warmest thanks are due to the Goa Government, who with admirable generosity and kindness sent me a quantity of, specially chosen books and papers on the subject.

The authorities for the reign of Shahu are the Chitnis Bakhar, the Peshwa and Shedgavkar Bakhars, the Siyarl-ul-Mutakherin, the Parasnis Papers, Malleson's History of the French in India, Orme, and, above all, Mr. Sardesai's Riyasat, Vol. III. The merits of this latter book are so great, its learning so profound, its style so clear, that I can only compare it with Voltaire's Siècle de Louis XIV. Mr. Sardesai's kindness, moreover, was equal to his erudition. Hearing that I was engaged in writing the present work, he placed at my disposal the proof sheets of his unpublished third volume. I can only say that words fail me when I try to express my appreciation of his noble disinterestedness.

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C. A. K.
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RULES DRAWN UP FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE RANIS
BY THE PESHWA AT SHAHU'S REQUEST

1. Neither Rani should quarrel with the other.
2. The Raja should grant to each Rani similar cash allowances and lands.
3. All jaghirs in the occupation of the Ranis without sanads should be surrendered.
4. The Ranis should not requisition supplies of money from towns of districts alienated to zilledars (cavalry soldiers) or mokasdars.
5. The Ranis should not seize lands in other persons' saranjams or jaghirs.
6. The Ranis should not confiscate deshmukhships (village offices) or watans (hereditary village grants of land).
7. Whoever gives one Rani a present of land should make a similar present to the other.
8. The Ranis should not take sides in disputes arising in the capital.
9. The Ranis should not hear suits brought by creditors against their debtors.
10. The Ranis should not levy taxes or tolls.

Both the Ranis have accepted these terms. This should continue for ever.

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APPENDIX B

SHAHU'S TWO LETTERS TO THE PESHWA

To Balaji Pradhan Pandit.

It is hereby ordered that you should command the whole forces. I gave orders to every one else to do this, but none was destined to hold the post. We are ill and are afraid that we shall not recover. The government of the empire must be carried on. Some one of our relatives must continue the dynasty. But bring no one from Kolhapur. We have told everything to Chitnis. He will tell you our wishes. Act accordingly. Be loyal and obedient to the descendants of our house and maintain the court and the nobles. The Chitnis is our faithful servant. In consultation with him preserve our kingdom. Our descendants will not interfere with your office. Be prudent and wise.

To Balaji Pandit Pradhan.

We hereby state that we hope and believe that you will ably conduct the administration of this kingdom. The Chitnis, as I have already told you, is of proven loyalty. Our blessings rest on you! Our successors will continue you in office. Should our successor act otherwise, we hereby bind him with a solemn oath and command him not to do so. Be obedient and loyal to him and protect our kingdom. Nothing more need be said. Be prudent and wise.

Pavasnis papers.
APPENDIX C

Letters from Mahadji Purandare to Balaji and Sadashivrao. It throws much light on the state of the court at the close of Shahu's reign. (Parasnis papers.)

To Nana (Balaji) and Bhao (Sadashivrao) Peshwa. After compliments, about His Highness' health,

In the afternoon His Highness feels feverish and exhausted. His stomach is all covered with the juice of the marking nut (an application to relieve pain). Though His Highness' health is so poor, the two Rani's are daily quarrelling. This so pains His Highness that he exclaims "It would be far better, if God would end my life!" His Highness neglects his health. He listens to no one. Govindrao and Yeshwantrao spoke about it to His Highness, but he did not answer. From time to time he says "What purpose, does my life serve!"

Last Wednesday Nagejirao Keshavrao was at the court. Raghoram's men put to death a certain debtor. His Highness heard the case and then he observed, "If my servants and guards had been involved and had put Appaji Raghunath to death, what could I have done? It is useless to count on my support or my power. The two Rani's are now supreme. I have no power to stop them from doing anything they want to. They have caused a quarrel between the Kasars (bangle-sellers) and the Parals (a caste). The grocers have all gone on strike and we cannot dissuade them. When the grocers leave the town perhaps the Rani will give way. If we cannot get any grocery, the maids must cook us a dinner but we do not want to get mixed up in the quarrels of the two shrews. We wanted to see Gajrabai living happily with her husband. But the elder Rani threatens her son-in-law. From this her behaviour towards others may be judged. We have become powerless." These were His Highness' words. In short His Highness is powerless against his Rani's. Such is the state of things here. For the last three or four days the money-lenders are visiting the palace. "We are bankrupt" they shout, "We want our money." • His Highness fears that if they sit dharna* he will be at his wit's end. Both the Rani's keep talking about the king's debts and the money-lenders. Bad times are coming. "We must wait and see how the Rani's quarrels will end.

* To sit dharna is to starve oneself until one's debt is paid.
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