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Malay Peninsula where considerable quantities of tin could be procured, and had a permanent agent there in Captain Francis Light. Light, too, had been able to secure from the king of Queda "the seaport of Quedah with a fort lying near it" and later "the whole coast from this place to Pelu Pinang", which ultimately became the nucleus of the English settlement of Penang. Thus, in the second half of the eighteenth century, the Company's servants in their private capacity were doing a fair amount of business with the islands of the eastern archipelago.

It was then that the incident of the "Fortune" occurred at Achin. The king, at the instigation of Harrop, had prohibited his subjects from having any trade dealings with the vessel when it touched the port of Achin. Complaints made by the merchants of the "Fortune" forced the Directors to take cognizance of the activities of the Madras adventurers and send a strong despatch to Madras to enquire into and remove the causes of complaint "or make it appear that the facts have been exaggerated to us". The Directors were astonished to learn that a factory had been established at Achin supported by "a naval force and some hundreds of sepoys from your coast". But, in view of the naval and commercial advantages of Achin, revised their opinion in a subsequent despatch and ordered the factory and all the privileges which its private owners had secured to be taken over on the Company's behalf at a fair valuation.

Charles Desvoeux, a covenanted servant of the Company, was sent to Achin to carry out the instructions. Desvoeux reached Achin on March 26, 1772, with an adequate force, and was surprised to find the method of business carried on there by Jourdan's agent, Harrop. He managed to secure from the king the permission for a factory but failed to make the king agree to the assignment of the port duties to the Company. The trade, however, was found to be too small to be profitable to the Company, and the king did not allow any improvement of the fortifications. On a demonstration by the people against the English and to prevent "a general insurrection", the king, on November 15, 1772, withdrew the grant made to the Company and asked Desvoeux and his party to leave the coast. Desvoeux was recalled from Achin by the Madras government in February 1773.

Thus the despatch from the Directors brought the enterprise of Jourdan's association at Achin to a sudden end. The Company, however, resolved,

"that the resolution to withdraw the factory from Achin must not be understood to invalidate the grant which was made to the Company by his (the King's) predecessors in 1605".

The Company was, thus, apparently attempting in 1772 to revive the grant of 1605. The Court of Directors and the Supreme government in India never relinquished hopes of establishing close, intimate relations with Achin and repeatedly urged the Penang government the fruition of such a policy, which thus became a subject for consideration with that government ever since 1786. In 1820, a treaty was finally concluded with Achin by Sir Stamford Raffles.

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF MODAVE

[By S. P. Sen]

In the second half of the 18th century a large number of French adventurers swarmed the courts of the various Indian Princes in search of career and fortune. Their adventures and experiences give us an interesting view of the political situation of India following the disintegration of the Mughal Empire. One of these French adventurers, less known to students of history than Sombre or Madec, was Comte de Modave, who was in India from 1773 to 1777 and travelled extensively all over the country. Some extracts from his "Journal du Voyage du Bengale à Delhi" have been translated by Sir Jadunath Sarkar and published in the "Bengal Past and Present" and "Islamic Culture". They do not, however, give us a connected account of the adventures of this interesting Frenchman. A fuller and detailed history of Modave's career in India may be gathered from the large number of his letters addressed to Bellecombe, Governor of Pondicherry, and others, which are preserved in the Pondicherry Archives and which form an important collection of original manuscripts there (Doc. no. 283-Catalogue des Manuscrits des Anciennes Archives de L'Inde Francaise, I).

Modave first came to India in 1773 to seek a military career in the service of one of the Princes. He stayed in Bengal for the major part of 1774, most of the time in Calcutta, where he gained a first hand knowledge of the military strength and the system of civil administration of the English. His views were in sharp contrast to the facile imagination of many of his compatriots who thought that only a slight push was required to dislodge the English from Bengal. At the end of 1774 Modave went to the Court of Shuja-ud-daulah who offered him a lucrative appointment, which however did not materialise on account of the sudden death of Shuja in January, 1775. Modave then proceeded to Delhi and was given a responsible post in the Imperial army. He also served as an intermediary for opening political negotiations between the Emperor and the king of France. Shortly after, dissatisfied with the Imperial service Modave left Delhi and joined Madec's contingent at Bari. He was equally disappointed there and proceeded to Hyderabad in 1776 in the hope of getting employment under Nizam Ali. He was again unlucky and ultimately moved to Adoni where he accepted a post under Basalat Jang. In 1777 he was planning to form a small contingent of his own in the hope of securing an appointment under Nizam Ali, but in the midst of his preparations he suddenly fell ill, retired to Masulipatam and died there on December 22, 1777.

Dr. S. P. Sen is a Corresponding Member of the Indian Historical Records Commission. He has made an extensive study of French archives relating to India and is the author of *The French in India; First Establishment and Struggle*. He is a lecturer in History at Calcutta University.

A FRENCH ACCOUNT OF COMMERCE IN INDIA IN 1774

[By R. C. Mitra]

The article is a general survey of the trade and commerce in India in 1774 as provided by the report of a Frenchman in Pondicherry. It gives a regional account of the natural products and manufactures and contains interesting reference to the predominant part played by foreign merchants in the external commerce of the country.

Mr. R. C. Mitra is a Professor of History in College de Bussy, Chandernagore. He is engaged in researches on the history of the French in India.

FATEH NAMA SIRI GURU KHALSA JI KA

[By S. R. Kohli]

This manuscript comprises three long ballads composed by Ganesh Das to celebrate three important victories which the Sikhs had won over the Pathans: (1) at Multan in 1818, (2) near Tiri (Naushehra) in 1823 and (3) at Saidu (Akora) in 1827.

The script is Gurmukhi though the language employed by Ganesh Das is mixed Hindi and Panjabi. A few English and French words and expressions which had found their way to the Court of Ranjit Singh (1800-39) also occur in these ballads. The form and style adopted by this Panjabi poet is very similar to the style adopted by the classical poets for their heroic compositions (*bir ras kavita*).

Of the three ballads, the one relating to the Multan Yuddha is the longest. It has 277 couplets and is divided into five adhyas—each adhya ending with a definite stage in the progress of the battle. The poet presents a complete picture of the battle, beginning his account with the day the expeditionary force left Lahore and closing his narrative with the day when the triumphant Khalsa army returned to the capital with the trophies of war. The pen-picture drawn by Ganesh Das of some of the very grim encounters which were fought between the Sikhs and the Afghans on this occasion, irresistably lead us to believe that the poet was an eye-witness of the scene.

The victory over Muzaffar Khan, in June 1818, resulted in the annexation of the whole province of Multan to the Kingdom of Lahore. This new province was estimated to yield a revenue of Rs. 7,00,000 per annum.

The second ballad relates to the battle fought near the hills of Tiri. One marked feature of this battle was that the heads of the two Governments namely Ranjit Singh (Punjab) and Mohammad Azim Khan (Kabul) were present in person and it was going to be a decisive action. This ballad has 111 couplets which give us a faithful description of the frightful action fought during the evening hours of the 14th March, 1823, near the Tiri hills of Naushehra. So uncertain was the issue of the battle that "till the last minute, a Sikh soldier was not sure of even the small piece of ground under his feet". The Sikhs had lost some of their best soldiers and officers in the early stages of the encounter and had almost lost their morale too. The last-minute personal efforts of the Maharaja, however, turned the scales in favour of the Lahore army. A general assault was launched by the *Khass ghorcharah* or the Maharaja's special

cavalry which threw the ranks of the Pathans into utter confusion. Taking advantage of the cover of darkness, the enemy quitted the field. Azim Khan returned to Kabul and according to the view taken by our poet he had taken his defeat to heart so seriously that he could not survive for more than two months after his retreat from Naushehra. Peshawar was occupied by Ranjit Singh but its actual annexation to his Kingdom was postponed by the Maharaja. Sultan Mohammad and his brother Yar Mohammad Khan were permitted to retain the country on promise of paying nominal tribute.

The third ballad is the shortest having only 73 couplets. It unfolds the story of the *Jehad* or religious war declared by Khalifa Sayyad Ahamad against the Sikhs. The poet tells us how this "fanatic and impostor" came from Bareilly to live amongst the tribesmen and continued to incite them against the Sikhs till "the whole country from Attock to Peshawar was up in arms". Ranjit Singh, too, selected equally fanatic and fearless soldiers for his expeditionary force. Three very frightful actions are described by Ganesh Das in which both parties suffered heavy losses. In the end, General Budh Singh Sindhanwalia succeeded in weaning away some of the Sayyad's powerful allies like Yar Mohammad Khan of Peshawar with the result that he was forced to run away from the field and suspend the *Jehad* for the time being.

The historical value of these ballads is, indeed, worthy of consideration. I have compared the details mentioned by Ganesh Das with those given in the works of the Court historians like Sohan Lal, Diwan Amar Nath and Raizada Rattan Chand and was glad to find that all what he has said was confirmed by one or another of these contemporary writers. His ballads, in fact, have raised in my general estimation the value of bardic literature as a dependable source of contemporary history. The pity is that the writer of these ballads has not cared to tell us anything about himself. Like the Hindu writers of yore he, probably, believed in the principle of self-abnegation.

A Specialist in Sikh History, Mr. S. R. Kohli is the Principal of the Ranbir College, Jind State, Pepsu. He is at present engaged in examining the manuscript of Fateh Nama. He has been associated with the Indian Historical Records Commission as a Corresponding Member for many years.

A TIRUCHIRAPALLI GRANT OF VIJAYA RANGA CHOKKANATHA OF MADHURAI

[By K. R. Venkataraman]

This paper gives the contents of an unpublished copper plate grant of Vijaya Ranga Chokkanatha Nayaka of Madhurai, allotting two additional villages for the maintenance of the daily worship of two shrines within the Tiruchirapalli fort. It mentions an earlier alienation of two villages, Kattalur and Perambur, the date of which is discussed. New light is thrown upon the character of the reign of Vijaya Ranga Chokkanatha Nayaka, and the measures that he took for the safety of the Tiruchirapalli fort and his kingdom.

Mr. K. R. Venkataraman Ayyar was formerly Director of Public Instruction and Historical Records Officer of the late Pudukkottai State. As an Ordinary and Associate member of the Indian Historical Records Commission representing the State and a Corresponding member after the merger of the State with Madras, Mr. Ayyar has been taking keen interest in the activities of the Commission and has contributed several interesting articles in its annual sessions.

NOTES ON COMMUNICATIONS IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

[By Arun Kumar Das Gupta]

The Old English correspondence volumes, available at the Bankura District Record Office, throw some light on the system of communication prevailing in the early nineteenth century. A clear estimate can be formed of the Governmental policy of preservation and improvement of the existing means of communication, at the pre-rail stage.

Valuable informations regarding the ferries and the sarais can be gathered from the letters.

In a letter from the Chief Secretary to Government to Acting Superintendent of Police in Lower Provinces (1819) a number of regulations relating to the ferries appear. The Superintendent of Police, the Magistrates and the Joint Magistrates were given powers of regulation and control over the ferries. It was further decided that "no ferries are to be assessed on account of Government except such as after providing fully for the safety and convenience of the public, and securing a liberal remuneration to the person in charge may appear to be so productive as to warrant the demand of a share of the profits for Government, which share is extensively to be employed in repairing and constructing roads, bridges and drains, and otherwise, in facilitating the transit of property and the convenience of travellers" (Ferry Regulations No. 5).

Further, from a letter to the Officiating Secretary, Government Judicial Department, dated, 1833, we gather that the Government set up a number of Sarais along the New Road, "the great medium of communication between the Presidency and the Upper Provinces". "The primary object of the Government Surraes was to afford Travellers in general, a nocturnal asylum free of expense". By affording a safe refuge for the travellers and merchants frequenting the New Road the Sarais greatly facilitated the long distance movement of goods and persons. Besides the Government Sarais there were also chuttees and the Moodee-shops which also gave shelter to the passers-by at night.

Security in the countryside was an essential precondition for the proper utilisation of the existing means of communication. The letters refer to widespread disturbances which could not be suppressed easily. Moreover there are evidences to show that the local policemen were in league with the "Dacoits and Budmashes". Under such conditions the small facilities provided by the Ferry, the New Road and the Sarais could not possibly be utilised to the full.

Mr. Arun Kumar Das Gupta is a lecturer in History in the Central College, Calcutta and a member of the West Bengal Regional Records Survey Committee.

PANDIT GANGADHAR SHASTRI

[By Kalikinkar Datta]

I have studied in this paper some papers recently discovered by me at Kashau in Aurangabad sub-division of Gaya district in Behar. These relate to Pandit Gangadhar Shastri, who received a grant of some villages in U.P. from the Gwalior *darbar*, a considerable portion of the income of which was utilised, after his death, for the establishment of the Agra College.

Dr. K. K. Datta is Professor and Head of the Department of History, Patna College and an Associate member of the Commission on behalf of the Government of Bihar. He is the Convener of the Bihar Regional Records Survey Committee set up by the Indian Historical Records Commission. He has several historical works of outstanding merit to his credit all based on the study of original documents.

A FRESH PATTI ISSUED BY THE CHAUHAN RULER OF
SAMBALPUR-ATHARAGARH

[By L. P. Pandeya]

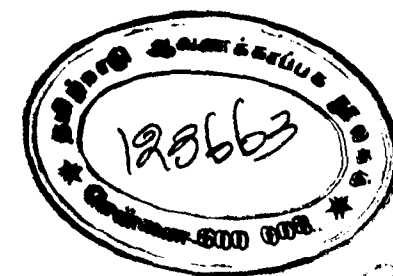
The Sambalpur-Atharagarh was a native State on the border of Orissa and Chhattisgarh Division in C.P. As such it was naturally a bi-lingual kingship.

The main language of the people of Sambalpur Raj was Oriya but there were some tracts to its N.W. where people spoke Lariya—a local name for the Chhattisgarhi dialect of Eastern Hindi.

The last Chauhan Ruler Makaraja Narayan Singh Deva had adopted a wide policy to issue *Pattas* in Hindi language and Devanagari script for villages situated in Lariya (Hindi) speaking tracts with a view to respect the feelings of the people.

This *patta* is an example of the Hindi language and style prevalent then and used in the office of an Oriya-speaking ruler.

Mr. L. P. Pandeya is an Associate member of the Indian Historical Records Commission representing the Mahakoshal Historical Society, Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh).



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DANGER TO JHANSI IN 1774-75

[By T. S. Shejwalkar]

This paper throws light on an unnoted event of Maratha History on the basis of an unpublished letter which is fully translated. The names of two new brave captains are discovered in it.

Reader in Maratha History in Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute at Poona, Mr. T. S. Shejwalkar has written several papers on Maratha History. He is an Associate Member of the Commission on behalf of the Institute to which he belongs.

OUDH AND THE QUESTION OF SALT TAX IN 1867

[By Nandalal Chatterji]

The district records of Lucknow reveal the details of an interesting controversy that raged on the question of salt tax in 1867. The matter in dispute was: 1. whether the existing rate of Rs. 3 per maund was unduly high, and, 2. whether internal manufacture could be permitted. The Oudh Superintendent of Stamps and Excise held that (1) the rate of tax was excessive, and that (2) internal manufacture was desirable. (*Vide E.N.C. Braddon's Report upon the Oudh Salt Question*, July 15, 1867).

The arguments of the Superintendent are liberal and ultra-modern, but they are controverted in detail by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Customs in their respective reports. (*Vide Reports*, dated, 4th September 1867).

The Superintendent urged that Oudh is rich in salt deposits and that people should be permitted to enjoy the gifts of nature. He further pointed out that existing salt laws encouraged smuggling and illicit manufacture, and that poor people could not obtain as much edible salt as was necessary for them.

The critics point out technical difficulties, and raise the arguments of expense and revenue. They urge that the "natural equity argument is unsound", and that internal manufacture would not stop smuggling. Among other arguments, they suggest that a full year's supply of salt costs no more than seven annas per head. This, they hold, is a very small fraction of the total cost of food requirements. The incidence of the tax even for the poorest man, according to them, amounts to "considerably less than one per cent. on their earnings".

The Commissioner clinches his argument with this sarcastic question—"What has Oudh done that her residents should pay less duty than the rest of Upper India?"

Before being appointed as Reader of Modern Indian History at Lucknow University, Dr. N. L. Chatterjee has been serving the University as a lecturer in History. He is an Associate Member of the Indian Historical Records Commission and has to his credit several historical works of outstanding merit, the most important being *Mir Kasim and Verelst's Rule in India*.

THE RECORDER'S COURT AT MADRAS (1798-1801) AND SOME
OF ITS FINDINGS

[By C. S. Srinivasachari]

This paper first traces the life of the Mayor's Court at Madras in its several stages, from 1687 to 1798 and its absorption into the short-lived Recorder's Court created by charter under Act George III, 37th ch. 142, and implemented by proclamation of the Madras Government of 1st November 1798. In its brief life, the Recorder's Court, presided over by Sir Thomas Strange, Recorder and subsequently Chief Justice of the Supreme Court which superseded it in 1801, attained a "maturity beyond its years". Following the procedure of the Supreme Court at Calcutta which it resembled in many respects both of jurisdiction and of activity, the Court was very active and delivered instructive and constructive findings on many topics which are of great historical interest at the present day.

Decisions as to the limitations of the sovereign character of the Nawab of the Carnatic and the ambassadorial privilege claimed for his family and servants, glimpses of the corruption that marked the English officials in their relations with the Nawab, the status of French citizens from Pondicherry who had settled in Madras after the former place was occupied by the English, and of Indians in Madras from the mofussil which was still under the rule of the Nawab—these are very informative, on the different aspects of Madras life at the close of the 18th century. The decisions of the Court on questions of Hindu law, relating to adoption and testamentary disposition of property reveal an endeavour to be fair, while at the same time respecting Indian sentiments and traditions. Sir Thomas Strange thus presents a record of his court's work which was very valuable and served as the effective basis of the activity of the Supreme Court which was reared upon the Recorder's Court. The date given here are culled from record material and the accounts of the cases and decisions of the Court.

Before becoming Principal of R. D. M. College, Sivaganga, S.I., Dewan Bahadur C. S. Srinivasachari had served for many years as Professor and Head of the Department of History and Politics, Annamalai University. At present Professor of History of Pachaiyappa's College, Kanchupuram, the Dewan Bahadur is an enthusiastic member of the Indian Historical Records Commission, and is an author of many important publications based on original records. As Convener of the Madras Regional Records Survey Committee he has brought to light a large collection of records in private custody.

NOTE ON SOME UNPUBLISHED LETTERS OF

WILLIAM SMYTH (1658-1664)

[By S. Natarajan]

This paper is intended to bring to the notice of students of the 17th century India a volume of 14 unpublished letters of William Smyth available in Hyderabad State Library. The writer of these letters was employed as a factor at Virarasaum (40 miles from Masulipatam) and his letters were addressed to his father and brother. The letters relate besides Smyth's personal affairs, to the life of the Company's servants and their mutual quarrels, superstitions entertained by the inhabitants and economic condition prevailing in South India during the 17th century.

Mr. S. Natarajan is a Lecturer in History in Nizam College, Hyderabad.

BOUNDARY DISPUTES BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND MAYUR-BHANJ IN THE 18TH CENTURY

[By Tarit Kumar Mukherji]

The river Subarnarekha was looked upon generally as the limit of the Company's territory on the west and that of the Maratha occupations on the east; but both parties had acquired lands which were altogether separated by the river from the bulk of their possessions on the opposite side. The Company's possessions on the right bank of the river included among others, Nayabasan, Ghatsila, Janpore and Bhelorchar. Nayabasan, a Jungle Mehal within the thana of Janpore was situated partly on the west and partly on the east of the river. Pargana Bhelorchar (now within the district of Balasore) was the only Pargana that the Company possessed "to the southward of Subarnrekha".

To the west of the river was the State of Mayurbhanj the ruler of which became a tributary of the Marathas after the latter had made themselves master of Orissa. It appears from the records that the Rajah held the pargana of Nayabasan as a revenue paying estate and quite distinct from his independent territory since 1767. In 1776 Mr. Higginson fixed the revenue of the estate at Rs. 5293/12/13 a year. From 1777 onwards the Rajah became very irregular in his payments. The Rajah complained of over assessment and demanded a reduction of Rs. 2,000 from his fixed mocrurrer settlement. The Resident in his letter to the Board in 1779 expressed his inability to realise the government demands from him by peaceful means. The company at that time however was not in a position to apply force against the Rajah. But its refusal to accept the Rajah's proposal for a reduction offended him. He bided his time. In March 1781 taking advantage of the confusion resulting from the renewed Bargi incursions into districts of Jaleswar and Midnapur, Damoder Bhanja entered Bhelorchur and took forcible possession of the whole of the Pargana. In Nayabasan rents were collected from the riots to pay the Rajah's tribute to the Marathas to whom he owed his allegiance. Bhelorchar formed one of the Parganas of the Chuckla Jaleswar. It devolved to the Company upon the cession of that Chuckla. This was never disputed by the Marathas. The Mayurbhanj Rajah at different times held 81 villages in the Pargana in farm. But since 1780 he held no part of the pargana.

By promising to pay two lakhs of rupees that he owed to the Maratha Government the wily Rajah succeeded in enlisting the support of Nana Rao, the Foujdar of Balasore in his claim to Bhelorchar. Nana Rao in a letter to the Resident asked him not to interfere with the Rajah's possession of Bhelorchar. The Governor General however after proper investigations rejected the claims of the Rajah to that Pargana. Troops were sent to drive out the Rajah's sardars and piks from Bhelorchar and on July 25, 1781 the Collector reported that the Tahsildar had taken possession of the villages lately held by the Mayurbhanj Rajah. With regard to Nayabasan a settlement was reached in 1784 whereby the Rajah agreed to pay a yearly revenue of Rs. 3,200 for his estate in Midnapore.

Mr. Tarit Kumar Mukherji is a Lecturer in History in Hooghly Mohsin College, Chinsurah (West Bengal). He is at present working on Relation between the British and the Behrar Mahratas in the 18th Century on materials available in the National Archives of India.

VISUAL TELEGRAPH, CALCUTTA TO CHUNAR, 1816-28.

[By Col. R. N. Phillimore]

The paper deals with the attempt made by the Government of India during the early part of the 19th century for introducing experimental telegraph communication in India.

In 1813 William Boyce of Bombay offered to establish a system of visual telegraphs from one end of India to another, improving on a model that had been successful in Europe. The Government of Bengal was interested, and after consulting the Surveyor General appointed a Telegraph Committee, with the Surveyor General as President, to examine and report on the subject. After obtaining the views of the great William Lambton and others, this Committee recommended that survey should be made of a line from Calcutta to Chunar that might be extended later through Nagpur to Bombay.

George Everest, then a young Artillery Officer, who was later to become Surveyor General of India, and whose name has been given to the highest mountain in the world, was given charge of this survey which he completed by October 1818. The line followed generally the "new military road" through Hazaribagh that was later abandoned for the Grand Trunk Road which ran further north, avoiding the high lands of Chota Nagpur.

Major Playfair, Superintendent of the Military Roads, constructed the towers before 1821, and a succession of officers held the post of Superintendent of Telegraphs till it was abolished in 1830, and the towers abandoned to their fate. A few of those between Calcutta and Burdwan were made use of by the Great Trigonometrical Survey about 1830.

* Colonel R. H. Phillimore, C.I.E., D.S.O. (late Royal Engineers and Survey of India) has undertaken, on his retirement from Government service in 1934, the monumental task of compiling a history of Surveys in India from the earliest days, of which the first volume, 18th century and the Volume II (1800 to 1815) have already seen light. The third volume is designed to cover the period 1815 to 1883 and the Colonel's ambition is to carry this important history forward to 1883. A corresponding member of the Indian Historical Records Commission, Colonel Phillimore has been actively co-operating with the activities of the Commission and the National Archives of India and has also contributed several illuminating articles to the *Indian Archives*.

THE OLD ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE IN THE DISTRICT COLLECTORATES, BENGAL.

[By Tapan Kumar Ray Chaudhuri]

The West Bengal Regional Records Survey Committee in course of its survey-work this year in the records offices of eight districts found several thousand volumes of little-used unlisted documents labelled 'Old English Correspondence' each running into three to four hundred pages and covering the period, 1763 to 1899. The volumes are classified into several groups according to their nature, e.g., general, judicial, excise, etc. These mainly consist of letters issued to and received from their superiors in Calcutta and subordinates in the mofassils by the district authorities. Dealing in detail with local affairs and problems, they contain numerous data for socio-economic and administrative history. Even from a cursory study of a small fragment of this immense volume the workers of the Regional Records Survey Committee could collect data bearing on a variety of subjects, e.g., state of law and order, land settlement, the works of development undertaken by the Company, difficulties of revenue administration, conditions of the ryots and landed classes, agriculture, commerce, salaries and wages, prices, social conditions etc. The present paper discusses tentatively the value of this class of documents and the unsatisfactory state of their preservation. It also stresses the need for bringing together these volumes scattered throughout Bengal in order to better preserve and utilise them.

Mr. Tapan Kumar Ray Chaudhuri is a Lecturer in History in the Post Graduate Department of the Calcutta University and is an active worker of the West Bengal Regional Records Survey Committee.

MUKHBAR-I-SADIQ OF LUCKNOW

[By K. A. Sajan Lal]

Indian Journals have always played a significant part in developing public opinion in this country since the early years of the 19th century. In this article which is based on a study of the issues of the Urdu Weekly *Mukhbar-i-Sadiq* of Lucknow from 5th April 1872 to 24th December 1872 now in possession of the State Library Hyderabad, the writer describes at length how the paper served as a champion of the liberties of the press and how it moulded public opinion.

Among the items of interest which appeared in this paper are the local news of Lucknow, Sayyid Ahmed Khan's activities and his scheme of Madrasat-ul-ulum, statistics showing deaths due to cholera, loss of life in the Punjab in January, work of the Delhi Translation Society. Even as early as 1872 the press favoured prohibition of wine and liquor.

Mr. K. A. Sajan Lal, F.R.S.A., has distinguished himself by his original research on topics connected with the history of Indian periodicals. He has collected the files of a number of important periodicals of the early 19th century.

A NISHĀN OF MUHAMMAD AKBAR, HEIR-APPARENT OF SHĀH ĀLAM BAHĀDUR BĀDSHĀH GHĀZI

(By A. H. Nizami)

The document is in the possession of Pandit Raghubir Sharan, son of late Pandit Bālmik Prasad, Rājavidya of the Mahārājā of Rewa, whose ancestor Sarab Sukh, was granted in 1170/1765 village Akārī in sarkār Korā in the Sūbah of Ilāhābād.

Prince Āli Gauhar Shāh Ālam, after his escape from Delhi in 1758, married a Sayyid girl, proceeded through Awdh to Ilāhābād and led his first invasion of Bihār in 1759. Baffled in his attempt, however, he came to Rewā and stayed as the guest of Mahārājā Ajit Sinha for the rainy season. After the rains he left his pregnant begum in the custody of the Mahārājā to prepare for the second invasion of Bihar in 1760.

A son, Muhammad Akbar, was born to the lady at Mukundpur, ten miles south of Rewa, in a house which still stands in a dilapidated condition. The Maharaja assigned the income of the village for the expenses of the royal personages and the amount continued to be paid till the mutiny to Bahādur Shāh, the last Emperor. When Shah Ālam returned from his third invasion of Bihār (1761) Māhārājā Ajit Sinha escorted the royal mother and baby to Ilāhābād and accompanied the imperial entourage up to Jājmaū near Kānpur.

Shāh Ālam granted the Rājā the Ilākā of Chaukhandī, revenue free, but the latter failed to get possession of it. When the English East India Company took over the district of Ilāhābād, after the treaty of 1765, the claim of the Rewa Durbār was not recognized. The Emperor was lodged in the Ilāhābād fort and was ceded the districts of Korā and Ilāhābād. Here he passed six uneventful years of his life during 1765-71.

It is very likely that the grantee, Sarab Sukh, son of Jāgeshwar Rām (who was not yet a Rājavidya), had attended to the royal mother and baby as a protegee of the Rājavidyas during the period of delivery and confinement. In the sixth year of his accession Providence brought the Emperor with his family to live at Ilāhābād in the close proximity of Rewā and the grant was made, under the tughra seal of the heir apparent presumably as a token of imperial gratitude for services rendered in adversity.

According to tradition in the family of Sarab Sukh, the possession of Akārī could not be obtained for similar reasons as in the case of Chaukhandī

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PARWANA RELATING TO THE SANAD OF SARDESHMUKHI
GIVEN TO RAJA SHAHU CHHATRAPATI

[By B. W. Bhat]*

(1) This paper contains a free translation in Marathi of a Persian Parwana of A.D. 1719.

(2) The paper found is a copy of the Parwana kept in his family record of the Watandar Desai family of Paragana Nandurbar Subha Khandesh.

(3) The terms and conditions of the grant of Sardeshmukhi Watan are set out in the document.

(4) Short discussion of the reasons for giving this Sardeshmukhi Watan to Raja Shahu Chhatrapati.

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CONTEMPORARY BIOGRAPHY OF A 15TH CENTURY SUFI
SAINT OF BIHAR

[By S. H. Askari*]

An attempt has been made in this paper to study the life and work of the Saint of Amjhar, Syed Muhammad Qadri, a direct descendant of the celebrated founder of the Qadri Order of Sufis, on the basis of some newly-discovered books and documents including Sanads and Farmans (some granted to the members of the family who held the office of the Kazi from the time of Akbar down to that of the E.I.Co., and some apparently submitted as exhibits and not taken back), and a biography of the Saint in Persian named Manaqib-i-Muhammadi, written only 6 years after his death by his life-long companion, Ali Sher Shirazi. The Saint came to Bihar from Baghdad with 40 companions in 846 A. H. to preach his faith and secure justice for a family of Muslim Colonists in the wild tracts bordering on Chotanagpur from their oppressors, the semi-Hindoized Kols whose names had been mentioned. Buchanon noticed in 1811-12 Pirzadas of Amghar and also the remains of the Kol Chiefs in Southern parts of Gaya. There is much in the manuscript of historical and cultural interest such as the training and education of the Saint, his habits and manners, his physical features, his dress and costumes, his piety and zeal for Islam, his hobby for learning the language of other people and countries, the people and learned men of the age he came across etc. There are striking references to the attitude of apathy displayed by local Muslim rulers towards individual cases of oppression on their co-religionists and to the methods adopted by the Muslim missionaries to find an entrance into the heart of the natives. Darya Khan Lohari, the Governor of Bihar, has been mentioned more than once. The observations of the Saint of Amjhar regarding the importance of India and the superiority of the Indians as linguists form an interesting reading and the Hindi utterance of the saint in Behari dialect is of special significance.

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RECORDS FROM THE RAJAJNA FAMILY OF WAI

[By G. H. Khare*]

In the exploration season of 1949-50, I examined a part of the old records of the Rajajna Family of Wai. The early ancestors of this family were the hereditary Deshpandes (Village Accountants) of the Wai *pargana*. In Chhatrapati Shahu's period, a member of this family was appointed to the post of Rajajna and another to the post of the *Subhahdari* of the Wai division. Both the posts were continued in the family for above fifty years. A very big mass of a variety of old papers naturally accumulated in the family. The whole mass is still to be minutely examined. But six documents pertaining to the activities and movements of Chhatrapati Shahu, Baji Rao I. The 2nd Peshwa, Balaji Baji Rao, the 3rd Peshwa, Bhau Sahib, Raghuji Bhosle and other Maratha Generals have been summarised here.

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