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(1)

LADAKH'S RELATIONS WITH INDIA—AN HISTORICAL STUDY

by M. L. Ahluwalia, Assistant Archivist, National Archives of India,
New Delhi

The paper deals with the relations of Ladakh with India since the days of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, and is based on certain records in the custody of the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

During the Mughal period, the political relations between India and Ladakh were maintained through Kashmir, which was a province of the Mughal Empire. Apart from political relationship there existed commercial intercourse between the two countries. Most of the raw shawl-wool and some other necessities of life came from Ladakh.

After the conquest of Kashmir in 1819, Maharaja Ranjit Singh wanted to extend his sway over the principality of Ladakh. About the same time the Emperor of Russia was exploring the possibility of extending his influence over those regions. The ruler of Ladakh, who did not like to submit to either of the two powers, decided to seek the protection of the East India Company. Just then William Moorcroft, Superintendent of the Company's Military Stud, happened to arrive at Leh, the capital of Ladakh. He was in Ladakh from 1820 to 1822. Through him the ruler made an appeal to the Governor-General of India in the form of a memorial which is the chief source of information contained in the article.

(2)

MAULAVI ALI KARIM, A SCHOLAR-SOLDIER OF BIHAR
DURING THE MOVEMENT OF 1857-59

by Qeyamuddin Ahmad,
Research Fellow, K. P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna

The towering personality of Kunwar Singh overshadows to some extent the activities of some of his compatriots and associates in the movement of 1857-59. Ali Karim, Harkishen Singh, Pir Ali, Waris Ali and Jodhur Singh are some of such half-forgotten fighters. Each of them served, in his own manner and within his own sphere, the common object.

An attempt has been made in this paper to study, on the basis of contemporary English records and some oral traditions of the family, some aspects of the life and political career of Ali Karim. His political career can be divided into two distinct phases, the first relating to his activities in Bihar up to the Patna rising of 3 July 1857, and the second dealing with his engagements outside Bihar in alliance with Musharraff Khan of Gorakhpur. Ever since his escape from Bihar

Ali Karim was acting in concert with Amar Singh and Harkishen Singh, two of the foremost nationalist leaders of Bihar left after the death of Kunwar Singh. He was planning to re-enter Bihar and join hands with Amar Singh in the fight against the English. The fact that circumstances beyond his control thwarted his plans does not, however, detract from the merit and significance of his attempts.

(3)

RUQAAT-I-HASAN by *Hasan Askari, Professor of History, Patna College, Patna*

An attempt has been made in this paper to throw fresh light on some aspects of the history of Orissa during the last days of Shahjahan's reign and the first few years of the reign of Aurangzeb, on the basis of an old and incomplete but well-written copy of the manuscript entitled *Ruqaat-i-Hasan* or the correspondence of Abul Hasan, Secretary to the Government of Orissa, 1665-70, available in the Oriental Public Library at Patna. The copy contains, besides the *arzdashts* sent to the Emperor by Khan-i-Dauran, the Subahdar of Orissa, more than seventy letters, etc., addressed to various important persons. Among the latter there is a letter addressed by Jan Mohammad, sometime Diwan of Orissa, to Mirza Jan Beg who had been sent by Prince Shuja to administer Orissa, which tells us of the stop-gap arrangement by which Orissa was placed in charge of Mirza Siraj, a young and inefficient person, who mismanaged the affairs there. It also refers to the plying of the imperial ships between Porbandar and Baleshwar Bandar and between Ceylon and Machli Bandar and to what the Government had done to promote the welfare of the people, provide justice and restore peace and good government, and to some aspects of administration not noticed before. The mutual relations of the provincial chiefs, certain revenue practices, and action taken against those guilty of misuse and misappropriation of Government money, but having influence in the court, have been noted. Another letter contains information about the reported removal of Khan-i-Dauran in the fifth year of his rule, and this incident and its consequences have been considered for the first time in this paper.

(4)

A PAGE FROM THE ACCOUNT BOOK OF NAWAB MUBARIZ'UD-DAULAH by *Banarsi Prasad, Professor of History, University of Allahabad, Allahabad*

The paper brings to light an inventory of the property left by Nawab Mubariz'ud-Daulah, grandson of the Nawab Saadat Ali Khan of Oudh (1798-1814). The inventory is very likely one of the many which were normally maintained in the house of great nobles. It enables the readers

to form an idea about the household requirements of a noble of those times. An idea can also be formed from it of the prices of several commodities, particularly of cloth used for wearing apparel. The inventory further throws light on the system of account keeping—how every item was entered carefully and minutely, and how the totals were given at the top instead of at the bottom.

(5)

BRITISH ATTITUDE TO MUGHAL FIRMANS by *K. D. Bhargava, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi*

Unpublished documents in the custody of the National Archives of India throw considerable light on the British attitude to the Mughal Firmans. They were clearly of the view that the acts of the former Indian powers were not binding upon them if they were inconsistent with their policy. They were also of the view that the Firmans had neither any moral nor any political force and were revocable by the power that granted them.

(6)

LETTERS ABOUT THE MUTINY OF 1857 IN MADHYA BHARAT by *Y. Bhargava, I.A.S., Gwalior*

A band of research workers of the Southern Division, History of Freedom Movement, Indore, discovered more than a thousand letters, reports, proclamations and circulars in the Modi script of the Marathi language among the Government records at Indore. They have been read, sorted, classified and translated into English. They were written by the Holkar State officials, news reporters, Maharaja Holkar's minister and his vakils posted at various British Residencies in Southern Madhya Bharat. They contain numerous interesting details and anecdotes about the Mutiny and provide the following information:-

1. The Mutiny broke out at various places in Southern Madhya Bharat. It was preceded by restlessness and anti-British feeling among the Sepoys who derived inspiration from others.

2. There were scenes of violence, loot, plunder, massacre, and regular battles. Sometimes there was good planning and organisation on the part of the mutineers. They captured and held certain strategic places for days together.

3. A time had come when the British were completely ousted from Southern Madhya Bharat, with the exception of a few Englishmen

who found themselves in a precarious condition at Mhow and Neemuch, besieged by the hostile elements.

4. Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II exploited the ill-feeling and strained relations between Hungerford, Commandant, Mhow Artillery, and Durand, the then Officiating Resident at Indore, and between Hamilton, the then permanent Resident at Indore, and Durand.

5. Sometimes people sympathized with and helped the mutineers by providing money, food supplies and labour. Occasionally the district officials also threw in their lot with the mutineers.

6. The British forces in their attempts to suppress the insurgents took recourse to plunder.

7. The aim of the leaders of the mutineers was not to molest or loot the villages and towns, but to drive away the British.

(7)

LORD CURZON AND THE INDIAN PRINCES, 1899-1901 by *Sukumar Bhattacharya, Education Officer, University Grants Commission, New Delhi*

This article seeks to give some idea of the opinion formed quite early in his career in India by Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, 1899-1905, about the ruling princes of India, and will, it is hoped, help an understanding of the forces working in Curzon's mind which led later to the formulation of the policy of the Government of India towards the princes. It is based on the private letters written by Lord Curzon as Viceroy to Lord George Hamilton, the Secretary of State for India, between the years 1899 and 1901. They are preserved among the Hamilton Papers at the Commonwealth Relations Office Library, Whitehall, London, under the series, Private Correspondence, India, Part II, Vols. XIII-XIX. Some of the letters were used by Lord Ronaldshay in his book, *The Life of Lord Curzon*, but most of them are yet unpublished including the letters referred to in this article.

In the correspondence that passed between Curzon and the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, there is a clear enunciation of the duties which the ruling princes were expected to perform. The practice of the princes' undertaking long tours abroad is strongly disapproved by the Viceroy.

The article also throws light on Curzon's attitude to and opinion on some of his contemporaries among the Indian princes including the Nizam.

Curzon's discomfiture at the esteem and consideration shown by Queen Victoria to the Indian princes forms another feature of the article.

(8)

THE CYCLONE OF 1864 by *G.N. Chandra, Keeper of the Records, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta*

In recent years natural calamities like the cyclone and the flood have become a common phenomenon in India, and their violence has baffled human efforts to deal with them effectively. The story of the cyclone of 1864 and how the Government of Bengal tackled the problems arising therefrom is interesting in this context. The hurricane had its origin in the Bay of Bengal, a hundred miles west of the Arakan Coast, and drove along the Ganga raising it in some places to a height of 30 ft., for a distance of several miles on either side, sweeping over the strongest embankments, flooding the crops with salt water and carrying away entire villages. Had the embankments been of sufficient strength and size to keep the water within their boundaries, the result would have been infinitely more disastrous to Calcutta. The devastation was the greatest in Saugor Island, 24 Parganas, Midnapore and Howrah.

(9)

THE FIRST CASE OF HARTAL IN BRITISH INDIA by *Nandalal Chatterjee, Reader in History, University of Lucknow*

Hartal as a mode of popular demonstration against the government is well-known in modern India, but its exact origin is shrouded in obscurity. Recently when I inspected the District Records of the Uttar Pradesh Government I chanced to notice among Banaras records a very interesting reference to a *hartal* as a public demonstration resorted to on 24 August, 1790 by the merchants and citizens of Banaras. This is perhaps the first known case of *hartal* resorted to by the people against the government in the British period.

It appears from the records that this *hartal* was a protest against the regulations issued by the Government for the enforcement of better sanitation in the city. As these regulations adversely affected the lower classes they indulged in demonstration and rioting. The merchants were compelled by the angry rioters to close their shops and stop all business. The *hartal*, however, was short-lived and the shops were opened after a few hours in the afternoon through the efforts of the Magistrate. Ali Ibrahim Khan.

(10)

INDIGO RYOTS' STATEMENTS AT CHAMPARAN IN 1917 by *K. K. Datta, Head of the Department of History, Patna University, Patna*

The paper is a study of the statements of the North Bihar indigo ryots who groaned under the oppression of the European indigo planters.

These statements were recorded in 1917 during an enquiry into the grievances of the ryots by Mahatma Gandhi and authenticated typewritten copies of these were found by me in the library of the *Bihar Vidyapith*, attached to the *Sadaqat Ashram*, Patna. They reveal that forced production of indigo, extortion of labour under threats, extremely meagre payment and sometimes even no payment, and imposition of fines for failure to grow indigo for any reason whatever, were some of the notorious features of this oppressive system.

(11)

FIRST UNIFORM CURRENCY FOR INDIA by *Dayal Dass, Archivist, National Archives of India, New Delhi*

Till the first quarter of the nineteenth century various currencies of different standards, values and devices were simultaneously in circulation in various parts of India, resulting in great inconvenience in financial transactions, both Government as well as private. The need for introducing uniform currency was first felt by Lord William Bentinck, but his departure from India left this task to his successor, Sir Charles Metcalfe.

The Calcutta Mint Committee submitted to the Governor General in Council several devices for the proposed uniform currency for the whole of British India. In order to legalise the issue of new coins and to regulate their weight, standard, device etc., an Act (Act XVII of 1835) was passed by the Government of India on 17 August 1835, giving the various denominations in which the new silver and gold coins were to be issued from the mints in British India. The issue of uniform copper coins was regulated by Act XXI of 1835, which took effect from 20 December 1835. Orders were also passed to maintain and audit all Government accounts in the new currency.

The Court of Directors were not optimistic about the efficacy of the above measures adopted by the Government of India without their prior approval, but did not withhold their formal sanction. However, the system of uniform currency, and even the denominations of most of the coins introduced by Sir Charles Metcalfe a century and a quarter back, have stood the test of time and are in vogue even today.

(12)

AN INSTANCE OF ORGANIZED NO-TAX CAMPAIGN AND HARTAL DURING THE EARLY BRITISH REGIME IN ORISSA by *Sushil Chandra De, Curator, Orissa State Archives, Bhubaneswar*

Chawkidari tax was imposed on the inhabitants of Cuttack in 1814 under Regulations XIII of 1813 and III of 1814. The citizens of Cuttack organised themselves to offer peaceful but stiff resistance to its imposi-

tion. The Acting Magistrate was equally determined to enforce the provisions of the Regulations. The people did not pay the tax, abstained from their normal duties, closed shops in the bazar and assembled together on the bank of the river Mahanadi to voice their grievances. The Magistrate declared the assembly of the people illegal and unauthorised, and repeatedly asked them to disperse. But the people did not listen to him. At last the Magistrate dispersed the crowd with the help of the military. Thereafter there was no overt opposition, but the discontent continued. So the Magistrate of Cuttack proposed the abolition of the tax in 1818, and the Commissioner recommended his proposal to the Government. The tax was, therefore, abolished in 1818.

(13)

HENRY WELLESLEY IN THE CEDED PROVINCES OF AWADH, 1801-1803 by *Dharma Bhanu, Professor of History, Madhava College, Ujjain*

Based on available contemporary sources, including the proceedings of the Government of India in the Home and Foreign Departments, this paper gives an account of the new administrative machinery set up and the arrangements made for the proper government of the areas ceded to the English East India Company by Saadat Ali Khan, the Nawab Vazir of Awadh, in November 1801. Henry Wellesley, one of the younger brothers of Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General of India, set up in the Ceded Provinces a satisfactory administrative machinery which considerably improved the economic, political and general condition of the people there.

(14)

HOLKAR SUCCESSION, 1844 by *Hira Lal Gupta, Head of the Department of History, University of Sagar, Sagar*

The paper is a study of the doctrine of lapse prior to its extensive application by Lord Dalhousie. On the death of Khande Rao, the minor Maharaja of Indore, in February 1844, when the question of succession engaged the attention of the Paramount Power, Lord Ellenborough enunciated the policy that in a state of comparatively modern origin owing its existence to conquests, where there was no one having legal claims to the throne and even a legal right to adopt a successor, the right to allow the State to continue its entity vested in the Paramount Power. His successor, Lord Hardinge, fully subscribed to this view. However, due to weighty considerations annexation was ruled out and adoption of a convenient successor was sanctioned. He was to owe his position to the East India Company and not to any other person or party or to his own legitimate claims as a collateral.

In recognising Maharaja Tukoji Holkar as successor of Khande Rao the Resident showed undue haste and indiscreet behaviour for which he was taken to task and had to defend his conduct. However, the Governor General asserted the right of the Paramount Power to nominate a successor under the given circumstances, look to his education and maintenance and supervise the administration of his State. Tukoji had to accept the condition imposed upon him that after him the succession would go only to his legitimate son and to no one else. This precluded the possibility of adoption in future. He had to present a nazr to the Governor General and receive a sanad from him. He was made to understand that he owed his position solely to the British Government and to no one else. This marked a clear departure from the old British policy towards the Indian States. The right to refuse adoption in the absence of a legitimate issue was retained by the Paramount Power.

(15)

TIPU SULTAN'S EMBASSY TO FRANCE, 1787-89 by V. G. Hotalkar,
Professor of French, Ramnarain Ruia College, Bombay

The paper is based on certain records in possession of the Archives Nationales, Paris, and throws fresh light on the objectives and achievements of the mission sent by Tipu Sultan to France. The ambassadors left India on 22 July 1787 and arrived in Paris on 16 July 1788. The French authorities had no doubt that the object of the embassy was of a political nature. Therefore, during the interview which the Minister for the Navy, Comte de la Luzerne, had with the ambassadors on the 29th, he made it clear to them that France was tied down by her treaties in Europe and as such could not conclude fresh treaties with the Indian Princes. The audience with His Majesty took place on 10 August at Versailles, with all the customary pomp and grandeur of the French Court. The ambassadors presented their credentials, but no political matters were discussed on this occasion. During the interview on 1 September, although there is no direct evidence, it can be easily surmised that the ambassadors discussed with the minister the possibility of an offensive and defensive alliance between Mysore and France. But the French minister seems to have eluded any such alliance, which fact explains the insistence of the ambassadors on getting the King's reply in writing, because they wanted to protect themselves against any eventual reproach from their master. His Majesty's reply was not less evasive. A suggestion was also made on behalf of Tipu Sultan for the education of one of the latter's sons in France. The minister gave an assurance for the prince's safety and health during his stay in France. But subsequent events in France as well as in India prevented Tipu from pursuing this project. The ambassadors left Paris on 1 October. They were treated during their stay in the French capital with the greatest honours and had received all possible attention. The result of his embassy

must have greatly disappointed Tipu Sultan who, in a fit of rage, had two of the ambassadors executed.

(16)

AN EARLY ENQUIRY INTO THE STATE OF NATIVE EDUCATION
by Jata Shankar Jha, *Research Fellow, K. P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna*

Among the educational records in Bihar I came across a circular letter of 1783 from the Revenue Committee, Calcutta, to various district officers, requiring the district revenue chiefs to submit reports on the history and state of educational institutions in the districts under their jurisdiction and also suggestions for their improvement. This circular appears to be the earliest of its kind. Replies of the revenue chiefs of Patna and Bhagalpur districts have been discovered so far. The report from Patna which contained the required information is not recorded in the correspondence volume. The forwarding letter, however, makes it clear that the state of affairs of the Madrasa at Patna was not very unsatisfactory and a sum of about five hundred rupees per month would have served the purposes for which it had been established. The report of the Bhagalpur revenue chief is a very long one and complete. It traces the history of the Bhagalpur Madrasa from the reign of Mughal emperor Jahangir, describes the condition of the institution at the time of enquiry and contains the recommendations of the revenue chief for its improvement.

(17)

A STUDY OF SOME MUTINY LETTERS OF SOHAGPUR
by Kameshwar Jha, *Research Assistant, State Committee, History of Freedom Movement, Rewa*

Sohagpur Ilaka held by a collateral of the Baghela ruler was a part of Rewa State but had been seized by the Bhonsla of Nagpur in 1809 from whom it passed to the British under the treaties of 1826. When Maharaja Raghuraj Singh (1854-1880) ascended the gaddi of Rewa, he was keenly interested in getting back the Ilaka of Sohagpur from British hands. An opportunity for the realisation of his desire was provided in 1857 when the Mutiny broke out. The Thakurs of Sohagpur, who had already become hostile to the British in 1856, rose in revolt, presumably with the tacit consent of the Maharaja of Rewa. The paper is based on some original letters in Bagheli dialect of Hindi which have been acquired by the Vindhya Pradesh History of Freedom Movement Committee from the present Thakur. They throw a flood of light on the part played by Maharaja Raghuraj Singh of Rewa and Thakur Garul Singh of Sohagpur and his brothers in collaboration with the Thakurs of Ramgarh and Shahpura in Mandla District of Madhya Pradesh during the Mutiny.

(18)

THE SOUTH KANARA INSURRECTION OF 1837 by D.N. Krishnayya,
Headmaster, Government High School, Napoklu

Coorg, which was ruled by a dynasty of Lingayat rulers, was annexed by the British in 1834, and the reigning prince was deposed and deported to Benares. In 1837, an impostor by name Kalliyanaswamy, claiming to be the heir to the ruler of Coorg, proclaimed himself Raja and marched through the State. He did not have many supporters in Coorg where the British Superintendent had won the esteem of the people by ruling them according to their ancient usages and customs. But in the parts of South Kanara below the Ghats, which had formerly been under the Coorg Raja, but had been transferred to the collectorate of Kanara, the people were very much discontented as the Collector had demanded, contrary to the usual practice, payment of their assessments in money instead of in kind and so they flocked to the standard of Kalliyanaswamy. Kalliyanaswamy descended the Ghats and came to Bellare in South Kanara. The people in Bellare and Sullia had about this time put to death a petty tyrant who was calling himself the Raja of Atloor. This emboldened the people of those parts and the pretender's following swelled as a result.

Kalliyanaswamy followed by his supporters marched to Puttur and Mangalore. He defeated the two companies of Sepoys sent by the British Collector and then proceeded to Mangalore where he took possession of the Government Treasury, broke open the prison and released the prisoners, burnt the houses of the English officials and hoisted his own flag on the flag post. His rule in Mangalore lasted for thirteen days.

Meanwhile the Bombay army landed at Tellicherry and marched to Mangalore. At the news of the approach of this army, Kalliyanaswamy's men fled, and he and his close associates were captured and hanged at Mangalore after a summary trial. This insurrection is similar in nature to the so-called independence struggle of 1857, both being aimed at ousting the British from power and restoring the rule of the previous Rajas.

(19)

DID KHANDOJI BHONSLE OF NAGPUR RULING FAMILY GO TO
BENGAL IN 1764? by D.G. Londge, Secretary, Vidarbha Sanshodhan
Mandal, Nagpur

An attempt has been made in this paper to trace the real identity of Chimna Sahu who marched with military forces to Bengal in the year 1764 with a view to realise the arrears of *chauth* payable by the Nawab of Bengal. It seeks to show on the basis of an unpublished horoscope of Chimna Bapu that his identification by historians with Khandoji alias

Chimna Bapu Bhonsle cannot be correct. This horoscope which is to be found along with those of important members of the Nagpur Bhonsle family in a copy book gives the birth date of Chimna Bapu as *Shahi* 1685 *Magh Krishna* 4, which corresponds to 21 February 1764. There is reason to believe that this date is not incorrect and so it will be wrong to hold that Chimna Bapu had marched to Bengal in April 1764.

(20)

SOME UNPUBLISHED RECORDS REGARDING THE SEPOY
MUTINY by R. C. Majumdar, Professor of Ancient History and
Culture, Nagpur University, Nagpur

During my recent visit to London (June 1956) I came across some very interesting records about the Mutiny of 1857 which, to my knowledge, are not yet published or utilised by scholars. As a specimen I have quoted in this paper some extracts from the correspondence between Major General Reed, Commander of the forces besieging Delhi from July 5 to July 17, 1857, and Sir John Lawrence. They reveal an interesting episode, otherwise unknown, viz., secret intrigues carried on by Bahadur Shah's most trusted lieutenant, Hakim Ahsanullah Khan, with the British General during the siege of Delhi. It was proposed on behalf of Bahadur Shah that if the British agreed to continue his pension of one lakh of rupees a month and secure his former status and position he would help the British to occupy Delhi by secretly admitting British troops into the Red Fort through a particular gate.

In the introductory portion I have tried to collect evidences, already known, indicating the disloyalty of Bahadur Shah and his queen and sons to the cause of the Mutiny. Reference has been made to the suspicion of the Sepoys against Bahadur Shah and Ahsanullah Khan that they were intriguing with the British, and also to the positive evidence, furnished by the letters of Greathed, that Zinat Mahal, the favourite queen of Bahadur Shah, and his sons were actually carrying on treasonable correspondence with the British authorities. The extracts from the correspondence between Reed and Lawrence prove that Bahadur Shah himself initiated this treacherous and despicable policy. They depict Bahadur Shah in his true colours and help us in making a proper assessment of the role he played in the great outbreak of 1857. These extracts thus complete the chain of evidence of the great betrayal, by Bahadur Shah and the members of his family, not only of the mutineers of whom he was the nominal head, but also of the whole country.

A REPORT ON THE RENT-FREE ESTATES IN THE CEDED AND CONQUERED PROVINCES by *R.N. Nagar, Lucknow University, Lucknow*

The report, submitted by Halbed on the rent-free estates in the Ceded and Conquered Provinces, and incorporated in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20 December 1820, described the holders of rent-free lands as 'by far the worse part of the population of the British Provinces'. It maintained that most of the documents authorising them the possession of the lands were forged, and even if not forged, were not valid. It pointed out that the investigation of claims authorised by Regulation II of 1819 could not be conducted because (a) the records in Collectors' offices were kept in a confused state, (b) Collectors were overburdened with work, (c) subordinate officers were corrupt, (d) the claims to be decided were overwhelmingly large, and (e) Collectors were not 'educated in the judicial line.'

The report suggested the establishment of a Commission to investigate the claims arising out of the application of Regulation II of 1819.

A FORGOTTEN HISTORICAL FORTRESS OF BHOPAL by *M. H. Rizawi, Keeper of Records, National Archives of India, Bhopal*

At a distance of about 55 miles from Bhopal is situated a long-neglected and dilapidated fortress known as Garhi Ambapani. The fortress has a long historical background going back to Dost Muhammad Khan, the Nawab of Bhopal. But it came into limelight during the so-called Mutiny of 1857, due to the activities of its jagirdars, Fazil Muhammad Khan and Adil Muhammad Khan. They had joined hands with Tatya Topi and other leaders of the national uprising, and were, therefore, a constant source of worry to the then ruler of Bhopal, Nawab Sikandar Jahan Begam, who remained loyal to the British power in India. Ultimately, however, the Bhopal State forces proved to be too strong for Fazil Muhammad Khan who fled from Garhi Ambapani, and the fortress was occupied by the troops of Sikandar Jahan Begam on 11 November 1857. Fazil Muhammad Khan, who had repaired to the fort of Rahatgarh, was captured there and executed.

INTERESTING EPISODE OF AN OUTBREAK IN BIHAR JAILS, 1855 by *N. B. Roy, Head of the Islamic History Department, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan*

The paper brings to light a serious disturbance that broke out in Muzaffarpur and Arrah jails, consequent on the prohibition of the use of *lotah*. The main purpose of this ban was to remove from the hands of the prisoners an instrument of offence. It is a revealing fact, as stated by Loch in his report to the Secretary, Government of Bengal, that a British officer, Richardson, had been killed in the Alipore jail and another, Wheeler, attacked in the Tirhut jail with it.

The prisoners, however, regarded that the substitution of the mud pots would cause pollution and impair the purity of their caste. Hence they obstinately resisted this innovation. The general body of the Hindu public was also opposed to the adoption of such a measure. The many reforms introduced in the country had created a belief that the British Government's intention was to root out Hinduism and make the people Christians. The Persian Secretary to Capt. Watson of the 44th Regiment told the latter that his son, a resident of Bareilly, had written to him saying that the District Magistrate of that place had issued an order asking people to embrace Christianity.

There were certain elements among the Hindus who sincerely believed in such an intention on the part of the British Government. On the other hand, there were others who wanted to use it for an anti-British propaganda for furthering their own designs. The agitation, therefore, took a very violent turn. Russel, the District Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, called it nothing short of an insurrection and said that it was "mainly the work of the rich natives and amlahs of the town". In Shahabad jail the guards and *barqandazes* showed sympathy with the prisoners. The guards, when a quick march command was given, moved slowly and in a disorderly manner, and the *barqandazes* abstained from their duty. Drummond, the District Magistrate, connived at it by saying, "I thought it best not to see too much and chose to consider that they were tired out, and reprimanded them for their laziness." The prisoners had also public sympathy behind them. The people in these towns and the neighbourhood were alienated by a mischievous report alleging the Government's intention to convert them to Christianity. This report was promptly countered by a public proclamation to the prominent landowners of the District. Normal life in the prison returned only after the revocation of Loch's decree.

BRITISH MISSION TO THE KING OF COCHIN-CHINA, 1803 by
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With the danger of a renewal of war with France imminent in the beginning of the 19th century, the Government of England hastened to adopt precautionary measures for her security. The East India Company too decided to strengthen their power in the east by forming an alliance with the king of Cochin-China in order to safeguard their China trade. David Lance, who was selected to lead the mission, having failed to discharge his commission, transferred it to John William Roberts, a super-cargo at Canton. On reaching Tourane Bay, the latter was informed that the King was away on a military expedition in the Tonkin region. Roberts maintained a diary of his proceedings in Tourane Bay from the 4th to the 16th December, 1803, a copy of which he submitted to Marquis Wellesley on his arrival in Calcutta in February 1804. This diary, which has been reproduced in the paper with an introduction, besides giving details of the trade parleys, throws light on the manners and customs of the nobles of Cochin-China in those days.

