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The History Of Hindostan; From The Earliest Account Of Time, To The Death Of Akbar; Translated From The Persian Of Mahummud Casim Ferishta Of Delhi

Together With A Dissertation Concerning the Religion and Philosophy of the Brahmins ; With An Appendix, Containing the History of the Mogul Empire, from its Decline in the Reign of Mahummud Shaw, to the present Times ; In Two Volumes

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Section II. The conclusion of the reign of Mahmood Shaw.

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SECTION II.

The conclusion of the reign of MAHMOOD SHAW.

A. D. 1397.
Hig. 800.

THE city of Delhi had remained in anarchy for the space of two months, when it was taken possession of by Nusferit Shaw, with only two thousand horse, from Merat. Shab Chan and Malleck Almas, with their troops and ten elephants, joined him soon after from the same place; Nusferit Shaw sent immediately Shab Chan, with his troops, towards Birren, against Eckbal Chan, who had there taken up his residence. But Shab Chan was attacked, in the night, upon his march, by the zemindars in the interest of Eckbal Chan, and slain; Eckbal Chan pursuing this advantage, took all the baggage of Shab Chan's army.

Eckbal Chan
recovers
Delhi.

This success raising the reputation as well as spirits of Eckbal Chan, he, in a few days, thought himself in a condition to attempt the capital, which he did with success; for Nusferit Shaw, upon his approach, fled to Merat; and Eckbal Chan resumed the administration of affairs in the ruined city. The inhabitants, who had fled to different places, having still a natural hankering after their old abode, began to assemble again, and the place, in a short time, put on the appearance of populousness, especially the quarter called the New City.

A. D. 1399.
Hig. 802.
The Subahs
revolt from
the empire.

Eckbal Chan possessed himself soon of the country between the two rivers, which, with a small district round the city, was all that now held of the capital. The subas had rendered themselves independent, in their own governments, during the misfortunes and confusion of the empire. Guzerat was seized upon by Chan Azim Ziffer Chan;—Malava by Delawir Chan;—Kinnoge, Oud, Kurrah, and Jionpoor, by Sultan ul Shirk Chaja Jehan;—Lahore, Dibalpoor,



balpoor, and Moulton, by Chizer Chan;—Sammana by Ghailil Chan;—Beana by Shumse Chan;—Mahoba by Mahummud Chan ben Malleck Zadda Firose; and so on with regard to the other provinces, the governors asserting their own independence, and stiling themselves kings.

A. D. 1399.
Hig. 802.

In the month of Jemmad ul Awil, 803, Eckbal Chan marched with an army from Delhi towards Biana, and defeated Shumse Chan; whose troops joining him, he proceeded to Kittar, and after having levied a great contribution upon the territory of Narfingh, returned to Delhi. Intelligence was soon after brought him, that Chaja Jehan was dead at Jionpoor, and that his adopted son, Kirrinphil, having assumed the title of Sultan Mubarick Shaw, held that government. Eckbal Chan being in alliance with Shumse Chan, governor of Biana, Mubarick Chan and Bahadre Nahir of Mewat, marched the same year against Kirrinphil.

A. D. 1400.
Hig. 803.
Eckbal Chan
defeats
Shumse
Chan.

When he had reached the village of Pattiali, upon the banks of the Ganges, Rai Sere, and all the zemindars of that country, opposed him; but he defeated them, with great slaughter. After this victory, he marched to Kinnoge, with an intention to proceed to Jionpoor, and from thence to Lucknouti. Upon his march, however, he was met by Mubarick Shaw, who opposed his crossing the Ganges so effectually, that, after repeated efforts for two months, he was forced to abandon the undertaking, and to return to his own country. But the perfidious Eckbal, entertaining some groundless suspicions of Shumse Chan and Mubarick Chan, assassinated them both upon their way back to their own governments.

Frustrated in
his designs
upon the pro-
vince of Jon-
poor.

A. D. 1401.
Hig. 804.
His perfidy.

Sultan Mahmood Shaw, in the year 804, being disgusted with Ziffer Chan at Guzerat, fled from him to Malava, and soon after, by the invitation of Eckbal Chan, returned to Delhi. He, however, contented himself with a pension, fearing that his interfering

Sultan Mah-
mood returns
to Delhi.

in



A. D. 1401. in the government would prove fatal to him. Advice being arrived,
 Hig. 804. that Mubarick Shaw was dead, at Jionpoor, Eckbal Chan, taking
 along with him Sultan Mahmood, marched again towards Kin-
 noge; upon which Sultan Ibrahim, the brother of Mubarick Shaw,
 who had mounted the throne, advanced with the troops of the East
 to meet him.

His folly. When the armies were near one another, Sultan Mahmood, disfa-
 tisfied with his condition, and having the folly to imagine that Sultan
 Ibrahim would acknowledge him king, and abdicate the throne for
 his sake, escaped, one day, when he was out hunting, to the army
 of Ibrahim. But when that prince learned the intentions of Mah-
 mood, he even with-held from him the necessaries of life, and inti-
 mated to him to quit the camp. Sultan Mahmood returned, in
 great distress, to Kinnoge, and was left, by Eckbal Chan, in the
 Made gover- government of that city; the governor, who was formerly there on
 nor of Kin- the part of Sultan Ibrahim, being driven out. Ibrahim, however,
 noge. put up with this insult, and returned to Jionpoor, while Eckbal
 Chan retired to Delhi.

A. D. 1402. In the year 805, Eckbal Chan marched against Gualier, which
 Hig. 805. had fallen into the hands of Narfing, during the invasion of Timur,
 Eckbal Chan and had now, upon Narfing's death, descended to his son, Byram
 marches a- Deo Rajaput. The fort being very strong, he could effect no-
 gainst Gua- thing against it, but plundering the district around, he returned to
 lier, Delhi. Brooking ill, however, this disappointment, he, in a short
 time, marched a second time against Gualier. Byram Deo sallied
 out of the place, and engaged Eckbal Chan, but he was soon driven
 back into the fort, the siege of which Eckbal Chan was again
 obliged to raise; and having plundered the country as before, he
 returned to Delhi.

Eckbal



Eckbal Chan, in the year 807, drew his army towards Atava, A. D. 1404,
Hig. 807. and having, in several battles, defeated Rai Sibbiri, Rai Gualier, Atava, Rai Jallar, and others, who possessed that country, he raised contributions there. He then turned his arms against Sultan Mahmood, in Kinnoge. The Sultan shut himself up in the city, and and Kinnoge. Eckbal Chan invested it for some time, but, not being able to reduce the place, he raised the siege, and marched towards Sammana.

Byram Chan, a descendant of one of the Turkish slaves of Firose Byram Chan, Shaw, had fixed himself in Sammana, and, upon the approach of Eckbal Chan, had fled to the hills of Budhoor; Eckbal closely pursuing him, encamped at the skirts of the mountains. Seid Alim ul Dien came to mediate matters, and a peace was soon patched up between the contending parties, and both joining their forces together, marched towards Moultan, against Chizer Chan. At Tilbundi they were opposed by Rai Daood, Camal Mai, and Rai Hubbu, who were defeated and taken prisoners. The perfidious Eckbal Chan, after this victory, without any apparent reason, except a desire of aggrandizing himself, seized upon Byram Chan, and ordered him to be flay'd alive. is flay'd alive.

The death of Byram did not remain long unrevenged. Eckbal arriving near Adjodin, Chizer Chan met him, with the troops of Moultan, Punjaab, and Dibalpoor, and, upon the nineteenth of Jemad ul Awil the two armies engaged; Eckbal Chan was slain, and Eckbal Chan
slain. the world was happily rid of a perfidious and cruel villain.

Dowlat Chan Lodi and Actiar Chan, who commanded in Delhi, A. D. 1406.
Hig. 809. being informed of this event, called Sultan Mahmood from Kinnoge. The Sultan, coming with a small retinue to Delhi, Sultan Mahmood restored. resumed the throne; but, laying aside any further efforts to reduce Moultan, he sent Dowlat Chan with an army against Byram Chan, who,



A. D. 1406. who, upon the death of the former Byram Chan, possessed him-
 Fig. 809. self of Sammana. The emperor himself returned back, in the
 Flies from Kinnoge. mean time, to Kinnoge; Sultan Ibrahim marched against him,
 Pursued by Sultan Ibra- and, after some skirmishes, obliged him to retreat to Delhi. The
 him. Sultan's spiritless behaviour lost him the affections of his troops,
 and they accordingly, with one consent, dispersed themselves.

Sultan Ibrahim, having received intelligence of this desertion, crossed the Ganges, and marched towards Delhi, with great expedition. When he had reached the banks of the Jumna, he heard that Chan Azim Ziffer Chan of Guzerat, had taken Alip Chan, Suba of Mindu, and the country of Malava, and was then upon his march towards Jionpoor. Upon which he immediately retreated, to cover the capital of his dominions.

A. D. 1407. In the month of Rigib, 810, Dowlat Chan Lodi and Byram
 Fig. 810. Chan, the Turk, came to battle near Sammana. Byram Chan
 Byram Chan defeated by Lodi. was defeated, and surrendered himself to Dowlat Chan; but before the latter had enjoyed any fruits of his victory, he was himself beat back to Delhi, by Chizer Chan. Sultan Mahmood, in the following year, marched against Keiwan Chan, who, upon the part of Chizer Chan, commanded the fort of Firofa. The Sultan, after levying contributions, returned; and Chizer Chan, upon advice of these transactions, marched against Delhi, and besieged Sultan Mahmood, who was neither a warrior nor a politician, in Firoseabad. But fortune, for this time, supplied the want of abilities in Mahmood, for Chizer Chan being in want of forage and grain, was obliged to raise the siege, and retire to Fattipoor.

The Sultan
 besieged in
 Ferozeabad.

A. D. 1411. Chizer Chan, in the beginning of the year 814, returned by the
 Fig. 814. way of Rhotuck, a country then in the possession of Sultan Mah-
 Chizer Chan mood, where Malleck Ecteriz and Mubariz Chan, declining hosti-
 besieges Mahmood in Delhi. lities, submitted to his pleasure. He plundered the town of Nar-
 noul,



noul, and again advanced to Delhi; Mahmood Shaw shut himself up in the old citadel of Seri, which Chizer Chan immediately besieged. Achtiar Chan, who commanded in Firoseabad, seeing the affairs of Mahmood in a desperate situation, joined himself to Chizer Chan, and admitted him into the place. They then, with all their troops, took possession of the country on the opposite side of the river, and prevented all supplies from Sultan Mahmood.

A. D. 1413.
Hig. 816.

But that famine which they designed for the Sultan and his adherents, recoiled upon themselves; for a great drought had occasioned a scarcity of provisions between the rivers, and in the neighbourhood of Delhi; infomuch that Chizer Chan was, a second time, forced to raise the siege, and retire to Fattipoor. Mahmood Shaw being delivered from this imminent danger, took no pains to strengthen himself against a future attack. He took the diversion of hunting in the neighbourhood of Keitul, where he was seized with a fever, and died in the month of Zecada; and with him the empire of Delhi fell from the race of the Turks, who were adopted slaves of Sultan Shab ul Dien Ghor.

But retires.

Mahmood dies.

The disastrous, interrupted, and inglorious reign of the weak Mahmood, lasted twenty years and two months. He was just as unfit for the age in which he lived, as he was unworthy of better times. God was angry with the people of Hindostan, and he gave them Mahmood, whose only virtue was, that his folly made him insensible, in a great measure, to those strokes of fortune, which abilities much greater than his could not, perhaps, avert. The omrahs, soon after his death, elected, in his stead, Dowlat Chan Lodi, a Patan by nation, and originally a private secretary, whom Sultan Mahmood had raised to the dignity of Aziz Mumalick*.

His character.

* An officer something similar to our Secretary of state.

