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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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Chap. V. Mohabet in savour - Accused of intended treason - Ordered to court - Machinations of his enemies - Indignities offered him - He resolves to seize the emperor - He takes him in his tent - ...

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J E H A N G I R E.

C H A P. V.

*Mohâbet in favour—Accused of intended treason—Ordered to court—
Machinations of his enemies—Indignities offered him—He re-
solves to seize the emperor—He takes him in his tent—Defeats the
visier—Condemns the Sultana to death—But pardons her—Governs
the empire—Attacked by the citizens of Cabul—He lays down his
power—Obliged to fly—Sent against Shaw Jehân—Death of prince
Purvez—His character—Death of Chan Chanan.*

THE valour and abilities of Mohâbet, in conducting the war against Shaw Jehân, raised sentiments of gratitude in the breast of Jehangire. His son, Channa Zâd, had been lately gratified with the government of Cabul; and others, his relations and friends, were advanced to lucrative and honourable employments. The great victory near Benâris confirmed the emperor's high opinion of Mohâbet, and the news of that important event filled him with excessive joy. His grateful feelings for his general rose in proportion to the decrease of his fears for his throne. These sentiments, however, did not long continue. Mohâbet had a great many enemies: his sovereign had but little firmness. The abilities of the former had raised envy; and nature had given to the latter a disposition too easy and pliant, to be proof against misrepresentation. To explain the causes of an event which almost transferred the empire from the house of Timur to other hands, we must look back to some circumstances prior to this period.

A. D. 1625.
Hig. 1035.

Mohâbet in
high favour.



A. D. 1625.
Hig. 1035.

Accused of
intended
treason.

Chan Chanan, mentioned as the tutor of Purvez, in his government of Candeish, had, through some disgust, attached himself to the fortunes of Shaw Jehân, when that prince succeeded his brother in the command of the Imperial army in the Decan. It was by that lord's advice, that he cut off Chufero: by his advice he rebelled against his father. He accompanied the prince in his expedition to Agra and Delhi; and, though he took no part in the fatigues of the field, he ruled in the cabinet. When the affairs of Shaw Jehân became desperate, after his retreat to the Decan, he advised him to sue for a pardon, through his brother Purvez. He himself undertook to be his messenger to Purvez, to whose temper and character he could have been no stranger. When he arrived in the Imperial camp, he found no disposition in Mohâbet to relinquish by terms, the advantages which had been obtained by the sword. Having failed in his endeavours for the prince, he applied for himself. Mohâbet was shocked at this reiteration of treachery; and he persuaded Purvez to throw him and his family into prison. The latter were sent, under an escort, to Agra; he himself was detained, in close confinement, in the camp, and his estate was confiscated by an Imperial edict.

The grounds
of the accu-
sation.

After the decisive battle near Benâris, the province of Bengal, which had been reduced by Shaw Jehân, fell at once into the hands of the conquerors. Purvez, who had a commission from his father to govern the eastern provinces, conferred the subaship of Bengal upon Mohâbet, who sent his son Channa Zâd, lately arrived in the army, to manage his government in his own absence. Dara the son of Chan Chanan, had been made suba of Bengal, by Shaw Jehân. That young lord was seized by the people, and delivered into the hands of Channa Zâd, as soon as he arrived at the capital of the province. He immediately sent

Dara



Dara to his father; who, having informed the emperor of that circumstance, received orders to put him to death, as an obstinate rebel. Mohâbet obeyed, and sent the unfortunate suba's head to Agra.

A. D. 1625.
Hig. 1035.

Chan Chanan, though confined in the camp of Purvez, found means, by letters, to insinuate himself into the good graces of the Sultana, and her brother the visier. The two last had been long the enemies of Mohâbet; and the former imputed the death of his son to that lord, and was resolved to revenge the injury. He wrote to the Sultana: he sent letters to Afiph. He informed them that Mohâbet was forming designs to raise Purvez to the throne. This was carried to the emperor's ears. He ordered Chan Chanan to be released: and that Omrah, who remained with Purvez, accused Mohâbet, by letters to the emperor, of intended treason.

His enemies
at court.

Jehangire, naturally suspicious, was alarmed. The spirit of jealousy and distrust took possession of his mind. He forgot the services of Mohâbet in his own fears. He ordered him to court; and raised Chan Jehân Lodi from the government of Guzerat to the command of the army under Purvez. Mohâbet, before the emperor's orders arrived, had set out with Purvez, for Bengal. He had been guilty of a neglect, which gave colour to the accusations of his enemies. The elephants taken in battle are Imperial property. These he had retained, together with the presents which his son Channa Zâd had received in resettling the province. A second peremptory order was sent to him. He was acquainted, that he was appointed to the subaship of Punjâb; but that the emperor deprived him of Lahore, which had been usually annexed to that government. He was thunderstruck at the sudden change in the emperor's mind. He resolved to obey. He went to take his leave of Purvez. The

The emperor
alarmed.



A. D. 1625.
Hig. 1035.

Mohâbet
commanded
to court.

prince was cold and stately ; and seemed to forget his friend in the displeasure of his father.

Sensible of his own abilities, conscious of his honour, elevated by his reputation in war, Mohâbet was disgusted, beyond measure, at this return for his services. He resolved to retire to his castle of Rintimpour : but an order arrived to deliver that fortress into the hands of one of the Sultana's creatures. This latter circumstance confirmed what his friends at court had written to him before, that his life was in danger, should he trust himself in the Imperial presence. He wrote to Jehangire. He expressed his astonishment at his displeasure. He declared his perfect confidence in the honour of his prince ; but he expressed his well-grounded distrust of his advisers. The letter produced nothing but an order for his immediate appearance at court. To refuse was to rebel. He wrote again to the emperor. " I will," says he, " serve my sovereign with my life against his enemies, but I will not expose it to the malice of his friends. Assure me of safety, and I will clear myself in the presence." Jehangire, upon receiving this letter, was enraged. He dispatched a courier, with his last commands for his appearance. He at length resolved to obey. Five thousand Rajaputs, in the Imperial pay, from an affection for their general, offered him their service to conduct him to court. Escorted by these, he took the rout of Lahore, where the emperor, at the time, resided.

He obeys,

On the eighteenth of April 1626, Jehangire set out from Lahore toward Cabul. News was brought to the Imperial camp that Mohâbet had sent before him the elephants taken at the battle of Benâris ; and that he himself followed, with a retinue of five thousand Rajaputs. The Sultana and the visier were struck with a double terror. They were afraid of a reconciliation :



ciliation: they were afraid of his force. They persuaded the emperor not to admit him into the camp. When, therefore, he arrived near the tents, he was ordered to stop, till he accounted for the revenues of Bengal, and the plunder taken at the battle of Benâris. Mohâbet was enraged: he dispatched his son-in-law to the emperor, to complain of an indignity so unworthy of his fidelity and services. He could not have chosen a worse messenger. The emperor had been much offended with Mohâbet, for giving his daughter in marriage without his consent; and he had resolved to be revenged. When, therefore, the young lord alighted from his elephant in the Imperial square, he was suddenly seized; he was stript of his clothes, covered with rags, bastinadoed, and sent out of the camp riding backward on a sorry jade, amid the shouts of the whole army.

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

The intelligence of this gross affront came to Mohâbet, before the dishonoured youth appeared. He bore it with seeming patience. He was shocked at the weakness of the emperor, which had yielded so much to the malice of a vindictive woman. He separated, by degrees, his retinue from the camp. He found he could not trust himself in the hands of his enemies; and he took at once a bold resolution. The emperor was on his march to Cabul, and he resolved to watch his motions. He hovered, during the night, round the skirts of the camp; and the morning presented a favourable opportunity for the execution of his scheme.

His messenger grossly affronted.

When Mohâbet arrived, the Imperial army lay encamped on the banks of the Behat or Gelum, at the end of the bridge, on the high-road which led to Cabul. The advanced guard began to move over the bridge in the morning, and was gradually followed by the other troops. The emperor remained in the old

He surprises the emperor in his tent,

camp.



A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

camp. He was not in an enemy's country, and he used no precautions. When the greatest part of the army had passed, Mohâbet suddenly advanced with his faithful Rajaputs. He seized the bridge, and set it on fire; leaving two thousand of his men under the command of his son, to defend the flames, and to stop the return of the enemy. Having made this disposition, he rode with great speed to the Imperial square. He was first observed by the officers of the household, passing by the haram in seeming disorder. His countenance was pale, but determined. They were alarmed; and he rushed forward to the emperor's tent.

takes him

The writer of the Acbal Namma, who was then lord of the wardrobe, suspecting that Mohâbet meant to assassinate the emperor, drew his sword, and followed him with great speed. The Omrahs in waiting did the same. When they had advanced to the Imperial tent, they found Mohâbet surrounded by five hundred Rajaputs on foot, standing at the door, with swords by their sides and pikes in their hands. The lords were immediately seized and disarmed. The emperor, hearing the noise and confusion without, cut his way through the screens, and entered the bathing-tent, which was behind his sleeping apartment. Mohâbet alighted and entered; not finding the emperor, he pressed forward with forty Rajaputs, to the bathing-tent. Some of the Imperial guards stood at the door. The officer who commanded them, sternly asked Mohâbet, Why he presumed to intrude on the emperor's privacy? He answered him, by putting his hand upon his sword and frowning upon him, with a determined countenance. A panic seized the guards. They made way for him to pass. In the outer apartment of the bathing-tent, stood many Omrahs of high rank. They drew their swords; but the Rajaputs surrounding them, they thought proper to deliver up their arms.



The news of this insult was carried to the emperor by some of the women who attended him in the inner tent. He seized his sword, and was about to assault Mohâbet, when he saw his guards and nobles disarmed. He dropt his point; and said, "What dost thou mean, Mohâbet Chan?" Mohâbet touching the ground and then his forehead with his hand, thus replied: "Forced by the machinations of my enemies, who plot against my life, I throw myself under the protection of my soveraign."—"You are safe,"—answered the emperor; "but what would these, who stand armed behind you?"—"They want full security," rejoined Mohâbet, "for me and my family; and without it, they will not retire."—"I understand you," said Jehangire: "name your terms, and they shall be granted. But you do me an injustice, Mohâbet; I did not plot against your life. I knew your services, though I was offended at your seeming disobedience to my commands. Be assured of my protection: I shall forget the conduct which necessity has imposed upon you."

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.
prisoner.

Mohâbet, without naming his conditions, observed to the emperor, that it was now time to take his daily amusement of hunting. Without waiting for a reply, he ordered his own horse to be brought. Jehangire declined mounting him: Mohâbet seemed not to listen. "Then, Mohâbet Chan," said the emperor, "if still I have a horse of my own, I will mount him." One was brought him. They rode slowly away together, surrounded by the Rajaputs. When they had advanced beyond the skirts of the camp, Mohâbet observed to the emperor, That it would be prudent for him to mount an elephant, to avoid any accident that might happen in the confusion which was likely to ensue. Jehangire had now no will of his own. He mounted the elephant; and three Rajaputs, under a pretence of defending him, mounted by his side.

and carries
him.

The



A. D. 1626.
 Hig. 1035.
 to his own
 camp.

The emperor had scarce placed himself on the elephant, when Muckirrib Chan, one of the officers of state, pressing through the Rajaputs, climbed up the elephant's side, and sat down by his sovereign. He was threatened by the Rajaputs. He was obstinate, and would not stir. One slightly cut him on the forehead with his sabre; but he was not to be moved. They had now proceeded near a mile from the camp, when some of the officers of the household, mounted upon elephants, came up, and placed themselves on the road before the emperor. Mohâbet ordered them to clear the way: they refused, and were cut to pieces. He then continued his rout, without further obstruction, to his own camp. The emperor was brought to his tent: and all spectators being removed, Mohâbet explained himself to him, protesting, that he had formed no designs neither against his life nor his power. "But," concluded he sternly, "I am determined to be safe."

Cuts off
 Sujait Chan.

Asiph, the visier, had crossed the bridge in the morning with the Imperial army. The Sultana, when Mohâbet was busy in securing the person of the emperor, made her escape to her brother. He considered, that nothing was done, so long as that haughty woman remained out of his power. He resolved to prosecute his plan, with the same resolute boldness with which it was begun. He returned with the emperor to his former camp, on the bank of the Gelum. Sujait Chan, an Omrah of high reputation, had arrived that instant to join the Imperial army. He knew the situation of affairs; and loudly inveighed, in the presence of the Rajaputs, against Mohâbet. That lord was at once enraged and alarmed. He ordered his troops to fall upon Sujait and his retinue, and every man of them was put to the sword. The other Omrahs, who had hitherto hovered round,



round, struck with the fate of Sujait, fled across the river, and joined the Imperial army.

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

Noor-Jehân was the messenger of the disaster, which befel the emperor, to her brother Asiph. He immediately called the Omrahs together: and the Sultana vehemently accused those who had been left with Jehangire, of negligence and cowardice. A debate arose about the best method of rescuing their sovereign out of the hands of Mohâbet. The measure was full of peril; but it must be taken. They agreed to assemble their forces by the dawn of next morning; and to endeavour to repass the river against the rebel. The emperor was apprized of their intentions. He began to fear for his life. Repeated messages were sent to the visier to desist from his purpose; but that minister did not think himself obliged to obey the commands of an imprisoned monarch, who was under the influence of the man who had seized his person.

The visier determines to rescue the emperor;

Asiph begun his march with day. When he came to the bridge, he found it burnt down. He resolved to ford the river; but the water was so deep, that many were drowned. Those who gained the further shore, had to fight the enemy at a manifest disadvantage. They were cut off as fast as they ascended the bank. A succession of victims came to the swords of the Rajaputs. The action continued for some hours. The rear of the Imperialists pressing into the river, prevented the front from retreating. The Sultana was not a tame spectator on the occasion. Mounted on an elephant, she plunged into the stream with her daughter by her side. The young lady was wounded in the arm: but her mother pressed forward. Three of her elephant-drivers were successively killed; and the elephant received three wounds on the trunk. Noor-Jehân, in the mean time, emptied

But is defeated



A. D. 1626.
 Hig. 1035.

four quivers of arrows on the enemy. The Rajaputs pressed into the stream to seize her; but the master of her household, mounting the elephant, turned him away, and carried her out of the river, notwithstanding her threats and commands.

with great
 slaughter,

Whilst these things happen in the river, Fidai Chan and Abul Hassen, with some other gallant nobles, forming a squadron of gentlemen in the rear of the Imperialists, plunged into the river and gained the opposite shore. The shock between them and the Rajaputs was violent. The latter gave way, and fled toward the tents of the prince Shariâr, where the emperor remained under a guard. They stopt, and the action became bloody. The arrows and shot piercing through the tents, the emperor was in imminent danger: but Muchlis Chan, who stood near him, covered him with shields. In the mean time, Mohâbet re-established the ranks of the fugitives behind the tents. He turned them, and fell upon the flank of the Imperialists. Vifier Bec, Attalla, and several gallant lords were killed: Fidai was covered with wounds. The spirit of his followers began to sink. Mohâbet pressed hard upon them; and at length they fled. The field was covered with dead bodies; and a complete victory remained to the Rajaputs.

and taken
 prisoner.

The runaways, gaining the opposite side of the river, found their troops diminished and completely ruined. They gave up all thoughts of further resistance: each fled to his own home. The army, in the space of a few hours, was dissipated. Afiph fled to his estate; and shut himself up, with five hundred men, in the castle of New Rhotas, on the Attoc. The Sultana found means to escape to Lahore. Mohâbet dispatched a messenger to Afiph, with assurances of safety, should he return to the camp. The vifier would not trust himself in his hands. Meer Berwir, the



the son of Mohâbet, with a detachment besieged the fort of Rho-
tas. Asiph was soon reduced to distress; and, on the arrival of
Mohâbet before the place, that lord, with his son Abu Talib,
surrendered at discretion. Noor-Jehân had scarce returned to La-
hore, when she received letters from the emperor. He acquaint-
ed her, that he was treated with respect by Mohâbet; and that
matters were amicably settled between them. He conjured her,
therefore, as she regarded his peace and safety, to lay aside all
thoughts of hostile preparations. He concluded, with command-
ing her to follow him to Cabul, whither, of his own free choice,
he then directed his march. Noor-Jehân did not long hesitate.
She set out from Lahore, and soon came up with her lord. When
she arrived, troops were sent out by Mohâbet, by way of doing
her honour. But they were her keepers, and not her guards.
They surrounded her tent, and watched all her motions.

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.
The Sultana
seized.

Mohâbet, who carried every thing before him in the presence,
accused her publicly of treason. He affirmed, that she had con-
spired against the emperor, by estranging from him the hearts of
his subjects: that the most cruel and unwarrantable actions had
been done, by her capricious orders, in every corner of the em-
pire: that her haughtiness was the source of public calamities,
her malignity the ruin of many individuals: that she had even
extended her views to the empire, by favouring the succession of
Shariâr to the throne, under whose feeble administration she hoped
to govern India at pleasure. He therefore insisted that a public
example should be made of so wicked a woman; as a sign to man-
kind, that crimes in the most exalted persons ought to meet with
no more favour, than iniquities in the mean and low. "You,
who are emperor of the Moguls!" said Mohâbet, addressing him-
self to Jehangire, "whom we look upon as something more than
human,

Condemned
to death.

N a human,



A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

Saved at the
request of the
emperor.

human, ought to follow the example of God, who has no respect for persons."

Jehangire was too well acquainted with his situation to contradict Mohâbet. He owned the justice of the accusation, and he signed a warrant for her death. Being excluded from his presence, her charms had lost their irresistible influence over him; and when his passions did not thwart the natural bias of his mind, he was always just. The dreadful message was delivered to the Sultana. She heard it without emotion. "Imprisoned sovereigns," said she, "lose their right to life with their freedom; but permit me for once to see the emperor, and to bathe with my tears the hand that has fixed the seal to the warrant of death." She was brought before her husband, in the presence of Mohâbet. Her beauty shone with additional lustre through her sorrow. She uttered not one word. Jehangire burst into tears. "Will you not spare this woman, Mohâbet?" said the emperor; "you see how she weeps."—"The emperor of the Moguls," replied Mohâbet, "should never ask in vain." The guards retired from her, at a wave of his hand; and she was restored that instant to her former attendants.

March to
Cabul.

The friends of Mohâbet disapproved of his generosity, and he had cause to repent of it himself. The Sultana lived not to thank her forgiver, but to revenge herself. The Imperial camp moved to Cabul. Mohâbet, without appearing to command, directed every thing at court. The emperor implicitly followed his advice; and he even seemed to harbour no resentment against him for the past. He had long known his abilities; he was now convinced of his integrity and generosity. Naturally fond of indolence and pleasure himself, he could not wish to have left the affairs of the state in better hands. The attention paid him by Mohâbet,



Mohâbet, eradicated every idea of bondage: and the weight which his edicts carried, from their precision and wisdom, reconciled his situation to his pride, by the obedience which was paid to them over all the empire.

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

Six months had passed in Cabul in an apparent harmony between the monarch and his minister. The busy spirit of Noor-Jehân was, in the mean time, hatching mischief. She concealed her schemes so effectually, that they escaped the penetrating eyes of Mohâbet. The emperor resided in his palace at Cabul: the minister lay every night in the camp of his Rajaputs, without the walls. When he came one morning to pay his respects at court with his retinue, the citizens, at the instigation of the Sultana, attacked him from both ends of a narrow street. Some, posted in windows on either side, fired upon him with muskets. He turned back, and forced his way to his camp. He arrived among the Rajaputs unhurt: his followers were all either wounded or slain. The citizens did not rest here. They fell upon the guards, which he had placed round the emperor; and put five hundred to the sword.

Designs of
the Sultana
against Mo-
hâbet

Mohâbet, enraged at the perfidy of the Cabulians, prepared to take ample revenge. He blocked up the city, with his army. The massacre within was discontinued. Fear succeeded to rage. The principal inhabitants, laying the whole blame upon the rabble, came out in the most suppliant manner to Mohâbet. Jehangire, who disclaimed all knowledge of the tumult, interceded for them; and the enraged minister spared the city, after having punished the most notorious ringleaders of the insurgents. He, however, declared, that he would never enter the perfidious city of Cabul: he gave directions to the emperor to quit it the next day,

defeated.



A. D. 1636.
Hig. 1035.

Mohâbet re-
signs his
power.

He is obliged
to fly.

day, and, having made the necessary preparations, the Imperial camp moved in a few days toward Lahore.

On the way to Lahore, Mohâbet took a sudden resolution to throw up his power. He had no intentions himself upon the empire; and he had triumphed over his enemies, and served his friends. He exacted, and obtained from Jehangire, the most solemn promises of oblivion for the past; and he restored that prince to all his former consequence and power. He promised to assist him with his advice; and to shew his sincerity, he dismissed the greatest part of his guards and attendants. This conduct was noble; but he had gone too far to retreat. Gratitude is not so strong a passion as revenge. The weak forget favours; but the haughty never forgive indignities. The Sultana kept fresh in her memory her disgrace; she remembered her danger from Mohâbet. She applied to Jehangire for his immediate death. She urged specious arguments to strengthen her request. "A man," said she, "who is so daring as to seize the person of his sovereign, is a dangerous subject. The lustre of royalty must be diminished, continued the Sultana, in the eyes of the people, whilst he who pulled his prince from the throne, is permitted to kneel before it with feigned allegiance." Jehangire was shocked at her proposal. He commanded her to be silent.

She was silent, but she did not drop her design. She resolved to take off by private treachery the man whom she failed to bring to a public death. She contrived to place one of her eunuchs behind the curtain, with orders to shoot Mohâbet, when he should next come to pay his respects in the presence. Jehangire overheard her commands to the slave. He acquainted Mohâbet with the snare laid for his life; insinuating that his power was not sufficient to protect him from private treachery, though he was resolved



resolved to save him from public disgrace. Mohâbet was alarmed. He escaped from the camp. The army lay that day on the banks of the Gelum, in the very spot where the emperor had seven months before been seized. Mohâbet, after having the whole power of the empire in his hands, was obliged to fly from that very place, without a single attendant. He carried nothing with him but his life: his wealth was left in the Imperial camp, and became the property of Noor-Jehân. His flight had scarce become public, when an edict was issued by the Sultana's procurement, to all the governors of provinces to make diligent search for him. He was declared a rebel, and a reward was put upon his head.

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

Asiph disapproved of his sister's violence. He knew the merit of Mohâbet: he was not forgetful of his kindness to himself, when under his power. He was tired, besides, of the weakness of Jehangire, and of the Sultana's tyranny. He, however, observed a cautious silence. His power depended upon his sister; and she was haughty as well as vindictive. Mohâbet flew from place to place. He took, at first, the route of Tatta; but the unfortunate have enemies every where. The boldness, which had lately raised him to the summit of power, forsook him not in his distress. He mounted his horse; and rode solitary near four hundred miles, to throw himself into the conversation of Asiph. That minister, at the time, was in the Imperial camp at Karnal, on the road between Lahore and Delhi. Mohâbet, in a mean habit, entered the camp when it was dark; and about nine o'clock placed himself in the passage, which led from the apartments of Asiph to the Haram. The eunuch, who stood at the door, questioned Mohâbet. He knew that lord by his voice; but he assured him of his fidelity. Mohâbet told him, that he wished

His conference



A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

to speak to his lord on affairs of the last moment. The visier came.

with Afiph

When Afiph saw the low condition into which he, who lately commanded the empire, was fallen, he could scarce refrain from tears. He took him in his arms: they retired in silence to a secret place. Mohâbet, after mentioning the ingratitude of Noor-Jehân, complained of the imbecillity of the emperor, and plainly told the visier, that, low as he was reduced, he was determined to raise up another sovereign in India. "Purvez," continued Mohâbet, "is a virtuous man, and my friend. But he is easy and pliant; and we must not change one weak prince for another. I know the merit of Shaw Jehân; I have fought against him; and when I conquered, I gained not a victory but my own life. He suits the times. He is ambitious, and sometimes severe; but he will aggrandize the empire abroad, and add vigour and precision to the laws at home."—Afiph was overjoyed at this declaration. He was connected in friendship as well as in affinity with Shaw Jehân. "You must go hence with speed," said Afiph; "and I will endeavour to procure your pardon. The emperor, who is not averse to you, will listen to my request; especially as Shaw Jehân, with whom you alone are able to cope in the field, is in arms. I shall procure for you an army, which you shall use as the circumstances of the time will demand."

in favour of
Shaw Jehân.

The two Omrahs, having sworn fidelity to one another, parted. Mohâbet, mounting his horse, dived into the night: Afiph went into the presence. The emperor was much alarmed at the news from the Decan, that his rebellious son had collected an army. He regretted the loss of Mohâbet, and Afiph took that opportunity of suing for his pardon. The emperor, in the warmth
of



of his zeal against his son, ordered an edict of indemnity to be forthwith issued, which restored Mohâbet to his honours and estates. A commission was given him to command the army against Shaw Jehân; and the ceremony of giving thanks in the presence, was dispensed with in his favour, as he could not trust his life to the mercy of Noor-Jehân.

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

An event, however, happened, which rendered these preparations against Shaw Jehân unnecessary. That prince desisted from his new enterprize without the interposition of force. When Mohâbet carried all before him at court, his friend and pupil, the prince Purvez, remained at the head of the army, and commanded all the eastern and southern provinces in great tranquillity. He took no notice of his father's confinement; and he used no means for his releasement. He knew that Mohâbet had no designs upon the empire; and he was rather pleased, with a check upon the emperor, which might prove an excuse to himself, from being bound by his commands. In the midst of the insensibility and tranquillity of Purvez, he was seized by an apoplexy, which carried him off in the thirty-eighth year of his age.

Death of
Purvez.

Sultan Purvez was one of those harmless men that pass without either envy or fame through life. Destitute of those violent passions which agitate the animated and ambitious, he was never completely happy, nor thoroughly miserable. Ease was his only comfort; toil his sole aversion. Though battles were gained in his name, he was rather an incumbrance to an army, than the spring which should move the whole. Without ambition to command, he thought it no indignity to obey. He approved of the counsel of others, without ever proposing his own. He was in short an useful engine in the hands of an able general. There was a kind of comity in his manner, which com-

His charac-
ter.



A. D. 1625.
Hig. 1035.

manded respect, where he impressed no awe; and even men who knew his weakness, listened with attention to his commands. His constitution was feeble and lethargic; his life a perpetual slumber. Had he lived, he was destined for the throne; and, as he had no passions to gratify, the happiness or misery of his reign would depend on those whom chance might place around him. His death was regretted, more, perhaps, than that of an abler man might have been. He never committed injuries, and mankind gave him credit for benevolence. Mohâbet mourned him as a good-natured friend; Jehangire as a dutiful son. The contrast which the character of his brother presented, justified the sentiments of both.

Affairs at
Court, and
in the Decan.

When Mohâbet fled, Noor-Jehân governed the empire without controul. While yet he held the reins of government, he had sent orders to his son Channa-Zâd, Suba of Bengal, to send him the surplus of the revenues of that country. Twenty-two lacks, under an escort, were advanced as far as Delhi, when the flight of Mohâbet happened; and the same messenger, who brought the news of the treasure to the emperor, brought him also intelligence of the death of Purvez. Jehangire was affected, beyond measure, at the loss of his son: he never had disobeyed his commands, and his manner was naturally engaging and pleasing.—The command of the army devolved upon Chan Jehân Lodi. He was ordered to send his family to court as hostages for his faith.—An unexpected war furnished a field for the abilities of Lodi. The Nizam raised disturbances; but he was reduced, without battle, to terms.

Death of
Chan Chan-
nan.

Chan Chanan, who, after his release from confinement, had remained with Purvez in the camp, did not long survive that prince. He attained to the seventy-second year of his age; and, though in his latter days he was accused of treachery, he had

covered



covered the former part of his life with renown. He performed many memorable actions, under the emperor Akbar. He reduced the kingdom of Guzerat; he defeated with twenty thousand horse, an army of seventy thousand, under the confederate princes of the Decan. He was a scholar, as well as a soldier. He was the most learned man of his time: shrewd in politics, eloquent to a proverb. He translated the commentaries of the emperor Baber into the Persic, from the Mogul language. He understood the Arabic, the Pehlvi, and all the dialects of India. He was also a good poet, and many of his pieces have come down to our time. In abilities he yielded not to his father, the famous Byram; though he possessed not his integrity and unfulfilled virtue.

A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.

When Michael fled, Nour-Jehan governed the empire without control. While yet he held the reins of government, he had sent orders to his son Channa-Nad, Suba of Bengal, to send him the plus of the revenues of that country. Twenty-two lakhs, under an escort, were advanced as far as Delhi, when the light of a lightning was received with extraordinary violence, and the news of the happened; and the same messenger, who brought the news of the disturbance, brought him also intelligence of the death of Purvez. Jehangire was affected, beyond measure, at the loss of his son: he never had disobeyed his commands, and his manner was loved to leave upon the world a name that would be a model of a monarch. The command of the army devolved naturally upon him, and he was ordered to send his army to court as hostages for his father. An unexpected war took place, and the army of both sides was routed. The army of the emperor remained with Purvez in the country, and he returned to the court. He remained to the court, and he returned to the court.

J E H A N G I R E .

Affairs in Court and in the Decan.
A. D. 1626.
Hig. 1035.
Death of Channa-Nad.
Death of the prince.

