CHAPTER VIII

Conclusion
Tipu has been criticised for his anti-English policy, for his failure to win the Marathas and the Nizam over to his side, and for cultivating the friendship of the French. But on closer analysis these criticism would be found to be unjust. It is true that Tipu was against the English but this was due to the fact that, in spite of his desire to live at peace with them, they were hostile towards him.¹

No sooner the treaty of Bangalore was signed then they began to intrigue with the Nizam and the Peshwa against him. In 1786 Macpherson, in violation of the treaty decided to send military help to the Marathas and the Nizam who had invaded Mysore. Although later, Cornwallis withdrew the offer of aid lest it should involve the company in war with Tipu and the French for which it was not prepared, his attitude towards the Sultan did not become friendly. On the contrary he began to incite the Nizam and the Marathas against him; and in 1789, in violation of the company's previous treaties with Haider and Tipu, he wrote a letter to the Nizam assuring him his support in the conquest of Mysore.²

The cause of English hostility towards Tipu was that he was not prepared to become a tributary of the company. Besides, they regarded him as an obstacle to their ambitions, because he was "Unquestion-ably the most powerful of all the
native princes of Hindustan," and they feared that "His steadiness in establishing that system of government and discipline in his army, which have raised him above the other princes in India, can not fail to make him every day more formidable." That was why Cornwallis attacked him and deprived him of half his kingdom. But the English were not satisfied with this: They wanted his complete extirpation.

As Thomas Munro wrote on Sept. 21, 1798: "Our first care ought to be directed to the total subversion of Tippoo. After becoming masters of Seringapatam and Bangalore. We should find no great difficulty in advancing to the Kistna, when favoured by wars and revolutions in the neighbouring states; and such occasion will seldom be wanting, for there is no govt. among them that has consistency enough to deserve the name."

In addition of these, another factor which had a decisive influence in the third and fourth Anglo-Mysore wars was the change in the company's organisation. Untill 1784 this had been very weak. But the Pilt's India Act and the supplemenary acts introduced considerable changes. Formerly the Governor General had been at the mercy of his council, but now he was entrusted with supreme authority. The conflict between the civil and military authorities had formerly marred the progress of wars. But this was ended by the union in the same hands of the
officers of the Governor-General and the Commander-in-chief. Moreover, formerly authorities in Bombay, and Madras had defied the Governor-General in the conduct of external affairs, but now he was given complete authority over the subordinate Governments.

The result of these changes was that both Cornwallis and Wellesley were able to carry on war against Tipu much more vigorously than Hastings had ever been able to do against Haider. The Pitt’s India Act introduced another change. Until 1784 the Home Government had only occasionally intervened in the affairs of the company, but henceforth it established its full control. This was all the more necessary, because the company was to serve as the instrument of national policy in order to compensate the loss of the American colonies. The result was that, while Haider had fought only against the English company, Tipu had to contend with “The English government and the East India company combined, the resources of both of which were clubbed to provide for the war.”

Moreover, it should not be forgotten that Tipu was fighting a people who were disciplined, United, selfconfident, and led by the middle class. They were also technically most advanced and possessed great resources. On the other hand, India was feudal, caste-ridden and demoralised, having no unity, no
national consciousness and no common purpose and jealous to each other.7

However, All the historical writings conform this admitted fact that in India the British did not face more formidable power (enemy) than Tipu Sultan of Mysore. He defeated them and beaten back in all sort of warfare, the pitched battles, fort warfare, surprise attacks and even in the use of heavy artillery. He had adopted matching tactics against them and paid them in their own coin. He was dreadfully known as 'Tipu Tiger; Tipu was most feared in British circles in India. In the words of Owen, "Tipu was a name of fear to the British nation itself."

A depiction of this fearful memory has been retained till now in a famous London Museum and it still becomes fresh in the minds of the visitors. The resistance of Tipu to the British imperialism was incomparable.

No doubt, Tipu Sultan was the pioneer who introduced modern tactics of war and all the improvement of musketry and artillery into his army among the existing power in the 18th century India. He put-up a very tough resistance not only to the British but also to the Marathas and the Nizam because of his improved military technology. The technological superiority in striking power of military equipment marvelled his
opponents. Besides having an indomitable courage, he was imaginative and attentive to the minutest need. Tipu Sultan pioneered various techniques which have made him immortal in the history of Indian military leaders. Undoubtedly, the resistance of Tipu had no parallel.

He Struggled till his last breath and always fought like a Tiger. Sultan died on 4th May 1799 during the fourth Anglo-Mysore war. With the death of Sultan, ended a golden and last chapter of the country's modernisation. With him ended his dynasty. Once again history repeated itself and India became politically dead. Glorious past, bright present, and hopeful future of the country cracked down with a crash under the body of that Martyr.8

It can be said without any doubt or exaggeration that he was matured in the battle field. He had perfectly gripped the sword in his hand when he died. Kirmani rightly remarks "In order to conform or establish your Government you must give the sword no rest".9 the saying paints Tipu's picture correctly.
References

2. Ibid, p. 382.
4. I. O., Mack. MSS, No. 46. p. 137