PART III

INCURSIONS FROM OUTSIDE
ADILSHAHI HOLD IN KANARA (1565-1675 A.D.)

The conquest of Goa by the Bahmani Sultan in 1472 A.D. led to the expansion of that kingdom to the border of Kanara. Gradually, the region from Kudal (Ratnagiri district) to Chittakula (North Kanara) came under the authority of the Bahmanis. The Adilshahis of Bijapur who succeeded the Bahmanis in this region in 1490 A.D. held their sway over this territory.

Noticing the Adilshahi dominion in the extreme northern portion of Kanara in 1516 A.D. Duarte Barbosa remarks: "Coming forth from this city, and following the coast on the way to Malaba, there is a river called Ligua which is the boundary of the kingdoms of Daquem and Narasyngua, and at the mouth of this river, on a hill, is a castle.
(named Cintacora, which the Sabayo holds here for the
defence of his realm; in which he keeps continually a
large body of men, both foot and horse. Here, on the north
bank, ends the kingdom of Daquem, which possesses the coast
as far as Chaul, and the distance from this fort along the
coast is about ninety leagues". It will be seen from
Barbosa's observations that portions of Kanara held by the
Adilshahis had gained importance as military base. This
was but natural, as this area was the border territory.
We do not have any evidence of further Bijapur conquest in
Kanara. Therefore it is safe to infer that the Adilshahi
rulers held under them only extreme northern portion of
Kanara, i.e. the north of the river Kāli till 1565 A.D.

THE ADILSHAHIS ACTIVITIES IN KANARA FROM 1565 TO 1593

The unexpected victory of the five Deccan Sultans
over Vijayanagara in 1565 A.D. marked a turning point in
the history of the Adilshahi kingdom. Ali Adilshah I, the
ruler of Bijapur, tried to seize as much of the Vijayanagara
empire as possible towards the south of the river Krishnā.
With reference to the Vijayanagara possession in Kanara,
Ferishta remarks that the chiefs, who acknowledged the
authority of Vijayanagara, now rose in revolt against their
erstwhile overlords and declared themselves independent.
As a result of this the Sultan of Bijapur extended his sway from Goa to Bārkalūru. We have already stated that this version is not supported by any epigraphical evidence. However, between 1565 A.D. and 1614 A.D. the Sultan of Bijapur often came into contact with some of the chiefs in Kanara. It is a known fact that Ibrahim Adilshah II, concluded an alliance in 1569 A.D. with the queen of Gerasoppe in order to check the influence of the Portuguese. Though this alliance failed to drive out the Portuguese from Goa and conquer the fort of Honnavar from them, this strengthened their friendship which lasted till the fall of Gerasoppe (1607 A.D.).

In another context, the Bijapur government tried to extend its influence in the principalities of the Honneyakambali and Tōlaha in South Kanara district. This event is said to have taken place in 1573 A.D. In that year the chiefs of these principalities are reported to have paid homage to the Sultan of Bijapur through the influence of a chief called Shankara Maika. But there is no corroborative evidence to support this view. On the other hand there is an epigraph of 1576 A.D. found in the principality of Honneyakambali which shows that the area was under the control of the Keḻadi Nāyaka (probably Chikka Sankannanāyaka) and his authority was recognised by both the chiefs of Honneyakambali and Tōlaha. It is thus clear that the activities
of the Adilshahi ruler in these principalities were sporadic with no permanent effect.

In 1525 A.D. Salbat Khan, a general of Ibrahim Adil Shaha II, attacked the Keladi kingdom in alliance with Svâdi Arasappa II. But we know that these forces were routed by Chikka Sankannanâyaka.9

Ferishta tells us that in 1587 A.D. Ibrahim Adil Shaha II sent one of his generals Bulil Khan (Baleel) with twelve thousand horses to collect arrears of tribute from the Râjas of Malabar. He adds that these generals collected a huge wealth in the form of tribute which helped him in filling up his depleted treasury.10 He repeats the statement and says that the Sultan sent once again in 1593 A.D.11 an army to collect the arrears of tribute. In view of the absence of any other evidence to this effect, it is indeed difficult to believe the statement of Ferishta. In fact, there is hardly anything to indicate that the Adilshahi rulers made deep inroads into Kanara. On the other hand, there is good reason to believe that his attempts in this respect were foiled by the Keladi Nâyakas. For example there is evidence to show that when he tried to secure the fort of Basrûru in connivance with Sankaranâyana Bhatta, the prime minister of Honnayakambaîli principality,12 Keladi Venka-țappanâyaka I swiftly fell on Sankaranâyana Bhatta13 and the Sultan could not achieve his goal.
Keladi Venkatappanayaka's military campaign against the principality of Gerasoppe in 1594 A.D. and his success in that campaign upset the influence of the Adilshahi even in the Northern part of Kanara. Ibrahim Adilshaha II who was dissatisfied with this situation sent his army in 1596 A.D. to the help of Chennabhaddevi the queen of Gerasoppe. But it did not change the position. According to a Portuguese record dated 26th January 1596 A.D. the Bijapur army had to go back due to the rebellion there. As a result, it was not in a position to help the queen. It is, however, certain that the Gerasoppe came to be merged into the Keladi kingdom.

A local tradition collected by Mackenzie says that the Bijapur forces suffered reverses and thereupon they had to withdraw beyond the river Mirjan.

But this incident led to occasional clashes between the Adilshahis and the Keladi rulers. One such clash took place in 1608 A.D. and it continued for three years. In 1611 A.D. the war was ended by an agreement in which Venkatappa is reported to have agreed to pay tribute to the Sultan. But this reported contention does not seem to have any basis. An epigraph belonging to Virabhadra and literary works tells us that he successfully pushed away the Bijapur army. The question of his paying tributes could not naturally arise at all.
A local tradition collected by Shama Shastry narrated an interesting story about the activities of Ibrahim Adilshaha II in Northern portion of Kanara. It tells us that one of the generals of the Sultan Malik Kaffur went to Goa to purchase ammunition from the Portuguese in order to use it against Gerasoppe. Lakshmīdevi, the queen of the latter place came to know of this and in order to save her territory, started repairing strong forts at Kerāvi. Malik Kaffur came to know of this and soon fell on that fort and seized it. He further built a fort at Hosakote, stationed a unit of his army at Gokarna. He also built many forts for himself and destroyed those of the enemy. While he was thus busy in destroying the fort and burning the granary, the people of Honnavar requested him to help them against the attack of Keladi Venkatappa-nāyaka. The general came to their help but he could not face the Keladi army. He had to withdraw from the battle field and took shelter at Medji. The narration proceeds to say that Malik Kaffur then sought the help of the Nayakawaris of Medji, Keḍavāri and Chetrakūdu. Though it is not clear what type of help these chiefs gave him, the narration seems to suggest that these chiefs accepted the authority of the Sultan of Bijapur. In the course of time the people heavily suffered under these Nayakawaris. Finally the Sultan sent a general to restore order in the region.
The whole narration gives the impression that the general of the Sultan of Bijapur carried successful military campaigns in the Northern part of Kanara and set up his own rule in that region with the assistance of the local chiefs. But it is difficult to depend upon the authenticity of this narration. On the one hand, the existence of a queen of Gerasoppe, under the name of Lakshmidevi is not known to us from any other source. We know from inscriptions of only one queen of Gerasoppe whose name was Chennabhairādevi. Further, there are number of epigraphs of Keladi rulers in this region which go to show that they exercised their authority in this region. Thus even presuming that the Adilshahis did try to occupy this region, they did not succeed in their effort.

The death of Keladi Venkatappa in 1629 A.D. seems to have encouraged the Sultan of Bijapur to renew his aggressive activities in Kanara. Evidence in this respect is really conflicting. One of the Portuguese records gives an impression that Mahmud Adil Shah sent word to the next Keladi ruler, Virabhadranāyaka asking him to pay heavy tribute and even to vacate the conquered territories. Obviously, Virabhadra could not agree to such proposals. He, however, agreed to pay three thousand pagodas on the condition that the Sultan would help him in putting down the rebel chiefs. The Sultan did not agree to this and
raided the kingdom whereby Virabhadra struck peace by paying him a heavy tribute. This hostility resumed again in 1636 A.D. to 1640 A.D. In the same context Zahur states that Virabhadra was completely crushed by the Adilshahi forces and that he lost the kingdom. He further adds that Virabhadra was given back the kingdom on condition that he would help the Sultan against the rebel called Kengi nāyaka. According to a Portuguese record of 1640 A.D. Virabhadra sought the help of Mughal emperor, with reference to this event the Meladinripaviṣayam says that Virabhadra averted the clash by entering into treaty, the details of which we do not know. There is also an inscription dated in 1641 A.D. which seems to refer to this event, which only says in a vague way that the king averted the danger and saved the kingdom. A careful assessment of these sources indicates that the Portuguese records and the account of Zahur give an exaggerated and one-sided picture of the event. The fact seems to be that a conflict was going on between the Keladi chiefs and those of Bīligi and Svādi. Muhammad Shah obviously tried to exploit the situation to curb the influence of the Keladi rulers. The latter appears to have avoided war by entering into a treaty with the Sultan.

The expansionist activities of the next ruler Sivappanāyaka considerably affected the Adilshahi influence in Kanara. The former proceeded to capture the fort of Honnāvar from the Portuguese whereupon the Bijapur government obviously was upset.
the Portuguese record of 1654 A.D. the Bijapur government sent an ultimatum to Sivappa to restore the fort of Honnà-
var to the Portuguese or to face an attack at Bednérē. It seems that the Bijapur officers were really helpless in this matter. Sivappa succeeded in capturing that fort and his authority was fully established in that region.

But during the time of the next Keladi rulers, namely Venkaṭappa II, Bhadrappa and his successor Sōmaśe-
khara I, Ali Adil Shaha II renewed his aggressive activities and many such clashes appear to have taken place between them. But, finally the hostilities came to an end because of the treaty concluded by them. The net result of these prolonged clashes was that the Adilshahi could have hold on some territory in the northern part of Kanara roughly upto the Mirjan. In this area, they stationed some military officers such as Malik Kaffur, Sarafan Malik, the builder of fort at Chandavar, Mirjan, Sivesvara, and Kadara, Rustum I Zaman who had Zagâr at Karwar in 1658 A.D. Agha Murshíd, the governor of Karwar in 1659 A.D. Muhammad Ikhalas Khan, the newly appointed governor of Karwar in 1663 A.D. and Muzzafar Khan the supreme governor of Karwar region in 1671/72 A.D. There used to be occasional clashes between the Adil Shahi government and these officers and this resulted in weakening of the authority of the former in this region. At this juncture other important events were taking place here. These were the advent of the English and
the activities of Šivāji against the Adilshahis. The former set up their factory at Karwar in 1638 A.D. and subsequently increased their position by trade activities in the region. They got trade privileges from the Adilshahi government and this led to the increase of their commercial activities at Karwar. They built a fort and stationed their forces. They did all this to safeguard their trade interest in that region. Thus the English in Karwar increased their influence in such a way that the Adilshahi officers very often sought military and financial help of the former against the Sultan of Bijapur and the Marathas. At the same time, they successfully consolidated their commercial hold in that region by siding one against the other. As a result of this the Adilshahi rulers lost the commercial hold in Karwar and this indirectly affected their hold on Kanara.

Similarly, Šivāji also tried to exploit the confused situation in Kanara to his advantage. He successfully carried out pillage and in a short while he was able to capture all the coastal area, which was under the authority of the Adilshahi in 1675 A.D.

Thus the advent of the Marathas coupled with the internal dissension and corruption of the Adilshahi officers in Kanara resulted in ousting of the Bijapur authority
in Kanara. It is, however, stated in some records of the English that the chief of Svadi did keep some contact with the Adilshahis so much so that they sought the latter's help when the Marathas and the Keladi Nayakas raided their territory in 1675 A.D. and 1679 A.D. respectively. But there is no conclusive evidence to this effect. It is, however, certain that from 1675 A.D. onwards the Adilshahis had nothing to do with Kanara.
REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Sherwani, Bahamanis, p.316. Joshi P.M. Indian History Congress (1945).


5. Few epigraphs found round about Barkuru in South Kanara disprove the contention of Ferishta. See ARSIE, 1932 No.292, EC. VIII, Nr. 2 T.5. Sorab 55, Ibid. VI, mg.63 ARSIE, 1935-36, No.121, (VIII) SII. VII, Nos 386, 389 and 375, Ibid. IX, Pt. II. 694. Secondly Caesar Frederick who passed through Kanara in 1567, states that each local governor paid tribute to Vijayanagara. Purchas, His Pilgrims, X. pp.100-01. Another Jesuit, Fr. Warrick, in 1585 made reference to the Vijayanagara authority in the regions of Omore (Honnavar) and Bhakal and so on in his account. See Heras, Aravidu Dynasty, p.307. Finally Ferishta in another context says that in due course of time the rulers of Kanara had neglected to pay tribute to the Sultan of Bijapur. Ibid. p.175-76. Therefore, the activities of the Adilshahis in this area was rather a raid and conquest than consolidation of the authority in South Kanara.


8. ARSIE 1929-30, No.562.

10. Briggs (Tr.) Op. Cit. III, pp. 161, 163. It is interesting to note that the chiefs, whom he defeated in 1587 A.D. had shown no interest in paying annual tributes. See Ibid. III, p. 175-76.

11. Ibid. p. 175-76. This campaign was directed against the Svādī chief, Arasappa II.

11a. A few epigraphs of that year inform us that Svādī Arasappanāyaka recognised the authority of Venkata-pati-rāya of Vijayanāgar. ARSIE of 1939-40, B.K. No. 75 +59, Descriptive List, 1942-43, No. 28. p. 31.


16. Mackenzie Collection, 8-9-5 quoted by Swaminathan, Nayakas of Ikkeri, p. 44.

17. Shastry B.S. Keladiya Arasaru Hāgu Portugeejaru, p. 12


19. QJMS. XII, p. 53-57.


22. MAR. 1928, Ins. No. 112, 112 p. 101-102, 102, dated 1598 A.D. An unpublished inscription found at Gerasoppe refers to the same queen in the year 1598 A.D. This inscription, I am able to study through the Courtesy of Dr. G. S. Gai, ARKRI. 1939-40, No. 85.

23. EC, VIII, Sa. 54. This inscription is dated in 1621 A.D. found at Govardanagiri, near Gerasoppe. This epigraph refers to the rule of Keladi Venkaṭappanāyaka. Della Valle, Dīe Travels, II, p. 201, 202. A letter of the
Portuguese Viceroy to the king of Portugal dated in 16th January 1607 A.D. Shastry B.S. Op.Cit. p.11

24. Note No.16,19.


27. Ibid. p.111.


29. Ibid. p.47 ff.


34. Note No.18.


41. QJMS, XII, p.53.
43. Duff, History of the Maharrattas (1873) p.79 Fn.1.
46. In 1664 A.D. Muzafar Khan in league with other governors of Deccan Sovereignty (Shivaji and Qutub were murdered, Foster, Op.Cit. 1661-67, p.348) (A letter dated 24th July 1664 A.D.) In the month of November 26th 1664 A.D. the Surat Factory record reports "Deccan and all the South coast are all embroiled in civil war, king against king, country against country". Surat Factory Records. Vol.86. Foster, Op.Cit. p.351,353, Sarkar J.N. Op.Cit. p.227A. Kethar Apte, English Records on Shivaji, (1931, Poona) I,p.92. In 1665 A.D. the Governor of Mirjan revolted against the authority of the Adilshahi, See Sarkar, Ibid, p.34. In 1671 A.D. Rustum I Zaman with the active support of the nobility in Kanara revolted against the authority of the Sultan. In this context Chamberlain, the Carwar Factory chief reports on 20th September 1671 A.D. to Surat as follows: "All is confusion" Fawcett, Op.Cit. I,p.299. When the Adilshahi government appointed Muzafar Khan as a new governor in 1672, the officers in charge of the forts of Karwar, Mirjan and other regions refused to acknowledge his authority and this resulted in disturbance. Ibid, p.300,308. (Letter dated 5th August). Noticing the officers in Kanara under the Adilshahi Dr. Fryer remarks "The members of Visiapare neither trusting one another nor uniting for common good of the kingdom". Dr. Fryer's account Reprint from Calcutta weekly Englishman,pp.395. and 398.
Anderson, English in Western India pp.42,45.


50. Ibid. p.316,327 Orme, Historical Fragments, pp.26


52. Nayeem, Ibid. p.244, Foster, 1661-64, p.244.

53. A letter dated No.26th 1664 A.D. Foster, Op.Cit.64


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