

APPENDIX - 'A'

A NOTE ON GARHGAON IN 1663*

The town of Gargeon has four gates build of stone and mortar, the distance of each of which from the palace of the Rajah is three kos. A high and wide al, very strong, has been made for the traffic; and round about the town, instead of fortifications, there are circular bushes of bamboos, about two kos in diameter. But the town is not like other towns, the huts of the inhabitants being within the bamboo bushes near the Al. Each man has his garden or field before his house, so that one side of the field touches the Al, and the other the house. Near the Rajah's palace, to both sides of the Dik'ho River, are large houses. The bazar road is narrow, and is only occupied by pan-sellers. Eatables are not sold as in our markets; but each man keeps in his house stores for a year, and no one either sells or buys. The town looks large, being a cluster of several villages. Round about the palace, an al has been thrown up, the top of which is fortified by a bamboo palisade instead of by walls, and along the sides of it a ditch runs, the depth of which exceeds a man's height. It is always full of water. The circumference is 1 kos, 14 jaribs. Inside are high and spacious chhappars. The Diwankhanah of the Rajah, which is called solang, is one

* Source: H. Blochmann's abstract from Fathiya-i-Ibriaya, J.A.S.B., vol. XLI, 1872, pp 83-84.

hundred and twenty cubits in length and thirty wide inside. It has sixty-six pillars, each about four cubits in circumference. The pillars, though so large, are quite smooth, so that at the first glance you take them to be planed. Now though the Asamese understand planing, yet you cannot believe that they did smoothen the pillars in this way. The ornaments and curiosities with which the whole woodwork of the house is filled, defies all description; nowhere in the whole inhabited world, will you find a house equal to it in strength, ornamentation, and pictures. The sides of this palace are embellished by extraordinary wooden trellice work. Inside there are large brass mirrors highly polished, and if the sun shines no one of them, the eyes of the by-standers are perfectly dazzled. Twelve thousand workmen are said to have erected the building in the course of one year. At one end of the hall, rings are fastened on four pillars opposite to each other, each pillar having nine rings. When the Rajah takes his seat in the hall, they put a dais in the middle of these four pillars, and nine canopies of various stuffs are fastened above it to the rings. The Rajah then sits on the dais below the canopies. The naggarachis (drummers) strike the drum and the dand. The latter instrument is round and flat, and made of ruin metal, and is struck like a gong. The instrument is used when the audience commences, or when the Rajah issues forth, or the Phukans ride out, or leave for an appointment. Mulla Darwish i Harawi [a poet who accompanied the expedition] says that these dands must be the very identical metal plates that are mentioned in the Shahnamah; but God knows best. There are other

houses in Chargaon, beautifully adorned, strong, very long and spacious, full of fine mats, which really must be seen. But alas, unless this kingdom be annexed to his Majesty's dominions, not even an infidel could see all these fine things without falling into the misfortunes into which we fell. Beyond the enclosure of this hall there is another house, the dwelling-house of the Rajah. It is a fine and beautiful house. The Phukans have erected dwellings in its neighbourhood. Each Phukan is a son-in-law of the Rajah, and has a beautiful garden and a tank. Indeed, it is a pleasant place. As the soil of the country is very damp, the people do not live on the ground floor, but on the machan, which is the name for a raised floor.

APPENDIX - 'B'

TREATY OF GHILAJORIGHTAT, JAN'1663*

Illness forced the Nawab to listen to the proposals of peace. Bhor Mall was again employed to confer with the Phukans, and the following conditions were agreed upon -

1. The Rajahs of Asam and Batam should each send one of their daughters to the imperial harem.
2. Each should pay 20,000 tolahs of gold, and 120,000 tolahs of silver.
3. Fifteen elephants to be sent to the Emperor; fifteen to the Nawab, and five to Dilir Khan.
4. Within the next twelve months 3 lacs tolahs of silver and 90 elephants to be sent as tribute to Bengal, in three four-monthly instalments.
5. Twenty elephants to be furnished annually.
6. The sons of Budh Gosain, Karkas-ha, Bar Gosain, Prabatar, the four principal Phukans of the Rajah, to remain as hostages with the Nawab, till the fulfilment of the conditions in para 4.
7. The following districts to be ceded to his Majesty the Emperor -

A. In the Uttarkol

- (a) Sirkar Durang, bounded by Gawahatti on one side, and by the Ali Burari**which passes Fort Chamdhurah, on the other side.

B. In the Dak'hinkol

- (a) The district of Nakirani.
- (b) The Naga Hills.
- (c) Beltali
- (d) Dumuriah.

*Source: H. Blochmann's abstract from Fathiya-i-Yabria, J.A.S.B. vol. XLI, 1872, pp 93-94.

**Called on the map Bhor-alli, or Bhoreli. It flows near Tezpur and the Kamakhya Temple, Central Asam.

8. All inhabitants of Kamrup kept as prisoners by the Rajah in the hills and in Namrup to be restored; so also the family of Badli Phukan.

The districts of the Dak'hinkol that were ceded, have at no previous time formed part of his Majesty's empire. Nakirani (Deshrani) lies near the Garo Hills.

APPENDIX - 'C'

INSCRIPTIONS ON CANNON*

(1) Cannon found at False Point:

"Cr Cr Svargadeva Fayadhvaja Simha maharajena
yavanath.....vakasadya idain jantram praptain Caka...80**"

The king Jayadhvaja Simha, having vanquished the
Musalmans at Gauhati, obtained this weapon in Caka...80.

(2) Cannon in the possession of Mr. Wood, a tea
planter in Nowgong:

"Cr Cr Svarganarayana deva maharajadhiraja Cakradhvaja
Simhena jayalavdhastu sangrame yavananam ksaye punah praptama-
stramidam bhupayacorihananam dhruvain Caka 1589."

King Cakradhvaja, having again destroyed the Musalmans
in battle in caka 1589, obtained this weapon, which declares his
glory as the slayer of his enemies.

(3) The big cannon at Dikom:

"Cr Cr Svarganarayana deva maharajadhiraja Cakradhvaja
Simhena jayalavdhastu sangrame yavananam ksaye punah praptama-
stramidam bhupayacorihananam dhruvam Caka 1590."

King Cakradhvaja, having again destroyed the Musalmans
in battle in caka 1590, obtained this weapon, which declares
his glory as the slayer of his enemies.

This cannon bears also the following inscription in

Persian:

*Source: E.A. Gait's "Report on the Progress of Historical
Research in Assam" Shillong 1897 p 29.

**If this inscription be read along with inscriptions Nos(5) and
(6), it is clear that after "yavanam" the word left undeciphered
is "jitva," and that the word "vasadya" is really "guvakahatya."

Az babat-i-fath-i-Asham dar ihtimam-i-sayyad Ahmad-al-Husain Arz dada shud Dar sin 1074 Hijri muwafik sin (6)."

This cannon has been placed in charge of Sayyad Ahmad-al-Husain for the purpose of conquering Assam in 1074 Hijri.

(4) Cannon in the dak bungalow compound, Gauhati:

"Cr Cr Svarganarayana deva Saumarecvara Udayaditya Simhasya Caka 1594 Cr Nityananda Coladhara Baruvaye garhova Camuva Kacudalai, Murali, Cidam, Puna, Mathura, Ramdhan, Krisnai ei satota ojha."

The cannon was manufactured by seven ojhas (experts), Camuva Kacudalai, Murali, Cidam, Puna, Mathura, Ramdhan, and Krisnai under orders of Nityananda Coladhara Barua in Caka 1594, during the reign of King Udayaditya Simha.

(5) Cannon in the compound of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur:

"Cr Cr Svarganarayana deva Saumarecvara Gadadhara Simhena yavanain jitva Guvakhat yamidamastram praptam Caka 1604."

King Gadadhara Simha, having vanquished the Musalmans at Gauhati, obtained this weapon in 1604 Caka.

This cannon bears also the following inscription in Persian:

"Sakht Abd-ul-Karim top saz, Wazn 29 (?) mon, 29 ser, Shaikh Fakhr-ud-din."

Manufactured by Abdul Karim, gunmaker, weight 29 (7) maunds, 29 seers, Shaikh Fakhr-ud-din (probably the engraver).

(6) The small cannon at Dikom:

"Cr Cr Svarganarayana deva Saumarecvara Gadadhara
simhena yavanam jity a Guvaka hatyamidamastram praptam Caka
1604".

King Gadadhara Simha, having vanquished the Musalmans at Gauhati, obtained this weapon in caka 1604.

The cannon bears another inscription in Persian:

"Dar ihtimam-i-Mir Sayyad Ahmad Darogha Ars dada
shud. Sakht Muhammad Zaman top saz. Waki Fahangir."

This cannon has been placed in charge of Mir Sayyad Ahmad Darogha Arz. It was manufactured by Muhammad Zaman, gunmaker, during the reign of Jahangir.