Chapter VII

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The wars against the feudal powers and suppression of their resistance coincided with a steady and gradual drift of the Tamil provinces to the imperial authority of the British. The poligar wars weakened the influence of the sovereign as well as his auxiliary powers. As these wars were waged with the support of the Company, they weakened the Nawab’s authority for they increased his public dept and ultimately contributed to foreign intervention. The poligars offered a second line of defence in the land and when it was dismantled by the Company in the name of the sovereign, the Nawab found himself isolated from his tributaries. At the same time he had no allies either among the Indian powers or among the European powers to shield him against the imperial designs of the British. Such a situation led him to his eclipse and replaced the system of dual control by a single authority, that of the British.

The Tamil Country during the last decade of the eighteenth century was divided among several powers. The Nawab of Arcot held possession of most of the country which included the provinces of Tirunelveli, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli and Arcot. The Marathas held possession of Thanjavur in the east. Tipu Sultan of Mysore ruled once the districts of Dindigul, Karur, Baramahal and Coimbatore in the north west. The English East India Company in 1767 acquired possession of the jaghir of Chengalpattu from Nawab Mohammad Ali of Arcot in return for the
services it did in the wars against the Nevaevets and the French. The French
retained possession of Pondicherry on the east coast. As a result of wars and
settlements, the Company brought the entire Tamil Country except the French
possessions under its imperial sway. From a feudal order marked by divisions and
conflicts the land of the Tamils passed under the British control and came to have a
uniform system of administration.

The Mysore War and Annexation of Narth West

The north western region usually called a Kongu Nadu comprised the
districts of Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Satyamangalam and most of
Dindigul. It formed part of the Nayak Kingdom of Madurai but had been annexed
by the Wodayars of Mysore. After the fall of the Wodayars, these territories
together with Mysore passed under the rule of Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan. Mysore
and the English fought against each other four major wars. During the First War
(1767-1769), the Company's forces ravaged parts of Kongu Nadu but failed to
occupy it. As the Second War broke out in 1780, the British forces moved into this
territory. They captured Coimbatore, Karur and Dharapuram but restored them to
the possession of Mysore in 1784 under the Treaty of Mangalore. In 1782 when
this war was in progress, Haidar Ali passed away and Tipu Sultan succeeded him
to the throne. The invasion of Travancore, an ally of the Company, by the forces of
Mysore led to the outbreak of the Third Mysore War (1790-1792). Lord
Cornwallis, the Governor General, formed an alliance with the Marathas and the
Nizam and embarked on military operations against Mysore. Kongu Nadu served as the principal theatre of conflict. General Meadows, advancing from Tiruchirapalli reduced Karur and Coimbatore to submission while Colonel Stuart besieged Dindigul and forced the garrison to surrender. But in September 1790 Tipu, at the command of 40,000 troops, drove the British forces from their forward positions including Erode and moved swiftly through Toppur into the Carnatic. Lord Cornwallis as a counter-move, led an expedition to Srirangapatnam. As his capital was threatened and the fall of his stronghold appeared certain, the Sultan sued for peace. By the treaty signed in 1792 Tipu surrendered half of his territory. Together with Malabar, the English obtained possession of the Tamil districts of Dindigul, Salem and Baramahal in the north west. The poligars in this region not only sided with Tipu but also supported the rebel powers southward. Now they found themselves brought under the jurisdiction of the Company.

In 1798-99 the English fought the fourth war against Mysore. The cause was the hostile attitude and mutual suspicion of Tipu Sultan as well as of the English. Governor General Mornington declared that the Sultan sought an alliance with the French and refused to accept the protection of the British. On these grounds he went to war against Mysore with the support of the Nizam. Lord Mornington reached Madras to supervise the conduct of war. He entrusted the command of the forces of Madras as well as of Bombay with the General Harris
Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of Fort St. George, a general who was well suited for post by virtue of his experience and local Knowledge. Also, he constituted a commission to assist the commander-in-chief in accomplishing the great task in view. It consisted of Colonel Arthur Wellesley, Colonel close, Lt Colonel Agnew and Captain Malcolm. General Staurt took the command of the Bombay detachment marching from Malabar. Colonel Wellesley led a detachment from Hyderabad, but the General command of the subsidiary forces and the Nizam's troops was entrusted with Captain Malcolm. The total strength of the grand army came to about two and a half lakhs. This army, properly equipped with arms and provisions it entered Mysore on 5th March, 1799.

In an attempt to defend the Sultan marched against the forces of Madras, which were then advancing into his territory from the east under the command of General Harris. At Malavelly on 27th March, the enemies came to a clash, which soon developed into a general engagement in which the forces of Madras won a signal victory. The Sultan retreated. Resuming the march, General Harris crossed river Cauvery at Sosilla and occupied the strong positions on the bank of the river at a distance of about fifteen miles from Srirangapatnam. On 5th April the Company's army encamped within two miles southwest of Srirangapatnam. The next day, after a bitter struggle in which the troops of Mysore made a stubborn resistance, the British forces occupied Sultanpettah. From there a strong detachment under the command of Major General Floyed advanced to
Periapatnam, where it was joined by the Bombay detachment. Meanwhile Lieutenant Colonel Read occupied the districts north of Royacottah while Lieutenant Colonel Brown occupied the territory south of that place. He took possession of Karpur and Erode and reduced the strong fort of Avarakurichi.1 On 4th May General Harris commenced an assault of Srirangapatnam. Major Baird commanding the storming party effected a breach on the Fort. With admirable gallantry, the assailants moved into the inner fort and overwhelmed a heroic resistance, put up by the Mysorean forces. The Sultan sought to reorganise the defences, but he himself fell in the battle. Thereupon the broken ranks of the Mysore army fled and the Fort fell into the possession of the Company. With more of military operations, the outlying provinces of Mysore were brought under the control of the victorious powers. 2

Lord Mornington, who directed the military operations from Fort St.George appointed a commission headed by General Harris to take effective steps for the restoration of peace and order in the conquered territories. In an attempt to conciliate the military chieftains, it granted an allowance for their support.


The commissioners made provision for the maintenance of the families of those who died in war. These measures were intended to reconcile the feudal and military chiefs to the Company's authority. The important task that the commission encountered was the division of the conquered territory between the victors and the arrangement for the future government of Mysore. For the settlement of these questions, the commission framed two treaties - the partition treaty of Mysore and the subsidiary treaty of Srirangapatnam. Lord Mornington and his Council approved these treaties and accordingly implemented the provisions. By the Treaty of Mysore concluded between the Company and the Nizam on 22 June 1799, these powers acquired vast territories. To the share of the English fell Coimbatore, Dharapuram and the territory lying below the Ghats in the Tamil Country. In addition to these, the Company took possession of all strategic forts and places including the island of Srirangapatnam.

The successful termination of the war against Tipu Sultan and the political settlement of Mysore were attended with far-reaching consequences upon the affairs of the Tamil Country. Till the extinction of the military power of Mysore,


5. Apart from these districts, the Company took Canara and subsequently Harpanahalli that was rescued from the Marathas, while the Nizam took Gooty. The rest of Mysore was restored to the Wodayars as a princely state under a subsidiary treaty.
the vicinity of hostile country was a source of constant alarm to the security of the eastern coast. During times of peace between the Company and Mysore, the intrigues of Tipu Sultan among the feudal powers served as a cause of commotion in the Carnatic. The auxiliary powers under the Sultan offered refuge to the offenders and rebels. In the event of war, the troops of Mysore quickly descended upon the Carnatic and in collusion with the poligars wrought havoc. The English now totally destroyed the military power of Mysore and turned a hostile country into an ally of the Company. The expansion of the Empire at the expense of Mysore gave a strong geographical barrier. As the defensive barrier of the Carnatic was pushed from the open country to the mountainous tracts, various forts like Arni, Tiruchirapalli and Thanjavur lost their relevance. However, it cannot be said that all the consequences of the conquest of Mysore were beneficial to the Tamil Country. The equipment of the grand army necessitated the collection of provisions from a territory which laboured under a tyrannical system of dual administration of the Nawab and the Company. It caused widespread suffering to the inhabitants. Even after the conquest of Mysore the Tamil Country had to divert its resources for the consolidation of British authority. The state of affairs of the newly acquired provinces embroiled the Company in more of rebellions and more

of wars. As a result, the new conquests continued to be a source of severe strain on the economy of the land.

**Treaty of Thanjavur Annexation**

Soon after the conquest of Mysore, the Company proceeded to annex Thanjavur, the granary of the Tamil country. It was ruled by Rajah Serfoji who replaced Amir Singh in 1798. Even before the accession of Serfoji, the Company had established its influence in the state. The Treaty of 1792 deprived the ruler of his political powers and reduced him to virtual subservience to the English. The accession of Serfoji at the instance of the Company further tightened up the British hold over the principality. Thereafter it adopted such a policy as to leave for the ruler no alternative other than the surrender of his territory. The history of the state under Serfoji coincided with the eclipse of the Marthas of Thanjavur by the rising power of the Company.

In 1798 the Madras Council made an endeavour to take over the administration of Tanjore from Serfoji. It felt that the administration was inefficient and the authority of the Rajah was feeble. As the finances of the state were in a state of disorder, the tribute to the Company fell in arrears. Rajah Serfoji himself was young and inexperienced. Taking advantage of these difficulties of the ruler the English sought to take over the control of the principality at least for a short period. However as no justifiable or reasonable excuse could be found for such a drastic step, the Supreme Government instructed the Presidency of Fort
St. George that it could resort to such a step only if the Rajah himself expressed a desire for it. But paradoxically, within a few days, Serfoji himself stated that on account of his inexperience in the transaction of public business, it was difficult for him to relieve his government from the existing embarrassments. On that ground, he requested the Madras Council to take over the administration of his state for a period not exceeding two years. It seems that the servants of the Company had exerted pressure on the young ruler for the expression of such an idea, that was quite detrimental to his interests.

Now no obstacle prevented the Company from taking over the control of Thanjavur at least for two years. But General Harris, the acting Governor of Fort St. George, hesitated. He felt that a temporary exercise of British authority was quite inadequate to settle the problems, which faced the country. Added to this difficulty by 1798 the prospect of a war against Mysore loomed large. Hence Lord Mornington counted upon an alliance with the Marathas against Tipu Sultan. Rajah Serfoji was a Maratha and any step against that prince would have deterred the Marathas from entering into an alliance with the English. Hence the Governor General felt that the assumption of the administration of the principality at that moment would destroy the confidence of the Indian powers on the Company. These considerations deterred the Company from assuming the immediate control of the state.
Yet the Company's administration was not prepared to extend any support to the government of Serfoji either in a spirit of Co-operation or as a matter of obligation. On the other hand, it tolerated its servants in humiliating and degrading the authority of the Rajah. The British forces stationed at Thanjavur exercised over-riding authority over the administration of the state. Major Innes, the commanding Officer at Thanjavur, expelled the servants of the prince from his palace and prevented people from attending the public offices. On account of these the Rajah could not collect the revenue from the people. In this state of helplessness, Serfoji appeared to Governor Clive for the redressal of his grievances. He stated "I am as if imprisoned, which is cause of much disgrace to me in the world..." Yet there came no relief. It appeared that the Madras Council wanted to prepare the ground for the annexation of the state. The Anglo-Mysore War in 1799 added to the difficulties of the Rajah. In order to appease his imperial


masters, he had to furnish provisions for the forces. The exportation of grain created famine conditions in his state. The employment of the carriage bullocks with the armies caused stagnation of traffic and the consequent loss of revenue under the head of customs.\(^{12}\) Notwithstanding these bitter experiences the young ruler cherished an expectation that he would be allowed to survive as a ruler, but it proved wrong before long.\(^{13}\) In 1799 Lord Clive instructed Torin, the Resident at Thanjavur, to take prompt steps for the annexation of the state. Accordingly, the Resident took the necessary steps. In a conference with Serfoji Torin explained to him that the disorders prevalent in his country could be rectified only by a thorough reform of the existing system of administration. Such a reform could be effected only through a new settlement with the Company. He announced to the prince that the more he relished the novelty of the scheme which the British Government had in view, the more he himself would approve it. The impact was sudden and the Rajah realised his inability to escape from the design of the Company that was in view. Therefore he requested that he should be given a little time to consider the suggestion of the Resident. A few days later the Rajah replied that he was fully convinced that the English in suggesting a new settlement, were solely motivated by their desire for the permanent prosperity of himself and his people. On that

\(^{12}\) Ibid., 6 August 1799, vol.256, pp.4782-4789.

\(^{13}\) Lord Clive directed Torin to open communication with the Rajah for the annexation of Tanjore in compliance with the wishes of Lord Morington.
ground he expressed his acquiescence to the surrender of his territory.\(^{14}\) Thus with the consent of Serfoji, Lord Clive executed a treaty on 25th October 1799. It was given a strange title “Treaty for cementing the friendship and alliance between the Company and the Rajah of Tanjore and for establishing the Government of Tanjore on a permanent Foundation”, However, in compliance with the desire of Serfoji. Lord Clive included a provision for the transfer of the control of the Fort of Thanjavur to the Rajah and provided for the receipt of the Danish peishcush\(^{15}\) by the Rajah.\(^{16}\) The Treaty contained fifteen articles. Accordingly, the Company was entitled to establish a permanent system of reforms for the collection of revenue and the administration of justice. It was at liberty to ascertain, determine and establish rights of property and to fix a reasonable assessment. The English could administer justice according to such ordinances and regulations enacted by the Governor in Council of Fort St.George

\(^{14}\)The description of certain historians that Lord Wellesley (Lord morington) enthroned Serfoji on the condition of his surrendering the territory, is not supported by facts. (Madras Council, Military Consultations. letter from Torin, 26 September 1799, Vol.259, p.6765.)

\(^{15}\)The Danes of Tranquebar held a few villages from the Rajah of Thanjavur. For these villages, they paid an annual tribute of 2000 chakrams (one rupee is equivalent to 28 chakrams).

\(^{16}\)Madras Council, Military Consultations. 26 September 1799, Vol.259, pp.6769-6773.
but with due regard to the existing laws and usage of the country. The Rajah was entitled to receive one lakh star pagodas a year from the Company in addition to one fifth of the revenues of the state.\textsuperscript{17} He could receive as usual the tribute from the Danes of Tranquebar for the lands that they held from him. Besides, the Rajah was entitled to take possession of the Fort of Thanjavur but in the event of a war in the Carnatic, the Company could use it as a military post.\textsuperscript{18} In effect the Treaty provided for the permanent transfer of the administration of Thanjavur from the Rajah to the Company. It added to the Presidency the resources of a fertile territory and a territorial extent of about 4000 square miles in the Tamil Country.\textsuperscript{19} After the conclusion of the Treaty, the Governor stated that he achieved it “not only with the full consent, but with the zealous co-operation of the Rajah for the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{17} One fifth of the revenue was calculated after deducting all charges of collection and a sum of 25000 star pagodas, which was appropriated for the support of Amir Singh.
\item \textsuperscript{18} Treaty of Thanjavur, 25 October 1799, Military Consultations Vol.259, pp.6785-6796. Serfoji died in 1832 and was succeeded was Sivaji. The next ruler was Serfoji II, Who died in 1855 without a male heir. Taking advantage of the situation, Lord Dalhousie occupied the Fort and abolished the Rajahship.
\item \textsuperscript{19} Madras Council, Military Consultations. 5 November 1799, Vol.259, pp.6775-6777.
\end{itemize}
permanent benefit of his people.” But it does not appear that the statement of Lord Clive is in agreement with the procedure that he adopted.

**Treaty of Carnatic Annexation**

After Thanjavur, it was the turn of the Carnatic which comprised most of the Tamil Country. The history of the relation of the Company with the Carnatic from 1798 to 1801 was one of determined and repeated efforts made by the English to annex the territory despite the opposition of the Nawab. Lord Mornington on his arrival in India in 1798 suggested a modification of the Treaty of 1792 to Nawab Umdut-ul-Umara, who succeeded his father Mohammad Ali in 1795. But the Nawab firmly refused to agree to it, for he was afraid that it would result in the ultimate loss of his territories. Thereupon the Governor General directed Lord Clive to await a favourable opportunity.  

20. Ibid., pp.6745-6747.

21. Lord Mornington to Lord Clive, dated 29th July 1798, Marquess Wellesley’s Despatches, Vol.2, pp.226-228. Lord Mornington instructed that “it is very necessary that we should be prepared to decide the eventual question of the succession to the Nawabship in the probable event of his highness’s early death. Your Lordship will have the goodness to ascertain the respective pretensions of those who might lay claim to the Musnud in such an event. Upon such information as I shall receive from you, we may be enabled to anticipate the mischiefs of a disputed succession and to avoid the disgrace of adopting a premature decision, which we might be compelled to revoke”.
The outbreak of the Mysore War in 1798 appeared to offer an opportunity to the Madras Council to demand the transfer of the control of the territories of the Nawab to the English. The third article of the Treaty of 1792 stipulated that in the event of war breaking out in the Carnatic and the countries appertaining to either party, the Nawab or the Company, and dependent on the Carnatic or contiguous there to, the Company should possess full authority over the Carnatic except the Nawab’s jagirs and charities. However, it was expected that the Mysore War would not continue for long. In that case the assumption of the administration of the country was inexpedient, for the Company was to restore it to the Nawab soon after the end of the War, as demanded by the Treaty. Therefore Lord Mornington, who was at Madras during the Mysore War, suggested that the Nawab should cede all his territories except North Arcot and his jagirs in lieu of his annual payment to the Company. As an inducement to the Nawab for complying with his demand, the Governor General offered to recognise his claims over the revenues of Madras, Ramnad and the Pearl fishery of Tutukudi. But here too the English did not

22. According to the Treaty of 1792, the Company hold the carnatic during the War. In that case the Nawab was entitled to one fifth of the revenue of his territories.


24. Ibid., 24 April 1799, vol, PP.1213-1220.
succeed. The Mysore War ended within two months after its commencement due to which the English could not push through their scheme of annexations.\textsuperscript{25}

Soon after the end of the Mysore War, there was discovered a voluminous correspondence of the Nawab with Tipu Sultan among the palace records at Srirangapatnam. This gave a new dimension to the entire scheme. Edmonstone, with whom was entrusted the translation of the correspondence, submitted his report on it in April 1800. In his report he made the following allegations against the Nawab: that Mohammad Ali maintained a secret correspondence with Tipu Sultan through the medium of Ghulam Ali Khan and Ali Raza Khan, the deputies of the Sultan,\textsuperscript{26} that the purpose of the correspondence was to establish a connection with Tipu Sultan adverse to the interests of the English in India that Umdut-ul-Umara, the son of Mohammad Ali, was the principal channel of communication between his father and the Sultan, that even after his accession to the throne Umdut-ul-Umara continued to maintain the correspondence with the Sultan and that in the correspondence he used the vague expressions of “the writing known of” and “the affair known of” and also a cypher in figure of some


\textsuperscript{26} The deputies sent by the Sultan to Madras to attend on the two princes who were entrusted with the Company as hostage for the fulfilment of the terms of the Treaty of Srirangapatnam(1792).
secret meaning.\(^{27}\)

With a view to establishing further proof against the Nawab and clarifying the doubts, Lord Mornington decided on a more detailed enquiry. Accordingly, Lord Clive appointed secretary Webbs and Colonel Close as commissioners to conduct the necessary oral examination of the persons, who were associated with the Nawab and the Sultan in their correspondence. The commissioners separately examined the prime suspects Ghulam Ali Khan, Ali Raza khan, Dewan Purnea,\(^{28}\) Mir Sadr and Habibullah among others. However, the result of the enquiry, from the English point of view, was disappointing. It was made clear that the correspondence was intended only for a matrimonial alliance between the ruling houses of Mysore and the Carnatic. The expressions “the writing known of” and “the affair known of” appeared to refer to that proposed marriage.\(^{29}\) The key to the cypher revealed that Mohammad Ali was designated “Wellwisher of Mankind”, the Nizam as “Nothingness”, the Marathas as “Despicable” and English as “New comers”. As a result, the oral examination worked against the contention of Edmonstone that the Nawab maintained a secret correspondence with the Sultan for the purpose of forming a connection adverse to British interests.


\(^{28}\) Purnea was the Minister of Tipu Sultan. After the fall of the Sultan, he was appointed Dewan of Mysore.

Inspite of these, lord Clive suggested to the Governor General that the Nawab cherished hostile designs and as such the Company should assume the administration of his territory. In his attempt to establish that the Nawab was the enemy of the Company, he stated that the proposed matrimonial alliance was an explanation devised for the purpose of satisfying suspicion if the correspondence were discovered.\(^{30}\) However, in defence of the Nawab, it should be pointed out that he did not maintain any direct correspondence with the Sultan. The letters contained only the expressions of the deputies of the Sultan, though they were attributed to the Nawab. Even here, the authenticity of their statements is to be doubted, for there was an instance in which a speech made by Colonel Deveton in his conference with the deputies to the Sultan. Even if the reports of the deputies were as the authentic expressions of the Nawab, it should be admitted that they contained only vague expressions of goodwill. Mohammad Najib Salar Jung and Tuckia Ali Khan, two sirdars of Umdut-ul-Umara, asserted that the correspondence contained nothing but expressions of civility and compliment and that the correspondence was begun only on instructions from Lord Cornwallis for cultivating the friendship of the Sultan. However, Lord Clive made no attempt to examine the truth of that assertion. It must also be pointed out that the Nawab, being a sovereign had the authority to violate the treaty -it at all he did so. At the

most, the violation of a treaty by one party would place both parties in a state of relation which existed prior to the conclusion of the treaty. It would not stand to reason if one party proceeded to annex the territory of the other if at all the latter violated an agreement.

Still Lord Mornington directed Lord Clive to open negotiations with the Nawab inducting him to surrender his territories. However the Nawab was seriously ill and that dissuaded Lord Clive from announcing the instructions, which he received from the Governor General. On 15th July 1801 Umdut-ul-Umara passed away.31 Before his death, the Nawab nominated his son Ali Hussain, a young prince of eighteen years, as his successor. He also appointed Mohammad Najib Khan Salar Jung and Tuckia Ali Khan as the deputies to the young prince.

Soon after the demise of Umdut-ul-Umara, Lord Clive deputed secretary Webbs and Colonel Close to the palace of the Nawab.32 In a conference with the

31. On hearing the illness of Umdut-ul-Umara, Lord Clive stationed troops at chepauk Palace on the plea of maintaining peace in the palace and preventing the removal of the treasure. In fact the Nawab was not allowed to die in peace.

32. It is stated that lord clive sought to annex the Carnatic by negotiation and not by a proclamation because of the critical state of affairs. It is possible that he feared the spread of the rebellion, which broke out in the southern districts in 1801 to the north. One of the objects of the rebels was to restore the Nawab to his former dignity.
deputies the commissioners informed them of the nature of the documents that were discovered at Srirangapatnam and the determination of the Company to annex the Carnatic. But the deputies asserted that the correspondence contained nothing but expressions of civility and compliment and requested that they be granted an opportunity to reply to the charges. But strangely enough, the commissioners declared that "the British Government, being satisfied of the sufficiency of its proofs, had no intention of constituting itself a judge of the conduct of its ally". They impressed upon Ali Hussain and his deputies that as the Nawab entered into a secret correspondence with Tipu Sultan, the Company was determined to enforce a new settlement for the administration of the Carnatic. On that ground they demanded acquiescence of Ali Hussain to implement that scheme in view. But Ali Hussain and his deputies refused their consent for the annexation of their territories. Thereupon Lord Clive explained to Ali Hussain that in consequence of the breach of the Treaty of 1792 by his father, the Company had the right to annex the Carnatic. On that ground Lord Clive announced in the most serious and formal manner that if he did not agree for an amicable settlement, the result would be disastrous to his family. Inspite of this, Ali Hussain categorically refused to give his consent for the annexation of the Carnatic.


In consequence of this development the governor decided to identify another member of the House of Mohammad Ali, who would agree to surrender the territory in return for a title and an allowance. Accordingly, his commissioners consulted one Azeem ul Doula, son of Amir Ul Umara, who was the second son of Mohammad Ali. On consultation with that prince, he readily agreed to give his consent for a new settlement if he were declared as the Nawab of the Carnatic; for he had nothing to lose, but everything to gain. Subsequently, Lord Clive ignored the hereditary rights of Ali Hussain and his place recognised Azeem ul Doula as the Nawab of the Carnatic - but without territory. On 31st July 1801 Lord Clive elevated him to the throne, with every display of pomp and splendour. Though the new Nawab was deprived of his power and territory, Lord Clive allowed his some of the appendages of sovereignty. Thus he was given the right to receive usual peishcush from Travancore, and to take possession of the palace at Tiruchirapalli.

35. A few days after the enthronement of Azeem ul Doula, Ali Hussain died under suspicious circumstances.


Before the enthronement of Azeem ul Doula Lord Clive settled with him the provisions of a new treaty for the annexation of the Carnatic. The Supreme Government at fort William ratified the treaty and it was called the Treaty for settling the succession of the Soubahdary of the Territories of Arcot and for vesting the administration of the Carnatic Payenghat in the United Company of Merchants of India Trading to the East Indies. The Treaty contained 12 articles. The Nawab on his part vested the civil and military administration of the Carnatic with the English. In return the Company was to pay one fifth of the net revenues of the Carnatic for the support of the house of the Nawab.\(^{38}\) However, if the revenues of the Carnatic exceeded 25 lakhs of star pagodas, the Nawab was not entitled to any share from the surplus.

Though the procedure taken by Lord Clive for the acquisition of the Carnatic could not be justified, it should be noted that the ultimate results of the annexation were beneficial to the English. The Treaty of 1801 added a territorial

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38. One fifth of the revenue was calculated after deducting the charges of collection, the revenue of the jagir lands, which worked at 2,13,421 star pagodas and a sum of 621,105 star pagodas, which was allotted as the amount required for the liquidation of the private depts as Mohammad Ali, every year. These were declared as permanent deductions from the revenues of the Carnatic. However, it was decided that the monthly payment to the Nawab should not be below 12,000 star pagodas and if the revenue of the Carnatic exceeded 25 lakhs of star pagodas, then the fifth part of the surplus revenue was to be applied to the repair of forts and for the defence of the Carnatic.
extent of 17,250 square miles to the Presidency. Henceforth the English were at liberty to establish a uniform system of administration for the Tamil Country.\(^3\)

Perhaps the significant benefit which the Treaty bestowed upon the people was the end of a double government. Ever since the establishment of British influence in the Carnatic, the people laboured under a system of authority exercised by the feudal powers, rulers of the land and the Company's administration. However, the suppression of the poligars and settlement of the treaties of annexation prepared ground for imperialist consolidation under a uniform system.\(^4\)

\(^3\) Madras Council, Secret Despatches to England, 1 October 1802, Vol.2, pp.103-106.