British Non-Intervention Policy: The British pursued a policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of Assam till 1823 when they began entangling themselves in wars against the Burmese invaders. It was in pursuance of the non-intervention policy that Captain Thomas Welsh was recalled to Bengal from Assam. But with the passing of time, circumstances had conspired to aid the imperialistic policy of annexation. The so-called policy of non-intervention did not prevent the Assam monarch from purchasing fire-arms and gun-powder and to import the same to Assam. This could be regarded as a sort of intervention, although indirectly.

Till 1823 the relations of Assam with the English East India Company were confined to appeals for assistance in the forms of arms or troops from the Company. Such assistance was sought either to retain certain possessions or to regain the lost ones in the background of local rivalries. The Company rendered all possible help to Assam in conformity with the policy laid down in the Act of
1784. But when appeals for assistance were made by dissidents, these were invariably rejected since the Company Government did not want to disturb the authority of the Assam king. Non-intervention, however, did not prevent intervention on request in favour of the local ruling authority. Thus, Sir John Shore, a pioneer of the policy of non-intervention, supplied the Assam king with arms and accoutrement on two occasions with the result that

* The Act of 1784 is also known as Pitt's India Act. Some of the main provisions of this Act are as follows- 1. The Act empowered the Crown to create a Board of Control or a Board of Six Commissioners for the affairs of India; ii. It empowered the Board to superintend, direct and control all acts, operations and concerns which in any way related to the Civil, Military Government or Revenues of the British possessions in the East Indies; iii. It forbidden the Company to pursue new conquests and extension. As the policy of pursuing schemes of conquest and extension of dominion in India are measures repugnant to the wish, to the honour, and policy of the British nation( Section 34); the Governor-General and Council were forbidden without the authority of the Directors or Secret Committee to declare wars or commence hostilities or enter into any treaty for making any wars against any of the country, princes or states or any treaty of guarantee, except where hostilities had actually been commenced or preparation actually made for the commencement to hostilities against the British nation in India or some of the princes or States dependent thereon or whose territories were guaranteed by any treaty. Thus it is laid down that in spite of this declaration, if the circumstances demanded, the Governor-General had the option to interfere in the affairs of the Indian States. iv. Governors of Presidencies were also forbidden without the sanction of the Governor-General and Council or the Directors to commence hostilities or make treaties except in sudden emergencies or imminent danger and any treaty thus made was to be subject, if possible, to ratification by the Governor-General and Council. Disobedience of the Presidencies might be met by suspension. Thus the authority was concentrated in the Government of Bengal and the Presidencies became merely administrative departments. The Act made the control of the Governor-General over the Presidency Governments more real and decisive. The most important achievement of the Act was that it firmly established Crown's control over the Civil, Political and Military affairs of India. (See Aggarwala, A. C., Constitutional History of India, pp. 21-23; Mahajan, V. J., Constitutional History of India, p. 24; and Keith, Arthur Berridale, A Constitutional History of India, p. 97).
the troubles caused by Hazari Singh and Hara Datta came to be suppressed. Gradually, however, the British Company Government began taking active interest in Assam affairs when these tended to disturb the tranquility of the Bengal frontier. Till 1823 there was no immediate danger to the Company's Bengal frontier. Sir John Shore asserted in 1795 that "we are not now much interested in the affairs of Assam, having withdrawn all interference in them on the recall of Captain Welsh's 2 Battalion." This was the Company's Assam policy in the pre-Burmese period. Lord Hastings also upheld that policy of non-interference and as such refused to help Chandra Kanta Sinha in 1815, although Chandra Kanta offered an annual tribute of 3$x 1½ laks of rupees. Likewise the Darrang prince Bishnunaryana was refused assistance. He accompanied Captain Welsh to Bengal and sought assistance for establishing himself at Kamrup as a tributary Prince. The policy of non-intervention came to an end when the Burmese occupation of Assam threatened the peace of the adjoining districts of Bengal.

British Relations with Burma before Burmese Occupation of Assam: It has been noted elsewhere that after conquering Assam, the Burmese began a reign of terror with the result that a number of

1. AA#2,p.434.
* In May 1798 the Earl of Morington, afterwards Marquis Welleslay, became the Governor-General. From his time a clear change in the relation with Assam was noticed. Welleslay imprisoned at Bengal Niamatullah Subedar and Padum Kawarn who became hostile to Assam Government and plundered Goalpara and Jugighopa and robbed Lakshminarayana Brahmachari, the agent of the Ahom Government at Kandahai Choky. Next in 1802 Welleslay allowed the appeal of the Assam Raja and issued orders to supply the Assam Raja with 800 stands of serviceable repaired arms with an equal number of bayonets, scabbards, belts and cartridge-boxes, 40,000 ball cartridges and 1,600 spare flints. (See #A#2,p.135-37)
2. AAR#2,p.426.
3. Ibid.
Assamese people left their country and entered the British possessions. Then, on a number of occasions, the Burmese forces chased the Assamese fugitives to the interior of the British dominion, thereby violating the British frontiers. The spirit of conquest, which dominated Alaungpaya was inherited by his successors on the throne of Ava. Alaungpaya's relations with the British were far from cordial. It was the Burmese king Bodawpaya who conquered Arakan in 1784. The conquest of Arakan increased the political pretensions of the Burmese and led to continual misunderstanding with the English who were in possession of the district of Chittagong, contiguous to Arakan and separated from it by the river Naaf.

The Arakanese had been subjected to cruel oppressions at the hands of the Burmese officers. The Arakanese chiefs continued their guerrilla warfare against the Burmese for several years, and thousands of Arakanese, also known as Mughs, left their country and took shelter in Chittagong. The British Government allowed them to settle in unoccupied lands within Chittagong. Consequently an army of about 5,000 Burmese soldiers made a hot-pursuit into British territory in 1794 and demanded the surrender of the Arakanese leaders. One of the main Arakanese leaders was Apolung whose surrender was greatly demanded by the Burmese. This was followed by a series of discussions and eventually the British handed over the Arakanese leaders to the Burmese. The Burmese executed all of them including Apolung except one who managed to escape to the British territory again. The forebearance shown by the British in their act of surrendering the Arakanese leaders was consi-

4. AAR*, p. 457.

* One of Apolung's associates made his escape on the way to Amarapura. Apolung and other fugitives suffered a lingering and cruel death. See EFB*, p. 149.
dered by the Burmese Court as an act of cowardice. This prompted the Burmese to dismiss in 1797 Captain Hiram Cox dishonourably. In 1797 Sir John Shore sent Captain Hiram Cox to the Burmese Court but he had to return without accomplishing anything. The Burmese subjected Captain Cox to all kinds of indignities. They also gave him the idea that the Burmese were intending to claim the restitution of Chittagong, Luckipore, Dacca and the whole of Cossimbazar. The Burmese claimed that these areas belonged to Arakan. Towards the end of 1798, about 10,000 Hughs entered the British territory. The British allowed them to settle in the area subsequently known as Cox Bazar. In the matter of granting settlement to the Arakanese the British Government totally ignored the Burmese demands for their unconditional surrender. The Arakanese from Chittagong continued their incursions into Arakan and the Burmese also on every occasion demanded the unconditional surrender of the Arakanese. The Burmese also threatened to invade Chittagong if their demands were not met. This led to stresses and strains in British-Burmese relations heightened, moreover, by the Burmese occupation of Assam.

Burmese Depredations in British Possessions: After the Burmese occupation of Assam incidents similar to those occurring in the Chittagong borders were repeated in the Assam-Bengal borders as well. Prince Purandar Singha and Ruchinath Burahgohain and the Ahom King Chandra Kanta Singha took refuge in the British territory whence they endeavoured to oust the Burmese from Assam. The Burmese for their part demanded their surrender on pain of intervention and actually destroyed a number of villages in Habraghat Pargona in Rangpore in November 1821. This action indicated the shape of things to come. They had also committed robberies in the frontier villages of Rangpore and carried off one

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5. AAR, p.463.
6. Ibid., p.493
300-mound boat and 5 canoes from the Company's island near Goalpara and took 7 prisoners there. They had also captured an additional number of 70 boats and a woman in the Company's territory. Thus the Burmese took an aggressive attitude in their relations with the British. This caused much anxiety to Scott and Davidson. They had instructions to protect Chandra Kanta Singha and other fugitives from Assam and to repulse any Burmese attack on British territory. But the British garrison at Goalpara was inadequate in comparison with that of the Burmese. They requested re-inforcements from the Company's headquarters at Teteliya and at the same time they tried to keep the Burmese to remain non-aggressive by adopting a conciliatory policy towards them. At the same time, they offered the desired protection to Chandra Kanta Singha and other refugees. On 19 June 1822 the Burmese had informed Lt. Davidson that they had received order from their General to follow Chandra Kanta Singha wherever he went and take him by force of arms. It was clear that their conquest of Assam made the Burmese to become increasingly aggressive both in words and deeds. They contrived to use Assam as a base for operations to fulfill their designs to expel the English from the frontier district of Bengal, and if possible, from India.

On the Burmese occupation of the Brahmaputra Valley, the situation became completely changed. The Burmese now gained an advantageous position to advance easily by boats up to Dacca and the adjoining districts of the British territory. This was clearly explained by Scott to the Bengal Government and the latter now felt the necessity of adopting precautionary measures for the protection of the Eastern Frontier. Accordingly some effective measures were adopted. The entire frontier was

7. AAR, p.493.
8. Davidson to Scott, June, 20, BPC, July 5, 1822 No. 103 as cited in AAR, p.494.
placed under the special command of a Lieutenant-Colonel, assisted by a Brigade Major up to the river Teesta in the Western boundary. The frontier of Rangpore, Dacca, Sylhet and Tipperah were placed under his command. The Chittagong frontier was placed under a separate command. Some other measures, strategically important, were also adopted.

Yagoung Yabo Noratha, a Burmese Vakil, arrived at Rangpore on 9 July 1822. He was deputed by the Burmese authority in Assam. Noratha reached Calcutta by the end of July 1822. He delivered two letters, one from Mingimaha Bandula and the other from Mingimaha Tilwa. Both the letters contained the demands of extradition of Chandra Kanta Singha and other Assamese refugees including Biswanath Marangikhowa and Jagannath Dhekial Phukan. Lord Hastings's replies were firm but in tone was conciliatory. The Governor-General declined to surrender the Assamese refugees but assured that his Government would not interfere in Burmese affairs in Assam. It was a sort of recognition of Burmese authority in Assam. He requested the Burmese authorities to check their troops from committing further depredation in the British boundary, and also assured that the British authorities would restrain the Assamese refugees from incursions into Assam.

But the replies of the Governor-General had little effect. Burmese depredations on the frontier villages of Rangpore continued. Towards the end of August 1822 the Burmese forcibly removed the British flag from an island near Goalpara. The flag had been hoisted there for demarcating the British possessions. The Burmese also threatened to take forcible possession of the island in question. A year later an untoward incident happened in the Chittagong frontier. The Burmese destroyed

10. Ibid., pp.498-500; AXA: p.10.
a British outpost at Shahpuri Island on the mouth of the river Naaf. This was committed with a view to extending their jurisdiction. As days passed, the Burmese became increasingly aggressive. This attitude compelled the British to adopt necessary precautionary measures for the security of the border areas. Five Companies of the Champaran Light Infantry were despatched to Rangpore, five other Companies of the First Battalion of Tenth Native Infantry were ordered to proceed to Sylhet while five other Companies of the Twenty-Third Native Infantry were asked to proceed to Jamalpore.

Meanwhile the Burmese Chief in Assam tried to induce the Assamese refugees to return to Assam. They succeeded in inducing Chandra Kanta Singha to do so. The Burmese assured that Chandra Kanta Singha would be restored to the throne. Relying on these assurances Chandra Kanta Singha returned to Assam with his Phukans and Baruahs and surrendered to the Burmese at Assam Choky in the month of February 1823. Chandra Kanta Singha fell into the Burmese trap. On his arrival at Jorhat the Burmese arrested him and kept him in confinement at Rangpur. He was granted a nominal allowance for his maintenance.

The surrender of Chandra Kanta Singha could not dishearten the Assamese refugees residing in the villages bordering on Assam. Encouraged by the organised opposition offered to the Burmese by the Moamrias and other Assamese tribes, they made some efforts for driving the Burmese out of Assam contrary to Scott's directives. They were led in their attempt at incursions by the Dihingia Phukan, the Siring Barphukas Bar Baruah, the Gandhi Gohain and Lakhi Bora. The Assamese refugees had to make their preparations in the jungles around Goalpara by collecting

11. ABR, p. 512.
12. Ibid., pp. 502-03; AXA, p. 10
men. The Assamese emigrants possessed considerable wealth with which they purchased the connivance of the Police officers and the Zamindari Amils in their bid to enter Assam.

The endeavour proved that the Assamese were not satiated with mere shelter in the British dominions. They were determined to expel the Burmese from their native land. It was a good example of their patriotic desire to liberate their country. The Zamindars of Goalpara, in whose estates the Assamese refugees had to take refuge, had undoubtedly squeezed as much money as they could from the Assamese refugees during their sojourn. All the Amils of Zamindars as well as the Police Officers were equally bent upon squeezing wealth from the Assamese refugees. This made the Assamese refugees realise about their fate in future should they have to endure continued subjection. But it is a fair comment to make that there were no concerted efforts to drive the Burmese out of Assam. On the one hand Purandar Singha and Ruchinath, and on the other hand, king Chandra Kanta Singha tried their separate ways to reach the same objective. This resulted in the weakening of both sides to a great extent. The Assamese refugees were now ready to spend everything but it was too late for them to expel the Burmese from their country merely by spending money on border officials. Moreover, the fact that the Burmese were already in the heart of their country and they were living in a territory of a foreign power on whose mercy they were to depend for everything made it rather impracticable on the part of the Assamese refugees to expel the Burmese. The invaders had also been instructed by their king to collect as much wealth as they could. The invaders followed the instructions with meticulous care. It can also be stated in the previous chapter.

* Instruction given by the Burmese king to his soldiers has already been stated in the previous chapter.
presumed that the wealthy Assamese people at the beginning of Burmese invasion were more anxious to save their skin and their wealth rather than contributing their share towards preservation of the independence of the motherland.

The insolent acts of the Burmese greatly complicated their relations with the British. Burmese misrule and tyranny drove many Mughs to seek shelters in the British dominions. The Burmese resented emigration of the Mughs, and this had caused strains in Anglo-Burmese relations. This strained relationship became rather acute on the Burmese occupation of Assam following Burmese misrule and tyranny with the result that both king Chandra Kanta Singha and Purandar Singha and large number of Assamese subjects had to seek shelter in British dominions. Thus Burmese now were in a stronger position as they secured Assam offering a good base against the British should hostilities arise.

Fresh troubles arose again in the Chittagong frontier when in February 1822 the Burmese Governor of Arakan caused an attack on a party of elephant-hunters within the Company's dominions and six of them were carried off to Arakan. "When the Calcutta Council was informed of these irregularities, they piously wished that the fact need only be known to His Burmese Majesty and it would be remedied immediately." But no notice of it was taken either by the Governor of Arakan or by the Court of Ava. Later some prisoners were released while some of the captured hunters died in their captivity. Some other incidents also took place, but no serious notice was taken of them. One such incident occurred in the month of January 1823 when a Burmese force attempted to collect duty from some Mughs, who were British subjects, when they were proceeding in their boats with rice down the Naaf estuary. The Mughs

15. AAR, p. 511.
16. AXA, p. 11.
refused to pay any duty and on their refusal, the Burmese fired on them killing the Chief boatman. The Burmese demanded that the British should withdraw their outpost from Shahpuri, an island in the Chittagong frontier, claiming that the island was in the possession of the king of Ava. Their demand, however, was not conceded. On the night of 24 September 1823 the Burmese under the command of the Raja of Ramri forcibly occupied the island in question killing three and wounding four British sepoys. On their occupation of the island the Burmese gave the idea that in case of re-occupation of the island by the British, the Burmese would invade the British territories along the whole line of the eastern Frontier. The forcible occupation of the Shahpuri Island by the Burmese may be regarded as a final provocating assault on the British. In the meantime the British Government received intelligence that the Burmese were collecting troops in Assam, Manipur and Arakan to attack the different exposed parts in the Eastern Frontier. The British Government thought it expedient to send troops to Rangpore and Sylhet as a precautionary measure and necessary steps were taken for the immediate re-inforcement of the small force on the North-East Frontier.

The British re-occupied Shahpuri island in November 1823 and kept two Companies there for its protection. Two months later the outpost had to be withdrawn on the ground of unhealthiness. Arrangements were made to protect the island from water. Sophia, a pilot schooner of the Company, was ordered to join the gunboats off the island to serve in some degree as a substitute for the withdrawn troops. On 20 January 1824 Chew, the Commander of Sophia, and Ross, Chief of the gunboats,

17. AAR., p. 511.
18. Ibid., p. 512; AXA., p. 11.
19. Ibid., p. 512.
were treacherously made captives by the Burmese which was followed by instalation of the Burmese flag stealthily at night on the island. Chew and Ross were released on 23 February 1824 without offering any apolog
gy or explanation for their detention. The incident proved the obsti
nate determination of the Burmese to establish their claim over the Shahpuri Island even at the risk of a war with the British.

The Burmese did not confine their aggressive activities to the Shahpuri island only. By the end of the year 1823 the Burmese troops were found entrenched on the entire frontier line of the British territ
ory stretching from Cox's Bazar on the Chittagong frontier to Gaolpara on the Assam (western) frontier.

With the succession of Labanya Chandra in the year 1799 the histo
ry of Manipur presented an unvarying scene of disgusting treachery be
 tween five sons of late king Jai Singha. The five sons of Jai Singha were Labanya Chandra, Madhuchandra, Chourjit, Marjit and Gambheer Singha. King Jai Singha had to spend early years of his reign in en
countering the Burmese for regaining his throne. He had been expelled by the Burmese in 1775. By the year 1782 it appeared that Jai Singha somehow managed to arrive at a compromise with the Burmese who allo
wed him to remain in quite for the rest of his life. But with the expi
ry of Jai Singha the Burmese once again became the decisive power in Manipur politics. Labanya Chandra and other sons of Jai Singha drove the country in hostile warfare against each other in their contest for supremacy. The inevitable result of their contest was untold sufferings for the people. Labanya Chandra was murdered in 1801. Immediatelty af-

20. AAR, p.513.
21. Pemberton recorded that it was Rabichandra who succeeded Jai Singha and as such it is probable that Labanya Chandra's another name was Rabichandra. See PR, p.46.
ter Madhuchandra's succession his brother Chourjit rebelled against him and drove Madhuchandra to Cachar. Madhuchandra having obtained the help from Krishna Chandra, the king of Cachar, by giving his daughter Inde-prova in marriage to him, came to Manipur but was defeated and murdered. He was murdered in 1806. The event of 1806 was the beginning of the series of internecine conflicts. Cachar became the arena of Manipur politics. Every deposed king and every ambitious prince would go to Cachar, raise a force and try their luck by invading Manipur. When Chourjit became king his brother Marjit rebelled against him and defeated him with the help of the Burmese in the winter of 1812. Chourjit fled to Cachar. Marjit renounced all claim on Kubu valley to the Burmese and became a dependant king of the Burmese. He could rule Manipur only for six years. Very soon there developed a rift between himself and his Burmese allies as he had began to assert himself against the Burmese by allowing his people to cut timber in Kubu Valley which had been given to the Burmese for their help in expelling Chourjit Singha from power. The final stage of the rift was Marjit's non-attendance at the coronation ceremony of the Burmese king Bogyidaw. The Burmese king took exception to Marjit's failure to attend the coronation. Bandula drove Marjit out of Manipur in 1819. Marjit fled to Cachar, where Chourjit and Gambheer Singha, another son of Jai Singha, were trying to establish their sway. One Subal was placed on the throne of Manipur by the Burmese. Subal was a puppet king in the hands of the Burmese.

With the flight of Marjit to Cachar the political activities in Cachar reached their climax. Marjit found that his brother Chourjit and Gambheer had already expelled Goyinda Chandra, the king of Cachar, and became the masters of the entire south Cachar. Marjit surrendered him-

22. Pr., p. 45; EM., pp. 181-83; AP., p. 317.
23. EM., pp. 183-87; Pr., p. 49.
self to Chourjit and the two brothers were reconciled for the time being. But very soon there arose disagreement among Marjit and Chourjit. Chourjit was compelled to retire to Sylhet leaving Marjit and Gambheer Singha in possession of nearly the entire territory from which Govinda Chandra had been unjustly driven out.

The reconciliation among the Manipuri Brothers in Cachar as stated earlier was temporary. They could not pull on together even in Cachar. Very soon a struggle for supremacy ensued among them. Soon Chourjit was expelled. He took shelter in Sylhet. Gambheer Singha now established his command over whole of south Cachar except Hailakandi which was held by Marjit. The struggle, that ensued among the three Manipuri brothers, disturbed the peace of the adjacent district of Sylhet which was under the British Government. Every one of the three Manipuri brothers appealed to the British Government for help in the struggle for supremacy against the other. Govinda Chandra, the deposed king of Cachar, also repeatedly made appeals to the British Government to help him in his struggle for expelling the Manipuri brothers from Cachar. But none could make the British sufficiently interested in the struggle. Failing to secure the help from the British Government Govinda Chandra turned his attention to the Burmese and sought their help. The Burmese readily responded to Govinda Chandra's request and prepared to despatch two armies, one by way of Burma and the other by way of Assam to help Govinda Chandra to expel the Manipuri brothers from Cachar.

Cachar was a small and weak principality between the Burmese-held territories and the territory of the British Government. From Cachar it

24. IM, p.189.
25. FR, p.49.
27. AAR, p.513.
was easy for any power to invade the district of Sylhet, a part of the British India. As such when Govinda Chandra sought Burmese help the Burmese saw a chance to make Cachar a base for invading Sylhet and was that was: why the Burmese readily accepted Govinda Chandra's request. Govinda Chandra's attempt to take Burmese help produced another important result, i.e., the abandonment of the policy of non-intervention by the British. The British Government now felt it necessary to place Cachar under their protection because one of the passes from Ava to the British India lay through Manipur and Cachar, and, as such, occupation of Cachar was necessary for the defence of that pass. So a resolution in respect of placing Cachar under British protection was carried on 19 June 1823 in the Governor-General-in-Council. But with whom negotiation was to be started for the transfer of Cachar? The right of the Manipuri princes to transfer Cachar was questionable. Thus the British Government opened negotiations with Govinda Chandra, the legitimate heir. Following this Govinda Chandra abandoned his alliance with the Burmese. The three Manipuri brothers were induced by the British to accept British pension. When negotiations for finalizing the terms with Govinda Chandra were going on, information reached the British Government that the Burmese Commander in Assam was preparing to despatch an army to reinstate Govinda Chandra in response to his invitation made previously.

The British also tried to bring the Jayantia kingdom under their protection since the Burmese threatened it with subjugation. Protection of Jayantia was necessary to keep the Burmese away from Sylhet frontier. The Jayantia bordering Sylhet had been recognised as a British dependency since 1774. Jayantia was also in subordinate alliance with the Ahom Government paying an annual tribute. But taking

advantage of the disturbed conditions in Assam during the reign of Gaur-

rinath Singha, Jayantia stopped payment of annual tribute. The Bur-
mese, on their occupation of Assam, demanded Jayantia's allegiance to
the king of Ava. They also demanded that Jayantia should now pay
the annual tribute to the Burmese Government as they now secured the
position of the Ahom Government to which Jayantia was in subordination.

By the end of December 1823 a large Burmese army from Assam commanded
by Nund Kroden advanced to Cachar and established stockades at Bikrampur.
A majority of Nund Kroden's army were Assamese and they were probably
forced to take arms against the Kacharis. Another Burmese force advanced
towards Cachar from Manipur. This force encountered the irregular
Manipur troops under Gambheer Singha. Gambheer Singha succeeded in check-

king the advance of the Burmese. A third Burmese army was crossing the
Mulagul Pass into Jayantia. Now it became an urgent need for the Brit-

ish Government to prevent the Burmese armies from uniting or strength-

ening their allies in Cachar and Jayantia. The British force,
stationed on Sylhet frontier, were ordered on 17 January 1824 to march
against the Burmese to prevent their advance into Jayantia and Cachar
and to expel them from the areas they had already entered. The British
Army was commanded by Major Newton who was to be assisted by Captain
Bowen and Captain Johnstone. Very soon some skirmishes took place. The
Burmese were expelled from Bikrampur. They were now stationed at Jatrapur.

After their encounter with the Burmese troops at Jatrapur, the
East India Company's troops had to retire to Badarpur situated at a
distance of 8 miles from Jatrapur. David Scott in his letter of 21 January
1824 informed Nund Kroden that Cachar was a British protectorate.

* This was in response to Kroden's letter by which he demanded the
surrender of the three Manipuri brothers as Kroden had the instruc-
tion from Ava to enthrone Govinda Chandra in Cachar.
State and so Kroden with Ms Sibre should withdraw from Cachar. It was a bluff on the part of David Scott. At that time negotiation with Govinda Chandra was not finalised. It was finalised much later. The treaty was concluded with Govinda Chandra only on 6 March 1824 by which he placed Cachar under the British protection. The later did not produce any affect. Very soon a series of engagements took place with the Burmese force on the frontier of Sylhet. These engagements mainly took place within the Cachar State. On 13 February the Burmese stockades on the bank of the Surma fell into the hands of the British troops, commanded by Captain Johnstone. On their fall the Burmese formed into two divisions. One division retreated to Bhurtekar Pass and the the other to Dudpati(1). On 18 February 1824 the Burmese were further dispersed from Bhurtekar by the British troops under Lt. Col. H. Bowen. Lt. Col. Innes made an attack on the Burmese stockade at Dudpati(1) on 21 February 1824 but his attack was repulsed. A week later Lt. Col. Innes renewed his attack with additional re-inforcements. The Burmese, not being able to encounter the British attacks, abandoned their stockades and retreated to Manipur. Cachar was thus cleared of the presence of the Burmese by the end of February 1824.

Abandonment of Non-Intervention Policy by the British: The events that took place during the course of January and February made it clear that security of the British eastern frontier could not be ensured unless the Burmese were taught a lesson as a consequence of the their provocative behaviour to the British troops. Mr. Scott from his camp at Bedarpur conveyed his observation on the situation through a letter to Mr. George Swinton, the Political Secretary. Scott made it clear that occupation of Assam at least up to Gauhati was most urgently needed to prevent

31* See Appendix No.3.
the Burmese from utilising the land in attacks on British-protected territories. Scott observed that there were three possible routes by which the Burmese could enter Bengal: the first from Manipur through Tripura and Cachar; the second from Assam through Cachar and Jayasimha; and the third through the Brahmaputra in their warboats. Scott considered that the first two routes were not so dangerous as any Burmese attempt through these routes could be easily repulsed. But according to him the third route was the most serious source of danger. Scott pointed out that it would be very difficult to overtake the speedy Burmese warboats once they passed the flotilla at Goalpara which the Burmese could do without losing much. Scott also pointed out that necessary arrangements could also be made to gain the support of the Singpho, Khamptis and other tribes as well as of the Ahom subjects who were not in favour of the oppressive Burmese rule. He also argued that the advance of the British troops into Assam would give to the British Government those facilities which were hitherto enjoyed by the Burmese against the British. The rapid developments on the frontier made the British Government find valid reasons to accept Scott's analysis of the situation. Moreover, the situation on the Chittagong frontier was also examined in the light of the developments in Assam and Cachar which pushed the Government to take at once the decision that the Burmese would no longer be allowed to hold the authority over Assam or meddle with the affairs of Cachar. The above proceeding made it clear that the advance of the British to Assam and Cachar was not in the interest of the people of Assam or Cachar. It was manifestly in their own imperial interest to maintain the security of its frontier. In case of Cachar the British authorities at least made some pretence of negotiations with Govinda Chandra, the legitimate king of Cachar. But even before the finalization of the negotiation the
British army entered Cachar. As for Assam the British Government did not feel it necessary to negotiate with anybody, neither the subjects nor the deposed Ahom princes, although their assistance was sought on several occasions by the Assamese in their dire need. On every occasion the appeals of the Assamese were rejected in the name of the so-called policy of neutrality. But when their own interests seemed to suffer, the British authorities threw off their policy of neutrality and decided to intervene without bothering to consult anybody. On 13 February 1824 the British Government wrote to Scott that the arguments and observations which he submitted established satisfactorily the expediency of advancing of the British troops up to Gauhati and occupation of the country between Gauhati and Goalpara even as a measure of defensive policy. Scott was authorised by the Government to execute the proposed movement within a month. He was also instructed to see to it that inhabitants of the areas, proposed to be occupied, should be called upon to support the British and that they should be offered a clear pledge of being released from the Burmese. Meanwhile campaign plans had been chalked out. It included the formation of three brigades of 3000 men in each brigade, to be stationed at Chittagong, Jamalpur and Goalpara and a good flotilla on the Brahmaputra towards Assam and in the vicinity of Dacca.

On 24 February 1824 the Government published a declaration addressed to the Government of Ava and the princes and people of India stating the grounds on which the British Government was compelled to resort to hostilities. On 5 March 1824 a formal proclamation was issued by Lord Amherst that both the countries were at war. On 13 March 1824 the British troops from Goalpara marched into Assam under the command of Lt. Col. George Macmorine. The advance of the British troops from

33. AAR, p.518.
34. For details of the grounds on which the Britishers became compelled to declare war see AAR, p.519.
35. Supplement of PR, p.IXXI.
Goalpara into Assam marked the abandonment of the Non-Intervention Policy of the British which had been in operation since 1794. Now, the British adopted an aggressive policy of intervention to meet the challenge of Burmese occupation of Assam.

Expulsion of the Burmese: The British plan of operation against the Burmese was partly defensive and partly offensive. The following measures were decided for action: viz., (1) the expulsion of the Burmese from Assam; (2) the strengthening of defences on Sylhet and Chittagong frontier to prevent possible Burmese attack from Manipur and Arakan and (3) the despatch of an expedition by the sea to subdue the maritime province of Ava, and, if possible, penetrate into the Capital by the line of the Irrawaddy river.

A brief narration of the war seems not irrelevant here in order to follow the course of events. The operation in the Brahmaputra Valley started with the march of the British army from Goalpara on 13 March 1824 under the command of Col. Macmorine. On the approach of the British army the Burmese evacuated Gauhati and retreated to Raha, Nowgong and Kaliabar. Gauhati was occupied by the British troops on 28 March 1824. On their occupation of Gauhati the British army saw enough evidence of depredations caused by the Burmese before their departure from Gauhati. A headless and dreadfully mutilated body was found in a stockade. Fourteen Assamese Chiefs were killed by the Burmese on suspicion that these Chiefs intended to come over to the British. More than a hundred inhabitants of Gauhati including several Marwaris and Bengali Businessmen were killed by the Burmese. A number of Chiefs and that of Lukai Duar were carried away by the Burmese. But the Burmese did not stay long at their places of refuge, very soon the Burmese left the stockade.
at Rahaehoky, Nowgong and Kaliabar and retreated to Noramukh in Upper Assam. At that time Scott was at Sylhet. From Sylhet Scott marched to Newgong across Jayantia and arrived there on 16 April 1824. Scott was escorted to Nowgong by an army under Horshburgh and guided by Maniram Dewan, who played an important role in Assam's history in a later period, and Bholanath Parbatia Phukan. From Nowgong Scott proceeded on 17 April to Guwahati and arrived there on 28 April 1824. Captain Horshburgh remained at Nowgong for its protection.

To win the support and even active assistance of the Assamese people a proclamation was made by the British Government justifying their intervention. Captain Davidson was ordered to accompany the troops of Col. Macmorine to Guwahati and to circulate the copies of the Proclamation among the Assamese as and when directed by Col. Macmorine. The proclamation began as follows,—"Inhabitants of Assam. It is well known to you that some years ago the Burmese invaded your territory, and that they had since dethroned the Rajah, plundered the country, slaughtered Brahmans, and women and cows, defiled your temples, and committed the most barbarous outrages of every kind, so that vast number of your country men have been forced to seek refuge in our dominions where they have never ceased to implore our assistance." Then the proclamation contained the circumstances which necessitated the advance of the British troops to Assam. The proclamation concluded with an exhortation to the people to avenge their wrongs,— "The wished for opportunity for relieving yourselves from the hands of your oppressors has now arrived. Come forward, therefore, without fear for the present or the future. Fail not, where you have an opportunity to wreak your vengeance on the remnants of those who have caused you so many calamities. We are not led into your country

37: MP4, p.45
by the thirst of conquest; but are forced, in our own defence, to deprive our enemy of the means of annoying us. You may, therefore, rest assured that we will never consent to depart until we exclude our foe from Assam, and re-establish in that country a Government adapted to your wants, and calculated to promote the happiness of all classes." It was David Scott who started the campaign of circulation of the proclamation among the Assamese in an impressive manner. On his arrival at Gauhati Scott convened a grand Durbar of Assamese nobles and leading Assamese inhabitants of Gauhati. In this Durbar Scott pleaded with the people of Assam on the lines indicated in the proclamation for supporting the British in expelling the Burmese from their country and distributed copies of the Proclamation among the people. Due to the Meamaria Uprisings and the Burmese atrocities the Assamese people at that time were in such a stage that it was not possible on their part to scrutinise the proclamation but to welcome any manner of British help to save themselves. Everybody accepted the British proclamation with Hai-dvani, an expression of joy.

Finding themselves undisturbed, the Burmese by the end of April 1824 advanced again as far as Kaliabar. A force was despatched under Col. Richards from Gauhati for the purpose of ejecting the Burmese from Kaliabar. The Burmese made their stockade at Hathbar, but on the approach of Col. Richards and his troops retreated to Rangaligarh without facing the troops of the British. It is stated that Col. Richards and his troops were

38. AAR, pp. 524-25; FS, p.1. For entire text of the Proclamation in Assamese See Appendix No. 4.

39. MD, p.47. Hai-dvani means Haridvani i.e. utterance by all the people assembled in a place, the victory of Hari i.e. Bishnu. It is used to be uttered when any work is to be started and completed. It is also the mode of expression of everybody's acceptance of any decision taken in an assembly. It has particular way to be uttered. A leading man among the assembled people first utters 'O Hari' at once others utter 'O Ram' then the leading man will utter 'O Hari' then the others will utter 'O Hari'. And then the leading man expressed the final decision taken or starting of work or completion of work as the case may be.
guided by Maniram Devan on their way to Upper Assam from Novgong to Mahagarh. The British troops were supplied with foodstuff by the authorities of the Satras of Aubatli, Dakhnpat and Garamurh. The troops were also greeted with joy by the Assamese people on each of the halts. At Rangaligarh the Burmese tried to check the advance of the British troops but in vain. The Burmese were dispersed from Rangaligarh. The Burmese once again fell back to their stockades at Mahagarh.

Brigadier Macmorine died of cholera at Gauhati on 30 May 1824 and the command of the troops devolved upon Col. Richards who had his headquarters at Kaliabar. On the approach of the rains, Col. Richards, facing difficulties in procuring supplies, withdrew his headquarters from Kaliabar to Gauhati in July 1824. In this respect Scott's suggestion was that the headquarters was to be maintained at Kaliabar. Richards could not act as David Scott suggested. On Richards's withdrawal the Burmese reoccupied Kaliabar, Raha and Novgong and perpetrated appalling atrocities upon the people alleging complicity with the British. The Burmese plundered the area and committed inhuman atrocities on the inhabitants. Several inhabitants were either flayed alive or burnt in oil. Several thousands were driven in crowds into village naugars (Prayer Hall) and afterwards the halls were set on fire. A description of these horrible atrocities is found in the narzation of R.A. Gait: "The terror with which they inspired the people was so great that many thousands fled into the hills and jungles to the south, where large numbers died of diseases or starvation; and only a small remnant, after enduring unspeakable hardship, managed to reach the plains of the Surma Valley. Several of the submontane villages of Jayantia are inhabited by their descendants, who still speak talk pure Assamese and still speak talk pure Assamese. The depopulation of

40. *M.A.; p. 47.
the region round Sawa and the Kapili Valley dated from this disastrous time, which is still fresh in the memory of the inhabitants of Nowgong, who speak with as much horror of the Manar Upadrah, or the oppression of the Burmese.

The British troops remained in their headquarters at Gauhati till the middle of October 1824. Col. Richards was ordered to clear Assam of Burmese in the ensuing campaign. By this time rains were over and arrangements were made for a fresh fresh advance of the British troops. Two divisions were despatched by the end of October 1823—one by way of the Kalang river, the other by the Brahmaputra. The first division was commanded by Lt. Neufville who defeated several Burmese detachments at Raha and elsewhere. Moramukh was easily occupied in January 1825 by the British troops. The Burmese were now compelled to concentrate their forces at Jorhat. Meanwhile internal rift developed in the Burmese camp. Sham Phukan, the Raja of Mungkang, was the second of the Burmese armies in Assam while Nund Kroden, the Raja of Mogaung, was the Commander-in-Chief. Sham Phukan was the head of the Purani Man or that section of the Burmese in Assam who had lived in Assam for a long time and had participated in the war resulting in the conquest of Assam. They had been enjoying certain privileges and claimed continued enjoyment of such privileges. But Nund Kroden, the Burmese Governor of Assam, in his endeavour to remove corruption from the administration was unwilling to concede. He reduced some privileges of the Purani Man. Eventually Nund Kroden was assassinated along with his son by Sham Phukan. Meanwhile a proposal for armistice was moved by Sah Sham Phukan. But it was not acceptable to the British. The Burmese gave up all hopes of retaining their hold on Jorhat and retreated to Rangpur and at the time of their

42. E.A., p.283.
43. Ibid., p.284; AAR., pp.533-38.
departure from Jorhat they set their Jorhat stockade on fire. Col Richards arrived at Gaurisagar eight miles to the west of Rangpur on 25 January and made his final assault on the Burmese on 29 January 1826 and compelled the Burmese to seek armistice next day. On the day break on 30 January the Burmese tried to come out in small groups to attack the English troops but in vain. At about ten in the morning the Burmese deputed one Dharmadhav Brahmachari, a Buddhist priest, a native of Ceylon, but brought up in Ava, to negotiate the terms for the surrender of Rangpur. The Burmese offer to surrender was quite unexpected. It was agreed that the aggressive party of the Burmese would be allowed to leave the fort of Rangpur and start for their homes provided that they took direct routes, committed no ravages on the road and carried none of the inhabitants of Assam as slaves. Meanwhile in the Burmese camp there developed two parties - one desired peace with the British and the other wanted to evacuate Rangpur and start for their homes. The latter party was termed as the aggressive party or hostile party, while the former was called the peace party. The peace party, who were willing to come to settlement with the British, were required to surrender their arms. On behalf of the British, they were granted full protection and it was further stipulated that they were on no account be delivered to the king of Ava. The three principal Burmese chiefs, Sham Phukan, Shaikh Phukan and Nabaru Phukan including Baglee Phukan were in the peace party. Accordingly about seven hundred captives surrendered and a party numbering about nine thousand evacuated the fort on the morning of 31 January 1826 and the British flag was planted on the fort. With the surrender of the fort of Rangpur the Burmese menace in the Brahmaputra Valley practically came to an end. But the Singphoe's menace

44  AAR, pp.540-41; HA, pp.284-96; AXA, pp.16-17.
was yet to be checked. During the Burmese occupation of Assam, the Singphoes had made several raids on the Assamese and carried off thousands as slaves and thereby reduced the eastern part of Assam to a state of complete desolation. There was an urgent need to suppress the Singphoes. Some expeditions were sent against them and eventually they were suppressed when they attacked Sadiya Khowa Gohain, the Khampti Chief, and the Bar Senapati, the leader of the Moamritis and about six thousand Assamese captives were released from the Singphoes.

The occupation of Cachar and Manipur was easily effected. As the resources of the king of Ava were mainly employed in defence of Arakan and Irrawadi, no reinforcements were provided to the Burmese troops who were in their stockades at Tilain and Dudpatil. By the end of October 1824 the Burmese began to retreat gradually from Tilain and Dudpatisil to Manipur. Before the month of October ended, Captain Lister occupied Tilain and Dudpatil was occupied by the Manipuri Prince Gambheer Singha on behalf of the British. On 30 October Col. Innes informed the Government that Cachar was entirely vacated by the Burmese.

After clearing the Brahmaputra Valley and Cachar of the Burmese, the British began their operation for occupying Manipur. Brigadier-General Shuldhnam, Commanding Eastern Frontier, made large scale arrangements for marching on to Manipur. For the purpose of moving troops a road was constructed from Badarpur to Banskandi. With great difficulties Shuldham and his force arrived at Banskandi. After reaching there Shuldham examined the path leading from Banskandi to Jiri and found it unsuitable for a large army to move. He came to the conclusion that it would be impossible to penetrate into Ava through Manipur. He removed his head-

45. HA, p.286; AXA, p.22.
46. AAR, p.545; AXA, p.23.
47. HA, p.287; AAR, pp.545-56; AXA, p.24.
quarters to Dacca. After Shuldham's return Gambheer Singha proposed to liberate Manipur with his Manipuri levy formed with 500 Kacharis and Manipuris with armed assistance from the British. He was permitted to undertake this venture; Gambheer Singha and his levy left Sylhet on 17 May 1825 and on 23 May arrived at Bandakandi. On 10 June 1825 Manipuri force encountered the Burmese pickets stationed 12 miles in advance of the Capital of Manipur. This was followed by the evacuation of the Burmese from the Capital of Imphal. Gambheer Singha chased the Burmese up to Undro or Andro. On his approach the Burmese further retreated from their last camp and thus Manipur was cleared of the Burmese.

Operations in Chittagong and Treaty of Yandaboo: The final victory over the Burmese was achieved by the British through their operations in Chittagong and in Burma. In their own homelands the Burmese were suffering severe reverses as the British advanced as far as Yandaboo, a place only 45 miles away from Ava, the Burmese capital and hence, they were diets compelled to accept a treaty with whatever terms the British wished to dictate.

The operations in Chittagong commenced with the Ramoo disaster. It was in the hands of the Burmese General Mingimaha Bandula who attacked the British outpost at Ramoo and dispersed their troops from there. Captain Noton, who was in charge of Ramoo, and many British soldiers lost their lives in the encounter which took place on 17 May 1824. But Bandula did not proceed further as he was recalled to Ava. On Bandula's return to Ava, the Burmese abandoned Ramoo and retired to Arakan. Brigadier General Morrison was reached ordered to proceed against the Burmese in Arakan. Morrison's army reached Tak Naaf on 1 February 1825.

48. AMR, p.547.
and after a series of encounters occupied the capital of Arakan on 1 April 1825 and before the end of the same month the entire country of Arakan was occupied by the British.

But the main theatre of the war was in the Delta and the Valley of Irrawadi. Sir Archibald Campbell and his troops, moved by the sea and occupied Rangoon unopposed on 11 May 1824. They repulsed all subsequent attacks by the Burmese to regain Rangoon. The next Burmese town to fall was Kokins in December 1824. Meanwhile the British occupied Cheduba, Negrais, Tavoy, Mergui and Murtaban. The rapid fall of the Burmese proved that that they were prepared to meet the British on land only. It was beyond their imagination that the British might attack Ava by sea.

The next important encounter took place at Dambyu, a fortified stockade of the Burmese which was under the charge of the Burmese General Mingimaha Bandula. In the encounter Bandula lost his life on 1 April 1825. And with the death of the formidable Mingimaha Bandula Burmese resistance began to collapse. Campbell continued his march and occupied Prone and Malun. Campbell gained a position which made it possible for him to dictate the terms to the Government of Ava. By the end of December 1825 the Burmese began negotiations for a treaty but without sincerity. It was not unknown to Campbell who continued his march towards Ava and advanced as far as Yandaboo only 45 miles away from Ava, the Burmese capital. The fall of Yandaboo proved beyond doubt that the Burmese army would not succeed in saving their capital if Campbell wished to have it. Now the Court of Ava was cornered in such a way that it should have peace on any terms with the British if it wanted to prevent its total destruction. So it sent a delegation including two Ministers

50: AAR, p.548.
51: FM, p.199.
52: AAR, p.549.
with instructions to accept peace on any terms as Campbell might offer. The delegates arrived at Yandaboo and deposited a sum of rupees 25 lakhs being the first instalment of war indemnity of one crore demanded by the British. The peace (Treaty of Yandaboo) was signed on 24 February 1826.

The principal terms of the Treaty of Yandaboo were as follows:

1. The Burmese ceded to the British the territories and towns of Ye, Tavoy, Mergui, Tenasserin and Arakan;
2. The king of Ava ceased to have dominion over the states of Cachar, Jayantia and Assam;
3. The Burmese acknowledged the independence of Manipur and the right of Siam, to the benefit of this Treaty;
4. The mutual right of keeping a resident from one State at the Court of the other;
5. A commercial treaty to be negotiated afterwards;
6. One crore of rupees, as a token of His Majesty's sincere friendship, and part of indemnification of the expenses of the war.

It was stipulated that the tribute was to be paid to the British by the Burmese in four equal instalments, the first instalment to be paid down, the second to be paid within three months, the third within one year and the fourth within two years from the date of the treaty.

The fate of Assam and its adjoining territories such as Cachar, Jayantiya and Manipur was connected with the Treaty of Yandaboo. The Whole of the treaty is not relevant to the present study. It concerns with Article 2 only. The treaty was drawn

53. AAR, p. 550; BM, p. 200; Supplement to PR., p. LXXI. See Appendix No. 5.
54. Supplement to PR., p. LXXII.
up both in English and Burmese. The English version of Article 2 reads as follows:

**Article 2**

"His Majesty the king of Ava renounces all claims upon, and will abstain from all future interference with, the principality of Assam and its dependencies, and also with the contiguous petty States of Cachar and Jayantia. With regard to Manipur it is stipulated, that should Gambheer singh desire to return to that country, he shall be recognised by the king of Ava as Raja thereof." 55

The Burmese version of the Article 2 is slightly different. The Burmese version is found in A.C. Benerjee’s *Eastern Frontier of British India* where it reads as follows: Article 2nd "The king of Burma shall no more have dominion over, or the direction of, the towns and the country of Assam, the country of Ak-ka-bat (Cachar) and the country of Wa-tha-li (Jayantiya). With regard to Munniapore, if Gambee-ra-shing desire to return to his country and remain ruler, the king of Burma shall not prevent or molest him, but let him remain."

Critical Examination of the Treaty of Yandabo: The Treaty may be examined briefly from the standpoint of its importance for Assam and the neighbouring regions. Words of the treaty were not selected with much care. Soon after its conclusion some important defects were noticed, viz., absence of any guarantee for the punctual payment of war indemnity, full occupation of Arakan ignoring the aspirations of the Arakanese people; annexation of Benasserin which very soon proved itself unprofitable; the restoration of the Delta resulting in-security of Mon people against the Burmese; settling the fate of the Assamese people attaching no importance to the sentiment of the people of Assam; and rather vague statements in respect of the future status of Manipur.

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55. *TES*, p.34.
56. *ER*, p.539.
57. Supplement to *PR*, p.LXXII
60. *Ibids*, p.488.
The language of the Article 2 was not clear about the future status of Manipur. According to the Treaty, the king of Ava had to recognise Gambheer Singha as the king of Manipur. But the question arose whether Gambheer Singha would be recognised as an independent monarch or a vassal king subject to Burma? The British desired that Manipur should be treated as an independent kingdom. The reasons behind their desires were that the existence of Manipur as a vassal state to Burma would again enable the Burmese to meddle with the affairs of the British territories. Thus the existence of an independent kingdom of Manipur in between Burma and the British territories was strategically much desirable to the British. The British Government apprehended that the Burmese might treat Manipur as vassal to them. Such misapprehensions were removed only when Mr. Crawford found and reported that the Burmese treated Manipur as an independent country and wanted the British as well to treat it likewise. This was possible because of the fact that the Burmese, being ignorant of the English version of the said Article which was clearer not so clear, had only in view the Burmese version of the Article 2 which was clearer by far in this respect. Thus their view on Manipur was quite in keeping with the Burmese version of the said Article.

The treaty was also not clear in respect of the future status of Cachar and Jayantia. But it did not create any problem to the British Government because during the course of operations against the Burmese the British Government succeeded in entering into alliances with Govinda Chandra, the king of Cachar, and Raja Ram Singha, the king of Jayantia. Both of them were granted British protection, the former in lieu of payment of an annual tribute of rupees ten thousand while the latter had

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62. TSS1, p.149.
nothing to pay. Thus the status of Cachar and that of Jayantiya had already been decided long before the conclusion of the treaty in question.

The most serious omission in the Treaty of Yandaboo was the absence of a clear statement in respect of the future status of Assam. At the time of the British intervention in Assam, the Britishers proclaimed that they were not led into Assam by the thirst of conquest but that they were forced to do so for their own defence and assured the people of Assam that they had nothing to be afraid of them. It was expected that after they succeeded in driving out the Burmese, the common foes of the British and the Assamese from Assam, the Britishers would retire after re-establishing a Government in conformity with the aspiration of the Assamese people. As events were to show, the people of Assam expected too much from the imperialists.

According to the Treaty of Yandaboo the king of Ava gave up his claims over Assam and the neighbouring States of Cachar, Jayantiya and Manipur. But by the right of conquest these territories might be brought directly under the control of the British Government. They actually did so in respect of Cachar and Jayantiya, as the status had been fixed long before the conclusion of the peace. When peace came, it bewildered the Assamese people. It was a great shock to them that there was nothing in the treaty which at least indicated something about their aspirations. The natural expectation of the Assamese people was that at the conclusion of peace they would have a Government of their own and the retirement of the British from their country. The Assamese people became suspicious about the real intentions.

63. TEA, p.164.
of the British Government. The British Government had entered into alliances with Cachar and Jayantiya and finalised their status. Now the status of Manipur was also defined and secured. But the Britishers never entered into any alliance with the people members of the Ahom royal family nor did they negotiate anything with anybody either on the eve of or during the war regarding the future status of Assam. They simply issued a proclamation assuring very many things to the people of Assam and thereby enabled themselves to have the support of the Assamese people. But these were simple assurances lacking the force of what an alliance generally afforded. Assurances could not be enforced if the party, giving assurances did not want to honour them. The silence of the Treaty of Yandaboo in respect of guarantees or assurances helped the British imperial cause only. This was what had actually happened in the aftermath of the Yandaboo Treaty. Thus the Company Raj, which appeared on the scene as a saviour, came to stay in Assam. The Assamese people reacted slowly but gradually. Within two years of the conclusion of the Treaty of Yandaboo rebellions sprang up in the country against the alien rule. Thus the Treaty of Yandaboo could not satisfy the Assamese people. To the Assamese people it was nothing but a treaty between two parties deciding the fate of the third party, whose voice was totally ignored in deciding its fate.
Appendix No. 3.

Treaty concluded between David Scott, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General on the part of Honorable East India Company, and Rajah Govinda Chunder Naryan, of Cachar, or Herumba, 1824.

Article 1

Rajah Govinda Chunder, for himself and his successors, acknowledges allegiance to the Honorable Company, and places his country of Cachar, or Herumba, under their protection.

Article 2

The internal Government of the country shall be conducted by the Rajah, and the Jurisdiction of the British Courts of Justice shall not extend there; but the Rajah agrees to attend at all times to the advice offered for the welfare of his subjects by the Governor-General in Council, and agreeably thereto to rectify any abuses that may arise in the administration of affairs.

Article 3

The Honorable Company engages to protect the territory of Cachar from external enemies and to arbitrate any differences that may arise between the Rajah and other States. The Rajah agrees to abide by such arbitration, and to hold no correspondences or communication with foreign powers, except through the channel of the British Government.

Article 4

In consideration of the aid promised by the above Article, and other circumstances, the Rajah agrees to pay to the Honorable Company from the beginning of the year 1232 B.S.

* Source - TES., p.149.
an annual tribute of ten thousand Sicca Rupees, and the Honorable Company engages to provide for the maintenances of the Munmuipoorean Chiefs lately occupying Cachar.

Article 5

If the Rajah should fail in the performance of the above article, the Honorable Company will be at liberty to occupy and attach, in perpetuity, to their other possessions, a sufficient tract of the Cachar country, to provide for the future realisation of the tribute.

Article 6

The Rajah agrees, in concert with the British local Authorities, to adopt all measures that may be necessary for the maintenance, in the district of Sylhet, of the arrangements in force in the Police, Opium, and Salt Departments.

Executed at Buddeerpore, this 6th day of March 1824, corresponding with the 24th of Faggoon 1230 B.S.

(Sd) D. Scott
Agent to the Governor-General.

(A true copy)

(Sd) D. Scott
Agent to the Governor-General
Appendix No. 4

Proclamation issued to the Assamese People by the Company Raj.

Source: KD, pp. 46-47.
Appendix No 5

TREATY OF PEACE between the Honorable East India Company on the one part, and His Majesty the king of Ava on the other, settled by Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K.C.B., and K.C.T.S., Commanding the Expedition, and Senior Commissioner in Pegu and Ava; Thomas Campbell Robertson, ESQ., Civil Commissioner in Pegu and Ava; and Henry Ducie Chads, ESQ., Captain, Commanding His Britannic Majesty's and the Honorable Company's Naval Force on the Irrawaddy River, on the part of Honorable Company; and by Mengyee-Maha-Men-Hlah-Kyan-Ten Woon-Gyee, Lord of Lay-Kaing, and Mengyee-Maha-Hlah-Thuo-Hah-Thoo-Atwen-Woon, Lord of the Revenue, on the part of the King of Ava; who have each communicated to the other their full powers, agreed to and executed at Yandaboo, in the kingdom of Ava, on this twentyfourth day of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-six, corresponding with the Fourth day of the decrease of the Moon Taboung, in the year One Thousand One Hundred and eighty-seven Gaudma Aera,—1826.

Article 1

There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the Honorable Company on the one part, and His Majesty the King of Ava of the other.

Article 2

His Majesty the King of Ava renounced all claims upon, and will abstain from all future interference with, the principality of Assam and its dependencies, and also with the contiguous petty States of Cachar and Jayantia. With regard to Munnipoor it is stipulated, that should

Source: TRS., pp. 33-37.
Gambheer Sing desire to return to that country, he shall be recognised by the king of Ava as Rajah thereof.

Article 3

To prevent all future disputes respecting the boundary line between the two great Nations, the British Government will retain the conquered Provinces of Arracan, including the four divisions of Arracan, Ramree, Cheduba, and Sandoway and His Majesty the King of Ava cedes all right thereto. The Unnoupectoumien or Arakan Mountains (known in Arakan by the name of the Yeomatoung or Pokhingloang Range) will henceforth form the boundary line between the two great Nations on that side. Any doubts regarding the said line of demarcation will be settled by Commissioners appointed by the respective Governments for that purpose such Commissioners from both powers to be of suitable and corresponding rank.

Article 4

His Majesty the king of Ava cedes to the British Government the conquered Provinces of Yeh, Tavoy, and Mergul and Tenasserim, with the islands and dependencies thereto appertaining, taking the Salween River as the line of demarcation of that frontier; and doubts regarding their boundaries will be settled as specified in the concluding part of Article third.

Article 5.

In proof of the sincere disposition of the Burmese Government to maintain the relations of peace and amity between the Nations, and as part of indemnification to the British Government for the expenses of the war, His Majesty the king of Ava agrees to pay the sum of one crore of Rupees.
Arti cl* 6

No person whatever, whether native or foreign, is hereafter to be molested by either party, on account of the part which he may have taken or have been compelled to take in the present war.

Article 7

In order to cultivate and improve the relations of amity and peace hereby established between two Governments, it is agreed that accredited ministers, retaining an escort or safeguard of fifty men, from each shall reside at the Darbar of the other, who shall be permitted to purchase, or build a suitable place of residence, of permanent materials; and a Commercial Treaty, upon principles of reciprocal advantages, will be entered into by the two high contracting powers.

Article 8

All public and private debts contracted by either Government, or by the subjects of either Government, with the others previous to the war, to be recognised and liquidated upon the same principles of honor and good faith as if hostilities had not taken place between the two Nations, and no advantage shall be taken by either party of the period that may have elapsed since the debts were incurred, or in consequence of the war; and according to the universal law of Nations, it is further stipulated, that the property of all British subjects who may die in the dominions of His Majesty the king of Ava, shall, in the absence of legal heirs, be placed in the hands of the British Resident or Consul in the said dominions, who will dispose of the same according to the tenor of the British law. In like manner the property of Burmese subjects dying under the same circumstances, in any part of the British
dominions, shall be made over to the minister or other authority delegated by His Majesty to the Supreme Government of India.

Article 9

The king of Ava will abolish all exactions upon British ships or vessels in Burman ports, that are not required from Burmah ships or vessels in British ports nor shall ships or vessels, the property of British subjects, whether European or Indian, entering the Rangoon River or other Burman ports, be required to land their guns, or unship their rudders, or to do any other act not required of Burmese ships or vessels in British ports.

Article 10

The good and faithful Ally of the British Government, His Majesty the king of Siam, having taken a part in the present war, will do the fullest extent, as far as regards His Majesty and his subjects, be included in the the above Treaty.

Article 11

This Treaty to be ratified by the Burmese authorities competent in the like cases, and the Ratification to be accompanied by all British, whether European or Native, American, and other prisoners, who will be delivered over to the British Commissioner; the British Commissioners on their part engaging that the said Treaty shall be ratified by the Right Honorable the Governor-General in council, and the Ratification shall be delivered to His Majesty the king of Ava in four months, or sooner if possible, and all the Burmese prisoners shall
in like manner be delivered over to their own Government as soon as they arrive from Bengal.

Largeen Meonja,
Woonghee.

(Sd.) Archibald Campbell [L.S.]

(Sd.) T.C. Robertson,
Civil Commissioner.

[Seal of the Lotoo]

(sd.) Hy. D.Chads,
Captain, Royal Navy.

Shwagum Woon
Atawoon.

Additional Article.

The British Commissioner being most anxiously desirous to manifest the sincerity of their wish for peace, and to make the immediate execution of the fifth Article of the Treaty as little irksome or inconvenient as possible to His Majesty the King of Ava, consent to the following arrangement with respect to the division of the sum total, as specified in the Article before referred to, into instalments viz.: upon the payment of twenty-five lacks of Rupees, or one-fourth of the sum total (the other Articles of the Treaty being executed), the Army will retire to Rangoon. Upon the further payment of a similar sum at that place, within one hundred days from this date, with the proviso as above, the army will evacuate the dominions
of His Majesty the King of Ava with the least possible delay, leaving the remaining moiety of the sum total to be paid by equal annual instalments in two years, from this Twenty-fourth day of February 1826 A.D., through the Consul or Resident in Ava or Pegu, on the part of the Honorable the East India Company.

(signed) Archibald Campbell. L.S.

Largeen Meonja,
Woongee.

(signed) T.C. Robertson,
Civil Commissioner L.S.

Seal of the Lotoo

(signed) Hy.D. Chads,
Captain, Royal Navy. L.S.

SHWAGUM,
Atawon.

Ratified by the Governor-General in Council, at Fort William in Bengal, this Eleventh day of April, in the year of Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-six.

(Signed) AMHERST.

CUMBERMERE.

J.H. HARINGTON.

W.B. BAYLEY.