CONCLUSIONS

The seventeenth century was a period of confusion in the Karnatak. Taking advantage of the disintegration of the Vijayanagar empire, a number of enterprising chieftains carved out almost independent principalities in the Karnatak. Raja Wodeyar conquered Srirangapatna in 1610 from the Vijayanagar Viceroy (Tirumala) and built up a kingdom. Mysore grew in power and extent under Chamaraja Wodeyar and Kanthirava Narasaraja. Shahji also participated in the struggle for power in the Karnatak. The stage for Mysore-Maratha relations was set in 1638 when Kanthirava and Shahji came to oppose each other on the soil of Mysore. Shahji came to the Karnatak in one of the expeditions organised by the Bijapur Sultan who was not slow to fish in the troubled sea of the Karnatak politics. To the Sultan these Karnatak expeditions were found practicable and profitable. Banadulla Khan and Shahji came at the head of the Second Karnatak expedition and occupied Bangalore in 1638. By the influence of Banadulla Khan Shahji secured the sanction from the Bijapur Sultan for the occupation of Bangalore and its dependencies. Since the Sultan exercised very little or no power over his distant territorial possessions, it is no wonder, if Shahji established almost an independent government with royal splendour at Bangalore. In fact Shahji was independent in all excepting in name. Kanthirava and Shahji strove hard to fill up the political vacuum that was caused by the disintegration of the Vijayanagar empire. As Mysore and Bangalore were not far
away from each other contention was inevitable. Thus the period offered a fine opportunity for the rulers of Mysore and the Marathas to build up their power in the Karnatak.

The seeds of enmity were sown in the treaty of 1639 between Kanthirava and Shahji. There was some justification for Kanthirava to be on inimical terms with Bijapur in general and Shahji in particular. First, Kanthirava who had surrendered his new conquests in the Jagadeva Raya’s country namely Channapatna and its dependencies to the Bijapur Sultan was not reconciled to the loss. Secondly, Kanthirava could foresee the deliberate and consistent policy of expansion in the Karnatak sanctioned by the Bijapur Sultan. In the first Karnatak expedition some territorial gains were made in the Bednur kingdom and in the second Karnatak expedition, Sira was made a Bijapur dependency. Bangalore was taken from Kempe Gowda and was entrusted to the care of Shahji. Lastly, Kanthirava was required to pay annual contributions to the Bijapur treasury. Bangalore principality of Shahji proved an obstacle to the expansionist policy of Mysore. Thus the enmity started between the two in 1639.

The sixty-year history (1638-1698) under review in this study of the two powers is nothing but a history of continuous wars, internal conflicts and mutual jealousies. At no time did they live in amity. One’s adversity was another’s opportunity. The existence of the Maratha principality at Bangalore was
considered by Kanthirava a constant threat to the security of the Mysore kingdom. The more the Karnataka expeditions were organised by the Bijapur Sultan, the better it was for Shahji because every expedition helped him in enlarging his principality by the addition of new territorial conquests in the Karnataka. Shahji invaded Mysore several times either in close concert with the Bijapur generals or in alliance with the Karnataka chieftains. Kanthirava defended his kingdom against these onslaughts effectively. During his stay of twenty-five years (1639-1664) in the Karnataka, Shahji never lived as a peaceful neighbour either with Kanthirava or Doddadivaraja. Fkoji who secured the heritage of his father continued the traditional policy of hostility towards Mysore. The same under-current of hostility and discord continued during the times of Shivaji, Sambhaji and Pajaram towards Chikkadevaraja of Mysore. Thus the history of the Mysore-Maratha relations in the 17th century is nothing but a record by relentless wars and unending rivalries between the two powers.

Shahji, during his stay of twenty-five years in the Karnataka, never lived in amity with Mysore. Several factors were at work in widening the gulf between the rulers of Mysore and Shahji. Chief among them were the frequent Karnataka expeditions organised by the Bijapur Sultan, the role of the local chieftains, the ambition of the two powers (the Rajas of Mysore and the Marathas) and the delicate position of Sriranga Raya in the political set up of the 17th century. It was the Bijapur Sultan's Karnataka
expedition that brought Shahji to Bangalore and the same frequent expeditions that poisoned his relations with Mysore. Eight major Karnatak expeditions were launched by the Sultan and Shahji participated in all these. By the four Karnatak expeditions beginning from 1638 Bijapur acquired several important territories such as Bangalore, Hoskote, Sira, Doddaballapur, Kolar, Turuvekere and Rasavapatna and entrusted them to the care of Shahji. The circumstances in which he was placed did not allow him to evolve a policy of his own. The object of these expeditions was to conquer Srirangapatna. Shahji, being a subordinate officer of the Bijapur Government, was required to fight against Mysore at the instance of the Sultan. Consequently, he was expected to cooperate with those Bijapur generals who were at the head of the expeditions. As the relations between Bijapur and Mysore were not cordial, Shahji's relations with Mysore were bound to be hostile as well. Even Ekoji who inherited the heritage of his father, Shahji, in 1661 was required to act according to the orders of the Bijapur Government. Thus the expansionist policy of Bijapur stood in the way of better relations between Mysore and the Marathas.

Incidentally it may be remarked that Shahji was active in the Karnatak. It is difficult to agree with J.N. Sarkar when he says that Shahji remained an idle and unconcerned spectator during the period between 1644 and 1646. The Kannada sources point to the conclusion that Shahji's life was full of political activities during that period. Consequent upon the expulsion of Afzal Khan
from Turuvekere, Shahji missed no time to ally himself with some Karnatak chieftains to defeat the designs of Kanthirava. In the war of 1644, Shahji supported Narasimha Nayak of Hole-narasipur against Mysore. In the subsequent year he helped with men and materials Nanjunda Raja of Piryapatna who was involved in a terrible war with Kanthirava of Mysore. Shahji's attempt to subdue Kanthirava failed. Shahji practically had no rest because in 1646 another Karnatak expedition was fitted out and Shahji was required to heir Mustafa Khan by the Bijapur Sultan under the generalship of Mustafa Khan in discharging his duties. Thus Shahji was very busy during the period between 1644 and 1646.

The personal rivalries and territorial aggrandisement of the local chieftains stood in the way of improving the relations of Mysore with the Marathas. The Chieftains of Nagamangala, Pasavanatna, Pavadurga, Chikkanavakanahalli, the Navaks of Madura, Tanjoire and Bednur worked for their own advantage. They were either incompetent or unimpressive. Chinniya was responsible for the Bijapur intervention in the affairs of Mysore as also for the fight between Kanthirava and Shahji in 1638. Hanumappa brought about the Karnataka expedition in 1640 and provided the ground for the war between Mysore and Shahji. Three powers could distinctly be seen fighting for power in the Karnataka, namely, the Marathas, the Kings of Mysore and the Navaks of Bednur. Each one did its best to put down the other. The Navaks of Bednur helped the Marathas to defeat the Mysore Rajas. The Navaks
rendered them help for two reasons, firstly, the Mysore rulers were their enemies and their reduction was an urgent necessity, secondly, they feared that their refusal to comply with the Maratha request might result in their invasion of Bednur. Thus the local palesgars poisoned the relations of the Mysore Rajas with the Marathas.

The Mysore Rajas and the Marathas were both ambitious. How ambitious Shahji was, could be seen in his effort to make use of Ranadulla Khan as a convenient means to secure for himself the sanction for the occupation of Bangalore and its dependencies from the Bijapur Sultan. He established almost an independent Maratha principality with royal splendour at Bangalore. The key-note of his policy was conquest and consolidation of territories. He fought several battles with Mysore for territories. Towards the end of 1660 he had not only gained the control of the Karnatak-Bijapur-Balaghat but the Karnatak-Bijapur-Payanghat as well. Kanthirava was also ambitious. Kanthirava had succeeded to a well knit kingdom, built up and nurtured by it Raja Wodeyar and Chamaraja Wodevar and he elevated into a powerful kingdom with its frontiers enlarged and natural resources increased and brought it into contact with Shahi kingdom of Bijapur. In the race for territories they came to oppose each other and in consequence they never lived in unity.

Shahji was a good diplomat and a farsighted politician.
He exerted his utmost to build up and retain Maratha control over Bangalore against the opposition of Mysore. He shifted a number of Maratha families from Maharashtra to Bangalore and selected talented Marathas to govern the Karnataka territories under his control. But he could not remain indifferent to the Bijapur Sultan. To show that he was loyal to Bijapur, he continued paying the stipulated amount to the Bijapur treasury. And as per the orders of the Sultan, he exploited every opportunity to put down the kings of Mysore in alliance with those that opposed Mysore. On the whole the policy pursued by Shahji excited the jealousy of the kings of Mysore and in turn they too adopted rigorous measures to arrest the Maratha expansion in the Karnataka.

Sriranga Raya, the last emperor of the decadent Vijayanagar empire, prevented the possibility of better relations between Mysore and the Marathas. He followed no consistent policy either with Mysore or with the Marathas. This was because he was desperately struggling to retrieve the past glory of the declining Vijayanagar empire and in his attempt he thought that any of these powers might help him. But to his ill-luck his own feudatory was his enemy. Kanthirava did not help Sriranga Raya in the war of 1646. Shahji was ready to support the emperor in his distress but was betrayed. But for Shahji the reconciliation between Mustafa Khan and Venkaiva Somavaji, the envoy of Sriranga Raya would have been impossible. By the bad counsel of the envoy, Sriranga Raya turned down the mediation of Shahji and went to war against the Bijapuris. After 1646 his position became still worse. The three Nayaks of Madura,
Tanjore and Gingee, once the Vassals of the crown, drove Sriranga Raya out of Vellore and made him seek shelter in the forest of Tanjore. Sriranga Raya appealed to Kanthirava and the latter accommodated the emperor in Mysore for two years (1650-1652). Sriranga Raya and Kanthirava allied with the Nawab of Sira and invaded Jagadeva Raya’s territory which was under Shahji’s control. Shahji was offended for three reasons, first, he had been betrayed by Sriranga Raya in the war of 1646, secondly, the emperor joined Kanthirava and lastly, the three potentates, Sriranga Raya, Kanthirava and the Nawab of Sira encroached upon his zone of influence in Jagadeva Raya’s territory. In two battles that ensued the three potentates were crushed. In 1657 Sriranga Raya befriended Shahji, in 1659 he was a helpless fugitive at the court of Rednur being driven from pillar to post and in the famous battle of Erode of 1667 Sriranga Raya fought against Mysore in alliance with several Maratha generals such as Vejaji Pant and Anantoji. Thus Sriranga Raya followed no consistent policy, with the result Mysore and the Marathas were not brought closer together.

Shahji’s fame has been overshadowed by that of his son, Shivaji. It is true that Shivaji had created an enduring edifice of a kingdom as big as Great Britain. He was a great general and a conqueror but greater still as the founder of the Maharashtra State. But the achievements of his father in the Karnatak could not be minimised. His career in the Karnatak was
one of struggle and stress. He struggled hard because it was his intention to build up an independent Maratha principality in the Karnatak. He, therefore, first played an important role in the conquest of various petty principalities of the Karnatak for Bijapur. Out of these conquests, he gradually built up a fairly big state for himself under the authority of his overlord at Bijapur. He longed to make it his own in case of relaxation of Bijapur control. He had evolved a separate civil administration and military establishment. "Gouri Mahal" was his palace and Nandi was his summer resort. When not engaged in military expeditions Kolar and Doddaballapur were his popular capitals. He controlled four principalities, Bangalore, Poona, Jagadeva Raya's territory and Kanakagiri. A number of Marathas such as Vedoji, Anantoji, Raghav Pandit, Ekoji, Sambhaji and others were working under his control at different places of the Karnatak. When he paid a visit to Poona in 1662, he was in a position to give his son, Shivaji, a good deal of useful information on matters relating to peace and war. The effects of Shahji's work in Bangalore could be seen even today after centuries of change, in the existence of several Maratha vestiges and families. Thus Shahji founded a Maratha state in the Karnatak before Shivaji thought of a Maharashtr state. Shahji was a powerful Maratha chieftain who had managed his affairs with so much of prudence as to have established himself in Bangalore against the opposition of Mysore. With such a man of high calibre and ability, the relations of Mysore would not be easy.

Under Ekoji the relations of Mysore with the Marathas were
not improved. Having inherited a well-filled treasury and a compact Maratha principality from his father, Ekoji grew indifferent to the declining Bijapur State and worked to make himself great in the Karnatak. An important achievement of Ekoji was his conquest of Tanjore in 1675. He did not retain his new conquest as a part of Bangalore principality. On the other hand, he shifted the capital from Bangalore to Tanjore. This was an unwise policy. The fatal consequences of such a policy were first, it dealt a death-blow to the Maratha interest in Bangalore, secondly it loosened the control of Bijapur over the Karnatak territories and lastly, it removed the main obstacle in the way of Mysore expansion in the north. To rescue the Karnatak territories the Bijapur Sultan appointed Jahangir Khan and Hussain Khan but Chikkadevaraja removed the Bijapur generals and occupied important places like Ketasamudra, Kandikere, Handalagere, Gulur, Tumkur, Hannavalli and Rommasamudra. The Bijapur control grew weak. Kolar and Doddaballapur became independent. Chikkadevaraja was active to undo the work of Bijapur and to destroy the Marathas in the Karnatak. The pressure of Mysore was such that Ekoji was unable to retain Bangalore any longer. He decided to sell it to the highest bidder in 1687. Chikkadevaraja was about to purchase it for 3 lakhs of rupees but then Khasim Khan, the Mughal general came and occupied Bangalore. The amount went to Khasim Khan instead of going to Tanjore treasury. On the whole Ekoji's wars with Doddadevaraja and Chikkadevaraja and his disposal of Bangalore did not create a favourable atmosphere for the two powers to live in amity.
The hostile relationship between the Mysoreans and the Marathas did not improve even during the lifetime of Shivaji. No one was keen on improving his relations with the other, with the result the under-current of hostility and calculation continued unabated between the two powers. Even before Shivaji came into armed conflict with Chikkadevaraja in 1677, he was in know of the developments in Mysore. As a boy, he knew the Mysore-Maratha rivalry. He visited Bangalore in 1640 along with his mother and tutor and stayed at his father's Maratha court for two years during his most impressionable years of precious boyhood. The Bangalore Maratha court, his father's intense political activities in the Karnatak, his constant frictions with the Karnatak chieftains, especially with the Raja of Mysore, Nandi, the popular Maratha summer resort, Kolar and Doddaballapur, the attractive Maratha capitals, all wielded a great influence on young Shivaji. It was in Bangalore his mind was shaped and his visions were broadened. It was also in Bangalore his first marriage was celebrated with due pomp and eclat. Although he knew the nature of relationship between Mysore and Shahji, he did not take any active part in Mysore-Maratha wars before 1677 and therefore we do not find any reference to this point in the contemporary Kannada sources.

Shivaji's Karnatak expedition of 1677 is an important landmark in the history of the Mysore-Maratha relations. Of course in the general history of the Marathas, it may appear as
a passing episode but viewed from the angle of Mysore history, it is an event of great significance. Shivaji undertook the Karnataka expedition in order to make his position strong politically and militarily. There were certain reasons for Shivaji’s invasion of Mysore. Shivaji was offended by Chikkadevaraja's territorial aggression. Chikkadevaraja seized Maratha territories because there was no proper Maratha control over those territories. Ekoji followed a very weak policy in transferring the Maratha capital from Bangalore to Tanjore. This facilitated Chikkadevaraja's task of conquering the Maratha territories around Bangalore easily. Moreover, Shivaji had spent a large amount of money on new fortifications which he had secured from the Gingee principality. Money was an urgent necessity. Mysore was a land of gold and hidden treasures. Shivaji thought that the loss in the Gingee principalit could conveniently be made good by launching an expedition to Mysore. Gold and land lured him to action. The keynote of his policy was conquest and consolidation of territories. The Kannada sources, literary and epigraphic, are unanimous in stating that Shivaji suffered discomfiture at the hands of Chikkadevaraja in the battle of Srirangapatna and that having subdued such a great Maratha leader, Chikkadevaraja assumed the title, "Apratima Vira" (unparalleled hero). Chikkadevaraja prevented the Marathas from making a permanent conquest in the kingdom of Mysore, the result the differences between the Mysoreans and the Marathas were further widened during the lifetime of Shivaji.
Several factors widened the gulf between the two powers. Chief among them were the ambition of Shivaji, the role of the local palsegars and the ability of the Mysore Raja. Shivaji was an ambitious person. How ambitious he was, could be seen in his conversation with the Sultan of Golconda. According to the Fairi Pakhar, one of the Marathi sources, Shivaji told the Sultan of Golconda that he would conquer the whole of India if he were to secure the help of Bijnur and Golconda. His ambition for gold and land prevented all possibilities of good relationship between the Mysoreans and the Marathas. The local palsegars were the disturbing factors in their relations. The chieftains of Morasu, Tigula, Areva, Kodaga and Malevar regions were either incompetent or unimaginative. Having suffered at the hands of Chikkadevaraja, these chieftains allied themselves with Shivaji and facilitated his task of robbing Srirangapatna easy. They helped him with men and materials thinking that their position would be improved. But their position went from bad to worse with the defeat of Shivaji by Chikkadevaraja. Thus the local palsegars contributed to widen the gulf between the two powers. Chikkadevaraja was an able ruler. He was strong in mind and bold in action. Unlike the Mysore Rajas of the 19th century, Chikkadevaraja led the army in person and conducted the military operations. He was an expert in night attacks. He had enough ability to surprise the enemies and enough dashing qualities to exploit the weakness of his opponents. Chikkadevaraja was contesting for power. Similarly the Marathas were also contesting for power in the south. Consequently, the
relations between the two powers were strained greatly.

Shivaji marched and conquered Kolar, Doddaballapur, Chikka-
ballapur, Sira in the Karnatak and left them to the charge of the
Rango Narayan and Manoji More. In the light of these acquisitions
and several other conquests made in the north Karnatak it is diffi­
cult to agree with J.N. Sarkar's view that Shivaji conquered "No
man's land" in the Karnatak during the course of his return journey
from the Coleroon. The Kannada inscriptions found in Kolar and
Doddaballapur speak of several Karnatak chieftains ruling over those
territories.

Also during the time of Sambhaji the relations of Mysore
with the Marathas did not improve. Chikkađevaraja lived long enough
to witness the falling fortunes of the Marathas in the Karnatak.
Sambhaji knew this Mysore-Maratha rivalry. Before he came to power
in 1680, he had acted as the Governor of Karnatak territories and
gained sufficient knowledge of the Karnatak politics. He sent in Harjí
Mahadlik from Maharashtra to control and regulate the Maratha
territories in the Karnatak as also to check the progress of Chikka-
devaraja in the south. Anyway three distinct factors could be seen
working to widen the gulf between the two powers. They were the ex-
panstionist policy of Chikkadevaraja, the Mughal intervention and
the role of Harjí Mahadlik. Chikkadevaraja was an ambitious ruler
and his policy was the extension of Mysore kingdom towards the
north and the south. The confusion that followed the death of
Shivaji was an occasion for Chikkadevaraja to start his aggressive
policy. He extended his zone of influence upto Sira. As a counter measure, Varji Mahadik with the help of Dadaji and Jaitaji went and laid siege to Thampapuri in Salem District. The Mysore army marched to the scene of action and raised the siege. The occupation of some territories in Madura and of Panavara and other Maratha places around Bangalore by Chikka-devaraja avoided all possibilities of better relations between the two powers. Secondly, the Mughals began intervening in the affairs of the Karnatak from 1680. Dilir Khan, a Mughal general invaded the Karnatak but was beaten off by Sambhaji at Nandi in 1680. Aurangzeb descended to the Deccan to uproot the Marathas. Chikka-devaraja joined Aurangzeb against the Marathas. The Mysore-Mughal understanding was a serious threat to the Marathas. Chikka-devaraja had two objectives in view. First, he desired to destroy Bijapur which was responsible for the establishment of the Marathas in the Karnatak. Secondly, it was his intention to destroy the Marathas. To realise these objectives he joined Aurangzeb. The opportunity to reduce Bijapur came in 1686. Chikka-devaraja supported Aurangzeb and in token of his alliance sent a part of his army to join the Mughals. Bijapur fell in September 1686. This awakened the Marathas. Sambhaji launched forth his Karnatak expedition the same year. From 1686 the Mughals intensified their activities in greater part of the Karnatak. Khasim Khan, Zulfikar Khan, Daud Khan and Deedar Bux were active creating trouble for the Marathas.
Was Chikkadevaraja sincere in his alliance with Aurangzeb? He was not sincere with Aurangzeb. He courted Mughal friendship in order to promote his own interests. He knew both the Mughals and the Marathas were dangerous enemies. It was not his desire to depose the Marathas and accommodate the Mughals in Mysore. He wished to be friendly with the Mughals because they were the only strong power in the south with whose support he could create awe in the minds of the Marathas in Mysore. The establishment of the Maratha court at Bangalore, their steady progress in the Karnataka, their subjugation of the petty paelgars and their constant threat drove Chikkadevaraja to make friendship with Aurangzeb. The sending of an embassy to the Mughal court was a significant event in the life of Chikkadevaraja. Aurangzeb was glad to know from the ambassador that Maratha aggression was checked by the Mysore ruler. On the whole it was a diplomatic move designed by Chikkadevaraja to secure the friendship of Aurangzeb in order to keep the Marathas at bay. Had the Marathas lived in amity with Mysore, Chikkadevaraja would have cared the Mughals very little.

Of all the Maratha generals such as Vedoji Pant, Anantoji, Raghav Pandit, Ekoji, Sambhaji, Santaji, Dadaji Kadaie, Jaitaji Katkar and Nimbalkar it was Harji who played an important role in the Karnataka and contributed to widen the gulf between Mysore and the Marathas. He was an able and resourceful general. He fought against Mysore and missed no opportunity to extend his zone of
influence and increase his prestige as the foremost Maratha general in the Karnatak. Harji's war against Mysore at Trichinopoly in 1682, his sending of the Maratha generals such as Dadaji, Jaitaji Katkar and Nimbalkar to reduce Mysore, his defeat of Kumaraivva, the Mysore Palyoy at Trichinopoly, his support to Sambhaji in Mysore wars of 1682 and 1686 and his efforts to check the progress of the Mysoreans and the Mughals in the Karnatak elevate him to the rank of the foremost Maratha generals in the Karnatak. On the whole the territorial aggrandisement of the Maratha general led to the clash of interests with Mysore, with the result Mysore never lived on friendly terms with the Marathas. Thus the expansionist policy of Chikkadevaraja, the Mughal intervention and Harji's disturbance in the Karnatak did not bring Mysore and the Marathas closer together under Sambhaji.

The traditional policy of hostility continued between the two powers during the life time of Rajaram. Although Pajaram never waged a single battle against the Mysore Raja, his generals such as Dhanaji and Santaji Ghorpade contributed enough to poison the relations of Mysore with the Marathas. They moved from one place to another causing great disturbance in the Mysore kingdom. If Harji Mahadik could be regarded as an able Maratha general in the south during the time of Sambhaji, Santaji Ghorpade too could be considered as the protector of the Maratha interests in the south during the time of Rajaram. Santaji was the hero of this time. He had resisted the Mughals at Rednur. He had
showed remarkable military skill in the battle of Channapatna against the Mysore army. Being defeated by Chikkadevaraja, he had changed the theatre of war to the northern region of Madura where the Mysore interest was predominant. He had seized the Mysore territories and even occupied Trichinopoly, a disputed place between Mysore and Madura. He had also participated in the last Mysore-Maratha war of 1696, put up a stout resistance against the Mysore army and had been overwhelmed. He had never attempted to narrow down the differences and to live in amity with Mysore. He was an ambitious general and it was his ambition that was responsible for the unending rivalry between the Marathas and the Mysoreans. His dazzling military career in the south came to an end in October 1696 when he quarrelled with Rajaram over the question of holding the post of Senapati. His death in 1697 was a severe blow to the Maratha fortunes in the south.

The second factor that widened the gulf between the Mysore Raja and the Marathas was the Mughal activities. The Mughals intensified their activities in the south when Rajaram took flight from Panhala to Gingee. The Mughal generals such as Khasim Khan, Zulfikar Khan, Deadar Bux and Kam Bakhsha invaded the south in order to exterminate the Marathas. The Maratha-Mughal rivalry wielded a great influence on the Mysore-Maratha relations. The Marathas did not reconcile to the Mysore-Mughal contact. Mysore could not think of defeating the Marathas without the Mughal support because they were the only strong power
in the south. Chikkadevaraja was a clever ruler. He knew that both the Mughals and the Marathas were his dangerous enemies. It was not his intention to reduce the Marathas with a view to accommodating the Mughals in the south. His object was to promote his own interests. In order to realise his ambition, he was prepared to help any one who would assist him. If the Marathas had adjusted their relations with Mysore, Chikkadevaraja would have cared the Mughals very little. The existence of the Maratha kingdom and the Maratha policy of expansion in the south drove Chikkadevaraja to make friendship with Aurangzeb. When Rajaram and his followers came to the south and established the Maratha Government at Gingee with civil separate and military establishments, Chikkadevaraja strengthened his relationship with the Mughals, further by sending an embassy to the Mughal court. On the whole the Mughals stood in the way of better relations between the Mysore Raja and the Marathas. The withdrawal of Rajaram and his followers from Gingee and the consequent difficulties that followed for the Marathas had practically brought to a close the unhappy relationship between the two powers during the 17th century.

On the whole the relations of Mysore with the Marathas under Shahji, Shivaji, Sambhaji and Rajaram were not friendly. In the face of the vigorous resistance put up by the Mysore Rajas, the Marathas were not able to subjugate Mysore. The loss of Bangalore in 1687 was a terrible blow to the Maratha interest in
the South. The Maratha power declined towards the end of the 17th century in the Karnatak. This was because of the abilities of the Mysore Rajas. Kanthirava, Dodda Devaraja and Chikkadeva-ruja toiled with great ambition and imperious will and with the most delicate diplomacy and intrigues. They were all great generals, personally led the army to the battle field and conducted military operations. They enlarged Mysore, raised its power to a high pitch and brought it into contact with such big powers as Bijapur and the Mughals. It was difficult for the Marathas to reduce such men of high calibre and establish their rule over Mysore. The notable point in the Mysore-Maratha relations was the keen contest for power and the ambition to fill up the political gap that was caused by the disappearance of central authority in South India. On the whole the Mysore-Maratha relations had never been friendly throughout the 17th century as revealed in the Kannada sources.