CHAPTER X.

Sambhaji in Mysore, 1666-1680: Battles of Srirangapatna and Trichinopoly.

While we have some details concerning Raja Sambhaji's activities after his enthronement in Maharashtra consequent on the death of his father Shivaji, we know practically little or nothing concerning his doings in Mysore before that event especially during the last 14 years of Shivaji's life. Several inscriptions found in Mysore State throw plenty of light on the activities of Sambhaji in Mysore before 1680.

According to Sabhasad Shivaji had two sons, the eldest of whom, born of Sai Bai, was called Sambhaji. He saw light on 14th May 1657 at Purandar. He seems to have been married when he was quite young boy. His wife issued a grant in Kolar taluk. An inscription found at Huttur, Kolar taluk, dated 20th January A.D. 1666 says that "Jayati Bayi Amma, lawful wife of Sambhaji Raja, the son of Shivaji Raja of the kausika gotra and Bhosala family made to Bhavuji Pant, a grant". There is no room for discussion on the point of identity of Sambhaji for, the epigraph explicitly says

1. Sarkar consistently spells Sambhaji as Shambuji, and Shambhu see his Shivaji and His Times (3rd ed) P.142, 153 etc. but the Marathi, Kannada and Sanskrit records call him Sambhaji.
2. Sabhasad, Siva Chatrapaticen Caritra (1830), P.8.
that Sambhaji was the son of Shivaji Raja. The wife Jayita Bai is the kannada version of Marathi Jeu Bai. Perhaps Jayita Bai was married to Sambhaji when he was just 9 years old. Another inscription issued four years later by the same queen confirms the inference. That inscription was found at Jannapalli, Kolar taluk and dated Monday 21st March 1670. It states that by order of the queen (matru) Jayita Bayiamma, the Sugatur hobali Havaldar Vithala Panditaraya and Brahmins of the Agrahara made a grant. According to these two epigraphs, Huttur and Sugatur in the Kolar taluk came to be administered by the Maratha power till 1670.

Now these two epigraphs do not make mention of Sambhaji's presence in person at the above mentioned places. On the contrary his wife's presence was clearly stated. Where exactly Sambhaji was? Whether he was in Maharashtra or Karnataka is the problem now to be solved. On the basis of Sabhasad, Sarkar says that "Shivaji took leave of his family at Rajgarh and began his journey to North India, about the third week of March, 1666, with his eldest son Shambhuji, seven trusty chief officers and 4000 troops." Towards the end of December in the same year he was at Hayagad. Then consequent on the agreement made in 1668 between Shivaji and Aurangzeb, Sambhaji was sent to the viceroy's court at Aurangabad. After an interview with the Viceroy, Sambhaji was made Commander

1. Ibid K1.224, P.64, text, P.73: Sadhuranada samvatsarada caitra su 10 – lu srimatu Jayita bayiamma navara appani Sugatur hobali Havaladar rajasri vithala pandita rayanana navara runnu-agrahara raja mahajanangalu saha ...

of 5000 and assigned a Jagir in Mirar. Therefore, according to Sabhasad Sambhaji had been away in north India and was not found in Mysore. How to reconcile the two sources of information? My inference is that Sambhaji went to Maharashtra from Mysore in order to accompany his father to Delhi after handing over the responsibilities of the administration of Kolar to his wife Jayita Bai. It may be questioned that how an young lady was placed to govern the territory? The answer is clearly supplied by the inscription which says that by the order of Jayita Payiama a charitable grant was made by Vithala Pandita. This means that Vithala Pandita who had made the grant must have occupied a responsible position. In the light of this we can say that Vithala Pandita was acting as viceregal Chief Minister to help the inexperienced lady on the throne.

Nextly on the eve of the death of his father Shivaji in 1680 Sambhaji seems to have been in Mysore with his residence at Nandi from where, according to the epigraphic record, he repulsed the invasion of the Muslims. To understand how Sambhaji had been to Nandi at the time of his father's death requires a slight retrospective study.

Sabhasad informs us how Shivaji called upon his son Sambhaji to bear the burden of the administration of some portion of distant Karnataka which he conquered during his daring southern expedition of 1677. Shivaji addresses his son as follows:— "Thou Sambhaji

art one; and Rajaram is the second. So I shall divide all my kingdom into two. The kingdom of Gingee, stretching from Tungabhadra to the Kaveri, is one kingdom. The second is a kingdom on the other side of the Tungabhadra, extending up to the river Godavari. Such are the two kingdoms (I have). Thou art my eldest son, I confer on the kingdom of the Karnatak; the kingdom on this side I give to Rajaram." The newly conquered area of the Karnatak seems to have consisted of seventy-nine forts which were "newly conquered" by Shivaji, according to Sabhasad. Among these forts, districts of Kolar and Ballapura over the Ghats, besides Bhor, Kot, Kolar figure prominently. The newly conquered Karnatak of Shivaji extended from the Tungabhadra right up to the Kaveri comprising several important districts like Kolar, Dodda Ballapura, Gingee and Vellore. It was to this Karnatak area, Sambhaji was invited by his dying father. At first Sambhaji obeyed the order of his father, but later changed his tone and refused the offer. How strongly Shivaji felt sad on the occasion can be clearly made out from his last words to his courtiers: "I am going to Kailasa to see the Sri, feeling that my body was growing weak, I said to my eldest son Sambhaji - 'you two are my sons. I am dividing the kingdom between you and you two should live in amity'. So I said, but the eldest son Sambhaji RAJE did not listen to (this counsel), it seems my end has come." Shivaji then, celebrated the marriage of

2. Ibid P.15; Ibid P.145.
Rajaram at Raygad on 15th March 1680 and on that occasion "the elder son, Sambhaji Raje, was not present".

Shivaji died in the year 1680 and at that time Sambhaji was away. Where was Sambhaji at this time? To this, answer is supplied by the Mysore inscription. A record found at Nandi hill, Chikka Ballapura Taluk, dated A.D.1680 says:

Obsequance to Nandiswara. In the east of the Karnataka country is the mountain named Nandi, very lofty and impregnable, with only one path, filled with Champaka, asvatha (trees). At the very top the huge cliff is adorned with a temple. In the Ballapura kingdom, the great mountain was made a hill fort, being reckoned a secure protection from the fear of enemies. In order to seize the hill fort, a Mlenchha came with a great force but at length was beaten off greatly distressed.

(On the date specified), Siva-Chatrapati's son Sambaji-Raje is ruling here in peace. And the durgadhikari (or governor of hill forts) Balaji Krishna, governing the Jagadeva hill-forts, here, in pursuance of Raghu-natha Pandita's orders, took over the command (or possession) of his fine hill fort).

2. Sabhasad, op.cit, P.89; Sen, op.cit, P.153.
4. E.C. X, CB 32, P.205, text, P.250:

Sri Nandisvaraya namah
dese karnatke purve parvato Nandi namakah
aty unnato abhedyar cha margenaikena samyutah
champakasvatha - naringa tamalaih paritas srityah
atyuchchrayo maha - vapro devalaya - vishudevah
rajye Ballapurasyaiva durgam kritva maha girim
mene satru bhayat tratum svayam asti vinischitam

(continued)
According to this inscription Sambhaji was living peacefully in Chikkaballapura in that year. This epigraph also implies that Sambhaji made Nandi hill as his summer resort as his grandfather Shahji used to. Now the problem is who the daring Mlechha was that besieged the fort? Mlechha means a Muslim. So the Muslim that came as far as Nandi hill was no other than Dilir Khan, the Moghal Commander.

In A.D. 1679 Dilir Khan declared war against the Sultan of Bijapur and caused incalculable havoc around the southern region of Bijapur; but his whole plan was shattered to pieces owing to the intrigues practised by Shah Alam relying on whose letter Augangzeb wrote a strong letter to Dilir Khan as follows: "You have neither protected my dominions nor gained your object. Withdraw quickly from the siege of Bijapur".

In the meanwhile, on the 30th Nov 1679 Sambhaji escaped from Bijapur. On 29th January 1680, losing all hope of fighting against Bijapur, Dilir Khan retraced his steps. When his hopes were foiled, Dilir Khan gave vent to his worst passions and roamed about like a mad dog, slaying and looting. During his return journey he besieged Sagar but being defeated by Ram Nayak its ruler, he was disgraced.

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The date is worked out by Swamikannu Pillai, An Indian Ephemeris, Vol.VI, P.163. (for foot-note 1 and 2 please see next page)
and recalled, while returning he moved northwards along the east side of Mijapur perpetrating horrible cruelties on the populace. 1

Sambhaji was ruling peacefully in Chikkaballapura which is fairly a big town, 36 miles north-west of Kolar. We know on the 21st February 1680 Dilir Khan, having sustained defeat at the hands of Pam Nayaka, moved northwards. It was from Sagar which lies north-west of Mysore that the Khan was driven out. It is possible that Dilir Khan heard about Sambhaji, staying in Chikkaballapura and therefore decided to attack him. It is likely that he had never forgotten the hide and seek which Sambhaji played in the previous year. Therefore Dilir Khan made a sudden dash on the hill fort with all his forces but as the epigraphic record points out "was beaten off greatly distressed" by Krishnaji Pant, Governor of the fort under Sambhaji. The Muslim general has therefore, been contemptuously styled in this inscription as a Mlenchha which implies merely a non-Hindu. No other general invaded any part of Maratha kingdom in this portion of Karnataka in this year. According Khafi Khan two princes, Akbar and Muazzam came as far as Baglan 2 part of Sambhaji's territory but no mention is made of the prince Akbar, as having come to any part of the Mysore State, much less Chikkaballapura. The other prince, Muhammad Muazzam was ordered by Aurangzeb, after his arrival at Aurangabad in A.D.1681 "to reduce the fort of Salir near the fort of

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2. Elliot and Dowson, History of India, VII, P.309.
Malir in Baglana which had been held for some time by the Marathas. Prince Muazzam penetrated into Konkan .... laid waste in all directions .......” But he was soon recalled. Here also Khafi Khan makes no mention of prince Muazzam invading the Mysore territory where Maratha interest was dominant. Therefore it is clear that the Mlenchha referred to was Dilir Khan.

The next point for consideration is from what date Sambhaji had been ruling at Chikkaballapura and during which month the battle really took place between Dilir Khan and Sambhaji.

According to Sabhasad, Sambhaji was not present by the side of his father at the time of the latter's death. It is known that in A.D.1668 Sambhaji was appointed commannder of 5,000 horse and sent to Berar. Sabhasad says for two years a Maratha contingent of one thousand horse under Pratap Rao Gujar, lived in Berar “feeding themselves at the expense of the Moghal dominion”. But as soon as he heard of his father's death, as Khafi Khan relates, he proceeded to his country: “When Sivaji was dead his wretched son Sambha desired to surpass his father. He raised the standard of rebellion and on 15th February, 1680, he attacked Kakar Khan Afghan, who acted as the Collector of Jizya, under Khan Zaman, the Subedar of the Dakhin. Sambha was returning with nearly 20,000 men from a plundering expedition in Berar. He made a forced march .... and

1. Ibid, P.311,  
2. Sabhasad, op.cit, P.89, Sen, op.cit., P.149.  
3. Ibid.
made his attack, while his victims were entirely ignorant of his approach. Thus he fell upon Bahadurpur". But owing to a misunderstanding, the Mughal general failed to attack Sambhaji, who, evading the Mughals, went to Salir (Saller) in Baglan". From this account of Khafi Khan it is clear that until the 15th Feb. 1680, Sambhaji was not in Chikkaballapura and that he must have arrived at this place probably towards the end of this month. An English letter written from the Bombay council to Surat, on 26th April 1680 says "we have certain news that Shivaji Rajah is dead, it is now 23 days since he diseased

...... Sambhaji Rajah is at Panhala".

Therefore it is evident that the driving away of the Khunchha as is mentioned in the inscription must have taken place between February and April of 1680 and that Sambhaji was in Chikkaballapura from the end of February upto the 3rd week of April 1680.

The date given in the epigraph falls on 21st July 1680. Relying on this calculated date, we can not certainly say that Sambhaji continued to be in Chikkaballapura from the end of February as to 21st July 1680, for already pointed out we have got the Factory record which says that by 28th April 1680 Sambhaji was at Panhala. Further Jedhe Sakavali says that "on 18th June 1680, Sambhaji entered Raigad, assumed powers and imprisoned Rajaram; and on

1. Elliot and Dowson: History of India as told by her own Historians, Vol.VII, P.306.
4. Sakabda Sahasram dvi-tri-Sata-dve-varshe Raudra Sravana-Suddh, Shashtyam, Budhe Cha Vare.
20th July 1680 ascended the throne. Therefore what we can infer from the above statements is that while Sambhaji seated on the throne of Raygad peacefully, he ordered his officer in the Karnatak to issue the inscription in his name on the 21st July 1680. Therefore the inscription is dated 21st July 1680.

Now we shall examine whether the statements regarding Maratha officers mentioned in the epigraph are correct. The epigraph says that Balaji Krishna who was in charge of Jagadeva hill forts, in pursuance of Raghunath Pandita's orders, took over the command of the fort of Chikkaballapura itself. This statement is amply corroborated by Sabhasad who says that after defeating Venkoji with the assistance of Hambir Rao, Raghunath Pant, dismissed him and sent him over to his master Shivaji. Then "Raghunath Pant himself, on that side, raised an army of 10,000 horse, Paga and Silledar in the Karnatak and lived there and maintained the kingdom. The flight of Ekoji took place in July 1677 and Shivaji must have occupied this region in the same year. Therefore it is evident that Balaji Krishna took charge of the fort of Chikkaballapura in obedience to the orders of Raghunatha Narayan who was placed in charge of Karnatak by Shivaji.

2. Sabhasad, op.cit. P.76; Sen, op.cit, pp.128-129.
4. Shivaji and His Times, pp.311-312 (By Sarkar).
Reign of Sambhaji, 1680-1682.

Sambhaji arrived in Maharashtra only in June 1680, two months after the passing away of his father, Shivaji. His fondness for wine and flesh, his indulgence in loose talks and low tastes had shattered all the high hopes that Shivaji entertained about him. The last days of Shivaji were filled with gloom and anxiety. Court-intrigues, question of succession and jealousy and rivalry among the Generals, - all combined to hasten his early death.

Soyara Bai, the eldest surviving wife of Shivaji, taking advantage of the confusing situation at court as well as the absence of Sambhaji had resolved to put her son, Rajaram on the throne. Rajaram was then, a lad of 10 years, having been born on 24th Feb. 1670.

Soyara Bai, with her persuasive tongue convinced most of her late husband's advisers and nobles, who gathered in the court, of the possible danger to her State and community of allowing Sambhaji to succeed to the throne. By holding out prospects of booty and honour to them, she proceeded to work out her plan. On 8th April 1680, three days after the death of her husband, Soyara Bai proclaimed her son Rajaram as king at Raigarh. The leaders in general,

2. Jedhe Sakaval - Shivaji Souvenir, P.17, Kincaid and Parasnis (A.H.Y.P., P.115) say that Rajaram was 19 years of age at the time of crowning which needs revision. Sarkar (Aurangzeb,IV, P.240) says that Rajaram was aged 13 years. This also needs revision.
the army in particular were never consulted; it was the work of only a small group. In fact the Maratha army which strove hard for the glory of Maharashtra received nothing at this change of masters. Naturally they looked up to Sambhaji who was ripe with experience both in the art of government and guerilla warfare.

In the meanwhile as soon as Sambhaji heard the news of the death of his father, he proceeded with rapid speed from Chikka-ballapur to Maharashtra. On his way Sambhaji halted at Panhala for some time. Having come to know of his arrival, several disappointed soldiers proceeded to Panhala to lend their support to the prince. An English letter written from Rajapora to Surat dated 19th April 1680 says:

"Sambhaji Rajah has taken up his quarters at Panhala, where goes daily to him abundance of soldiers". 1

On 21st April 1680 Anaji Pant arrested Sambhaji at Panhala and put him in prison, probably at the instance of Soyara Bai. Shortly afterwards, Sambhaji killed the Kiladar, took possession of Panhala and prepared for a march on Raigad.

The letter of 27th April 1630 informs us that

"Sambhaji has taken upon himself to govern and title of king". 4

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Sambhaji with a well-disciplined army of 20,000 men, marched on Raigarh and meeting with no opposition, he took possession of it on the 18th June 1680.¹

E.I. Company letter of 26th June informs us that "he (Sambhaji) being now gone for Rairy".²

Having gone to Rairi, he took easy possession of it for Rajaram meekly submitted to him as he had no capacity to face his brother in an open battle. A Government may be rich in resources, but what is the use of it if it is not held by a mighty, powerful and resourceful prince?

Shambhaji seems to have inaugurated his reign in a happy manner and with great promises. The English letter of 12th July 1680 written from Bombay to Surat says:

"Sambaghe Rajah is now at Rairy; his young brother, he used with all kindness and continues as yet soe to doc Annajee Pundit ..... is alive but in great trouble and laden with chains ..... Sambaghe declared publicly Rajah; he hath an army of 20,000 men now together, what he designs them is not knowne; report speaks of him very diligent and careful".³

¹. Shivaji Souvenir, P.25.
Bloody beginning of Sambhaji's reign: Sambhaji, short-tempered and short-sighted never understood the utility of winning love and confidence of his near and dear relatives, courtiers and outsiders which were absolutely essential during those troubled months. On the contrary he invited enmity and hatred from all sides by his intolerant behaviour which sealed his doom within so short a period of ten years. Entering the private apartment of Soyarabai he rebuked her in all abusive tongue charging her having poisoned the late king, in order to secure the throne for her son. On this pretence of guilt he inflicted a most horrible punishment. Two hundred Maratha ladies who supported Soyarabai were beheaded. Other nobles suspected of participation were beheaded and their houses and property were thrown open to plunder by the soldiery. After thwarting all those who opposed him, he made his way safe for the coronation ceremony.\(^1\)

He formally ascended the throne on 20th July 1680.\(^2\) Then the coronation ceremony was performed with due splendour on 16th January 1681.\(^3\)

Sambhaji did not begin his reign in a happy augury for thousands of schemes were planned and consequently thousands of troubles arose.

Report of 20th Aug. 1680 says: "Sambhaji Rajah intends, after the rains, to give Bahadur Khan (Subahdar of Mughal Deccan) battle in open field and has sent him word as much".\(^4\)

4. (continued)
10th Nov.1680. "We are alarmed of Maratha forces being abroad. A party of horse and foot is reported to be marching towards Surat, another against Burhanpur, a third to keep Bahadur Khan in play".

Condition of Karnataka on the eve of Sambhaji's coronation:— The news of the death of Shivaji administered a severe shock to most of the officers appointed to govern the conquered territories in Karnataka. Whether to continue in their own positions as ordered by Shivaji or recede from the service of this successor was the knotty and mighty problem that perplexed their minds.

Martin writes "The news of his (Shivaji's) death created a great confusion among the chief officers in these parts (i.e. the province of Jinji or eastern Karnataka). Some of them seemed to desire to stay in their governments and render themselves independent".

Though the officers of Karnataka recognised Sambhaji as their king, they were not free from doubts and fears on hearing the news that several principal officers of Maharashtra including Janardana Pandit were arrested and put in chains. According to the orders of Sambhaji, Raghunatha Narayan, the Governor of Gingee

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was arrested and put in prison in the last week of July 1680. 1

The Madras Diary of 1681 had recorded that Raghunatha Narayan was seized and put in irons by Santaji, a younger brother of Sivaji, on hearing a false rumour that Sambhaji was dead. 2

Sambhaji sent his brother-in-law, Harji Mahadik with Shamji Nayak Punde as his diplomatic adviser, to take charge of Gingee.

Jedhe Sakavali says: "Sambhaji sent Harji Raja Mahadik and Shamji Nayak with Jaitaji Katkar and Baji Kande to Karnatik with troops."

Shamji Nayak did not enjoy his position for long, for he was suspected of treason and imprisoned in Karnataka. 3

Assumption of royal authority in Maharashtra by Sambhaji, his arrest and imprisonment of several principal officers of the State; his new appointments of his own men in Karnatka and the arrest of Shamji Nayak on suspicion of treason in Karnatka - all threw the whole atmosphere of Karnataka into great chaos and confusion. This led many of the adventurous Marathas as well as the Hindu chieftains of the south to seek out their own advantages.

1. Sarkar: House of Shivaji, pp.219-220; Shivaji Souvenir, P.26. According to Jedhe Chronology, the event should have taken place after the accession of Sambhaji and before Aug.1680. Therefore it must have taken place in the last week of July 1680 not early in 1681 as has been assumed by C.S.Srinivasachari in his work, "History of Gingee and its rulers", P.237. Again Sarkar (House of Shivaji, P.223) assigns December 1680 to the arrest of Raghunath Narayan by Sambhaji which is wrong in the light of Jedhe Sakavali.

2. Ambika Bai, daughter of Shivaji by his first wife, was married to Harji Mahadik & she was the full sister of Sambhaji.

Ekoji, after the death of Shivaji, had completely repudiated the suzerainty of the Maratha king and as a subordinate officer of Sikandar, he had despatched forces to assist him during the siege of Bijapur. Further he and his son, Shahji II, had determined to appropriate as much territory as possible not only from the Nayak of Madura but from Shivaji's conquests in Karnataka as well. In undertaking this venture, he had not forgotten to tighten his grip over his own important possessions such as Bangalore, Kolar, Sira and several other places in the kingdom of Mysore. Proximity of Chikkadevaraja to the Maratha possessions in Mysore had been a night-mare to Ekoji who seems to have realized the wisdom of disposing off Bangalore to the highest bidder in the event his capacity proved a failure in holding the city which had been a focal point of attraction from various points of view to several powers of the South and the North.

Mysore which was coming into great prominence under the mighty ruler, Chikkadevaraja was always keeping an eye on the Maratha colonies of the south. Mysore came closer during the unhappy days of Sambhaji than that of Shivaji. The sound of the war-drum of Mysore would reverberate in Maharashtra and vice versa. By 1680 Chikkadevaraja had conquered a number of impregnable hill-forts and brought the sphere of influence of Mysore practically coterminous with Shahji's possession of Sira in the Karnataka-Bijapur-Balaghat. Chikkadevaraja was at the height of his power.

Taking advantage of the political confusion that followed the accession of Sambhaji, Chikkadevaraja projected a campaign of conquest; and the target of attack was first aimed at Ikkeri whose ruler was Channammaji, a woman of great abilities and talents. Her political dealings with Sambhaji and the Sultan of Golkonda, perhaps to recover some of her territories lost to Mysore, had irritated Chikkadevaraja. The latter despatched a huge army under the generalship of Kumaraiya, who by forced marches, came and encamped at Vasudharem. In the middle of 1680 a bloody battle was fought between the two armies of Ikkeri and Mysore in which the latter were completely defeated. The might of Kumaraiya was crushed; the army suffered heavily in dead and wounded and Vasudharem and other fortified territories were taken possession of by Channammaji.

From 1680-1681 Channammaji, as a step against the further encroachments of the Mysore ruler, took possession of Kadur, Banavara, Hassan and Belur and took precautionary measures to guard the southern frontiers.

In spite of this reverse, Chikkadevaraja was not disheartened.

Mysore and Maharashtra meet at Trichinopoly 1682.

Chikkadeva Raja who assumed the great title of 'Apratima Vira' by vanquishing no less a daring invader and adventurer than Shivaji

2. Ke.N.V., IX, P.133, Vs.8, 9, 10.
   V.9: Mâyavadigalurudala Vazi Kumaraiyanadatanduugisi balamam Nöysi Vasudhäreya Kama Niya paristharamam Karam Vashageyda. See also Keladi samsthânade Pâyara Vamsëvali P.54.
in the neighbourhood of Srirangapatna had to sustain a great
discomfiture at the hands of a woman-ruler of Ikkeri. Deeply
foiled in his project, Chikkadevaraja resolved to try his luck
in the direction of the South which was to him a place of great
interest to display his war-like genius. Ekoji's repudiation of
the suzerainty of the Maratha king in preference to that of a
Sultan and the acquisitions of his (Shivaji's) conquests one after
another forgetting the 19 clauses of his brother might have probably
led the ruler of Mysore to attempt similar conquests in the South.

Importance of Trichinopoly. Trichinopoly was the target aimed
at by Chikkadevaraja towards the end of 1681, but this place was
of great importance and anxiety to several powers involved in the
affairs of the South. Madura was ever on the guard in Trichinopoly
to prevent any possible attack from outside; Harji Mahadik had
established his authority safely over the Gingee kingdom and was
taking keen interest on the shifting politics of the south; Mysore
hand being frustrated in its designs by putting its in the affairs of
Ikkeri, stretched its arms towards Trichinopoly to grab at any-
thing available to it; Ekoji had already opened his campaign of
conquests and had been waiting to take up any side if it were to
gratify his ambition for 'land'.

The object of the Expedition to Trichinopoly. The main object
with which Chikkadevaraja set out on his expedition to Trichinopoly

Chikkadevaraja was requested by Madura Nayak to repudiate the
rule of usurper-commander in Madura is not based on fact. It
is only a guess work.
was to gain in the Madura kingdom what he had lost in the Bednore kingdom. Wilks says:

"Thus relieved from the hostility on the west his increasing power and resources encouraged him ..... to turn again his attention to the South East and to plan the conquest of the dominions of the Nayak of Madura." ¹

Kumaraiya defeats Madura army: Dalavay Kumaraiya was despatched with a big army, who soon arrived by forced marches and invested the fort of Trichinopoly, ² which became the battle ground for several ambitious powers. It was a matter of serious concern and alarm to Madura. The usurper-commander namely Rustam Khan who seized the authority of the ruler of Madura for himself, although Chokkalinga was there on the throne for name-sake, was greatly confused and confounded at the developing situation in Trichinopoly, the part and parcel of Madura. Supported by his cavalry, he delivered an attack on the encamping army of Mysore which repulsed him ignominiously. At last he hastened to the capital where he was murdered. The Jesuit letter says that Rustam Khan's inability to conduct the defence powerfully & effectively led to a plot which brought his end.

¹. History of Mysore Vol.1, pp.114-115. The date he assigns to this event is not acceptable in the light of Jesuit letters which affix the event correctly to the early part of Chikkadeva's reign.
². Annals I, P.113 says that Kumaraiya and other reputed generals went there at the head of a big army only to exact the arrears of contribution from the Madura ruler due since (1667-1668): Mys.Raj.Cha. 28.
The Jesuit letter of 1682 says:

"Kumara Raya (Dalavai Kumaraia) the Mysore general attacked Trichinopoly with a strong army; the commander of the place (Rustam Khan), enticed by the enemy made an imprudent sally, fell into an ambuscade and lost nearly all his cavalry in it when he returned to the citadel, Sokkalina helped by his devoted friends, fell on him and massacred him with the Muhammadans who accompanied him".

The formation of a confederacy: The shamefaced withdrawal of Rustam Khan from the field of action and his subsequent assassination at Madura had created new hopes and aspirations and restored confidence in Dalvai Kumaraia hoping to take the defenceless Trichinopoly into his hand without meeting any opposition nearby. But misfortune attacked him heavily that his visions, expectations, hopes and aspiration were dashed to the ground with the arrival of Harji Mahadik and Ekoji in Trichinopoly to aid Chokkanath who was engrossed in life and death struggle against the Mysore General. The formation of this formidable confederacy consisting of Ekoji of Tanjore, Harji Mahadik of Gingee & Maravas against the Mysore General was a significant event in the history of Mysore-Maratha relations in sixteen eightes.

1. Nayaks of Madura, P.286.
Jedhe Sakhavali says: "Haraji Mahadik, Jaitaji Katkar and Dadaji Kakade had been in Karnatik to help Trichinopoly where they came in conflict with the forces of Shrirangapatan". 1

The Jesuit letter of 1682 says:

"Delivered from the domestic enemy, the Nayak found himself surrounded by four large armies, the first was that of Kumara Raya who besieged him; the second that of the Maravas, who came on the pretext of defending their sovereign but whose object was to get their share of pillage; the third was that of Arasumalai, general of Sambogi; the fourth that of Rkoji. The two latter pretended to help the Nayak who had called them; but their real motive was to repulse the army of Mysore "whose proximity they feared". 2

There was strong reasons for Harji Mahadik to support Chokkanatha. Soon after the assumption of his office as the Governor of Gingee in March 1681, Harji Mahadik along with Dadaji and Jaitaji started his adventurous career in seizing territories belonging to Mysore and Madura. Before the investment of Trichinopoly, a band of Marathas under the able leadership of Harji, Dadaji and Jaitaji had laid siege to the fort of Dharmapuri (in the east of Mysore) Salem Di for a period of eight months. The Mysoreans proceeding rapidly to

1. Shivaji Souvenir, P.27.
2. Nayaks of Madura, pp.236-287; see also P.132. Satyanath Aiyar assigns 1680 to be the possible date of the Mysorean siege of Trichinopoly (Ibid, P.181): J.Carkar refers the siege in March 1683 (Aurangzeb, V, P.53); S.K.Aiyangar (Sources P.312 F.N.) on the basis of Mackenzie manuscript refers the siege of (continued)
the scene of action, taught them the lessons at the tip of
the sword; and consequently the Marathas fled terror-stricken
taking their stand ultimately in Samyaminipattanam1 (Southern
Dharmapuri). Since then Harji Mahadik started hostility towards
Mysore. Paradoxically where ever Mysore came into collision
with its neighbouring powers, Harji Mahadik, seizing that opportu-
nity tried to give his own arms against Mysore loyally supporting
its enemy.

Likewise no sooner the appeal was made by the Nayak
to Harji Mahadik for military aid against Mysore than he appeared
at the head of an army. Ekoji too followed in the foot steps
of Harji. Thus all the Marathas stood united with Chokkanath
before the walls of Trichinopoly against Mysore.

Kumaraiya sued for peace: Stunned at the unexpected and un-
natural combination of the Marathas, Kumaraiya felt the futility
of encountering the gigantic forces with inadequate resources
and troops inferior in number; and therefore he tried diplomacy
in order to overcome the danger hanging over him.

The Jesuit letter says: "Kumara Raya, realizing that it was
impossible for him to resist such armies with troops
so inferior in number, offered peace to the Nayak

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Trichinopoly by Kumaraiya along with Shivaji and Ekoji and Kumaraiya’s
defeat and retreat to Mysore at the hands of Shivaji. This is
utter false. The above stated sources require revision. Jedhe
Sakhavall makes mention of the siege of Trichinopoly as having taken
place in chaitra, Saka 1604 Dundubhi 1682. The Jesuit letters
(Nayaks, 286-287) seem to echo that the siege took place subsequent
to March 1682. Therefore it is definite that the siege took place
in the early months of 1682.

promising to preserve his kingdom for him and reestablish the successors of the ancient Nayaks of Tanjore and Gingee.\(^1\)

Revival of the rule of the Nayaks of Gingee and Tanjore by expelling the Marathas and respect for the territorial integrity of Madura - these promises of Kumaraia were disbelieved by Chokkanatha whose suspicion about everything good or bad was already well-known. As is the dictum "suspicion haunts the guilty mind", the guilty mind of Chokkanatha suspected the good faith of Kumaraia.

**Chokkanatha - the idle spectator:** If Chokkanatha had cared for his country's freedom, the better course would have been to cement the alliance with Kumaraia who had voluntarily come forward offering a friendly help and to make an united front to uproot the rule of the Marathas. But unluckily the chance was missed. Chokkanatha liked to remain an idle and unconcerned spectator when time demanded of him statecraft, diplomacy and activity. His supine nature provided food for the adventurers to swallow. Harji Mahadik gratified his ambition by devouring as much territories as possible in the South.

The Jesuit letter of 1682 says:

"Undoubtedly the wisest course would have been to make a league with the king of Mysore to chase the Marathas".\(^2\)

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1. Nayaks of Madura, P.287.
2. Ibid.
Kumaraiya opened negotiations with Harji: When such was the attitude of Chokkanath, how could he overcome the calamity in which he and his followers were involved? Diplomatic Kumaraiya next, opened negotiations with Harji Mahadik, the general of Sambhaji, agreeing to pay large amount of money in the event of his withdrawal to Gingee without causing any damage to the main ranks of his army.

He made overtures with the object of gaining time for to Chikkadevaraja of Mysore send the reinforcements which was sought for. But unfortunately the letters of request fell into the hands of the enemy who worked out the doom of the general as speedily as possible by withholding the letter.

Maratha invasion of Srirangapatna 1682: Harji Mahadik, wiser than Kumaraiya understood the critical situation and anxiety revealed by the latter and courageously conceived a grand project of seizing Srirangapatna itself loosing no firm hold and grip over the general at Trichinopoly. Accordingly he despatched Dadaji Kakade, Jaitaji Katkar, Nimbalkar and others at the head of a well-equipped cavalry with definite instructions to attempt the conquest of Srirangapatna, which was then defenceless since the entire Mysore army was at Trichinopoly. Dadaji, Jaitaji and Jasavanta, the three Maratha generals were the commandants under Ekoji stationed in different

1. Nayaks of Madura, P.263.
2. Jedhe Sakhavali (Shivaji Souvenir, P.27) mentions that "Jaitaji Katkar, Dadaji Kakade had been in Karnatik to help Trichinopoly" against the Mysoreans. Therefore they were definitely sent by Harji Mahadik from Trichinopoly to conquer Srirangapatna and there was no separate invasion of city by the Maratha officers as has believed by Wilks (Mysore I, P.59).
quarters of Karnataka. This can be proved by the writings of one of the court-poet's of Chikkadeva by name Tirumalya (1645-1706). This well-known author in his monumental work Apratima Vira Charitra writes that Ekoji placed Esvanta Rao (i.e. Jasavanta) over Posavuru (Hosavuru or Hosuru) while at Dhanmapuri were stationed Harajji, Jaitaji and Dadaji. These leaders proceeded with forced marches arrogating themselves that no one would surpass them in the battle.

Making sudden dash into the country they encamped near Kothathi and Kasalagere in the neighbourhood of Srirangapatna. Overrun by these Maratha leaders the whole country was plunged into chaos and confusion. Chikkadevaraja was taken by utter surprise as soon as the news of their encampment very close to his capital was communicated to him. The Raja immediately sent an order to his Dalavai at Trichinopoly to send back a great portion of the army through Kaveripuram Chat under Doddaiya and other generals so as to relieve the country from the impending danger.

3. A.V.C., III, P.92, stan, 133.
4. Kothathi and Kasalagere are extant villages in Mandya Taluk. For these villages see M.A.R., 1942, P.90. C.Hayavadana Rao says Honnalagere as the other place of encampment. This is wrong. It is Kasalagere - see M.A.R., 1942, P.90, Mys.Iho. Pur. Vam. VI P.22. categorically mentions the places as Kothathi and Kasalagere.
5. A.V.C. IV, 8; Sachch Mir., I, 59; Annals, I, 114; Mys. Raj. Cha. I Chapter.
6. Annals, I Chapter says that he was the son, Wilks I, P.60 calls him the son of Kumaraia, but Hayavadana Rao thinks that he was the nephew of Kumaraia (I, P.296 P.N.96). Really he was the son of Kumaraia. This is supported by the dynasty of Kalale - see M.A.R. 1942, P.90.
Kumaraiya was not able to take the generalship of the returning-army as he had taken a vow not to appear before the Raja without effecting the conquest of Trichinopoly. Doodaiya was placed at the head of the army with instructions to proceed as speedily as possible so as to be in time to the defence of the country. Marching day and night through the Kaveripuram Ghat with all his rapidity, Doodaiya arrived in Srirangapatna right in time. The miraculous feats performed by Doodaiya in defeating the enemy was very well sketched by Wilks.

Under a special instruction from Chikkadevaraja Doodaiya made a night attack on the camps of the Marathas and scared them by means of the illumination of torches fastened to the horns of the oxen. The Marathas were terror-stricken at the approach of the animals on all directions. Unable to cope with the situation, the Marathas began to run away in utter panic. A bloody battle was fought in which the Marathas were put to utter rout amidst great loss in their ranks.

The number of oxen to whose horns lighted torches were tied and let loose in different direction so as to create confusion in the enemy's rank was estimated from two to three thousand.

1. See Annals I, 114-115 for a graphic account of the war and the strategen played by Dalavai Doodaiiah on this occasion.
By this distinct victory, a large and valuable booty was secured. The three important and powerful Maratha leaders were captured and their heads were cut off. Many of their followers fell in the battle field. The battle ended in the capture of the whole of their ordnance, baggage and military stores of every description and disorder and flight of the remnant of their army. On the following day, DoddaIya and others keeping strict watch on the valuable articles still on the battle field, proceeded to the open Durbar of the king and presented in the same military manner in which they fought the enemy the previous day, bathing in the blood of the enemies the two heads of the leaders. The king got the two heads hung on the fort walls of Srirangapatna. The remnant of the Maratha force escaped stealthily to their capital and reported to the king in detail all that happened.

The Epigraphic record of 1686 says in a highly flowery language the exploit made by Chikkadeva Raja:

Rāmātmanā yad ajayat khara Dūshanādyam
rakshasa kulam tad upkṛipta Varaṭa varṣhman

Dhānōji Jaitajī mukham nanu panchavaṭyah
prāṭam nihanti saharis' Chik Deva mūrtiḥ ....

.................................

Dādoji bhūti Jaitajī ... sarvāṅga - nāśā chidi

Sṛī vīra chikka-deva-varaṇa nripatam yuddhaya badhādarē

1. Annals, I, P.115; Wilks, I, PP.115-117; M.A.R., 1942, P.90;
Mys.Raj.Ch.I.Ch; Mbh. Santi., Sachchu. VII., I., I., 59-61; A.V.C., I., 22-23; II., 11, 12, 14, 19-20, III., 5, 34, 56, 57, 59, 73, 86, 133, 180, 183-184, IV., 4, 8; C.B., P.2, stan 6 and pp.4, 53;
C.I.O., P.63, stan.12, pp.3-3, 69; Sakala-Vaid.Sans., pp.2-41;
11. 75-76, - (These sources explain the details of the exploit);
This exploit of Chikkadevaraja was deservedly treated in an epic
grandeur. "As formerly Hari, incarnate as Rama, subdued (there)
Khara, Dushana and other giants, so (now) did he, incarnate as
Chikka Deva, subdue in Panchavati, Dadoji, Jaitaji and others
in the form of Maratash. Having slain Dadoji, having cut off all
the limbs and slit the noses of Jaitaji, Chikkadeva set forth for
war".

Apratima Vira Charita explains vividly the defeat of the
Maratha generals by Chikkadevaraja:

"As Chikkadevaraja had exterminated Jaitaji,
Dadoji and other reputed Maratha generals,
he came to be respected as the complete
incarnation of Narayana on earth".

Results: The victory over a formidable foe who were held in
mortal dread was a great triumph for the Raja whose prestige and
name as a powerful ruler spread far and wide. The court poets sang
his deeds of chivalry and glorified his name in verses of great
laudation.

Doddaiya's efforts in slaughtering the Maratha Generals

1. B.C. III (1), Sr.14 (1686). This epigraph gives out the event
   as having taken place in 1686. But on making comparative study
   of various sources available, I was made to understand that the
   event happened in 1632 found expression in 1686 in the inscrip-
   tion.

and striking a note of warning to the remnant of the Maratha force which took flight to its master resolving not to turn back to see Mysore, were crowned with success. In an open Durbar Chikkadevaraja received the General warmly and respected greatly and rewarded him amply.¹

This was a sensational news not only to the Marathas in the south and north of Mysore but to the Moghal Emperor who had set an eye on the conquest of South. Aurangzeb was very much delighted to hear the news. It broke the back-bone of Sambhaji who vigorously started his career of conquest.

The result of this expedition seems to be that the relations between Mysore and Maharashtra, the gulf was further widened and induced the Maratha leaders to adopt retaliatory measures much more severe, suicidal than ever before against Mysore.

Defeat of Kumaraiya at Trichinopoly: Harji Mahadik seems to have contemplated with complacency that the Maratha detachment sent under the able Generals of Dedaji, Jaitaji and Nimbalkar would crown its efforts with success in seizing the capital of Mysore.

² Ibid, P.90. Here we find an account of family tradition relating the anxiety on the part of Aurangzeb to bring about the marriage between his daughter and Doddaiya. It states since Aurangzeb had taken an oath to the effect that his daughter should marry no other than the person who killed those warriors, he himself came down as far as the Krishna. But he could not proceed further since the signs were inauspicious. He requested Chikkadeva to send Doddaiya to Delhi but the Raja said that the Dalavoy was dead. Then he married his daughter to the sword sent by Chikkadeva. - M.A.R., 1942, pp.90-91.
But the reports of the remnant of the Maratha force that sustained disgraceful defeat at Srirangapatna had tumbled down to the ground all the gorgeous palace built by Harji in the air.

This led Harji to adopt more violent and brutal methods in dealing with Kumara Ray of Mysore who had been entangled in hopeless embarrassment, receiving no reinforcement from Mysore to prosecute the war against the Marathas at Trichinopoly. Kumara Ray realising his distressing position, hatched a plan in such a manner as to take flight to Mysore unnoticed, unperceived by the Marathas. But the whole plan became topsyturvy.

The Jesuit letter of 1682 says:

"Receiving neither reinforcements nor reply to his letters, Kumara Raya was obliged to seek safety in honourable retreat. He ordered the cavalry corps to feign a movement to attract the attention of the enemies, to engage them as long as possible and then flee with full speed towards Mysore; while he himself would take advantage of this diversion to escape, with his infantry, in an opposite direction and thus save his army. But the Mahrathas would not allow themselves to be put on the wrong scent; for a long time past their self-conceit and audacity had been increasing by the inaction of Kumara Raya which revealed to them his weakness and their strength; they kept close to his army and none of his actions could escape them."

1. Nayaks of Madura, P.288.
When the army of Mysore feigned movement, according to the orders of Kumaraïya, the Marathas kept on their guard and delivered an attack on the army which lost itself in confusion owing to the way in which the Marathas fell on them. It was a bloody battle in which merciless slaughters were incalculable. Besides, large number of Mysoreans became prisoners including Kumaraïya. Capturing innumerable riches, the Maratha General gratified his ambition of avenging the insult inflicted by Chikkadevaraja on the Maratha army at Srirangapatna, previous to this wholesale butchery.¹

Jedhe Sakavali says that the Marathas captured 200 horses and also a Commander Kumar of the army of Shrirangapatan.²

The Jesuit letter of 1682 says:

"Then they (Marathas) fell on the infantry, and the combat was only a horrible butchery; they found rich booty, the result of several years' pillage and made large number of prisoners among whom was Kumara Raya himself. The defeat and capture of this general, till then invincible, completed the joy and pride of Arasumalai".³ Sarkar on the basis of persian source says: "In March 1683 Harji went with his army to help the Nayak of Trichinopoly in defeating an invasion by the chief of Seringapatam, in

¹. Nayaks of Madura, P.183.
². Shivaji Souvenir, P.27.
³. Nayaks of Madura, P.288.
which the Mysore General and 2000 horses were captured".

When this General was conquered, the further tasks of dealing with the scattered army of Mysore comparatively easy. Taking advantage of the brilliant victory, Harji smoothly and successfully secured the expulsion of the Mysoreans not only from Trichinopoly but also from various strong-holds which they had taken possession of from the spineless Nayak of Madura.

The two Generals compared: Kumaraiya, Dalvoy of Chikkadevaraja of Mysore, Harji Mahadik, the Commander of Sambhaji, who elevated him very recently to the Governorship of Gindi are remarkable generals of the age. In tactics and cunning one excelled the other. If Kumaraiya believed that he was well-versed in military warfare, Harji showed the practical demonstration of his superiority in the field of action much more than the Mysore General. The two Generals were both army leaders and organizers of the highest ability courage and activity but with contrasted character. Harji had an inborn genius for handling large bodies of troops spread over a wide area changing his tactics so as to take prompt advantage of every change in the enemy's plans and condition and organising combined movements. The success of his tactics depended on the rapid movement of troops. He understood well the danger of delay and therefore taking advantage of the inactivity of the Mysore army,

1. History of Aurangzeb, Vol.V, P.53, F.N. The event is dated March 1683 in this work but we have a Jesuit letter of 1682 narrating this event (Nayaks of Madura, P.288).
2. Nayaks of Madura, P.288.
he attacked the army from every direction without causing delay and crushed the entire army capturing the Dalvoy a prisoner. Above all to carry the war to a happy termination he had the support of a big army, well-equipped and well-disciplined in addition to the plentiful supply of provisions where as, the Mysore General was denied advantages. Being called upon to despatch the major portion of the army for the defence of the capital against the Maratha marauders by Chikkadevaraja, the General, obedient to his orders did so retaining very small number much inferior compared to the army of the Marathas on the opposite direction. The letters of request for the help of reinforcements by his master at Mysore, unfortunately fell into the hands of his enemies who hastened to the speedy ruin of the General. Thus the fickle Goddess of Fortune deserted him. In spite of these disadvantages when he was engrossed in the hour of peril, he boldly, courageously projected a plan to effect an honourable retreat from that inauspicious place unnoticed, unperceived by the Maratha army but the whole plan was foredoomed to disappointment when an attack was delivered from the opposite direction.

Nevertheless, Kumaraiya made war like a true General. He dedicated his selfless service for the glory of Mysore, for the honour of Chikkadeva but misfortune dogged him and became an easy prey to the Marathas.

Harji, on the other hand was an opportunist & disloyal to his master. He was, in comparison with Kumaraiya, unfaithful,
disloyal, selfish, barbarian devoid of culture or generosity, unable to restrain his passions or to take thought of distant future. The hour of his victory was the hour of gratification of his vindictiveness. Goddess of Fortune smiled on an worthless fellow, deserting a more deserving fellow.

**Kumaraïya sought permission to retire:** What had happened to Kumaraïya afterwards is not known as the Jesuit letter keeps silent on this point. But the Kannada Source reveals the request of Kumaraïya being made to the king to relieve him of his duties on the ground of old age. Consequently he was relieved of his duties having served the Raja from 1673 to 1682 and his place was appointed Devaiah for a short period (May 27th to June 9, 1682) and later on was succeeded Doddaiah, the son of Kumaraiah (June 10, 1682 - June 11, 1690).

**Results:** The bloody war waged at Trichinopoly had left tremendous influence on the politics of South India and brought into distinctive light of history the two outstanding personalities whose fame and name reached even the ears of the Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb.

Highly elated at the success at Trichinopoly against the Mysoreans, Harji Mahadik grew too haughty. He ruled the Eastern Karnataka with undivided power and practically as almost independent sovereign. Sarkar rightly says: "The Maratha king's absorption

in vice, the baneful predominance of the favourite Kavi-Kalas in his Council, the consequent disorder of the kingdom and the increasing Mughal pressure on Maharashtra under the personal direction of Aurangzeb, all tended to extinguish Shambhuji's authority in the far-off province of Jinji and make a local viceroy his own master. Not only that he gave out that he was the king and assumed the title of Maharaja showing failure to pay the surplus revenue to his sovereign at Raigarh. Thus the victory made him announce to the world that he was the Maharaja of the Eastern Karnataka. Mysoreans were expelled from all the regions of the South and prevented from having a permanent foothold in the regions of Madura.

Chikkadevaraja's victory over the Marathas near Srirangapatna appeared to counterbalance Kumaraia's reverses at Trichinopoly. The horrible butchery perpetrated over the Maratha Generals in Mysore by Chikkadeva was a lesson to the other other Marathas to take note of.

The victory that Chikkadevaraja secured over the Marathas increased his fame and name far and wide and this event delighted the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb whose efforts in capturing these leaders proved fruitless while they made a surprise attack on his empire previous to their arrival in the Karnataka. Secondly the fame of

2. Ibid.
Karnataka that was blackened owing to the incursions of the Marathas was brightened up at the hands of Chikkadevaraja. 1 "Oh" the Marathas cried, "Why did we come to the Kannadadesh without understanding their peculiar way of warfare"? As they had roused the wrath of Chikkadeva, they had lost the chance of making their settlement in Mysore. 2 Chikkadevaraja converted his kingdom into a stage for the dance performance of the Goddess of Victory. On the whole Chikkadevaraja established his sway over the Karnataka country as an undisputed sovereign.

Conclusion: Sambhaji, the son of Shivaji, having ruled the Maratha province of Mysore for some time, appointed his wife Jayita Bai to look after the province and went away to Maharashtra as he was required by his father Shivaji who had resolved to visit the Emperor, Aurangzeb at Delhi. In 1680 Sambhaji returned to his Karnataka province and stayed at Chikkaballapura with Nandi as his summer resort.

Consequent on the death of Shivaji in 1680, Sambhaji proceeded to Maharashtra from Chikkaballapura and ascended the throne in July 1680. Having restored peace and order in Maharashtra, Sambhaji turned his attention towards Karnataka. Harji Mahadik was

2. Ibid III, V.139. Chikadevarayanam kena kidadarim tamidhesha-
doliradantaythu
3. Ibid III, V.139.
appointed the Governor of Gingee.

Taking advantage of the absence of Sambhaji and the political confusion that followed the death of Shivaji, Chikka-devaraja of Mysore projected the campaign of conquest; and came into armed conflict with the Marathas at Trichinopoly. A great confederacy was formed by the Marathas against the Mysoreans. Kumaraiya, the Commander-in-Chief of the Mysore army was stunned at the unexpected combination of the Marathas and the Nayak of Madura; and as a result of which he gave up the hope of making headway in Trichinopoly. Taking advantage of the critical situation of Kumaraiya, Harji despatched his generals, namely Jaitaji, Dadaji and Nimbalkar to conquer the defenceless fort of Srirangapatna. These Maratha Generals came to Srirangapatna with rapid speed. Doddaiya arrived right in time from Trichinopoly according to the orders of Chikka-devaraja, defeated the Marathas at Kothathli and Kasalagere and cut off the heads of the Commandants of the Maratha army.

Having learnt the disaster at Srirangapatna, Harji adopted retaliatory measures, surrounded the Mysore army, and inflicted a crushing defeat at Trichinopoly capturing Kumaraiya a prisoner. Thus the victory that Chikka-devaraja secured at Srirangapatna over the Marathas was counter balanced by the reverses of Kumaraiya at Trichinopoly. These wars between the Marathas and Mysoreans had not only told heavily on their treasuries but on their political relations as well. The relationship went from bad to worse. The hopeless political situation arising out of these wars, brought Sambhaji to Mysore.

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