PART II

Mysore - Maratha Relations under Shahji.

CHAPTERS II  - The Rise of Maratha Power in Mysore.

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      of Erode (1667 A.D.).
Early History of Maharashtra: Mysore and Maharashtra have almost always been under one imperial rule from early times to a very late period, the centre of power being generally towards Karnataka, the southern and central parts comprising what is called Mysore. Several dynasties that rose into political prominence were from Karnataka. For instance, the Chalukyas (early and later) and the Rashtrakutas were purely Karnataka dynasties while Yadavas belonged to Maharashtra. Even the Muhammadan Bahamani rulers and most of the succeeding rulers paid their homage more to Karnataka than to Maharashtra. It was only in the Maratha period that Karnataka had a separate political existence. The credit of founding the Maratha rule in Mysore undoubtedly goes to Shahji.

Bahamani & Vijayanagara: The Yadavas of Devagiri had established their authority over almost all the present Maharashtra and the Karnataka. They played their historic role most amazingly and left the stage of south Indian politics in the 14th century. It was in this political environment that two kingdoms emerged: Kingdom of Vijayanagara and the Muhammadan Bahamani Kingdom, founded in 1336 and 1347 respectively. As the distance of the two kingdoms was not far away from each other, it was but natural that the two kingdoms frequently came into armed conflict on
several political issues. The Bahamani Sultans found their permanent settlements in Maharashtra and carried on their wars against the local chieftains with all their tactics and tricks. The existence of an independent Vijayanagara kingdom in the close proximity of Bahamani kingdom was a perennial source of danger to the latter. The Vijayanagara Empire which arose for the great historic purpose of preserving the Hindu Dharma, stood forth as a bulwark against the advancing tide of Muslim invasions for more than two and a half centuries. In the meanwhile the Bahamani kingdom was divided into five Sultanates, and continued its fight unabated with the Hindu Empire. They realised that it would be impossible for them to destroy the Hindu flourishing Empire if they could not unite. They formed a great coalition and gave a shattering blow to the Hindu Empire in the famous battle of Rakshasatangadi in 1565 A.D. The destruction of the Empire did not mean its complete extinction. Somehow it survived and tried to recover its lost strength by changing the capital from the front line at Vijayanagara to the second line at Penukonda. Even here it was not free from the Muslims. The Sultan of Bijapur from the west and the Sultan of Golkonda from the east with united strength, continued to invade the Karnataka. It was in one of the Bijapur Sultan's Karnataka expeditions that the Maratha came and established their rule in Mysore.¹

¹, Vijayanagara Sex-Centenary commemoration Volume, pp. 119-120.
As Dr. S.K. Aiyangar observes, "it was Akbar's vision of empire that has to be regarded as perhaps the root cause of the rise of the Marathas to political power, and it may equally be well be regarded that the collapse of the Hindu empire of Vijayraghara was as much of a contributory, as the Moghal advance in the Dekhan, to the rise of the Marathas as a nation and as a political power in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries".  

A. Sankara Rao had written in his article, "Hindu India from Talikota to Sivaji's Rise" that it was the reactionary policy of Aurangzeb which acted as a great impetus to the rise of the Maratha power. There was no other alternative for a nation but to assert itself.  

The Moghal rulers projected a campaign of conquest and tried to bring in as many kingdoms as possible under their control. At the unexpected termination of Shah Jahan's rule, the two Muslim states, namely, Bijapur and Golkonda were alone left in the Deccan. Unable to bear the brunt of the Moghals, the two states began to shiver. Thinking deeply about the steps to be taken to deal with the Moghals, they arrived at the conclusion that it would be better to fight and die an honourable death on the field of battle, instead of submitting to the imperial authority meekly. In this fight they naturally, utilised all their available

1. Sivaji Nibandhavali, Part II - p.27. The author spells Shivaji as Sivaji and Shahji as Sahaji.

resources and the Marathas as such emerged on the political scene as auxiliaries rendering valiant service in the cause of Dakhani independence of the Indian empire of the Great Moghal.

Ever since the overthrow of Yadava Ramdevra by Allauddin Khilji, the Marathas lost their individuality. Malik Kafur, Commander-in-Chief of Allauddin's army started his devastating expeditions and brought large parts of South India under subjection. Thus Allauddin, before his death could boast of having subjugated the whole of Indian continent. Though the Marathas had become extinct as a nation politically, they were never crushed altogether in practical life. They continued to drag on a submerged existence right up to the emergence of Shivaji as a power in the Deccan. They found themselves largely employed in different branches of the administration of the Islamic states of Bahamani kingdom. In fact they rose to high ranks and displayed their marvellous skill. When the Bahamani kingdom broke up, they realised that it was unsafe to remain in Bedar where they were largely employed. Consequently they went to Bijapur and Ahmadnagar and took up the service of their sovereigns. On the whole, the Bahamani rulers and their successor's kingdom deserve to be honoured for having recognized the martial valour of the Maratha people and trained them in the art of Government and war. The slow-moving but hardy peasants were converted into a race of matchless warriors.

and keen politicians.

Rise of Ahmadnagar: Ahmadnagar came to prominence under Malik Ambar who seized power of the puppet king Murtaza II and made himself the de facto ruler of the whole kingdom. He was a man of consummate talents and energy. He introduced the Moghal revenue system which made his government at once rich and powerful. It is said that he remade the history of the Deccan. It was during the time of incessant wars between the Moghals and Ambar that several Maratha families such as Bhonsles, Chorpades, Nimbalkars and others emerged on the political scene. At the same time Maloji and his son Shahji of Bhonsle family came to prominence as the true loyalists of the Nizam Shahi Kingdom, serving in several ranks of the army. Having suffered early in life, Maloji found an opportunity to join the personal guards of Jadhav Rao who distinguished himself as one of the reputed generals under the Nizam Shahi rule. Jadhav Rao's daughter, Jija Bai was married to Shahji, the son of Maloji in a dramatic way. Paramananda says that Jadhav Rao "seeing Shahji, generous, humane, spirited, well-skilled in fighting, endowed with all excellent qualities, gave his daughter Jiju with a handsome dowry".

3. Wilks: Historical sketches of the Deccan in an attempt to trace the History of Mysore, Vol. I.(1930), P.43 (Hereafter it will be quoted as Wilks: History of Mysore); Sardesai: New History of the Marathas Vol.I, pp.46-47 (Hereafter it will be stated as N.H.M.); Sarkar: Shivaji and His Times, Chap II.P.17.
4. R.P.Patwardhan and Rawlinson: Source Book of Maratha History, Chapter I.
Rise of Shahji: After the death of Maloji in 1620, Shahji won the love and confidence of Malik Ambar and stood as his right-hand man though many of the Marathas including Jadhav Fao deserted to Shah Jahan. There began war between the Moghals and the Nizam Shahi Sultan of Ahmadnagar. In the battle of Bhatawadi fought in November 1624, Malik Ambar won a brilliant victory over the Moghals. Shahji played a predominant part in this war. In this connection Sardesai says: "This battle of Bhatawadi forms a landmark in the history of the Maratha rise, as Shahji's genius shone brilliantly on the occasion in support of Malik Ambar".1

This famous battle of Bhatawadi2 taught Shahji valuable lessons. Unfortunately the cordial relationship between Ambar and Shahji did not last long. Consequent upon this, Shahji left Ahmadnagar and took up his service under the Sultan of Bijapur about 1625. Shahji served him with all his zeal and devotion up to 1628. Shiva Bharat says that

"Ibrahim Adil Shah shared his own seat with him".3

As in the dictum, 'familiarity breeds contempt', there arose misunderstanding between the Sultan of Bijapur and Shahji; and as a result of which Shahji left the service of the Sultan of Bijapur and tried his fortunes again with Ahmadnagar. During

2. For the description of the battle see 'Shiva Bharat' by Paramananda in the Source Book of Maratha History Chapter III and also Muhammad Khan's Iqbal namah pp.236-237 cited by Sarkar in "House of Shivaji", P.23.
the subsequent war between Ahmadnagar and the Moghal Emperor Shah Jahan, many of the Maratha nobles including Jadhav Rao had lost their lives. Jadhav Rao who was on the Moghal side was trapped by the Sultan of Ahmadnagar and murdered in cold-blood. The horrible butcheries and cruelties perpetrated by the Sultan of Ahmadnagar were a severe warning to the other Marathas serving the Sultan. At this critical juncture, Shahji found it expedient to change over to the service of the Moghals as they had already tempted him with position and honour. Bidding good-bye to the rapidly declining fortunes of the Nizam Shahi Kingdom, Shahji took up the post of Mansabdar under Shah-Jahan. Shahji served the Moghal cause from November 1630 to May 1632.¹

Shahji did not remain long in the service of the Moghals for the latter failed to retain the loyalty of the former. Certain jagirs which had been conferred upon Shahji by the Imperial authority were forcibly taken back. This offended his feelings. Immediately he left the Moghals² in 1632.

In the same year Shahji went over to the side of Ahmadnagar. He stood boldly to resuscitate the rapidly declining fortunes of the kingdom. Shahji espoused the cause of the Sultan of Ahmadnagar, by rescuing him from the prison and proclaiming him as the ruler of Ahmadnagar which was a challenge to both the

¹ Sardesai: F.H.M. Vol.I, P.59 says that Shahji was in the Imperial service from Nov.1630 to March 1632. But Padshah namah, P.497 referred to by J.H.Sarkar in "House of Shivaji" P.31 says that Shahji joining the Imperial service in Nov. 1630, left the place in May 1632. The latter authority is preferred here.
² Padshah namah as referred to in House of Shivaji P.31; Shiva Bharat in Source Book of Maratha History, P.7.
Moghals and the Bijapurians. Within so short a period of
three months he turned out tremendous work of fixing the
capital at Pemgiri or Bhinchod, a strong, inaccessible fort
of Ahmadnagar. He reconquered many of the territories lost
by the kingdom in the previous wars. Crowning Murtaza Wizam
Shah II as the king, Shahji carried on the Government for
three years. But very soon war broke out between the Moghals
and Murtaza Wizam Shah II. A severe battle was fought at
Parenda on Feb. 24th, 1633 in which Shahji won a brilliant
victory over the Moghals. Roused by the defeat of the Moghal
army at the hands of Shahji, Shah Jahan undertook an expedition
in person and arrived at Daulatabad on Feb. 21, 1636 along with
his son, Aurangzeb, now 17 years. Though Shahji conducted a
gallant defence, he was unable to stand before the stupendous
Moghal army. Shahji was defeated. In October 1636 a treaty was
concluded according to which Shahji gave up to the Moghals the
puppet Wizam Shahi Prince, surrendered eight of his forts
(including Mahuli and Junnar). Even the name of the Wizam Shahi
State was abolished. Adil Shah acknowledged the overlordship of
the Emperor and Shahji entered the service of Bijapur. The
Bijapur Government conferred upon Shahji the Jagirs of Chamargunda
and Poona. Shahji himself writes of this fact:

"When I have quitted Mahuli and hurried to Bijapur within
the space of 20 days along with Ranadulla Khan, the Shah

of Bijapur conferred on me a Jagir of four lakhs and commissioned me for the conquest of Karnataka. 1

Thenceforward Shahji stood as the pillar of the Bijapur kingdom to his last although in December 1647 he had for a time thought of taking up service under the Sultan of Golconda. In this connection says Sardesai:

"By boldly standing forth to oppose the Moghal Emperor, he served the cause of the Deccan Sultanates and earned their respects and goodwill as a champion of their liberties." 2

Further he observes:

"The courage and foresight with which Shahji defied the Moghal power at least for three years, dodging and deluding renowned Moghal generals, became a living example to his son Shivaji teaching him how the weak could wear out the strong." 3

The Bijapur State provided Shahji with plenty of opportunities to carve out a new kingdom, so that in Maharashtra

3. Ibid, P.64.
he could count himself a Sardar of a fairly high rank. The territories lying to the South of the two Muslim kingdoms opened out vistas for fulfilling his long cherished goal and Shahji missed no time in taking the tide at the full flood.

Karnataka under the later Vijayanagar dynasty: After the epoch-making battle of Rakasa Tangadi in 1565 which ended in the complete victory for the Muhammadan coalition, Vijayanagara was not able to serve the great historic purpose for which it fought. Tirumala and Venkata escaped from the battle field and tried to re-establish the authority of the empire.

Tirumala found it difficult to stay in the capital as it was exposed to the frequent incursions of the Muslims. Consequently he shifted his capital from the front line at Vijayanagara to the second at Penukonda. The transference of the capital was pregnant with consequences fatal to the unity of South India.

Further Tirumala partitioned the empire among his three sons on the eve of his death, according to which Sriranga the eldest son was to rule from Penukonda, the whole of Telugu nadvu; Ramaraja was to look after the Karnataka region taking up

1. Tirumalārya: Chikkadēvarāvamsāvālī, P.2, a Kannada work (published in 1919, Mysore). The author was a playmate and companion at school of Chikkadevaraja and ultimately became his prime minister. Therefore it is a contemporary work. (Hereafter it will be quoted as C.Vam). The same work is followed by Dr. S.K. Aiyangar as the main source of information - see Ancient India, P.273, Sources of Vijayanagara History.
his residence at Srirangapatna and Venkatapati Raya was to rule over the largest kingdoms of Tondai mandala, Chola and Pandya regions making Chandragiri his capital. ¹

After the division of the empire Tirumala breathed his last. The division of the empire among three sons weakened the position of the empire.

Sriranga Raya died in 1586 leaving no children. Rama Raya who was the Viceroy of Srirangapatna also died leaving two minor sons, Tirumala and Sriranga. ² Consequently the entire responsibility of governing the empire devolved upon Venkatanati Raya (1586-1614) who ruled from Penukonda. ³ Tirumala, the nephew of Venkatapati Raya was too young to shoulder the responsibility of the Karnataka region. Therefore the administration of the

1. C.Vam, P.2; Tanna mūverkuvararōlu modaliganāda Srirangā rājanam penugondeyolittatānse telunge nājodatanavam, Yeradanyaya Rāmarāyanam Srirangapattadolirisi yavange Karnatadesadhipathyamam, mūranyey Venkatapatirāyanam Chandragiriyclittti atange Tondira, Chōla Pandya mandaleswarathya manitham.

2. C.Vam, P.2; Rama Rajiyamu, P.213 in "Sources of Vijayanagara History" by Dr.S.K.Aiyangar says that Rama married Narasingamma and had by her 2 sons Tirumala and Sriranga, of these Sıriranga was adopted by the Emperor Venakrpati Raya and became the heir-apparent (Yuvaraja).

3. Dr.S.K.Aiyangar: Sources of Vijayanagara History, P.19 says that Venkatapati Raya shifted his capital from Penukonda to Chandragiri; but C.Vam, P.2, specifically says that the capital was Penukonda.
Karnatak region was left in the hands of Remati Venkataliya, the agent of Tirumala. The two minor sons Tirumala and Srimanga went to stay in the company of their uncle Venkatapati at Penukonda.¹

In or about 1582 Tirumala took up the charge of the administration of Srirangapatna Viceroyalty and stayed there till 1610 A.D. during the reign of Sriranga Raya II and Venkatapati Raya. Epigraphic records found in Mysore, state that Tirumala was guided by Dalavoy Ramanujaiya, the successor of Remati Venkata in the administration of the Viceroyalty.²

The premonitory symptom of the coming disruption seems to have raised its head when the Madura Nayak made an effort at independence. Displeased with the attitude of the Madura Nayak, Venkatapati Raya commissioned his nephew Tirumala to bring down the refractory chieftain, Virappa Nayaka. The latter who was clever enough to sense the situation bribed several generals of the Mysore army; and Tirumala was one of those who accepted the bribe. By receiving the bribe, Tirumala had not only lost the hard won reputation, individuality within a few years as well. Instead of conducting the siege, Tirumala

² The first inscriptions of Tirumala belong to the year 1585 vide (F.C.III, Sr.39-40). According to these inscriptions, Tirumala succeeded to the Viceroyalty in the year 1585.
³ E.C.IV, Gu 40, 44, Hs. 36.
returned with his army, not to the Imperial headquarters to reveal his uncle all that happened in the arduous campaign but to his own Viceroyalty at Srirangapatna. Venkatapati Raya, who was keeping watch on the shifting political scene at Madura, lost no time in asserting his authority over Madura.

The disgraceful retreat of Timmala to Srirangapatna had not only lowered the prestige of his uncle but also showed "to the onlookers the hollowness of the empire". The lack of closer cooperation and mutual goodwill between the uncle - Emperor and nephew Viceroy was the main reason for the dissolution of Vijayanagara Viceroyalty at Srirangapatna.

Venkatapati contrived to keep the empire intact without causing much damage to it. There is sufficient evidence to prove that with the closer-cooperation and loyalty of the chieftains such as Rana Jagadeva Rayal, the Viceroy of Channapatna and the Baramahals and Raghunatha Nayaka, the heir-apparent to Tanjore, Venkatapati successfully repelled the siege in Penukonda. The empire suffered dismemberment, however, with the rise of several Hindu chieftains of the South, such as the Nayaks of Madura, Gingee and Tanjore and the kings of Mysore. The newly risen-up Mysore put an end to the Vijayanagara Viceroyalty of Srirangapatna and

1. C.Vam, P.3.
3. Chikkadeva Raya Vijayam II Canto: Dr.S.K.Aiyangar, Ancient India, P.274.
made the latter its prominent city of activities. Beyond these and the successful aggressions of Golkonda rulers in the northeastern corner of the territory, the empire remained intact.

Venkataratna II passed away in 1614 A.D. and Sriranga, his young nephew was declared the Emperor in accordance with the wishes of the late Emperor. Unfortunately for the empire there was another claimant who was brought up by one of the queens of the late Emperor belonging to the family of Gobburi chiefs. The Gobburi chief Jagga who took up the cause of the traitor found an opportunity to murder Sriranga and his children. One of the princes escaped death owing to the loyalty of a washerman, Yachana Nayaka who carried him safely to Tanjore for protection. The Nayak of Madura, the Nayak of Ginge, the Pandyas of Tinnevelly, the Portuguese and even distant Travancore supported the cause of the traitor. A great battle was fought at Topur two miles above the Grand Annicut on the Coleroon where the confederated enemies were defeated on behalf of Rama the prince. Mysore did not take any part in this warfare and so did Channapatna. The newly founded family of Mysore feared the possibility of imminent Muhammadan attacks on its own northern frontiers. On the whole the disloyal forces had contributed to the break up the empire. The confusing situation which prevailed in the South made the opportunists and ambitious conquerors of the broken Bahamani states, peep and extend their arms into the South.

1. Shivaji Nibandhavali, pp. 34-36; Nayaks of Madura, pp.18-20, (Introduction); Sardesai's Commemoration Volume, pp.73-74.
There were two streams of invasion: one from the east and the other from the west. Between these two streams, the South Indian powers were hemmed in. Mir Jumla, a well known minister of Golkonda projected his scheme of conquest and took into his possession Kalahasti and Conjeevaram in the neighbourhood of Madras.

Taking advantage of the insane pride, blind-selfishness, disloyalty and mutual dissensions of the Hindu feudatories of the South, the Muslim adventurers knocked at the gate, nay, opened the gate and conquered the Hindu Deccan piecemeal with greatest ease and rapidity. Proenza rightly says:

"The old kings of this country appear, by their jealousies and imprudent action, to invite the conquest of their entire country by the Muslims". ¹

To understand what brought in this Bijapur intervention only to the south requires a retrospective study of partition treaty entered into between the Moghals on the one side and Bijapur and Golkonda on the other. The partition treaties of May-June 1636 concluded, set a great barrier to the ambition of the Sultans of Bijapur and Golkonda to extend their arms into the north. On the other hand, the boundary limitation allowed

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¹. La Mission Du Madure III. 42 - in Nayaks of Madura, pp.263-264.
them to carry their arms in the southern and eastern directions, that is, across the Krishna and Tungabhadra, into Mysore and Karnataka. It was only after the conclusion of this treaty that Shahji went over to the side of Bijapur Sultan with whom he spent the latter days of his life. ¹ A little later, after the conclusion of the treaty Shahji was commissioned to lead an expedition into the Mysore Kingdom.

Mysore in the 17th century: To understand how Bijapur stepped on the soil of Mysore, it requires a slight retrospect of its history. Mysore came to prominence with the emergence of Raja Wodeyar (1578-1617). It was he who laid the foundation for the edifice of the present Mysore Royal House. He converted a modest chieftainship² into the rank of a kingdom. His period is synchronised with the rule of Venkatapati of Vijayanagara (1536-1614) and the period of Tirumala's office as Viceroy at Srirangapatna (1585-1610)³. The relationship between Raja Wodeyar and Tirumala was not cordial. Raja Wodeyar purposely evaded the payment of tribute due to the viceroy. He expelled the collectors of the viceroy when they went to demand him the tribute.⁴

¹. For the detailed terms of the treaty refer to Muhammad namah in Shivaji Nibhandavali, Part II, pp.90-96.
². Mys.Dho.Vam. pp.6-7 says that at the time of Rajawodevar's accession to the throne, there were only 33 villages having a revenue of 3000 varahas and a military force of 300 soldiers.
³. The first inscriptions of Tirumala belong to the year 1585 (vide F.C. III, Sr.39,40) which clearly reveal to us the accession of Tirumala to Srirangapatna viceroyalty.
The most remarkable and far reaching event in the time of Rajawodeyar was the ousting of Tirumala who returned to the capital in 1595 from Madura. With the incorporation of Srirangapatna, Mysore came to prominence. Tirumala was not reconciled to the growing power of Rajawodeyar. Therefore he decided to seize Rajawodeyar in person at the time of latter's visit to Srirangapatana court. In the event of the failure of his plan, Tirumala decided to lead an expedition against his kingdom.\(^1\) Being innocent of any such treachery, Rajawodeyar paid a visit to Srirangapatna along with his brother. There Rajawodeyar was able to scent the coup de etat planned by the viceroy to destroy the two brothers. Consequently the two brothers slipped away from the capital unnoticed and unperceived by the enemies.\(^2\) This brought about the battle of Kesare on August 18, 1596 in which Tirumala's army was utterly defeated and put to flight.\(^3\)

Between 1598-1607 Rajawodeyar had systematically defied the authority of Tirumala encroaching upon the territorial limits in the north and the east. In 1600 Rajawodeyar conquered Arakere from Adataraya, a foremost general of Jagadeva Raya.\(^4\)

1. C.Vam, p.21. For a detailed description of the plan and the number of persons who helped Tirumala in his endeavour see K.W.V., III; C.Vam, p.22.
2. C.Vam, p.36.
3. Chikkadevaraya Vijayam, Chap II, Verses 50, 51, 53; C.Vam, pp.39-40. As regards the date Wilks does not say anything though he gives the description of the battle of Kesare. C.Vam clearly explains the gap of 20 years between the attack of Kesare and the last year of Rajawodeyar. The last year of Rajawodeyar is 1616 as his death occurs in 1617. Deducting 20 from 1616 we arrive at 1596, the date of the siege of Kesare.
In August 1606 he took Sosale\(^1\) and in January 1607 he acquired Bannur\(^2\) from Nanjaraja of Talkad. In 1608 Rajawodeyar had to face a formidable confederacy of the chiefs of Belur, Grama, Mugur, Yelandur and Ummattur at Kunigal. Raja Wodeyar marched at the head of a huge force, met the combined army and utterly defeated them.\(^3\)

Having failed in his ambition to check the aggressions of Raja Wodeyar, Tlrumala, the unfortunate viceroy, appealed to his uncle-Emperor, Venkatapatl for military aid to put down the enterprising chieftain, Raja Wodeyar. The Emperor did not respond, for it was his interest to disgrace Tlrumala before his subjects, showing him as incapable of defending Srirangapatna against his opponent, Raja Wodeyar.\(^4\) Venkatapatl was with complacency, looking forward for the days of Tlrumala's overthrow and downfall. It is said\(^5\) that Venkatapatl had even sent him an order promising him assurance of protection and probably admonishing him to retire from his charge of the viceroyalty. It was this lack of closer cooperation and mutual goodwill between the uncle-emperor and the nephew-viceroy that paved the way for Srirangapatna slipping out of the hands of Tlrumala to a enterprising chieftain namely Raja Wodeyar.

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1. Ibid, C.Va, pp.9-10.
Raja Wodeyar understood the distressing position of Tirumala. Being the cleverest, most farsighted and ambitious man, Raja Wodeyar had determined to strike at the falling fortunes of the declining viceroyalty.

Acquisition of Srirangapatna: The acquisition of Srirangapatna by Raja Wodeyar is related in different sources with a diversity of statements; but a manuscript entitled 'Srirangapatna Charitre' found in the Oriental Library, Mysore is the best authentic source on this particular point. According to this authority Raja Wodeyar summoned the two vaishnava Brahmins who were the chief advisers of Tirumala, from the court of Srirangapatna; and by bribing them heavily, he intrigued to secure Srirangapatna defenceless. By the help of these two Brahmins, Raja Wodeyar was successful in getting the removal of the viceroy's wife named Mangamma from the capital to T.Narasipura. Along with her went the whole army of the viceroy. Taking advantage of the helplessness of the viceroy, Raja Wodeyar despatched one detachment of his main force to attack Srirangapatna and the rest of the army was detached to T.Narasipur. The first division went and encamped at Kalasavadi; and the second force went to T.Narasipur and communicated a false message of the death of Mangamma to the viceroy at Srirangapatna through one of

1. See Appendix I.
2. While I was searching for Kannada sources in the Oriental Library, Mysore, I was able to secure this manuscript bearing No.K.B.25. This is a contemporary Kannada manuscript throwing fresh light on how Raja Wodeyar acquired Srirangapatna. This work refers to the Viceroy of Srirangapatna as Sriranga Raya for Tirumala.
the nearest and dearest friends of the viceroy. The whole plot resulted in the death of viceroy. Thereafter Raja Wodeyar made a triumphal entry into the capital. Not a drop of blood was shed. Therefore it may be called a "Bloodless Succession of 1610". That the acquisition of Srirangapatna by Raja Wodeyar is an act of conquest as has been assumed by several scholars on Mysore history, finds a complete refutation in the "Srirangapatna charitre" which categorically asserts that "Raja Wodeyar did not conquer Srirangapatna by war". From this it is clear that Raja Wodeyar conquered the viceregal seat by treachery.

Raja Wodeyar made a grand entry and took possession of Srirangapatna on February 8th 1610 A.D. Thenceforward it became the capital of the Mysore Kingdom. It continued to be so till 1799 when, after the death of Tippu, the British retained the island in their own possession as a reminder of the conquest. The acquisition of Srirangapatna was confirmed by a charter issued by the Emperor Venkatapati Raya just at a time when his position was seriously shaken by a vigorous Golconda attack. That Raja Wodeyar was on good terms with the Emperor is proved by several inscriptions of the Mysore State. In all these inscriptions Raja Wodeyar refers

2. Mysore doregalu Srirangapattnavannu yuddha madi jayisalilla.

(contd. on the next page)
to his overlord, a sure sign of his loyalty towards him. Since 1612 Rajawodeyar began to rule as an independent king though signs of acknowledgement of nominal control of the imperial power were there. The charge of Srirangapatna viceroyalty composed of two governments, probably three: (1) Srirangapatna proper; (2) the territories with its headquarters at Channapatna which was under the control of Governor Jagadeva Raya who enlarged the petty viceroyalty by incorporating Baramahal Districts of Salem; (3) territories lying in between Ikkeri or Bednur and Srirangapatna ruled over by enterprising chieftains. Rajawodeyar's power was acknowledged only in Srirangapatna not in other territories. Though Rajawodeyar was an enterprising king, he was not able to incorporate to his kingdom the other territories. It was left to his successor to accomplish this.

Chāmarāja Wodeyar 1617-1637: Chāmarāja Wodeyar (1617-1637) succeeded to the throne of Mysore on July 3rd 1617, 12 days after the death of Rajawodeyar. Under Chamaraja Wodeyar, Mysore came into bitter conflict with Channapatna viceroyalty. Being actuated by the impulses of conquering Chikkanayakanahalli. Jagadeva Raya,

(From previous page)

all these works refer to the acquisition of Srirangapatna, by Raja Wodeyar; but true historical fact connected with Tirmalay's death is not related.

5. F.C., III. 62.
6. F.C., III. 1614 and grant of 1615.

1. Mys. Dho. Pur., I. 43; Sobhakrit, vaisakha ba 6; Annals, I. 49; Prabhava Ashada ba 6 (July 15, 1606). The earlier authority is preferred here.
Viceroy of Channapatna appealed to Chamaraja for help which was vehemently refused. Apart from this refusal, Chamaraja ordered his Dalvoy, Bettada Arasu to subdue Nagamangala which was a part and parcel of Channapatna Viceroyalty. Accordingly in 1613 Bettada Arasu laid siege to Nagamangala by killing Doddaiya, elder brother Channaiya of Nagamangala at Honnemadu on the way. But the siege was raised by the army of Jagadeva Raya and Bettada Arasu returned home. It was this Nagamangala of Channaiya who played a significant role in inviting the arms of the Bijapur sultan into the South. Channaiya of Nagamangala and another unpatriotic individual namely Fuvala Hanuma were the two outstanding personalities who acted as intermediaries in bringing out the connection between Mysore and Maharashtra the details of which will be given later.

War with Channapatna was kept under suspense for a while as the affairs in southern most limit of the Mysore Kingdom drew the immediate attention of Chamaraja. Mallarajaiya one of the relations of Bettada Arasu was commissioned to lead the army against Danamayakanakote which formed the bone of contention between Madura and Mysore. When an attack was delivered on Danaykana kote by the Mysore Dalvoy, Nutubvirappa Nayaka of Madura who was supporting the paelgar of the said Kote had concluded a treaty through the mediation of his agent, Chikkanpasetty, With the

1. Chief of the army.
Dalavoy, insisting on the palagari to pay an annual tribute of 12,000 varahas to Mysore.

From 1621 acquisitions of Channapatinuar viceroyalty piece by piece started in right earnest. In October 1621 Talkad was conquered. In May 1623 Malavalli was taken repulsing the army of Jagadevaraya. In May 1624 Siddhugatta and Bukanakere were taken from Jagadevaraya. In January 1626 Channapatna was attacked and in the midst of the struggle Dalavai Linganna who succeeded Bettada ARASU in 1621 was killed by Channaiya of Nagamangala.

Again in 1630 war was renewed against Jagadeva Raya of Channapatna. Vikararaya Raya, the newly appointed commander-in-chief of the Mysore army was ordered to lay siege to Channapatna. Accordingly in October 1630 Vikramaraya fought a sanfnitary battle in the neighbourhood of Channapatna and was brilliantly successful in incorporating Channapatna into the kingdom of Mysore. Kankanahalli and Nagamangala, the two powerful palayapats were crushed and finally annexed to the kingdom of Mysore (Dec. 1630). In March 1631 Bellur, another dependency of Jagadevaraya was taken possession of; Baramahals which were under the control of

Jagadevaraya did not come under the rule of Mysore.

Having accomplished the conquest of Channapatna, Chamaraja turned his attention towards Ikkeri, lying to the north-west of the kingdom of Mysore. But Ikkeri was able to defend herself so long as the northern frontier was safe.

Towards the end of his rule, Mysore extended its territory as far as Channapatna and Nagamangala on the north; Piriyapatna and Channarayapatna in the west and north-west; Malavalli and Dananayakana Kote in the east and south-east.

It is evident that Chamaraja preserved in carrying on the administration according to the lines laid down by his grand father. He died without issue on May 2, 1637 and was succeeded by his boy-uncle Immadi Raja Wodeyar. Delavoy Vikrama Raya lorded it over the new ruler, whom he found to be not the nominal one that he would have him, and so he had poisoned in the year 1638.

Now Raja Wodeyar's line failed of male issue. Naturally people looked up to the children of his next younger brother Bettada Chama Raja. Bettada Chama Raja had two sons. Timma Raja Wodeyar, by Lingajamma of Basali and Kanthirava Narasa Raja Wodeyar by Guruvajamma (Guruvamba) of Hura. Timma Raja Wodeyar, the first son of Bettada Chamaraaja Wodeyar had, however, it would seem, predeceased

1. For details of bitter hostility between Mysore and Ikkeri see proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission, Vol.XI, P.112.
his father, so that the next immediate claimant in the line of Bettada Chamaraja was his second son, Kanthirava Narasaraja Wodeyar. The Annals make Kanthirava Narasa the adopted son of Raja Wodeyar.¹

A new era ushered in with the commencement of the rule of Kanthirava Narasa Raja. What the previous rulers failed to accomplish, he had completed.

Kanthirava Narasa Raja Wodeyar 1638-1659.

Kanthirava Narasaraja came to the throne of Mysore on November 22, 1638² and ruled for 21 years. At the time of his accession, the whole power of the administration seems to have been concentrated in the hands of a powerful Dalvoy named Vikrama Raya. The first act of his reign was the dismissal of the Dalvoy from service and infliction of severe punishment for his treason against the late ruler, Immad Raja Wodeyar. One tradition³ maintains that the Dalvoy was severely punished; but Wilks⁴ says that he was despatched by the hand of the assassin. Against these two traditions, we have got an epigraphic record which proves that Vikrama Raya was alive as far as 1644. A lithic record on a pedestal in front of the monolithic bull (Dodda Basava) in the Nanjundesvara temple of Nanjangud dated January 11, 1644 says that Dalvoy Vikrama Raya set

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¹ Annals, I. P.65
² Mys.Dho.Pur. I. 51: Bahudanya Kartika ba 12, Thursday (Nov.22, 1638); Annals, I. 65: Bahudanya Kartika sudha 2(Oct.28, 1638). The Annals (I.C.) speaks also of the adoption of Kanthirava by Timmamamma, the junior dowager queen of Raja Wodeyar and his installation at Srirangapatna on one and the same day. See S.K. Iyengar, Ancient India (P.289) having the same view; Raja Kathavall: by Deva Chandra (XII,470) fixes Kanthirava's accession in May 1635 which is apparently an error. The former authority is preferred here.
³ Annals, I. pp.67-68.
up the pedestal thereto as a devotional offering. From this account it is clear that Vikrama Raya was alive up to January 1644. Therefore Vikramaraya was neither punished nor slain but was dismissed from service and allowed to retire to some part of Mysore. Katta Raya was armed with all the qualifications necessary for the king, He knew horse-riding, elephant-riding, archery and the use of various kinds of weapons such as Spear, lance, dagger, club, sword and discus.

While the prince was living at Gundlu Terakanambi along with his father Bettada Chamaraja Wodeyar, he had to put his hand into a thrilling adventure, the success of which spread his name far and wide as a strong and courageous personality. It was no other than the defeat of a remarkable prize-fighter at Trichinopoly. The prince, having heard from a Brahmin that there was a powerful wrestler at Trichinopoly, went there incognito, and returned after killing the wrestler much to the bewilderment of the spectators that gathered there. The prince did not wait there to receive honours from the chief of Trichinopoly. Thus the prince had distinguished himself as a champion wrestler very early.

1. F.C., III (1) Nj.9.
2. K.N.V., IV, Vs. 86, 86.
3. Annals, I. p.66.
Armed with all the qualifications, Kanthirava ascended the throne on November 22, 1638. In the very first year of his accession he had to defend the capital of his dominions against the formidable invasion of the forces of the Muslim sovereign of Bijapur under a reputed general, R.D. Khan.