CHAPTER II

ANGLO MARATHA CONFLICT AND THE BRITISH OCCUPATION OF SAMBALPUR
The British declared war against the Marathas on the 7th August, 1803. Orissa, being under the Raja of Berar, naturally became involved in the war.

Arrangements were made to attack Orissa from three sides. Capt. Morgan was to occupy Balasore. Lt. Col. Ferguson was advancing to Cuttack from Jaleswar and Capt. Dick with five hundred Bengal native volunteers was to reinforce the troops at Ganjam.

On the 24th September 1803, the British troops proceeded towards Cuttack which they reached on the 10th October, 1803. On the way, the advanced troops of Col. Harcourt's division were frequently engaged with parties of the enemy's troops, who were always repulsed with loss.\(^1\)

According to Harcourt's report to the Governor General of the date 15th October, 1803, a 12 pounder battery together with two Howitzers and two 6 pounders was set up at a distance of 500 yards from the outer gate of the fort on the 13th September. Bombardment was started on the morning of the 14th September. By 11 O' clock the Southern part of the Fort was destroyed. Thereupon Lt. Col. Clayton was

ordered to advance with one 6 pounder, a party of artillery men and 200 Europeans. The party had to pass over a narrow bridge and were subjected to heavy fire. At last the gate was forced open and the party had to enter singly in the face of considerable resistance. They also succeeded in forcing the way through the other two gates. Thus the fort was captured. The thorough preparation of the English to conquer Orissa bore the desired fruit.

BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS SAMBALPUR

After the conquest of Orissa the English wanted complete annihilation of the Maratha power. After the fall of Tipu in 1799 the only rival left in the field was the Maratha power. Orissa was conquered by the English without much resistance by the enemy. In fact, the Maratha made only a show of resistance. No where it was serious enough to be considered a real challenge. So, after the fall of Cuttack, the East India Company turned its attention towards Sambalpur, the very seat of the Marathas in Orissa. It was regarded as desirable and convenient by the company's agents to acquire the entire hinterland to the province of Cuttack comprising the feudatory states of Orissa and Chhattisgarh. It would provide, they pleaded, an additional barrier for the Cuttack Province. Among all the feudatory states Sambalpur was

2. C.U. Wills, op. cit, p. 301.
the Chief. Therefore, the conquest of Sambalpur was considered to be a necessity by the British.

Sambalpur, from Political point of view was of much importance. On the 24th March, 1804 George Harcourt, Commissioner of Affairs for Cuttack, wrote to the resident of Nagpur that it was desirable for them to retain Sambalpur on all political grounds to connect the frontier possession of Birbhum and Bihar. Moreover, Sambalpur being a crucial strategic point, the English never wanted to part with it. Being the centre of Cuttack and Ranchi in two directions and Bundelkhand and Bhonsle in the west, it was easier for the English to operate from here at the time of war. Sambalpur, once occupied, could be converted into an army camp in order to have army link with Nagpur, Ranchi and Cuttack.

Sambalpur was the principal fortress with its important tributary like Boudh and Sonepur to comprise the extensive tract of country between Chattisgarh (Ratanpur) and Cuttack. The reduction of this strongest fortress would enable the English to have a free hand in their field of trade and commerce. Sonepur and Boudh, in particular, would be very important possessions as both of them would strengthen the security of Cuttack and as they would afford facility to commerce of the province. By the possession of Boudh and Sonepur the English would be in a position to hold all the

navigable part of the Mahanadi and the cotton goods of Chhatisgarh would find its way readily to Cuttack, whereas if the districts of Sonepur and Boudh are retained by the king of Berar, the vexatious and oppressive taxes and exaction that are permitted under the government will materially check, if not wholly prevent, the transit of that commodity through the district. It was also apprehended, should Boudh and Sonepur belong to the Raja of Berar, no effectual restraints can be imposed to prevent silk being smuggled from this province, also by which a considerable loss would arise to the British Government. More or less, through the district of Sambalpur move all the roads which lead to the passes northward of those in Cuttack as well as to the principal pass leading into the tributary district of Mayurbhanj.

It is these considerations that the British had in their mind while inducing the district of Sambalpur to remain under British authority.

CONFLICT WITH THE MARATHAS AND CONSEQUENT OCCUPATION OF SAMBALPUR

George Harcourt, the commander of the British troops in Orissa and John Milvelle, the Commissioner for the affairs of Cuttack were in charge of Cuttack, which had formed a separate Subah. They at once took a diplomatic step to conquer Sambalpur, Boudh and Sonepur. With that end in view, they wrote to the Rajas of these territories persuading them to
enter into an alliance with the company in order to establish friendship\(^1\). The alliance could be effected on payment of five gold mohurs annually as a gesture of courtesy and as a result of which they would desist from paying the tribute or any dues to the Marathas and enjoy the protection of the company. To execute the plan they enclosed with the letter two contracts - one in the name of the company which they had signed and another from the Rajas to the company which the said Rajas were to sign\(^2\).

The Rajas being political prisoners at Chanda during the period agreement was signed by Rani Ratan Kumari of Sambalpur, Rani Laxmi Priya of Sonepur and Jagdiswar Rao, a relative of the Raja of Boudh\(^3\). The parties entered into the agreement with the following articles:

a) We engage to receive five gold mohurs annually as a wish of courtesy.

b) It is well-known that the honourable company befriended support upon all occasions those princes that form an alliance with them and those who are in friendship with them remain suitable returns. If the said Raja will continue on his part to maintain the friendship

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required of him nothing shall be wanting on the part of Honourable Company to repay such friendship in the most minute manner also.  

After this, Major Broughton, inspite of the opposition of the Marathas, occupied Sambalpur fort with the help of Rani Ratan Kumari and Bhup Sing on the 2nd January, 1804 and the Maratha Governor Tatia Farnavis withdrew to Nagpur.

In the mean while the Treaty of Deogaon was signed between Bhonsle and the British Company on the 17th December, 1803. After the Treaty of Deogaon the dominion of Raghuji shrank very much in extent by the cessation he had to make. He had to cede Berar and Orissa and his dominions were practically surrounded by those of the Company and their ally, the Nizam. By the second article of the treaty of Deogaon, Raghuji ceded "in perpetual sovereignty the province of Cuttack including the port and Balasore district" to the Company. But it was regarded as desirable and convenient by the company's agent to acquire the entire hinterland to the province of Cuttack comprising the feudatory states of Orissa and Chhatisgarh. It would provide, they pleaded, an additional barrier for Cuttack.

2. C.U. Wills, op. cit, p.185.
3. CPC, Vol.1, No.1340, OSA.
province and connect the Northern Sarakars with Bundelkhand. This region comprised certain states which were within the province of Cuttack and therefore, were under the direct rule of the Marathas and certain others which were outside the territorial limits of Cuttack province, but paid, when required, some tribute to the Marathas. In the first category were the Rajas of Khurdha, Angul, Hindol, Dhenkanal and in the second category the Rajas of Boudh, Ramgarh, Sonepur and Sambalpur. Apart from these the Rajas of Bonai, Bamra and Keonjhar were regarded as independent. Those States which were within the jurisdiction of Cuttack province came under the British as a result of the cession of that province according to the second article of the treaty of Deogaon. Those states that were outside the Cuttack province or independent of the Marathas had there solicited or were induced to solicit British protection on favourable terms. Engagements had been concluded with them even before the treaty of Deogaon and these were covered by the tenth article of the treaty. It was with great reluctance that Raghuji accepted this article of the treaty and that, under a threat of a renewal of hostilities.

This, however, reached Cuttack on 14th January, 1804 and Sambalpur still later. Broughton wrote to the

1. NRR, Vol.1, Letter nil dated 18th November, 1804 from the Commissioners of affairs of Cuttack to Elphinstone, p. 37.
2. Ibid, p. 38.
3. Ibid.
Chief Secretary to the Government that on no account the territories conquered by him should be made over to Raja. He described the tyranny and treachery of the Marathas in Sambalpur and the sorrows and sufferings of the people for them. "On the whole," he wrote, "I feel it to be my duty most explicit to submit it on my opinion to the consideration of His Excellency in Council that a restoration of districts of Sambalpur and Patna to the Raja of Berar will be productive of renewal of all ancient grievances to their inhabitants."

The British Government in the Fort William on receiving the letter of Broughton regarding his engagement with the rulers of Sambalpur tract decided to take strong attitude for annexing these territories. They paid no heed to the complaint of the Raja of Berar regarding the occupation of Sambalpur and that of Keshav Govind who demanded that the disloyal persons and 'Seditious Zamindars' for example, Bhup Sing, Sadasee Beydar (Sadasiv Bohidar) and the Rani should be delivered up to him for punishment. The Resident at Nagpur, on the other hand, was directed to convey the Raja of Berar that the British Government had no interest in establishing its authority over Sambalpur and would gladly restore the


territory so the Raja of Berar provided the Chieftains and Zamindar agreed to release the Government from the obligation by which its faith had been placed to protect them.

On 24th March 1804 George Harcourt, Commissioners for affairs for Outtack, wrote to the Resident at Nagpur that it was desirable for them to retain Sambalpur on all political grounds to connect the frontier possession of Birbhum and Bihar. Two days later on 26th March Col. Broughton informed Rani and principal Zamindar of Sambalpur that an agreement had been signed between English Government and the court of Berar as a result of which these chiefs would either voluntarily return to the authority and the dominions of Nagpur or they would have to pay British Government the revenue which they were paying to Raghuji Bhonsle. The Rani and Zamindars refused to return to the Maratha authority and informed that they were, 'submissively willing to pay without excuse or irregularity' any sum, the government would fix upon them. In a reply to the letter of Broughton dated 26th March, 1804 the Rani Ratan Kumari of Sambalpur with other principal Zamindars stated that they had already been reduced to the greatest distress in the Maratha Government and would like to be

1. NRR, Vol. 1, No. 5, dated 4.3.1804 from Secretary to Government to Elephinstone Resident at Nagpur, p.53.
2. Ibid.
3. NRR, p. 57, Translation of the letter by Broughton to the Rani and Principal Zamindar of Sambalpur.
in the protection of the British authority. They further stated that their family, honour, and property had received much injury in the reign of the Marathas and they wished from their very soul to remain under the British Government. They also agreed that they would pay whatever sum the British Government would fix taking the produce and ability of the state into consideration. At last a request was made to have an arrangement for permanent protection of the British Government. The letter was signed by -

- Rani Ratan Kumari of Sambalpur
- Raja Jaujar Sing, Raigarh
- Raja Biswanath Sah, Sarangarh
- Rani Laxmipriya, Sonepur
- Birabhadra Jena, Rairakhol
- Raja Indra Sur Deo, Gangpur
- Raja Tribhuvan Deo, Bamara
- Raja Indra Deo, Bonai
- Dewan Sib Sing, Saktee and
- Thakur Ranjit Sing, Bargarh

This voluntary submission to the British Government strengthened the hands of Wellesley. Being influenced by the Resident of Nagpur, the Commissioner of Cuttack and by Col. Broughton, the Governor General, Lord Wellesley gave his final verdict. In a letter dated 18th May 1804, he directed the Resident at Nagpur to inform Raghuji Bhonsle that the Rajas of Sambalpur, Patna, Sonepur etc. had

1. Ibid, p.58.
been taken under the British protection which the Bhonsle had to recognise and ratify formally as a part of the 10th article of the treaty of Deogaon, failing which war would be renewed against him¹. In conformity of the determination, the Rani of Sambalpur the Raja of Patna and others who have been placed under the British protection by the operation of the 10th article of the treaty of Deogaon were now considered to be the subjects of the British Government and their territories were annexed to the British Government². This arrangement is adopted with a view to enable the British Government to discharge with greater efficacy the obligation of protecting the persons and territories from the authority of the Maratha Government and also in the confidence of experiencing from these persons a course of conduct consistent with the relation with which they stood towards the British Government.

Col. Broughton was directed to station a force with the least practicable delay at Sambalpur both for the protection of that province and of Patna against the reported design of the officers of the Raja of Berar in Ratnapur and for the better security of the frontier of Cuttack in the possible event of renewal of hostilities with the Raja of Berar³.

1. Ibid, pp.58-60.
With a view to accomplishing the object without disturbing the arrangements for the defence of the western frontiers and for the preservation of internal tranquillity, the 20th Regiment of sepoys consisting of 590 rank and file and commanded by Lt. Col. Mclean was ordered to march with utmost expedition for the purpose of re-inforcing the troops under the command of Lt. Col. Broughton and that regiment accordingly commenced its march. A further force including 194 volunteers of rank and file and force of artillery of two six pounders, one lieutenant, one Serjeant, one Corporal and 10 private with Lascars etc. marched on the 18th November, 1804.

In July 1805, Lord Wellesley left India and was succeeded by Lord Cornwallis who became Governor General for the second time. Lord Cornwallis pursued a policy of peace and non-intervention under the direction of the Home Government. Anxious to adhere to the non-intervention policy and to placate the Bhonsle he decided upon "restoring eventually to the Raja of Berar the districts of Sambalpur and Patna without compromising public faith" of company's Government. He thought the public faith of the company would not be compromised if they were given adequate compensation for the loss of the territory and dignity incase they refuse to remain under the Maratha Government. "The engagement having been contracted with the

1. Ibid, letter No.11 from Secretary to Government to Resident at Nagpur dated. 23rd November, 1804.
chief and Zamindars personally, and extending", he thought, "no further on our part than to preclude us from placing them under the dominion of the Marathas without their consent it may be a question whether we are not at liberty which they occupy to the Maratha Government even without the consent of those chiefs and Zamindars, provided we offer them a reasonable compensation and afford them in their own persons the stipulated protection.

Capt. Roughsedge commanding Ramgarh battalion was directed to discuss measures for transferring Sambalpur and Patna territories to the Bhonsle and was asked to give his opinion as to proper manner effecting it and as to the reactions, the measure was likely to produce. In reply to this proposal Roughsedge suggested that the measure would be presented by the Zamindars, affected thereby. Besides, they must be assigned Jagirs elsewhere so that their numerous followers and dependents might find a means of livelihood. For this purpose he suggested that they might be assigned jagirs in the Khorda district of the Cuttack province or in Chhot Nagpur.

Roughsedge was deputed to Sambalpur to open negotiation with the Rani and Zamindars and he arrived there on

2. Ibid, pp.66-68.
3. Ibid.
on 15th January, 1806. The apprehension and distress, as well as surprise of the Rani and her confidential servants became extreme and consequence was a less reluctant acquiescence in the wishes of the government. The assurance given to the Rani was of a liberal provision for herself and her dependents either of a pecuniary or a territorial nature. The condition of liberating her husband and son soon after the restoration of Sambalpur to the Raja of Berar had a considerable effect in alleviating her distress and the Rani had her consent.

It appeared from Col. Harcourt's despatches to Lt. Col. Broughton that little or no communication existed between the constituted authority in Cuttack and the Raja of Boudh. The Raja also had little attachment to the British interest. So it was required in order to retain the Raja's country to station a detachment above the pass which leads to Cuttack. But such a measure seemed almost impossible due to the extreme insalubrity of the climate. The British Government also could foresee some inconvenience if the district of Boudh was to be retained. The long disputes between the inhabitants of Boudh, Sonepur and adjacent pargans were likely to produce mutual incursions and injuries. On these grounds the district of Boud was also included in the proposed cession to the Raja of Berar.

1. C.U. Wills, op. cit, p. 337.
Regarding the feelings of other Zamindars, Roughsedge wrote as follows:—

"The sorrows and consternation with which they listened to my proposition was extreme and after bewailing their unfortunate destiny in every affecting term, they for some times, seemed inclined to remain on their tenures, endeared to them by an uninterrupted possession of many centuries, at all hazards, though firmly persuaded of the inevitable destitution the proposed transfer would expose them to."

The negotiation for transfer opened by Roughsedge was most stubbornly opposed by Jaujar Sing, the Raja of Raigarh². He was determined to defend his country against the Marathas. His aversion to quit his native country was not more insurmountable than his reluctance voluntarily to return under the Maratha authority and the combination of these sentiments apparently drew to the wild and desperate resolution of attempting to defend his country in conjunction with all who might be similarly disposed against any attempts of the troops of the Raja of Berar to regain possession. Roughsedge also feared that Jaujar Sing who had a great influence in Sambalpur would attack the Rani as the latter had agreed to the proposal³.

1. NRR, Vol.1, p.69, Letter No.16 dated, 23.2.1806 from Roughsedge to Secretary to the Government.
2. Ibid, pp.73-76.
3. Ibid, pp.77-81.
He took precaution against a possible attack and suggested that the transfer would be effected excepting Raigarh.

Finally the conditions of engagement between the British and Bhonsle according to which the transfer is to be effected were outlined. According to it Raja Jaujar Sing would be excluded from transfer unless he should ultimately consent to accept a provision with the company's territory. All the Zamindars with whom engagements were contracted, excepting Jaujar Sing, gave their consent to relinquish their tenure and to accept a provision within the company's territory. Lastly, it was the condition that Jaujar Sing must not be molested.

The agreement with the Raja of Berar was done according to the following form -

1) "Declaring that with a view to compensate in some degree to the Raja for the loss which he sustained in war, the British Government has employed its endeavours to persuade all Zamindars of Sambalpur and Patna and their dependencies with whom engagements were contracted to accept a provision within Company's territory, for the express purpose of transferring the provinces to the dominion of the Raja of Berar, without

1. Ibid, p.82.
2. Ibid.
a violation of Public faith, and that by this arrangement the British Government has acquired a right to transfer and does accordingly transfer to the Raja of Berar, the district communicated in a separate schedule.

ii) That the Zamindary of Raja Jaujar Sing being expected from the transfer, the Raja Jaujar Sing shall on no account be molested in the possession of his territory by the Raja's officer, and that they shall not in any manner interfere with his possessions or in his regard, that they shall exact no tribute or revenue from his territory, nor exercise any authority over him and that his territory shall be considered as the territory of the Honourable Company.

iii) That the husband and son of the Rani of Sambalpur be released from confinement and permitted to join their wife and mother, the British Government engaging that they shall never return into the province of Sambalpur or excite disturbance in the Raja's territory.

The agreement was finally signed and the plan was executed on 24th August 1806. Keshav Govind, Subedar of Ratanpur, came to occupy Sambalpur on behalf of the Bhonsle.

1. Ibid, p.80, letter No. 22 dated 15. 5. 1806 from Edmondstone to M. Elphinstone.
All the Zamindars with whom he had communicated, expressed themselves entirely willing to submit but he was opposed by the chieftains under the leadership of Jaujar Sing of Raigarh and Bharat Bariha of Borasambar.

By that time the Bhonsle was engaged in putting down the Pindaris in his territories, and, therefore was unable to send any large force to Sambalpur. His minister Yasovant Rao Ramchandra solicited the assistance of the British Government, but the latter did not desire intervention. The Bhonsle demanded that Jaujar Sing whose influence had entirely prevented the peaceable occupation of Sambalpur would no longer be allowed to British protection. The British Government took it as vague accusation. R. Jenkins, the then Resident at Nagpur reported to the Governor General the substance of his conference about the complicity of Jaujar Sing in instigating hostility of the Rani of Sambalpur against Nana Saheb's attempt to take possession of these tracts. He stated that the very conduct of Jaujar Sing whose influence was supreme in Sambalpur prevented the success of Nana Saheb's negotiation for the peaceful occupation of Sambalpur. Before sending a troop Nana Saheb intended to know the attitude of the British Government.

1. Ibid, pp. 88-89.
about the conduct of Jaujar Sing. According to the agreement by which the provinces of Sambalpur and Patna were restored to the Raja, it was agreed that if Jaujar Sing should by intrigues or otherwise instigate the Zamindars to opposition, the British Government would no longer consider that chief to be entitled to its protection, and that, the Raja might in this case adopt whatever measures he thought proper towards Jaujar Sing\(^1\).

R.Jenkins further told Yasovant Rao that he had perfect recollection of the communication which had been made to Elphinstone. This communication with relation to Jaujar Sing stated only in general tenures that the Zamindars had formed a confederacy of Jaujar of Raigarh was the real head; but no other circumstances which were alleged to substantiate the charge, and consequently he did not see, with what regard to justice, so vague an accusation could be deemed conclusive against Jaujar Sing or that Government had been called upon to pass any decision where no troops were brought forward to constitute ground even for an enquiry\(^2\).

The Marathas also disregarded the agreement in not releasing Raja Jayant Sing and his son from the captivity at Chanda.

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The Maratha authority at Nagpur did not think it proper to use force under the circumstances and decided to proceed through negotiation and Janoji Bunsor was sent to Sambalpur. The Rani submitted to receive a small party of about 25 men with Janoji Bunsor, which was stationed in her country, although she would not receive them into the fort. Negotiations continued for three months. In the meanwhile, the Marathas remained encamped at Sour Narayan on the bank of the Mahanadi.

The Rani had the demand that she was to be left solely in the management of Athargarh of which she would engage to collect and pay annual tributes to the Maratha officer appointed to remain at Sambalpur. But the release of her husband and son formed the only term upon which she would consent to give up the fort. She threatened that inspire of this, if she would be attacked by the Marathas she would defend herself to the last and would cause disaster by taking shelter in the mount and forest.

Lastly when the force failed and negotiation did not succeed, the troops of Nanasaib under Ramchandra Wagh occupied the fort of Sambalpur by an act of most deliberate treachery in November 1803. To achieve this, the sardars of

1. Ibid, p.60.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid, p.76.
Nana Sahib, a few hours before the attack of the fort had entered into a specific agreement with the Rani, in which the sum to be paid in arrears and the future amount of revenue claimable from her were determined and the stipulations of both the parties were confirmed by oath of most binding nature administered in a Hindu temple within the fort regarded as picularly sacred. Having thus lulled her suspicion, the Marathas on the following morning suddenly attacked the fort. After some resistance the Rani was not only defeated but prevented from regaining the fort. The disaster deprived the Rani of all hopes of her maintaining her position, and she escaped at mid-night. She took the route to Chhotnagpur and after much fatigue and privation succeeded in gaining a retreat offered by a faithful Zamindar among the hills which form the boundary of that district with the purgana of Jespore and Ganjpur. Lastly amidst destitute situation the Rani had sought the British protection. She was given protection and a pension of six hundred rupees per month to support her dignity. When the Bhonsle demanded the surrender of the Rani, the British Government resisted it and insisted on the release of Raja Jayant Sing and his son Maharaja Sai.

3. Ibid, p. 81.
In the absence of her husband and son, Ratna Kumari was the defacto ruler of Sambalpur. It was she who gave leadership to the people of Sambalpur against the Marathas. Therefore, when she left Sambalpur in distress and disappointment, the resistance against the Maratha died. The Marathas, after the Rani escaped, occupied the fort of Sambalpur and became the sole master. About eight years after this event the Rani died on a pilgrimage to Kasi.

The withdrawal of British protection caused great distress to all classes of the inhabitants and many attempts were made to induce the Raja of Berar to exclude them from the treaty and to receive an equivalent for them in some other part of the British domain. He, however, remained obstinate and the British, being unwilling to create jealousy or discontent by further urging of the question, endeavoured to satisfy the people by promising that in the event of further circumstances bringing them again under the British power, they would be permanently attached to the British dominions. However, Sambalpur remained under the Maratha rule for nine years and their administration was in the last degree tyrannical. Raghuji deprived of a large part of his territory, tried to make good the loss by incessant exactions. The rapacity of Maratha Governors knew no bounds.

The conditions of India during the period, were definitely far from satisfactory. The Maratha chiefs, though defeated had not been subdued. Sindhia, Holkar, and Bhonsle had taken advantage of seven years of Minto's peace to strengthen themselves in a final bid to overthrow the British power. The Peswas were showing growing signs of restiveness against the restrictions of the Subsidiary Alliance. Central India was in a state of chronic disorder made worse by Pindari leaders. There were growing signs of hostility everywhere against the British power. It has always been the course of an aggressive imperialism that by riding rough-shod over the independence of others it generates a feeling of hostility leading to a cycle of wars which acquire an air of being defensive against states that rise to win back what they had lost. The wars of Hastings were sequel to those of Wellesley. Because of such preoccupation the British could not divert their attention specifically to Sambalpur affairs upto 1817 A.D.

Of the Maratha states Hastings first turned his attention towards Nagpur, then in the midst of internal dissensions. Raghují Bhonsle had died on 22nd March, 1816 and his son Parsoji was infirm of mind and body. There was a struggle for regency between Bukabai, the widow of Raghují and Appa Saheb the next male heir to the throne after Parsoji. The English saw their chance in these internal dissensions and hooked in Appa Sâhib with a support to conclude a subsidiary alliance which was signed in May 1816. The stroke dealt a blow
to the Maratha coalition, increased the offensive and defensive means at the disposal of the English.

The Peswa was the only Maratha chief who had entered into the subsidiary alliance with the English, and sacrificed his position as the head of the Maratha states. But by 1814 a growing coldness in the attitude of the Peswa towards the English became discernible. This was ascribed to the influence of Trimbakji Danglia who was openly hostile towards the English. In order to clip the wings of the Peswa, Baji Rao II was forced to sign a new treaty on the pain of being declared an enemy of the English. On the 13th June 1817 the Treaty of Poona was signed and the severity of the terms drove the Peswa to war which ultimately led to the downfall of his power\(^1\).

Appa Saheb, who had ascended the throne after the murder of his ward Parsoji, followed the example of the Peswa and attacked the residency on the 26th November 1817. The battles of Sitabaldi and of Nagpur decided the fate of Appa Saheb. He was deposed. All territories of the Bhonsle states to the north of Narmada including the Western Orissa were annexed by the British and a minor grandson of Raghuji II was installed as the ruler over the remnant of the states\(^2\). Thus Sambalpur again came under the British suzerainty.

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Jayant Sing had been kept in confinement by the Marathas with his son, Maj. Roughsedge pleaded his case so energetically that Sir Richard Jenkins, the Resident at Nagpur obtained his release from Chanda in 1817. He was restored to power in the same year, but died in 1818. The country was then administered by the British for a year. The widow Rani Mukta Devi petitioned to the British Government in favour of her stepson Maharaj Sai's accession to the throne. His claim was recognised and he was made Raja in 1820 though without the feudal superiority which the former Rajas had held over the chief of the neighbouring states. These chiefs were given separate sanad by the British Government in 1821.

It is not known where Rani Mukta Devi was living during the period from 1808 to 1817 A.D., but it was sure that she was not with her husband at Sambalpur at the time of her death. It appears that Mukta Devi was living at Panchagarh in Khorda from 1808 A.D. till she returned to Sambalpur after the death of her husband. However, Maharaj Sai was made Raja in 1820 and the chief of the neighbouring states were granted separate 'Sanad' in 1821. Thus Sambalpur

1. Letter No. 171, dated 5, 5, 1854 from J. Emerson, Asst. Agent to Governor General to J. Allen, Agent to Governor General, Chotnagpur, BRR.
2. Letter dated 4, 5, 1826 from Agent to Governor General to Swinten, Secretary to Government (Imperial Records Department).
3. R.C. Mullick, op. cit., p. 204.
4. Letter dated 26, 12, 1818 from Robert Ker, Commissioner of Cuttack to J. Adam, Chief Secretary to Government.
5. L.S. S. O'Malley, op. cit., p. 29.
was found to annual the dependency of the other chiefs.

The Sanad of Maharaj Sai was renewed from 1st January, 1826 for another five years. But about one year after this, the Raja died leaving behind him his widow Rani Mohan Kumari and two daughters\(^1\). In order to continue the line the British Government installed the widow Rani Mohan Kumari on the Gaddi of Sambalpur\(^2\). Though Sambalpur lapsed to the British Government finally in 1849, they virtually became the masters of Sambalpur since 1827 when Maharaj Sai breathed his last.

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2. Ibid.