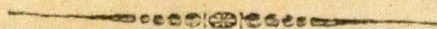


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A SKETCH
OF
ANCIENT HISTORY
TO WHICH
IS ADDED
A SUMMARY OF THE
HISTORY OF
HINDOOSTHAN
FROM THE MAHOMEDAN
INVASION



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Subarisa Maruttoo Pillay 1844



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Sketch of the History of the World before the birth of
C H R I S T.

THE world has been created nearly six thousand years. The time which has elapsed since the creation, may be divided into three parts : the first period, sixteen hundred and fifty-six years, extends from the creation to the flood : the second, two thousand three hundred and forty-eight years, extends from the flood to the birth of Christ : the third period, from the birth of Christ to the present time, one thousand eight hundred and twenty three. The advantage which this division of history affords, is, that the events which have taken place since the creation, are hereby imprinted on the mind with greater clearness.

The world was created by the word of the Almighty. God employed six days in creating all things, and on the seventh rested, having completed his labors. From this, he has commanded all

men, one day in the week, to divest themselves of worldly business and cares, and to devote themselves peculiarly to the contemplation of himself. He created two human beings, one male and the other female, and both sinless. Till sin entered into the mind of the woman, they both lived in the garden of Eden in the enjoyment of the highest felicity. But the woman having broken the commandment of God, persuaded her husband to do so likewise. From that period mankind have continually committed sin, and have been constantly in search after happiness, without having ever found it. The idea that in the beginning of the world, men enjoyed every degree of felicity, is confirmed by the traditions which have been preserved among all nations. The Greeks called it, the *Age of Gold*; the Hindoos have designated it, the *Sutyu Yoog*. With the entrance of sin, injustice, murder, falsehood, and every other evil entered into the world. Adam had two sons, Cain and Abel. Abel being more righteous than his brother, was slain by him.

The family of man began to increase ; and that the earth might be the more speedily filled with inhabitants, the age of man was then prolonged beyond the present limit of human existence. Methu-

selah lived longer than any other man ; he died at the age of nine hundred and sixty-nine. Except in the Sacred Scriptures, there is no credible account of the age before the flood.

After the world had been created about sixteen hundred years, God determined on account of the sins of men to destroy it by a flood. Noah who was the most righteous man of his time, was commanded to prepare an ark, into which when finished, he entered, together with his wife, his three sons, and their wives, in all eight persons ; and with them a pair of all living creatures ; after which, the earth was overwhelmed with a flood, and with the exception of those who were preserved in the ark, the whole of the human race perished. This event happened sixteen hundred and fifty-six years after the creation, and it terminates the first epoch.

Of this flood which destroyed the universe, all mankind have retained some tradition, and the natural proofs of it are to be found in many places. Those productions which are peculiar to particular countries, are frequently discovered many feet beneath the ground, far from the places where they are indigenous. Had not the order of nature been



disturbed at the time of the flood, we should not have thus found the productions of one country, buried below the surface in other countries.

Relative to the early ages of the world, the various writers among those nations who heretofore possessed a knowledge of letters, have abandoned themselves to the wildest fancy. Emboldened by the general ignorance of mankind, some have maintained that the world was ten thousand years old, others have given it a hundred thousand years : others a million, and some have even declared that it is eternal. The accounts of no two nations agree in this respect, and we are therefore led strongly to suspect the correctness of all their calculations. Those nations who applied to astronomy, fixed the age of the world according to astronomical calculations ; and the different periods which they assigned to it, were only certain periods within which the heavenly bodies complete a certain circle. Thus, the Egyptians fixing the age of the world according to the rotations of the planets, assigned to it thirty-six thousand five hundred and twenty-five years. The Hindoos have given four yoogus to the world, at the end of which, they predict a great *pruluyu* or destruction. Their astronomers found that, suppos-

ing the planets to have started at one time from any one sign, they would all return conjointly to that sign in so many millions of years: this mighty period of time they affixed as the duration of the earth, with which however it has no connection. That after the lapse of this long period, the planets, should they continue, will certainly be found in one sign, is certain, but this cannot in the least degree affect the duration of the earth, which is itself one of the planets which will move into that sign in unison with the others.

The flood continued a hundred and forty days; after it had subsided, the ark rested on mount Ararat in Armenia, when Noah, his family, and all the living creatures left it, and went abroad on the earth which was now dry. If we examine the various histories which refer to that period, we shall perceive every thing to indicate the infant state in which society then was. Among other things we may remark the following: the earth a few years after the flood was become a vast wilderness; in process of time, with the increase of mankind, little villages were formed, and finally towns and cities were established. The monsters of the woods were therefore the greatest enemies of the human race,



and those who endeavoured to deliver mankind from the fear of them, were the chief objects of praise among the poets of those days. The laws by which men were then bound, were exactly adapted to an infant state of society ; the manners of mankind were simple ; the authority of kings was unknown ; but as one race generally resided together, the lineal patriarchs of the family exercised authority over the whole community. Their poetry was a celebration of feats of strength and courage, and the greatest portion of mankind lived a pastoral life. All these circumstances evidently manifest that society was then in its infancy.

About two centuries after the flood, when the race of man was increased, they begun to build a lofty tower with the view of its serving as a place of security against a future flood. All mankind then spoke one language ; but God confounded their speech, so that being unable to understand one another, they relinquished the building of the tower, which was called Babel, and thence formed the Capital of the first monarchy, which was afterward called Babylon.

Egypt.

IT is highly probable that *Egypt* was peopled

shortly after the flood. It was famous for science, and its astronomical calculations are more ancient than those of any other nation. From thence, the knowledge of astronomy and of the other sciences as well as of the arts, spread into Greece and the surrounding countries. The greatest and most durable wonder in Egypt is, the tombs of its monarchs, which are called Pyramids. They are built four-square, and gradually diminish as they ascend from the base. The largest among them is five hundred and thirty cubits high, and at the base five hundred and thirty cubits on each side. One hundred thousand workmen, it is said, were employed ten years in laying the foundation of it, and the same number of men were occupied twenty years in building it up. During the time of its erection, the men employed in the work are said to have expended two lacks of Rupees solely in the purchase of onions for their food. Though it has now been built nearly four thousand years, it is still entire.

Greece and the countries on the northern shore of the Mediterranean sea, were peopled from Egypt. It remained for a long time subject to its own sovereigns. Five hundred and twenty-two years before the birth of Christ, Cyrus, king of Persia, con-

quered Egypt, and it remained subject to the Persian monarchy till the time of Alexander the Great, who having overturned the kingdom of Persia, conquered it and founded in it a city which he called after his own name, Alexandria.

The empire which Alexander created, was divided after his death among his generals. Egypt fell to the lot of Ptolemy, whose descendants enjoyed the sovereignty of it till the year forty-four before the birth of Christ. In that year, the Romans conquered it, and made it a province of their vast empire. The family of Ptolemy was famous for its patronage of learning, and for the magnificent library which they formed, and which comprised eight hundred thousand volumes. A part of this library was burnt at the time of Julius Cæsar in a conflagration which consumed a part of the city; it was afterwards replenished and increased, but Omar the Moosulman Kalif caused it to be wholly burnt about six hundred and forty years after the death of Christ.

The Jews.

THE nation which arose next in succession to Egypt after the flood, was that of the Jews. The true knowledge of God having been almost lost

among men, God selected one family in order to establish in it the true knowledge of himself. It was nearly four hundred years after the flood, that God called Abraham out of the land of the Chaldeans, and promised to give the land of Judea to his descendants if they continued to obey his commandments. Abraham's grand-son Jacob had twelve sons, whose descendants constituted the nation, which was thus divided into twelve tribes. Jacob went down into Egypt in a time of great famine, and there his family increased to an amazing degree, and suffered every kind of oppression from the king of the country. After they had remained in Egypt above two hundred years, God brought them forth with many wonders, and established them in the land of Canaan. For four hundred years after this event, they continued under the government of various persons appointed to that office by God himself. In process of time, they began to desire a king like the other nations of the world, and Saul was elected to that office. To him succeeded David, during whose reign the kingdom arose to a height of glory it never attained before, and has not seen since. Solomon, the son of David, erected a temple, so large and built of such costly materials, that the world has



never beheld another edifice equally magnificent. He exerted himself greatly for the promotion of commerce, which contributed much to the prosperity of his reign. After his death his son Rehoboam ascended the throne, a weak monarch, under whose reign ten of the twelve divisions of the kingdom revolted and established a separate monarchy. Three hundred and fifty years after Rehoboam, Nebuchadnezer the king of Babylon added this country to his other conquests. One hundred years before this event however, the ten tribes which had erected a separate kingdom, were carried away captive by the king of Assyria into a land which is supposed to have been contiguous to Afghanistan, where they have remained to this day. Seventy years after the king of Babylon had conquered Judea, the king of Persia having destroyed the kingdom of Babylon, erected the Persian monarchy upon its ruins, and restored the Jews to their own country. They continued subject to the Persians till the time of Alexander the Great, who having overturned the Persian monarchy, the little kingdom of Judea necessarily became subject to him. From that period to the birth of Christ, Judea was sometimes independent, and sometimes subject to the surrounding nations. A few years after the

birth of Chrst, it was completely conquered by the Romans, who expelled the people from their own country. From that time to the present, they have remained scattered among all nations ; but they retain to this day their manners, worship, and language unaltered.

Assyria.

As late as seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, the kingdom of Assyria was the most extensive in the world. Its ancient history is involved in great obscurity ; the first king was Nimrod, who is supposed to have established his empire three hundred years after the flood. After his death he was worshipped by his subjects as a god. In those ages the mode of conferring honor on the brave and the enterprising, was to esteem them gods. Mankind have always manifested a desire to deify the founders of their respective kingdoms, hence the first king of almost every country is said to have had a divine origin. The first king of the Romans, of the Greeks, of the Assyrians, and of several other countries were regarded by their subjects as gods. From this it appears highly probable, that the gods of the Romans, and of the Greeks, were either ancient monarchs, or men renowned for courage,



The daughter-in-law of Nimrod, Semiramis, rendered herself famous by her enterprize and courage. It is strongly conjectured that she either built or enlarged the city of Babylon. After conquering all the surrounding countries, she became desirous of subduing India, and prepared a mighty army with which she crossed the Sind river and penetrated into the Punjab. But the king of the Punjab by gradually retreating, drew her into the recesses of his country, and then suddenly attacking her, defeated her army, so that she fled in great consternation back into her own country. The Indian monarch pursued her as far as the Sind river, but forbore to cross it, probably through fear of losing cast.

After the death of Semiramis, thirty kings are enumerated as having successively sat upon the throne. The last king Sardanapalus gave himself up to indolence and iniquity. Arbaces, one of his chiefs, the ruler of the province of Media, revolted against and overcame him. The king, seeing no resource left collected a large quantity of wood in the Royal palace and burnt himself, his wife, his family, his eunuchs and his treasures in one grand conflagration. Thus the kingdom of Assyria was overturned nearly seven hundred years before the birth of Christ. The empire was afterward divid-

ed into three sovereignties ; that of Niniveh ; that of Babylon, and that of Media. These three for some time remained independent of each other ; but within the space of forty years ; the king of Niniveh conquered Babylon, and united that kingdom to his own. Fifty years afterwards, the king of Niniveh, becoming effeminate, renounced all care of his kingdom. The ruler of the province of Babylon, uniting with the king of Media, then conquered Niniveh and firmly established the kingdom of Babylon, which soon became exceedingly powerful. One of its sovereigns, Nebuchadnezer, after conquering many kingdoms, became intoxicated with his own glory, and as a punishment lost his reasoning faculties. He had cast a large image of himself of gold, sixty cubits high, and commanded all his subjects to fall down and worship it. His grandson succeeded to the kingdom, without possessing ability to govern it, and was conquered by Cyrus the king of Persia, who took the capital city Babylon, at a time when the king and the whole court were enjoying themselves at a great feast.

Media.

THE kingdom of Media was established by Arbaces about seven hundred years before the birth

of Christ. Its sovereigns gradually conquered all the little surrounding states, and thereby greatly increased the power and magnificence of their own kingdom; but as long as the kingdom of Babylon continued, they were unable to obtain the full sovereignty of that part of the country. Nearly two hundred years after the establishment of the kingdom of Media, Cyrus the heir apparent to the throne, (his mother being the daughter of the king of Media, while his father was the king of Persia,) was invited by his grandfather, the sovereign of Media into that country, and received from him the entire command of his army. With this army, he conquered the kingdom of Babylon, and after great efforts, took its capital city. This city was so extensive that the intelligence of its capture did not reach those who live at the extremity of the city, for three days after that event. Cyrus united the kingdoms of Persia, Media, Babylon, and several other states into one mighty monarchy, which comprized a hundred and twenty-seven provinces, and was called the kingdom of Persia.

Persia.

FIFTY years after Cyrus, Xerxes mounted the throne. He is chiefly famous for his unsuccessful

attempt to conquer Greece. Greece was situated on the confines of Europe, and though exceedingly small, the people were highly courageous, Xerxes having determined to invade it, collected together a million of soldiers. On his arrival near the sea which separates Europe from Asia, he erected a large bridge, which was soon after destroyed by the violence of the waves. Xerxes, highly incensed at this, commanded the sea to receive three hundred lashes, and as a further indication of his wrath caused to be thrown into it a set of iron chains, to bind it. When Xerxes arrived in Greece, three hundred noble Greeks, preferring death to the loss of independence, placed themselves in a strait through which Xerxes's army was obliged to pass, where they fought against the Persian army, till their whole number was completely destroyed. When some one told the Grecian commander, that the Persian darts would by their number conceal the light of the sun; he replied we shall then fight in the shade. Xerxes's army of a million of soldiers, and his numerous fleet were so discomfited by the Greeks, that he fled out of the country alone, and finding the bridge which he had built again broken by the violence of the waves, was glad to cross over in a little ferry boat. For a hundred

and fifty years after this, there was continual war between the Persians and the Greeks, till the time of Alexander the Great, who overcame that great monarchy with a very small army.

Greece.

GREECE was composed of a number of little states, the chief sway over which was sometimes enjoyed by one state, and sometimes by another. It was peopled from Egypt, but its earliest history is buried in obscurity. About one thousand eight hundred years before Christ, Inachus established the first kingdom in it. Six hundred years after his time, arose Hercules who became famous through the security he gave his countrymen by destroying the robbers who oppressed it, and by delivering it from the wild beasts who infected it. About a hundred years after, the various kings of Greece formed a confederacy to overturn the kingdom of Troy. Troy was situated at a little distance from the place where Constantinople now stands. The Greeks besieged the city ten years, and finally took it by stratagem. They proclaimed every where, that they were tired of the vain attempt they had made for ten years, and were a-

bout to return home. Having prepared a large horse they dedicated it to the tutelar deity of Troy, and then retired to a little distance from the city. This horse contained in its belly a number of armed men, and was so large that in order to admit it, it became necessary to pull down a part of the city wall. In the night, when the inhabitants of the city had retired to rest in the greatest apparent security, the soldiers issued from the horse, and being joined by the troops who were concealed without the city, completely sacked it. This is one of the greatest exploits recorded in Grecian History, and the remembrance of it will never be lost, as it has been celebrated by the two noblest poets in the Greek and Latin languages. Had not the war between the Greeks and the Trojans been celebrated by the poet Homer, it would probably have been immediately forgotten : but this is the reward of genius : it renders deeds immortal, which would otherwise be unimportant. Thus the war between Rama king of Oude, and Ravuna king of Lunka, has been rendered immortal by the poetry of Valmeek. Homer was born three hundred years after the fall of Troy. As Valmeek is the first Sanskrit poet, so Homer was the first poet among the Greeks. Both these writers to augment the dignity of their poems, have

given their heroes a divine origin. And to support the dignity of their hero, they have likewise given to the warriors of the opposite party, a descent from the gods.

Four hundred years after Homer, the king of Persia invaded Greece, as before related. During these four hundred years, the various countries of Greece made such advances in knowledge and civilization that Greece, though insignificant in extent, has become highly famous. When the king of Persia invaded Greece, the different states which composed it, entered into a mutual combination for the defence of their country; yet were they unable to collect more than ten thousand soldiers, to oppose the innumerable host of the Persian king. But its statesmen and generals were men of astonishing ability, and finally succeeded in expelling the Persians from their country. From the Persian invasion to the time of Alexander the Great, one hundred and seventy years elapsed; during which period, the little states were continually at war with each other. It was during this period that they made so astonishing a progress in knowledge, manufactures, architecture, sculpture, painting, poetry, music and eloquence, that there is scarcely any limit to their fame; no nation has

since been able to exceed them in these various pursuits ; their renown has only increased with the lapse of time, and other nations have since felt proud to imitate the noble exemplars which the Greeks have left. Yet the population of the whole country did not at any time exceed the population of the single district of Burdwan. The Persian monarchy though a hundred times larger, is scarcely ever mentioned; and never without disgust, because of its barbarism, ignorance, and injustice.

At length Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia in Greece, having subdued all the surrounding states, proceeded on his great expedition against the king of Persia, whose kingdom he completely overthrew. When he left his own country, he was only twenty years of age ; he then divided his possessions among his friends, and when they asked him what he had reserved for himself, he answered, 'hope.' In twelve years he conquered the greatest part of the then known world. Having thus rendered himself terrible, he became intoxicated with his success. As a man at the summit of a lofty mountain is unable to keep himself steady, so he who has raised himself by any circumstances greatly above his fellow-creatures, is seldom able to preserve himself from pride. Alexander exacted of his



subjects divine honors, and regarded himself as really descended from the gods. Yet this hero, so exalted in ability, in power, and in glory, perished at last in a fit of intoxication. Before the birth of Christ, Alexander and Semiramis were the only two, who crossing the Indus entered India in a warlike attitude. After the death of Alexander, his generals divided his empire among themselves. Greece continued subject to the kings of Macedonia for a hundred and seventy years, after which the Romans conquered the whole country. From this event the Romans derived the greatest benefit. Before this period, they were in a state of comparative barbarism, but from the Greeks whom they subdued, they learned poetry, eloquence, laws, and civilization.

Rome.

THE last nation which rose to power before the birth of Christ, was Rome, which gradually conquered all the countries of which we have been speaking, though the first settlers in the city were hords of banditti. Seven hundred and fifty-two years before Christ, Romulus founded a city in Italy, to which he invited from the surrounding

countries the poor, the distressed, and the infamous. These when collected together, he formed into a regular community, over which he became the king. At the period of his death, forty years after the foundation of the city, which was called Rome, it contained forty thousand inhabitants. Seven kings reigned after him, during the space of two hundred and forty years, who by inviting people from the neighbouring countries, greatly increased the number of their subjects, and by their justice and equitable administration, contributed to establish the infant city.

The seventh monarch lost his crown through his own violence and oppression, and through the lasciviousness of his son. The Romans having expelled him from the throne, passed a law prohibiting under the severest penalties, any attempt to re-establish the regal authority in Rome. For the transaction of the business of the state, they annually elected two magistrates, to whom the supreme authority was committed for one year. For two hundred years after the expulsion of the king, the Romans employed themselves in reducing the various nations of Italy under their own sway. Having accomplished this, they began to extend their conquests over the nations beyond Italy, and with-

in the space of two hundred years more, they accomplished the subjection of all the countries we have before enumerated. In the city of Rome, there stood a temple which was open in the time of war, and closed in time of peace. During the first seven hundred years of Rome, this temple was closed only twice, so continual were the wars in which this nation was engaged. While Rome possessed only a limited sovereignty, the citizens preserved their public virtue, but when they beheld the inhabitants of the most distant countries bend the knee before them,—when they dragged the kings and princes of the earth at their chariot wheels, they became intoxicated with their glory, and soon lost their virtue. The great men of the state strove to obtain the sovereignty of the whole country, and while the nations of the earth trembled at the very name of Rome, its streets were polluted with the blood of its own citizens. Fifty years before the birth of Christ, three Roman generals divided the empire between them, of whom one lost his life and his army in an expedition against the Parthians, who to stigmatize his avarice poured melted gold into his mouth after death. Cæsar, another of the generals, having conquered his colleague, brought the whole empire into sub-

jection to himself. He did not however long enjoy his success : a few virtuous citizens, inflamed with the disgrace of their country, put Cæsar to death. But the bulk of the people were so sunk in corruption, that instead of profiting by the exertion of their fellow citizens, they quietly submitted their neck to the yoke of Cæsar's nephew, who, after enjoying the throne for a considerable time, transmitted it peaceably to his successor. During four hundred years after this event, various individuals ascended the throne. At length, the barbarous nations of Europe pouring down like a torrent on the empire, divided its various provinces among themselves.

We have thus related in a brief manner the history of the world to the time of Christ. At that period, the Roman was the only ruling power in the world, and so universally was it dreaded, that if in the most distant country and among the most barbarous people, any one called himself a Roman citizen, he enjoyed complete security.

The greater part of the then known world, was subject to the Romans. With the exception of the Parthians in the country of Persia, and the barbarous nations in the north of Europe, the whole range of country from the Indus to the Atlantic was un-

der their sway. Before the birth of Christ, Rome was in the enjoyment of liberty ; but about that period, one of its citizens having raised himself by his victories to the supreme power, subjected his country to his own will. Rome continued subject successively to the dominion of one sovereign for four hundred years after the birth of Christ. These various sovereigns were not always of the same family. The empire was extensive, and the inhabitants of its various provinces devoted to indolent repose, and to the gratification of their passions ; hence there was no anxiety to acquire renown by enterprize and courage. The government was also weak, hence the meanest subject frequently elevated himself to the throne by some singular combination of circumstances, and enjoyed it perhaps for a short time. He was in his turn expelled by some other, who enjoyed only an ephemeral title. The generals who commanded the armies, encouraged by the weakness of the government, often possessed themselves of the empire ; two or three generals sometimes made war upon each other, and the empire became the prize of the victor. At one time, the soldiers put the empire up to sale, and an insignificant but wealthy citizen purchased it at the expense of all his wealth, but was expelled from the throne within three months. During these

four hundred years, only one-fourth of the various kings who swayed the sceptre of the Roman empire, died in the common course of nature. Some of them were men of high virtue, while others were monsters of iniquity and injustice; who, sunk in the filth of impurity and intemperance, commanded their subjects to pay them divine honors, and to offer sacrifices to them. One of the Emperors being tired of the task of destroying his subjects, wished that all the citizen of Rome had but one neck that he might destroy them at one blow. To enumerate their various acts of tyranny and oppression would be an endless task.

The various barbarous tribes in the North of Europe who maintained perpetual war with the Romans, encouraged by the superior fertility of the Roman provinces, while disgusted with the sterility of their own territories, at length conquered the Empire, and settled in its various provinces.

Of the Deeds of Constantine.

THREE hundred and twenty-four years after the death of Christ, Constantine ascended the throne of the Roman empire. In his reign two important events occurred.

First. Constantine being firmly fixed on the throne, established Christianity by law. At the birth of Christ the whole Roman empire, with the exception of Judea, worshipped idols. After the death of Christ, his disciples travelled into every country, proclaiming the glad news of salvation by his death. In the course of a hundred years, many had embraced Christianity, and the number of Christians continued constantly to increase. But the Roman emperors being idolators, persecuted the Christians, who, before the reign of Constantine, had suffered ten great persecutions; they were plundered of their goods, and punished with every species of torture which the human imagination could invent; yet they increased in proportion as they were persecuted. Constantine who professed Christianity, having ascended the throne, made that the religion of the state. When the public authority of the emperors which had contributed to support idolatry was withdrawn from it, idolatry gradually died away, and within a hundred years became entirely extinct. It is a remarkable fact, that while the emperors commanded that any one who acknowledged himself a Christian, should be put to death, Christianity continued to flourish; but when the public sanction and autho-

rity were withdrawn from idolatry, it disappeared within a hundred years.

The *second* important event which occurred during the reign of Constantine was the foundation of a new capital. Formerly Rome was the capital of the whole empire, but Constantine having built a new city, and called it Constantinople, after his own name, made it the capital of the empire. Rome had then stood a thousand and ninety-two years. Constantinople was built in Greece, and the erection of it contributed greatly to diminish the glory of Rome. Within thirty years after that event, the empire was divided into two parts, and Constantinople and Rome became the capitals of two separate empires.

Of the Eastern Empire.

THESE two divisions were called the Eastern, and the Western Empire, of which the last comprized the greater part of Europe. We will now relate in a few words the events which transpired in the eastern empire. Four hundred years after the birth of Christ, the two empires were so completely separated, as from that time to have no mutual relation with each other. The Emperors who

sat upon the throne at Constantinople did not attain their dignity by hereditary succession. Men of ignoble birth often obtained the sovereignty, and transmitted it to their descendants for three or four generations. The empire continued for more than a thousand years, down to the year fourteen hundred and sixty-four, gradually becoming weaker and weaker. Its sovereigns were in general ignorant and wicked, and their minds were in the highest degree weak. They manifested no desire to increase either the extent or the happiness of their empire, but were involved in perpetual disputes. Their highest aim was to preserve their dominions from the encroachments of their neighbours while they oppressed their own subjects; in which they partly succeeded till the year above mentioned.

The Turks, who were Moosulmans, issued from a part of Tartary, and poured down on the rich provinces of the south. Before their final conquest of it, they made frequent inroads into the empire. In the year fourteen hundred and sixty-four, they took Constantinople, and having conquered all the countries subject to the Greek empire, established a mighty kingdom on its ruins which remains to this day. It is now exceedingly weak, however, and is gradually decaying. It is the only Moosul-

man government in Europe : there are many who profess Christianity in it, but the Moosulman faith is established by law.

Of the Rise of the Moosulman Power.

HAVING concluded the account of the eastern empire, we shall give a short account of Mahomed and of the empires which his followers established, before we proceed to the western empire. Mahomed was born five hundred and sixty-nine years after the birth of Christ, on the eastern bank of the Red-sea, in the city of Mecca. That city is situated in the country of Arabia, sixteen hundred and fifty kross west of Calcutta. Mahomed was not of royal lineage ; he inherited from his father only five camels and one female slave. When he had attained the age of forty, he gave himself out as a prophet, and began to teach the people in the city of Mecca. He likewise gradually composed the Koran and told the multitude that he had received it from heaven. In proportion as his disciples increased, his fellow-countrymen persecuted him, which contributed not a little to augment the number of his followers. In this manner he continued to instruct the people in the religion he had formed for thirteen years, at the end of which period, his

enemies determined to destroy him, which when his friends learned, they conveyed him secretly to the city of Medina. Mahomed fled to this city six hundred and twenty-two years after Christ, and his flight is called the Hegira, from which event the Moosulmans date their æra.

Having arrived in the city of Medina, he entered into friendly relations with its inhabitants, and commenced a war against his enemies, declaring that God had commanded him to establish his religion by the sword. After this he engaged in war with certain of the Arabians and with the Jews, and eventually with the emperor of Constantinople, from whom he endeavoured to wrest the province of Syria, but was unable to do it. At that time he was exceedingly powerful, and his army which was numerous, while they obeyed him as a General, worshipped him as a Prophet sent from heaven, and were inflamed with zeal to propagate the new religion which they had embraced. Before his death his followers had increased to so great a number, that he conducted a hundred and fourteen thousand pilgrims to the city of Mecca as to a place of high sanctity. He died in the presence of his friends, in the city of Medina, in the year six hundred and thirty-two of the Christian æra, at the age

of sixty-three. The religion which he established is called Mahomedanism ; it did not exist before his time.

After his death three of his disciples were successively raised to the sovereign power, and reigned in the city of Mecca ; their names were Abubeker, Omar, and Othman. Othman was put to death, and Ali who had married Fatima the daughter of Mahomed succeeded him. At the death of the prophet, the Moosulmans had besought Ali to accept the supreme power, but he then refused it. After the death of Othman however they constrained him to ascend the throne. At that time, Moawia, a powerful general, made great efforts to obtain the supreme power, and having collected together eighty thousand Arabian soldiers, maintained a conflict with Ali during a hundred and fourteen days. Ninety battles were fought between the hostile armies, and on both sides seventy thousand Moosulmans perished. At length Ali was victorious, but one of the vanquished party having determined on his destruction, prepared a weapon steeped in poison, and while he was engaged in an act of devotion in the temple of Cufa, stabbed him to the heart. Ali was sixty-three years of age at the time of his death.

On his death the Moosulmans raised Hassun his son, to the throne ; but the greater part of the Moosulman dominions was subject to the Moawians. Yezed the son of Moawia having entered into a conspiracy with the wife of Hassun, instigated her to give her husband poison, of which he died.

In the mean time, Moawia died and his son Yezed gave himself up to every species of iniquity. A hundred and forty thousand Moosulmans united to place Hossain, the remaining son of Ali, upon the throne. But anticipating the probable weakness of his government, they forsook him and fled. Upon this one of Yezed's generals, Abdoolla, surrounded Hossain and commanded him to be brought prisoner before him. Hossain had only seventy soldiers with him, who seeing the misfortune that hung over them, determined to defend themselves to the last, and having dug a trench round their camp, prepared for a steady resistance. At this time Haro, one of Abdoolla's chiefs, went over to the party of Hossain with thirty soldiers. This small band not exceeding a hundred men, fought till it was entirely destroyed, with the exception of Hossain and his sister. He seated himself at the door of his tent, and while in the act of lifting a cup of water to his

lips, was wounded with an arrow. The enemy immediately closed in upon him, but he drew his sword, and though single-handed, attacked them with such vigor, that no one was able to stand before him. At length his enemies made a united effort, and Hossain fell, covered with thirty-three wounds. His body was carried in triumph to Abdoolla, who smote it on the mouth. An old soldier who was standing by, said, how often have I seen the kisses of the holy prophet imprinted on those lips. From that period, there have always been two parties among the Moosulmans; the one venerate Aboobeker, Omar, and Othman; while the other disregarding them, hold Ali and his two sons Hassan and Hossain in the highest veneration.

Within twenty-three years after the death of Mahomed the Moosulmans conquered Arabia, Persia, Syria, and Egypt, the inhabitants of which in general embraced the faith of the prophet. After the death of Ali, none of Mahomed's family ever sat upon the throne, but his descendants who are exceedingly numerous, are universally held in high repute. In Arabia they are called Sherifs; in Turkey, Emirs; in Persia, Africa, and India they are called Seyds.

34 *Of the Moosulman empire in Spain.*

After the death of Hossain the family of Moawia sat upon the Moosulman throne ; and within one hundred years after the death of Mahomed, the Moosulmans conquered Spain, and several other countries in Europe. They also penetrated into France and possessed themselves of half the country, but received a signal defeat from Charles Martel, who completely expelled them. Had not Charles defeated them, it is probable that they would have subdued the whole of Europe.

About this time the Moosulman dominions were divided into three parts ; the first of which included Spain ; the second Africa, together with Egypt ; the capital of the third was Bagdad, it included Persia, Syria, &c. We will briefly relate the events which happened in each division.

Of the Moosulman empire in Spain.

SEVEN hundred and fifty years after the birth of Christ the Moosulmans conquered Spain, and retained possession of it for seven hundred and forty-two years down to the year fourteen hundred and ninety-two of the Christian æra. The same year America was discovered, under the auspices of the queen of Spain. One hundred years after

they lost the sovereignty of Spain, the king having failed in his attempts to extirpate the Moosulman faith, expelled all who professed it from the country, and having provided them with ships, landed them with their wives and children on the shores of Africa. There they wandered like fugitives without shelter, and without friends, and fell a prey to the wild Arabs of the desert, who destroyed the greater part of them. In this manner was the Moosulman empire in Spain dissolved. While they possessed Spain, it enjoyed the highest degree of prosperity; learning and science then almost extinct in the rest of Europe, continued to flourish there in the highest perfection. The Spanish Moosulmans were famous for their knowledge of geography and astronomy. Every considerable village in the country possessed a seminary of learning; and there were therein eighty large and flourishing cities, and three hundred towns. The extensive commerce it enjoyed, tended greatly to enrich it; and the revenues of the country amounted to five crores of Rupees. The nature of the government differed widely from that of other Moosulman governments. The various sovereigns in general sought the safety, happiness, and prosperity of their subjects, while in other countries their own advantage was the only wish of the rulers.



IT was chiefly the northern part of Africa which was subject, to the Moosulmans. Their dominions extended along the southern bank of the Mediterranean sea. The various governments of this region were perpetually at war with each other, and the revolutions which happened among them, would, if related, only weary the reader. Egypt was subdued by the Turks in the year fifteen hundred and seventeen, from which period it has continued under their sway. The other Moosulman Sovereigns are independent of each other, but the injustice and iniquity which prevail among them, have rendered them proverbial.

Of the Moosulman Sovereignty at Bagdad.

THE Moosulmans exercised dominion over Bagdad with the surrounding countries for five hundred years after the death of Mahomed. In the year twelve hundred and fifty-eight, it was conquered by the grandson of Jenghis-khan : and in the year fifteen hundred and seventeen, it was subdued by the Turks since which period it has been subject to various revolutions. It is now under the Persians.

Of the Moosulmans in Tartary.

THE religion of Mahomed was carried into Tar-

tary a few years after his death. From that period to the present, the Moosulmans of Tartary have made five grand eruptions into the richer countries of the South, which we will briefly enumerate.

I. Of the empire of Ghizni.

IN the year one thousand, the empire of Ghizni to the west of the Sindh, was established by Mahomed. He was the first who introduced Moosulmanism into Hindoost'han. Crossing the Indus, he twelve times ravaged the provinces of Hindoosthan and sacked the cities of Kunnoje, Delhi, Lahore and Muthoorah; he completely despoiled and destroyed the famous Hindoo temple of Somnat'h in Goozrat. That temple was in those days the most famous in Hindoost'han;—two thousand priests attended in it, to perform the daily ceremonies. To it were likewise attached two thousand singers and courtezans. The building was supported within by pillars covered with leaf gold and so completely adorned with precious stones, that the single lamp which burned in the middle of the temple gave light to the whole building by the reflected lustre of these stones. In the midst of the temple stood the image of Somnat'h, fifty cubits high. It was buried forty cubits in the earth, so that only ten cubits of it were visible. Water was

daily brought for the service of the image from the Ganges, a distance of twelve hundred miles. The Hindoos fought long to preserve the temple from violence, and fifty thousand men perished in its defence. Seeing no resource left, the brahmuns offered Mahomed eight crores of Rupees for the preservation of the idol. Mahomed said, that he had not come such a distance to engage in a traffic for idols, and ordered the image to be hewn in pieces, in the belly of which he found precious stones to a far greater amount than the brahmuns have offered. The empire which he established, did not continue more than a hundred and fifty years.

II. *Of the Empire of Jenghis-khan.*

ON the destruction of the empire of Ghizni, several of its provinces were formed into a new kingdom under Jenghis-khan. He issued from Tartary with an immense army and laid waste the provinces of the south. In the year twelve hundred and fifty, he conquered a part of China, and twelve years after, desolated the countries to the west of the Indus, Bokhara and Khorashan. The disasters which he inflicted on these countries were endless; death and destruction marked his footsteps. The number of his concubines exceeded

five hundred. His successors conquered China, Tonkin, Cochin-China, Pegu, Bengal, Tibet, and the various provinces of Hindoost'han. His son entered Europe and desolated Russia and Poland. At the termination of one battle, nine large sacks were sent to his capital filled with the right ears of the vanquished. The empire which Jenghis-khan founded, continued a hundred and fifty years, to the year thirteen hundred. Both these empires were transient in their duration.

III. *Of the Empire of Timur-beg.*

THE countries which we have named, had scarcely recovered from the destructive ravages of these men, before they fell into the hands of Timur-beg, a still more remorseless tyrant. He was born in the year thirteen hundred and thirty-six; and was crowned in his capital Samarkhand in the year thirteen hundred and seventy. The other chiefs of Tartary having manifested great opposition to him, he entered into hostilities with, and completely destroyed them. His army was at length so numerous that it covered a plain exceeding thirteen miles in extent. With this immense army, he poured down upon the southern provinces. In the year thirteen hundred and eighty, he conquered



Persia as far as the river Euphrates. About this time the Turks under the command of Bajazat, began to appear formidable ; Bajazat and Timur-beg were the two most powerful sovereigns on earth, and were mutually anxious to try their strength with each other. At length they came to an engagement, in which Timur-beg was completely victorious, and took Bajazat prisoner ; he is said to have then confined him for nine months in an iron cage, in which he died.

In the year thirteen hundred and ninety Timur-beg crossed the Sindh with ninety thousand horse, and as a host of locusts destroys every thing in its progress, so Timur-beg with this immense army falling upon the provinces of India desolated the whole country from the river Indus to the city of Delhi. In this enterprise one hundred thousand prisoners having accumulated on his hands, he considered, that if he carried them with him, his march would be impeded, and if he left them behind, they would join his enemies ; he therefore determined to put them to death ; and at once destroyed these hundred thousand men without the least remorse. In his progress from Delhi to Hurdwar, he is said to have destroyed every Hindoo he met.

In this manner he proceeded from kingdom to kingdom destroying every thing in his march. In the year fourteen hundred and five the earth was relieved from this monster of iniquity : of his enormities we can only relate one or two instances. Near Delhi having decapitated two hundred thousand men, he erected various columns with their heads. Having met with much resistance in the seige of Bagdad, he completely destroyed the city and caused the heads of ninety thousand men to be erected into one heap, as a monument of his vengeance. In the country of Persia, in the city of Ispahan, he erected a similar heap of seventy thousand human heads.

After his death, his family long governed Hindoosthan. A hundred years after that event, his grand-son Sooltan Baber sat upon the throne at Delhi, and firmly established the sovereignty in his own family. His grand-son Acber was a man of virtue and talent, and governed the empire with great equity. His grand-son Shah-jehan beautified the city of Delhi, but his son Aurung-zeb a wicked prince, having placed his father in confinement, and destroyed his brethren, usurped the throne. From that period, the Moosulman government in Hin-

doosthan has been gradually growing weaker and weaker. The whole empire is now in the hands of the English, who rule it with equity and moderation.

IV. *Of the Seljukian kingdom.*

IN the year one thousand and thirty, another Moosulman government was established to the west of the Indus. It was called the Seljukian kingdom, and was very extensive. It extended from Persia to China and continued to flourish a hundred years. It was finally destroyed by the surrounding Moosulman princes. It was named after its first sovereign Seljuk.

V. *Of the Turks.*

WE have before mentioned that the Mahomedans of Tartary made five eruptions into the provinces of the south. The last eruption was that of the Turks, who issued from the countries to the north of the Caspian sea. From Othman, one of their generals who about the year thirteen hundred acquired great power and glory, their empire has been called the Ottoman empire. In the year fourteen hundred, Bajazet succeeded to the chief command, of whom we have given an account before.

In the year fourteen hundred and fifty-three, the Turks took Constantinople and destroying the Grecian empire, made that city the capital of their monarchy ; they enjoy it to this day. Of these five Moosulman empires, four have been destroyed, and the Turkish empire alone remains ; but it is now no longer formidable to the nations of Europe.

We have thus briefly treated of the affairs of the Moosulmans. Though they have made the most extensive conquests, the empires which they successively established, flourished only for a time, since they were established upon the miseries of mankind. The influence of these conquerors on human affairs, for the last thousand years, has been far more detrimental than beneficial.

It would however be unjust to refuse them that share of praise which is their due. Some of their sovereigns were illustrious patrons of the arts and sciences. In the city of Bagdad there were at one time no fewer than six thousand students of Arabic learning ; and the northern part of Africa though now sunk into the most object servitude, could

once boast of its grandeur in science and civilization. In Eggpt under the Moosulman government a library was formed which comprised a hundred thousand volumes ; and the royal library of Spain contained no fewer than two hundred and eighty thousand. Every kind of learning within the reach of human attainment, was cultivated by them. Two hundred different grammars of the Arabic language are said to have been composed by their literati ; and the renown which they obtained by the culture of literature, is more solid and lasting, than that which they acquired by their amazing conquests. Learning is however now almost extinct among them. The countries which yet remain under the Moosulman governments, are subject to the deepest misery ; and while other kingdoms rise and flourish those which belong to them, are gradually mouldering away. It is one of the invariable laws which regulate human affairs, that though governments may suddenly be erected by injustice, they can only be preserved by justice : the absence of this principle will invariably overthrow them. From the creation of the world to the present time, the prevalence of injustice in any government, has invariably proved its destruction, and will do so to the end of time.



History of Hindoost'han.



WE now propose to give a brief sketch of the History of Hindoost'han, from its subjection by Mahomed the Emperor of Gujni, to the period when the English, having overturned the Moosulman empire, established themselves in the government. As the conquest of Hindoost'han was gradually atchieved by the various Emperors who ascended the throne, we will endeavour to trace in succession the progress made by their arms, and introduce each country which submitted to their sway by a brief account of its geographical position, and by any other remarks which may tend to illustrate the subject. For the History of the Moosulman conquest of India we are chiefly indebted to the Moosulman historians.

The first conqueror who made any lasting impression on Hindoost'han was Mahomed, Emperor of Gujni. Gujni was situated on the western side of the Indus about five hundred miles north-west of Delhi. Soobuctukee, the father of Mahomed was

a prince of great valor, and made several irruptions into India. His chief object however was plunder, and his ravages extended only to a short distance from the Indus. In detailing the history of Mahomed his son and successor, we have to unfold a scene of horror, almost unparalleled in the page of history. An immense and beautiful country, which had for ages been free from the desolation of war, utterly plundered and laid waste by an unfeeling despot, in whom the rage for conquest was urged on by his insatiable desire to extend the triumphs of Islamism. The plunder of every species which he amassed, was so vast that the belief of the reader will probably be staggered during the perusal. Let him however remember that India had been for centuries sending forth its rich and valuable commodities into the rest of the world, while the peculiar nature of its society rendered it unnecessary to import much in return. The wealth of a great part of the world had therefore been accumulating within its bosom for long series of years, while no conqueror appeared to disturb its repose, or to despoil it of its immense treasures.

Soobuctukee left two sons, Ismael and Mahomed. Ismael was a prince of a mild and amiable disposition, totally unfit to govern an empire founded on

the conquests of his father. He prevailed on his father however to appoint him his successor till the return of his brother, and was solemnly crowned at Balk. Having ascended the imperial throne, he shewed no disposition to quit it, but prepared to resist his brother, who was employed in one of the distant provinces of the empire. Mahomed offered him the government of Khorasan for life if he would yield the empire to him; but Ismael prepared to support his claim by arms, and having unlocked the imperial treasury distributed large sums among his troops. Mahomed in the mean time advanced on him with his army, and the conflict of the two brothers was both long and bloody. Ismael was in the end defeated, and confined in an iron cage which, in the full confidence of success, he had prepared for his brother. The conqueror now ascended the throne, and after subduing the petty chiefs who had revolted against him during his enterprize against his brother, began to prepare for his grand expedition into India.

At his accession to the throne of Gujni, Mahomed had made a solemn vow that he would attack with his whole force the idolators of Hindoost'han. In the year one thousand he commenced the earliest of those twelve dreadful irruptions in which he spar-

ed neither age nor sex, but plundered without remorse the palaces of princes and the temples of the gods, and despoiled India of the accumulated wealth of centuries. Having crossed the Indus, Lahore was the first object of his attack. Lahore is one of the largest and most fertile provinces of Hindoost'han. It is watered by five rivers, the Sutudroo, the Vee-pasa, the Chundru-bhaga, the Iravutee, and the Veetusta, from which circumstance it is called the Punjab. It is situated between the Indus and Delhi, and is reckoned three hundred and sixty miles in length and a hundred and seventy-two in breadth. Lahore the capital, is a city of high antiquity, and is by some supposed to have been built by Alexander the Great. Lying on the direct road that leads into Hindoost'han, Lahore has ever been harrassed by the armies of contending princes, and has been more deeply stained with blood than any other province of the empire. It is perhaps to this circumstance that the people are indebted for their martial spirit. The throne of Lahore was then occupied by Juyapala who, though he had been before vanquished by Soobuctukee did not decline a contest with his son, but collecting an army of twelve thousand horses, thirty thousand foot, and three hundred elephants, he offered him battle, which was obstinately disputed on both sides. Mahomed, notwithstanding the

inferiority of his forces, vanquished *Juya-pala*, killed five thousand of his troops, and took the raja himself prisoner. The booty obtained on this occasion was immense; round the neck of the captive monarch were found sixteen strings of pearls each valued at a hundred and eighty thousand Rupees. The spoil found in the camp was proportionably great. *Juya-pala* obtained his liberation by paying a large ransom and by consenting to an augmented tribute. Stung with shame at his misfortune, he in compliance with a maxim then prevalent in India, that a monarch who had been twice vanquished by the Moosulmans was unworthy of his throne, resigned the sceptre to his son, and having caused a funeral pile to be kindled, leaped into the flames and perished. He was succeeded by his son *Anunda-pala*.

The object of Mahomed's *Second* expedition was to secure his newly acquired territories, rather than to make new conquests, or to accumulate wealth.

In the year 1004, Mahomed commenced his *Third* Indian expedition, on the pretext of tribute detained by Bukhera, a dependent of *Anunda-pala*. His capital city Tahera, on the borders of Mooltan, was exceedingly well fortified, and the prince de-

fended himself with such resolution as to drive Mahomed almost to despair. Bukhera however, was eventually constrained to shut himself up in the citadel, which was immediately invested by his enemy. Finding it untenable, he effected his escape from the fort, and drew a considerable part of his army with him. On receiving intelligence of this, Mahomed divided his forces into two bodies, and dispatching one in quest of the fugitive prince, pressed forward the seige with the other. Bukhera finding resistance impossible, endeavoured to force a passage through the midst of his enemies, but his troops were all either cut to pieces, or taken prisoners. To avoid a similar fate, he plunged his sword into his own bosom. The capital after this fell an easy prey to Mahomed, who transported all its jewels and wealth to Gujni, to which he also annexed the territory.

His *Fourth* expedition was directed against Mooltan, which was at that time under the government of Daood, who refused to submit himself to Mahomed. This province extends on the east side of the Indus, from its source till it falls into the ocean. It is reckoned three hundred and sixty-six miles in length, and two hundred and sixteen in breadth. In very ancient times the capital was

a city of amazing extent. The fort is said to have had one thousand four hundred bastions, and of some of its fortifications there are at present considerable vestiges. Mahomed's army though exceedingly numerous, had to contend both with Daood, and with Anunda-pala his old enemy, who was ever on the watch to harass and distress him. The forces of the latter though greatly superior in number, were so far inferior in valor and discipline that he was totally routed by the Sultan, and obliged to fly into Kashmeer. Mahomed pushed on his troops to Mooltan, which he took with little difficulty, and though the Persian historians are silent respecting the plunder which he obtained, yet it doubtless bore some proportion to the wealth and immense commerce of the place. Daood after flying to the woods, submitted himself to the conqueror, who permitted him to occupy his throne on the promise of a large increase of tribute.

In the year 1008 Anunda-pala impatient under a foreign yoke, endeavoured to wrest Mooltan from Mahomed, which roused the resentment of the Sultan, who prepared to pour his vengeance on the Punjab. This formed his *Fifth* expedition. Anunda-pala, determined do perish rather than to submit, sent messengers to the great rajas of Hindoost'han



intreating them to form a confederacy for their mutual defence against a common enemy. The raja^s of Oojjuyna, Gualior, Kalinger, Kanooj, Delhi, and Ajimeer, advanced to support him with a numerous army, animated by the most heroic fortitude, but without a chief capable of coping with Mahomed. India had not for many years witnessed so large an army, collected from so many different provinces. Mahomed encamped on a vast plain near Peishawir; opposite him encamped the Hindoos who became every day more formidable for numbers and strength. The two armies continued in sight of each other forty days. Mahomed who was strongly intrenched, was anxious to provoke an attack on his camp; in which he at length succeeded. As fast as the Hindoos approached, they were cut down by the troops of the Sultan, who seeing them at length greatly exhausted, rushed out of his intrenchments and commenced a dreadful attack on the weakened enemy. An accident happened at this time, which determined the fate of the day. A species of fire weapon exploded near the elephant of the raja of Lahore, the generalissimo of the army, which so terrified the animal, that he flew with the Raja precepitately from the field. The Hindoos imagining themselves deserted by the chief, betook themselves to flight, and

Mahomed at the head of his horse commenced a bloody pursuit which lasted two days, during which time he destroyed twenty thousand of the enemy, besides the uncounted numbers which perished on the field of battle. The plunder of the most costly kind obtained on this occasion was sufficient to load forty elephants, and the fame of Mahomed was wafted to the most distant extremities of Asia.

Even this plunder was unable to satiate his avarice. On the Himaluyu mountains, in the territory of Nagur-kota, a fort called Bheem had been erected in former times, which contained a superb temple, the resort of pilgrims from all parts, and such wealth that the floor is said to have been covered with plates of gold. The fort had been built with great labor, on the summit of a lofty peak, and was deemed utterly impregnable. In the vaults under the temple, as in a place of inviolable security, was deposited the whole collected wealth of the neighbouring princes, so that in this fort there was supposed to be amassed a greater quantity of gold, silver, and precious stones than in the treasury of any prince in Asia. Mahomed fresh from his victory, hurried hither, with the utmost expedition, and investing the fort, sent out detachments to lay waste the surrounding country. The brahmuns who

guarded the treasure, were determined with the aid of their small garrison to make a vigorous resistance, while they heaped curses on the rapacious Moosulman, who had dared to invade the sanctity of Shiva, the deity of the place. In spite of their anathemas, Mahomed carried on his works with vigor, and it was not till resistance appeared unavailing that they surrendered the fort, and opened its gates for the first time to admit the troops of a conquerer. In the temple were found seven hundred thousand golden deenars, seven hundred maunds of gold and silver plate, forty maunds of pure gold in ingots, two thousand maunds of silver bullion, and twenty maunds of jewels of various kinds, which had been accumulating in the temple from the time of its foundation. With this enormous treasure he returned to Gujni, where at a magnificent festival, he displayed to an immense concourse of people on an extensive plain, all the wealth he had amassed, and distributed rich prizes among his generals, omrahs, and chief officers. In each of these expeditions Mahomed defaced and mutilated all the images he could discover, and compelled the inhabitants to acknowledge the sacred mission of Mahomed on pain of instant death, or perpetual slavery in a foreign country.

In the year 1011, Mahomed made his *Sixth* irruption into India, and plundered the cities of Tanassar and Delhi. Tanassar was a very ancient city, situated in the Soobah of Delhi, from which it is distant about thirty miles. The river Suruswutee runs near it, and in its vicinity is the lake of Koorookshettra. This region was the scene of the Mahabharut, and the city of Hustinapoor, the capital of Bharut, stood near it. Mahomed had heard that it was held in the same degree of veneration by the Hindoos, as Mecca was by the Moosulmans, that it was full of temples, and that like Bheem, it overflowed with consecrated wealth. Amidst a thousand inferior divinities, sat the tutelar deity of the place, whose image the brahmuns vaunted to be coeval with the world.

Mahomed directed Anunda-pala to perform all the duties of a faithful ally, and to provide for the daily support of the army in its progress. Anunda-pala, zealous to preserve Tanassar from plunder and destruction, offered as a ransom a large number of elephants, bullion and jewels. Mahomed inexorable to all his entreaties, only returned in reply that according to the maxims of the Moosulman faith, the more the glory of the prophet was augmented, and the more idolatry was subverted, the greater



would be the reward in heaven. When the news of Mahomed's approach reached the king of Delhi to whom Tanassar belonged, he dispatched heralds to all the rajas in Hindoost'han summoning them once more to the field, and entreating them to protect from profanation the last sanctuary of the gods. Mahomed's troops in the mean time poured in with unceasing rapidity, and before the confederated rajas could assemble their troops, he had already invested the place, the defenders of which, unaccustomed to military operations, were quickly obliged to surrender it. In the space of a few hours this splendid city of unrivalled beauty and opulence, was reduced to the lowest state of desolation and distress by the ravages of the soldiery. The temples were ransacked of all their wealth and jewels, and then thrown down, and the images of the gods after being cut to pieces were strewed about the streets of the city. The principal image was reserved for still greater degradation. Lest it should rekindle the flame of enthusiasm, it was carried to Gujni, where, after being publicly decapitated, its members were scattered through the streets and high ways, and trampled on by the victorious Moo-sulmans.

Enraged at the conduct of the Raja of Delhi, in summoning other rajas to the conflict, Mahomed had no sooner subdued Tanassar than he marched against that city. The greatest length of the Soobah of Delhi is three hundred and thirty miles, and its extreme breadth, two hundred and eighty. The principal rivers which water it are the Ganges and the Yumoonah. The city is said to have been founded two thousand one hundred years ago by one Delu, though others maintain that one Aurungpala founded it on the ruins of a more ancient city, about fourteen hundred years ago. Its chiefs had been for a long time independent, but at length they became tributary to the great Rajas of Lahore, whose family name was Pala. It is supposed to stand on the site of the ancient city of Indrapoot, mentioned in the *Muha-bharut*. It rose to renown as Kanooj declined, and after the total decay of this last, it continued to be the metropolis of Hindoost'han under all the successive families of Moosulmans till it was superseded in its turn by Calcutta. Against this great capital, Mahomed now directed the march of his victorious troops. The rapidity of his approach and the vigor of his attack rendered all opposition fruitless; the city capitulated, and the crescent of Mahomed was soon elevated in the place of the banners of Vishnoo.



The palace was given up to indiscriminate plunder. Mahomed was so delighted with the beauty of the city and with its situation that he wished to annex it to Gujni, but on his generals representing to him the impossibility of accomplishing this project, while the intermediate raja of Lahore continued to maintain his independence, he relinquished his design and contenting himself with a large annual tribute, returned to Gujni laden with forty thousand captives, and wealth which almost defies belief.

About two years after this expedition Anundapala died and was succeeded by his son Prit'hweejuya-pala, who almost immediately on his accession to the throne, declared war against Mahomed, who now commenced his *Seventh* expedition into India. Unable however to cope with his disciplined troops, Juya-pala fled into Kashmeer, where he was followed by the sovereign of Gujni.

Kashmeer is situated about three hundred and sixty miles north-west of Delhi, and is about eighty miles in length and forty in breadth. It is shut in on every side by mountains, and the valley is represented as delightful beyond expression. In the time of Akber, Shree-nugura was the capital of

the country. Into this delightful country Mahomed let loose his destroying legions. In reducing the forts which were built on the hills, he found however great difficulty, and though he plundered the country of every thing valuable, he was detained a whole season before Lokotz, a strong fort, the seige of which he was compelled to relinquish ;—the first check to his victorious arms.

At the time of which we are speaking, Kanooj was the chief city in Hindoost'han. The distance between Kanooj and Gujni was equal to three months journey, and seven rivers intersected the path. *Uyoodya* is said in the legends of Hindoost'han to have been the capital of Hindoost'han for fifteen hundred years before the foundation of Kanooj, which was built by one of the princes of the *Uyoodya* dynasty, and which was said to have been one hundred miles in circumference. The foundation of Kanooj is generally placed about two thousand eight hundred years ago. The rajas who governed it for a long succession of years, were possessed of great power ; one of these Singhu, is said to have brought into the field against Affrasiah, king of Persia, an army consisting of four thousand elephants of war, a hundred thousand horses, and four hundred thousand foot. About twelve hun-

dred years ago, the city was so populous, that there were reckoned thirty thousand shops of beetle-nut in it, and sixty thousand musicians who paid a tax to government. Though these numbers may be a little exaggerated, yet after every degree of allowance has been made for eastern exaggeration, they will convey to us some idea of the immense magnitude, and the vast wealth of this city.

Mahomed in this his *Eighth* expedition came down upon Kanooj through the mountains of Tibet, and his march, which continued three months, was toilsome in the extreme. When he arrived before it with his army, he is said by the historian to have beheld "a city which raised its head to the firmament, and which in strength and structure might justly boast of having no equal." The reigning raja Gora affected the utmost pomp and splendor in his living, and his troops and generals seem to have been enervated by the same spirit. When therefore the Tartars and Affgans of Mahomed's army poured down suddenly on the city, unprepared for resistance, the minds of the astonished citizens were struck with terror, and the troops of the country though great in number yet immersed like their master in debauchery, fled in every direction. The raja went out in a suppliant manner to the camp of

Mahomed, to claim his mercy, which was readily granted. The keys of the metropolis of India were delivered into the hand of the Sultan, who after plundering the city, reposed himself and his army in it three nights.

In these fertile provinces there were several cities of considerable wealth and magnitude, which excited the cupidity of Mahomed. The first object of his attack was Meerut, situated in the Dooab. The raja preferring flight to imprisonment, abandoned the city to the rapacity of the conqueror, and fled. Mavin a strong fort on the banks of the Yumoon also attracted the notice of the Sultan. The raja Kala-chundra, determining to submit, marched out at the head of his army with this pacific intent; but while he was settling his bargain with Mahomed, the insolence of some of the Gujnavide soldiers provoked the indignation of the raja's troops, and a scuffle ensued which ended in a general massacre of the Hindoo troops. In the midst of this carnage, Kala-chundra was driven with his family into the river, and fearing captivity more than death, he desperately plunged his sword first into the bosom of his wife and children, and then into his own. In the fort which immediately submitted to the conqueror

were found seventy elephants of war and an immense booty.

On the southern verge of the dominions of Delhi stood the ancient and renowned city of Mut'hoora. It was ever considered peculiarly sacred, as having been the birth place of Krishna ; and kings, saints, and pilgrims had been for ages heaping up treasures in it ; hence the astonishing wealth which it contained. Though Mahomed was so ferocious in war, and took such a delight in destroying the temples and public buildings of India, yet he was astonished when he beheld for the first time the beauty of the city. It was totally unprovided for a defence against the valorous troops of Mahomed, who inflamed with the same spirit as their master, forced their way into the centre of the city, which was instantly given up to boundless spoliation. The priests and devotees were put to death at the very doors of the temples, the women, (many of them, of the noblest extraction) who attended at the shrine of the god, were violated without remorse, the temples themselves were robbed of every thing valuable, and the idols mutilated and thrown into the high ways, The wealth which Mahomed obtained here was immense ; in the various temples were

found five idols of pure gold with eyes of rubies, each worth fifty thousand deenars. Upon another idol was found a sapphire weighing four hundred nuskals, and the image itself when melted down, produced ninety-eight thousand and three hundred nuskals of pure gold. The silver idols were sufficient to load a hundred camels.

Mahomed took up his abode in Mut'hoora for twenty days, during which time, a fire accidentally breaking out, a great part of the city was consumed. He then marched against other forts in the district, reduced them to obedience, and plundered them of their wealth. Satiated with victory, and overburdened with the gold and gems of which he had robbed some of the richest cities in Hindoost'han, he returned to Gujni. The booty, his troops had acquired in this expedition which exceeded that obtained in any former one was quickly circulated throughout Gujni, and contributed to exalt it in splendor above the noblest cities of Asia. Magnificent buildings were constructed in every part of it at the expense of private individuals, and the Sultan himself expended a large portion of the wealth of India in erecting a superb mosque of marble, the interior of which was adorned with the

richest of his spoils, and with such a profusion of costly ornaments, that it was called, the celestial bride. Nor was Mahomed forgetful of the interests of science and literature, for near the mosque he instituted and endowed a college, and enriched it with a variety of books in all languages, making ample provision for the support both of the students and professors.

MAHOMED's *Ninth* expedition was occasioned by the alliance which the different sovereigns of Hindoost'han formed, to chastise the king of Kanooj for having submitted to Mahomed. The sovereign of Kallinjur, Nunda, attacked and defeated him in battle before Mahomed could assemble his troops to succour him. On Mahomed's approach, Nunda prepared for the conflict, and the two armies continued for some time facing each other on the opposite banks of the Yumoonah. In the dead of the night, a part of Mahomed's army secretly crossed the stream, and attacked the troops of the enemy, who ignorant of the strength of the assailants, instantly betook themselves to flight. The Sultan commenced a vigorous pursuit, and came up with the Hindoo troops on the confines of Boondelkhund. The forces of the raja of Kallinjur amounted to thirty-six thousand horses, forty-

five thousand foot, and six hundred and fifty elephants. He paused on the frontiers of his dominions, which led Mahomed to expect a regular battle. Nunda however, dreading the issue of a conflict, silently decamped, leaving behind him for the avarice of the foe, his tents, equipage, and baggage. Mahomed did not think proper to pursue him to Kallinjur, to which he had retired. This fort was so ancient that none could say when it had been founded, and it was reckoned altogether impregnable.

In this his *ninth* expedition, he subdued the little provinces of Kiberat and Nardien, the particular worship prevalent among whom is said to have been the worship of the lion, probably that of the Singh-Uvutar. The chiefs of Kiberat, unable to withstand him submitted to his arms. The other provinces were reduced by one of his generals.

The next year, he commenced his *tenth* expedition, and directed his march through Lahore to Lokota, the fortress in Kashmeer which had before baffled his efforts. The peculiar nature of its situation, rendered every attempt to reduce it vain, and after besieging it a whole month, Mahomed retired in a rage to wreak his vengeance on the capital of Lahore, which he was determined to an-



nex to his own dominions. The raja, *Juya-pala*, now deprived of his last retreat, Kashmeer, fled southwards, and shut himself up in Ajimeer, while the Sultan entered his splendid metropolis, and abandoned it to indiscriminate pillage. As Lahore had been for ages the channel through which the trade of the most distant parts of the East, of China, of Tartary, had flowed into the west, the plunder obtained in it, may be more easily conceived than described. Mahomed spent the winter in settling the affairs of the province, over which he appointed a viceroy. In the spring he returned to Gujni laden with treasures, and encumbered with captives.

The year following this insatiable conqueror, set his troops again in motion, and engaged in his *eleventh* Indian expedition. He marched through Lahore to the provinces watered by the Ganges, determined to reduce the sovereign of Kallinjur, who in conjunction with other chiefs, had contrived to mar the glories of his former expeditions. He opened the campaign by investing Gwalior, a fort of very considerable strength seated on the summit of a mountain. By the Hindoos it had always been considered as impregnable; it is situated about sixty miles south of Agra. The hill

on which it stood was about four miles in length, and the only entrance to it was by steps cut out of the solid rock, and well defended by a wall and bastions. The natural strength of the place was so great, that, after a fruitless attempt, the Sultan pacified by the submission of the raja raised the siege, and accepted of magnificent presents and thirty-five elephants. He then bent his whole attention to Kallinjur, the raja of which, by presents still more splendid and by an offer of three hundred elephants, purchased the favor of Mahomed.

In the year 1024 he commenced his *last* and most celebrated expedition into India, when he besieged the fort and castle of Soma-na'tha in Gujerat. Soma-nat'ha is said to have been the most celebrated resort of idolatrous devotees in the south of India. The different rajas around it had bestowed two thousand villages on the temple for the support of its vast establishment; the priests who daily attended it amounted to two thousand. The most extravagant accounts of its opulence are given by the Persian historians who have recorded the triumph of Mahomed. It was situated in a peninsula on the shore of the ocean near Deva-bunder, now in the hands of the Portuguese. The priests boasted that the fall of the cities of Kanooj and Delhi

arose from the desertion of their deity, who could in the twinkling of an eye have blasted the whole army of Mahomed. The lofty roof of *Soma-nat'ha* was supported by fifty-six pillars overlaid with gold and incrustated at intervals with precious stones. One pendent lamp illuminated the whole fabric, whose light, reflected back from innumerable gems, spread a lustre through the whole temple. In the midst stood *Soma-nat'ha*, an idol composed of one entire stone, fifty cubits high, of which forty-seven were buried in the ground. Of this image the brahmuns reported, that it had been worshipped from the commencement of the *Kaliyooga*. It was washed every morning and evening with water brought from the Ganges—a distance of twelve hundred miles. Around the edifice were distributed thousands of little images of gold and silver, which gave the temple the appearance of a grand assembly of the gods.

Mahomed being informed of the riches of *Soma-nat'ha* and of the menace of the god, was determined to put his power to the trial. With an immense army, he left Gujni, and taking Mooltan and Ajimeer in his way, crossed two formidable deserts, where his army was preserved from destruction almost wholly by his exertions and skill. On

the lofty battlements of the temple, a large multitude was assembled. At the approach of Mahomed, a herald denounced the vengeance of the god on the Moosulmans, and declared that Soma-nat'ha had drawn them together there that he might annihilate them with one blow. In spite of these imprecations, Mahomed commenced a vigorous assault the brahmuns retired to the interior of the temple, and prostrated themselves before the image, hoping every moment to hear of the signal destruction of their foes. Finding their expectations vain, they rushed out and made a desperate attack on the besiegers. This conflict they maintained for two days, fighting like men who had devoted themselves to death. At the end of this period, a vast army of Hindoos under the command of Raja Bhuyuram-Deva (in whose territories the temple was situated) and other considerable rajas, approached the Moosulman army: they fought with a degree of heroism which astonished Mahomed; but nothing could resist the vigor of his arms. The confederate rajas fled, after leaving five thousand of their troops slaughtered on the field, and the brahmuns of the temple, conceiving all further resistance vain, embarked in the vessels which lay in the harbour, with the hope of reaching Ceylon. But Mahomed, with

seizing those which remained, sent a body of troops after them, who capturing some and sinking others, permitted few of these miserable fugitives to escape.

Mahomed having entered the city, approached the temple, and was struck with its awful grandeur. In the fury of his zeal, he smote off the nose of the Image with his sword, and ordered it to be disfigured, and hewn in pieces. While they were in the act of obeying his command, the brahmuns entreated him to restrain his vengeance, and offered many crores of Rupees for the ransom of the image. Mahomed replied, that he had not come so great a distance to defile his hands with the sale of idols. His troops proceeded in their work, and found in the belly of the image an immense quantity of diamonds and precious stones, far exceeding the value of the money which had been offered. This unexpected treasure, with the other spoils of the temple were sent to Gujni, while fragments of the demolished idol were transmitted to Mecca and Medina, to be thrown at the threshold of their gates, and trampled under foot. Mahomed was so charmed with the salubrity of the climate, that he was tempted to make it the seat of his empire; but his chief counsellors dissuaded him from it. He now meditated an expedition against Ceylon and Pegu, of whose

riches he had heard magnificent accounts. He was absent from home on his last expedition two years and six months. On his return, his army was led astray into deserts where it suffered incredible hardships. Suspecting therefore the fidelity of his guide, he caused him to be put to the torture, when he confessed that he was one of the priests of Somanat'hā, and had invented this mode of revenging the insults heaped on his deity. He was instantly put to death.

Soon after finding his end approaching, this brave but cruel monarch commanded that the gold, silver, and jewels in his treasury, with all the spoils and trophies he had won, should be placed before him; on which having long fixed his eyes, he burst into tears. The following day he ordered a review of his army, his camels, horses, and elephants, with which having for some time feasted his eyes from his magnificent throne, he burst a second time into tears; and retired in dejection to his palace, where he soon after expired, after appointing his youngest son Mahomed to succeed to his vast dominions, with the exception of Persian Irak, which he bequeathed to his eldest son Masood. He died in the sixty-third year of his age, and the thirty-fifth of his reign, in the year 1030.



Sultan Mahomed possessed many great qualities, and among the rest a dauntless fortitude, and great wisdom ; but they were all obscured by his insatiable thirst for extending the triumphs of the Moo-sulman faith, and by his great cruelty. The wealth he amassed in his various expeditions was enormous : the splendor of his court attracted thereto the most celebrated scholars from all parts of Asia. Here they were hospitably entertained, more however from a spirit of ostentation than from true generosity. In particular his base conduct towards the great Ferdoosi, one of the most celebrated poets of the age, cannot fail to fix an indelible stigma on his memory.

No Mahomedan prince before him ever attained so exalted a point of power and splendor, ever amassed so much wealth, ever made such large conquests, or stained his hands so deeply with human blood. His empire extended from the Caspian sea to the Himaluya mountains, and from the Tigris to the Ganges. At Gujni he was the liberal patron of the arts and sciences ; but at Kanooj, at Tanassar, at Delhi and Nagurkota, at Mut'hoora, at Somanat'ha, he displayed all the fury of a cruel conqueror, and of a relentless bigot. He left no city in upper Hindoost'han untouched, but with unsparing ava-

rice, robbed them of all their wealth, and trampled under foot whatever was deemed sacred by the Hindoos. For thirty years, he kept Hindoost'han in a state of perpetual alarm, and well would it have been for these provinces had this disposition died with him ; but he is only the first in a long list of ferocious conquerors and tyrants on whose history we are about to enter.

The family of Mahomed governed the empire he had established one hundred and fifty-four years. After his death, fourteen sovereigns sat on the Gujnavide throne, to the year 1184. During a considerable part of this period, the empire was harassed by the Seljukian chiefs who lived to the west of Gujni, and among whom four men of pre-eminent ability and courage appeared. This family was engaged in perpetual war with the family of Mahomed, and the victory was as frequently on the one side as on the other. As the Seljukian monarchs however, seldom invaded Hindoost'han, it is not necessary that we should give a detailed account of their exploits.

In the history of Mahomed's successors, we shall perceive an unbroken series of revolutions, war, and massacre, Few if any of its sovereigns poss-

sessed the ability of Mahomed; and none of them added any lasting conquest in Hindoost'han to the empire which he bequeathed to them. To give a narration merely of revolutions, and assassinations, must necessarily tire the reader, yet the history of the succeeding century and a half is composed of little else. We shall therefore confine ourselves to a detail of the most prominent events and distinctly notice any further progress which these chiefs made in Hindoost'han.

Mahomed, the Second king of Gujni.

MAHOMED left two sons, twins, Mahomed and Masood, to the former of whom, contrary to the wishes and expectations of his people, he bequeathed his throne. Masood, on the death of his father, advanced from his government in Persia to claim the crown of his brother, who opened the royal treasury, and scattered profusely among his followers the wealth his father had accumulated. This prodigality however failed to secure to him the affections of his soldiers, who had fixed their hopes on his brother. His lofty mien, his undaunted courage, his great ability, and his generosity, fitted him for the throne. The arrow sent from his arm pierced the body of the largest elephant, and his

mace was of such weight, that none beside himself could wield it. Mahomed marched out against him, but his generals and soldiers deserted him on his march, and delivered him over to his brother. To prevent all future disputes Masood put out his eyes; and he who had left Gujni in all the splendor of royalty returned to it a miserable object, deprived of his crown and his sight.

Masood, the Third king of Gujni.

FIVE months after the death of his father, Masood ascended the throne, and released all the state prisoners confined by his father and brother. During the confusion which preceded his ascending the throne, several of the cities in India which had been reduced by his father, revolted. Against these Masood directed his forces, and laid siege to a fort called Suruswutee, the garrison of which offered to submit to him; but before the ratification of the treaty, the piercing cries of some Moosulman prisoners who were confined there, reached the ears of the army. Fired with indignation, they made an impetuous assault, and having captured the fort, put to death every one in it, without regard to age or sex, and pillaged it of every thing valuable. In the mean time, the Seljuks made an

irruption into his dominions on the western side, and carried their ravages almost to the gates of Gujni; but they were quickly repulsed. About this time also a new palace was finished at Gujni, and a massy throne erected in it; a crown of fine gold weighing seventy maunds and studded with jewels was suspended over it. Under this canopy Masood, sat daily to give audience to his subjects.

In the year 1035, he again bent his progress to India, and attacked a fort and city of the name of Hansi, which the brahmuns had declared to be impregnable. After a siege of six days he took it, and having secured its immense treasures, marched to Sunput, forty miles from Delhi. At his approach, the chief, *Juya-pala*, fled into the woods, but his treasure fell into the hands of the conqueror; who, inspired with his father's zeal, ordered the temples to be laid in ruins, and the images to be hewn in pieces. In a letter which he wrote to his ministers during this expedition, he boasted that he had sacrificed to the religion of Mahomed fifty thousand idolaters, had taken seventy thousand prisoners, and acquired a booty equal to a million of *deenars*. His further progress was however stopped by the earnest entreaties of his generals, that he would hasten to repel the invasion of the Seljuks,

who in the style of eastern metaphor, were at first but ants, but were now become serpents : Masood met them on the plains of Dindaka, and so vast were their numbers that they almost surrounded his army. The enemy advanced with impetuosity, and so intimidated the troops of Gujni, that they began early to give way : several of his generals joined the enemy, while others fled to Gujni. The valiant Masood, putting himself at the head of his few remaining followers, plunged into the thickest of the enemy, determined to force his way through them. But his valor was useless when opposed to such superior numbers, and he was obliged to make a hasty retreat to his capital, where he doomed the generals who had deserted him to perpetual confinement. The enemy after this fortified themselves so strongly in Khorasan, that Masood determined to retire into Hindoost'han till he could recover his affairs. With this view he sent for all his wealth to Gujni, and, laying it on camels, proceeded to Lahore. He likewise released his brother Mahomed from confinement, and obliged him to accompany the expedition. When it arrived on the banks of the Indus, the slaves confederated with the troops to plunder the royal treasures, and in a moment all was uproar and confusion. From plunder-

ing the king's treasure, they proceeded to attack one another, and it is scarcely possible to conceive any thing more terrible than the scene which followed. A vast number of lives were lost; and the insurgents thinking themselves unsafe till they had deposed Masood, rushed into the tent; and having brought Mahomed before the army publicly proclaimed him king.

In this dilemma, neither the fortitude nor the courage of Masood, could avail him. Touched with his melancholy situation, his brother informed him that the security, not the destruction, of his person was his object, and desired him to fix on some fort to which he might retire. Masood chose Kobra-Kebei. So reduced were his circumstances, that he was obliged to apply to his brother for money to pay his menial servants. That brother, less generous than merciful, sent him five hundred deenars. It was then that Masood felt for the first time the misery of his situation, and exclaimed in the anguish of his heart, "O cruel reverse of fate! yesterday I was a mighty prince; three thousand camels bent under the load of my treasures; to-day I am forced to beg, and receive but mockery in return." Indignant at this treatment he borrowed a thousand deenars of his servants; and having be-

stowed them on his brother's messenger, returned him the five hundred he had sent.

Not long after, Mahomed finding himself incapacitated for the government by the loss of his sight, resigned the sceptre to his son Ahmed, who not thinking himself secure while his uncle lived, went with two attendants to the place of his confinement and assassinated him. Modud the son of Masood, who was then at Balk with a large army, hearing of the event, vowed revenge against his father's murderers, and came down upon the city of Gujni, the inhabitants of which received him with joy. The opposite party hastened to meet him, and the two armies engaged on the bank of the Indus. The forces of Ahmed were completely defeated, and he with his father, and the two murderers fell into the hands of the victor, who ordered them to immediate execution. He then marched back to Gujni and ascended the throne. Masood reigned nine years and nine months; he was assassinated in the year 1041. He was a brave and magnificent prince, easy of access; and so great a patron of learning, that a philosopher of Khorasan, having composed a work on astronomy, Masood presented him with an elephant of silver. He built many

noble mosques, and founded and endowed many schools for learning.

Modud, the fourth king of Gujni.

MODUD on his ascending the throne, despatched a general against Nami, a son of Mahomed who appeared to revenge his father's death, but was completely overcome. A more formidable enemy appeared in the person of Mayoodud his own brother who was determined to share the throne with him. He seized on all the Indian provinces which acknowledged the authority of Gujni, and marched against his brother with an army so numerous and well disciplined, that the troops of Modud shrunk from the combat, and several of his generals deserted his standard. On the morning appointed for the battle however, Mayoodud was found dead in his bed, and the next day his friend and counsellor was found dead also ; which circumstances created strong suspicions of murder against Modud. The opposite army submitted to him on the death of its leaders.

At this time the Seljuks recommenced their incursions into the empire of Gujni, and established themselves so powerfully in Persian Irak, and

Khorasan, that all Modud's efforts could not expel them. Burning with resentment against the family of Mahomed, who had for forty years ravaged India with fire and sword, the sovereigns of the northern provinces of India prepared to embrace the opportunity offered by the invasion of the Seljuks on the one side, to make an inroad on the other, At the head of the confederacy was the raja of Delhi, who with an immense army besieged the strong holds of the Moosulmans, and with little difficulty retook the forts of Hansi and Tanassar, but was detained four months before Nagur-kota, which the besieged, despairing of succour, at length abandoned to him. The brahmuns, in the mean time prepared at Delhi, an exact resemblance of the image which the first Mahomed had carried from thence to Gujni, and secretly conveyed it on the night of the surrender into the temple of Bheem. The frantic joy and acclamations of the people on the first sight of the image seated on his throne, can scarcely be conceived. The temple regained its credit—and the brahmuns their profits, while devotees from the remotest corners of Hindoost'han hastened to bend the knee before it. Encouraged by this degree of success, other rajas joined the confederacy, and laid siege to Lahore, the garrison of which after being reduced to the greatest extremity, sallied out one

day on the besiegers, and so completely repulsed them, that they abandoned the siege and retired. Soon after they fell out among themselves, and some declared in favor of Modud, by whose assistance he extinguished the last spark of rebellion, and re-established his authority.

The remainder of his reign was spent in a series of conflicts with those perpetual enemies, the Seljuks. They were defeated in various battles by the generals of Modud, who hoping to exterminate them at one blow collected all his forces and marched against them. But he was seized with a disorder on his march which obliged him to return to Gujni where he expired in the year 1049, after a reign of nine years.

Masood II. Fifth king of Gujni.

AFTER the death of Modud, his two generals Ali and Hajib determined to set upon the imperial throne the creature most subservient to their wishes. Ali brought forth Masood, the son of Modud an infant of the age of four years, and advanced him to the supreme authority. The nobles who could not brook the government of an infant, and those who dreaded the civil dissensions which might arise from it, gave their support to Hajib; who deter-

mined to advance Abdul-Hussen a son of Masood, and the brother of the last monarch. The two generals soon came to an engagement which was to decide the fate of this great empire. Hajib was victorious, and Masood having reigned six days was deposed, and his rival elevated to the vacant throne.

Abdul-Hussen, Sixth king of Gujni.

ABDUL-HUSSEN, to give stability to the throne, married the wife of his deceased brother Modud. The rebel Ali, though discomfited was not subdued, but retired to Mooltan, and kept quiet possession of that province. In the mean time a new and more formidable enemy appeared in the person of Abdul-Rashid a son of the great Sultan Mahomed, who had been imprisoned by Modud. Risac the general of Modud, hearing of his master's death, released him from confinement, and considering him as possessing strong claims to the throne, determined to support his pretensions. His party daily gained strength, and in the second year of the reign of Abdul-Hussen, he advanced to Gujni. The feeble monarch alarmed at the intelligence, opened the imperial treasury and dispensed large bounties among the soldiery. But this served rather to betray his weakness than to strengthen his party, and when on the arrival of Abdul-Rashid, the two ar-

mies came to an engagement, he found that gold could not compensate the absence of prudence and vigor. His party was vanquished; his enemy entered the capital amidst the acclamations of his troops who were sincerely attached to him, and Abdul-Hussen was obliged to fly. He was shortly after seized by some zemindars who brought him to his successful antagonist, by whom he was confined in the castle of Dedi.

Abdul-Rashid, Seventh king of Gujni.

THIS monarch begun his reign in the year 1052. By various offers he prevailed on Ali to submit to his authority, and to return to Gujni. Over the provinces of Hindoost'han he appointed Hajib one of his generals, who retook Nagur-kota after a long and vigorous siege. Togrol, who had been one of the generals of Modud, and who had revolted against him, and made an unsuccessful attempt during his reign on the throne of Gujni, was a man of such superior talents that all parties were anxious to secure him. Abdul-Rashid on his ascending the throne, disregarding his treachery to his former sovereign, sent him as governor into Sestan with more ample powers than had yet been conferred on any general. Invested with this authority,

Togrol, whose baseness was equal to his ability, conceived again the design of dethroning his lawful sovereign. With this view he marched to Gujni and invested it so closely that the unfortunate monarch was obliged to retire into the citadel, which Togrol soon after carried by assault. The infamous traitor, ordered his sovereign into his presence, and caused him to be murdered with nine other members of the royal family. Ferok-zad alone found means to escape, and Anca, who was of the blood royal was constrained to wed the murderer of her family. Togrol commanded all the governors of provinces to repair to Gujni to do him homage. Hajib however refused to submit to the yoke of the tyrant, and formed a conspiracy with Anca. So general was the abhorrence of his perfidy, that the whole nation was ripe for a revolt, and ten of the nobles, men of determined bravery resolved to rid the world of the monster. As he sat on his throne in all the pomp of majesty, they approached him under the pretence of paying him homage and at the same instant drawing their scymetars, plunged them in his breast.

After this transaction, Hajib arrived with the army and called a council of state to enquire whe-



ther there were any of the race of Mahomed left. He was informed that in a certain fort there were imprisoned Ferok-zad, Ibrahim, and Suja. These he ordered to be brought forth, and it having been agreed that lot should decide the title to the throne, it was decided in favor of Ferok-zad, who was immediately raised to the imperial dignity, and received the congratulations of the courtiers. Abdul-Rashid reigned only one year; he was a prince of no considerable capacity. Togrol said one day, that observing the hand of Abdul-Rashid to tremble as he signed his commission, he concluded that he was not a prince of sufficient resolution for the imperial throne.

Ferok-zad, Eighth king of Gujni.

FEROK-ZAD, on his ascending the throne, immediately gave the reins of government into the hands of Hajib, to whom he owed his elevation. He was engaged in war during the whole of his reign with the Seljuks, who though repeatedly beaten, continued to make a gradual progress till they had despoiled the Gujivide empire of all its western possessions. Ferok-zad made no conquests in Hindoost'han: he reigned seven years, and died of disease.

IBRAHIM a son of Masood, succeeded the last monarch, and continued on the throne forty-two years. Though a prince of a mild and quiet disposition, he in the year 1079 made a descent on India in the spirit of his ancestors, and conquered many forts. There is no detailed account of his conquests. One of the cities he besieged had been founded by fugitives from Persia, who endured a long and obstinate siege; but were obliged at length to submit to the conqueror. He found a hundred thousand Hindoos confined in the citadel, whom he transported to Gujni. Some time after the king accidentally saw one of these unhappy men carrying a heavy stone with great difficulty to a royal palace which he was building. This awakened his compassion. He commanded the prisoner to throw it down, and gave him his liberty. He gave orders likewise that the stone should not be removed though highly inconvenient, but should remain a memorial of the misfortunes of war, and of the royal clemency. He ceded a considerable portion of his dominions in the west to the Seljuks, on condition that they should not molest his other possessions. He died in 1080 leaving thirty-six sons and forty-two daughters.

He was the son of Ibrahim, and of a disposition milder than even his father. He revised the ancient laws, abrogated those which were unreasonable and substituted others in their stead. By marrying into the family of Malek-Shah, the powerful emperor of the Seljuks, he secured the tranquility of his dominions in that direction, and dispatched his generals into Hindoost'han. They carried their ravages further than the great Mahomed, plundered many cities and temples, and returned laden with spoil to Lahore, which from being more remote from the Seljukian dominions, was become the favorite residence of the Gujni emperors. After a peaceful reign of sixteen years, he died in the year 1114.

Arsilla, Eleventh king of Gujni.

ARSILLA, having put to death the lawful heir to the throne, seized on it, and cruelly confined all the members of the royal family on whom he could seize. Bhzy-ram however escaped, and fled for protection to his uncle Sunjar, who ruled the province of Khorasan. Sunjar demanded the release of his nephew, on being refused which, he marched with a large army against the usurper. Mehid, the widow of Masood, who was with Arsilla, asked leave to mediate between them, and carried with

her a large sum of money for that purpose. Burning with revenge against the murderer of her son, she, on her arrival in the camp delivered all the wealth into the hands of her brother, and entreated him to lead his troops without delay against the usurping emperor. The conflict took place under the walls of Gujni, and ended in the discomfiture of Arsilla. Sunjar having placed Bhuy-ram on the throne returned home ; on receiving intelligence of which, Arsilla renewed his claims on Gujni, and drove Bhuy-ram from the city. Sunjar brought his troops a second time into the field, and pursued him into Hindoost'han ; where after an inglorious reign of three years he was delivered up by his omrahs to his victorious enemy, who put him immediately to death.

Bhuy-ram, Twelfth king of Gujni.

BHUY-RAM, now without a rival, ascended the throne, and shewed himself liberal, benevolent, and the patron of literature. During the early part of his reign which was prosperous, he made two irruptions into Hindoost'han. In the first of these he defeated and pardoned Balin, the brother of Arsilla who had fortified himself in Lahore. Balin though re-seated in his government, forgot his obligations

to Bhuy-ram, and after appointing his ten sons to the government of ten provinces, and collecting a large army of Affgans, Arabs, and Persians, ravaged the desolated provinces of Hindoost'han, and aspired at length to the empire. Bhuy-ram met him with a large army in Mooltan, where a dreadful battle ensued, in which Balin was defeated, and his ten sons flying by themselves from the field, fell into a quagmire and perished miserably.

Bhuy-ram on his return to Gujni committed an act of cruelty which proved in the end the destruction both of his family and his empire. He publicly executed Mahomed Prince of Gour, the son-in-law of Balin. Shurrif-ud-deen, the brother of Mahomed raised a large army to revenge his brother's death, and drove Bhuy-ram into Hindoost'han. Having established himself in Gujni, he deputed his brother Alla to the government of his native province Gour. Notwithstanding every effort, the people of Gujni however continued disaffected to his rule, and secretly longed for the re-establishment of their lawful sovereign, the descendant of Mahomed the Great. In the depth of winter, when the troops of Gour had returned home in great numbers, Bhuy-ram unexpectedly appeared before Gujni, and having surrounded Shurrif-ud-deen, took

him prisoner, and regained his throne. The unhappy prisoner, was ordered to have his forehead blackened, and then to be placed on a meagre bullock with his head towards its tail ; in this disgraceful position, he was led round the city amidst the derisions of the mob, and after being put to the torture, his head was struck off and sent to Sunjar king of Persia ; while his minister was impaled alive.

When this news reached the ears of his brother Alla, his soul burned with rage and indignation. Collecting all his forces, he advanced against Bhzy-ram, who, seeing all hopes of reconciliation at an end after an intimidating letter intrepidly advanced to the conflict, which was very bloody. After numbers had been cut down, two sons of Alla, of gigantic stature came forward and challenged Bhzy-ram to single combat.—Dowlut his son, advanced on a large elephant, which the eldest of Alla's sons ripped up by the belly, and was himself killed by the fall of the animal. Alla with his spear transfixed Dowlut. The younger brother then attacked the elephant of Bhzy-ram, which he killed by repeated wounds ; but while he was rising from his fall, Bhzy-ram mounted a horse, and escaping from the field, fled into Hindoost'han. All resistance was now vain, and Alla remained master of the field.

Bhuy-ram with the scattered remains of his army kept possession of the Indian provinces of the empire ; but overwhelmed with his misfortunes, he sunk under the hand of death, in the year 1152, after a reign of thirty-five years His reign was inglorious ; the empire was verging fast towards its dissolution ; the whole of the Gujvide dominions to the west of the Indus were in the hand of its enemies, and the mighty empire of Gujni which Mahomed left in such glory, was reduced to the provinces of Hindoost'han, once considered only as an appendage to the empire.

Kusro, Thirteenth king of Gujni.

KUSRO the son of Bhuy-ram, on the death of his father, marched to Lahore, leaving the kingdom of Gujni to his enemies. In the mean time the conqueror Alla entered Gujni, and gave up this noble city for seven days to plunder and slaughter. The wealth which had been collected there from the various cities of Asia, was removed to Gour, together with the most venerable priests and learned men, who were inhumanly butchered ; and their blood employed in cementing the wall of the city. Kusro made one attempt to recover his native city, which proving unsuccessful, he retired to Lahore, and go-

verned his Indian subjects with equity and justice, for seven years ; at the end of which period he died.

Kusro, II. the Fourteenth and last Emperor of Gujni.

ASCENDED the throne on the death of his father, and ruled with great moderation. He extended his government over the provinces which had formerly belonged to his ancestors ; but Mahomed the brother of Alla, unsatiated with the ravages already committed by his family, advanced against Gujni, which was taken a second time. He then marched into India, and having reduced the provinces east of the Indus, invested Lahore ; but finding it impregnable, he concluded a treaty with Kusro, and took his son a lad of four years of age as a hostage. The terms of the treaty not being adhered to by Kusro, Mahomed besieged the city a second time, but still found it impregnable, and returned in great chagrin to Gujni. Determined however to put a period to the dynasty of the Gujivide Sultans, the following year he collected a large army, and in despair of taking the city by assault, resorted to treachery. While the army was on its march, he gave out that it was intended against the Seljuks, and offered to accommodate all differences with Kusro. To convince him of his sincerity, he returned him his son

with a splendid retinue : the emperor, his father, impatient to see him, advanced some distance from the city. In the mean time Mahomed marched with incredible rapidity round the mountains at the head of twenty thousand men, and surrounded the camp of Kusro, who, awaking in the morning, found himself in the hands of his enemies, and seeing no hopes of enlargement, consented to give up the city of Lahore.

Thus ended the dynasty of Mahomed the Great, emperor of Gujni, after it had enjoyed the throne a hundred and eighty-four years. It does not appear that they made much progress in conquering the southern provinces of India. During their government however, northern Hindoost'han was visited with all the horrors of war ; few years elapsed without some fresh instance of barbaric outrage. But this is only a prelude to the horrors by which these beautiful and fertile provinces were hereafter desolated.

To the dynasty of Gujni succeeded that of Gour, a city north-west of the Indus. Only two sovereigns of this race enjoyed the throne, the first of whom, Mahomed, resembled the founder of the Gujvide empire in the ferocity of his disposition, and in the valor with which his enterprizes were conducted.

GOURIDE DYNASTY.

Mahomed, First king of Gour and India.

MAHOMED, having accomplished the overthrow of the Gujivide empire, and brought its provinces under his own sway, marched in the year 1191, against the prince of Ajimeer, and took Tiberhind its capital. Soon after hearing that Prithoo-Roy, King of Ajimeer, in conjunction with Chundra-Roy, king of Delhi, was marching against him with two hundred thousand horse, he met them on the banks of the Suruswutee, fourteen miles from Tannassar, and eighty from Delhi. Though a prince of great courage, the inferiority of his army in point of numbers obliged him after an obstinate conflict to retreat. The confederate rajas pursued him for forty miles and then directed their march to Tiberhind, which they took after a siege of thirteen months. Mahomed, on his return to Gour, disgraced the generals who had deserted him, and gave himself up for a whole year to indolent repose. Then collecting an army of a hundred thousand horse, whose arms were adorned with gold and jewels, he advanced to India. At the request of an old sage of Gour, he released the generals who had been disgraced and gave them an opportunity of



retrieving their credit, by employing them again in his army. Having arrived at Lahore, he sent a conciliating message to Prithoo-Roy, who returned a disrespectful answer, and collecting an immense army, advanced to meet him. His army consisted of three hundred thousand horse, and three thousand elephants, and is said to have contained a hundred and fifty princes. The two armies encamped on the same plain where the former battle had been fought. Mahomed lulled them into security by the promise of a treaty, and then attacked them at break of day, before the Hindoo troops had been duly marshalled. The whole day was spent in manœvering, which exhausted the strength of the Hindoos, and enabled Mahomed, by making a desperate charge with a fresh body of horse to throw them into confusion, and eventually to overcome them. Chundra-Roy of Delhi was slain, with many other princes; Prithoo-Roy and the spoil, which was very great, fell into the hands of the enemy. Immediately after the battle the forts of Suruswutee, Soma-nat'ha, and many others, submitted to the conqueror, who marched in person to Ajimeer, and put many thousands to death. In the mean time he appointed his slave Kuttub to the government of Koram near Delhi. Kuttub was the founder of a new dynasty of kings, which gave rise to the re-

mark, that the kings of Delhi were descended from a slave. Kuttub soon after, took Meerut and Delhi, from which last city he expelled the family of Chundra-Roy, and made it the seat of his government. Mahomed then marched against the king of Kanooj and Benares, whom he defeated ; and having entered this sacred city plundered it of all its wealth, and mutilated the idols of a thousand temples. He had before placed Gola on the throne of Ajimeer, but a relation of the former Raja's having raised a rebellion, Kuttub marched from Delhi, overcome him and appointed a viceroy over the city. Soon after he marched against Gwalior and took it after a long siege, and appointed Togrol governor. Flushed with his success, he marched against the Rajpoots of the south, by whom he was wholly defeated. Kuttub in the mean time pursuing his conquests, took Kallinjur and Kulpee in Bundelkhund.

But a reverse was now at hand, and the victorious Mahomed was about to experience some of those evils which he had inflicted on so many others. He invested Charasur, the inhabitants of which made an obstinate resistance. The kings of Tartary and Samarkhund in the mean time were advancing against him, but he continued the siege of the town till they approached so near, as to ob-



lige him to abandon all his baggage and to retreat. The two kings, sent out detachments to surround him;—his valor was of little avail. His noble army was either cut to pieces or fled, and only a hundred men remained with him. With these he opened a passage through the Tartar army, and shut himself up in one of his fortresses, where he was so closely besieged, as to consent to give up a considerable portion of his dominions as the terms of peace. The news of his defeat was accompanied by a report of his death, on which his various generals seized on the provinces they severally commanded, and declared themselves independant. His own slave Ildecuz took possession of Gujni, and refused to admit his master. Mahomed, having for a long time wandered about, gradually collected together a number of his friends and a small army, and invested Gujni, the inhabitants of which, willing to curry favor with him cut off the head of his slave, and threw it over the walls. Against the Goorkhas a race of mountaineers who had revolted he next led his army, and with the aid of Kuttub subdued them. Of these men it is related that soon after the birth of a female, the parent took her to the market with a knife in his hand, and offered her for sale and on his failing to obtain a purchaser, cut her throat. Hence the number of males ex-

ceeded the females, and one woman had several husbands, to prevent broils among whom, it was customary to affix a mark to the door-post, when any one of them happened to be in the house, that it might not be visited by another till he was gone. Mahomed not only subdued them, but converted a great number of them to the Moosulman faith. The empire now enjoyed peace, but Mahomed was determined to march again into India. When he arrived on the banks of the Nilab, fifteen of the relatives of those Goorkha chiefs whom he had murdered, entered into a conspiracy against him, and while his slaves were employed in fanning him, rushed into his tent, and dispatched him with nearly forty wounds. Thus fell in 1205, Mahomed of Gour, a courageous but cruel monarch, after he had reigned thirty-two years. He made nine expeditions into India, and is reported to have amassed five thousand maunds of jewels; which is scarcely credible. From all these expeditions except two, he returned laden with plunder.

Mahomed, the Second king of Gour.

As we are now approaching the history of Jenghis-khan, to whom we must devote a considerable space, we will pass rapidly over the turbulent peri-

od, between the death of the first Mahomed of Gour, and Jenghis-khan's invasion of Hindoost'han. Mahomed the nephew of the last emperor who ascended the throne on his death, was an indolent and timid prince. He resided in Gour, and bestowed the government of Gujni on one of his uncle's slaves. Kuttub, continued to maintain his authority in Delhi, and to receive tribute from the surrounding provinces. No exploits are recorded of Mahomed. He incurred the wrath of Mahomed king of Kharasm, who despoiled him of all his dominions. Like his uncle, he perished by the hands of assassins, and was buried in a superb mosque which his ancestors had began and which he finished.

Mahomed of Kharasm.

Mahomed king of Kharasm succeeded to immense territories. The whole of the Seljukian empire was under his sway, and by the addition of Gour, Gujni, and the provinces of India to his paternal inheritance, he became the most powerful monarch in that part of the world. On his accession to the throne he conquered the whole of Persia, Khorasan, Gujni, Gour, and Lahore. In military concerns he affected to take Alexander the Great for his model, and like him aspired to the conquest

of the world. In the pomp of his Court he surpassed all preceding monarchs. Every morning and evening at the gates of his palace, the drums of state were beat by twenty-seven captive princes with drum-sticks of gold inlaid with precious stones. His dominions to the north and the east were bounded by the great Jenghis-khan, who in the space of a very short time had subjected the vast tribes of Tartary from the centre of Russia to the Pacific Ocean. He had ravaged China, and plundered its finest cities; and at length poured the desolating legions on the provinces of Hindoost'han. Nothing can be conceived more dreadful than the conflict of two such mighty monarchs as Mahomed of Kharazm and Jenghis-khan; but this we must reserve for the next number.

Of the reign of Jenghis-khan.

THOUGH Jenghis-khan made no permanent establishment in India, yet, as by overturning the empire of Kharazm, to which the Gujivide provinces of Hindoost'han were subject, he was led to interfere in its affairs, and as he was besides one of the mightiest conquerors who have ever appeared in Asia, we shall detail his history at some length.

The rise of Jenghis-khan's empire is one of the

most surprizing occurrences in history, whether we consider its extent, or the rapidity of his progress. It was thought that the Arabs had carried conquest to its utmost stretch ; but Jenghis-khan far exceeded them, since in a few years he extended his dominions from a small territory to so amazing a size, that the mind is bewildered in running over the various nations differing so widely in language, habits, and manners, which acknowledged his sway.

The Moguls like all other nations have feigned a divine origin for their chief. His ancestors were however of human origin, and several of them were famous for their military achievements. The territory they bequeathed to him in a part of Tartary, was by no means considerable, and on his accession to the throne, was attacked by the surrounding princes. With the assistance of his mother however, he completely defeated them, though he was then only thirteen years of age. This event happened in the year 1178, from which time we hear nothing of him till he was forty, owing probably to the ravages which time has made in the history of his achievements.

The Tartars at this time were subdivided into a great number of tribes, the chiefs of which were in-

dependent of each other, and were engaged in perpetual hostilities. Of these Vang-khan, the father-in-law of Jenghis-khan, was one of the most powerful. Several of the neighbouring chiefs having confederated against and dethroned him, Jenghis-khan collecting all his troops went to his assistance, and gained a complete victory over them, in which six thousand men were slain. Immediately after the battle, he ordered seventy large caldrons of water to be placed on the fire and the principal rebels to be thrown in headlong; then plundering their dwellings, he carried all the inhabitants into slavery. From the year 1202 to the year 1209 he was employed in subduing the various tribes of his own nation in Tartary; even the mention of whose names we must avoid, as they are so numerous and uncouth, that the reader's patience would inevitably be tired. His first achievement was the dethronement of the Great Khan, who had laid a plot for his life. This brought the greater part of the princes of Tartary against him, but such was the valor of his arms that he gradually subdued them all, and annexed their territories to his own.

In the year 1206, Jenghis-khan, perceiving the vast extent on his dominions, made preparations for being installed Grand Khan of the Tartars and

Moguls. This was performed with all imaginable splendor. His name before this event had been Timu-jin; but it was now changed to Jenghis-khan. The inferior Khans of Tartary who were assembled, gave over to him all the territory he had conquered and confirmed it to his family. Having thus collected under his banners the majority of the petty chiefs of the vast country of Tartary, he determined to throw off the yoke of China, to which even the proud princes of Tartary had for many years been subject, though the sovereignty was simply nominal.

In subduing Tartary, Jenghis-khan had only to meet the armies of his adversaries in the field; since it possessed few fortified cities: but China and the countries to the east and south, were filled with forts and strong places, which detained him so long that eight years were consumed in conquering them. The contest was likewise more bloody and cost a great number of lives. The Chinese emperor was able at one time to bring a hundred thousand men into the field; and on this occasion he defeated Jenghis-khan, who however soon retrieved his loss. In the year 1214, he laid waste a great part of China, took ninety cities, and sent all their wealth to his own capital, and reduced to ashes an

infinite number of towns and villages, carrying the women and children into captivity. After investing the capital for some time, the Chinese emperor offered to purchase a peace, to which Jenghis-khan agreed, and received five hundred young lads of the noblest families, three thousand horses, and a large sum of money. On his return home he ordered all the lads to be massacred, and regardless of his word returned to the siege of the capital, which he took after much difficulty, and thereby extended his dominions to the Pacific Ocean.

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He then turned his arms westward, and after a series of conflicts, subdued the Turks. Having thus consolidated his vast empire, he sought and obtained the amity of Mahomed of Kharazm, the most potent monarch, himself excepted, in all Asia. For some time there subsisted such friendship between them that one might have travelled without danger through the territories of either, laden with gold and silver. Sultan Mahomed however soon manifested tokens of uneasiness at Jenghis-khan's greatness, and began to treat the Moguls with great disrespect.

He likewise carried himself with great haughtiness to the Calif at Bagdad, who secretly dispatch-

ed a messenger with his credentials inscribed on his head to prevent detection, to Jenghis-khan, inviting him to attack Mahomed. Jenghis-khan, anxious to preserve peace, and to improve his own extensive dominions by a traffic with those of Mahomed, neglected the invitation, and passing over the malicious actions of his rival dispatched fifty merchants to Otrâe, who were barbarously murdered by the governor, in the dominions of Mahomed, and it was strongly suspected with the privity of his master. Jenghis-khan hearing of this a trage, resolved to declare war; and having written to his tributaries an account of the massacre, and roused their resentment, he collected an army of seven hundred thousand men to pour down on the innocent provinces of his rival. As the troops he was going to attack were courageous to a high degree, and experienced in the art of war, he made various regulations in his army, appointed his officers with great discernment and improving the discipline of his soldiers. He begun his march in the year 1218. Mahomed collecting four hundred thousand troops, marched out to meet the Khan, and on the plains of Samarkhand, fell in with a large detachment of the enemy under the command of Jugi the son of Jenghis-khan, and gave him battle before his father could join him.

The combat was obstinate and bloody, but neither side was able to claim the victory. In the evening Jugi retreated with his army in search of his father, and Mahomed the next morning, finding that he had lost a hundred and sixty thousand men the preceding day, retired also, not daring to risk another engagement, the loss of which would have been his utter ruin. Determined therefore to maintain a desultory warfare, he increased the garrisons of his chief cities, and gradually retreated before the Khan, who took city after city and pressed forward till his progress was arrested by the great city of Bokhara. The outward enclosure of this celebrated place was twelve leagues in circumference, within which were planted luxurious vineyards and fields. Arts and sciences flourished no where with more vigor than in this city, to which students flocked from all parts of Upper Asia. The Mogul army was encamped around it nine months, before they took the outward enclosure, after which the garrison despairing of success, sallied forth during the night, but being pursued by the enemy were all cut to pieces. The city soon after surrendered, and Jenghis-khan entering the great Mosque, and giving the principal Magistrate his horse to hold, took up the Koran and threw it under the feet of his horses. As soon as he was seated, his soldiers without the least regard to

the sanctity of the place, began to eat and drink therein.

Then assembling the principal inhabitants, he commanded them to bring him every thing of value which the city contained, giving them at the same time a promise of security ; but understanding soon after that several of Mahomed's soldiers were concealed in the city, he ordered it to be set on fire, and as the houses were built of wood, it was entirely consumed with the exception of the Sultan's palace which was built of stone. Thus he destroyed without the least remorse the renowned city of Bokhara, the seat of literature, and the glory of Northern Asia. After this he took the city of Otrâe, and put the garrison to the sword. Several other cities were afterwards captured, where great massacres were perpetrated.

Pursuing his route he arrived before the great city of Samarkhand, into which Mahomed had thrown one hundred and ten thousand men under thirty generals. A dispute arising between the inhabitants and the generals, the former opened the gates of the city to Jenghis-khan, who put thirty thousand of the garrison to the sword, and completely plundered the place. While he was besieg-

ing it Jenghis-khan detached thirty thousand troops in pursuit of the flying Mahomed, who, chased from city to city, was at length overtaken at Farzina, where his army was cut to pieces, and he and a few officers alone escaped. He then fled to a city on the borders of the Caspian sea. While engaged in his devotions, the Mogul horse appeared in view, and the Sultan had just time to embark on a boat on the Caspian sea, when the enemy arrived, and vainly attempted to reach him with their arrows. Soon after he fell ill, and landed on a little island, where having appointed his son Jallalooddin to succeed him, he expired in the most abject poverty under cover of a little tent. His first minister of state washed his body with his own hands, and wrapped it up in a shirt, having no other linen in which to bury it. Thus perished the great Mahomed, emperor of Kharazm, leaving Asia to his rival.

At the time of Mahomed's death, a considerable number of towns still acknowledged the Kharazmian authority, and many cities remained firm to its interest. The Mogul army was however so situated that Jallalooddin was obliged to maintain a running fight with his enemy. Mahomed's queen still reigned in the capital, a woman as remarkable for her cruelty and her hatred to Jallalooddin, as for her



ability. She fell at length into the hands of the Khan who fed her with crumbs from his own table like a dog, and carried her about in triumph through the provinces over which she had formerly ruled. In the mean time he dispatched his three sons to besiege the capital of Kharazm, which made a very brave resistance. Jallalooddin was at this time flying before his enemies and could therefore give it no succour. After a long siege, the Moguls with infinite labor turned the course of the river, which enabled them to fill up the ditch and make nearer attacks. The town surrendered by degrees,—its defenders retired from post to post and greatly annoyed the Moguls. Seeing at length no farther hope of holding out, the soldiers set fire to the place, and the son of Jenghis-khan in revenge for this act put a hundred thousand of the inhabitants to the sword, and sent the rest into slavery. These amounted to so great a number, that twenty-four prisoners are said to have fallen to the lot of each private soldier.

The capital of Kharazm was taken in the year 1221, and many other cities warned by its fate, submitted to the conqueror. At Termid Jenghis-khan put the whole garrison to the sword. The inhabitants of Nesa to the amount of seventy thousand, were likewise drawn out in a plain and shot.

After this, he proclaimed a general hunt in order to keep his soldiers in action. In the summer of 1221 he besieged the great city of Balk, a place of great wealth owing to its extensive traffic, and containing many buildings of exquisite workmanship, twelve hundred temples, and two hundred baths. The inhabitants on his first approach delivered up the city to him, which he plundered of every thing valuable. He then dispatched eighty thousand troops in pursuit of Jallalooddin, under the command of his son Tali, who not being able to overtake him, laid close siege to Maru. He offered to capitulate, and endeavoured to make the best terms in his power. Tali, promised to spare him, and four hundred of his friends, on condition of their delivering to him a list of the rich men of the city. With this clue, he first obtained all their wealth, and then ordered all the inhabitants to leave the city and encamp on a plain. So populous was the city that four days were occupied in quitting it. When they arrived on the plain, they were all put to death to the number of one hundred thousand, according to the register kept by the secretaries. This was the fourth time this city had been plundered, and more than fifty thousand were massacred on the three former captures.

After this, hearing that Jallalooddin had entered Nishabur, Tali laid siege to it. The defendants behaved like lions, but on the third day a secret passage was discovered, through which he entered the city, massacred all the inhabitants, and razed it to the foundation, so that twelve days were spent in numbering the dead, and one of the historians calculates that in this and the surrounding cities, one million seven hundred thousand men were put to death. Herat soon after submitted to the conqueror, with almost all the cities on the west of the Indus. Jallalooddin though in one engagement victorious over the Moguls, was obliged to fly before their legions. After a long pursuit, Jenghis-khan came up with him on the banks of the Indus, and a dreadful conflict ensued. Jenghis-khan knowing that he had a vigilant enemy to deal with, exerted all his skill, and Jallalooddin notwithstanding his bravery and skill was defeated.

Jenghis-khan, anxious to take him alive arranged his troops in the form of a bow, of which the river constituted the string. Jallalooddin perceiving that there was but one way of escape, namely by crossing the Indus, took a tender farewell of his wife and children, and putting off his armour, with the

exception of his sword, bow and quiver, mounted a fresh horse, and plunged into the Indus. Jenghis-khan followed him to the shore, and beheld his horse combating the waves ;—the Sultan stopped in the midst of the stream to insult him, and vainly emptied his quiver against him. Jenghis-khan was so struck with his courage that he would not allow any of his generals to pursue him, but turning to his family exclaimed, ‘ what son would not be happy to have sprung from such a father ?’ Jallalooddin, having crossed the river was obliged to pass the first night in a tree to avoid wild beasts. Soon after several of his generals joined him, and he made several conquests in Hindoost’han ; but, his father’s empire was dissolved beyond redemption, and the future course of Jallalooddin was unprosperous.

In the battle on the banks of the Indus Jenghis-khan lost twenty thousand troops. After the engagement he sent his generals into Persian Irak, and afterwards into Georgia, both of which countries he completely subdued. Jenghis-khan, himself went into Kandahar, and conquered it, while one of his generals, crossing the Indus brought Mooltan into subjection. Goozerat held out long against another of his generals, but was at length taken a second time, and the Moguls boasted that in the ex-

pedition against this town they had slaughtered sixteen hundred thousand men. Soon after Gujni the former capital of Eastern India, was taken by his son, and spared from destruction. After all these expeditions the Great Khan returned to Bokhara, which had recovered in some measure from its desolation, there he held a conference with the learned about the Mahomedan religion, which they said to consist in five points: 1st. In the belief of one God, the creator of all things, who had no equal. 2^{ly}. In giving the poor one-fourth of their yearly income. 3^{ly}. In praying to the deity five times a day. 4^{ly}. In setting apart one month of the year for fasting. 5^{ly}. In making a pilgrimage to the temple of Mecca, there to worship God. Jenghis-khan told them he believed the first article and the next three, but was displeased with the last, saying, the whole world was God's, and that it was ridiculous to suppose one place more fit than another for worshipping him.

His next expedition was against Astrakhan, the inhabitants of which submitted to him, and so far gained his favor, that he remitted the taxes to them for several years. In the year 1224 he convened at Tokat a grand diet, which he ordered all his generals, his tributary princes, and the ambassadors of

his allies to attend. There he feasted them a whole month on an immense plain, and distributed rich presents. The plain though twenty-one miles in length, could scarcely contain the immense crowd that was assembled. From the eastern borders of China to the west of Persia, and from the farthest northern extremity of Tartary, princes flocked to the assembly. The chamber of audience was supposed to hold two thousand. A magnificent throne was erected in it, which, to remind the Khan of his former poverty, was covered by his order with the same cushion on which he had sat when chief of only his native province. On the top of each tent, the richest silks were suspended, which gave this immense town the most splendid appearance. Seated on his throne, the Khan made a speech to the assembly, and ordered the laws he had enacted to be read, after which he dismissed it.

Unsated with conquest, he next carried his arms into several parts of China which had not submitted to him ; and into the northern provinces of India. He next conquered Korea, and the kingdom of Hya, and a tribe of independent Turks.

In the beginning of the year 1227 he fell ill near a forest in the Chinese empire, and considering his end approaching, resolved to appoint a successor.

To this purpose he ordered his sons and the princes of the blood to be called before him ; then raising himself up, with that majestic look that had always gained him respect and awe, he said, ' I leave you the mightiest empire in the world ; if you will preserve it, always continue united, if discord steals in among you, you will inevitably be ruined.' After this he appointed his son Oktay Grand Khan of khans, and expired. His body was interred with great magnificence in a place which he had chosen for that purpose under a beautiful tree, where on his return from hunting he had reposed himself a few days before with great satisfaction. A noble monument was erected over his grave, and those who came to visit the tomb planted other trees round in such delicate order, that it became in a short time one of the finest sepulchres in the world.

Jenghis-khan possessed all the qualities requisite for a great conqueror, a genius to plan grand enterprizes, consummate wisdom and prudence ; a natural flow of eloquence, extraordinary patience ; a large understanding, and a penetrating judgment ; but all these virtues were sullied by his extreme cruelty. No conqueror ever erected so mighty an empire in so short a time, and few have been more stained with crimes and bloodshed. His domsinion

extended five thousand four hundred miles from east to west, and three thousand from north to south ; and the Chinese historians relate, that during his career which lasted twenty-two years, he put to death eighteen millions of human beings. This is beyond belief, but the massacres he committed, must have been enormous to have occasioned such a report. He had a great number of wives and many children ;—some have exalted the number of his concubines to five hundred.

The laws which he enacted, were so excellent that they are to this day held sacred in Tartary. Timur-beg, who was born one hundred and eleven years after him, caused him to be observed throughout his empire.

Dynasty of Kuttub, king of Delhi.

JENGHIS-KHAN by overturning the Kharazmi-an dynasty, completely dissolved the subjection of the provinces east of the Indus to the Sovereign ruling on the other side of that river, and introduced a new system of policy into India. The provinces of Hindoost'han which had been subjugated by the Moosulmans, were thus thrown as prizes in the way of those who in this dissolution of kingdoms could seize on them. Nor was this change altogether disadvantageous to the provinces themselves ; the

seat of empire after this period was not as formerly at a distance of many hundred miles; but in the very centre of northern India. The provinces were better governed than when tributary to a foreign power, to the grandeur of which they were obliged to contribute. The Moosulman princes of Delhi, also, liberated from the care and guardianship of distant provinces, were enabled to extend their conquests over the southern provinces of India and to bestow more attention on the provinces themselves. It does not appear that either the sovereigns of Gujni, Gour, or Kharazm, enjoyed even a nominal authority over any of the provinces south of Benares. Under the first independent sovereign of Delhi, we shall see the Moosulman arms carried into Bengal, and within seventy-two years after, the Deccan subjugated by the Moosulman generals.

The dynasty on whose history we are entering was founded by Kuttub, a slave of Mahomed of Gour, and subsisted for one hundred and seventy-seven years, till the year 1398, when it was overturned by the great Timur-beg. Kuttub, who was a man of very considerable talents, was entrusted by his master with the government of Delhi and of the adjacent provinces, and in that capacity, defeated the Jauts of Goozerat who had besieged Hansi,

and on Mahomed's expedition against Kanooj, joined him, and with the van of the army defeated the Raja of Benares ; who, filled with despair at the retreat of his troops, pushed forward his elephant into the midst of his enemies. Kuttub excelled in archery, and discharged an arrow into one eye of the Raja, which brought him to the ground. The number of the slain was so great that the body of the Raja continued concealed for a long time. The emperor following up his victory took the city of Benares, and proceeded to the boundaries of Bengal. He destroyed all the idols of the sacred city and loaded four thousand camels with the spoil found in it. This was the first time this sacred city had been taken by the Moosulmans.

After the departure of Mahomed, Kuttub returned to Delhi, where he received advice that Hunrage brother of the discomfited king of Ajimere was advancing against him. Kuttub marched out and defeating him, pursued him to the very gates of Ajimere. After this he turned his arms against Goozerat which he completely plundered. About this time while his army was dispersed, he received intelligence that several of the Rajpoot sovereigns had leagued against him ; and as he was obliged to meet them with only a part of his army, he was

completely defeated, and after receiving six wounds, was obliged to fly to Ajimere, where he continued shut up till Mahomed sent an army from Gour to relieve him. The Gouride generals obliged the enemy to raise the siege, and Kuttub in his turn pursued them into their own territories. Soon after Kuttub marched with an army to the assistance of his old master who had been defeated in Turkestan, and who was about this time assassinated as we have before related. Kuttub on his death assumed the title of king, and proclaimed himself an independent sovereign. Anxious to augment his dominions, he took possession of Gujni which had been seized by Eldoze, another of the slaves of Mahomed. He then gave himself up to every kind of intemperance, and Eldoze having recruited an army with the utmost expedition and secrecy, retook Gujni, before Kuttub was aware of his approach, and drove him back to Delhi, where he exercised himself in the practise of justice and temperance, and governed his kingdom with great moderation till his death, which happened in the year 1210 by a fall from his horse.

Aram.

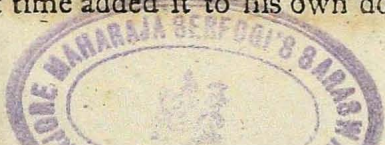
AFTER the death of Kuttub, his son Aram ascended the throne, but his weakness soon occasioned

insurrections and massacres. The generals of Kuttub seized on the various provinces of the empire, which was on the point of dissolution, when the great Omrahs at a general council invited Altumush, an adopted son of Kuttub to the throne. A battle ensued between him and Aram, in which the latter was totally defeated.

Altumush

ALTUMUSH found himself on his accession engaged in warfare with several refractory chiefs whom he defeated and thereby restored tranquility to the empire. In the year 1221, the unfortunate Jallalooddin was obliged to retreat from the great Khan into India. Altumush opposed him with all his forces and obliged him to return to the banks of the Indus. Four years after this he made an expedition into Bengal, where he struck the currency in his own name, and appointed his son Nasir, governor of Bengal, and Yeas-ul-din, governor of Behar. Soon after a war broke out between these two in which Nasir was victorious. From the plunder of Behar he sent ample presents to his friends at Delhi.

Altumush still anxious to extend his dominions, attacked the sovereign of Moultan in the year 1225, and in a short time added it to his own dominions.



The emperor about this time received an embassy from Arabia with the royal robes of the caliphate which he assumed, during a magnificent festival. The same year he received intelligence of the death of his son, the viceroy of Bengal; on which he marched thither a second time, and appointed his younger son to the vacancy. Gualior had in the recent revolutions fallen into the hands of the Hindoos. Altumush besieged it for a whole year, at the end of which the garrison being reduced to great extremity, capitulated. After the reduction of this place he marched into Malwa to the banks of the Nurbudda, took the ancient city of Oojjuinee, and destroyed the renowned and rich temple of Maha-kal, which had been constructed on the same plan with that of Suma-natha, and had occupied three hundred years in building, being surrounded with a wall, a hundred cubits in height. The image of Muha-Kalee, of the great Vikramajit, so renowned throughout India he ordered to be conveyed to Delhi, and to be thrown at the threshold of the great mosque.

After his return from this expedition, he went into Moultan to settle the province, but was taken ill on his march, and returning to Delhi died in the year 1235, after an enterprising and vigorous reign.

of twenty-six years, leaving the empire larger than he had found it. At this time all the countries from Delhi, down to the Sunderbunds, acknowledged the sovereignty of the empire and sent their tribute annually to the capital.

Feroze.

FEROZE happening to be at Delhi on a visit at the time of his father's death, immediately ascended the vacant throne and began to expend his father's treasures upon dancing women, comedians, and musicians, leaving the affairs of Government to the management of his mother. This woman, who had been a Turkish slave, now became a monster of cruelty, and murdered all the women of Altumush's Haram. This step filled the people with horror, and Mahomed, the younger brother of the king, and governor of Oude intercepted the revenues from Bengal, and began to assert independence. At the same time, the different Rajas of superior eminence entered into a confederacy against the emperor, and openly-commenced war against him, in which they were successful, and advanced Sultana Rizia, the eldest daughter of Altumush to the throne, and imprisoned the emperor's mother. Feroze himself was delivered up to her, and died some time after in

confinement ; having reigned only six months and twenty-eight days.

Sultana Rizia.

SULTANA Rizia was adorned with every qualification necessary for the imperial throne ; and those who strictly examined her actions could find in her no fault, but that she was a woman. The year in which her father took Gualior, he appointed her regent in his absence, and when asked the reason by one of the Omrahs, he replied "that Rizia though a woman, had a man's head and heart, and was better than twenty such sons as his."

Rizia, upon her accession, assumed masculine apparel, and daily gave public audience from the throne. The Omrahs however feeling disgust at a female reign, confederated with her father's visier, sent circular letters to all the other Omrahs of the empire, to allure them from their allegiance. This news reaching the governor of Oude, he collected his forces, and hastened to the relief of the empress ; but having crossed the Ganges, he was engaged by the confederates, defeated, taken prisoner, and died. The empress found means to sow dissention among the confederates ; who, finding themselves in a dangerous situation, retreated into their respective countries.

The prosperity of the Sultana daily increased, Kabric, having submitted to her authority, was confirmed in the Government of Lahore, while the countries of Bengal, and the northern provinces, were also confirmed to their respective viceroys, on promise of future obedience. In the mean time, Kelic Khan, the Sultana's general died, and Hassen was appointed to succeed him. Soon after Jammal gaining great favor with the empress, was advanced to the post of Captain-general of the empire.

The nobles were greatly disgusted at this promotion, as the favorite was originally an Abyssinian slave. The Viceroy of Lahore, in the year 1239, threw off his allegiance, and began to recruit his army; but the empress, collecting her forces marched out against him, and compelled him to make every concession to obtain pardon.

In the same year the governor of Tiberhind, rebelled on account of her partiality to this slave. The empress marched with her army against him, but on the way, all her Turkish chiefs mutinied, a tumultuous conflict ensued, in which her Abyssinian general was killed, and she herself seized and sent into confinement. The army then returned to Delhi, and placed her brother Byram, the son of the emperor Altumush on the throne.

Byram II.

BYRAM ascended the throne of Delhi, in the year 1239, and confirmed all the laws and customs then in force. Tiggi, in conjunction with the vizier, by degrees took the whole government of the empire upon himself, mounting an elephant upon guard, at his gate, an honor peculiar to royalty. This circumstance raised disgust and jealousy in the emperor's mind; he therefore ordered two Turkish slaves to put on the appearance of drunkenness, and endeavour to assassinate Tiggi and the vizier. Accordingly, upon a certain day when the king gave public audience, the Turks pressed among the crowd, drew their daggers and plunged them into the breast of Tiggi; then, running to the vizier they gave him two wounds; but he escaped through the crowd.

Sunkir Rumi, who was then Master of Requests, placed himself at the head of a powerful faction at court, and began to concert plans to bring about a revolution. The chief justice sent to the emperor, and informed him of the whole affair. A body of cavalry was immediately dispatched to seize the conspirators; but they having obtained previous intelligence, dispersed themselves before the arrival of the horse. A few months after, Rumi and

Muza were assassinated at Budaoon by the emperor's emissaries, while Casi Jellal was trodden under foot by elephants. These proceedings raised universal fear and apprehensions and occasioned a general mutiny among the troops. In the mean time news arrived, that the Mogul army of the great Jenghis had plundered Lahore.

The king having called a general council of state, determined to send the vizier to oppose the Moguls at Lahore with an army. When the imperial army had advanced as far as the river Bea, the vizier began to sow the seeds of sedition in their minds. But that he might completely effect his purpose, he wrote a private letter to the emperor, accusing them of disaffection. Byram sent him an order, importing that the chiefs deserved death; recommending to him at the same time to lull them till he should find an opportunity of bringing them to condign punishment. This was what the crafty vizier wanted. He immediately produced the king's order, which kindled the Omrahs at once into rage, and they all promised to support him. The vizier, in the mean time, advanced with the army to the capital, which he besieged for three months and a half. Rebellion spreading at last among the citizens, the place was taken. Byram was thrown into prison, where, in a few days, he came to a tragical

and after a reign of two years one month and fifteen days, in the year 1242.

The Mōguls in the mean time, plundered the provinces on the banks of the five branches of the Indus, and returned to Gujni.

Masood IV.

On the death of Byram, Balin the elder raised a faction, and forcing his way into the palace mounting the throne, ordered himself to be proclaimed throughout the city. But the nobility dissatisfied with his advancement immediately liberated Masood, the son of Ferose, and placed him upon the throne, the same day in which Balin had seized it.

Masood however soon after resigned himself to wine and women, and exercised various acts of cruelty, and oppression. The princes and Omrahs at length determined upon hostile measures having first sent privately for Mahomed, the king's uncle, from Barage, who advanced with all the forces he could raise towards the capital. The emperor was, immediately thrown into prison by the Omrahs where he remained for life. He reigned four years a month and a day. He was a weak and foolish prince, and a slave to his pleasures. The dominions left by Altumush remained entire, when Masood was deposed.

