

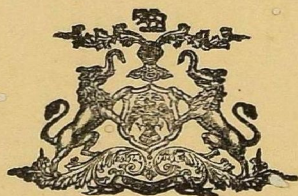
# TIPPOO SULTAN

The Fall of Seringapatam and the Restoration  
of the Hindu Raj

BY

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# TIPPOO SULTAN

## The Fall of Seringapatam and the Restoration of the Hindu Raj.

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*A paper read before the Mythic Society by  
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Private Secretary to H. H. the Maharaja of  
Mysore.*

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SO many Guide-books have been written about Seringapatam that it would be waste of labour to write another. It would be difficult too to improve on Col. G. B. Malleson's "Seringapatam, Past and Present," which is still in print.

I cannot help feeling, however, that visitors to Seringapatam would like to know some further details about the life and character of Tippoo, the siege and capture of his island fortress, and the restoration of the old Hindu Raj in the person of Maharaja Krishnaraj Wadiyar, the grandfather of His Highness the present Ruler of Mysore.

I have taken some trouble to collect information from contemporary records dealing with these subjects and I place these notes before the members of the Mythic Society in the hope that I may inspire others with the romantic interest which I have always felt in this particular chapter of Mysore history. It is curious how ignorant some people are of the history of the Mahomedan usurpation of Hyder Ali and his son Tippoo Sultan. I have actually been asked whether the present Maharaja was a grandson of



Tippoo Sultan ! With due apologies to the enlightened among my readers, I think it as well to explain here that Mysore is an ancient Hindu kingdom, founded after the fall of the old Vijayanagar Empire, i.e., some time after the battle of Talikota which took place in the year 1565. In the year 1600, Raja Wadiyar of Mysore was still a tributary of the Raja of Anegundi. He became independent in 1610, and assumed the ceremony of sitting on a throne. Thenceforward, the kingdom of Mysore grew and prospered.

In the year 1736, Chikka Krishnaraj Wadiyar became Maharaja. He was an infant and Mysore was really ruled by two brothers Devaraj Urs, who was Dalvoy or Commander-in-Chief, and Nanjaraj Urs who was Sarvadikar or Prime Minister. Devaraj eventually retired, but Nanjaraj continued to practically rule Mysore. During this period, Hyder Ali, a Mahomedan military adventurer from Hyderabad, came to Mysore and took service in the Mysore army which was engaged in the siege of Trichinopoly. Hyder Ali, who was a good soldier and, though uneducated, an exceedingly ambitious and crafty man, gradually increased his power and influence as a Commander of Horse. There was a long struggle for power between Nanjaraj and Hyder Ali and finally Hyder made Nanjaraj a prisoner and usurped the Government of Mysore in 1759. Hyder died in camp in December 1781 of a "royal boil" (carbuncle) and was succeeded by Tippoo who declared himself Sultan of Mysore.

The Mahomedan usurpation in Mysore lasted about 40 years from 1759 till the death of Tippoo in 1799.

#### PLAN OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST TIPPOT SULTAN IN 1799 AND SIEGE OF SERINGAPATAM.

The Governor-General of India (the Marquis of Wellesley) came down to Madras to superintend the arrangements for this campaign in person.



General Harris (afterwards Lord Harris of Seringapatam) was in command of the armies which invaded Mysore in 1799.

The capture of Seringapatam itself was deemed essential to the success of the campaign.

The principal, or Madras army assembled at Vellore and was joined by a contingent from Hyderabad and the Nizam's Horse.

The Bombay army assembled at Cannanore. It numbered 6,420 and was commanded by General Stuart. The Bombay army marched from Cannanore on February 21st, 1799, ascended the Poodicherrum Ghat and halted eventually at Sidapoor in Coorg territory.

On the 6th of March, Tippoo with a large army attacked a detachment of the Bombay troops, consisting of 2,000 men, at Sidaseer on the borders of Coorg. His attack was a failure and he retreated to Seringapatam. The Bombay army encountered no further resistance and eventually joined General Harris at Seringapatam.

The Madras army marched from Vellore to Kelamangalam near Hosur, arriving there on March 9th. It consisted of 30,959 fighting men in addition to 6,000 of the Nizam's Horse.

General Harris left Kelamangalam on March 10th and had skirmishes with parties of the enemy's Horses. He passed Anekal on the 12th and on the 14th encamped within sight of Bangalore. Tippoo anticipated that the British would advance on Seringapatam through Bangalore by the Bangalore-Mysore road and had made all his dispositions accordingly. Even at Seringapatam, he had concentrated all his efforts on repelling an attack from the north-east. General Harris completely frustrated Tippoo's plans by suddenly marching south-westwards to Kankanhalli and Malvalli and crossing to the south bank of the Cauvery by an easy ford at a place called Sosilay. The only attempt which the enemy made to oppose



him was at Malvalli where an engagement took place on March 27th, ending in the repulse of the Mysore army. The British army crossed the Cauvery on March 29th and proceeded by slow marches to Seringapatam. The enemy were in sight in considerable force but did not attempt any further opposition. On the 5th of April, the British army took up its final position south-west of Seringapatam, at a distance of 3,500 yards from the fort and facing the western rampart.

The same evening, at sunset, an attack was made by two divisions under Cols. Shaw and Wellesley on the enemy's outposts. Col. Shaw's division succeeded in seizing a ruined village, but Col. Wellesley's attack failed. The attack was pressed home on the following morning by 3 divisions and the British succeeded in establishing a line of outposts, 2 miles long, extending from the river Cauvery to the village of Sultanpet.

The work of erecting siege batteries was at once commenced. Meanwhile, the Bombay army had been waiting at Periapatam, on the Coorg border, for news of General Harris' advance. General Stuart, with the Bombay army, now moved westwards and arrived opposite Seringapatam on April 14th. On the 16th, the Bombay army crossed the Cauvery and took up a strong position on the north bank, facing the north-west angle of the fort. The next fortnight was spent by both British armies in clearing the banks of the river of the enemy's outposts, and in erecting breaching batteries directed on the north-west angle of the fort, that being the point selected for attack. The enemy made one sortie in considerable strength against the Bombay army, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

On the 2nd of May, our breaching batteries opened fire and by the evening of the 3rd, the breach was considered practicable and the troops destined for the assault were assembled in the trenches the same night.

The point of attack was singularly well chosen by General Harris, as on this side of the fort there was a length of 300 yards of wall, protected by only 3 guns and exposed to a destructive enfilading fire from the Bombay batteries on the north bank of the river. Moreover, the river was clearly fordable here from both banks. It has been mentioned before that Tippoo had devoted all his attention to strengthening the south-east and north-east sides of the fort, as he fully expected the attack to be made from the direction of Bangalore and never anticipated an attack from the south-west, as he thought that the river was an ample protection.

#### COL. BEATSON'S ACCOUNT OF THE STORMING OF SERINGAPATAM.

On May 4th 1799, about 1-30 o'clock in the afternoon, General Baird stepped out of the trenches, drew his sword, and in the most heroic and animating manner said to his men, "Come, my brave fellows, follow me, and prove yourselves worthy of the name of British soldiers." In an instant both columns rushed from the trenches and entered the bed of the river under cover of the fire of our batteries. The enemy assailed them at once with rockets and musketry.

The attack was divided into two columns, each led by a "forlorn hope."

The left column under Lt.-Col. Dunlop consisted of 6 European flank companies from the Bombay army, H. M.'s 12th and 33rd regiments, 10 flank companies of Bengal sepoy's and 50 artillery men.

The right column was composed as follows:—

The flank companies of the Scotch Brigade and the Regiment De Meuron, the Grenadier companies of H. M.'s 73rd and 74th regiment (Highlanders), 14 flank companies of sepoy's and 50 artillery men. This column was commanded by Col. Sherbrooke.

Both columns assaulted from the southern bank of the river.



The "forlorn hope" of each attack consisted of a sergeant and 12 Europeans who were followed by two subaltern parties commanded by Lt. Hill of the 74th (right) and Lt. Lawrence of the 77th (left). A brigade of engineers under Captain Caldwell accompanied the storming party. The columns were conducted by Lt. Farquhar of the 74th and Lt. Lalor of the 73rd, both of whom had reconnoitred the ford. Col. Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington) with the remainder of the regiment, De Meuron, and three battalions of Native Infantry remained in support in the trenches.

In 6 minutes, the "forlorn hope," closely followed by the rest of the troops, had reached the summit of the breach where the British columns were immediately displayed. In a few minutes more, the breach, 100 feet wide, was crowded with men.

The two columns then filed off to right and left. The right column encountered little or no opposition on its way along the south-west and southern ramparts.

The left column, however, had a hard fight on the northern rampart being opposed by Tippoo in person. Col. Dunlop was wounded and disabled, and his leading officers were all either killed or wounded. Lt. Farquhar, who put himself at the head of the column, was killed. The enemy's position was eventually turned by a party of our men getting across to the inner rampart. They were reinforced by some companies of the 12th under Captain Goodall and this body of troops outflanked the traverses which the enemy were defending. Meanwhile, the main left column under Brigade Major Lambton pushed on and swept the northern rampart, eventually joining hands with General Baird and the right column on the eastern rampart of this fort. After this junction the enemy made no further resistance and the fort was won.

The passage across the river from our trenches to the breach was not difficult. The bottom was smooth

rock and there were only two or three small streams to cross, 12 or 15 inches deep. The water in the moat, opposite to the breach, was only knee deep and there were single projecting stones on the wall of the ditch, which rendered scaling ladders unnecessary.

Eight or ten French officers surrendered to the right column, including M. Chapuy, who commanded Tippoo's French troops.

Over 8,000 of the enemy's troops were killed in the assault, but such was our discipline that very few of the unarmed inhabitants suffered. Twenty-five British officers were killed or wounded in the assault. There were about 120 French troops in Seringapatam including 20 officers. Tippoo's garrison on the 4th of May numbered 21,839. Twenty-four of his principal officers were killed in the assault and 7 wounded.

Beatson describes the capture of Seringapatam as an achievement which has never been surpassed in splendour by any event recorded in the history of the military transactions of the British Nation in India.

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#### MAJOR ALLAN'S ACCOUNT OF THE CAPTURE OF TIPPOO'S SONS IN THE PALACE OF SERINGAPATAM.

Major Beatson says, "And I observed from the south rampart several persons assembled in the palace, many of whom appeared to be men of distinction. I particularly remarked that one person prostrated himself before he sat down. From this I concluded that Tippoo had taken refuge in the palace."

"Major Beatson and I hastened to apprise General Baird of what we had seen. Under General Baird's orders I proceeded to the palace with a party of sepoy, having fastened a white cloth to a sergeant's pike. There I found Major Shee and part of the 33rd regiment drawn up opposite the gate; several of Tippoo's people were in the balcony, apparently in the greatest consternation." After a long parley with a killedar, Major Allan entered the palace with



Captain Scobey and Captain Hastings Fraser. His narrative describes how, after considerable delay and evasion, he eventually persuaded the Princes (sons of Tippoo) to admit him to their presence. His story goes on:—"I found two of the Princes seated on a carpet surrounded by a great many attendants. I sat down in front of them. I then took Prince Moiz Uddin by the hand and endeavoured to remove his fears and to persuade him that no violence would be offered to him and his brother. I then entreated him to inform me where his father was concealed but he assured me that the Padshaw was not in the palace; after repeated assurances of safety, I persuaded them to allow the palace gates to be opened. We found General Baird, several officers, and a large body of troops assembled outside. I then returned inside with Col. Close and persuaded the Princes to accompany us outside. General Baird was sensibly affected by the sight of the Princes and received them with every mark of regard, repeatedly assuring them that no violence or insult would be offered to them."

The Princes were then conducted to headquarters in camp, escorted by the Light Company of the 35th regiment and, as they passed, our troops presented arms.

RETURN OF KILLED, WOUNDED OR MISSING DURING  
THE OPERATIONS AGAINST SERINGAPATAM FROM  
4TH APRIL TO 4TH MAY 1799.

	<i>Europeans.</i>		
Killed	...	...	181
Wounded	...	...	622
Missing	...	...	22
	<i>Indians.</i>		
Killed	...	...	119
Wounded	...	...	420
Missing	...	...	100
	<i>British Officers.</i>		
Killed	...	...	22
Wounded	...	...	45

## TIPPOO'S DAILY LIFE AND CHARACTER.

Tippoo Sultan was born in 1751. His height was 5 feet 8 inches. He was a very good horseman and disapproved of palankeens, hackeries, and all such conveyances, as proper only for women. His dress was remarkably plain. He usually wore a sword slung across his body and a dagger in his girdle. His thoughts were always bent on war and revenge against the English. He was frequently heard to say that in this world he would rather live two days as a tiger than 200 years like a sheep. He adopted as an emblem of his State the figure of a royal tiger, whose head and stripes were the chief ornament of his throne and of almost every article that belonged to him.

His throne was very magnificent. The support was a wooden tiger, as large as life, covered with gold and in the attitude of standing. His head and forelegs appeared in front and the throne was placed across his back. The throne itself was an octagonal frame, 8 feet by 5, surrounded by a low railing on which were 10 small tigers' heads made of gold, and inlaid with precious stones. At the back, a gilded pillar rose 7 feet high, surmounted by a canopy superbly decorated with a fringe of pearls. The whole was made of wood, covered with thin sheets of pure gold, richly illuminated with tiger stripes and Arabic verses. On the top of the canopy was the figure of a bird called the "Huma," about the size of a pigeon. It had a long tail and outspread wings. It was made of gold and covered with diamonds, rubies and emeralds. The "Huma" is a mythical Persian bird and is supposed always to be flying and never to touch the ground.

This bird was sent by Lord Wellesley to the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

After the peace of 1792, Tippoo adopted as the title of his dominions, the words "Khudadad Sirkar" which means "the Government, the gift of God."



During the last siege, Tippoo observed to one of his Generals, "I have been present at many battles, but never at the defence of a fort. I have no idea of the proper method of defending this fort."

Tippoo prohibited the sale of spirits and intoxicating drugs throughout his dominions saying that God had forbidden the use of wine.

He was passionately fond of new inventions and in his palace were found a great number of curious swords, daggers, guns, pistols and blunderbusses.

Tippoo generally rose at day-break and was shampoed and rubbed. He read the Koran for an hour and then gave an audience to officers on public business. He then spent half an hour inspecting the Jamdar Khana, where jewellery, plate, fruit and other articles were kept. He then had breakfast with his three youngest children and a Moonshy. He dictated letters at breakfast. His food consisted of nuts, almonds, fruit, jelly and milk.

After breakfast he dressed himself in rich clothes and held a Durbar to despatch the ordinary affairs of his Government. He used to spend several hours every morning reviewing the new recruits of his army and asking them questions as to their caste, country and religious knowledge.

In the evenings, he generally rode out to superintend the training of his troops. On his return to the palace he received reports, etc., and news of the day, and delivered orders on petitions and letters from the different provinces. He generally passed the evening with his three eldest sons and one or two State officers, who took supper with him. During supper, he was fond of reciting passages from history and the poets. After supper, he walked about by himself for exercise and then lay down and read religion or history until he fell asleep. Tippoo would never listen to advice, unless it coincided with his own views.

Tippoo wrote and composed with ease and elegance and had a great talent for business. He hated people

of other religions. He never saluted any one and never returned a salute. He took only two meals a day, and all his Amirs and Princes dined with him. From the day that peace was made between him and Lord Cornwallis in 1792, (this was a most humiliating treaty as Tippoo was obliged, in order to avoid surrendering Seringapatam, to give up two of his sons as hostages and to relinquish a large extent of territory) he abandoned his bedstead and vowed never to sleep on it again until he was revenged on the English. Thereafter, until the day of his death, he slept on a piece of canvas, (called "khaddi," and used for making tents) spread on the ground. He never allowed jests or ribaldry in his presence. He was accustomed to tie a white handkerchief over his turban and under his chin, and no one else was allowed to do this. In delicacy and modesty of feeling, he was the most particular man in the world, so much so that all his life through no one ever saw any part of his person except his ankles and wrists. Even in his bath he always covered himself from head to foot! He was a good rider. His chief aim in life was the protection and encouragement of the Mahomedan religion and the rules of the Soonee sect. And yet he did not interfere with the magnificent Hindu temples in the fort of Seringapatam, but carried on his father's policy of tolerance towards the Hindu religion. There are records still in existence, of grants and sunnads given by Tippoo and his father to Hindu shrines, like that at Sringeri. Tippoo was dark and stoutly built with delicate features, hands and feet.

#### TIPPOO'S CONDUCT ON THE DAY OF HIS DEATH.

(From Beatson.)

During the last 14 days of the siege, Tippoo Sultan took up his residence in the Kullaly Diddy, which was formerly a water-gate through the outer rampart of the north face of the fort, and led to the



"Delhi" causeway over the river. Here he occupied a small stone choultry inside the gate, enclosed by curtains, forming an apartment in which he ate and slept.

The Mahomedan and Brahmin astrologers had apprised the Sultan that the 4th of May 1799, being the last day of the lunar month, was an inauspicious day. Alarmed by their prognostications, the Sultan went to the palace at 10 A.M., and distributed amongst the Brahmins the following gifts:—

(1) An elephant covered with a black cloth, with valuable jewels and money tied on the four corners, (2) a black bullock, (3) a milch buffalo, (4) a male buffalo, (5) a black she-goat, (6) a jacket and cap of coarse black cloth, (7) ninety rupees in cash, (8) an iron pot filled with oil. (The idea underlying these gifts was to transfer his own bad luck to the recipients.) Before giving them the iron pot, he held his head over it, in order to see his own face reflected in the oil. After asking the Brahmins to pray for his prosperity, he went back to the Kullaly Diddy. There he was told that the British were preparing to storm the fort and that 4,000 or 5,000 of them were assembled in the trenches, but he refused to believe that they would assault the fort in the day-time. At about 1 P.M., he ordered his dinner but he had not finished his meal when he was disturbed by the noise of the attack. He at once washed his hands and called for his sword and guns. Whilst he was buckling on his sword he received intelligence that his best General, Syed Gaffoor, had been killed. He exclaimed, "Syed Gaffoor was never afraid of death. We also shall soon depart." He then ascended the northern rampart, followed by 5 men carrying 4 guns and a blunderbuss, and by 2 or 3 eunuchs. He advanced towards the attack, and when within 200 yards of the breach, he stood behind one of the traverses and fired 7 or 8 shots at the enemy with his own hand. His head servant, Rajah Khan, thinks that he killed 3 or 4 Europeans. As the at-



Attacking force advanced, the Sultan retired along the north rampart. Meeting a favourite horse he mounted it and proceeded eastwards along the rampart till he came to the slope at the new sally-port in the inner rampart. Here he descended, still on horseback, and crossed the bridge over the inner ditch. When he entered the sally-port or water-gate, it was so much crowded that he could not get through. Just then the storming party, advancing along the outer rampart, came to the bridge and fired into the gate, wounding the Sultan. On receiving the wound, the Sultan advanced 3 or 4 paces into the gateway. The firing increased and the Sultan was shot through the left breast while his horse was wounded in the leg. His servant Rajah Khan suggested that the Sultan should surrender, but he replied, "Are you mad? Be silent." Rajah Khan tried to assist the Sultan from his saddle and they both fell among the dead and wounded. A Grenadier (named Christian) then came up to Tippoo, not knowing who he was, and seized his sword-belt, in order to strip it of its gold buckle. The Sultan snatched a drawn sword, which was lying within his reach and made a cut at the soldier. The blow fell on his musket. He made another stroke at a second soldier, with more effect and immediately afterwards was killed by a musket ball which penetrated his right temple.

#### THE FUNERAL OF TIPPOO SULTAN.

The body left the fort at 4 P.M., on May the 5th. The bier was supported by attendants from the palace and followed by 4 companies of European Grenadiers. Tippoo's son, Abdul Khalek, rode behind the bier. Meer Allum and the chiefs of the Nizam's army met the body at the entrance to the Lal Bagh, and fell into the procession. When the body reached the gate of Hyder's tomb, the Grenadiers formed a street and presented arms as it passed. The body was placed



next to that of Hyder and the tomb is distinguished to this day by a scarlet cloth cover, denoting that Tippoo died a martyr to his faith, fighting against the infidel.

The evening closed with a most dreadful storm of thunder and lightning which killed 2 officers and several men in the Bombay camp.

#### LIST OF THE SONS OF TIPPOO SULTAN.

1. Mohi Uddin Sultan.
2. Hyder Ali Sultan or Futteh Hyder.
3. Abdul Khalek Sultan.
4. Moiz Uddin Sultan.
5. Subbon Sahib Sultan.
6. Shukur Ullah Sultan.
7. Gholam Ahmad Sultan.
8. Gholam Mahommad Sultan.
9. Sururer Uddin Sultan.
10. Yasur Sahib Sultan.
11. Jama Uddin Sultan.
12. Mouir Uddin Sultan.

All these sons were sent in 1799 as State prisoners to Vellore. In 1806 a serious mutiny broke out among the native troops in Vellore. The mutineers murdered a number of British officers and hoisted Tippoo's royal standard. The mutiny was quelled by Col. Gillespie who was commanding a Dragoon regiment at Ranipet and who galloped into Vellore with his regiment, blew in the fort gate and was himself hoisted up to the top of the gate by a rope made of British soldiers' belts.

After this Tippoo's sons were banished to Calcutta where their families faded into obscurity. The so-called lineal descendant came to see me at Delhi during the Durbar of 1911. He appeared to be living in great poverty. "Sic transit gloria mundi."

#### THE PLACE WHERE TIPPOO FELL.

I do not know where Col. Malletson derives his information that Tippoo, after he was wounded,

dragged himself to an arch, 100 yards to the right of the present water-gate in the northern rampart.

Major Allan who was present at the assault tells the following story as to what transpired when General Baird, after the storming of the fortress questioned an old killedar as to the whereabouts of the Sultan :—

“The killedar on being questioned said that the Sultan was not in the palace, but that he had been wounded and lay in a gateway in the north face of the fort. General Baird proceeded to the gateway which was filled with many hundreds of the slain. The bodies were ordered to be dragged out and examined one by one, but this proved an endless task. As it was becoming dark, a light was procured and I accompanied the killedar into the gateway. There we discovered a wounded person, lying under the Sultan's palankeen. This man was proved to be Rajah Khan, Tippoo's confidential servant and he pointed out where the Sultan's body was lying. When Tippoo's body was brought out, his eyes were open and his body was so warm that Col. Wellesley and I thought he must be alive. On feeling his pulse and heart, all doubt was removed. He had four wounds, three on his body and one on his temple, the ball having entered a little above the left ear and lodged in the cheek. His dress consisted of a jacket of fine white linen, and loose drawers of flowered chintz with a crimson cloth of silk and cotton round his waist. A handsome pouch with a red and green silk belt hung across his shoulder. His head was uncovered, his turban being lost in the confusion of his fall. He had an armlet on his arm, but no other ornaments.

Tippoo was of low stature and corpulent, with high shoulders and a short thick neck, but his feet and hands were remarkably small. His eyes were large and prominent with small arched eye-brows, and his nose aquiline. He had an appearance of dignity, or perhaps sternness, in his countenance which distinguished him above the common order of people.”



Another account, given at page 103 of the appendix to Col. Beatson's History of the Siege of Seringapatam runs as follows:—

After describing the fight made by Tippoo on the outer northern rampart, the narrator says:—

"While any of his troops remained with him, the Sultan continued to dispute the ground, till he approached the *passage across the ditch to the gate of the inner fort*. Here he complained of pain and weakness in one of his legs, which had been badly wounded when he was very young, and desiring that his mare might be brought, he mounted, and seeing the Europeans advancing on both ramparts, he made for the gate followed by his palankeen and a number of officers, troops and servants. . . . As he was crossing to the gate by the communication (presumably a bridge) from the outer rampart, he received a musket ball in his right side, nearly in line with his breast. He, however, passed on until he was stopped about half-way through the arch by the fire of the 12th Light Infantry from within, when he received a second ball in the right side, close to the other. His mare being wounded, at the same time sank under him and his turban fell to the ground. The Sultan was immediately raised by his adherents and placed upon his palankeen, under the arch, where he lay or sat for some moments faint and exhausted, until some European soldiers entered the gateway. A servant, who has survived relates that one of the soldiers seized the Sultan's sword-belt and attempted to pull it off and that the Sultan, who still held his sword in his hand, made a cut at the soldier with all his remaining strength and wounded him about the knee; on which the soldier put his piece to his shoulder and shot the Sultan dead." After Tippoo's body was found as described by Major Allan, an officer, with General Baird's permission, took from off the right arm a talisman which contained, sewed up in flowered silk, an amulet of brittle metallic

substance of the colour of silver and some magic writing in Persian and Arabic characters."

Lord Valentia, in his Travels written in 1803 says:—"The gateway in which Tippoo fell has been destroyed with the inner work (rampart); a road is formed in its stead with trees planted on each side." (This is the road which now exists inside the fort, close to the northern rampart.)

It is clear from all their accounts that the place where Tippoo fell was not the present water-gate, but a similar gate in the inner rampart, opposite to the water-gate. Presumably there was a moat between the two gates.

There is a curious story told in the memoirs of Major Harris, a one-legged officer who accompanied the Bombay army to Seringapatam as "Loot" officer. Major Harris says that on the day of the capture of this fortress he and a certain regimental doctor came upon the body of Tippoo lying in a palankeen and that the doctor borrowed his pen-knife and cut off one half of Tippoo's moustache (a ghoulisn thing to do in all conscience!).

### TIPPOO'S CHILDISHNESS.

A curious mechanical toy belonging to Tippoo was found at Seringapatam among the loot. It was a life-size figure of a tiger standing over a prostrate European. When you turned a handle the tiger roared and his victim wriggled. This toy was sent Home to the Court of Directors of the East India Company.

### TREATMENT BY HYDER ALI AND TIPPOO OF THE HINDU MAHARAJAS OF MYSORE.

Hyder Ali, though virtual ruler of Mysore, recognized the nominal sovereignty of the Hindu Maharaja in whose service he had risen to such great power. He made the Maharaja more or less a State prisoner in 1759. Maharaja Chikka Krishnaraj died in 1766



and Hyder Ali recognized the succession of his son Nundaraj. This prince died in 1771 and was succeeded by his younger brother Chamaraj, who died without issue at the age of 14.

Hyder then ordered 8 or 10 boys lineally related to the royal family to be brought before him for the purpose of electing one of them to be Maharaja. Some fruit was distributed among them and Hyder remarked that only one of them named Chamaraj gave his share of the fruit to his father. Hyder chose this boy, aged 4, to be Maharaja, but he died of small-pox in 1796.

Tippoo did not nominate or acknowledge any successor to Chamaraj. The latter had seven wives and it was his son Krishnaraj Wadiyar, who was placed on the throne by the British in 1799.

At the time of the storming of Seringapatam the young Maharaja with his step-mothers and other members of the family were living in a small house at Seringapatam, adjoining the northern rampart on an allowance of £885 a year granted to them by Tippoo.

After it was decided to install Krishnaraj Wadiyar as Maharaja, the British Commissioners for the affairs of Mysore announced their intention to the family through the future Dewan Purniah. The two nearest relations of the young Maharaja then sent the following letter to the Commissioners:—

To

*Lt.-General George Harris, the Hon. Col. Arthur Wellesley, Mr. Henry Wellesley, Lt.-Col. William Kirkpatrick, Lt.-Col. Barry Close, Commissioners for the affairs of Mysore.*

FROM

*Letchima Amma, the wife of Krishnaraj Wadiyar and Devaj Amma, the wife of Chamaraj Wadiyar, with compliments:—*

*On the 24th of June 1799.*

“Your having conferred on our child the Government of Mysore, Nuggur and Chitaldrug, with their

dependencies, and appointed Purniah to be Dewan has afforded us the greatest happiness. We shall, while the sun and moon continue, commit no offence against your Government. We shall at all times consider ourselves under your protection and orders. Your having established us must for ever be fresh in the memory of our posterity, from one generation to another. Our offspring can never forget an attachment to your Government on whose support we shall depend."

On receiving this letter the Commissioners paid a visit to Her Highness and her family.

They found the young Raja and his family in a condition of poverty and humiliation which excited the strongest compassion. The senior Ranee expressed, from behind a purdah, the gratitude of the family in suitable terms, and dilated on the persecution which they had suffered from Tippoo. Referring to the young Maharaja the Commissioners reported:—

"The young Raja's name is Krishna Rajah Oodiyer; he is said to be 5 years old. His complexion is rather fair and his countenance very expressive. He is of a delicate habit and apparently of a timid disposition, as he displayed some symptoms of alarm on first seeing the Commissioners."

After this visit, Purniah consulted the Brahmins and reported to the Commissioners that June 30th was an auspicious day for installing the young Maharaja and the ceremony took place at Mysore on that date.

The members of the Commission escorted by H. M.'s 12th regiment and a detachment of cavalry proceeded on the morning of June 30th from Seringapatam to Mysore. They were met at the old palace by the Maharaja, with his male relations and Purniah.

Lt.-General Harris and Meer Allum (representing the Nizam) each took the little Maharaja by the hand and led him to the musnud on which they placed him



under a royal salute fired from the fort of Seringapatam, and 3 volleys of musketry from the troops present. General Harris then presented to the Maharaja the seal and signet of the "Raj." The deportment of the young prince during the ceremony was quite dignified and free from any symptoms of restraint or alarm.

After the investiture, the Brahmin Purniah was appointed to be His Highness' Dewan.

Lt.-Col. Close was selected for the post of Resident with the Maharaja and the command of Seringapatam was placed in the hands of the Hon'ble Col. Wellesley.

As a sequel to the above, I give below an interesting account of a visit paid four years later by Lord Valentia to the young Maharaja.

#### LORD VALENTIA'S VISIT TO BANGALORE, SERINGAPATAM AND MYSORE.

Lord Valentia accomplished this journey by palanquin from Madras in the year 1803. He reached Bangalore on February 28th. He refers to the Bangalore fort as a strong one with a fine glacis. He much enjoyed a plate of strawberries from the Sultan's garden and he comments favourably on the climate of Bangalore remarking that every European vegetable and most of our fruits could probably be grown there.

On the 29th he came in sight of Seringapatam. The view was disappointing, the only conspicuous objects being the minarets of the mosque and the "Cavalier" with the British colours flying. He remarks, on the subject of tanks, that Tippoo destroyed many, but built none. He tells a good story illustrating the impartiality of Hyder Ali. A celebrated Mahomedan saint called Peer Ladah complained to him that the Hindus at Seringapatam had beaten his followers. Hyder learnt that the Mahomedans had

been the aggressors, as they had attacked a Hindu procession. When Peer Ladah argued that the procession was an insult to the Mahomedan religion and that the conduct of the Hindus should not be tolerated by Hyder as "the head of a Mussalman Government," Hyder replied "Who told you that it was a Mussalman Government? . . . I am sure I never did." The Peer then threatened to leave Seringapatam and Hyder told him he could go wherever he pleased. The Peer eventually retired to Madras and died there.

#### LORD VALENTIA'S VISIT TO THE YOUNG MAHARAJA OF MYSORE, WHO WAS THEN 9 YEARS OLD.

On March 2nd, Lord Valentia went from Seringapatam to Mysore, and stayed in a small house built by the Raja for the British Resident. He describes the new town of Mysore as consisting of one street about a mile long. He went to the fort about 9 A.M., to visit the Raja, and found the garrison drawn up to receive him. He describes the palace as small and neat, but not finished, and says that there was a great deal of empty space inside the fort. The musnud was placed in a verandah on the left of the entrance. It was of ivory fantastically carved, and was found among the stores of Tippoo. Lord Valentia continues his narrative as follows:—

"His Highness was dressed in gold tissue, with some handsome pearls round his neck. A crese (dagger?) of gold was lying on one side of him, on the other a small sword. On entering, I made my salams, which he returned and held out his hand, which I did not perceive. Chairs were placed on his left hand for me and my party. . . . On his right were Narasinga Row, Buche Row. In front of His Highness was an épergne filled with flowers of the champak, and on each side a servant held branches of burning incense. His Highness was considerably agitated at



first, his breast heaving visibly ; but after a little while, he recovered himself and behaved with great dignity and propriety. I paid the usual compliments through Major Symons and Narasinga Row and expressed my satisfaction at seeing him on the throne of his ancestors ; and he replied that he owed everything to the British Government and that his gratitude was unbounded and then talked about Mysore and other subjects ; and he conversed sensibly and without hesitation. He is about 11 years old, of middle size, not handsome, but of an intelligent countenance. He seemed lively and smiled once, but was immediately checked by a person who stood by him. I enquired as to his pursuits and was informed that he was fond of riding and the sports of the field. When I observed that he seemed playful, I was instantly assured that he was not so. I strongly recommended his learning English. . . . I presented him with a small sabre with a handle of agate ornamented with rubies, and he said that he valued the gift, particularly as he was a Kshatriya. He gave me in return a handsome string of pearls with a pendant of flat diamonds, and uncut rubies. He presented me with two beautiful chowries, two pankahs, two walking sticks of sandalwood and two bottles of sandalwood oil. A salute was then fired from the fort and strings of champak were put round our necks. His mother sent me her compliments. Pan and attar were then distributed and then we took our leave. As the musnud was fully 4 feet from the ground His Highness would have found it difficult to have risen or descended to take leave, so I shook hands with him where he was."

#### LORD VALENTIA'S VIST TO SERINGAPATAM.

Lord Valentia arrived at Seringapatam on February 29th, 1803. He was met by Col. De Meuron and all the officers of his regiment and was lodged in

Tippoo's palace. He gives the following description of Seringapatam :—

"The Loll Mahal, or private residence of Tippoo (this was inside the fort, opposite to the water-gate, and between the two Hindu temples) consists but of one square, three sides of which are divided into two stories, with a verandah of painted wood in front. Behind were many small rooms used by him as warehouses. The fourth side consisted of a single room, the same height as the rest of the building. This was the Durbar of the tyrant, in which he sat or wrote or received ministers. It is a very handsome room about 70 feet long and 40 feet deep. The walls are painted red, with a gilt trellis work running over it, formed by the tiger "scratches," the favourite ornament of Tippoo. (This device is still to be seen inside Tippoo's tomb.) Sentences of the Koran, in letters of gold, each about a foot high, run round the room as a cornice. Three rows of pillars sustain the roof, which is the same colour as the walls. Each pillar is a single piece of wood painted red and highly varnished. They have bases of black marble. Their shape is fantastic, bulging much towards the base, but again narrowing. Behind the Durbar is a small room in which the tyrant slept, when fear or anger would permit him. There are only two windows, both grated with iron, and the door is strongly secured. The only entrance to the Loll Mahal is through the harem that adjoined, and through a narrow winding passage in which Tippoo kept some lions and tigers chained as an additional precaution."

Lord Valentia dined with Col. De Meuron and his officers in the palace of Hyder Ali; the State room was painted green with much gilding.

*Note.*—(There is no trace left of either of these palaces in the fort except one building which is used for storing sandalwood.)

Lord Valentia mentions another "Loll Baugh" or country palace of Tippoo's which was built by Hyder Ali and was in the same garden as the Gumbuz or



tomb. It was two stories high and the upstairs contained some very good apartments and balconies opening into courts. It was prettily painted but very gloomy. "Adjoining this palace," to quote from this narrative "is the mausoleum of Hyder, Tippoo and the former's wife, who lie under tombs of black marble. In the verandah are buried several of the family (including Tippoo's foster-mother, who has a black marble tomb) and outside, on the platform, are the tombs of several faithful servants."

Lord Valentia gives an interesting description of the summer palace or Dhariya Dowlat, built by Tippoo nearer the town. It was then the residence of General Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington). Here Tippoo frequently retired in the early morning and remained the whole day, but invariably returned to Seringapatam at night. This palace was very much the same as it is now. The battle scene painting is obviously the same as Lord Valentia refers to—Major Baillie in the centre of a hollow square, and the tumbril exploding, while Tippoo and Hyder are advancing against him.

The paintings on the wall of the eastern verandah, which now depict scenes from Mahomedan court life, have certainly been altered since 1803; Lord Valentia describes these as follows:—

"Hyder and Tippoo appear there in all their splendour as conquerors, and the different princes conquered are painted below." Lord Valentia refers to a painting of a certain British officer whom Tippoo despised and who was depicted drawing his sword on a woman and amusing himself with dancing girls.

The fact that there is a portrait of the grandfather of His Highness the present Maharaja on the eastern wall indicates that the wall was repainted in his time.

Lord Valentia gives a description of the "Breach" which he visited in company with several officers who were present at the storming of the fort, and who

explained every thing to him. He mentions that Tippoo's garrison were unable to stay on the south-west rampart owing to the enfilading fire from the Bombay batteries on the north bank of the river. Those who were obliged to be there had dug themselves holes in the earth, and in these, they were taking dinner when the storming party entered and killed many of them before they could get out.

During the assault, a small party of soldiers, in the heat of the attack, passed from the outer to the inner rampart over a wall which united them, though it was very high and only a foot wide (this does not strike one after all as a very daring feat). These men outflanked the Sultan and his troops.

When Lord Valentia visited Seringapatam, the inner ditch and rampart had been completely destroyed, except that part where the wall gave a passage to the soldiers. This passage is described as so hazardous that on the day after the siege, the same soldiers refused to cross it in cold blood. As regards the place where Tippoo fell, Lord Valentia says very clearly, "The gateway in which Tippoo fell has been destroyed with the inner work (ditch and rampart)."

Lord Valentia mentions a Captain Scott who was in charge of a new Gun-carriage Factory at Seringapatam. This is presumably Col. Scott of Scott's Bungalow fame. He also describes the Wellesley bridge (on the Bangalore side of the island) which the Dewan Purniah was then building for the convenience of the garrison. It was constructed of pillars, 3 in a row, 10 feet from each other and 18 feet high, sunk in the solid rock with large stones laid on the top. The bridge over the southern arm of the river was in existence in Tippoo's time. Visitors should notice the masonry aqueduct which runs under the roadway of this southern bridge, and which supplied water to the island.



# ORIGIN OF HYDER ALI.

(From Lord Valentia.)

"It appears nearly certain that Hyder's family came originally from Arabia and were probably of high descent; for, the first member who came to India about 1660 was appointed Moulah of the mosque at Vijiapoor, and on his removal to Gulburga married with the family of a celebrated fakeer. A junior branch of this family removed from Gulburga to Sera (in Mysore) and entered into the service of the Soubadar. This Soubadar moved to Kolār and Futteh Hyder, the father of Hyder Ali rose to eminence in his service and was at length employed by the Raja of Seringapatam. On his death, his son, Hyder Ali succeeded to all his commands."

## LIBRARY OF TIPPOO SULTAN.

Tippoo's library consisted of about 2,000 volumes of Asiatic literature and a large collection of State papers which afforded complete evidence of Tippoo's intrigues against the English with the French, the Turks, the Afghans, the Mahrattas, the Mogul Emperor at Delhi, the Rajputs, the Persians, the Arabs and even the Nepaulese.

As Beatson says, "The hatred of Tippoo against the English was undoubted, but the eagerness and virulence with which he prosecuted his favourite plan of destroying the British power could never have been credited but for the revelations contained in his own State papers."

There has been a curious tendency of late to whitewash Tippoo Sultan and to represent him as the victim of British aggression. Only recently I read a paper in which it was stated that the arrival of some French adventurers at Seringapatam from Mauritius was misconstrued by the British Government into evidence of an intrigue on the part of Tippoo with

the French Republican Government. The facts however are clear that Tippoo deliberately sent ambassadors to Mauritius in order to form an offensive and defensive alliance against the British, that his overtures were accepted and that the 200 French adventurers who arrived at Seringapatam were sent at his request, to aid him in waging war against the British Government. This was a direct violation on Tippoo's part of treaty relations and he had no one but himself to blame for the tragedy which followed and which ended both his life and his dynasty.

### TIPPOO'S INTRIGUES WITH THE FRENCH.

The following is a translation of a letter from Napoleon Buonaparte to Tippoo Sultan referred to on page 34 of Malleison's book :—

*French Republic.*

*Liberty.*

*Equality.*

Buonaparte, member of the National Convention, General-in-Chief, to the most magnificent Sultan, our greatest friend, Tippoo Sahib.

*Head Quarters at Cairo,  
7th Pluriöse, 7th year of the Republic  
one and indivisible.*

" You have already been informed of my arrival on the borders of the Red Sea with an innumerable and invincible army, full of the desire of delivering you from the iron yoke of England. I eagerly embrace this opportunity of testifying to you the desire I have of being informed by you, by the way of Muscat and Mocha, as to your political situation.

I would even wish you could send some intelligent person to Suez or Cairo, possessing your confidence, with whom I may confer.

May the Almighty increase your power and destroy your enemies.

BUONAPARTE."



## TIPPOO'S SUPERSTITIOUS NATURE.

Tippoo always wore an amulet on his arm to preserve him from danger. He was a great believer in dreams and kept a record of his own. The following are translations of some of his dreams:—

## I.

On the night of Thursday and towards the morning this servant of God had a dream. Methought it was reported that a French man of rank was arrived. . . . I rose up and embraced him and enquired after his health and methought the Christian said:—

“I am come with 10,000 men for the service of this Khoodadad Sirkar. I have disembarked them all on the shore of the sea and am come to present myself;” and methought I said unto him, “It is well done, by the favour of God, and all the followers of Islam are ready to prosecute the holy war.” At this moment the morning dawned and I awoke.

*Note.*—This dream illustrates how Tippoo must have been obsessed with the idea of an alliance with the French against the English.

## II.

At the capital, on the night of Sunday, I had a dream. Methought that they brought and placed before me three silver trays of fresh dates of the species called “moist.” The dates were each a span in length, fresh and full of juice (*some dates these!*) and it was reported to me that they had been reared in my own garden. At that moment I awoke; it was morning.

Thus did the servant of God interpret the dream:—That by the grace of God the dominion of the three kaffirs (infidels) shall fall into my hands.

## III.

On the 21st of Hydery at the place where I had

halted on the further side of the Tungabuddra, I had a dream.

Methought it was the day of judgment, when no one is interested in the concerns of another. At that time a stranger of commanding aspect with eyes of brightness and a blooming countenance, with a beard and moustaches came to me and taking my hand, said to me, . . . . "I am Morteya Ali (son-in-law of Mahommed). The Prophet of God hath said, and still sayeth, 'I will not place my foot in Paradise without thee.' " I was rejoiced and awoke.

God is all powerful and the Prophet is his intercessor. It sufficeth.

#### IV.

On the night of Thursday of the year, I had a dream. Methought a young man of a beautiful countenance, a stranger, came and sat down, and methought I jested with him in the manner that a person playfully talks with a woman. In this instant the youth rose and loosened his hair from beneath his turban and I saw it was a woman.

*Note.*—Tippoo interpreted the above dream as meaning that the Mahrattas with whom he was at war, had put on the clothing of men, but were really women in character. He attacked their camp soon afterwards with two or three hundred men and they all fled like women.

#### V.

The following dream must, I think, have been the result of an indigestible supper:—

On the 7th of the month Janfree I had a dream. Methought that on the road, near my encampment, I saw a cow with its calf in semblence like a large striped tiger. Its countenance, teeth, etc., were in the manner of a tiger; its forelegs were as those of a cow; its hinder legs were wanting; its forelegs had a little motion and it was greatly destructive. Having reconnoitred it, I returned to camp, and directed several



persons to come with me, intending, please God, to approach this cow with tiger's form and with my own hand, cut it and its calf to pieces. Having reviewed my household stud, I gave orders for two grey horses to be quickly saddled and brought.

At this moment the morning appeared and I awoke. The following interpretation of the dream suggested itself to my mind:—

The Hill Christians, resembling cows with their calves, have the appearance of tigers, and, by the favour of God, they will all be slain.

### • • CRUELTY OF TIPPoo.

An accountant in the fort told Col. Beatson the following story:—

Thirteen English prisoners were taken during the siege. These unfortunate men were put to death three or four at a time their necks being twisted and broken by "Jetties" or professional Hindu wrestlers. Some of the bodies were actually found and recognized by the officers of Col. Wellesley's regiment.

Among Tippoo's State papers was found a document in his own handwriting which runs as follows:—

"There are 500 Coorg prisoners, who must be dealt with in such a manner as shall ensure their death in the course of a month or twenty days; such of their women as are young must be given to Mussulmans and the rest together with their children, kept in prison on a small allowance."

### TIPPoo's DUPLICITY.

When taxed by the Marquis of Wellesley with intriguing with the French, Tippoo wrote as follows:—

"In the Sircar (the gift of God) there is a mercantile tribe, who employ themselves in trading by

sea and land. Their agents purchased a two-masted vessel and having loaded her with rice, departed with a view to traffic. It happened that she went to Mauritius (Tippoo had actually sent two ambassadors in this ship to Mauritius to obtain help from the French against the British) from whence 40 persons, French, of a dark colour, paying the hire of the ship, came to my country seeking employment. Such as chose to take service, were enlisted by me and the remainder departed. The French, who are full of vice and deceit, have perhaps taken advantage of the departure of the ship, to put about reports unfavourable to me."

In the same letter to the Marquis of Wellesley, received at Madras in December 1798, Tippoo congratulated the Governor-General on the victory of "the Nile" in the following words:—

"The particulars which your Lordship has communicated to me relative to the victory of the English fleet over that of the French, near the shores of Egypt have given me more pleasure than can possibly be conveyed in writing. Indeed, I possess the fervent hope that the leaders of the English and the Company Bahadur, who ever adhere to the paths of sincerity, friendship and good faith . . . will at all times be successful and victorious, and that the French, who are of a crooked disposition, faithless, and the enemies of mankind, may ever be deprived and ruined."

#### GENERAL BAIRD'S CAPTIVITY AT SERINGAPATAM.

*(From Beatson's Narrative.)*

Major-General Baird, when Captain of the Light Infantry of the late 73rd regiment (now 71st) was severely wounded and taken prisoner with Col. Baillie, at the battle of Pollelore on September 10th, 1780. After being kept in Hyder Ali's camp for 5 or 6 weeks,