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K.K. Venugopal



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THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES
THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

Frontispiece.

GWALIOR

1905

BY

J. W. D. JOHNSTONE

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CHAPTER I

GWALIOR AND ITS RULERS

“His goal is the stability of the British Empire, and to attain that goal . . . he is striving with all his characteristic energy to improve the condition of his people.”

The Prince of Wales, in his speech
at Gwaiior, 21st December 1905.



HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SCINDIA, G.C.S.I.

Facing page 3.

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1905

CHAPTER I

GWALIOR AND ITS RULERS

THE visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India was the natural complement of their extensive tour in the great colonies which make up King Edward's Dominions beyond the Seas. What a world of experience is implied by their travels, what contrasts of scenery and productions must have been presented to their eyes in Canada, Australia, and India, what extremes of climate they must have felt and what differences of administrative system they must have observed ! But in spite of all the variety, the cordiality and loyalty with which their Royal Highnesses were everywhere received can leave no doubt as to the essential unity of that vast Empire on which the sun never sets.

Thirty years elapsed between the visit of King Edward to India and that of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and during that memorable period the most widely separated portions of this mighty dominion have been knit together in closer bonds than ever before : first, through the all-embracing sympathy of the late Queen Victoria, next by the statesmanlike tact of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and again by the

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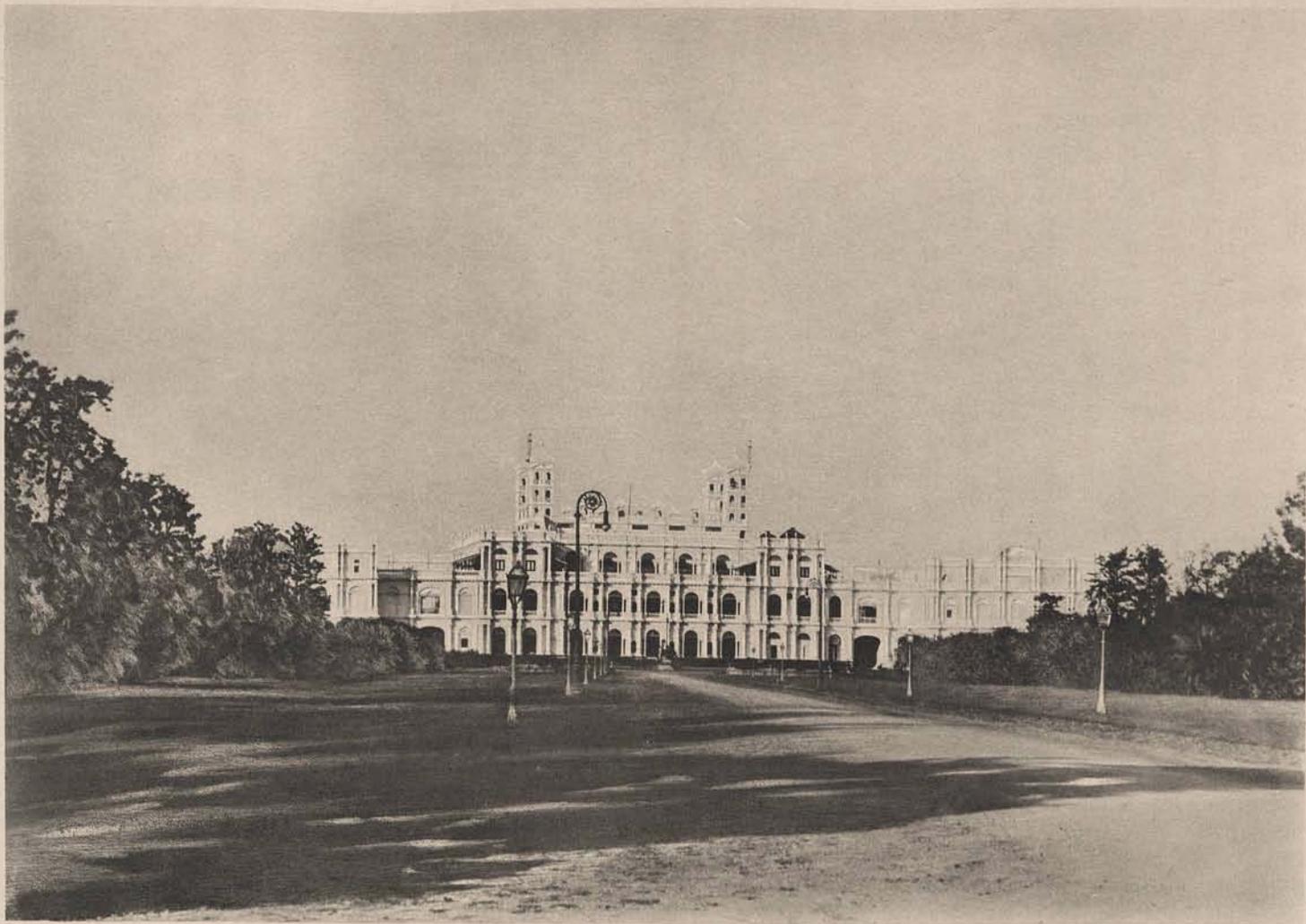
consciousness of national dangers imperially repelled. And now the Prince and Princess by their kindly interest in all things Imperial, and especially in things Indian, have still further strengthened the cohesion of every part of the magnificent fabric of the British Empire. India, the mother of ancient faiths and civilisations, has for her part signified with no uncertain voice her enthusiasm and her fidelity by the splendid welcome she has given to her future Emperor and Empress.

One of the episodes of their Royal Highnesses' progress was the visit to Gwalior, where they were the guests of His Highness the Maharaja Scindia. Having first stepped on Indian soil at Bombay, they proceeded thence to Holkar's Capital, Indore, and then to Rajputana, the aristocratic hub of Hindustan, where they honoured with their presence successively Oudeypore, the fair city of the Sisodias, the flourishing State of Jaipur, and the desert capital of Bikanir. Their course next took them northward to the Punjab and the North-west Frontier Province, then south again to the far-famed cities of Delhi and Agra. Gwalior came next on the programme, then Lucknow and Calcutta. Add to these the distant province of Burma, Madras, the large States of Southern India, Hyderabad and Mysore, then lastly Quetta and Karachi, and it will be seen that no considerable part of the country was omitted in the Royal Progress. But nowhere can their welcome have been more hearty than in the capital of the Scindias.

The State of Gwalior is one of the largest feudatory States in India, and by far the largest of the numerous principalities comprised within the political charge of the Central India

JAI BILAS PALACE, GWALIOR,
WHERE THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS STAYED.

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Agency, and it has a special Resident accredited to it by the Government of India. Its area is not much inferior to that of Scotland, and as that kingdom consists of one compact body with outlying islands, so Gwalior consists of a large block with numerous detached districts. The solid portion of this territory, over 16,000 square miles in extent, is bounded on the north and north-west by the Chambal River, beyond which lie the districts of Agra and Etawah belonging to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and the native States of Dholpur, Karauli, and Jaipur in Rajputana ; on the east it marches with the British districts of Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur, and Saugar ; on the west with the States of Jhalawar, Tonk, and Kotah, and on the south with those of Bhopal, Khilchipur, Rajgarh, and others. Beyond those States, to the south and west, come the Málwa districts of Gwalior comprising an area of over 8000 square miles.

The character of the country lying within these limits shows considerable variety. The northern portion immediately to the south of the Chambal is, generally speaking, a vast plain, dotted here and there with low hills, while farther to the south the hills become higher and more continuous until Málwa is reached, a plateau with an average elevation above the sea of about 1600 feet.

This territory supports a population of 3,000,000 souls, the more densely-peopled districts being those in the north and in Málwa, though all are capable of providing for a far larger population than at present exists. In the intermediate tracts the population is extremely sparse, partly owing to the want of water, partly to the existence of vast stretches of un-

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cultivable jungle, and partly also in all probability to the terrible anarchy which prevailed during the early years of the nineteenth century. Out of the 3,000,000 of population, over 84 per cent. are Hindus, and the remainder are nearly all Mohammadans and aborigines, the latter being chiefly confined to the remote jungle tracts of the State.

Amid such an overwhelming preponderance of Hindus it is not surprising that all social customs should tend to conform to one type, especially as a large proportion of the Mohammadans are descendants of converted Hindus. Hence even the followers of an exclusive faith like Islam are found retaining many Hindu customs, and actually at certain seasons worshipping Hindu gods, while again most of the aboriginal Animistic tribes (no doubt with the aim of raising their social status) claim to be members of this same great Hindu Community.

As from the religious and the social point of view Gwalior is a stronghold of Hinduism, so in respect of industries agriculture at present stands pre-eminently first. But India generally is steadily developing into a country of great industrial importance, and signs are not wanting that Gwalior will take a prominent place in this development.

The territory thus rapidly sketched was from time immemorial under the rule of Rajput chiefs of high descent but generally of small revenues, chiefs who enjoyed a measure of independence in proportion to the strength of the central power into which, whether Hindu or Musalman, they were for the time being absorbed. The Emperor Akbar and his successors, in their dream of a united India, naturally spread their dominion over Central India, including what is now the Gwalior

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State, as well as far to the south into the Indian Peninsula, until Alamgir (also known as Aurungzeb) by his bigoted and unwise policy sowed the seeds of discontent and of consequent decay.

One of the principal agents in bringing about the dissolution of the huge and unwieldy fabric of the Moghal Empire, was that extraordinary nation, the Marathas, whose home was Maharashtra, the country lying south of the River Nerbuda, bounded on the west by the Indian Ocean, and on the east and south by the Wainganga and Krishna Rivers. The origin of the race is still one of the ethnological enigmas of the Deccan, but the Marathas claimed, apparently with good reason, to be of Rajput descent, and had occupied the tract of country just mentioned for probably more than one thousand years. They were famous as light cavalry, and had developed a system of guerilla warfare with which their name has ever been connected, but they were despised by the arrogant and luxurious Mohammadans for their lack of pomp and splendour and for their peculiar mode of fighting.

A time was soon to come, however, when the proud Moghal would discover how formidable the peasant warriors could be. As the disintegration of the Musalman Empire proceeded, the Marathas increased their direct possessions and extended the indirect influence till it spread to every part of the peninsula. Their system was not, like that of the Romans, to conquer and reduce to subjection the powers with whom they came in contact, but rather to exact tribute as the price of abstention from conquest, a policy expressed in the phrase : "Take pay for not ruling."

And then by the inscrutable decree of fate the hour brought

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forth the man. This was the famous Shivaji, a member of the Maratha clan of Bhonsla, who, after possessing himself of forts and organising a regularly paid army, both horse and foot, finally assumed the style of a king, and, shaking off his connection with the Moghals and other powers, initiated that system of inveterate hostility to the Empire which under his successor wore out the courage and endurance of Aurungzeb. Shivaji himself died in 1680 ; but the foundations of the Maratha dynasty were laid, and though his degenerate grandson allowed the power of the State to fall into the hands of his Brahman ministers, the work went on. The Peshwas, as these ministers were called, actually became the hereditary rulers of the Maratha confederacy, and, with their capital at Poona, organised the civil administration, and raised the military system to great efficiency and splendour.

The advent of the Marathas to the country north of the Nerbuda, with which the present narrative is more particularly concerned, came about in this wise. The Peshwa Baji Rao was an able and ambitious minister, and having the reconstituted army at his disposal, consisting of horse, foot, and artillery, determined to strike at what he called the withered trunk of the Moghal Empire, with the assurance that the boughs would then drop off of themselves.

He first turned his eyes towards the fruitful province of Malwa. This had been part of the viceroyalty of Asaf Jah, who left it to conquer the Deccan, where he established the existing dynasty of Hyderabad. About the middle of the eighteenth century, Baji Rao finally obtained possession of Malwa, under the pretence of holding it as a vassal of the

VIEW OF THE PALACE (TAKEN FROM THE FORT).

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now tottering empire, but, being busy with other affairs, he proceeded to parcel out his newly-acquired territory between two of his most trusted officers, granting the southern portion to Malhar Ji Holkar and the northern to Ranoji Scindia, who fixed his capital at the famous old town of Ujjain. It was in this way that the Scindias entered into possession of a territory which they still hold.

The Scindias are one of the ninety-six *Kulas* or clans into which all pure Marathas are, strictly speaking, divided, and the consideration in which they were held was proved by the selection of a bride for Raja Shahu, the descendant of Shivaji, from this clan. Ranoji's family came from the neighbourhood of Satára, he himself having the position of *Patel* or headman of a village, a designation which he and his famous son retained through all the dazzling heights to which fortune carried them. He began active life as a trooper in the Peshwa's bodyguard or *Pága*, but those were the days when a young man of ability and keen military instincts was sure to make his mark, and consequently he rose rapidly in the favour of his august master, eventually, as has been seen, receiving Northern Malwa as a *Jagir* or military fief.

On his death he left an extensive territory to his successor. This was his grandson Jankoji, who in 1760 led his contingent to Delhi as part of the great Hindu confederation formed to oppose the invasion of Ahmad Shah Abdali, who had swept down from the hills of Afghanistan to the conquest of Hindustan. Jankoji was accompanied by his uncle, Madhoji, the youngest of Ranoji's sons. The two vast armies met at Panipat not far from Delhi, where the Afghan, in spite of the artillery and regular battalions opposed to him, routed the Hindus with

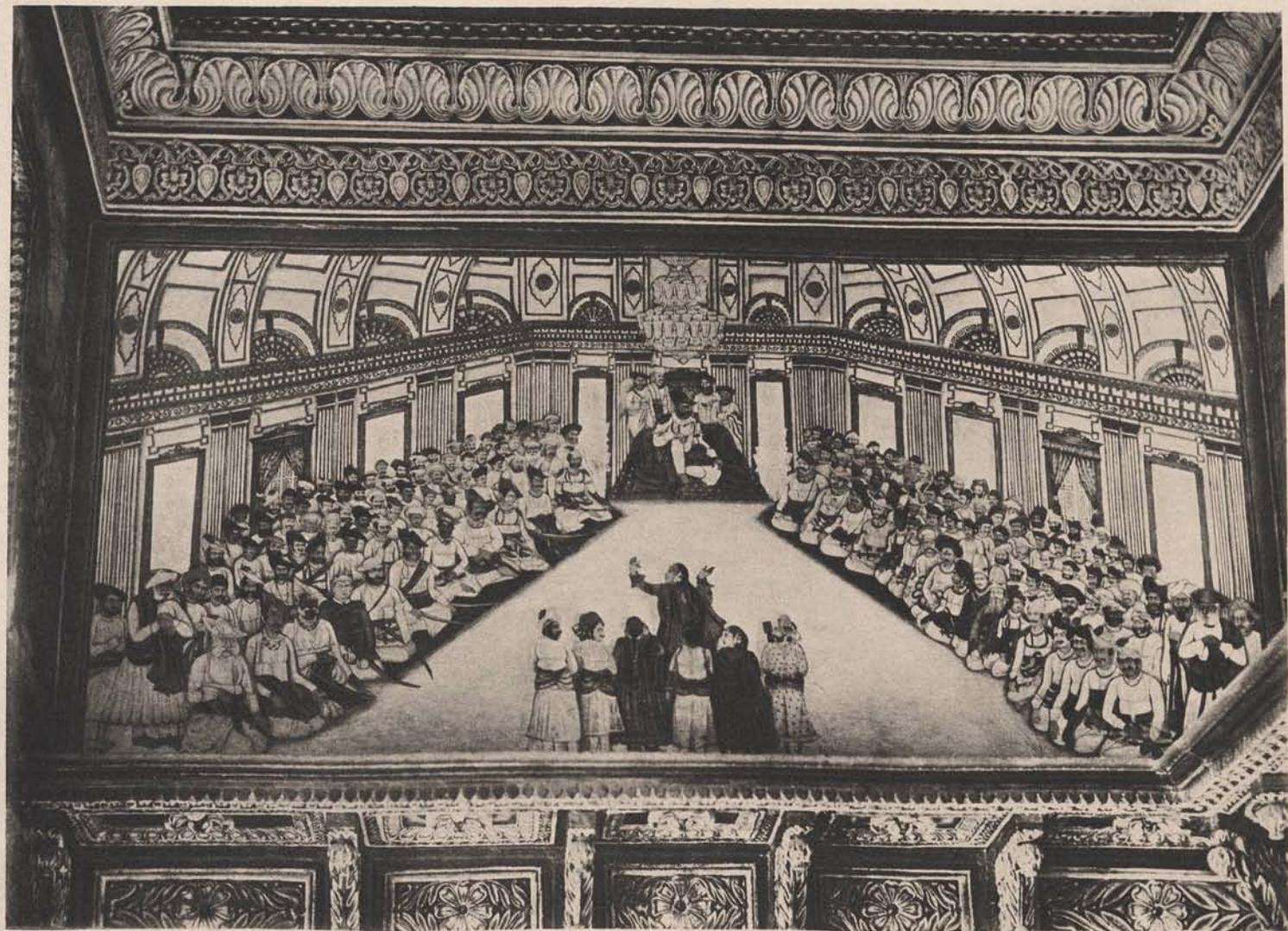
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tremendous slaughter. Jankoji was killed, and Madhoji, then the sole survivor of the Patel's family, was among the fugitives on that disastrous day.

As he urged on his light Deccani mare, he heard behind him the thundering hoofs of a huge Turkoman horse ridden by a gigantic Afghan eager for plunder. Long and stern was the chase, but at last Scindia's steed in crossing a ditch stumbled and fell. All hope seemed now gone. The pursuer, coming up, struck Madhoji a blow on the knee which crippled him, and after stripping him of his rich clothes and ornaments left him to die. But the gods willed otherwise. Fate had a task for Madho Rao Scindia to perform which, at this, the *nadir* of his fortunes, might well have seemed beyond the reach of possibility. As he lay helpless, there came along a Musalman water-bearer, Rane Khan by name, with his bullock carrying the *pakhāl* or water-skins. Placing the wounded chieftain on the bullock, he conveyed him to a place of safety. This benefit Madhoji never forgot. He called Rane Khan his "brother," and in the days of his prosperity raised him to a position of high command and responsibility, a trust which was amply justified. To this day the water-bearer's descendant holds a jagir in Gwalior State and is addressed as brother (bhaiya) by its chief.

Thus the Patel's life was saved. And he was not one to let the grass grow under his feet. He obtained, though not without some difficulty, the succession to his father's fiefs and to the military command which their possession brought with it.

It is impossible here to follow him in detail through all the great events in which he took a leading part. Suffice it to say that, whether regarded in the light of his capacity



A DURBAR IN THE REIGN OF MAHARAJA JIJAJI RAO SCINDIA.

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and character or of his achievements, the first Madho Rao Scindia was one of the greatest and most remarkable men that India has produced, and he has a strong claim on the regard and gratitude of succeeding generations in that he contributed in no small degree to the evolution of modern India, the India of peace and order, out of the previous anarchy and chaos.

He has been credited with the design of bringing the whole Peninsula under one umbrella (chatri), by means of a great Maratha confederacy, and perhaps some such vision may at one time have floated before his eyes. Uniting in himself the qualities of the general and of the statesman, he formed his armies on Western models, and engaged the best military talent he could find ; but at the same time he never neglected the arts of negotiation and mediation ; indeed mediator was one of his favourite rôles.

Whatever his ambition may have been, he early found that the road to universal dominion in India was barred by Warren Hastings, a foeman worthy of his steel, backed by the disciplined ranks of the British army. For a year or more the two ablest men in India faced each other in deadly conflict, but by the time Ujjain and Gwalior were both lost, the Patel had learned his lesson. Never again did he cross swords with the British. The struggle between the two great antagonists was concluded by the treaty of Salbai (May 1782), the terms of which were equally honourable to both parties, and by this treaty Scindia recovered Gwalior and Ujjain.

His subsequent career was an advance from strength to strength, and was crowned by the restoration, through his

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instrumentality, after many vicissitudes of fortune, of the Emperor Shah Alam to his capital at Delhi. By this feat Scindia gained for himself all the authority and prestige of the great Moghul.

Though nominally acting with almost ostentatious humility as the deputy of the Peshwa who in his turn was the Vicegerent of the Emperor, Madhoji was in reality supreme, and so far as Northern India was concerned his goal was attained. But he was after all a Maratha and a Southron, nor had he any intention of severing his connection with Poona.

In those days of imperfect communications, it was impossible for him to maintain his influence at the Peshwa's Court while his hands were full of affairs in Hindustan, and as long as his position there was uncertain, his success was not complete. He, therefore, proceeded to Poona, where he had to meet the veiled hostility of the crafty Nana Farnavis, the Peshwa's minister.

To strengthen his position he had summoned his general Perron with a large force from Hindustan, but suddenly one morning it was announced that Scindia was dead (1794). The alleged cause was fever, but it was strongly suspected that he died of violence at the hands of myrmidons of the Nana. Such was the end of this great man, and strange to say, no monument was erected in his honour ; but a few years ago when the present Ruler of Gwalior, also a Madho Rao Scindia, visited Poona and discovered the omission, he arranged for the erection of a handsome cenotaph (chatri), and this is now in the course of construction as a monument to the memory of his illustrious namesake.

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Madhoji's character is writ large in his deeds. In qualities of both head and heart, as in the measure of his success, he stands out from the Indians of his time with commanding superiority. His far-reaching aims were clearly defined and were pursued with determination and methodical tenacity, yet in an age which was full of savagery, brutality and treachery, he was free from cruelty, and he kept faith.

He is said never to have forgotten an injury or a benefit, but though naturally vindictive against those who had annoyed him, he was not implacable ; his great power of self-control often enabled him to triumph over his desire for vengeance, and towards those who served him faithfully his gratitude was unbounded and undying. Though fairly well educated for that age, he cared little for the details of business ; but he chose his agents well, and trusted them completely, thus attaching them to himself with bonds of confidence and affection, and receiving from them in return loyal and faithful service.

His occasional theatrical affectations of humility were assumed for reasons of policy, for his manners were generally as frank and unaffected as his habits were simple. He cared nothing for the trappings of State, provided he possessed the reality of power.

Above all, Madhoji Scindia was greatest in adversity. In moments of triumph he was apt to be over-elated, as when he unsuccessfully demanded tribute on behalf of the Emperor from the East India Company ; but no defeat or misfortune could quell his courage, and even when the gallant de Boigne was inclined to despair in face of the Rajput coalition of

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1786, Scindia's spirit never yielded. He shared with his great contemporary, Warren Hastings, the "mens æqua in arduis" proof against every blow of adverse fate.

Madhoji died without issue, but he had in an informal manner named his successor, and it is a signal mark of his influence that this youth of fifteen, his grand-nephew, was immediately accepted without question. The misfortunes which soon befell Daulat Rao Scindia were the best proof of the wisdom of Madhoji's conciliatory policy. Within a short time this young man's headstrong folly had alienated the authorities at Poona and led him into war with the British, from which he only emerged, after a series of defeats ending with Laswari, shorn of all his possessions north of the Chambal and south of the Ajanta Hills. The Scindia territory as settled by the Treaty of Sarji Anjengaom (1803), though modified in details, has remained substantially constant to the present day.

During the years that followed, the *pax Britannica* was gradually introduced into Central India, and from the year 1818 it may be said that the reign of law and order succeeded to the previous state of misery and confusion.

Daulat Rao left no heir, and neither did his adopted successor Jankoji Rao. After the death of the latter, a boy of eight years of age, called Bhagirath Rao, was adopted by the widow and ascended the *gadi* under the name of Jiyaji Rao, in the year 1843. He was the late Maharaja of Gwalior. Soon after his accession, dissensions between the two parties in the State brought about a collision with the British Government and necessitated military operations which ended with the battles of Maharajpur and Panihar, fought on the same day.



MAUSOLEUM OF MAHARAJA JIJAJI RAO SCINDIA.

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Since that time the relations between the rulers of Gwalior and the paramount power have been of the most cordial description. In the dark days of the mutiny, the Maharaja, then a young man of twenty-two, remained staunch and loyal in spite of the insurrection of the contingent stationed at Morar Cantonment and of his own troops. Jiyaji Rao Scindia proved to be a ruler of great capacity, keen discernment and untiring energy. Of military pursuits he was passionately fond and nothing would have pleased him better than a command on active service. On his death in 1886, he bequeathed to his son, the present ruler of Gwalior, a prosperous dominion and ample resources.

Being at this time of the immature age of ten, the young chief was placed in charge of English tutors while the administration of the State was conducted by a Council of Regency. In 1894, when the Maharaja was eighteen years old, the Government of India decided to invest him with the ruling powers which he has now exercised for nearly twelve years. Even as a boy Madho Rao Scindia II. gave evidence of great energy and versatility of mind, combined with remarkable powers of observation and activity of body, and when the reins of Government were put into his hands he at once proceeded to make himself acquainted with every detail of administration with a firm determination to raise his State to the level of modern standards.

Having inherited all his father's love of military pursuits, he has brought his army to a high state of efficiency, but every other department has been equally impressed with the stamp of his individuality. The revenue system has been reformed, irrigation works have been multiplied, many miles

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of roads and railways have been constructed, while in addition to the number of schools being doubled, institutions for the special instruction of the young nobles and for training youths for various kinds of State service have been established on His Highness' initiative, including a large Technical Institute to encourage trades and manufactures. The education of women has also made a most encouraging beginning and receives a large share of his attention and interest.

All this proves the practical bent of His Highness' nature, and the devotion with which he applies himself to the improvement of his State, but his appreciation of the lighter side of life is equally keen. When he unbends for sport or amusement, he does so with whole-hearted enjoyment. The sequel to this narrative will show how great is his love of sport, and his friends know how a jest appeals to his sense of humour.

The following are the complete style and titles of His Highness, many of them conferred on his ancestor, the first Madho Rao, by the Emperor of Delhi :—

HIS HIGHNESS MUKHTAR-UL-MULK, AZIM-UL-IKTIDAR, RAFI-US-SHAN, WALA SHIKOH, MUHTASHAM-I-DAURAN, UMDAT-UL-UMRA, HISAM-US-SALTANAT, MAHARAJA ADHIRAJ, ALIJAH, COLONEL MAHARAJA SIR MADHO RAO SCINDIA BUHADUR, SRINATH, MANSUR-I-ZAMAN, FIDWI-I-HAZRAT MALIKA MUAZAMA RAFI-UD-DARJE-I-INGLISTAN, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India (G.C.S.I.), Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (G.C.V.O), A.D.C. to His Majesty the King, LL.D. (Cantab.), Knight Grand Cross of the Hessian Order of Philip the Magnanimous.

CHAPTER II
THE EVE OF THE ROYAL VISIT

“We shall also remember that every one of its details had been conceived and carried out so successfully by your Highness.”

The Prince of Wales at Gwalior,
21st December 1905.



THE MAHARAJA SCINDIA IN HIS OFFICE.

Facing page 19.

CHAPTER II

THE EVE OF THE ROYAL VISIT

FOR months in advance hammer and chisel, loom and workshop had been busy, latterly by night as well as by day, completing the preparations for the eagerly expected visit; committees had sat to draw up the programmes of events, and rehearsals been held to perfect the details of the ceremonies. Horses had been galloping and automobiles speeding on the roads to the various tiger beats to make sure that all was well and that everything was being done to prevent the lords of the jungle from wandering away from the haunts where they were expected to be found.

Needless to say, the Maharaja was the life and soul of all this activity, and while his staff and principal officers took their share of the work, he was here, there and everywhere, the moving spirit, full of resource for the removal of difficulties, his eye open to the smallest details and to the most comprehensive schemes, yet ever ready with good-humoured jest and banter to relieve the anxieties of his assistants.

An extract from the working Programme of the Royal visit will give an idea of the multifarious nature of the work involved, and to this end a copy is here appended of the distribution of duties among different officers, but it must be mentioned that in many cases this list does not nearly exhaust

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the functions performed by the officers named nor is it quite complete. For example, Mr Bull supervised in addition the equipping of the Cadet Corps, a very heavy task, and the enormous amount of correspondence and other work entailed upon the Resident at Gwalior, Mr Cobb, does not appear in the programme :

“LIST OF OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR SPECIAL DUTY

1. Decoration of and arrangements at guest houses.
 - (a) Nao Tala and Dilkusha Camps { Mr Johnstone,
Mrs Heyland.
 - (b) Mannu Mahal and the Staff } Pandit Mukand Raoji.
Camp on the adjacent ground
 - (c) Panihar, Tekanpur and Singh- } Pandit Mukand
pur Royal Shooting Camps. { Raoji.
 - (d) Tapoban R. B. Jugal Kishore.
2. Receiving the guests and attending { Mr Lake,
their departure } Col. Albert Filose,
Sardar Mahurkar S.
3. To take over guests' luggage from { Dhamne Raoji,
and to Gwalior Railway Station, and to } Chobe Gaya Pershad.
load and unload it on and from trains and { Two Dafedars from
carts } Bera Pagnisi,
Har Pershad, Troop
Officer of the Trans-
port.
4. To arrange for conveying luggage to { Rai Sahib Pandit,
the guests' rooms and tents, and to station on } Dwarka Nath Sheo-
their departure } puri.

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- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>5. To arrange to bring from, and convey to station and other places, whenever necessary, the luggage of T.R.H. and party</p> | } | <p>Mr Goldney,
Babu Chhanu Lal,
Mr D. M. Jall,
Two Non - Commis-
sioned Officers from
the Military Depart-
ment.</p> |
| <p>6. Escorting the Royal Party to their Quarters</p> | } | <p>Military Secretary and
Mr Johnstone.</p> |
| <p>7. Seating of Spectators at the station</p> | } | <p>Military Secretary and
the A.D.C.'s.</p> |
| <p>8. Shagird Pesha and Lawazima—lining the streets with</p> | } | <p>Naib Dewan Sahib,
Nana Sahib Kadam.</p> |
| <p>9. Irregular forces — lining the streets with</p> | } | <p>Major Suraj Pershad.</p> |
| <p>10. Military Troops Regular—lining the streets with</p> | } | <p>Military Officers of the
respective corps.</p> |
| <p>11. Issuing admission Passes after getting them printed for:—</p> | | |
| <p>(a) Reception at Gwalior Railway Station, and carriage passes</p> | } | <p>Military Secretary.</p> |
| <p>(b) Opening of the Victoria Memorial Market</p> | } | |
| <p>(c) Durbar</p> | } | |
| <p>(d) Clerks—(for the Victoria Memorial Market Ceremony)</p> | } | <p>R. B. Nana Bhayya
Sahib.</p> |
| <p>(e) Review and sports</p> | } | <p>The Adjutant-General.</p> |
| <p>(f) Palace grounds.</p> | } | <p>The Naib Dewan
Sahib.</p> |

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12. Reception at the Market—Opening Ceremony:—

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>(a) European Guests</p> | } | <p>Mr Alexander,
Col. Albert Filose,
Sardar Mahurkar
Sahib,
Sardar Appa Sahib
Kadam,
Captain Rai Singh,
Captain Dulay Singh.</p> |
| <p>(b) Sardars and Officers</p> | } | <p>Sardar Nana Sahib
Ingle,
Sardar Patankar Sahib,
Sardar Angre Sahib,
Rane Khan Bhaiya
Sahib,
Nana Sahib Apte.</p> |
| <p>13. Distribution of carriage passes and ar-
ranging carriages in their order at the Station
and Market</p> | } | <p>Mr Kengay,
M. Azam Khan,
Mr Kooshaba Ethape
and eight Non-Com-
missioned Officers.</p> |
| <p>13. (i) To marshal at and bring from the
stand carriages of Royal Party at the Market.</p> | } | <p>Major Suraj Prasad,
assisted by
Nana Sahib Apte.</p> |
| <p>14. To distribute passes and call carriages
at the Review and Sports</p> | } | <p>Military Officers (to be
appointed by the Mili-
tary Department).</p> |
| <p>15. Illuminations in the town on the day
of the Market Opening Ceremony</p> | } | <p>Pandit Pran Nath, as-
sisted by the Com-
mittee.</p> |

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16. Garlanding at the Market Ceremony:—

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>(a) T.R.H., the Honourable A.G.G.,
the Resident, and the chief of
H.R.H.'s staff</p> | } | His Highness. |
| <p>(b) The Royal Staff</p> | { | Sir M. Filose,
Pandit Pran Nath. |
| <p>(c) European Guests</p> | { | Messrs Johnstone,
Francis,
Lake,
Alexander,
Bull, and Colonel A.
Filose. |
| <p>17. Sanitary arrangements in the palace .</p> | { | The Medical Officer. |
| <p>18. Daily inspections of milk and fish
for their Royal Highnesses</p> | } | The Medical Officer. |
| <p>19. Arrangements relating to Sports for
European Guests</p> | { | Mr Francis,
Mr Alexander,
Mr Lake,
Mr Bull. |
| <p>20. Looking after the comfort of
European Guests</p> | { | Mr Johnstone,
Mrs Heyland. |
| <p>21. Light on the fort and fireworks on
the day of opening of Victoria Memorial
Market</p> | { | Colonel Balwant Rao
Surve,
Captain Shripat Rao
Bhagwat. |
| <p>22. Under General Beatson</p> | { | Major Rajwady. |
| <p>23. Shikar arrangements</p> | { | Mr Onraet. |
| <p>24. To receive and lodge the String
Band of the 10th Hussars</p> | } | Mr Baker. |

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To cater for the Band, Chauffeurs and Maids	}	Mr Fernandez.
25. To receive and supply fodder ac- cording to indent. for the horses of T.R.H. and party.	}	Officer in charge of Stables.
26. Do. of A.G.G. in C.I. and Mr Jardine	}	Do.
27. To receive, lodge, and look after correspondents of the Indian Press	}	Rai Bahadur Munshi Jugal Kishore.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. The programme of the functions to be held during T.R.H.'s stay in Gwalior is prefixed hereto. The arrangements for camps, sanitation, as well as all other arrangements in connection with the functions, should be made with thoroughness of detail and strict punctuality ; so that the functions may go off without a hitch. The various officers, who have been entrusted with different duties, will be held strictly responsible for their proper discharge."

Another extract, taken this time from the official *Gwalior Gazette* of 1st February 1906, will indicate how the Maharaja considered the duties to have been performed :

"In December last, during the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to Gwalior, all the arrangements made in connection with the same, were most successfully and creditably carried out and the officers and the departments concerned showed steadiness and zeal in executing the work entrusted to them. Every one of them evinced great interest in carrying out the work concerned, by dint of hard work and despatch. The result of this was that all the

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different functions were performed punctually and without the least hitch whatsoever, and in strict accordance with His Highness' instructions and approval.

“Although the Tamil works entrusted to the Military and Karkhanejat Departments were manifold, yet no hitch or inaccuracy was discovered in any of them and every work was carried out machine-like according to the programme.

“The turnout of all the Arms was good ; the Sepoys' march past was praiseworthy ; the halting of A Battery Gwalior Horse Artillery in gallop past, and then galloping again immediately after, was worthy of commendation and applause.

“The works of all the different Departments of Karkhanejat were praiseworthy, and the Tamil services of the Irregular Force were worthy of recognition.

“The Durbar is, therefore, pleased to congratulate all the civil and military officers and officials on their success, and the good services they rendered on the occasion.”

To meet and do honour to his Royal Guests, the Maharaja had invited from all parts of India about one hundred of his numerous friends, among whom were the Honourable Major Hugh Daly and Mrs Daly from Indore, General Sir Archibald Hunter from the Western Command, General Sir E. and Lady Locke Elliott from Lucknow (General Elliott was prevented from coming), Mr H. V. Cobb, Resident at Gwalior ; Sir Michael Filose, Chief Secretary to the Huzur Darbar, Gwalior, and Lady Filose, Count Quadt, Consul General for Germany, and Countess Quadt, the Honourable Mr Justice and Mrs Russell from Bombay, and Colonel Crofts, formerly Medical Officer to the Maharaja. The

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majority of this large company arrived at Gwalior on the 19th December, the day before the Royal Party, and were received at the railway station by the officers told off for the duty, who met each train as it arrived. Two special trains, provided by the Gwalior Light Railway, were in waiting, one to convey guests and the other their baggage to the camp, whither a short branch line had been constructed for the occasion under the supervision of Mr Alexander, Superintending Engineer for Railways.

This Light Railway, originally laid only to a distance of two miles for the Maharaja's amusement when a boy, has gradually expanded to a working line over 200 miles in length, with indefinite possibilities of further extension. It is not only employed for public traffic but proves exceedingly useful for sporting excursions and events like that now being recorded.

Arrived at the Camp the guests were shown their quarters. About forty were lodged in Nao Tala (or Nine Tanks) Palace, a large and handsome structure built by His Highness the late Maharaja Scindia, and so called on account of the network of canals, forming almost a miniature Venice, which occupies the ground to its south. The building, the architecture of which is Oriental in style, has on its eastern face a large verandah enclosed with the beautiful stone screenwork for which Gwalior is famous. A few months before this date, however, the interior had been a house of the old Indian pattern, with numerous semi-dark rooms, unfurnished, and with no conveniences as a dwelling-house. In the short interval it had undergone a magical transformation into an up-to-date, twentieth-century mansion, with beautifully decorated drawing

NAO TALA PALACE (GUEST HOUSE).

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and dining rooms, billiard and smoking rooms and bedrooms, fitted with every modern luxury.

It was the Maharaja's ingenious and observant eye that discerned the possibilities latent in the Nao Tala, and no sooner was he convinced of them than with characteristic energy he set himself to materialise them. Sanitary and electrical engineers, furnishers, and decorators were summoned from Bombay and Calcutta ; the excellent local masons were requisitioned ; and under the skilful supervision of Mr Baker, one of the Gwalior engineers, the vast undertaking was successfully completed just in time for the Royal visit.

The remaining sixty guests were accommodated under canvas, in a camp pitched on the Dilkusha Maidan to the south of Nao Tala Palace, and here, too, were lodged the representatives of the English and Anglo-Indian Press, to the number of twelve, whose tents were placed adjacent to the Camp Telegraph and Post Offices. But though thus apparently divided, the whole company met for meals and social amusements in the Nao Tala, the public apartments of which afforded ample room for all. Both the house and camp were, moreover, within almost a stone's-throw of the Jai Bilas Palace where the Royal Party were to lodge.

The thoughtfulness of the Maharaja had provided a musical treat for his guests in the shape of the String Band of the 10th Hussars, which arrived on the 19th from Mhow, and his own band also played nightly during dinner at the Nao Tala.

It need only be added that the catering was in the capable hands of Mr Faletti of the United Service Club, Simla, to

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show under what favourable auspices the Maharaja and his friends prepared to welcome on the following morning their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

LIST OF HIS HIGHNESS' GUESTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| The Honourable Major DALY,
Indore. | Colonel Sir F. FILOSE, Gwalior. |
| Mrs and Miss DALY, Indore. | SIR ALLAN ARTHUR, Calcutta. |
| Mr H. V. COBB, Gwalior. | Colonel DICK, Kohat. |
| General Sir A. HUNTER, Bombay. | Mr REYNOLDS, Indore. |
| Lady LOCKE ELLIOT, Lucknow. | Major and Mrs STAINFORTH,
Gwalior. |
| The Right Reverend the BISHOP
OF NAGPUR, Nagpur. | Mr JARDINE, Nowgong. |
| The Honourable Mr JUSTICE
RUSSELL, Bombay. | Mrs JARDINE, England. |
| Mrs and Miss RUSSELL, Bombay. | Major and Mrs A. BANNERMAN,
Kotah. |
| Sir MICHAEL and Lady FILOSE,
Gwalior. | Major and Mrs SPENCE, Nimach. |
| The Misses FILOSE, Gwalior. | Captain and the Hon. Mrs
SPENCE, Simla. |
| Colonel DRUMMOND, Amballa. | Mr and Mrs WADDINGTON,
Ajmere. |
| Vicomte and Vicomtesse d' HU-
MIERES, France. | Captain BURDEN, Gwalior. |
| Count and Countess QUADT,
Calcutta. | Mrs and Miss BRETT, England. |
| Dr and Mrs KELLER, Calcutta. | Sir C. FILOSE, Gwalior. |
| Colonel LORD BASING, Lucknow. | Mrs HEYLAND, Gwalior. |
| Colonel A. M. CROFTS, Peshawar. | Captain and Mrs LOCH, Ahmad-
nagar. |
| Colonel and Mrs COLLIE, Bombay. | Captain and Mrs HEYLAND,
Poona. |
| Colonel and Mrs MANIFOLD,
Jhansi. | Mr J. W. D. JOHNSTONE,
Gwalior. |

GUESTS' CAMP.

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<p>Major and Mrs MAXWELL, Lucknow.</p> <p>Mr CLOGSTOUN, Indore.</p> <p>Major J. FILOSE, Gwalior.</p> <p>Rev. E. R. and Mrs CLOUGH, Nowgong.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs FRANCIS, Gwalior.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs LAKE, Ujjain.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs BULL, Gwalior.</p> <p>Major BAYLEY, Gwalior.</p> <p>Captain BARR, Goona.</p> <p>Mr BARR, Berar.</p> <p>Mr G. D. HEYLAND, Poona.</p> <p>Major RAWLINS, Bombay.</p> <p>Captain RAWLINS, Rajputana.</p> <p>Captain CRAIK, Amballa.</p> <p>Mr WARBURTON, Indore.</p>	<p>Colonel CAVANAGH, Mhow.</p> <p>Major COTGRAVE, Goona.</p> <p>Mr WILKINSON, Kishengarh.</p> <p>Rev. G. E. M. TONGE, Nagpur.</p> <p>Captain ELLWOOD, Gwalior.</p> <p>Mr R. FRANCIS.</p> <p>Mr, Mrs and Miss BAKER, Gwalior.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs ALEXANDER, Gwalior.</p> <p>Mr ONRAET, Gwalior.</p> <p>Mr GOLDNEY, Gwalior.</p> <p>Mr ADAMS, Gwalior.</p> <p>Rev. Father DENIS, Gwalior.</p> <p>Mr BURKE, Rajputana.</p> <p>Colonel A. FILOSE, Gwalior.</p> <p>Dr and Mrs SYMINGTON, Gwalior.</p>
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REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS

<p>Mr SIDNEY LOW, <i>Standard</i>.</p> <p>Mr BEGG, <i>Illustrated London News</i>.</p> <p>Mr MAXWELL, <i>Daily Mail</i>.</p> <p>Mr J. WATSON, Reuter's Agency.</p> <p>Mr CHIROL, <i>Times</i>.</p> <p>Mr JACOMB HOOD, <i>Graphic</i>.</p> <p>Mr BATTERSBY, <i>Morning Post</i>.</p> <p>Mr J. GORMAN, <i>Indian Daily Telegraph</i>, etc.</p> <p>Mr S. REED, <i>Times of India</i>, etc.</p>	<p>Mr G. F. ABBOTT, <i>Statesman</i>.</p> <p>Mr H. HENSMAN, <i>Pioneer</i>.</p> <p>Mrs C. B. HUNTER, Various Magazines.</p> <p>Babu U. N. SEN, <i>Bengalee</i>, etc.</p> <p>Mr SAYAD MUHAMMAD, <i>Al-Haq</i>.</p> <p>Mr MUNCHERJI, <i>Biluchistan Gazette</i>.</p> <p>Mr SHEIKH ABDUL AZIZ, <i>Observer</i>.</p> <p>Mr K. P. CHATTERJI, <i>Tribune</i>.</p> <p>Mr K. C. M. MAPPILLAY, <i>Malabar Daily News</i>.</p>
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CHAPTER III

THE ROYAL ENTRY

“ The magnificent procession with which your Highness
honoured our arrival. We shall never forget that
splendid scene.”

The Prince of Wales at Gwalior,
21st December 1905.



CHAPTER III

THE ROYAL ENTRY

THE ROYAL PROCESSION LEAVING THE STATION.

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CHAPTER III

THE ROYAL ENTRY

IN the early hours of the morning of the 20th December, 1905, the Royal Special, on its way from the once imperial city of Agra, crossed the Chambal River and entered the territory of Gwalior State. Threading its course among the labyrinthine ravines with which that stream is girt on both its banks, it had by half-past seven reached Bamor, where a halt of two hours was called to give comfortable time for dressing and breakfast.

Unfortunately, the country was far from looking its best on this occasion. Instead of smiling fields green with wheat and gram, the fallow earth showed brown and bare or covered with scrub and thorn, eloquent of the melancholy tale of scanty rainfall and suffering peasantry. Yet take hope, you patient sufferers, from the happy omen that in the midst of your distress the heir to the great Empire of which you are the true, though unconscious pillars, comes among you to bring back plenty to your desolate homes : Remember, too, that the hearts of the great King and Queen in far-off England feel for the sufferings of the lowliest of their people, and that your own Maharaja has his ears ever open to the cry of your distress. Witness the works that are even now in

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progress to provide relief and occupation in your time of strain and stress when food is scarce and your cattle are dying.

Leaving Bamor, the Special proceeded on its way to Morar, only a few miles distant. Meanwhile, punctually at half-past nine, the Maharaja had left his Palace in a carriage and four, with postillions and outriders, accompanied by the Resident and two Sardars, Nana Sahib Ingley and Hazratji, to receive their Royal Highnesses at Morar Road Station.

He was dressed in the ceremonial Maratha costume—the Scindia butterfly-shaped turban, a richly-embroidered pink silk coat, and *do-patta* of the diaphanous muslin of Chanderi carried under his arm. His jewels were a necklace of priceless pearls, and the ribbon of the Victorian Order crossed his breast. The Maharaja's escort consisted of a squadron of the 3rd Imperial Service Lancers under the command of Major Mohammad Yar Khan and at a quarter of a mile from the Station it was joined by the following additional attendants, who ran along with and in front of the carriage:—twenty-five Men in Full Dress from Shagird Peshas, four Halkaras with silver Canes, four Jasuds with silver Canes, two Sotay Bardars, a Chobdar on horseback with gold mace, and four Hujras in personal attendance on His Highness.

At Morar His Highness boarded the Royal train and rode on it to Gwalior. The meeting on the train must have been an interesting event on both sides. The Maharaja was no stranger to the Prince and Princess of Wales, for he was one of the Indian Princes invited to be present at the Coronation

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of King Edward VII. in 1902, and his happy recollections of that visit to England must have enhanced the pleasure of welcoming King Edward's son to the capital of his State.

The hour of half-past ten was striking and all was eagerness at Gwalior Station, as the Royal train approached from Morar. The guests from the camp had been conveyed to the Station by a special Light Railway train, press correspondents were busy making notes and sketches, and photographers were active with their cameras. The Honourable Major Daly, Agent to the Governor-General for Central India, had arrived with an escort of one officer and twenty-one rank and file of the 1st Imperial Service Lancers, and immediately after him, their Highnesses the Maharanis, the mother and the consort of the Maharaja. They were attended by a Captain's escort without standard, also from the 1st Imperial Service Lancers, composed of two officers, four non-Commissioned officers and twenty-seven rank and file. The two ladies alighted at a private entrance, and ascended to the platform along a covered passage of magnificent kimkob, amid cries of "Maháráj Salámat."

It was a truly fascinating sight that met the eyes of the Prince and Princess as their train drew up at Gwalior Station. A special platform had been erected for the occasion and converted into a pavilion covered and draped with muslins in the most delicate shades of blue, pink and yellow, braided with silver tinsel, while everywhere the varied costumes of Marathas and Pandits mingled with the brilliant uniforms or sober black of British officers and with the dainty toilettes of English ladies. Outside the station stood the elephants in all their brave array,

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and, above and beyond all, the imposing mass of the famous Fortress rose grim and grand against a cloudless sky.

A salute of thirty-one guns boomed from the Fort as the Prince and Princess left the train. They were accompanied by their suite, which was constituted as follows :—

The Earl and Countess of SHAFTESBURY.

Mr FRANK and Lady EVA DUGDALE.

Sir W. LAWRENCE, K.C.I.E., Chief of the Staff.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir ARTHUR BIGGE, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.,
K.C.M.G., I.S.O., Private Secretary.

Commander Sir CHARLES CUST, Bart., C.M.G.,
M.V.O., R.N.

The Honourable DEREK KEPPEL, C.M.G., M.V.O.

Commander BRYAN GODFREY GODFREY-FAUSSET,
R.N.

Captain Viscount CRICHTON, D.S.O.

} Equerries.

Major-General H.H. Sir PARTAP SINGH, G.C.S.I., K.C.B.,
A.D.C., Maharaja of Idar.

Brigadier-General STUART BEATSON, C.B., Military Secretary.

Lieutenant-Colonel CHARLES, I.M.S., Surgeon.

Major GRIMSTON, 6th Prince of Wales' Cavalry.

Major CHARLES CAMPBELL, 11th Prince of Wales' Own
Lancers.

Major H. D. WATSON, 2nd Prince of Wales' Own Gurkhas.

Captain C. WIGRAM, 18th Tiwana Lancers.

The Prince of Wales was wearing the undress uniform of a British General, and the Princess was in a costume all of mauve, even to the toque and feather stole, a dainty creation of silk muslin and of lace inserted with paillette effect.

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The Honourable Major Daly received their Royal Highnesses and the Maharaja presented to them twelve of his principal sardars or nobles. Then the Prince proceeded to inspect the guard of honour, which was drawn up on the platform, while the Princess with Mrs Daly entered the daintily-adorned pavilion enclosed and reserved for their Highnesses the Maharanis. Having received their loyal welcome, she shortly after emerged, carrying a lovely bouquet, and the Prince and Princess then advanced to the steps of the platform where the elephants were kneeling ready to receive their august burdens.

It was reserved for the Maharaja Scindia to welcome their Royal Highnesses in the truest Indian fashion by a great State procession on elephants. The four-horsed carriage which had hitherto done duty on the tour is a comparatively recent innovation, and the employment of elephants on a large scale for the entry into this Maratha city invested the ceremony with a truly distinctive Indian character. This march of gorgeously-caparisoned elephants through Gwalior was the real Imperial India. It was redolent of the East, and yielded a series of Oriental pictures such as the Prince and Princess had previously had perhaps no opportunity of seeing. It followed, moreover, except in the individuality of the riders, the precedent of thirty years before when His Most Gracious Majesty visited, as Prince of Wales, the Maharaja Jiyaji Rao Scindia; and many of the Sardars and officers must have recalled the former scene and have rejoiced to be once more privileged to escort the heir of India's Empire.

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Most gorgeous of all were the leading pair of elephants on which mounted His Royal Highness with the Maharaja, and the Princess with Major Daly, the Agent to the Governor-General. Their howdahs were of wood covered with plates of beaten gold ; trappings of crimson velvet heavily embroidered with Scindia's arms almost swept the ground ; frontlets of gold chain mail with circular embossed shields of hide adorned their broad brows ; while massive gold chains hung round their necks, ornaments of gold filigree covered their ears and solid silver *toras* encircled their immense ankles. The *Mabouts* bore *chowries* of peacocks' feathers fixed in sockets of gold studded with gems, and drove their unwieldy-looking chargers with *ankuses* (hooks) of gold, the silver bells, hanging at their sides, tinkling melodiously as they swayed from side to side. To add to the picturesque effect, the elephants had been painted all over a slaty colour, and decorated with various devices culminating in the Prince of Wales' feathers on the forehead.

The elephants which were to carry the Royal suite and the principal Sardars vied in gorgeousness with the leading pair, except that in these cases silver was substituted for gold, and the painted designs were even more Oriental and original, a favourite one being a pair of tigers, one on each side of the trunk, the eyes of which exactly coincided with those of the elephant, so that when the great beasts blinked their eyes the tigers appeared to be blinking too.

The ordinary elephant ladder, a somewhat steep mode of ascent which when not in use is hung at the elephant's side and is supported against his body for mounting, was on

SARDAR'S ELEPHANTS IN THE ROYAL PROCESSION.

LINE OF ELEPHANTS AT THE STATION.

Facing page 38.



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this occasion discarded in favour of a specially constructed portable stair standing firmly on the ground, by means of which the ascent was performed with perfect comfort and grace. By the time their Royal Highnesses had mounted, the suite and the Sardars were likewise seated and the procession was formed, the elephants moving in pairs, to the number of thirty-six. Behind the Prince and the Maharaja, stood, holding aloft a bright silk umbrella, adorned with tassels of gold, His Highness' hereditary umbrella-bearer, Sardar Rane Khan Khawasiwala, the descendant of the water-bearer who saved the life of Madhoji Scindia at the fatal battle of Panipat.

This double rank of imperial beasts, so magnificently caparisoned, formed a superb spectacle; but the elephants were in fact only a small part of the whole procession which was to escort the Prince and Princess to the Palace, for rank after rank of picturesquely clad horse and foot formed its van and rear guard.

At the head of the procession rode the Inspector-General of Police, Major J. Filose, who bore Atlas-like upon his shoulders a world of responsibility in providing for the safety of the Royal visitors while within the confines of Gwalior State. Immediately after this thoroughly modern figure came a sudden and bewildering backward leap of a hundred years into the early days of Maratha history, for here were the Zamboora or camel-guns, used of yore as a species of light artillery, which moved on swivels and hence could be directed to any point of the compass. Following these relics of the past, marched the Huzurat Paga, a corps of 100

ELEPHANTS—MAHI MARATIB AND ZARÍPATKÁ.

Facing page 40.

The column of irregular cavalry was broken by a great number of richly-ornamented elephants, the first of which was called by the name of Rájan Chakrá, bore on a howdah a banner of crimson composed of four divisions with four golden standards in front of the first band of drummers. On the second banner floated Scindia's lofty banner of red silk with a white disk crossing it diagonally, and surmounted with a three-bladed spear-point of gold. On the third of the heralds' banner, Sarabhai Sahib, one of the Gopals of the State.

A single figure then intervened carrying a standard called Mahi, made of cotton cloth interwoven with gold threads, topped by a golden and hung with streamers.

The elephant Mahi Maratib which followed was



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blematic of the epoch of Madhoji Scindia's apogee, when he swayed the destinies of the Moghul Empire. The Mahi Maratib (literally, fish dignities) consists of a number of articles which are carried on poles ornamented with tassels and streamers: Two fish (máhi), male (machhá) and female (machhi) each surmounted by a hand (panjá); a gilded sun (Aftáb); a crescent moon bearing an Arabic inscription; two open hands (panjá); two golden globes (tog); a pair of standards (alam), the most ornamental part of the series, each composed of a round metal plate inscribed with Arabic characters, above which are two leaf-like projections, the whole being surmounted by a small crescent containing a hand; the tiger's head (náhar), also surmounted by a hand.

The exact meaning of these emblems, eleven in number, seems to be somewhat mysterious, but it is certain that they were among the highest honours conferred by the Moghul Emperors upon princes and nobles. The fish are understood to signify the foundations of the earth, and the other orbs and figures to denote heavenly bodies and signs of the Zodiac, thus extending from "the waters under the earth" to "the highest heaven." This explanation, it is true, leaves a good deal to the imagination, but whatever be the true inwardness of these honorific objects, Madhoji Scindia, when proceeding to Poona, was made the bearer of them by the Emperor Shah Alam for presentation to the Peshwa Mudho Rao Narayan together with the Sanad (patent) of the title of Wazir-i-Mutlak, all of which was in recognition of the eminent services rendered by Madhoji himself to the Empire. This hero carried out the imperial behest at a magnificent durbar

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held at Poona in 1793, whereupon the Peshwa transferred the Mahi Maratib to Scindia as his deputy.

Next to this historical group of symbols, came the led horses of the Maharaja, prancing and curveting in all the pride of gold and kimkob trappings, to be followed by the magnificently embroidered Palki or Palanquin and Nalki or Sedan-chair, which had been among the gifts of honour bestowed on the famous Scindia by his grateful master. At this point the spectator was whisked forward as by the Genie of Aladdin's lamp to the twentieth century, for before him were the staff officers of the Quartermaster-General's Department of Scindia's Army, followed by detachments which require no detailed description here :—Cavalry Band, a squadron of Cavalry in column of sections, a battery of Horse Artillery in column of route, a squadron of Cavalry in column of sections, General officer commanding Gwalior Army (General Abdul Ghani Sardar Bahadur) and Staff, and a troop of Cavalry in column of sections.

Once more the past resumed its sway, this time with men on foot, as the Tasha Murfe and Holar band, consisting each of a few drummers, woke the surrounding echoes.

Other details of the procession followed in order, thus :—

Kursi jarao—two chairs made in the time of the late Maharaja. They are plated with gold and richly enamelled.

Zardozi Punkhas—costly embroidered fans.

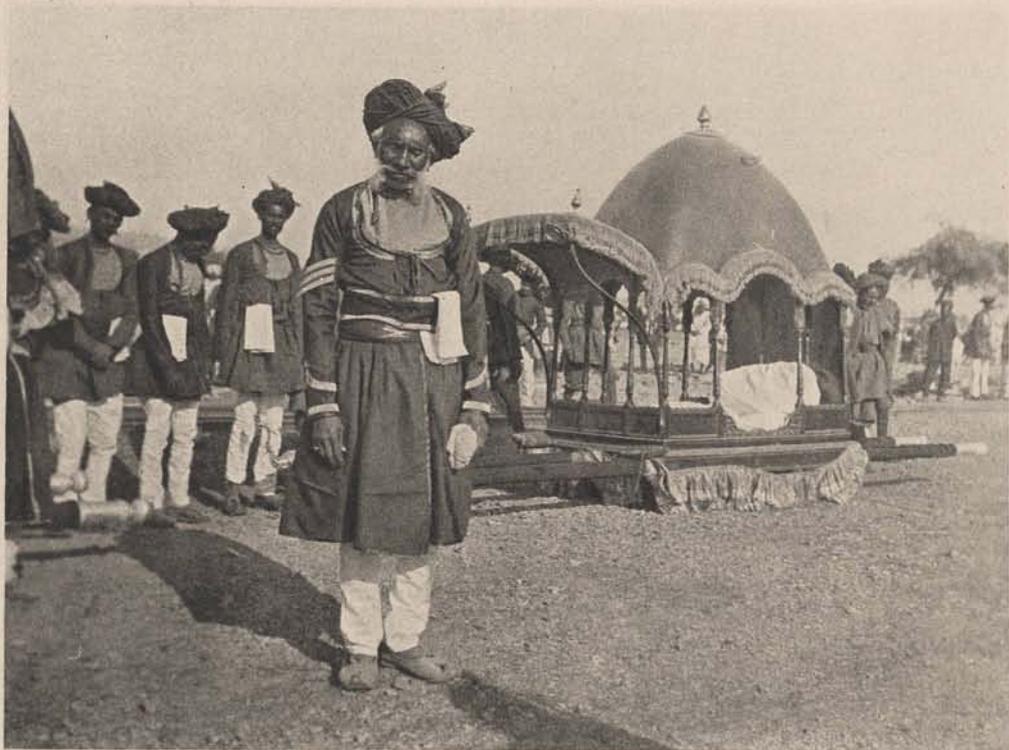
Luggi—long poles with streamers of silk and muslin.

The rule is that two of these are carried for each member of the Royal Family.

THE PALANQUIN.

THE MAHARAJA'S LED HORSES.

Facing page 42.



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These articles of State were borne by attendants dressed in long tunics of blue and purple and claret colour with turbans of various shades, in the same manner as those who came after them, such as :

The Ballamdárs, or bearers of the silver spears,
Bándárs with poles to stop an angry elephant,
Mewátís carrying lances,
Khás bardárs, shouldering old-fashioned muskets in
broadcloth covers,
Halkáras, those who carry red sticks shod with iron
spikes,
Jasuds, whose emblems of office are silver sticks sur-
mounted by a snake (*Nagda Chhari*).

Between the Bándárs and the Méwatís above mentioned marched a second cavalry band and the Cadet Corps composed of boys from the Sardars' and Military Schools. The latter were embodied a few years ago when His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught visited Gwalior and formed part of his escort. They are a smartly-equipped troop, with blue and silver tunics and turbans of lemon-coloured muslin.

Next marched the Gold and Silver Stick-bearers (chobdárs) and the Mace-bearers (Sote-bardars) who concluded the leading division of the *cortège*, for immediately behind them came, with slow and solemn tread, the Royal elephants already described, the cynosure of every eye.

A troop of Cavalry, preceded by Scindia's standard, acted as their special escort, to be followed by the elephants of the Royal Suite and of the Sardars. Yet more troops of cavalry brought up the rear and the whole procession was closed

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by the elephant Saib Nobat, carrying the two royal drums.

Thus constituted, this noble procession at the sound of a signal gun started for the Palace with its marvellous intermingling of East and West, past and present, modern cavalry with irregular Maratha horse, while again and again along the route the cries of the Chobdars arose, "Kadam par nigáh, Maháráj Salámat." The road, which leads along the north wall of the Palace grounds and past the south end of the Fort, was lined with the regular and irregular troops, and at intervals bands were stationed which played the British National Anthem or "God bless the Prince of Wales." Extending from the railway station on both sides of the route, the 4th Infantry formed a front rank having in rear the three corps of irregular horse known as Bera Pagnisi, Bera Sillehdari and Bera Ekkan, all representing the famous old Maratha Cavalry. The two latter wear identical uniforms—long red tunics (angás), red turbans and waist-bands, and white trousers—and in the upper ranks are privileged to use long-handled umbrellas carried by attendants at their side.

The Bera Sillehdari dates from the time of Madhoji Scindia, who was permitted by the Peshwa to raise this force for service in upper India. In those days it numbered 10,000 or 15,000 men, but through successive reductions by different chiefs, as times became more peaceful, it now has a strength of about 2300 men. The Bera Ekkan on the other hand was formed, 500 strong, in the reign of Jankoji Rao Scindia, but it was subsequently reduced, by weeding out unfit horses and men, to 200. The Bera Pagnisi was named after

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one of its early commandants, Bhaskar Balwant Pagnis, but it appears to have been a good deal mixed up with the Sillehdaris, though at the present day it is a separate corps, with a uniform consisting of purple jacket, blue turban, and white waist-band and trousers.

The remainder of the route was lined by the 3rd Imperial Service Lancers, and three regiments of regular infantry, beyond which were the Gwalior Sappers in line, while the 1st Lancers formed the guard in front of the palace gate itself.

In the absence of real flowers, the route was green with paper palm-trees; and festoons of multi-coloured paper blossoms, interrupted here and there by lofty triumphal arches, hung overhead and to right and left, while above them myriads of flags "fluttered and failed" in the breeze. The house-tops and the rugged side of the Fort were crowded with the Maharaja's loyal subjects, whose many-hued garments added brilliance to the scene, and along the road-side at intervals were stands for the representatives of the different State institutions. First under a snow-white canopy surmounted by flags came the military department; then just beyond the Shaivite temple erected by the late Sardar Santoba Sahib Temak, were row above row of school-boys to the number of 1500, who were arranged on a series of steps gay with banners of red, white and blue, and who received the Prince and Princess with hearty cheers of welcome. A few yards farther on, under another brightly-coloured awning, stood the officials of the Revenue Board and its subordinate departments, and after another short interval those of the Accountant-General's Office and of the Huzur Darbar Secretariat,

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while at the point where the road turns westward to the bridge over the Sonrekha River was the stand for selected representatives of a number of different departments, such as Public Works, Education and Medicine.

Crossing the bridge, the procession passed through the Nadi Darwaza (or river-gate) the main and official entrance to the Palace grounds, a fine gateway of carved stone (the balconies of which were reserved for the "Press" to view the kaleidoscopic pageant below), and entered the Jayendra bhawan or Palace Park. The road led past lawns and beds of ornamental shrubs to the northern approach of the Palace, where, crossing the quadrangle and entering the porch, the Royal elephants knelt down and the riders descended to earth once more, at the steps of the Jai Bilas.

The Palace stands in an extensive park abounding in pleasant roads shaded by the spreading boughs of the pipal and the mango, with here and there an artificial lake and flower gardens to add freshness and colour to the scene. The grounds were enclosed and laid out under the orders of the late Maharaja, who also built within the same area several minor palaces. The Moti Mahal is now used for public offices ; another, Jal Behar, for the Sardars' School ; a third, Nao Tala, as a guest-house ; and so on.

The architect and builder of Jai Bilas, which is the present Maharaja's principal residence, was Sir Michael Filose, now Chief Secretary to the Darbar. It is an imposing structure of sandstone, covered with dazzling whitewash, which at a distance shines like marble, and forms four sides of a square enclosing a large quadrangle. The north and part of the

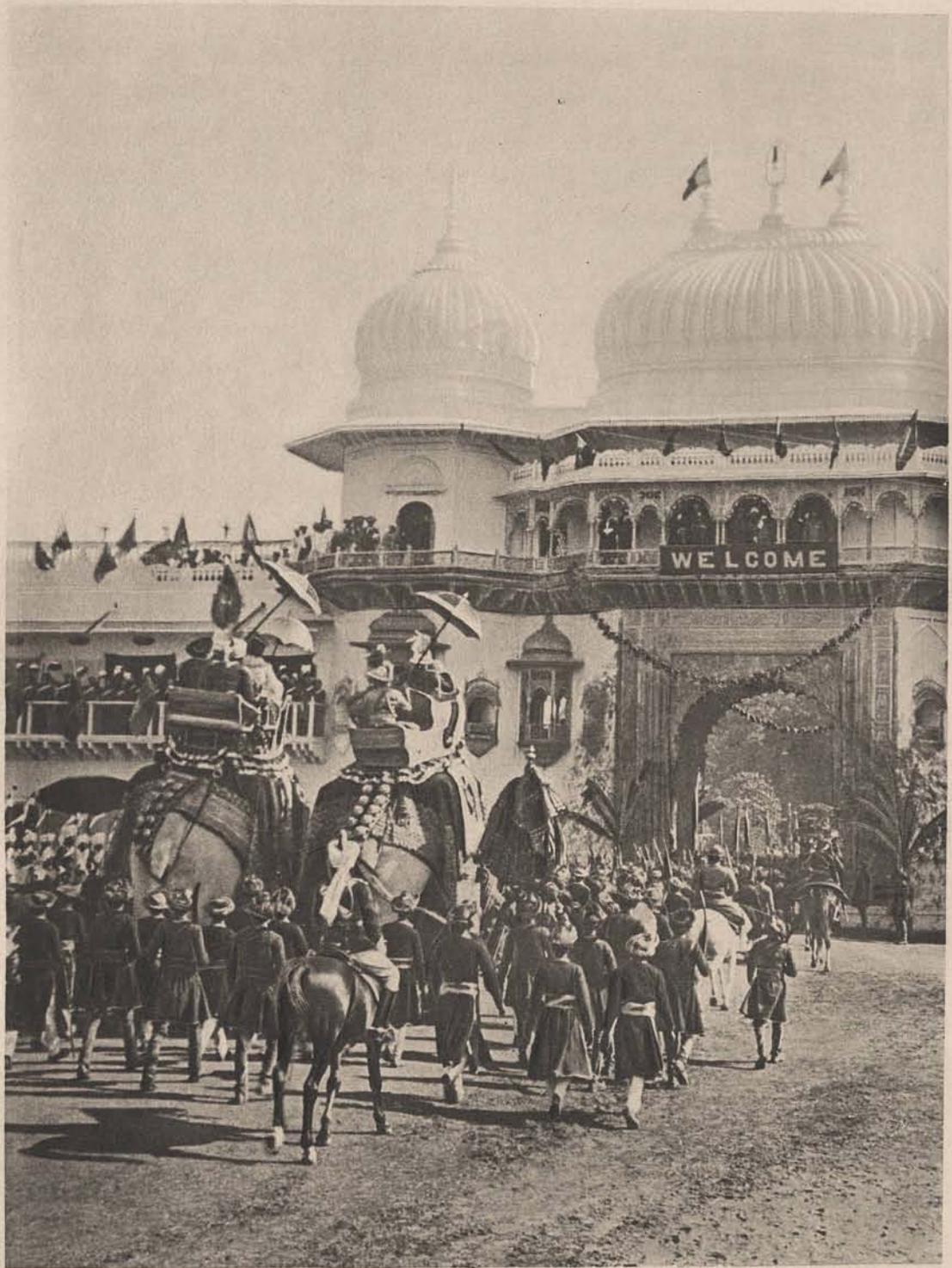
over the Sonrekha River. At the stand for assembled troops
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THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS ENTERING THE PALACE GATE.

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Facing page 46.
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eastern sides are occupied by the secretariat offices, the west wing contains the private apartments of the Maharaja and Maharani, and the central portion of the southern face consists of public rooms, having on the ground floor a banqueting hall and billiard-room and the Darbar Hall and Library above. In the east wing, called Munnoo Mahal, are the handsome suites of rooms in which their Royal Highnesses and part of their staff were accommodated. The palace combines in its construction three distinct orders of architecture. The ground floor is in the Tuscan style, the first floor represents the Italian Doric, and the topmost storey the Corinthian.

The main entrances to Jai Bilas are by two covered porticoes east and west of the centre of the south façade, and it was at the latter that the Prince and Princess alighted. Here they were received by several of the Maharaja's officers, and, entering the hall, ascended by the crystal staircase to the south verandah, whence they obtained a view of the procession in which they had just taken the leading part, as it continued to make its way through the Lalitpur or southern gate of the Park.

They stood for some time to observe the extensive and interesting view from this verandah. Immediately below stands a huge bronze cannon which was found on a hill near the town of Bhilsa, 100 miles or more from Gwalior—a piece of ordnance known as "The victory of the Army," and said to have been cast in the year 1602 A.D. From this point a wide road, flanked by flower beds and green lawns which contrasted with the gleaming tent roofs of the Dilkusha Camp to the right, leads to the southern gateway, beyond which to

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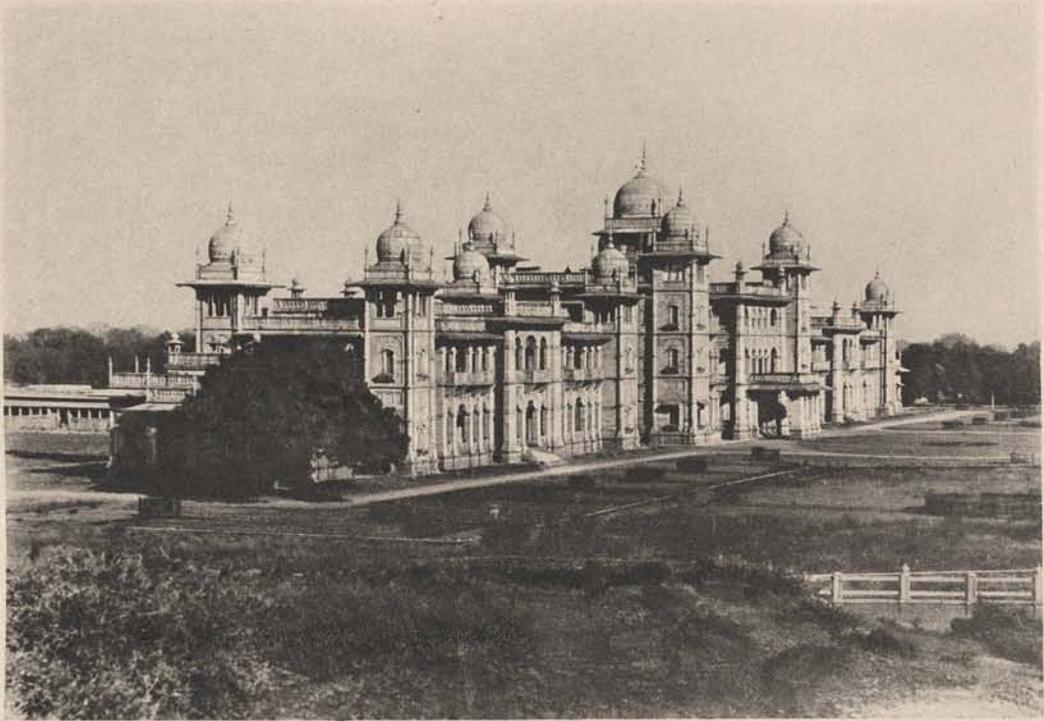
the spectator's left is the Elgin Club, established by the Maharaja during the Viceroyalty of Lord Elgin for the benefit of his Sardars and officers, and now a flourishing institution with over 100 members. Opposite to the Club may be seen the Victoria College, a massive structure of sandstone in the Indo-Saracenic style, profusely adorned with carving and delicate lattice work. It was erected in honour of Queen Victoria's first Jubilee and was formally opened by Lord Curzon when he visited Gwalior. For educational purposes the College, which contains about 100 students, is affiliated to the Allahabad University for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science. The memory of Jiyaji Rao, the late Maharaja, is perpetuated by the Memorial Hospital which stands at a short distance south of the College, and is another of the buildings of which Gwalior is proud. The architectural style is the same as that of the College, but instead of being square and massive it is long and narrow so as to ensure the free circulation of air through the wards. The horizon of the spectator in the Palace verandah is bounded in this direction by a low range of hills, known as Chimaji ka Dang, abounding in partridges, hares and other game, even tiger being not unknown. Conspicuous on the nearest summit rises the white temple of Mandre ki Devi, beneath which the great procession at the festival of Dasahra halts while the Maharaja cuts down the "golden tree."

When the last of the elephants and the other constituents of the morning's pageant had disappeared from view, the Maharaja conducted his Royal guests to the quarters pre-

THE JIJAJI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

THE VICTORIA COLLEGE.

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pared for them on the first floor of Mannoo Mahal. Below them were lodged Lord and Lady Shaftesbury and Mr Frank and Lady Eva Dugdale, while Sir Walter Lawrence and Sir Arthur Bigge occupied rooms in the Maharaja's wing and the remainder of the staff were under canvas close by.

CHAPTER IV

A DAY OF CEREMONIES

“ His energies and his influence are just as conspicuous
and effective in the civil administration of the State.”

The Prince of Wales at Gwalior,
21st December 1905.



E. B. STANLEY
MONTEFIORE

IRREGULAR CORPS; BERA EKKAN.

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CHAPTER IV

A DAY OF CEREMONIES

NOT much rest, however, could be allowed to their Royal Highnesses, as the Darbar was fixed for one o'clock. This Darbar, as the formal and official meeting of the Prince of Wales and the Maharaja, was to be accompanied by all the pomp and circumstance which such an occasion demanded, but as a Darbar is a ceremonial to which only the sterner sex is admitted, a dais for the Princess was erected at one of the doors between the great hall and the library, from which she was able to view the proceedings without technically forming any part of the assemblage. Similarly the ladies from the guests' camp were seated in a drawing-room on the opposite side of the Hall.

A few minutes before one o'clock, Her Royal Highness was conducted to her dais by Mr Johnstone, to whom this honourable duty had been entrusted by the Maharaja. The Princess, who was attended by the Countess of Shaftesbury, Lady Eva Dugdale and Mr Frank Dugdale, wore a charming white costume of the latest mode in the "Princess" Style, which was most becomingly completed by a white lace toque with an osprey feather.

Exactly at one o'clock four of the Maharaja's Sardars, Ram Rao Baba Sahib Phalke, Balwant Rao Bhaya Sahib

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Scindia, Rao Raja Raghunath Rao Dinkar, and Yadu Rao Sahib Ghorpare, waited upon His Royal Highness at his apartments, and here a procession was formed. In front marched four Chobdars or goldsticks-in-waiting, followed by four mace-bearers, and behind them a further detachment of two mace-bearers. Then came four of the Maharaja's Aides-de-Camp in military full dress, followed by the Military Secretary and Private Secretary. The succeeding ranks were formed by the staffs of the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General for Central India and the Resident at Gwalior consisting of Mr Reynolds, Mr Warburton, Colonel Drummond, Major Cotgrave, Major Bayley and Captain Burden, after whom walked the Suite of His Royal Highness in full naval or military uniform. The Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General and the Resident followed, and last came His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with His Highness the Maharaja Scindia.

The cortège moved along the south verandah of the Palace, then, turning to the right, passed through the "Pink drawing-room" to the top of the crystal staircase. As the leading chobdars reached this point, a flourish of trumpets heralded the approach of the Prince of Wales, and when the procession had advanced to the central door of the Hall a second flourish was sounded. Then as His Royal Highness himself entered the Hall, the Guard of Honour drawn up on the terrace opposite presented arms, and the guns of the Fort poured forth a Royal Salute. The whole assemblage stood while the procession passed slowly up the hall to the silver chairs on the Royal dais, which was spread with a handsome

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crimson carpet embroidered with gold. To right and left of the dais were glass chairs for the Honourable the Agent to the Governor-General and the Resident.

The hall in which this impressive function was held was worthy of the occasion—a beautifully-proportioned chamber, ninety-nine feet in length, fifty-one feet wide and forty feet in height, Corinthian in style, and decorated in cream and gold. The magnificent arched roof is a triumph of the builder's art, and bears the weight of two enormous crystal chandeliers fitted with electric lamps. Curtains of old-gold plush draped the doors, over which painted cherubs disported themselves in groups, while several huge mirrors on the walls multiplied the gorgeous beauties of the scene.

The Staff fell to right and left while the Prince and Maharaja seated themselves in the silver chairs, when the whole Darbar sat down. To the Prince's right and slightly in rear were the Cadet Corps arranged in crescent ranks with their smart uniforms of blue and silver. To his right front, the first row of chairs running the whole length of the hall was occupied by the Royal suite and the staff of the Agent to the Governor-General and the Resident at Gwalior, and behind them were the Maharaja's guests from Nao Tala Palace and Dilkusha Camp. On the opposite side sat the State Darbaris, with the principal nobles in front, all arrayed in the brilliant costumes and jewels which make a Darbar at Gwalior so gorgeous. The whole made a picture of such varied character and colouring as would be difficult indeed to equal.

After the lapse of a few moments, the twelve sardars who had been earlier in the day presented to His Royal Highness

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at the Railway Station, came forward one by one to offer their Nazars. The Maharaja introduced each by name, the Prince touching and remitting the offerings. The following were the honoured twelve :—

Sardar Maloji Narsing Rao Sitole, the Premier Noble of the State, fifth in succession to Maloji Rao who married in 1776 Balabai Sahiba, daughter of Madhoji Rao Scindia. The Sitoles claim descent from the Sisodia Rajputs, the clan to which the reigning family of Oudeypore belongs. This noble Maratha family have *sanads* proving them to have enjoyed deshmukhi rights in the Deccan, and for services to Madhoji Scindia were granted large jagirs and the titles of “Umdat-ul-mulk Raja Deshmukh Rustam Jang.” The present Sardar is a boy of ten.

Sardar Apaji Rao Sitole Anklikar, who is married to a daughter of the late, and a sister of the present, Maharaja Scindia. His ancestors received villages in jagir from the Peshwa with the title of Sri Maharaj Sahu and he himself is now a Member of the Board of Revenue as well as of the Council of Appeal and the Majlis-i-khas.

Sardar Balwant Rao Bhaya Sahib Scindia, a son of the late Maharaja Jiyaji Rao. He has held various important offices of State, among them the Membership for Public Works in the Council of Regency, and is now a member of the Council of Appeal and the Majlis-i-khas.

Senapati Sardar Yado Rao Ghorpare, sixth in descent from Hindu Rao Ghorpare, who entered the service of Maharaja Shivaji, and was granted, together with many villages, the title of Senapati. The present Sardar's grand-aunt was married to Maharaja Jankoji Rao Scindia.

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Sardar Ranoji Rao Kaka Sahib Scindia, cousin to Maharaja Jankoji Rao Scindia and great-uncle of the present chief. He has a hereditary jagir, which was increased during the late Maharaja's reign.

Sardar Ram Rao Sahib Phalke, whose forefathers did valiant service for the Maratha cause in the Malwa Campaign, at Panipat, and in the wars of Madhoji Scindia. His grandfather was made President of the Council of Regency in 1844, during the minority of the late Maharaja.

Sardar Bahadur Kashi Rao Surve, C.S.I., who entered Darbar Service in the reign of the late Maharaja, whom he accompanied to Agra in the mutiny of 1857. He is now Commander-in-chief of the Gwalior Army, and has a seat on the *Gashia* at Darbars. By the British Government he has been honoured with the order of C.S.I., and the title of Sardar Bahadur.

Sardar Madho Rao Sahib Mohite, father-in-law of the present Maharaja Scindia. His family claims to be a branch of the Chauhan clan of Rajputs who migrated to the Deccan during the Moghal invasion of Upper India, and attained to high command under Shivaji, receiving the titles of Hambir Rao and Senakant. The Sardar is youngest son of Balwant Rao Mohite who was granted a political pension by the British Government.

Lt.-Col. Sir Michael Filose, now Chief Secretary to the Huzur Darbar, Gwalior. He is a great-grandson of General Michael Filose who was the first of the family to enter Maharaja Madho Rao Scindia's service in 1783. Jean Baptist Filose was a well-known Commander in the reign of Daulat

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Rao Scindia. The family have done faithful and valuable service to the State both in the Civil administration and in military commands.

Sardar Ramchandra Rao Patankar, whose forefathers were Sardars in the Kolhapur State in the Deccan. The present Sardar's grandfather, a namesake of his own, married a daughter of Maharaja Daulat Rao Scindia and settled in Gwalior State.

Sardar Ganpat Rao Baba Sahib Gujar, who has the *mansab* or command of a *paga*. This clan is reckoned one of the highest among Marathas and belongs to the district of Ratnagiri. The Sardar's sister was married to the late Maharaja, Jiyaji Rao Scindia.

Rao Raja Raghunath Rao Dinkar Rajware, Mushir-i-Khas Bahadur, the son of the well-known Dewan of Gwalior, Rao Raja Dinkar Rao, who was appointed in 1852 and introduced many administrative reforms into the State. His son, the present holder of the titles, enjoys his father's jagirs and has held several appointments in Gwalior State, being now Political Secretary to the Huzur Darbar and a member of the Majlis-i-khas.

The last of the twelve having presented his nazar, and returned to his seat, a regiment of perfectly-trained retainers entered the farther end of the hall carrying the Maharaja's customary gift to Royalty. First, the *parchejat* (cloths) comprising costly turbans and waist-cloths of silk and fine muslin, bordered and interwoven with gold, from Chanderi, Benares, Paithan and other places renowned for such industries; next came ornaments, including a diamond-studded plume, wristlets,



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armlets, rings, a necklace and a Sirpech or jewelled ornament worn on the turban ; then were brought weapons, among which were muzzle-loading guns, spears and swords, a dagger and a bow and arrows together with other arms of bygone days, all richly decorated. These were placed on the floor in front of the Prince, but a large number of baskets of fruit, vegetables and sweetmeats were also laid out in the ante-room, and outside on the road in front of the Palace were drawn up five elephants and six horses in handsome trappings, which completed the sumptuous offering.

The offerings having been remitted as usual, and removed by the retainers, the Prince and the Maharaja engaged in a few minutes' conversation, when Itr and pán and trays of gold-braided *hárs* or garlands were brought up by Sardar Ghorpare Sahib and his assistants. His Highness placed a garland round the neck of His Royal Highness, and was in turn garlanded by him, after which the Maharaja performed the same office for the Agent to the Governor-General, the Resident, and the chief of the Prince's staff, Sir Walter Lawrence, while for the remainder of the staff it was performed by Sardars Ghorpare and Phalke.

After this picturesque ceremony the Prince and the Maharaja rose, and the procession having been re-formed but in reverse order, they led the way from the Hall, to the sound of another royal salute. The Darbar was over, having lasted thirty-seven minutes, and the royal guests obtained well-earned refreshment and rest from the pleasant labours of the day.

An afternoon of repose and then another ceremony—this

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time the opening of the Victoria Memorial Market, situated in the city of Lashkar. This edifice, of which the foundation-stone was laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught when he visited Gwalior in 1903, has been built by public subscription and is one of Gwalior's tributes of reverence and affection for the memory of Queen Victoria, for whom, a sovereign they had never seen, the chief and people of the State entertained feelings of romantic attachment.

The elephant procession of the morning had only passed through the outskirts of the city of Lashkar; now came the opportunity for the Prince and Princess to see the Capital of the Gwalior State. It is situated west of the Palace grounds and south and south-west of the Fortress, and covers an area of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, with a population, excluding the military cantonment adjoining it, of nearly 90,000. The name itself (Lashkar or Camp) commemorates the establishment of a fixed military camp at this spot by Maharaja Daulat Rao Scindia in 1810, but its earlier aspect must have been mean and confused compared with the town which now occupies the site. Some fine streets intersect it and though it is still rather too much crowded together to be described as the "city beautiful," the Maharaja has many schemes for its improvement by means of new buildings and gardens. The centre of the city is the old Palace, or Maharaj Bara, round about which are situated the houses of some of the highest sardars, while close by is the new Market. On the south-west of the city are the Chatris (mausoleums) of Scindias who have passed away, not including, however, the great Madhoji who, as already stated, died at Poona. By far the most handsome and most ornate is

SARAFI BAZAR, LASHKAR.

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the pile under which repose the ashes of the late chief, Jiyaji Rao. A massive oblong structure of sandstone, some forty feet high, it is profusely carved on the outside with mythological and other devices, and is surmounted by a typical Hindu cupola which gives it the appearance of a large temple. Indeed it is in one sense a temple, for in the interior, a lofty pillared hall, one end is occupied by a carved presentment of Mahadeva's Bull facing his well-known emblem, while a statue of the late Chief of Gwalior himself will be placed in the shrine-like chamber beyond.

The time fixed for the Prince and Princess to leave the Palace for the Market was 5.15 in the evening, the Maharaja and the Resident, the sardars, European guests and others who were to be present at the ceremony preceding them. With an escort consisting of the 3rd Gwalior Lancers, the Sardars' School Cadets, fifty Sillehdari Sawars and fifty Ekkan Sawars, the Prince and Princess started under a salute of thirty-one guns.

The route led through the finest streets of the town, and was lined throughout by regular and irregular troops. Beginning from the Palace Gate, were the Shagird Pesha and the Lawazima (retainers) of the nobles with muskets and spears of olden days extending along Jayendraganj as far as the square. From that point the ranks were continued by the Tuman Nizamat in Khaki uniforms, the Ghati Risala in black shirt, red turban, white waist-band and yellow pyjamas, Infantry and Military School Cadets in khaki, through the Sarafa to the Maharaj Bara (old Palace).

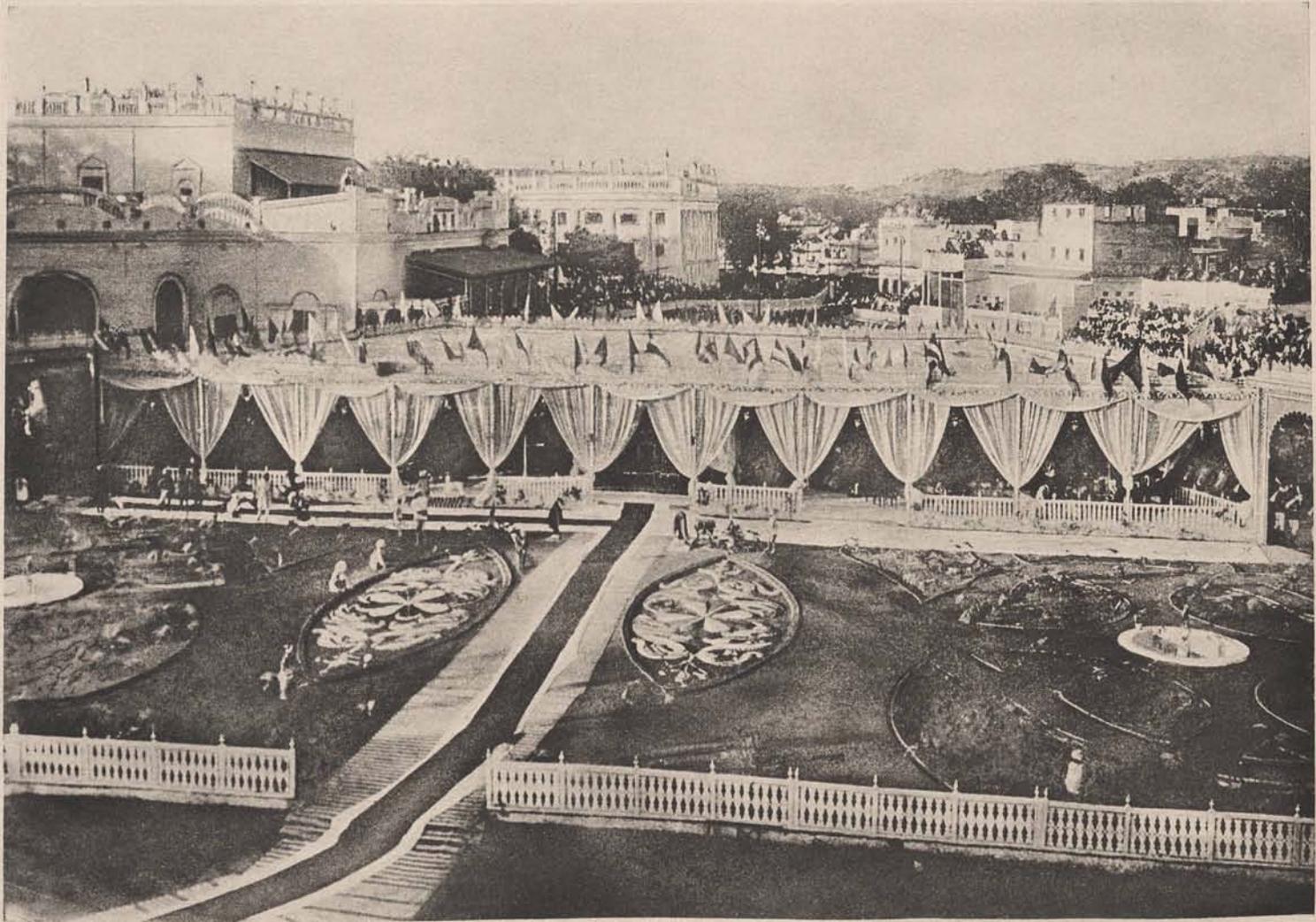
The Jayendraganj is a wide street with the houses of

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several sardars on the left-hand side, notable among which is the fine carved archway leading to the mansion of Sardar Appa Sahib Sitole, while the Sarafa, or Bankers' Street, is perhaps one of the most picturesque to be seen anywhere in India. Visitors to Gwalior always admire the diversified outline of its houses, and the balconies of delicate stone tracery that adorn many of the upper storeys. On this occasion the effect was greatly enhanced by the crowds of spectators, both men and women, in bright costumes of many hues, who thronged every available inch of space, even to the house-tops, their children in their arms, to see the English Prince and Princess pass through the streets of Lashkar, and a continuous roar of applause accompanied the carriages.

The Sarafa ends opposite the old Palace, in front of which is a triangular space of usually bare and unoccupied ground but to-day a scene of gaiety and beauty, for on it the ceremony of opening the Victoria Memorial Market was to take place. It was surrounded by a cordon of dismounted Lancers, while the street, save where the Royal *cortège* was to pass, was full of eager sightseers. The excitement reached its climax as their Royal Highnesses arrived and alighted from their carriage, the Princess wearing a pale blue costume richly trimmed with a narrow satouche braid of fine silver, and a long white silk dust cloak with her favourite bolero-shaped toque of blue. They were received by the Maharaja and conducted into the middle of the triangle to a scene of fairy-like charm.

Under a large pavilion, draped with muslins of the most delicate shades the silver braiding of which glistened in the



THE PAVILION AT LASHKAR.

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rays of the setting sun, stood a dais covered with a gold-embroidered carpet of crimson velvet, on which were placed three silver chairs for the Prince and Princess and the Maharaja. Behind were the seats of the Cadet Corps, on the right the European guests, on the left the Sardars, and the members of the Municipality. In front of the pavilion were drawn up the architect of the market, Sardar Balwant Rao Scindia ; the Vice-President of the municipality, Sir Michael Filose (His Highness himself being the President) ; the Chairman, Pandit Pran Nath ; and the members of the managing committee, sixteen in number, all of whom were subsequently presented to His Royal Highness by the Maharaja. The space between the pavilion and the market was laid out as an impromptu garden, beyond which the Memorial building stood out with its broad front, a double tier of graceful arches of carved stone work, surmounted in the centre by a lofty clock tower, and flanked by two turrets. The centre arch, immediately under the tower, is the entrance to the building and was closed by a handsome crimson velvet curtain.

When all were seated, the Maharaja rose, and as President of the Municipality addressed his Royal guests as follows :—

“YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,—On behalf of the citizens of Lashkar I, as President of their Municipal Corporation, beg to offer Your Royal Highnesses a most hearty welcome to this town.

“It will not be out of place to give Your Royal Highnesses a brief history of this town and of the work done by the Municipality since its establishment. This town was

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founded in the year 1810 by my ancestor His late Highness the Maharaja Dowlat Rao Scindia. The gateway to Your Royal Highnesses' right was the nucleus of the town and as time went on the other buildings arose without any idea of symmetry or regard to the preservation of sanitation. All the roads in the town at this time were of paved stone, and the whole town practically was a fortuitous combination of buildings of all shapes and kinds. As the people learnt better, the successive streets opened marked an improvement upon the previous ones of which the Jiwaji Bazar, called after my father, is an example.

“The Lashkar Municipality was founded in the year 1887, but for years it was on a less ambitious footing than at present. This deficiency was remedied in 1898, and the present body was properly organised with Sub-Committees for various circles and with a sufficiency of members. The income of the Municipality prior to its remodelling amounted to about Rs.50,000, but the Durbar has recently supplemented it, thus bringing the total annual income to Rs.128,000. One of the consequences of its increase in Revenue is that the town is to-day possessed of an arrangement which will make it a blaze of light directly Your Royal Highness touches the button beneath your hand. An endeavour is now being made to improve the sanitation and architecture of the town, and in addition to these proposals the Municipality aims at having a large public garden, a Town Hall and an electric tram service. These are rather ambitious schemes, but it is hoped they will become accomplished facts in the course of time.

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“The market building which I have the honour to request Your Royal Highness to declare open this afternoon, is built to perpetuate the memory of Her most gracious Majesty the late Queen Empress. The building cost Rs.38,000, which was paid by public subscription, and it was designed by Sardar Balwant Rao Scindia, who, I think, may be congratulated on his performance. The foundation-stone of the building was laid by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, and it is a happy coincidence that Your Royal Highness is opening it.

“Taking advantage of the present occasion we have organised a little exhibition of indigenous products. In addition to the industrial products there are also exhibited articles turned out by the Maharanis’ Girls’ School and Technical Institute. The former will illustrate, to some extent, the progress made in the State by female education. For the prosperity of trade in this State it was considered necessary to encourage handicrafts, and to fulfil this object the Technical Institute was opened in the month of July of this year. It is customary with municipal bodies always to ask for favours, and true to the traditions of our species we are asking Your Royal Highness to do us not one but two favours. I trust, therefore, that Your Royal Highness will now be graciously pleased to open the Victoria Memorial Market and electrical installation.”

The Prince in reply spoke as follows :—

“YOUR HIGHNESS AND MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE OF LASHKAR,—It has given the Princess of Wales and myself great satisfaction to accept your interesting address

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and to observe from it that in matters of local self-government the Gwalior State is adopting a wise and forward policy. I have much pleasure in acceding to your request that I should open the Victoria Memorial Market, and inaugurate the city's installation of electric lighting. I trust that for many years to come these undertakings will prove of great benefit to the city of Lashkar, and bear testimony to the enterprise of its Municipality and the philanthropic zeal of His Highness the Maharaja."

Their Royal Highnesses then walked to the foot of the pavilion steps, to the left of which stood a small hollow pillar, with a lid secured by a large gold padlock of beautiful workmanship and ingenious device. On its upper surface were miniatures of the Prince and Princess and of the Maharaja set in diamonds and rubies, together with engravings of the following scenes :—

- The Victoria Memorial Market, as completed ;
- The laying of the Foundation-Stone of the Market by
His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught ;
- The Gwalior Fortress ;
- The Jai Bilas Palace ;

while on the reverse was engraved a sketch map of Gwalior State. A bejewelled key of gold lay on a salver close by. With this the Prince opened the lock to another salute of guns from the Fort, and lifting the lid, disclosed to view an electric button, which he touched, when instantly as by a conjurer's trick, the curtain over the entrance of the market, which was some fifty yards off, flew up, and the market was open.

Their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by the Maharaja

and to derive from it the full benefit of local self-government the Gwalior State is adopting a wise and forward policy. I have much pleasure in acceding to your request that I should open the Victoria Memorial Market, and inaugurate the city's installation of electric lighting. I trust that for many years to come these undertakings will prove of great benefit to the city of Lashkar, and bear testimony to the enterprise of its Municipality and the philanthropic zeal of His Highness the Maharaja.

Their Royal Highnesses then walked to the foot of the pavilion steps, to the left of which stood a small hollow pillar with a lid secured by a large gold padlock of beautiful workmanship and ingenious device. On its upper surface were inscriptions of the Maharaja and the Maharani.

THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL MARKET.

Facing page 66.

- The Victoria Memorial Market, as completed.
- The laying of the foundation-stone of the Market by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.
- The Gwalior Fort.
- The Jal Mahal Palace.

while on the reverse was engraved a sketch map of Gwalior State. A jewelled key of gold lay on a silver case by. With this the Prince opened the lock to another salute of guns from the Fort, and lifting the lid, disclosed to view an electric button, which he touched, when instantly as by a conjurer's trick, the curtain over the entrance of the market, which was some fifty yards off, flew up, and the market was open.

Their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by the Maharaja



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and members of their staff, walked over to the building to view the interior, which is a lofty and spacious hall, fitted with stands for merchandise. For this occasion it was converted into an exhibition of the products, natural and manufactured, of Gwalior State, and the Prince and Princess spent half-an-hour in inspecting the exhibits, many of which appeared to interest them greatly. The raw products included minerals, forest produce such as lac and gum, specimens of timbers, of various kinds of grain and fruit, of vegetables and flowering plants. On other stalls were displayed utensils of iron or pottery which are manufactured locally after a crude fashion from material found in the State, and are used in the houses of the poor ; on others again similar articles of superior class made of brass or copper. Silver jewellery for the hair, neck, wrist or ankle was also to be seen, though Gwalior cannot be said to have any speciality in this line.

Miss Tasca, Lady Superintendent of Girls' Schools, presided over the collection of needlework, knitting and embroidery executed by girls of the Maharani's Girls' School in Lashkar and of the other schools in the State, while Mr Quinn had an extensive and representative exhibition of articles made by the handicraftsmen and apprentices of the Technical and Industrial Institute, of which he is Superintendent. High-class furniture was here, iron safes, tin work, a victoria phaeton, clay figures, together with an interesting portrait of His Majesty the King-Emperor, tinted with a colour discovered from a bark by Mr Quinn himself. Yet another stall was occupied by beautiful vases and other samples of the Gwalior stone carving so often mentioned in these pages, an art known throughout India as second to none in delicacy and finish.

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The cotton fabrics of Gwalior were shown in great variety, from the coarse qualities used for carpets and by the poor for raiment through every gradation to the beautiful artistic productions of Chanderi. The patterns and colours of many cloths, even of the coarser fibre, are delicate and effective, but all yield to the supreme charm of the Chanderi muslins, which are among the finest in the world, even though the old hand-made yarn has been forced to yield to that turned out in mills. Until lately this charming industry showed signs of dying out, but owing to the efforts now being made by the Maharaja and the Maharanis it may be expected to revive. The weavers, though comparatively few families of them now remain, take an immense pride in the excellence of their work, and fix every thread in its place with the most scrupulous conscientiousness, while they would regard the insertion of anything but real gold thread as a crime. The commonest colour of this muslin is that of unbleached cotton, but the *saries*, *dupattas* and turbans are often bordered with gorgeous coloured silks or with plain gold lace, while the interweaving of gold thread with the cotton is carried out in most fascinating designs.

On returning to the pavilion, their Royal Highnesses and the Maharaja's other guests were garlanded with *hars* of gold braid. By this time, the sun had set and darkness was coming on, so the moment was favourable for inaugurating the Electric Light Installation of the city, which was the second request made in the municipal address. On a pillar corresponding to that already described stood a silver elephant with a small button in the middle of his back. The Prince simply touched the button and instantly as by a fairy wand the market was outlined by number-

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less incandescent lamps in green, pink and white globes, which shed a brilliant illumination over the whole square. Immediately thereafter salvos of bombs and rockets were discharged, and flight after flight of fire balloons sailed through the evening sky, forming a milky way as far as the eye could reach.

The playing of the National Anthem by the Maharaja's Band announced that the Royal party were returning, the ceremony having lasted about an hour, and they drove home through streets illuminated by rows upon rows of minute *chiraghs* ; while in the distance could be seen the huge outline of the Fort picked out with tiny lamps, and with the word "Welcome" printed in enormous letters of light on its battlements.

A quiet dinner at the Palace concluded this the first day of the Royal visit to Gwalior for which a Day of Ceremonies is no misnomer.

CHAPTER V

A DAY WITH SCINDIA'S ARMY

“I should much like to say how very much I am indebted
to him for showing me his fine troops on parade.”

The Prince of Wales at Gwalior,
21st December 1905.



E. B. STANLEY
MONTFIORE

THE MUSICAL RIDE.

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY UNIFORMS FROM 1764 TO 1794;
temp. THE LATE MAHARAJA MAHADAJI SCINDIA.

Facing page 73.

CHAPTER V

A DAY WITH SCINDIA'S ARMY

THURSDAY, the 21st December, brought a hopeful change in the weather; the air was cold and moist and the sky clouded. The Nao Tala Palace and Dilkusha Camp were early astir, for the Prince was to review Scindia's army at nine o'clock on the Naulakha parade ground lying to the east of the Palace. The order was full-dress uniform, and the guests, sardars and others as usual started about half-an-hour in advance of the Royal party, driving by the Naulakha Gate.

The Royal party, leaving the Palace shortly before nine, were driven in motors through the Morár gate and along the Empress Road, which was lined by the picturesque ranks of Shagird Pesha and irregular corps. At Thatípura village tank, where the road turns off to the right towards the parade ground, a line of elephants was drawn up in all the gorgeous trappings of yesterday's pageant. A few hundred yards farther on, the Prince having exchanged his motor for a charger, and the Princess her car for a carriage, they proceeded to the scene of operations, attended by a Field Officer's Escort of a squadron of the 1st Imperial Service Lancers, under the command of Lt.-Col. Krishna Rao Scindia, and by the Cadet Corps, while the Artillery fired a salute of thirty-one

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guns. Behind the Princess' carriage stood an attendant bearing an embroidered *Áftábgíri*, like a gigantic fan, to ward off from Her Royal Highness the rays of the morning sun. A lofty platform covered by a *shámiána* had been erected for the Royal party, with *parda* arrangements adjoining for the Maharanis, and other *shámiánas* were arranged for the convenience of the guests, sardars, and the numerous crowd of onlookers.

The review ground is well situated. It is a great stretch of yellow plain, skirted on south and east by low hills, and on the north by trees, with the scarred and rugged face of the Fort in the background displaying to-day fascinating alternations of light and shade as the sun shone out or was obscured by clouds. And in the centre, facing to the east, the Gwalior troops were drawn up in line.

“Every schoolboy knows” that Gwalior has been for generations one of the great martial States of India, and its present ruler, by the ardour with which he pursues the military calling, well sustains the reputation of his ancestors. To-day Scindia's army numbers over 8000 regulars and over 3000 irregulars. Of the latter, which are the descendants of the old Maratha light cavalry, once the terror of the Moghal armies, some account has been given earlier in this narrative. The regulars are a force of all arms.

The artillery comprises six Batteries of different kinds, with a strength of about 100 men each. First in order are “A” and “B” Horse Batteries, the uniform being black jackets with red facings, and next a single Field Battery in blue-black tunics with yellow facings, all three being horsed

The ground was a well-kept lawn. It is a great
of yellow flowers, and the grass is very low and
on the north side of the ground, the ground is
the King is in the background, appearing to-day
illumination of light and shadow as the sun shows
observed by the King, who is the scene, being to the

THE PRINCESS OF WALES ON THE REVIEW GROUND.

Facing page 74.

The Princess of Wales, who has been
generation and the great, martial spirit of India, to
ground, which is a very fine one, and the ground is
very well kept, and the ground is very well
the King is in the background, appearing to-day
illumination of light and shadow as the sun shows
observed by the King, who is the scene, being to the

The artillery companies are Batteries of different
with a strength of about 100 men each. First in order
"A" and "B" Horse Batteries, the uniform being
jackets with red facings, and next a single Field Battery
with black tunics with yellow facings, all three being



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by teams of Australians, while one Heavy (elephant) Battery and two Bullock Batteries, having uniforms identical with the Field Artillery, complete the tale of gunners.

Of cavalry there are three Lancer Regiments, all incorporated in the Imperial Service system. The uniforms of these are similar—blue tunics with red facings and white turbans (sáfas), and their total number is 1897 officers and men, each regiment containing one squadron of Marathas, one of Mohammadans, one of Thakurs (Rajputs), and one mixed.

The infantry consists of one company of sappers who have a uniform of khaki with red facings, and seven Regiments of the Line, which amount to a total strength of 5335. The first four are composed of eight companies each, two Maratha, two Rajput, two Mohammadans, and two mixed (Brahmans and others), the remaining three being of similar caste composition but having only six companies each. As to uniform, the 2nd and 4th are rifle regiments and wear rifle green tunics and caps, while the other five wear red tunics with black facings, and white turbans. The 3rd and 4th, it may be mentioned, are Imperial Service Regiments and are armed with the Lee-Metford rifle.

Last, but by no means least, has to be named a most useful and important branch of every modern army—the Transport Corps, which also belongs to the Imperial Service. It underwent its baptism of fire in the Chitral Expedition of 1895, and again served all through the long Tirah Campaign of 1897-8. This valuable body is composed of 447 men, 725 ponies and 300 carts, and the men wear a uniform of navy blue with white piping.

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The bulk of this force is cantoned at the headquarter stations of Lashkar, Morar and Thatipore, but one Bullock Battery and the three last Infantry Regiments are stationed at Ujjain, Karera, and Ambah respectively. As paraded for inspection before His Royal Highness the actual muster of troops is given in the accompanying statement :—

THE PARADE STATE OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA SCINDIA'S REGULAR
TROOPS FOR THE INSPECTION OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE
OF WALES.

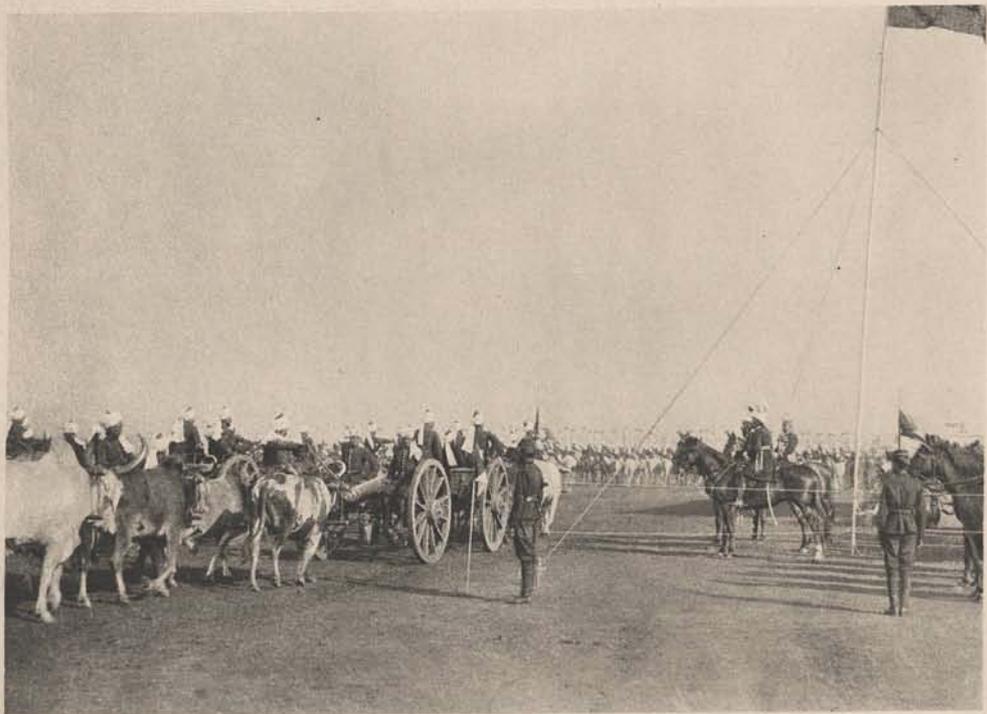
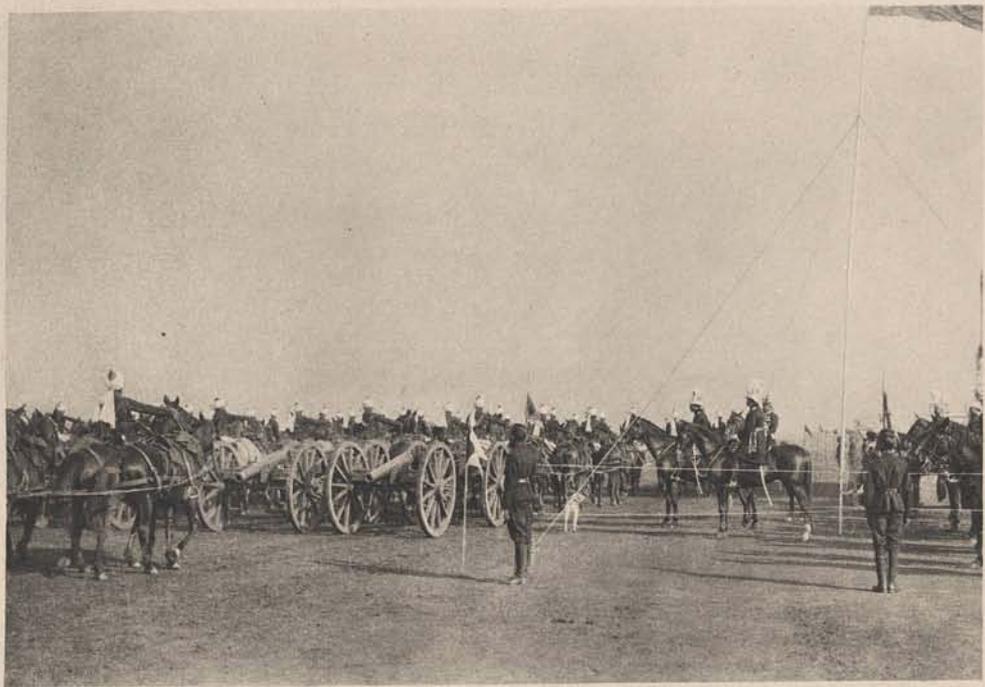
GWALIOR, 21st December 1905

CORPS	Officers	Non-Commis- sioned Officers and Men	Trumpeters	Drummers and Buglers	Musicians	Drivers	Total	ANIMALS				Guns	REMARKS
								Horses	Ponies	Elephants	Bullocks		
"A" Battery G.H.A.	5	95	2	...	...	...	102	126	...	...	...	6	
"B" Battery G.H.A.	6	87	2	...	...	...	95	121	...	...	...	6	
1st I.S. Lancers . . .	23	418	7	...	13	...	461	461	...	...	...	...
2nd I.S. Lancers . . .	20	420	7	...	13	...	460	460	...	...	...	...
3rd I.S. Lancers . . .	22	429	6	...	23	...	480	480	...	...	...	...
3rd Field Artillery . .	4	67	1	...	...	38	110	2	12	...	74	6	
4th Elephant Battery.	6	53	2	...	...	47	108	3	4	8	60	6	
1st Infantry	19	659	...	20	18	...	716	4	...	...	...	...
2nd Infantry	18	780	...	21	18	...	837	4	...	...	...	...
3rd I.S. Infantry . . .	20	626	...	18	13	...	677	5	...	...	...	...
4th I.S. Infantry . . .	19	546	...	18	15	...	598	5	...	...	...	...
Sappers	4	80	...	1	...	18	103	1	16	...	...	...
Maharaja's Band . . .	...	1	...	...	44	...	45	...	...	...	...	...
Headquarters Staff . .	15	...	...	...	...	...	15	15	...	...	...	...
Total	181	4261	27	78	157	103	4807	1687	32	8	134	24	

As His Royal Highness and his brilliant staff drew up at the saluting base, the Royal Standard was unfurled over

HORSE ARTILLERY MARCHING PAST.
BULLOCK BATTERY MARCHING PAST.

Facing page 76.



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their heads, and His Highness the Maharaja, in command of his army, gave the order for the Royal Salute. In attendance on His Highness were the members of the Headquarters Staff, chief among them being General K. S. Abdul Ghani, Sardar Bahadur, the Inspector-General of the Army, upon whom a great part of the duties in connection with military arrangements throughout the Royal visit devolved. The venerable General Kashi Rao Surve, C.S.I., Sardar Bahadur, Commander-in-Chief, was present as a spectator, but unfortunately his health prevented him from taking his natural place in the martial ceremony. The Royal Salute having been performed, the Prince of Wales was conducted by the Maharaja to inspect the line, while the Princess, who was wearing a smart grey costume in the "Princess" mode, with exquisite trimmings of Irish lace, accompanied them in her carriage.

The right of the line was taken by the Horse Artillery in quarter column of batteries at half interval; on their left were the three regiments of Gwalior Lancers in mass, and the heavy batteries in quarter column; while the sappers in line and the four regiments of infantry in line of quarter column occupied the extreme left. The inspection over, their Royal Highnesses returned to the saluting base and the march past began. Conspicuous among the officers about the Prince, in addition to his own staff, was General Sir Archibald Hunter, while Colonel Drummond, Inspector-General, and Major Stainforth and Captain Ellwood, Inspecting Officers of Imperial Service Troops, were also in attendance.

First there came the Cavalry Band on greys, and the

GWALIOR, 1905

Staff, with the Maharaja in rear—a soldierly figure in the uniform of a British Colonel, crossed with the Star of India ribbon, and mounted on a grand bay. Saluting, he rode into position near the Prince's right and made way for the Artillery, which advanced in column of batteries. The Cavalry Brigade passed in column of squadrons and presented a gallant sight with their smart uniforms and dancing pennons. The Field, Elephant and Bullock batteries followed, the elephants saluting by raising their trunks over their heads. Then came the company of sappers in khaki, their pony-borne tools rattling, and the infantry in column of double companies, marching with admirable precision and in almost perfect line. All the troops wore, it was observed, a medallion of the Maharaja in their head-gear.

Turning about, back came the infantry from the Prince's right in line of quarter column, and, when they had wheeled to the right and doubled off to form line on the opposite side of the ground, thus leaving the centre clear, the artillery and cavalry, who after their march past had wheeled round and taken up a position at the verge of the parade to His Royal Highness' left, came by at a trot from that direction, the former in line at half interval and the latter in column of wings.

Hitherto no unusual incident had marked the progress of the review. There was the inevitable dog which trotted to and fro as gravely as if he were the most important part of the pageant, and an Indian jay with azure plumage fluttered about in front of the Prince. But as the artillery thundered by at the gallop a graver episode occurred. Just opposite the



FINAL CHARGE OF CAVALRY UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE
MAHARAJA.

Facing page 79.

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Prince, the off-wheeler of the middle team in the leading battery apparently got his foot over the trace and came down with a crash. The dust was so thick that this could not be seen from behind and it seemed as if the second battery following hot upon it must collide. One of the Staff galloping into the fog stopped it, and soon the fallen horse was up and the gun away, none being any the worse.

At this point, the Maharaja, galloping out, placed himself at the head of the cavalry which had meanwhile after the trot past wheeled round and formed up in rear of the line. Passing by a skilful and graceful manœuvre through the intervals between the infantry and field artillery, they came into line and were brought up by His Highness at a gallop, halting at fifty paces from the passing line. This was a gallant sight indeed, and a fitting climax to a well-organised and well-executed review which was concluded by an advance in review order and the Royal Salute. His Royal Highness warmly congratulated the Maharaja on the parade, and afterwards, when the troops had been formed into a semicircle, he proceeded to present war medals for China and South Africa. The following were the recipients of the honour :—

CHINA WAR MEDAL

1. Major SARDAR APPAJI RAO SITOLE, 1st I.S. Lancers.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEDALS

	Queen's Medal	King's Medal
1. RESALDAR ABDUL LATIF KHAN, 3rd I.S. Lancers .	1	1
2. JEMADAR ABBAS KHAN, 2nd I.S. Lancers . . .	1	1

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SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEDALS—*continued*

	Queen's Medal	King's Medal
3. KOTE DAFADAR ASHFAK ALI KHAN, 1st I.S. Lancers	1	1
4. DAFADAR HABIBUL REHMAN KHAN, 2nd I.S. Lancers	1	1
5. NAIB DAFEDAR HAIDAR KHAN, 1st I.S. Lancers	1	1
6. NAIB DAFEDAR MAHOMED KABIR, 3rd I.S. Lancers	1	1
7. Farrier IMAM BEG, 3rd I.S. Lancers	1	1
8. Farrier GAUS MAHOMED, 1st I.S. Lancers	1	1
1. ANNAJI VINAYAK, Hospital Assistant, Medical Department		China Medal.
2. RAMCHANDRA BAJI, Clerk, Medical Department		China Medal.

At the close of this interesting ceremony, the Prince remounted his charger and another Royal salute from the guns announced the departure of their Royal Highnesses, the Review having lasted exactly two hours.

In the afternoon on the same ground, but at the eastern end of the plain, a performance of a very different character took place. Their Royal Highnesses, who arrived at about half-past four, as well as their Highnesses the Maharanis, graced this occasion also with their presence, and the Maharaja himself was full of energy as usual in directing the various displays. The "Military Sports," which were witnessed by a large gathering of spectators, not only on the parade ground but on the neighbouring hills, opened with a smart display of semaphore signalling by a squad of the 1st Infantry, followed by a skilful exhibition of Indian Club Exercise executed by a detachment of the 4th Infantry.

- Lancers
4. Dabidar Harnul, Bahman Khan, and L.A. Lancers
 5. Nair Dabidar Harnul Khan, 1st L.S. Lancers
 6. Nair Dabidar Harnul Khan, 3rd L.S. Lancers
 7. Nair Dabidar Harnul Khan, 3rd L.S. Lancers
 8. Nair Dabidar Harnul Khan, 1st L.S. Lancers
1. Army Veterinary, Hospital Assistant Medical Department
2. Nair Dabidar Harnul Khan, 1st L.S. Lancers

THE MUSICAL RIDE.

CIVIL UNIFORM FROM 1827 TO 1843;

temp. THE LATE MAHARAJA JANKOJI RAO SCINDIA.

Facing page 80.



Painted by
A. H. H. H. H.



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The next item on the programme was a musical ride in sections, each representing the military dress of a different period of Gwalior history. The first section, eight men of the Bera Sillehdari, illustrated the age of Madhoji Scindia, half in crimson coats (angas) and white turbans, and half in chain armour and steel cuirasses. Then eight Ekkan Sawars recalled the fashion of Daulat Rao's reign, four in white coats of crimped muslin (Chíndár Anga) and red turbans, four wearing on breast and back and sides plates of steel which shone like mirrors (chár áiná) with gauntlets on their arms. The 3rd section, consisting of six Ekkan horsemen, displayed the dress characteristic of Jankoji Rao's army—yellow jackets (bandis) and red turbans, while a squad of ten sawars taken from the Ekkan and regulars introduced the uniform of the more modern times of Jiyaji Rao Scindia, the late Maharaja, six being in navy blue tunics and red turbans (the uniform of the former 4th Gwalior Cavalry), and the remaining four in crimson coats. Lastly, the fifth section in the uniform of the present day represented the period of the Prince's host, the Maharaja Madho Rao. The evolutions of these variously clad squads formed a most picturesque spectacle, as they executed both separately and in combination highly intricate and ingenious figures to the enlivening strains of His Highness' band.

But the *pièce de résistance* was yet to come. Since the morning a battlemented and bastioned Fort had sprung up like magic at the extreme eastern verge of the ground, and this was to be the scene of the climax of the afternoon's entertainment—a sham fight, which was carried out with

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infinite zest and spirit. The idea, worked out with wonderful success, was as follows.

An army has been advancing from Bhind, a town about fifty miles to the north-east of Gwalior, *en route* to Tekanpore, a village about twenty miles to the south. It has no detailed information of the country, but marching more or less at random, had encamped on the 20th December at Malanpur, twelve miles to the north. Resuming the march on the 21st, it halted for rest not far from the hamlet of Thatipore on the northern edge of the plain. During the halt, the Officer commanding the advance-guard, scanning the country with his glasses, has discovered a fort in front of him which he now proceeds to reconnoitre. Scouts are sent out to make a plan of the obstruction which bars the army's advance, to discover its occupants and obtain any other useful information they can. They soon discover that a Chinese force is in possession, and send back word to the army.

Meanwhile the garrison with true Celestial *nonchalance* are in blissful ignorance of the approach of any danger until the guard on one of the towers sees a cloud of dust and then, emerging from it, some horsemen. General Fi Tang, the Commandant, is in due course informed of the propinquity of suspicious strangers, and despatches a troop of cavalry to discover their identity. It is soon evident that they are enemies, whereupon a report to this effect is sent back to the general, who immediately takes steps to intercept the hostile force.

Both sides being now aware that a battle is imminent, prepare the way with an artillery duel at long range, the

... was as follows.

An army has been advancing from Shind, a town
... miles to the north-east of Gwalior, en route to Taka
... village about twenty miles to the south. It has
... information of the country, but marching
... at random, had encamped on the south Dehra
... Malabar, twelve miles to the north. Resuming the
... on the east, it halted for rest not far from the
... of Thatipore on the northern edge of the plain.
... ing the halt, the Officer commanding the advance-
... scanning the country with his glasses, has discovered a
... front of him which he now proceeds to reconnoitre.
... are sent out to make a plan of the observation which is

THE MUSICAL RIDE.

CIVIL AND REGIMENTAL UNIFORMS FROM 1846 TO 1886;

temp. THE LATE MAHARAJA JAYAJI RAO SCINDIA.

Facing page 82.



ED. STANLEY
MONTPELIER

GWALIOR, 1905

advantage of weight of metal being apparently with the Chinese, who have heavy guns in rear of the Fort. Skirmishers are thrown out and a brisk exchange of musketry fire takes place. Guns are brought up and hammer at each other, till the Chinese guns are silenced by those of the Bhind army, and are left on the field. To retrieve the position the Chinese cavalry charge the foe with true Mongolian yells, but are checked by the accurate fire of the hostile infantry and a counter charge of their gallant horse. The field is now littered with dead and wounded who are carried off by the red-cross doolies or on the horses of their more fortunate comrades.

This completes the discomfiture of the Celestials, who evacuate their citadel. The victorious general, after some hesitation decides not to hold it but to blow it up, an operation which is performed by means of shells, and the fortalice vanishes with a most satisfactory amount of fire and smoke and explosion. A striking *tableau* concluded the display, for the victorious army marched their prisoners back with bands playing, torches flaring, and the Tartar general an unwilling spectator of the triumph from his own sedan-chair. First in the pageant came a squadron of Cavalry in column of half squadron, followed by the cavalry band, then another squadron of horse and after them a battery of Horse Artillery in battery column. Next came the infantry band and then followed, riding on his charger, the general of the victorious army. The sappers' company and two companies of infantry in line of company column continued the *cortège*, to be succeeded by a square of four companies, surrounding the Chinese force, whose band, cavalry, artillery, infantry and commander,

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defeated but not shamed, thus graced the triumph of their conqueror. A half squadron of cavalry in single file on both flanks of the square came next, and a squadron in column of half squadron brought up the rear. It was now six o'clock and the shades of night had fallen, but the field of battle was suddenly illuminated by numerous electric lamps as the spectators, Royal, gentle and simple, left the scene.



ESTABLISHED 1851

CHAPTER VI

A STATE BANQUET

“ We were received and entertained with magnificent
hospitality.”

The Prince of Wales at Mansion House,
17th May 1906.



F. B. STIMLEY
MONTFIORE

CHAPTER VI

A STATE BANQUET

THIS day of interesting military displays was brought to a close by a State Banquet held in the Jai Bilas Palace. Mess dress was the order, and the hour was eight o'clock. As the guests only returned from the Military Sports at half-past six, the time for preparation was short; nevertheless, at half-past seven all were assembled in the Hall, where on the previous day the Darbar had been held. The chamber was now transformed into a drawing-room, furnished with gilded chairs and sumptuous sofas upholstered in old-gold brocade interspersed with numerous tables of artistic patterns, while the cream and gold of the walls were relieved and broken by masses of palms and ferns. The five hundred electric lamps of the great chandeliers, infinitely multiplied by the crystal pendants, shed a brilliant light over the assemblage of "fair women and brave men" below. The ladies were wearing the most handsome dresses, flashing gems vied with still brighter eyes, and talk and laughter flew around indicating feelings of pleasant anticipation.

At a few minutes past eight, their Royal Highnesses were announced by General Beatson. The Prince was in plain evening dress and the Princess wore a beautiful and most becoming cream-white and gold gown, the material of which was heavy

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brocaded silk and the embroidery a mass of gold tracery work, most effective in design. The low-cut bodice was edged with priceless lace, while a magnificent collar of diamonds and a rope of pearls were round Her Royal Highness' neck. A diamond tiara flashing above the fair hair of the Princess completed a perfectly beautiful and radiant toilette. The Prince led the way to dinner with Mrs Daly, and Major Daly, the Agent to the Governor-General, was the Princess' partner.

The Banqueting Hall is immediately below the Darbar Hall on the ground floor, the descent to it being by the crystal staircase and through the entrance Hall by which their Royal Highnesses had entered the Palace on their arrival. Here the light was agreeably varied by a ruby-coloured chandelier. The dining-room used for this entertainment had been until quite recently a storeroom for furniture of all kinds, and was now for the first time used for a banquet. It is a large square apartment divided into three parts by two parallel rows of pillars. The walls are painted white, and adorned with delicate and tasteful mouldings, while over the doors are hung curtains of green brocade ornamented with the Maharaja's monogram. The adjoining room had been made into a comfortable billiard-room and smoking lounge. Two dining-tables running nearly the whole length of the hall occupied its central and southern divisions and on these covers were laid for about one hundred and thirty guests, the Prince and Princess sitting opposite each other in the middle of the central table. In addition to the electric lights suspended from the ceiling dainty little shaded lamps were placed at intervals down the centre of the tables, and connected with

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the electric circuit by means of tiny pins driven through the tablecloth into a strip of electrified green baize concealed beneath. The Royal table was decorated in white and silver with a profusion of flowers and ferns, and the other tables with pink, blue, and yellow silks in pale shades, while in front of every guest was found a tiny china memento of the occasion bearing the Scindia coat of arms with the legend "Gwalior 1905."

The dinner was enlivened by the strains of the Maharaja's staff band, which played the following programme under the direction of B. A. Athaide, Bandmaster :—

1. *Festival Overture* "JUBILEE CELEBRATION" *Keler Bela.*
 2. *Valse* . . . "THE CHORISTERS" . . . *B. Phelps.*
 3. *Fantasia* "FAVOURITE MELODIES FROM OLD OPERA"
J. A. Kappen.
 4. *Clarionet Solo* "ANDANTE AND POLONAISE"
Charles Le Thière.
 5. *Valse* . . . "ON WINGS OF LOVE" . . . *C. Bohm.*
 6. *Piccolo Solo* . . . "BARBADIENNE" . . . *Barwood.*
- GOD SAVE THE KING

At about a quarter-past nine, the Maharaja entered, and took his place beside the Princess. And now was brought into requisition a neat and novel device for passing wine and cigarettes round the Royal dinner-table. A miniature silver electric train consisting of an engine and six cut-glass coaches, running on rails, which had been waiting for "line clear" all dinner-time, was set in motion by a switch fixed under the Prince's hand by means of which he could

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start, accelerate or retard the train at his pleasure, and subsequently considerable amusement was caused by the advantage which His Royal Highness took of his power over the toy.

After a little conversation the Maharaja rose and proposed the health of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, which was received and drunk with all the usual honours. His Highness then proposed the health of his Royal guests in the following words :—

“I know no words which will adequately convey an idea of the feelings which spring in my heart as I rise to say a word of welcome to your Royal Highnesses on behalf of my people, my family and myself. I shall, therefore, not attempt the impossible task of describing those feelings but shall content myself with saying that the present is a unique occasion in my life, and that I shall never forget the honour done to me by your Royal Highnesses' presence here to-night, and by your gracious kindness in visiting my capital.

“This house, which your Royal Highnesses have graced by your presence, was designed by Sir Michael Filose, and built in the year 1874 under the direction of my late lamented father, and the first exalted guest that ever abode under its roof was His Most Gracious Majesty the King Emperor, your revered Father. With the lapse of time its interior has undergone considerable alteration, and in the natural fitness of things it seems only proper that in its modernised condition it should have conferred upon it the additional honour of a visit from your Royal Highnesses. What adds so much more to the honour of the house, the distinction of the occasion and the pleasure of us all is the circumstance that unlike the previous occasion

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this is rendered even more felicitous by the presence of Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales.

“I had intended in the course of this speech to deal at some length with the ambitions that have governed me during the last ten years of my career as one whom Providence has called upon to rule over a State containing an area of 30,000 miles and a population of about 3,000,000, and to illustrate how each move made has been directed towards the accomplishing of these ambitions. But realising that the inevitable fatigue of long journeys already made and the prospect of more still to be undertaken, together with the inappropriateness of the hour, cannot but make such a narrative rather tedious and protracted, I shall refrain from giving effect to my cherished idea. It will be enough for me to say that whatever useful work has been or is being undertaken in the various departments of my State has but one ultimate goal, viz., to help towards the stability of the British Empire, and with that end in view, to ameliorate the condition of the people over whom I am called upon to rule.

“Wherever your Royal Highnesses travel in India you will see on the triumphal arches and in the addresses read to you the words of loyalty and devotion to the Crown; if I say but little on this subject it is because I feel all the more deeply. My hope and ambition is that the day may come when my army and I may by our acts show what is not only on our lips but in our hearts just now. There is some distress in a few districts of the State owing to the failure of the monsoons, but I have no doubt that your Royal Highnesses' visit

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to the capital will grant it immunity against famine for many a long year. This remark may sound at best pure sentiment, but it embodies a feeling which to my knowledge is implicitly relied upon by the simple-minded villagers of my State. During the short time your Royal Highness is here, I shall endeavour to bring to your Royal notice as much as I can of the administrative reforms which I have been attempting to introduce into the State. May I say that the interest that your Royal Highness has already graciously shown in my army and in the Municipality of my State has greatly encouraged me and will be an incentive to fresh efforts on my part.

“I shall not now take up more of your Royal Highnesses’ time than to say that I hope this visit to Gwalior which has no doubt entailed considerable personal inconvenience to yourselves will afford an insight into the peace and prosperity we all enjoy under the benign rule of His Majesty’s Government, and will also furnish some amusement and relaxation to make up for the trouble you have undergone. My Lords, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to drink to the health of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.”

His Royal Highness replied as follows :—

“In the name of the Princess of Wales and on my own behalf I thank you sincerely for the eloquent and touching words in which you have proposed our healths. I recognise that we have listened to no mere complimentary speech, but that His Highness has taken this opportunity of telling us the guiding principles and motives of his life. We are, I am sure, grateful for his frankness and highly appreciate his noble expressions,

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for whether we regard these principles from the point of view of the British Empire, the Maharaja himself or the subjects of the Gwalior State, we cannot fail to recognise in them the highest ideals and aspirations. His goal is the stability of the British Empire and to attain that goal he sees that he must strive, and indeed, he is striving with all his characteristic energy to improve the condition of his people. I look forward with pleasure and interest to hearing from His Highness of his administrative reforms.

“ And while His Highness modestly refrains from telling us of his ambitions and intentions, we do not forget the Hospital ship which he sent to China a few years ago. I should like also to remind you of the two regiments which the Maharaja has just added to the Imperial Service Troops, and, indeed, I believe that his ambition is to see his whole army attain to that excellence which characterises the troops which he gives so freely to the service of the Empire, and I should like to say how very much I am indebted to him for showing me his fine troops on parade this morning. We all know of our host's reputation as a soldier, but his energies and his influence are just as conspicuous and effective in the civil administration of his State.

“ The Princess and I desire to express our deep sense of gratitude to your Highness for the kindness and hospitality which you have shown to us and for all the trouble which you have taken to entertain us and our large party in your capital. Nor can I refrain from alluding to the magnificent procession with which your Highness honoured our arrival yesterday. It was the first time that we had taken part in a ceremony mounted

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on elephants, which is only possible in this wonderful country. I can assure you that we shall never forget that splendid scene with all its picturesque surroundings, and we shall also remember that every one of its details had been conceived and carried out so successfully by your Highness. I am looking forward with great pleasure to enjoying the sport for which your State is so well renowned, and in which you are kind enough to allow me to join.

“Before sitting down I must convey to you, Maharaja, my dear father’s warm messages of esteem and good will, and I am glad to have another message to deliver from the King Emperor which I am sure will please your Highness. You have been appointed Honorary Colonel of the Indian Regiment of which I am proud to be the Colonel-in-Chief. The 1st Lancers will be as delighted as I am to welcome you as one of us. I call upon you, ladies and gentlemen, to join with me in drinking to the health and long life of His Highness the Maharaja Scindia. I pray that all possible blessings may be given to him and to his people.”

The toast of the Maharaja’s health having been responded to with the greatest cordiality, the whole party returned to the Darbar Hall where the Prince and Princess held a reception, in the course of which a number of guests had the honour of being presented. Their Royal Highnesses retired about half-past ten. Many congratulations were showered on the Maharaja on his appointment as Honorary Colonel of the 1st Duke of York’s Own Lancers (Skinner’s Horse), and he himself at once despatched a telegram to the Regiment at Jhansi expressing his gratification at the honour which had been done him by His Majesty the King.

CHAPTER VII

A TIGER HUNT



E. B. STANLEY
MONTEFIORE

CHAPTER VIII

A FURTHER STORY

THE ceremonial connection with the Maharaja had concluded with the State Banquet and it was decided to devote the two following days, Friday and Saturday, to what is in the attractive form of tiger shooting, a sport for which Coimbatore is famous. Hopes were high that Mr Lord Tiger would be obliging and make his appearance where and when he was required.

IRREGULAR CORPS; BERA ZARI PATKA.

The day had cleared away and as early as eight o'clock, on the morning of Friday December 2nd, grass was laid out in the available grounds of the Jai Mata Palace. A kind of motor service appeared under the name of the "Irregular Corps". The "Irregulars" were drawn up in a line and the "Irregulars" were discussing the details of the sport. Under the auspices of the ubiquitous Mr Talbot, there were further two large motor omnibuses, laden with the "Irregulars" and with cooks and khidmatgars (table servants), not to speak of the active Mr Burke with his camera and his gun. As a matter of course the Maharaja, the Maharani and the "Irregulars" were at the spot, and all were in the "Irregulars" (news) from one or other of the "Irregulars" from the Palace having been placed in communication with the Maharaja by means of the heliograph. The "Irregulars" were in charge of Mr Onrust, Officer of the

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CHAPTER VII

A TIGER HUNT

THE ceremonials connected with the Royal Visit had concluded with the State Banquet, and it had been decided to devote the two following days, Friday and Saturday, to relaxation in the attractive form of tiger shooting, a sport for which Gwalior is famous. Hopes were high that My Lord Tiger would be obliging and make his appearance where and when he was required. The clouds of the previous day had cleared away, and as early as eight o'clock on the morning of Friday December 22nd, great activity and bustle were observable in front of the Jai Bilas Palace. A line of five or six well-appointed motor cars, Fiats, Wolseleys, De Dions, were drawn up ready for action, and men, in scattered groups, were discussing the chances of sport. Under the orders of the ubiquitous Mr Faletti, there were further two large motor omnibuses, laden with the commissariat and with cooks and khidmatgars (table servants), not to speak of the active Mr Burke with his camera and his plates. As a matter of course the Maharaja, the keenest of *Shikaris*, was on the spot, and all were in momentary expectation of *Khabar* (news) from one or other of the different tiger beats, the Palace having been placed in communication with each by means of the heliograph. The arrangements were in charge of Mr Onraët, Officer of the

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Animal and Shikar Department, who was ably assisted by an old Maratha shikari, by name Anand Rao.

During this interval of suspense, it may be interesting to take a short survey of the preparations which had been made for the occasion. The first step is to locate the tiger (by no means an easy thing in winter) and to limit his peregrinations by facilitating his acquisition of a livelihood. He always haunts the neighbourhood of perennial water, if possible a shady valley or ravine, where his presence is detected by his footprints ; but in the cold season he is able to roam farther from his water supply than in summer, and he returns to it less frequently. Hence an elaborate *bundobust* (arrangement) is required to provide him regularly with food conveniently near to the spring or stream from which he drinks, and to keep a watch on his movements in such a way as not to scare him, for, terrible as he is when roused, "Sher Buhadur" is extremely shy of strangers, especially if they are human. His healthy appetite demands substantial provender, so a live buffalo is tied up in his path. Finding this bait handy, he first fells it with a blow of his mighty paw or springs at its neck, and then either proceeds to devour it on the spot or drags it to a secluded nook where he conceals what he does not want to eat at the moment.

The "kill" usually occurs in the early morning before daybreak, and it then becomes the duty of the professional *Shikari* to find out whether the tiger has tarried in the *Kho* (valley) or walked out. If the former is the case, the shoot should take place the same morning ; but since in the case of the Prince of Wales' expedition the observation of the tigers



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began months in advance, the baiting had to be repeated from time to time, first at intervals of a fortnight, gradually decreasing to two days. In this part of India the method of managing a tiger beat is to post the gun or guns at points of vantage commanding all the paths that the quarry is likely to take, either in trees or on rocks or on towers constructed for the purpose, and then, by means of a line of beaters, to drive it towards the "málás," as the places where the sportsmen sit are called.

Out of the numerous tiger beats in the State, four had been selected for the Prince as being within easy reach of headquarters and at the same time likely places to find tigers. They were Sakya Vilas, only about three miles south of the palace; Panihar and Tekanpore, each twenty miles south; and Singapore twenty miles north-east.

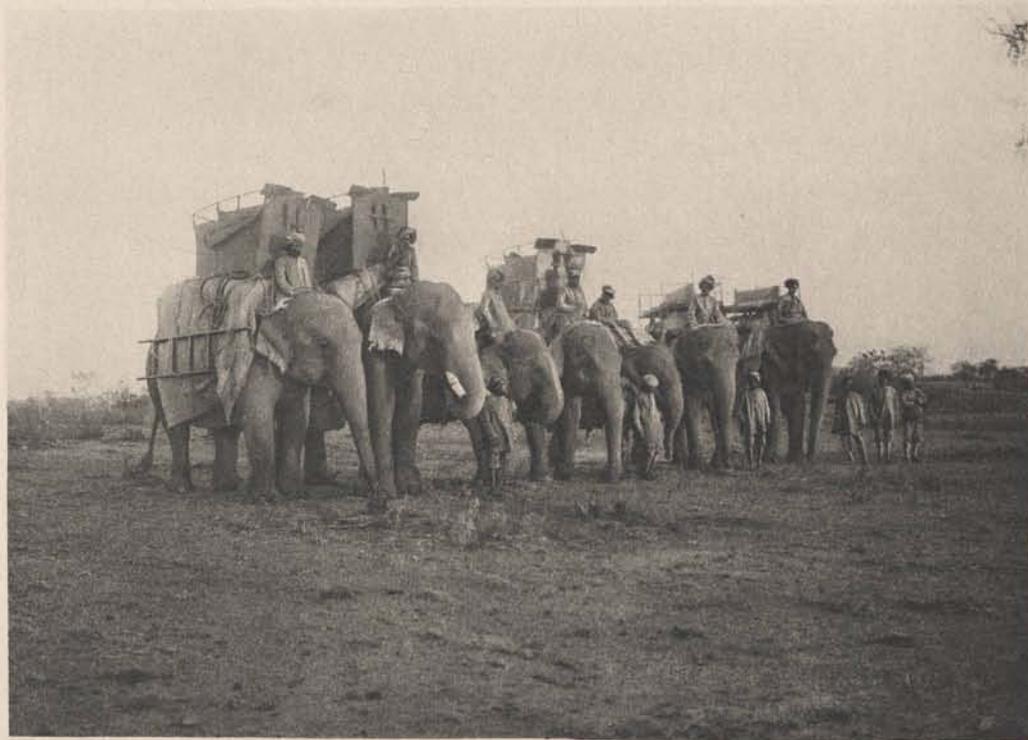
And now, about nine o'clock, messages were beginning to arrive, first from Sakya Vilas, Tekanpore and Singapore of doubtful or discouraging import, but at last came one from Panihar: "Sher ne báolí torí. Sher kho men hai" (The tiger has killed. It is in the beat). Information was immediately conveyed to the Prince and Princess, for Her Royal Highness was going to be a witness of the day's sport, and a message flashed to Panihar to be ready. The commissariat motors with their indispensable freight were at once despatched, and next went several cars with the Maharaja's officers who were to join in the beat, followed soon after by a car hoisting a red flag to warn the troops lining the road of the approach of their Royal Highnesses. This car was driven by Major Kailas Narain Haksar, the Maharaja's

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Private Secretary, and took in addition Mr Johnstone and the Prince's two loaders with the rifles. Last of all started the Royal party about ten o'clock, accompanied by the Maharaja and Mr Cobb.

For the first three miles, the route to Panihar runs along the Jhansi road, when it turns along the Sipri road. It is a steady ascent the whole way. The village of Panihar lies on the left-hand side of the road about twelve miles out, and it was here that the battle previously mentioned took place in 1843 between a British force and the Darbar troops, simultaneously with the battle of Maharajpore north of Gwalior. The tiger beat, however, is a few miles farther on, and at about the fifteenth mile a special road had been constructed through the jungle to within about a mile of the beat. Here the motors halted, and it was found that all had accomplished the journey without any serious hitch, including, happily, the commissariat motor omnibuses. Here also a small encampment was pitched for the refreshment of the dusty travellers, and the three hundred beaters, stalwart sepoy in khaki, were assembled, who were to try to circumvent the wily "Raja Nahar."

The latter were quickly marched off to take up their position and were to begin beating under the direction of Mr Onraët when they received the signal. The shooting party then took their way to their stations, the Princess and Lady Eva Dugdale in tonjons, chairs carried on men's shoulders; the Prince on horseback, and the remainder on horses or on foot. Mr Jacomb Hood, a "chiel" who was to "tak' notes and prent it," accompanied the beaters and was in at the con-



MÁLÁ (OR SHOOTING TOWER) AT PANIHAR.
SHIKAR ELEPHANTS.

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clusion of the hunt. The path lay through a scene of solitude and silence, with hills all round covered with scrub jungle, and voices were hushed or only raised in whispers as the party pursued their way. At one dip in the road they came upon the "pool in the desert" where the feline family were in the habit of slaking their thirst, and several times the mark of the *pag* or footprint was clearly seen in the dust. In a quarter of an hour they reached the entrance to the mala, a long passage with a high stone wall on either side. Their Royal Highnesses having dismounted at this point, the party walked with muffled tread to the *Málá* itself, a stone tower constructed so as to command the narrow valley between it and the opposite hill, and having little windows to shoot from.

Instructions were at once sent for the beat to commence, and soon were heard the sound of drums and the discharge of blank cartridges and the wild shouts of the beaters. The Panihar beat consists of a number of radiating *nullahs* converging on the valley where the Prince was watching, and it is by no means easy to manage successfully, for there is always a chance of the tiger either lying up in a small *nullah* and allowing the beaters to pass over it, or of its breaking out. Twice it was thought that one of these catastrophes had happened, and the beaters were recalled to go over the ground again. The Maharaja, who was sitting in the tower with their Royal Highnesses, thinking something had gone wrong and impatient at the delay, went off and joined the beat to try and bring the line on with more regularity and vigour.

As the beat drew nearer, and the noises grew louder, the excitement in the watch-tower became intense, and that breath-

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less expectation was felt in every breast which always accompanies the approach of big game. Still nothing appeared, though a few beaters could now be seen pushing through the scrub.

Just as suspense was giving way to despair, however, a tawny form was seen slouching at a slow trot along the opposite slope about eighty yards off. It was observed by the Prince who at once covered it with his rifle, but the thick jungle prevented him for a moment or two from obtaining a clear view of the beast. Then a favourable chance presenting itself, he pulled the trigger, and fired. The tiger seemed to turn and rush down the hill, and then—disappeared. Was he dead, or had he incontinently escaped into the jungle and out of the valley?

The occupants of the tower were in this state of doubt, when the Maharaja appeared on the right of the beat, much excited and heated with his exertions, and nearly at the same moment a sepoy up the hill on the other flank called out "Mará huá hai" (It is dead). Instantly the tower was evacuated, and the Prince and Princess were hurrying up the hill to view the tiger as it lay against the trunk of a small tree.

Well had the unerring eye of the Royal sportsman and the ball of the trusty weapon done their work. Behind the right shoulder was a wound which must have been immediately fatal. The tiger had rolled down the hill and been caught by the tree in its descent. It was carried down and laid near the foot of the tower for inspection. Unfortunately it proved to be a young one, its more experienced progenitors having by some means made their escape.

Now that the excitement was over, the lengthening shadows and the gnawings of hunger reminded the sportsmen that the

THE PRINCE'S FIRST TIGER.

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luncheon hour was long past and that it was time to fortify the inner man. But first the day's work had to be recorded by pencil camera. So for a few minutes a group was formed of their Royal Highnesses, the Maharaja, General Sir Partap Singh, and others of the party, which was rapidly sketched by Mr Jacomb Hood, while half-a-dozen photographs were taken in as many minutes. Hungry but gratified, the cavalcade wended its way back to the motor terminus where lunch was waiting—the hour being a quarter to five. It goes without saying that full justice was done to the *chef's* efforts, and over the cigarettes Mr Jacomb Hood's sketches were inspected by their Royal Highnesses.

The road home was lighted by the flames of many torches made of sticks topped with oiled rags which were held aloft by weird, half-naked figures, looking ghostly in the gloom, and the palace was reached at seven o'clock, the party having enjoyed a real day in the jungle, and feeling quite ready for a good dinner and for the sleep of the just afterwards.

The morrow's morn saw a repetition of the scene of Friday in front of the Palace, and again *khabar* was awaited. It came this time from Tekanpore, where a tiger and tigress were reported in the *kho*, but the Princess of Wales did not accompany the party. She decided to spend a quiet day at the Palace, where she found occupation in choosing muslins, photographs and other mementoes of Gwalior, and later she drove out to see some of the sights of the place, including the late Maharaja's Cenotaph and the College and Hospital.

The sportsmen started in much the same order as on the previous day, and by the same road, but instead of turning off at the third mile continued straight along the Jhansi road to

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the eighteenth mile, where a special road to the left allowed the motors to be taken to within an easy walk of the beat. For three-quarters of the way the road is on the whole an ascent, and then gently descends on to a vast level plain, spreading for many miles and girdled by an amphitheatre of low hills. The uniformity of the prospect is broken here and there by isolated heights of rugged rock or by long ridges rising abruptly from the plain. It was on the northern face of one of these ridges, running approximately east and west across a portion of the wide expanse, that the tigers were supposed to be hidden.

The motors brought the party to the end of the metalled road which terminated on the margin of an artificial lake of considerable size, formed by a massive stone dam. This dam blocked the course of a small stream or *Nullah*, which in some prehistoric age had eaten its way through a gap in the ridge of hills just mentioned. The dam itself is divided into two sections by a small outcrop of rock and earth, and on this central spot a few tents were pitched for the accommodation of the Prince and his party. It was reached by using the dam as a footpath, and from it a somewhat monotonous panorama, not lacking, however, in elements of the picturesque, was presented to the sight.

In striking contrast to the scene of the day before was the far-stretching plain bounded by the circle of distant hills. To the north, immediately at one's feet, lay the lake where a few waterfowl sailed at their ease, and from which a cool and refreshing breeze fanned the cheek; far to the south was visible the Fort of Pichhor, standing out in "splendid isola-



MÁLÁ (OR SHOOTING TOWER) AT TEKANPORE.

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tion"; groves of green trees with roofs of mud huts peeping through them indicated the sites of villages and made oases in the desert of fallow fields; the small fragment of the ridge to the west is capped by a tiny fort, containing a perennial spring of clear water, which in days of old must have stood the garrison in good stead during now long-forgotten sieges; while, lastly, to the east was the larger half of the ridge which was to be the venue of the day's operations, and was covered with the densest scrub jungle.

His Highness had confidently expected that this day's shoot would be at Singapore and not at Tekanpore, as the former is generally a certain find, and tigers had previously been killed there by distinguished visitors, notably by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and by Lord Curzon; but by some unaccountable aberration of taste the monarch of this *kho* had, perhaps fortunately for himself, avoided the tempting bait and failed to "kill." Thither, however, all the mounts, both equine and elephantine, had been despatched, and therefore there was now no alternative but to "foot" it to the *málá*.

A walk of half-a-mile along the base of the ridge brought the party opposite the "saddle" on which the tower for His Royal Highness had been erected. In this the Prince, the Maharaja, General Beatson and Sir Partap Singh took up their position, while two members of the suite had posts about fifty yards apart on the back of the ridge, from which they could watch operations with a chance of a shot if the tiger managed to get past the Prince. The Prince's tower commanded a complete view of the beat, which was not at all like

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the usual haunt of tiger, being rather shadeless and exposed. The attractions from the tiger's point of view are the lake where water is always available, and a numerous "sunder" of pig which frequent this jungle.

The beat began from near the shore of the lake, having on its left flank a low line of hillocks, about four hundred yards north of the main ridge and parallel to it, and advanced eastward, the line stretching entirely across the shallow valley from summit to summit. The beaters, eight hundred in number, at first proceeded silently, only occasionally clapping their hands; then, as it seemed that the quarry was likely to lie close, more noisy demonstrations commenced, until the hills echoed with the uproar. And lie close it did, for a beater came right upon the tigress lying under a bush. She jumped up, and with a roar broke cover, crossing at full gallop the open space below the tower. It was a difficult shot about a hundred yards off. The Prince fired two shots with his .400 cordite rifle and two with his .350, but the tigress without even slackening speed dashed into the opposite cover to the right of the "saddle." The hawk-like eye of that redoubtable Nimrod, Sir Partap Singh, however, had detected a peculiar flick of her tail which convinced him that she was hit. If badly wounded, she would probably not have gone far; if unwounded or slightly hit, she might have escaped out of the valley.

The Maharaja was so eager to test this point that he left the *Málá* followed by General Beatson and Sir Partap, and all three proceeded to the bottom of the valley to rearrange the beaters. They were sent off to the eastern end of the ridge to beat in



TEKANPORE, 23RD DECEMBER 1905.

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the contrary direction. The two members of the Royal suite who were watching on that side now fell into line with the beat, and had a full view of succeeding events. The line must have come within fifty yards or so of the tower when suddenly a roar was heard and the tigress was seen charging down the hillside straight towards the spot where the Maharaja and his two companions were standing. He and Sir Partap had rifles, General Beatson only a walking-stick.

All eyes were strained to see what would happen next, for none of those above dared to shoot on account of those below, and the result seemed to rest "on the knees of the gods." The Maharaja fired as the brute came into the open, but missed. The position was now one of great danger, for the Maharaja's loader had bolted and only one cartridge remained in the rifle. But Scindia's *sangfroid* did not desert him at this critical moment. Stepping behind a neighbouring bush, he took aim and fired. The tigress fell dead about fifteen yards from him.

On examination, Sir Partap was proved to have judged rightly. Rather far back was found the minute hole of the cordite rifle bullet ; but its stopping power must be terrific, for the tigress could not have gone a hundred yards after receiving the wound. She measured eight feet three inches as she lay,—a fine specimen with the skin in the beautiful condition only found in the cold weather. Mr Begg of *The Illustrated London News* had accompanied the expedition and took some characteristic sketches, and the photographers also did their duty. It was never definitely known whether the consort of the deceased was in the *kho* or not, but probably not. At all events he will be heard of again.

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But for the necessity of a second beat, the whole affair would have been over by lunch-time. Perhaps the sensational and successful finish compensated for the extra fast, but it was now four o'clock and the long walk back to the luncheon tent still remained. With what delight then did the sportsmen hail the appearance of two brakes drawn by teams of artillery horses! Mounting these, they soon arrived at their destination, and were speedily occupied in repairing the ravages of hunger and thirst. The return journey was accomplished, as before, after nightfall, by torchlight.

While the Royal party were engaged in shooting expeditions, the guests in Nao Tala Palace and Dilkusha Camp had not been neglected. Many had driven out to see the sights of Gwalior—the Fort, the city of Lashkar, and the various monuments and buildings of note in the neighbourhood. Pig-sticking expeditions were organised at Susera, a preserve of the Maharaja's about eight miles from the capital, where fairly good sport was obtained. Finally, under the auspices of the Amusements Committee, on one day a Gymkhana was held consisting of six amusing events, and on other days several tournaments, extending throughout the whole visit and including rifle shooting, badminton, golf putting, croquet target, billiards, bridge, all of which were entered into with keenness and zest.

CHAPTER VIII

THE FORTRESS

“I was struck with its architectural monuments and its ancient traditions.”

The Prince of Wales at Mansion House,
17th May 1906.



ESTABLISHED
MONTENAPOLI

CHAPTER VIII

THE DISTRICT

IRREGULAR CORPS; BERA SILEDARI.

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CHAPTER VIII

THE FORTRESS

THE Cantonment of Morar lies about four miles from the Palace, to the north-east and beyond the little stream known as Morar River. It is laid out on the familiar lines of a British military station—rectangular blocks of land formed by broad metalled roads and occupied by bungalows or barracks, with a large Bazar immediately adjoining. This much, however, should be said in justice to Morar—that it is better wooded and on the whole laid out in a more æsthetic style than most cantonments.

The survival of these buildings carries back the imagination to the time when Morar was garrisoned by the Gwalior Contingent, a force which, in spite of the loyalty of the Maharaja, mutinied in 1857 and murdered its European officers. After the suppression of the mutiny the Contingent was abolished and replaced by a British garrison of all arms, which was maintained till 1886, when the Cantonment was given over to the Maharaja Scindia, and the British troops removed.

Since that year the old barracks have been occupied by a part of the State troops known as the Morar Brigade, and except that some of the buildings have fallen to ruin, the outward appearance of Morar has been preserved much as it was

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in former days, though of course the residents have changed and the old institutions disappeared. Thus, the Bengal Cavalry mess still stands, being inhabited by one of the State Engineers, while another Engineer occupies what was once the Morar Club.

Every British Cantonment possesses at least one Church ; Morar rejoiced in three, one for worshippers of the Anglican, a smaller one for those of the Scottish, and the third for those of the Roman Catholic persuasion. Time has laid its destroying hand on the first and last of these edifices, and even their foundations are now hardly distinguishable, while the second, notwithstanding certain vicissitudes, still stands in the midst of a small and somewhat neglected-looking garden—an oblong structure with a square tower above the porch. For years it was disused and would no doubt soon have shared the fate of its compeers, had not the ecclesiastical authorities taken the matter in hand and raised a restoration fund by private subscription ; but the congregation was small and again the Church had to be given up. Quite recently it was again restored in anticipation of the visit of their Royal Highnesses, who were to spend both Sunday and Christmas Day at Gwalior.

Fortunately the Church was strongly represented on the occasion, for among the Maharaja's distinguished guests was the Right Rev. Dr Chatterton, Bishop of Nagpur, who was accompanied by his Chaplain, the Rev. G. E. M. Tonge, and by the Rev. E. R. Clough, Chaplain of Nowgong in Bundelkhand, part of whose duty it is to pay periodical pastoral visits to Gwalior.

Morar had assumed an unwontedly gay appearance with

PLAN OF GWALIOR FORT.

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a triumphal arch, mottoes, flags and bunting, when the Prince and Princess of Wales with their suite drove down in motors to attend divine service at the little Church. In this there was already assembled a congregation such as had not been seen in it since the British occupation. The Bishop, in his published account of the service, compares St Peter's, Morar, on that Sunday morning, to a pretty little village Church in the Homeland, and as such it must have been invested with a peculiar charm for the worshippers. His Lordship preached the sermon, while the music was beautifully rendered by selected men from the string band of the 10th Royal Hussars. The following four appropriate hymns were sung :—

“Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes.”

“Lo! he comes with clouds descending.”

“Hark! hark, my soul! angelic songs are swelling.”

“Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.”

At the conclusion of the service, their Royal Highnesses and the other worshippers returned to the Palace by the old Morar road, which from end to end is one long avenue of Nim, Shisham, Pipal, and other shady trees.

The afternoon of this peaceful Christmas Eve the Royal visitors had determined to devote to seeing the far-famed rock Fortress of Gwalior with all its wonderful antiquities. Starting from the Palace in motors at half-past three o'clock, and accompanied by the Maharaja, the Resident, Mr Johnstone and a few members of the Staff, they drove by the Morar Gate along a road running nearly parallel to the broadside of the Fort on its Eastern face and past the Guest-House,

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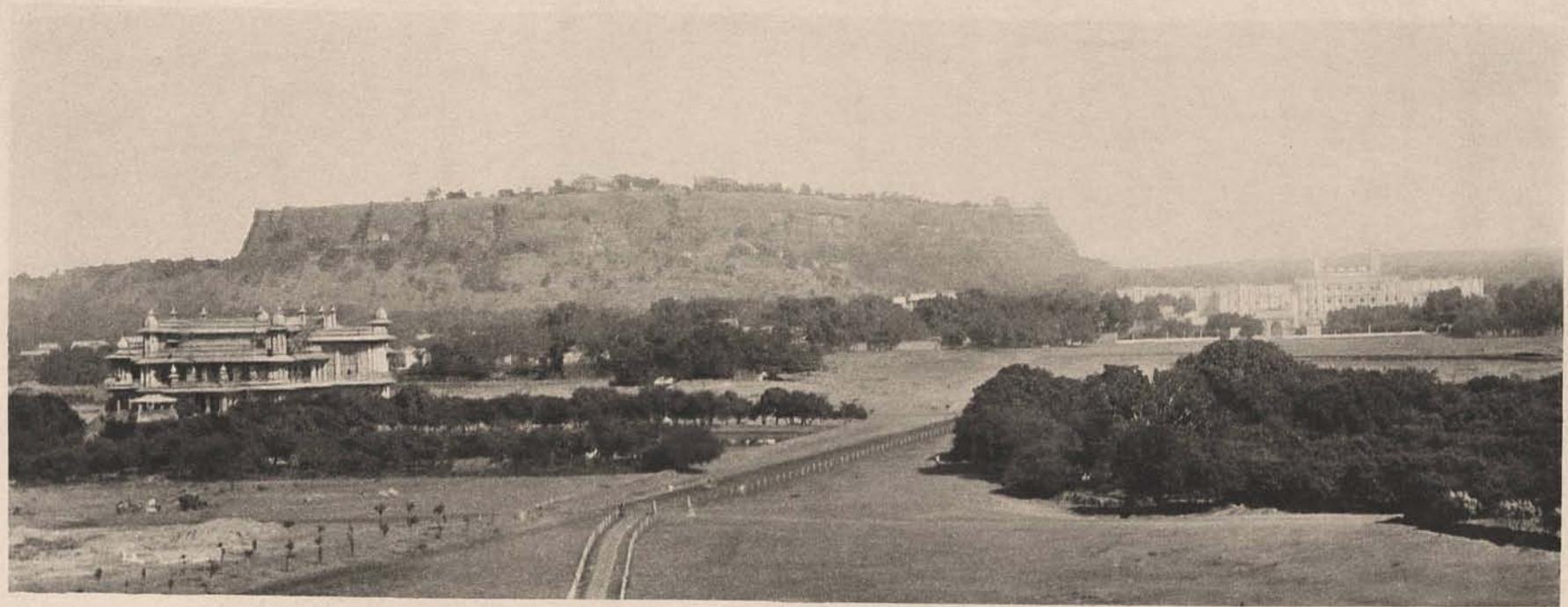
a pretty building with elaborately carved façade. About half-a-mile farther on the way to the Gwalior Gate of the Fort, stands the magnificent mausoleum of Mohammad Ghaus, a well-known spiritual teacher of the time of Akbar the Great, who, upon not being well received by the Emperor, retired to Gwalior, where he died. He was famous for his liberality and for his broad-minded religious views, and one of his descendants, who is learned in historical lore, is to this day the custodian, though in a very humble way, of his tomb.

The neglect of centuries threatened this fine monument with ruin, but lately the Maharaja has ordered its restoration, a work which is now being carried out very carefully. It is built in the form of a square with hexagonal towers at the corners, while the body of the building is surrounded on all sides by carved stone lattices of complicated and delicate design, and surmounted by a great dome, which was originally covered with blue glazed tiles.

Within a few yards of this imposing edifice repose the mortal remains of perhaps an even more famous character, though they lie beneath a far more modest tomb. T'ansen, the sweet singer, was the greatest musician that India has ever produced. First a Hindu and a musician at the Court of Raja Ramchandra of Rewah, he was taken by Akbar to Delhi, where he attained to rank and wealth, and amid his new surroundings he embraced Islam, a fact which accounts for his grave being at this spot. At one time a tamarind-tree grew over it, whose leaves were believed, when chewed, to impart a most melodious voice, and hence they were much sought after by dancing girls. Gone is T'ansen's tamarind now, but so power-

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ful were its virtues that it has bequeathed them to a successor which grows close by, and thus it may be said that Tánsen, though dead, yet singeth.

Proceeding on their way, the Royal party entered the old town of Gwalior, which no doubt originally sprang up to secure the protection of the mighty citadel which frowns above it. Once a town of the first importance in India, its buildings cover a considerable area ; but a great part of them are deserted and more or less in ruins, for even in the last half century the population has dwindled, doubtless owing to the competition of Lashkar, from 40,000 to 16,000 souls. As the town now stands, it is entirely Mohammadan in character, its principal buildings being mosques and tombs. In all probability the town which stood on this site in Hindu days was little more than a collection of huts.

A few minutes more, and the motors pulled up in front of the great Gate which gives admission to the Fort. Here a small but brilliantly caparisoned cohort of elephants was waiting to bear the Royal party up the steep ascent.

The sandstone hill on which stands "the pearl of the necklace of the Castles of Hind" rises abruptly out of the plain to the height of some 300 feet, and runs north and south to a length of nearly two miles, while its greatest breadth is about 900 yards. It has been appropriately likened to a huge ironclad, and the resemblance is carried out even to that once formidable weapon of offence, now becoming obsolete—the ram, which is represented by a sharp projection of rock at the northern extremity of the hill. From its eastern face it appears to be an isolated rock standing in the midst of a flat plain,

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but on the south-west it is connected with a series of ridges which run westward with slight interruptions for many miles.

Its aspect as seen from the east is most imposing, the long line of battlements which crowns the steep scarp being broken only by the lofty towers and fretted domes of the noble palace of Raja Man Singh. At the northern end, where building stone has been quarried for centuries, the jagged masses of the overhanging cliff seem ready to fall upon and crush the town beneath, and on every side the rock looks sheer and perpendicular, as if capable of being scaled only by lizards and birds.

The original foundation of the Fort is assigned by tradition to an extremely early but undetermined date, when a Raja called Suraj Sen was miraculously cured of leprosy by the ascetic Gwalipa, who directed him to bathe in one of the tanks on the hill. Asked how he could best show his gratitude, the holy man advised the building of a fort, and even guided the chief to a hidden treasure without which the undertaking would have been impossible, owing to his poverty. Most properly the new fastness was named Gwalior after the saint. As in the case of Rome and Romulus, inscriptions and other similar prosaic records, by asserting that its ancient name was Gopachala (shepherd's hill), tend to throw doubt on this dramatic story ; but whether accepted or rejected, Gwalior Fort has no need to rely on tradition for its antiquity or its importance, for it has figured conspicuously in Indian History since the eighth century and may have been of importance much earlier, while from the time of its capture by Qutb-ud-din in 1196 until 1858 it was continually the scene of war and tumult.

A well-known Indian rhyme says :

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“A Castle? There’s none but Chitorgarh,
All the rest are petty forts—”

but without attempting to detract from the fame of the great Sisodia fastness, Gwalior may fairly claim an equal glory, whether from the number of its sieges or from the devotion of its defenders, and the name of the Johar tank commemorates one supreme and terrible occasion when the garrison, unable longer to keep their enemy at bay, cast their women into the deep waters, and clad in saffron garments sallied forth to die.

Its first historical holders were the Huna adventurers, Toramana and his son Mihirakula, who partially overthrew the Gupta power in the sixth century. Times without number in succeeding ages did this mighty rock citadel change hands amid the varying fortunes of war. Raja Bhoj of distant Kanauj held possession in the ninth century, to be followed by the Kachwaha clan of Rajputs, to which the present reigning family of Jaipur belongs, and by the Parihars, another branch of the same regal race, who were forced to yield it to the Mohammadans under Qutb-ud-din.

With one short interruption from this time, the crescent of Islam shone over Gwalior Fortress till the end of the fourteenth century, when in the confusion of Timur’s invasion of India, it was seized by Tonwar Rajputs, who in spite of many hostile attacks managed to retain it in their grasp for more than a hundred years. It was then recaptured by Musalmans under Ibrahim Lodi, but the Tonwars had meantime raised Gwalior to great eminence, especially during the reign of Raja Man Singh (A.D. 1483 to 1517) and his

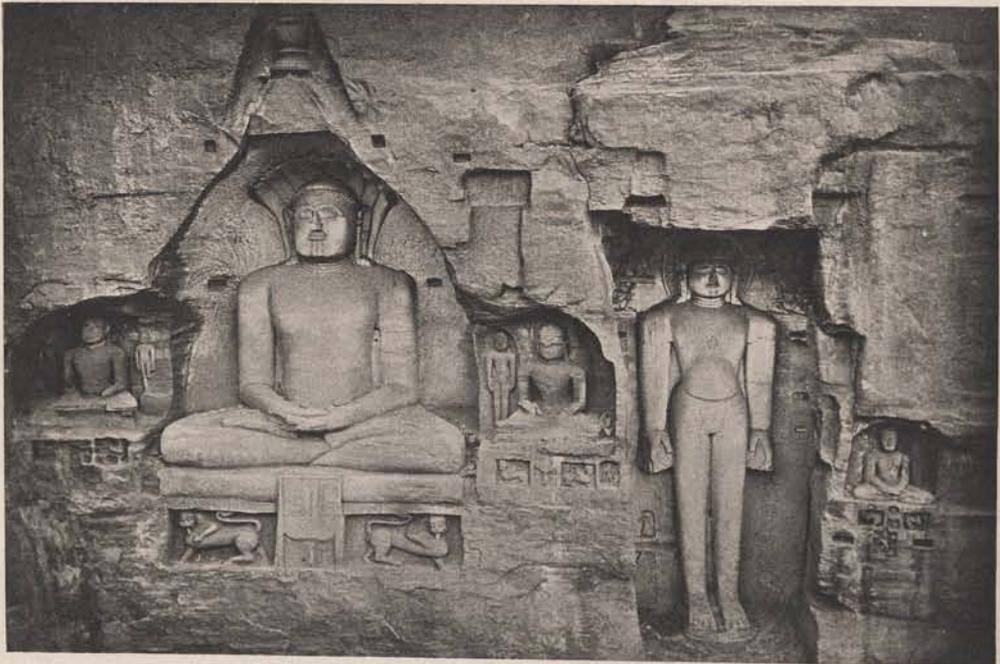
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“fawn-eyed” Queen, when it was pre-eminent as a home of music.

The Moghal Emperors used this historic castle as a State prison, and many a member of the Imperial family entered its walls never to return ; but in the confusion that followed on the battle of Panipat, it was seized by the Jat Rana of Gohad, who in his turn was dispossessed by Scindia. During the great duel between Warren Hastings and Madhoji Scindia, the fort was captured in 1780 through a night surprise by a small British detachment commanded by Captain Bruce, acting under the orders of Major Popham. Guided by two dacoits supplied by the Gohad Chief, Bruce climbed the rock at a practicable spot on the western face of the hill, and got over the ramparts undetected, followed by twenty grenadiers.

After this brilliant feat, Gwalior Fortress was restored to Gohad, but through the treaty of Salbai it once more came into Madhoji Scindia's hands, who transmitted it to his successor Daulat Rao. During the latter's ill-judged war with the British in the early years of the nineteenth century, it was captured by General White, but on this occasion, the British, after occupying it for about a year, restored it to Scindia in 1805.

Even now, however, the chequered career of this great citadel was not at an end, for in 1843, after the battles of Maharajpur and Panihar, the British again entered into possession, the garrison being supplied by the Gwalior contingent, a force which was raised by treaty at this time, and which afterwards joined the rebellion of 1857. In the following year the Fort, still held by the rebels, was stormed by a party of



MAN MANAIR PALACE.

JAIN SAINTS.

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Sir Hugh Rose's force under Lieutenants Waller and Rose, the latter falling in the great gateway at the moment of victory.

From this time a British garrison supplied from Morar occupied it till the year 1886, when, together with Morar Cantonment a final rendition of the Fortress to Maharaja Jiyaji Rao Scindia was negotiated by Lord Dufferin, and thus Gwalior Fort, after all its vicissitudes, remains in the possession of the namesake of that illustrious Scindia who, first of his race, laid his conquering hand upon it.

But during this historical *excursus*, their Royal Highnesses have been left at the gateway with the elephants, waiting to make the ascent. Time was when this had to be effected by many flights of broad steps alternating with pieces of paved level roadway, but now a continuous metalled road runs from base to summit. The Royal party, then, mounted on elephants, entered the outworks of the Fortress by the Alamgiri Darwaza, a plain but imposing gateway in Mohammadan style, built in the reign of Aurungzeb. It abuts on the main street of the town, and leads into a courtyard,—the seat of justice in days of old, now the station of a military guard. Slowly up the steep incline climbed the elephants, swinging their trunks to and fro, while at every step a wider and wider panorama of the country round spread out before the eye.

One by one the gates that span the road were passed,—the Bádalgarpaur, or “gate of the cloud-capped fort,” in Hindu fifteenth-century style; the Ganesh Darwaza, or gate of the elephant-headed god, just within which once stood the shrine erected by Suraj Sen to Gwalipa, the tutelary saint of the hill,

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS ASCENDING THE FORT.

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visitors alighted from their elephants, and a small flight of stone steps brought them to the threshold of Man Singh's elegant abode. An exceedingly low door, which might justify the suspicion that there were dwarfs and not giants in those days, gives access to the first courtyard of the palace, and here the Prince and Princess paused to examine the admirable decorations. Every part of the edifice is on a miniature scale, and the courtyard is tiny, but a gem. Its stone eaves are supported by brackets representing peacocks, lions, and elephants ; while chambers open on to it through archways supported by carved pillars with heavy massive capitals which yet preserve an appearance of lightness through the skilfulness of the design. In this square, no doubt, traders from all parts used to open out their wares for the inspection of the ladies of the court, who looked down upon them from the latticed balconies which adorn the upper storey.

A dark and narrow passage leads to another courtyard, almost identical with the first, and the general plan of the palace now becomes apparent, the numerous little apartments and narrow mazy passages being grouped round these two open squares. It appears to be a two-storey building with a roof crowned with numerous domed turrets ; but in their explorations their Royal Highnesses came upon dark mysterious staircases leading downward, and then it turned out that this wonderful royal residence has as many storeys below ground as above. Into these recesses, however, one shudders to penetrate, their only inhabitants being armies of bats ; and probably on reviewing their impressions of Man Singh's palace, the Prince and Princess would have agreed with the

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Emperor Baber, who in his diary remarks that in spite of its ingenuity and beauty of design it must have been a most uncomfortable place to live in.

Issuing from the semi-gloom into the light of day, the Prince and Princess and their party were next driven in carriages from this, the northern end, to the southern extremity of the hill, observing on the way the strange contrasts of Oriental architecture and the barracks of the modern utilitarian pattern, as well as the numerous restorations of walls and batteries which have been carried out in recent years. To the left they passed the Suraj Kund or Sun Pool, excavated from the solid rock with the temple of the Sun-god on its bank, and the Gangola Tal, two of the many tanks studded all over the Fort, which must have added enormously to its strength when blockaded by an enemy. The barracks mark the British occupation, but are now, on the principle of turning swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning-hooks, being converted by His Highness the Maharaja to the purpose of classrooms and dormitories for the Sardars' and Military Schools.

Standing on the southern battlements, their Royal Highnesses obtained a fine bird's-eye view of Scindia's Palaces and of Lashkar city, which from this height is most picturesque with its white flat-roofed houses and temples with their cupolas nestling among thick groves of trees.

Returning by the same road the Royal party proceeded to the Teli Mandir, or Oilman's Temple, a curious as well as an imposing structure, which dates from the eleventh century. The sides slope upward from the plinth to a height

Inspector Baker, who in his diary remarks that the ingenuity and beauty of design it must have been an unbroken place to live in.

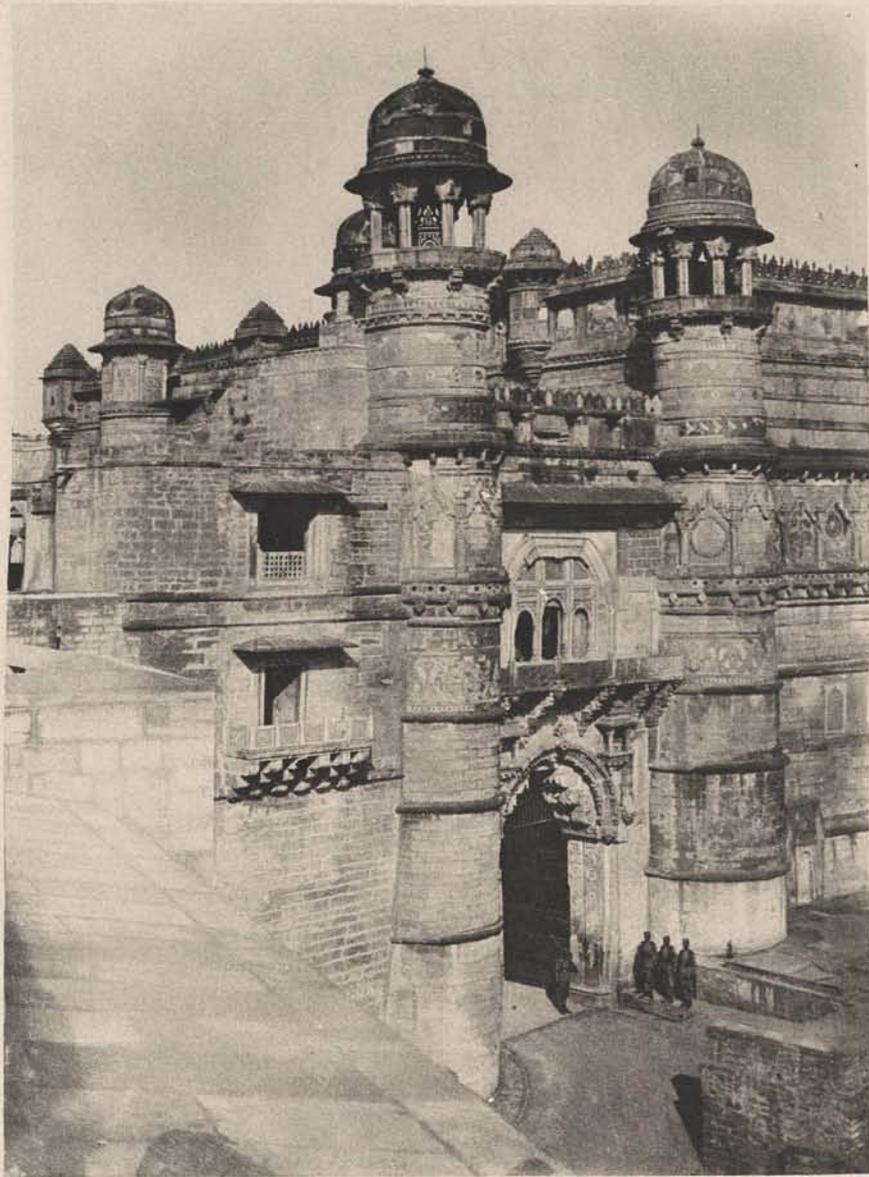
Having taken the semi-gloom into the light of the Palace and Divan and their party were next driven in from this, the northern end, to the southern extreme end, observing on the way the strange contrasts of architecture and the bastions of the modern utilitarian as well as the numerous restorations of walls and which have been carried out in recent years. To the right the Sun, Kund or Sun Pool, excavated from the rock with the temple of the Sun-god on its bank, Gangoli Tal, two of the many tanks situated all over the

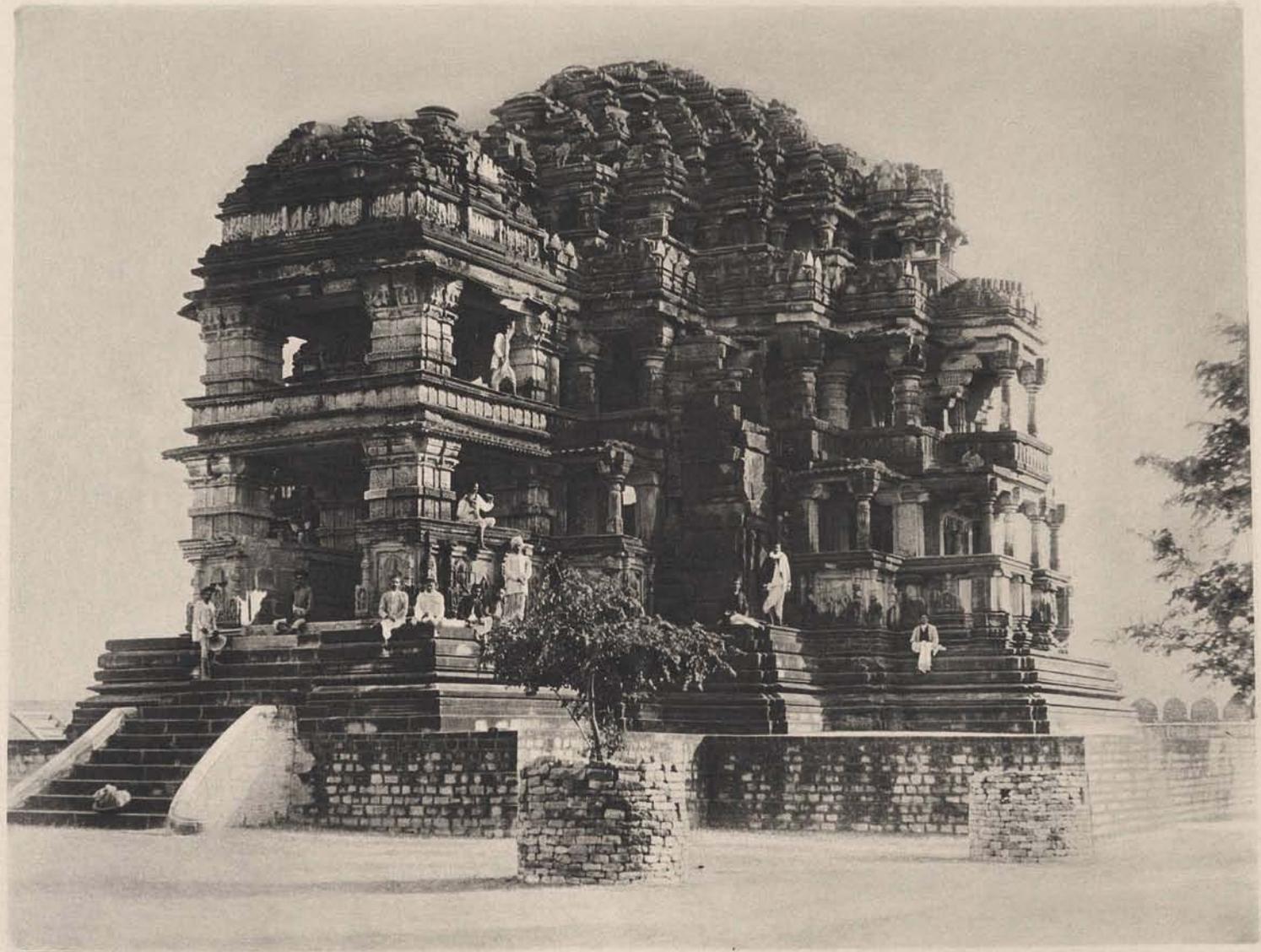
HAWA DURWAZA, OR GATE OF THE WINDS.

Facing page 122.

Standing on the northern bastion, the party next obtained a fine bird-eye view of the city of Agra, which from this height is most picturesque, with its white flat-roofed houses and temples with their walls covered with groves of trees.

Returning by the same road the Royal party proceeded to the Jai Mandir, or Jinnah's Temple, a curious as an imposing structure, which dates from the 17th century. The side slope upward from the platform





THE GREATER SÁS-BAHÚ TEMPLE.

Facing page 123.

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of eighty feet, and culminate in a horizontal ridge of the "waggon" type, met with in the Baths of Mahawalipur and many temples in the Madras Presidency. Originally it belonged to the Vaishnava sect, as is proved by the flying figure of the god, Garud, over the door ; but in the fifteenth century it was converted to Shaivic uses, a fact indicated by a representation on the inner door of Siva's son, Ganesh, the elephant-headed god. Round the temple is placed a large collection of sculptures, both Hindu and Jain, which were found in different parts of the Fort and illustrate the mythology of those two faiths. It was not far from this spot that Popham effected his famous escalade.

The Jain remains in and around Gwalior Fort are among the most remarkable in India, and to view some of these the Royal visitors were next conducted along the portion of the fortification overlooking the Urwai valley, at the foot of which is the second or western entrance to the Fortress. From this point of vantage they were able to see the great rock-cut statues of the Jain saints or Tirthankars, the largest of which is nearly sixty feet high and represents Adinath, the earliest of these sages and reformers, who is said to have preached Jindharna for thousands of years.

Rejoining the carriages, the Prince and Princess were again quickly driven to the opposite side of the hill, where stand perhaps the most beautiful objects of archæological interest which the Fort contains. These are known as the greater and lesser Sás-bahú (or Mother-in-law and Daughter-in-law) Temples. Both must have been, when complete, beautiful examples of Hindu architecture, and are built on

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the same plan, that of a cross. The smaller is open on all four sides, and the larger is ornamented with a profusion of sculpture which hardly leaves a space uncarved, the entrance to the inner shrine especially being the perfection of delicate and ingenious stonework. Both temples were built in the reign of Mahipala-deva, the Kachwaha chief of Gwalior, early in the eleventh century. They are generally described as Jain temples, but the sculptures as well as inscriptions seem to prove conclusively that they are in reality Hindu shrines of the Vaishnava sect.

The illusion of a past, crowded with curious palaces, temples, and giant saints, was now rudely dissipated by the appearance of the tea-table, laid out on the terrace close to the "Mother-in-law and Daughter-in-law," and thus the thoughts of all were recalled to the living present in draughts of the cup that cheers, after which a short drive brought the party back to where the elephants had been left at the "Wind Gate." The majority chose to make the descent on foot; but the Prince and Princess, greatly daring, preferred the howdah. After a few yards, however, they changed their minds and joined the others, having discovered that an elephant on the downward path offers a most uncomfortable seat. On arriving at the Alamgiri Gate once more, it was found that the Maharaja's motor would not start, but a second was standing near, which he appropriated, and in a few moments their Royal Highnesses and he were speeding along the homeward road, while the remainder of the party followed at a more leisurely pace in carriages.

DOORWAY OF THE GREATER SÁS-BAHÚ TEMPLE.

Facing page 124.



CHAPTER IX

CHRISTMAS DAY AND FAREWELL

“The Princess and I desire to express our deep sense of gratitude to your Highness for the kindness and hospitality which you have shown to us.”

The Prince of Wales at Gwalior,
21st December 1905.



CHAPTER IX

ST PETER'S CHURCH, MORAR.

Facing page 127.

CHAPTER IX

CHRISTMAS DAY AND FAREWELL

THE Day of Peace and Good Will dawned fair and cloudless, and every guest found with his *chota hazri* a Christmas card conveying good wishes from his kind and thoughtful host, the Maharaja.

Christmas is, so to speak, a day of both worlds. As commemorating a momentous event in the history of Christianity, it is a religious festival; but on this day religious observances are also happily combined with secular enjoyments and social gatherings. In this form and in this spirit it was spent by the Prince and Princess at Gwalior. The morning was devoted to Divine Service at Morar Church, where the Bishop and his coadjutors celebrated in the simple and touching manner prescribed by the English Prayer-book the birth of the Founder of Christianity. As on Sunday, the Bishop of Nagpur preached the sermon, while the following hymns were sung to the accompaniment of the Royal Hussars' Band :—

“ O come, all ye faithful.”

“ Hark, the herald angels sing.”

“ While shepherds watched their flocks by night.”

“ O food that weary pilgrims love.”

But meanwhile, the exciting news had been received at

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the Palace and, indeed, had reached Morar, that the Tekanpore tiger had returned and "killed," and, moreover was in the *kho*. So confident had the *shikaris* been of *khobar* from Singapore that the beaters had been withdrawn from Tekanpore after Saturday's shoot, but Singapore had again proved a disappointment. Consequently the problem was to get the beaters out to Tekanpore in time to decide the fate of the tiger that day, as the same night had been fixed for the Prince to leave Gwalior on his way to Lucknow.

But the Maharaja Scindia is at his best in a difficulty, and he rose to the occasion at once with a characteristic effort. Tekanpore being a wide beat, he determined this time, in order to make assurance doubly sure, to send not 800 but 1500 men to the spot. Orders were immediately issued for a cavalry regiment to hurry out by road, while His Highness' Private Secretary was despatched post haste to the railway station to requisition a special train to convey the infantry to Antri, which is the nearest station to the beat. The soldiers had orders to march thence at their best speed to the scene of operations.

All this was duly accomplished, but incidentally it may be mentioned that Major Haksar, while motoring to the station, failed to clear a certain telephone post, and in a moment of absent-mindedness put out his right hand to save himself and the car. The engine, however, being of fifteen-horse power, was too much for even the gallant Major's muscles, and the result was a fracture of a small bone in his hand and—of the splashboard of the car. In spite of great pain, however, he pluckily managed to drive the motor to the shoot and

IRREGULAR CORPS; BERA EKKAN.

Facing page 128.



EB. STANLEY
MONTEPIORE

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back, besides joining in the beat, while the car, as if animated by the same spirit, refused to break down, and performed the journey without further mishap.

The motor buses were soon got under way, followed by the other cars as on previous occasions. The pilot car with the red flag shot off, under the care of Major Haksar of the wounded hand, and carrying Mr Johnstone and the two loaders. The Maharaja remained behind to drive the Prince, who started as soon as possible after the return from Church. The Princess had again elected to spend the day at home.

By one o'clock the camp on the shore of the lake was reached by His Royal Highness and the Maharaja, and there basking in the sun on the opposite bank lay an alligator, at which for a moment the Prince was tempted to have a shot, but consideration brought caution, for the wind was towards the tiger ; and thus the unconscious saurian was spared.

In view of the hour, His Royal Highness declared for lunch first and sport after. The meal was soon despatched, and the whole party proceeded to the Tower and waited in it. The beat was conducted much in the same manner as on the previous Saturday. The tiger was the one which ought to have come out with the tigress, but he was found to have wandered away and had been cunningly enticed back. Again, like his consort, he refused to move till the beaters were close upon him, and when he did break cover, as in her case, it was far down the hill and at a gallop. However, the Prince had time to fire rapidly two or three shots. Here also history repeated itself, for the tiger dashed into the opposite jungle without pausing or faltering, and it was difficult for the occupants of

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the Mala to tell whether he was hit or not ; but at this juncture Mr Burke, who had been busy taking photographs from the top of the ridge, ran up the steps and announced that he had seen the tiger, after crossing the open, rub himself against a tree and lie down, which proved that he was hit. The greater part of the beaters, therefore, were brought round to drive him back and extended up the hill, though some were ordered to remain where they were in case the tiger tried to break away in that direction, while the Maharaja and some other members of the party mounted elephants, leaving the Prince in the Mala.

In a few minutes there was a sudden roar and the tiger rushed out from the jungle. Once more the Prince fired, but the tiger succeeded in reaching its original cover on the left. The beaters, who were standing almost shoulder to shoulder right in its path, were now in a dangerous situation and began firing rapid volleys of blank ammunition to check the wounded brute. The sportsmen were anxious spectators of this scene, but the tiger, having found cover, did not reappear to face the fusilade or attempt to break through the line, the beaters thus having a narrow escape. The Maharaja at once directed his elephant to the point where the tiger had vanished into scrub, and found him within a few yards of the open, disabled and powerless to attack. In a moment the wounded monarch received his *coup de grâce*. The tiger proved to be a fine male, measuring nine feet five inches from nose to tip of tail. By this time the sun had all but set, and there was barely time for the usual photographs.

Thus, on the very day of his departure, did the Prince slay

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his third tiger in Gwalior. Little did any of those present guess that within two months of that date he would be again in the jungles of the same State bent on the same quest, or that he would in the course of that second visit add six more tigers to his bag.

The party motored back to the Palace with all speed, and just as they were, in their shikar-kit, the Prince and the Maharaja, with some members of the staff, entered the Darbar Hall, where they encountered as pretty a spectacle as anyone could wish to see on Christmas Day.

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales had arranged to distribute Christmas presents to some five English and forty-four Indian boys and girls who had been especially invited. At a quarter to six the children assembled and grouped themselves around the Christmas tree, at which they gazed with a respect due to a novelty most of them had never seen before ; while several little children were greatly awed by a most realistic Father Christmas who was in charge of the tree.

The Christmas tree, which had been brought from Simla, was decorated in the traditional way with its snowclad branches adorned with countless blown-glass ornaments and crackers. Placed as it was in the very centre of the Darbar Hall it looked extremely imposing and indeed self-satisfied, like its distant cousin, the fir-tree made famous by Hans Andersen.

Most of the light in the room came from the coloured electric globes on the tree ; and Father Christmas, in a snow-spattered scarlet cloak trimmed with fur, and a high cap decorated with mistletoe, was an impressive figure, with

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his flowing white beard reaching nearly to his knees. He possessed the orthodox figure of this Christmas hero, being robust to rotundity ; and possibly it was this feature in his general appearance which made one boy after due consideration conclude that he must be a "bunya." This opinion was, however, speedily contradicted by Bala Sahib Sitole, who in a demi-official way announced that Father Christmas had come out on the Prince's staff in charge of the Christmas presents. It may be whispered in confidence for the benefit of sceptical seniors that the genial visitor was personated by Colonel Sir C. Filose, the Maharaja's versatile Military Secretary.

While waiting for the Princess the children occupied themselves by listening to the hoarse mutterings of Father Christmas, whose language was unintelligible to them, and by looking wistfully at the presents which, packed in white paper tied up with light blue ribbon, covered two large tables near the door. All the presents, it is worthy of note, had been especially selected for the Gwalior children by Her Royal Highness' own children before the departure from England.

Two artists, accompanying the tour, delighted with the picturesqueness of the scene, seized the opportunity of sketching the girls and boys in their gorgeous dresses and gleaming jewels. The result of their artistic labours took the form of two pictures which later appeared in *The Graphic* and *Illustrated London News* respectively.

On Her Royal Highness' entry the children, who had been marshalled by Mrs Heyland and placed facing the door, dutifully salaamed, and the distribution of Christmas presents com-

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

Facing page 132.



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menced forthwith, the names being read out by Mr Bull. Each child, as his or her name was called, came forward, salaamed, received from Her Royal Highness the present which Father Christmas had handed to the Princess, and then, after again salaaming, moved off to the other side to make room for the next comer.

So far the party had seemed likely to prove a rather formal ceremony, but immediately all the Christmas presents had been given out, the Princess stepped towards the tree and taking down a cracker from the branches proceeded to pull it with a little English girl. The rest of the children stared for a moment, apparently not knowing where the noise came from ; but when the little girl took a paper cap out of the cracker and had deftly placed it on her head, in a moment the children rushed forward to the tree and tried to capture every cracker within reach. For the next few moments there was a very wild stampede, the boys taking the lead in trying to snatch down all the crackers at once, and nearly upsetting the tree in their efforts. All reverence for the venerable Father Christmas disappeared in an instant. Everything within their reach was torn from the tree by the bigger boys, who, it is to be feared, gave the little girls no chance. Crackers, glass ornaments, coloured favours and even the red and green electric globes (which to their chagrin ceased to shine on being torn from the tree), were pulled off by ruthless fingers, and it was only when even by jumping they could not reach anything else that there was any lull in the sudden attack.

But now came the little girls' turn. Held aloft in the arms of the "grown-up" portion of the guests, they proceeded to secure everything that the boys had been unable to reach ; and

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- MASTER BAKER, Motor Suit.
SULTAN RAO MHORKAR, Silver Knife.
MASTER DICK BAKER, Railway Suit.
TANTIA SAHIB KHANWALKAR, Memorandum-Book and Photograph.
KHALAK SINGH, Silver Pencil and Photograph.
MADHO SINGH, Enamel Pencil and Photograph.
JIWAN SINGH, Silver Knife and Photograph.
BHAN PARTAP SINGH, Silver Pencil.
APA SAHIB SCINDIA, Silver Note-book.
DADA SAHIB JINSIWALE, Enamel Pencil.
BABA SAHIB JINSIWALE, Silver Note-Book.
APA SAHIB MHORKAR, Silver Stamp Box.
BABA SAHIB KHANWALKAR, Silver Pencil.
VINKAT RAO NIMBALKAR, Silver Pencil.
KASHI RAO MAHADIK, Enamel Pencil.
ANANT RAO ALGIWALE, Silver Pencil.
SHANKER SINGH, Paint Box and Photograph.
BALU RAO SINGH, Gun-Metal Pencil.
HANWANT RAO BHOSLE, Game of Marbles.
MADHO RAO URF NANA BHAIYA, Silver Pencil.
JAGJIWAN RAO, Memorandum-Book and Watch.
TRIMBAK RAO URF RAJA BHAIYA, Tray and Watch.
HAZIRYAR KHAN, Paint Box and Watch.
SADA SHIVA RAO, Paint Box and Watch.
MOHAMMAD MOHESIN HUSAIN, Memorandum-Book and Watch.
FAZAL GHANI, Paint Box and Watch.
CHANDROJI RAO ANGRE, Tray and Watch.
BAIJA BAI, Doll and Chatelaine.
BHAGIRTI BAI, Leather Scissor Case and Pincushion.
GAYA BAI URF BADI BAI, Work-basket and Watch.
DAYA KISHORI, Scissor Case and Small Box.
TAI BAI, Embroidery Box and Purse.
CHIMMO BAI, Box and Watch.

IRREGULAR CORPS; HUZURAT PAIGAH.

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<p>TAI SAHIB KADAM, Doll and Small Box.</p> <p>GUNWANTA BAI, Work-basket and Chatelaine.</p> <p>TANI BAI, Doll and Watch.</p> <p>CHHOTI BAI, Toilet Set and Glove Box.</p> <p>BANU BEGAM, Doll and Watch.</p>	<p>SHAMMAN HAKSAR, Doll and Box.</p> <p>MAHARAJ PATI, Work-basket and Chatelaine.</p> <p>BILAS PATI, Box and Pincushion.</p> <p>PROCLIE ARDESHIR EDIBAM, Doll.</p> <p>FRENY A. EDIBAM, Tray and Glove Box.</p>
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This charming and graceful entertainment practically brought the Royal visit to an end. The same evening after dinner, the Prince and Princess presented mementoes to those who had taken part in organising and executing the arrangements connected with their visit. The body of the Prince's Christmas tiger arrived at the palace as their Royal Highnesses were on the point of starting for the station, and the Princess had the satisfaction of seeing this further trophy of her consort's rifle.

At eleven o'clock that evening the special train bore away the Prince and Princess, and on both sides the regret of parting must have been acute, for the pride and pleasure felt by the Maharaja in receiving and entertaining his Royal guests was nobly responded to by the friendly interest and appreciation which they had shown in everything appertaining to Gwalior.

Afterwards, when the tour was over and their Royal Highnesses had returned home, the Prince, at a banquet given in their honour by the Lord Mayor of London at the Guildhall on the 17th of May 1906, and in presence of a most distinguished audience, described in pregnant words his own

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and the Princess' high appreciation of the character and aims of the Princes of India ; and with these words the present record of the Royal Visit to Gwalior may most fitly end :

“ Our visits to several of the great Feudatory States will always be reckoned among the happiest and most interesting of our experiences. We were received by the respective rulers and their peoples with the warmest enthusiasm, with all the gorgeousness and circumstance of old Indian customs, and by them entertained with magnificent hospitality. I enjoyed social intercourse with many of these great Princes, and I was impressed with their loyalty and personal allegiance to the Crown, their nobility of mind, their chivalrous nature, and the great powers which they possess for doing good.”