

VII.—We will perform the Rao's service with fidelity; we will accompany the Durbar troops when they are acting, and act in concert.

VIII.—On an alarm of plunderers passing with plunder, we will instantly proceed and intercept them.

IX.—We have given a distinct deed to the Durbar, under the guarantee of the Sirkar, for the payment for ever of an annual Jumabundy. The specific Jumabundy mentioned in it we shall yearly pay. Should any heavenly or earthly misfortune happen, in such year the Durbar is to look to our articles.

X.—Should we have a necessity for money, and wish to sell our villages, we engage to acquaint the Sirkars beforehand.

XI.—Any old fort or castle on our lands we engage to permit to be destroyed, and henceforth to build no new work of the kind.

These conciliatory measures towards the Wagur banditti, together with the respect and consideration shown for the opinions and wishes of the leading Chiefs, and the selection of a good man of business as the chief Durbar Minister (by name Lukhmidas), tended greatly to quiet the effervescence and agitation which a long series of national calamities, of turmoil, civil war, and absence of law and order, had almost rendered the normal state of Kutch.

Tranquillity was for the first time for years displaying its benign influence over the face of nature; man's worst passions, which the current of events had called into action, were gradually subsiding; when, as if to shew the nothingness of a nation's convulsions and revolutions, as if to make the chief actors in these scenes feel the utter feebleness and helplessness of man, or thousands of men, a mighty earthquake visited the Province, shaking every house, from the Prince's palace to the pauper's grass hut, to its centre: nor were the resting-places of the dead exempt from the devastation committed by this mighty convulsion of nature. The Rao's palace was rendered temporarily uninhabitable, while hundreds of houses in Bhooj, Anjar, Mandvee, and Lukput were hurled to the ground, burying hundreds of men, women, and children in their ruins; numbers also of the forts, including the marauders' strongholds, were dismantled, and not again allowed to be repaired. The accounts of the desolation of Bhooj forcibly reminds one of the description given of the last days of Pompeii. A number of extraordinary phenomena are reported to have occurred at the moment of the shock, an instance or two of which I hope to be pardoned for noticing, though not strictly bearing on the subject of this Memoir. The Runn, and Bunnee, lying on the north of Kutch and between it and the PUNCHUM Island, which were quite dry, were suddenly covered over with a sheet of water; the extent of it, east and west, is not known, but in width it was about six miles, its depth was upwards of two and a half feet; after which, in a few hours, the water sank down to about half that quantity. Horsemen who crossed this track on the day following the shock, describe a number of cones of sand

elevated above the water, the summits of which were emitting air and water. The dry beds of the rivers were generally found flooded with water for a short space of time, the water having the colour and taste of the soil, from which it would appear to have been forced by some convulsion of nature below. Many wells, which were previously sweet, became salt, and *vice versá*, while a mighty upheaving of a large bank in the western part of the Runn completed what the enmity of the Ameers of Sind had previously commenced, viz. the shutting out of the Indus waters from Kutch. This bank bears the name of "Ulla Bund," or the Bund or embankment of God; its height above the original level is estimated at about 18 feet, while its length is undefined, running, some think, as far as the Punchum Island, but at all events, for many miles in that direction. It is estimated as being at least 50 miles long; its width varies from 10 to 15 miles. This Bund is situated in the Runn about 10 or 15 miles south of Raoma Bazar in Sind, a portion of it being passed en route from that place to Loona in Kutch, though the greater portion of it remains on the right of the road or track.

The Jogeos or religious devotees of Deenoder, the highest hill in Kutch, on which there is a monastery, declare that during the earthquake of 1819 fire issued from the hill. It bears evident traces, in common with others in Kutch, of having been subjected to volcanic action at some period of its history, but one can hardly fancy so recent an eruption without unquestionable evidence thereof being traceable.

The Ameers of Sind consulted as to the expediency of conquering Kutch, now that all the forts were well nigh razed to the ground and the country paralyzed, while the English force on the spot was small. Firstly, the Vukeel or Agent at Bhooj asked of the Resident the cession of the port of Lukput, which he asserted the former Rao had constantly offered as the price of their assistance to exterminate the English, of whose presence they evidently had an instinctive dread, and whose movements they watched with the utmost jealousy, though, beyond a little bombast, in the hopes of giving an exaggerated idea of their power and importance, they showed but little desire to break with them. There was also reason to believe that the Agent had received commands to *demand* the cession if the request on the subject were not attended to, intimating that the result of refusal would be an invasion. They thought better of it, however, though, if they could have turned over a few leaves of the book of fate, they would have discovered good grounds for the prophetic presentiment of danger which had already taken possession of their minds, of coming in contact with the white men from that unknown and mysterious land which had sent forth the successors of the Emperors of the East, and who, though but a handful as compared with the millions over whom they ruled, appeared destined to be victorious in whatever direction they turned their arms. In all