

The geographical discoveries of the last quarter of the fifteenth century deeply affected the commercial relations of the different countries of the world and produced far reaching consequences in their history.

Bartholomew Diaz doubled the Cape of Good Hope, or the Stormy Cape, as he called it, in 1487; and Vasco da Gama found out a new route to India and reached the famous port of Calicut on the 17th May, 1498. "Perhaps no event during the Middle Ages had such far-reaching repercussions on the civilised world as the opening of the sea-route to India."

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CHAPTER - 2

EUROPEANS MOVE TOWARDS INDIA

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2.1 INDIA'S COMMERCIAL TIES WITH WEST :

The commercial relations between India and the West have been known to exist from time immemorial. In the seventh century A.D., Arabs emerged as the active sea-borne traders, with domination over the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. In 1487, when Bartholomew Diaz successfully went round the Cape of Good Hope; and in 1498, Vasco da Gama discovered the new route to India, rounding off the Cape of Good Hope, Arabs lost their monopoly but several European countries began to explore a sea route to India.

The Bull of May, 1493 of Pope Alexander VI had assigned India to Portugal in its division between that country and Spain of the undiscovered non-Christian world; and subsequent treaties between these countries had recognised with modifications the allocation. Since 1580 the sovereignty of Spain had been extended over Portugal, and the Portuguese right over Indian territories had passed to Spanish Crown. But the Reformation had undermined the validity of the Papal dispositions, and the revolt of Netherlands involved the decision to strike a determined blow at Spain through depriving her of the monopoly of Eastern trade. The ambition and courage of Dutch merchants in association were displaced to great advantage in the expeditions of 1595-6 and 1598-9 to Java, and, if they were not to find a Dutch monopoly replacing that of Spain, early action by the merchants of London was plainly necessary.(1)

Particularly active were the Dutch who rounded the Cape of Good Hope and made contacts with the archipelago of South-East Asia. In 1598, the death of Phillip II, the powerful king of Spain and Portugal, emboldened the other Europeans

to expand round the world.

2.2 THE PORTUGUESE ARRIVE

27th May, 1498, saw Vasco da Gama with his flagship San Gabriel, sail into the Malabar coast port of Calicut, on the western flank of India. This successful voyage round the Cape of Good Hope after nautical persistence for more than half a century, heralded a new era of Western European imperial penetration and conquests in the East in the following centuries. Calicut was a flourishing port used by the Arabs, Chinese and Indian merchants for their trade in gold, ivory, silk, jewels, pepper, ginger, cinnamon and other spices. Vasco da Gama purchased spices in India and returned home to sell the purchased goods, which he did for a sum sixty times the total expenditure he had incurred during his two year voyage. This amounted to 3,000 per cent profit, the news of which spread through Lisbon like wild fire, resulting in a keen competition to enter this new market.

In March, 1500, under the command of Pedro Alvarez Cabrel a fleet of Portuguese ships set sail for India, of which six reached Calicut and by a show of force negotiated a treaty of peace and friendship between Portugal and Zamorin, one of the wealthiest Hindu ruler of Calicut, along the Malabar coast in India. Cabrel was thus allowed to purchase a warehouse, where he posted fifty-four Portuguese merchants, to make economical purchases and storage of spices for shipment to the home market. These merchants were called 'factors' and the establishment came to be termed the 'factories'. Later, in a quarrel the "moors" attacked the Portuguese factory and killed all the westerners found living there. Vasco da Gama returned to India with a fleet of fifteen ships in 1502, heavily armed and equipped for a battle. He blasted the Calicut port reducing it to debris. Several muslim vessels were captured

and the captives brutally handled cutting off ears, noses and hands of about eight hundred "moors". Thereafter, Portugal heavily fortified its strategic factories, spread in the Indian Ocean. In November, 1510, Affonso de Albuquerque, captured the rich port of Goa, then belonging to the Bijapur Sultanate, and during his rule did his best to strengthen the fortifications of the city and increase its commercial importance, (2) which ultimately became Portugal's Capital on Indian soil.(3)

2.3 PORTUGUESE TRADE

Portuguese trade with India was very flourishing and yielded extremely rich dividends to them. Dom Affonso d'Albuquerque, Viceroy of Portugal in the East from 1509 to 1515, wrote to his king, Dom Manoel : "I do not believe that in all Christendom there will be so rich a king as Your Highness, and therefore, do I urge you, Senhore, to strenuously support this affair of India with men and arms, and strengthen your hold in her, and securely establish your dealings and your factories; and wrest the wealth of India and business from the hands of the Moors."(4) Albuquerque died in 1515, but before that he secured Malacca, Ormuz, Diu and Socotra. His successors established Portuguese settlements at Daman, Salsette, Bassein, Chaul and Bombay, San Thome near Madras and Hugli in Bengal.

2.4 JESUIT MISSIONARIES ARRIVE

As the power and wealth of Portuguese grew, "Jesuit missionaries arrived in Goa zealously seeking to convert India's "heathen" population to Catholicism, but in 1548 Francis Xavier wrote Ignatius Loyola to report pessimistically that "all these Indian nations are very barbarous, vicious, and without inclination to virtue, no constancy of

character, no frankness." Xavier himself soon abandoned India for Japan, finding Hindu converts less interested in biblical instruction and "spiritual food" than free rice. There were enough converts, nonetheless, combined with the offspring of officially encouraged intermarriages (Luso-Indians), most of whom became Catholics, to warrant introducing the Inquisition to Goa in 1560."

2.5 PORTUGUESE CONSTRUCT A PRISON

Norman Johnston (6) writes that during the late medieval period, "The concept of imprisonment as a substitute for death or mutilation of the body was derived in part from a custom of the early church of granting asylum or sanctuary to fugitives and criminals." He adds that "The church at that time had under its aegis a large number of clergy, clerks, functionaries, monks and serfs, and, except the latter, most of these fell under the jurisdiction of the church courts. Traditionally forbidden to shed blood and drawing on the Christian theme of purification through suffering, these canon courts came to subject the wrongdoer to reclusion and even solitary cellular confinement, not as punishment alone, but as a way of providing conditions under which penitence would most likely occur."

2.6 CHURCH PRISON GOA

Johnston describes, "The church prison at Goa, Portuguese India, built in 1600s, consisted of a complex of building 200 separate cells. A corridor ran the length of the buildings with seven or eight cells on each side. On one side, cells were about 10 x 10 feet, some with a small, barred, unglazed window in the vaulted ceiling. The cells on the other side were dark, somewhat

smaller and lower. Walls 5 feet thick separated these rooms, each of which was entered through a set of double doors with space between so that one could be locked before the other was unlocked. The inner door was heavily reinforced with iron lattice work and had an opening for food and clothing to be passed into the cell."

2.7 THE PORTUGUESE RISE

The Portuguese trade flourished as they had developed very good relationship with the rich Hindu king of Vijyanagar. In 1565, with the terrible defeat of Vijyanagar, at the battle of Taliket, the Portuguese trade started languishing here, and they increased their activities at the other factories. About A.D. 1579, the Portuguese succeeded in obtaining an imperial firman and established themselves above Satgaon in Bengal. They gradually strengthened their position by erecting large and secure buildings around Hugli, which consequently gathered greater commercial importance than Satgaon. With affluence their appetite for larger gains sharpened and they extended their activities much beyond the peaceful commercial pursuits. They started exacting heavy duties from the Indian traders, even at the cost of State revenues, specially on tobacco, which had become an important item of trade at that time.

2.8 THE FALL OF PORTUGUESE

At the height of their prosperity the Portuguese started cruel practices in slave trading. They kidnapped many orphan Hindu and muslim children, and converted them to Christianity. In their brazen boldness they captured two slave girls of Mumtaz Mahal. When Shahjahan became the Emperor of India, appointing Qasim Ali Khan governor

of Bengal ordered him to punish the Portuguese. On 24 June, 1632, under Qasim Ali Khan's son, a large army besieged Hugli and captured it. Abdul Hamid Lahori, the court chronicler, recounts that a huge number of Portuguese soldiers were killed and many more taken as prisoners and sent to Agra. (8) The Marathas snatched from them Salsette and Bassein in A.D. 1739. In course of time they lost most of their settlements except for Goa, Daman and Diu, which they retained until 1961.(9)

2.9 THE RISE OF DUTCH

With a view to getting direct access to the spice markets in South-East-Asia, the Dutch undertook several voyages from 1596. (10) In 1595 the Dutch launched their first fleet to India under the command of Cornelius de Houtman, which on return gave them a profit of 80,000 florins, thus stimulating the launching of fresh trips.

On March 30, 1602, the States-General issued a charter to the Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (United East India Company, for short called VOC) granting its seventy-six directors, a monopoly of trade between the Capes of Good Hope and Magellan for a period of twenty-one years. They were also empowered to make war, conclude treaties, acquire territories and hold fortresses.(11) Within three years the VOC sent thirty-eight ships into the Indian Ocean and succeeded in defeating the Portuguese fleet off Jahore and seized the Spice Island fortress at Amboyna, in 1605. They established Batavia in 1619 after conquering Jacarta. In 1639, the Dutch blockaded Goa, and came to the islands of Sumatra, Java and the Moluccas because of the lucrative trade in pepper and spices.

2.10 DUTCH FACTORIES

Commercial interests drew them to India, where they established their factories in Gujrat, on the Coromandal Coast and in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The important factories of the Dutch were established in 1605 at Masulipatnam, 1610 at Pulicat, 1616 at Surat, 1641 at Bimlipatam, 1645 at Karikal, 1653 at Chinsura, 1658 at Cassimbazar, Baranagore, Patna Balasore, Negapatam, and in 1663 at Cochin. (12) By 1603, all the Portuguese possessions in India with the exception of Goa, Daman and Diu had passed to the Dutch.

2.11 DUTCH TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

On the Coromandal Coast, the permission given by the local rulers to exercise a limited territorial jurisdiction over the villages adjacent to the factories enabled the Dutch to supervise and direct the work of the weavers, dyers, printers, refiners of saltpetre and other artisans they employed. Besides cotton piece goods, they also handled indigo, arrack, sugar, grains, diamonds from Golconda and pearls from the Tennevelly coast.

In Gujrat, the Dutch made Surat the commercial capital of West and North India, Iran and Arabia. Fourteen factories and agencies were subordinated to the director of Surat. Dutch imports at Surat were gold, silver, lead, mercury, tin, copper etc. To the European markets they exported indigo, saltpetre, cloth, wax, borax, carpets, diamonds etc. 'The average profits of the Surat factory from imports and exports amounted to nearly Rs. 640,000 a year.'

2.12 THE FALL OF DUTCH

With their success in trade, the Dutch came into bitter competition with the English. In Europe also the relations between Holland and England had long been hostile under the Stuarts and Cromwell. But in 1623, the cruel massacre of ten Englishmen and nine Japanese at Amboyna, sparked the long smouldering hatred between the Dutch and the English. Their commercial rivalry remained acute till November, 1759, when Forde defeated and humbled the Dutch at Bedara. Finally, the Dutch were ousted (13) leaving the English better equipped and stronger in India.

2.13 THE FRENCH ENTERPRISE

In 1664, the French East India Company (Compagnie des Indes Orientales) was formed at the initiative of Jean-Baptiste Colbert, who raised a capital of fifteen million livres tournois (about £ 600,000). In A.D.1668, was established the first French factory in India by Francois Caron at Surat. In 1669, Marcara succeeded in obtaining a patent from the Sultanate of Golkunda and established another French factory at Masulipatam. In 1672, the French seized San Thome, close to Madras but lost it the very next year to a combined attack of the Sultan of Golkunda and the Dutch. In 1673, Francois Martin and Bellanger de Lespinsky, obtained a little village from the Muslim governor of Valikondapuram where the foundation of Pondicherry was laid. Francois Martin, who took charge of this settlement from A.D. 1674, developed it into an important place. In 1674, Nawab Shaista Khan of Bengal granted a site to the French on which they built the famous factory of Chandernagore in 1690-1692. They were now vigorously competing against English factors for Indian merchandise.

2.14 THE FRENCH FLOURISH

The French captured the islands of Mauritius and Bourbon in the Indian Ocean which enabled them to build and maintain its own fleet ready for quick and effective offensive, and also for the defensive needs against any Indian port war. Wolpert (14) observes, "A decade later the French reached their peak of profit in India, reaping an average of 25 per cent annually on their investment, while the much larger, more cumbersome British company's profits were down to under 10 per cent, though English imports from India were now valued at over one million pounds per year. The earlier era of fellow-European cooperation and friendship in the "hostile Orient" was rapidly being replaced by the tensions of competitive trade, national rivalry, and personal jealousy."

2.15 DOWNFALL OF FRENCH

The European rivalries between the Dutch and the French adversely influenced the position of the French in India. Gradually the French lost their hold and abandoned their factories at Jantam, Surat, and Masulipatnam by the beginning of the eighteenth century. The resources of the French company were practically exhausted by this time, and till 1720 it passed through very bad days, compelling them to sell their licenses even to others.

In June, 1720, the French company was reconstituted as the "Perpetual Company of the Indies". Between 1720 and 1742, Lenor and Dumas brought back its prosperity. In 1721, the French occupied Mauritius. In 1725, they took Mahe on the Malabar coast and in 1739 took Karikal, but during this period French rigidly stuck to purely commercial pursuits. After 1742, Dupleix began to cherish ambition of a French Empire in India. For nearly twenty

years Carnatic became the scene of long drawn intermeddled battle between the French and the English. "As a result of the three Deccan Wars, of 1746-48, 1748-54, and 1756-63, the English drove the French out of South India." (15) On 16th January, 1761, Pondicherry made an unconditional surrender, followed shortly by that of Jinji and Mahe, French settlement on Malabar coast. The French thus lost all their possessions in India, which were restored to them by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. (16)

2.16 ENGLISH TRADERS MOVE TOWARDS INDIA

In 1551, the first English chartered company organized to seek a northeast passage to India. Sebastian Cabot, its governor, and twelve councillors contributed £ 6,000. Sir Hugh Willoughby commanded the first expedition in 1553, but all his crew were frozen dead in Russia's Siberian ice. In 1583, Osborne and Staper subsidized the outfittings of a boat named Tiger and sent her east to run the Portuguese blockade. The ship was captured off Ormuz and its merchant 'factors' were taken as prisoners to Goa, one of whom was Ralph Fitch. Ralph Fitch sent home a letter in which he wrote, "Goa is the most principal city which the Portugals have in India." and described how wealthy the inhabitants of Goa were, how richly varied were their commodities, how sumptuous were their palatial homes, and how busy and bustling were the other Indian cities.

2.17 FITCH SPEAKS ABOUT INDIAN RICHES

Stanley Wolpert (17) writes that Fitch visited Agra and Fatehpur Sikri in 1585, and "he estimated the population of each of Akbar's capitals at twice the size of London, whose population then was only about a hundred

thousand. When Fitch returned to London in 1591, he had many more tales to tell and Indian jewels and other produce to show, further whetting the appetites of his merchant comrades to risk all on the passage east."

2.18 THE IMAGE OF INDIA

India and the East in general, had developed a strong image for the English and the Europeans, with which every individual, particularly the middle, affluent and higher classes of society were concerned both when active and healthy at the dinner table or lying crumpled and sick in bed. Brian Gardner (18) graphically described, "The east was important because from there came the supply of pepper and spices; such as cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, and also ginger, were of value and great importance as partial preservatives of food, and additives to a European population accustomed to fresh meat for only a few months in the year. Meat eaten at that time would have been largely unacceptable to modern palates, but without spices much of it would have been virtually inedible. Spices had a considerable place in life; men were prepared to die in search of them, as many did; no gift was more acceptable, and to be well supplied was a mark of status; wealth could be measured in spices. They were also the basis of many medicines. But the east was also widely believed to contain fabulous wealth and riches apart from spices, and it was this also which tempted the more adventurous and ambitious merchants in Lisbon, Amsterdam, Antwerp and London."

2.19 A COMPANY TO TRADE IN SPICES

Late in December, 1599, eighty ambitious businessmen met in the city of London to found a company to trade in spices, silks, gems, camphor and indigo. (19) It was an association of businessmen accurately described as 'The Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies', which had of necessity to be chartered by the Crown, which gave it a monopoly of the Eastern trade. The State took no other part in its formation. It owed its existence to the 'Ironmongers, clothiers, and other substantial people of that kind', headed by the Lord Mayor, who between them subscribed £ 30,000 and began to equip fleets. (20)

2.20 COMPANY'S CONSTITUTION

The company was incorporated in England on 31st December, 1600, by a Charter of Queen Elizabeth which settled its constitution, powers and privileges. The Company was to enjoy an exclusive trading right into and from the countries lying beyond the Cape of Good Hope, eastwards to the straits of Magellan. Unauthorised British traders were liable to forfeiture of their merchandise and ships, to imprisonment during the Crown's pleasure and to such other punishment as might appear to the Crown to be "meet and convenient." The Charter authorised the Company, in its General Court, to make, ordain and constitute laws, orders and constitutions for the good government of itself, of its servants, and for the better advancement and continuance of its trade and traffic. (21)

Jain (22) Comments, "The legislative power thus conferred on the Company was very limited and restricted

in its scope and character.... Further, while granting the legislative power, the Charter made no reference to any factories or territories, the reason probably was that at this early period no territorial acquisitions by the Company were contemplated. To start with, the Company was envisaged purely as a mercantile or commercial enterprise and not as an instrument of political power acquiring foreign territories. This explains the absence of any authority in the Company to legislate for the governance of any factory."

2.21 FIRST VISIT TO INDIA

The third expedition launched by the merchants of London left in March, 1607, which actually was the first visit to India made by the English East India Company. (23) Captain William Hawkins dropped anchor off Surat at the mouth of River Tapti on August 24, 1608, which was the Mughal Empire's principal port. Wolpert (24) writes, "when ambassador Hawkins arrived, armed with 25,000 pieces of gold and a letter from James I to the Mughal Emperor Jehangir, Surat was a bustling city. This western gateway to India was packed with Muslim pilgrims waiting for the annual ship to Mecca; its indigo and cloth warehouses bulged with merchandise ready for export....its bazars were jammed with merchants from most of Asia, peddling everything from peacock's to white elephants, from coarse grain to opium, from palm leaves to gold. Neither Hawkins nor his ship were eagerly awaited by the governor or merchants of this busy seventeenth-century port, and Hawkins would soon learn to his despair that India had no more need to trade with England at the dawn of that century than she had interest in the produce of any Western power. Nothing England made at this time was

really desired by Indian merchants or officials except for specie, the commodity that prevailing mercantile economic philosophy taught Englishmen to covet most." Captain Hawkins reached the court of Jahangir in 1609, but the hostile activities of the Portuguese, and the opposition of the Surat merchants, led him to refuse the English Captain's petition to settle at Surat. Hawkins left Agra in 1611. (25)

2.22 COMPANY PROFITS 234 %

§ In England, events were taking a different turn. Brian Gardner (26) reports that profits from the third expedition to India were 234 per cent, and "the East India Company and its adventurous voyage was the talk of the city of London..... The East India Company had quietly established for itself an important position in English commerce. Consequently, in 1609, the Company ended the policy of financing each voyage separately and from thereon the shareholders' funds were used for the general operation. The Company took on a permanent joint stock basis.

2.23 FORCEFUL OCCUPATION OF SURAT

Three English ships, under the command of Sir Henry Middleton reached Surat and drew a strategy to take reprisals against the Surat merchants who had opposed Hawkins' petition in the Mughal Court. They obstructed the Red Sea trade of the Surat merchants and compelled them in 1612 to admit two English ships to Surat port under Captain Best. Best established himself so well that he succeeded in defeating the Portuguese forces in Surat. Wolpert (27) records, "Best's victory at sea shifted the balance of Anglo-Portuguese power in the Indian Ocean..... Mighty as the Mughal army was, Jahangir had no fleet, and the Mughal's had come to depend on Portuguese frigates for the costly protection of their annual pilgrim ship to

Mecca; they now looked instead toward the more seaworthy, less bigoted British for this religiously vital service."

2.24 PORTUGUESE ARREST ENGLISH PARTY

Earlier, William Foster writes, in 1583 Newburry and his companions, who had sailed and planned to reach India by land, were obliged to change their plan due to the non-availability of an interpreter, "Forced, therefore, to risk interference on the part of Portuguese, the little party embarked for Ormus.....our travellers were arrested and sent to Goa. At the latter place they were committed to prison, where they remained for about a month.....Early in April 1584, under pretext of an excursion, they slipped over the border into the territory of the King of Bijapur." (28)

2.25 FITCH RECOUNTS THEIR ARREST

Ralph Fitch (29) recounts, "In the yeere of our Lord 1583, I Ralph Fitch of London, marchant, being desirous to see the countreye of the East India.....set forth....Goa standeth in the countreye of Hidalcan (Adil Khan i.e. the king of Bijapur)..... At our coming we were cast into the prison, and examined before the Justice and demanded for letters, and were charged to be spies, but they could prove nothing by us. We continued in orlison untill the two and twentie of December; and then we were set at libertie, putting in sureties for two thousand duckats not to depart the towne."

2.26 PERMISSION TO ERECT FACTORIES

It took Roe some two years and nine months of haggling, he managed to win permission in 1619 for the

English East India Company to build a factory at Surat, but he cautioned the Company against seeking territorial acquisition in India, advising his countrymen to rest content with profits derived from "quiet trade."

Early in 1613, Jahangir issued a firman permitting the English to establish a factory permanently at Surat.(30) The English Company, quickly sent an accredited ambassador of the King of England, James I, to the Mughal Court. Sir Thomas Roe arrived towards the end of 1615 and remained till February 1619. He succeeded in securing several privileges for the Company, particularly the permission to erect factories in certain places within the Mughal Empire.

2.27 A TREATY WITH MUGHAL EMPEROR

In 1618, with the efforts of Sir Thomas Roe, Foster writes, "the English Company entered into a treaty with the Mughal Emperor.....It provided :

- (i) That the disputes amongst Company's servants will be regulated by their own tribunals.
- (ii) That the English people will enjoy their own religion and laws in the administration of the Company.
- (iii) That the local native authorities will settle such disputed cases in which Englishmen and Hindus or Muslims were the parties
- (iv) That the Mughal Governor or Kazi of the relevant place will protect the English people from all sorts of oppression and injury."

2.28 SURAT BECOMES PREMIER BASE

The first factory in Surat was established as subordinate to Bantam. Surat became independent on the temporary abolition of Bantam in 1623.(31) Surat became the premier base of the British who thereafter, gained control over the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf, destroying Portuguese power in 1622 and seizing Ormuz.

2.29 AUTHORISED TO PUNISH BRITISH SERVANTS

With the trading settlements established by the Company in India, need was felt of powers for maintaining discipline amongst the Company's servants on land. To meet the situation, James I granted to the Company on February 4, 1623, the power of issuing commissions to any of its Presidents and other Chief Officers in its settlements authorising them to punish offences committed on land by the Company's British servants, and to inflict suitable punishments on them, including death, subject to the proviso that a capital sentence should be inflicted "in case of mutiny, murder or other felony" after trial by jury.(32)

2.30 FACTORIES AT MADRAS & BENGAL

Agencies at other places in India were opened from time to time and were subordinated either to Surat or Bantam. The factory at St. George, which eventually became the seat of Madras Presidency, was established in 1639 as a subordinate to Bantam. The earliest factories in Bay of Bengal were established at Hariharpur and Balasore in 1633 under Fort St. George, but these were abandoned in 1642. The first factory in Bengal proper was established at Hooghly in 1651. In 1657, under a fresh charter granted by Cromwell, the eastern establish-

ments of the Company were reorganised under one President and Council at Surat with four branches viz. the Coromanda Coast (Fort St. George), Bengal, Persia and Bantam, each under an Agent and Council. (31)

2.31 LEASE OF MADRAS & TRANSFER OF BOMBAY :

"In A.D. 1639 Francis Day obtained the lease of Madras from the ruler of Chandragiri, representative of the ruined Vijajenagar Empire, and built there a fortified factory which came to be known as Fort St. George.", and "In 1668 Bombay was transferred to the East India Company by Charles II, who had got it from the Portuguese as a part of the dowry of his wife Catherina of Braganza, at an annual rent of £ 10. Bombay gradually grew more and more prosperous,". Majumdar (33) adds that in the second half of the seventeenth century the Company's policy changed, "A peaceful trading body was transformed into a power eager to establish its own position by territorial acquisitions.....Gerald Aungier.....Governor of Bombay since 1669 wrote to the Court of Directors that "the times now require you to manage your general commerce with the sword in your hands." In the course of a few years the Directors approved of this change in the Company's policy and wrote to the Chief at Madras in December, 1687, 'to establish such a politie of civil and military power, and create and secure such a large revenue to secure both.....may be the foundation of a large, well grounded, secure English dominion in India for all time to come.'".

In 1685-86, Bombay was erected into the chief seat of the British power in the East Indie. In 1686, the new Charter empowered the Company to erect courts of judicature to exercise martial law. In 1687 Bombay was raised to the dignity of a Regency. In 1715, Bombay was

erected and independent Presidency.(34)

"the Company acquired huge chunks of land in India under different terms and conditions. These areas were scattered over parts of Bombay, Madras and Bengal and were administered by a President and Council composed of civil servants of the Company in each area known as Presidency towns. Fort William, Calcutta, acquired a special status amongst the three Presidencies because it was the Headquarters of the largest territory consisting of not only Bengal, Bihar, Orissa but also of all other territories conquered by the Company. It was in a position to eventually become the capital of British India after Clive's victory at Plassey in 1757.' (35)

Under the Regulating Act of 1773 the Presidency of Fort William at Calcutta "was erected into the seat of the chief power in India; and the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay were rendered subordinate to it."(36)

We will, therefore, turn our attention to the developments in Bengal.

R E F E R E N C E S

CHAPTER - 2

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