

Chapter VI

THE EVE OF SEVERANCE OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GAEKWADS AND THE PESHWAS

Anandrao Gaekwad :

Govindrao Gaekwad left a large family¹ of four legitimate and seven illegitimate sons, besides daughters. Anandrao was the eldest of all and he was acknowledged as his successor by all this principal officers of the State. It was known to all that he was a man of weak intellect and addicted to drugs. Major Walker has described him as a man of "rroubst person and body that has no visible sings of feableness, but an unmeaning countenance and heavy eyes betray at once perhaps a natural inbecility and ruinous effects of intoxicating durgs which operate to depress his mind and made him encapable for business".² As Anandrao was of a feable mind, he was treated as a nominal head in the State and shrewd politicians tried to make capital for their own ends. During the regime of Anandrao the relations of the Gaekwad and the Peshwa took a peculiar turn and were terminated. The economic and social conditions of both were primarily responsible for this secessions of their relations.

1 Grant Duff : Vol.III, p.214.

2 Gense & Banaji, Vol.III, p.160.

Economical Reasons :

Govindrao Gaekwad had promised large Nazar to the Peshwa in 1768 and from that date huge sums of money were given to the Peshwa by Fatehsingrao, Manajirao and Govindrao. They had also paid by way of tribute and for military services.

In 1793 Govindrao had promised large Nazar to the Peshwa and Nana Fadnis. The Ministers at Poona had extorted so much money from Govindrao that the Baroda treasury was empty at the time of his death. Almost all the districts were mortgaged to the creditors and the few remaining ones were farmed to unscrupulous men³ whose only purpose was to extort money.

In spite of all the attempts of the Baroda rulers Govindrao could not clear the debts. Nana Fadnis often demanded the money and he even threatened the ruler of Baroda for non-payment of arrear. A memorandum was served to Govindrao Gaekwad in 1797 whereby Govindrao was to pay a sum of more than forty lakhs⁴ of rupees and he was to pay it within two years of the memorandum.

There was a heavy drain on the economic resources of the Baroda State. During the first Maratha War (1775-1782) the armies of the Peshwa Raghunathrao, army of the Poona

3 Elliot. The Rulers of Baroda, Chapter XI, p.63.

4 Aitchison : Treaties, Sanads and Engagements, Vol.VI, Baroda, Appendix VII.

Government, the British, the army of Govindrao and of Fatehsingrao by their movements had ruined the prosperity of the people of Gujarat, which gave a great blow to the Baroda treasury.

Govindrao had to face the revolts of his son Kanhojirao and his cousin Malharrao. Moreover he was engaged in a fierce struggle against Aba Shelukar, the Peshwa's Officer in Gujarat. All these struggles affected much the prosperity of the Baroda State.

In order to subdue his rivals Govindrao had engaged Arab troops. The Arab troops were for the first time employed by Fatehsingrao when he was contesting against his brother Govindrao. The number of Arab troops were augmented by Govindrao when he failed to get any help from the Peshwa against Malharrao of Kadi and his own son Kanhojirao. He had nearly doubled the Arab force when he had quarrel with Aba Shelukar, the Peshwa's officer in Gujarat. At the time of the death of Govindrao nearly seven thousand Arabs⁵ were in the services of the Baroda State and they cost the state rupees 2,99,642 monthly.

With all these financial expenses the ruler of Baroda was required to pay to Poona Government and the Peshwa in the later years of Govindrao never thought of helping him.

5 Elliot : The Rulers of Baroda, Chapter XI, p.64.

On the contrary assignments were given to Sindia for ten lakhs of rupees on the revenues of Ahmedabad. The Baroda ruler was permanently harrassed and during the days of Anandrao, the Gaekwad tried to evade the demands of the Peshwa and there was the beginning of the cession of their royalty.

Military Causes :

The ruler of Baroda was bound to serve the Peshwa in Poona with 3000 horse in place and 4000 in war. The agreement was in operation even upto 1798 and Govindrao was reminded of this in the memorandum of 1797. For the internal peace the Baroda Government had to engage its own army. The tributary states paid their dues only under compulsion. The Poona Government was really bound to help the Baroda Government in all internal disturbances and external agressions. But no help was given to Fatehsingrao against Govindrao. Manajirao had to fight single handed against Mahamed Teg Beg Khan. Govindrao had increased the number of Arbs against internal risings and external invasions. Thus the expenses for the maintenance of an army was high. The army of Govindrao was mostly composed of mercenary Arab troops.

The Arab troops were trusted by the Kings and the public. They were sometimes lawless and by their hard hearted methods they extorted money from the people. Against

these Arab troops there was little protection for the public.

At the time of Govindrao's death, the Arabs held the forts of Baroda, Borsad, Sankheda and other strong holds. These Arabs being in key position were capable of opposing any outsider who might threaten their privileges. The Arabs were always ready to serve any party or ruler who could pay them best. They listened only to their pay masters and even the rulers of ministers were at their mercy. During the time of Anandrao these Arab Soldiers often changed their sides when the members of the royal family sought the help of these Arab soldiers. In order to curtail the influence of the Arab troops, the administrators of Baroda looked to the British company, as no help was expected from poona.

The payments of the Arab troops generally was in arrears. It was a well known fact that the Arabs would resort to any base means for getting the arrears of payment. The Baroda Treasury being empty, the payment of arrears was a difficult problem for the Baroda Government in 1801. This was the measure consideration of Raoji Appaji, and he approached to the English for military and pecuniary aid.

External Interference :

In addition to all these trouble the Baroda Government was subject to external interferences. Maratha chiefs like

Jaswantrao Holkar, Daulatrao Sindia had their claims on Baroda. There was the share of the Peshwa in Central Gujarat and the Peshwa Officers often disturbed the Baroda Government. There were quarrels on the frontiers and the Pindharies frequently raided and looted the territories of Baroda.

The situation at Poona was not also satisfactory. Peshwa Bajirao had attained his position by the help of Daulatrao Sindia. Under this position of the Peshwa Govindrao was not helped by the Peshwa against his rivals. Anandrao and his ministers did not expect any help from the Peshwa, and therefore they turned to English for help.

The British interference :

By the last quarter of the 18th century the Britishers had been powerful on the western coast. They had captured Broach and had been promised large territories by Raghunathrao. Fatehsingrao and Govindrao also approached for the help to the British. Govindrao was ready to cede the territories of Surat and Chorasī Paragana for British help against Aba Shalukar. The Bombay Government had also annexed Surat after the death of the Nawab. Thus the British territories extended upto the neighbourhood of Baroda.

Anandrao and his ministers were in need of help and they turned to English because first the Peshwa himself had become too weak and also because the growth of the English

power on the west coast promised the Gaekwad a release from the control of the Peshwa.

The Weakness of the Gaekwad family :

The incessant quarrels of the succession of Damajirao had weakened the Gaekwad family. The family feud between Sayajirao, Fatehsingrao and Manajirao on one side and Govindrao on the other had lasted for about 25 years. This family feud had divided the Gaekwad family.

During his life time Govindrao had to suppress the rebellion of his son Kanhoji who was a prisoner when Govindrao died. He was his eldest illegitimate son. Anandrao the eldest legitimate son, was known to be a person of weak mind. Malharrao of Kadi, the nearest cousin of Govindrao had also been defeated and humbled by Govindrao. By the various agreements and Khanderao and Malharrao were to serve the ruler of Baroda but they did not fulfill the terms. Malharrao was ready to join the party against the ruler of Baroda and he was ready to support the discontented members of the Gaekwad family.

Fatehsingrao, the second legitimate son of Govindrao was at Daury near Poona.⁶ He was brought probably under custody to Poona by Peshwa Bajirao and was kept under a close watch. Ganpatrao and another member of the Gaekwad family

6 Gense & Banaji : A letter from Resident William Palmar to Governor general on 3rd Oct. 1800.

was in possession of the fort of Sankheda and he also was trying to rise against the ruler of Baroda.

Thus the members of the Gaekwad family were living at different places and were conspiring to capture power at Baroda. There was no unity in their purpose and their policy was not consistent. Under such circumstances Raoji Appaji, as a minister of Anandrao turned to the English power for help.

Breaking of the tradition :

Anandrao, the eldest legitimate son of Govindrao was declared as a ruler of Baroda after Govindrao. According to the tradition the ruler of Baroda had to get his claims recognised by the Peshwa. At this time this formality was not observed. Anandrao Gaekwad did not pay either the succession fees or subsequently the usual annual tributes and the expenses for the military services. Consequently the attention of Peshwa Bajirao was drawn towards Baroda.

Peshwa Bajirao and the question of succession :

Fresh manœuvres were made in Poona to determine the succession of Baroda Gadi as soon as it was learnt that Govindrao was dead. It was presumed by the English that Soubadary will fall under the influence of Sindia.⁷

7 Ibid.

Daulatrao Sindia showed keen interest in the succession and he wanted that Fatehsingrao, Govindrao's son of 11 years to be on the Gadi. Sindia expected by this arrangement that administrative control might be seized directly by some of his men and indirectly by him.

Peshwa Bajirao was not in favour of this arrangement of Sindia and he did not like the introduction of Sindia's power at Baroda. Still however he was in favour of Fatehsingrao as Anandrao was known of a weak mind. But before Bajirao could take any decisive measure, Kanhojirao (the first illegitimate son of Govindrao) had assumed the ministerial powers.⁸ It seemed that Kanhoji would maintain his position by the help of Roubha Raoji Appaji and other ministers of the State. This arrangement was likely to exclude Sindia's interference in Baroda Government. Moreover Sindia was not in a position to spare troops to affect his views by force due to his quarrels with Holkar. Peshwa Bajirao also could not take any definite part in the succession dispute at Baroda. The Peshwa merely secured Fatehsingrao and he was brought to Poona. He did not make any declaration in the favour of this young prince Fatehsingrao.

Ministerial factions at Baroda :

The opening years of Anandrao's reign witnessed a fierce faction fight, not for the Gadi but for the ministerial

8 Ibid, letter No.374, Vol.III.

power and the administrative control in the Gaekwads dominions.¹⁰ Many parties came into being to control the administration. Kanhoji, Anandrao's illegitimate brother led one. While Rouba or Raoji Appaji, Govindrao's minister led another. Kanhoji who was in prison effected his release by professing his attachment to his brother Anandrao. He never claimed the Gadi for himself, but he wanted to become the Mutalik.¹¹ He obtained the consent of Anandrao and assumed ministerial functions. At this time Raoji Appaji was at Ahmedabad and his brother Babaji was looking after the State affairs. Kanhoji tried to deprive Raoji and Babaji of their positions and he wanted to be all powerful in the State.

On the other side Raoji Appaji wanted to reduce the overbearing power of Kanhoji. He secured the Arab mercenaries in his favour by paying the arrears of their pay. The Arabs surrounded Kanhoji's house on January 20th 1801, seized him and confined him to the fort of Ranpur.¹²

The position of Raoji Appaji :

Raoji Appaji was successful against Kanhoji by the help of the turbulent Arabs but he always required their help as the members of the Gaekwad family rose against him. All brothers of Kanhoji including Anandrao were against the

10 Gense and Banaji : The Gaekwads of Baroda, Vol.IV, Introduction. p.vii.

11 Ibid, pp.14-15.

12 Ibid, pp.6-8.

confinement of Kanhoji by Raoji Appaji. Most of the influential family members made their secret escapes from the clutches of the ministers and they tried to secure help for the restoration of Kanhoji. Raoji supported by his brother Babaji and large body of Arab mercenaries had to face difficulties against all the members of the Gaekwad family.

Gajrabai, daughter of Fatehsingrao (1768 to 1789) tried to secure the British help and she promised to cede the Chauth of Surat, the Paragana of Chikhli and Chorasi¹³ to British and she requested for armed assistance for placing Kanhoji in power. Raoji Appaji on his part was required to seek the help of the British and he offered less tempting terms to the English. Raoji Appaji had many influential followers and his party was in power to undermine the other party. So for sometime the Bombay Government put off joining either party and decided to wait, the turn of events and to examine the strength of both the parties.

The Bombay Government decides to help Raoji Appaji :

Kanhoji secured his release by the help of Arab troops and with the help of Gujrabai secured the help of Malharrao, the Jagirdar of Kadi. Murarrao, an another

¹³ Ibid, p.15.

member of the Gaekwad family secured the help of Sidi Ambar of Zanzira. Kanhoji went to Poona for help and he tried many times but no help was given to him by the Peshwa.¹⁴ These members of the Gaekwad family expected to receive British assistance but the English authorities demanded proper written assurance from Anandrao in complying to the terms of settlement between the English Company and the Baroda Government. But Gajrabai and her party found it difficult to approach Anandrao as there was strict vigilance and control of the opposite party on Anandrao. Moreover Raoji's party was successful against the Sidi.

Under these circumstances the Bombay Government decided to help Raoji Appaji, but at the same time Gajrabai was kept in good humour so that she might not go else where in quest of assistance specially to Sindia.

The Bombay Government found this opportunity of adding to their territories. They asked for directions from the Governor General before taking final action but the central government was silent on the point. The silence of Governor General was considered as an approval of the Governor's scheme. The resident at Poona advised the Governor on the following points regarding the proposals of Raoba.

14 Y.V.Khare : Itihasik lekh sangraha, 1926, V.XIII, p.6939.

1. The company has acquired a right to interpose for the for the preservation of the possession and authority of the lawful succession of Fatehsingrao (1768-89) in the Gaekwad Government by their guarantee in the treaty of Salbai.
2. The cessions as the company was to get, were promised by Govindrao Gaekwad before his death. Though was no agreement the English had a right to accept the territories offered to them by the Baroda Government.
3. The Peshwa's refusal to sanction any transfer of the Gaekwad's property or possession should not be accepted as valid one as the Peshwa did not possess a paramount authority over the Gaekwad State.

With these interpretations the Resident had not hesitations in giving their considered opinion that the Governor should avail himself of Raoba's offers with as little delay as the nature¹⁵ of the case would admit.

The Resident at Poona, Barry Close could think of no reason to apprehend any opposition from the Peshwa. He did not consider that the Governor would meet with any material hinderance from the Poona court.¹⁶ He was of opinion that, the Peshwa had no paramount authority over

15 Gense & Banaji : The Gaikwads of Baroda, Vol.IV, pp.82-83.

16 Poona Affairs, Vol.VI, letter dated 10th Jan.1802.

the Baroda State as by the treaty of Salbai all his authority was invalidated. Under 8th clause of the treaty the company had guaranteed the Gaekwad's possession. But above all they openly declared that the effects of the Peshwas unjust resentment were not to be brought into competition with the benefit which the Company would derive from the acquisition.¹⁷ The Resident justified the conduct of the company on the ground that the Gaekwad was not under the suzerainty of the Peshwa nor was his vessel. With this advice the Bombay Government decided to intervene in the politics of Baroda and they lent their support to the party of Raoji Appaji which was in power at Baroda.

Malharrao as the guardian of the Gaekwad family :

Malharrao, Jagirdhar of Kadi came forward as the guardian of the Gaekwad family in 1801. He was counting upon his own strength so he did not give any assurances of territorial cession to the company. He wanted to release Kanhoji and to make him the Mutalik of Anandrao.

With the entry of Malharrao, the anxieties of Raoji increased. Raoji considered himself unable to face Malharrao due to his insecure position at Baroda. He therefore had to seek an immediate armed assistance from the Bombay Government.¹⁸ The Baroda Government immediately sent two

¹⁷ Gense & Banaji, Vol.IV, p.82.

¹⁸ H.S.B.S.R., Vol.IV : Anandrao Unit issued on 2-1-1802, pp.485-6.

Sanads of cession of Surat Chauth and Paragana of Chorasi, which were demanded by the Bombay Government as preliminaries of any future negotiations. The Bombay Government after receiving the deeds sent Major Walkar to help Raoji against Malharrao of Kadi.

Major Walkar came to Baroda on January 29, 1802. Major Walker visited Anandrao and then decided to help Raoji Appaji against Malharrao of Kadi and Kanhojirao. In the beginning Malharrao was offered good terms by the Bombay Government. Malharrao inspite of the advice he received, relied upon his men and did not agree and was defeated at Kadi on April 30, 1802. All the forts of Malharrao were reduced and they were given over to Baroda Government. Nadiad Mahal was assigned to him for the maintenance of himself and his family. The revenue of this Mahal was estimated about rupees one lakh and twenty five thousand. Malharrao signed this agreement on June 2, 1802.

After the defeat of Malharrao the Baroda Government signed the treaty with the company. This treaty changee the position of the Baroda Government and it affected its relation with the Poona Durbar. (See Appendix IX, p.258)
Peshwa Bajirao's grievances against the Baroda State :

Raoji Appaji's action of seeking the help of the English was a cause of displeasure and the anger of the

Peshwa. Bajirao was not slow to realise that the presence of the English troops at Baroda would sooner or later put an end of his own claims, over that State. This feeling of apprehension was increased when the Peshwa learnt that the Gaekwad ruler had ceded to the company the Chauth of Surat and the Paragana of Chorasi. He protested against the Companies policy of territorial expansion.

According to the treaty of Salbai he could have insisted on the non-dismemberment of the Gaekwad dominions. But without minding this the Peshwa claimed other things of the treaty of Salbai. He claimed that by virtue of the treaty of Salbai the Gaekwad was dependent on the Poona Durbar and the Gaekwad were not competent to conclude an alliance with a foreign power.

With this point in view [^]he asked that the British Government should restore to the Gaekwad all the territories which were ceded to them by the Gaekwad.

Moreover in order to make the Gaekwad and the ministers feel that displeasure of the Peshwa he took the following steps :

1. Peshwa Bajirao asked for excessive Nazarana¹⁹ for Anandrao's succession.
2. The Peshwa took steps for the virtual imprisonment of Fatehsingrao Gaekwad, second son of Govindrao a young boy of eleven years.

19 Gense & Banaji : The Gaikwads of Baroda, Vol.IV,p.35.

3. Bajirao also threatened to put an end to the Gaekwad lease of the Peshwa's share in the Ahmedabad revenue.
4. With all these things he demanded the formidable arrears of money which the Baroda Government owed to the Poona Durbar.
5. Bajirao Peshwa claimed that the Poona Government had a share in the revenue of the Paraganas of Surat, Surat (the city), Chorasi and Chikhli. These provinces were ceded by the Baroda Government to the British.

The Conforming Claims of the Peshwa and the Baroda Government :

1. The question of Nazar on the occasion of a succession to the Gadi was a highly debated one. The amount of Nazar was never fixed as it varied with persons and times. This question became of prime importance as the sons of Damajirao were impatient to be the ruler. They used to offer big sums by way of Nazar to the Peshwa for the recognition of their rights. Govindrao promised a huge sum of Rs.56,38,000/- to Nana Fadnis in 1793, but the amount was not fully paid. Following such precedents Bajirao expected a large sum for recognising Anandrao as the rightful claimant to the throne of Baroda.

For deciding this question of the amount of Nazar, Peshwa Bajirao always looked for precedent to the regimes of Peshwa Madhavrao (1767-1772) and Nana Fadnis. In order

to extort more money they were putting the rival claimants against one another. This policy of the Peshwa compelled each rival claimant to promise more and more for the succession.

The Peshwa considered this privilege as a right to regulate the succession to the Gadi. By the exercise of this privilege the Peshwa deemed that the Gaekwad ruler was dependent on the Peshwa sovereign.

Raoji Appaji the minister of Anandrao did not consider~~d~~ this privilege as affecting the independence of the Gaekwad family and he sought the mediation of the English Company.²⁰ The English Company was of the opinion that the right of granting the Sanad was superseded by the treaty of Salabai - 1782. By this treaty the English Company had pledged to secure the legal hereditary succession to the Baroda Gadi independently of the will of the Peshwa. So the claim of the Peshwa was never attended to.

2. Peshwa Bajirao wanted to put Fatehsingrao against Anandrao²¹ or perhaps he might be thinking of appointing him as a Mutalik of Anandrao. But Fatehsingrao was only a young prince of eleven years. The young prince was brought to Poona and he was closely watched. The political atmosphere at Poona was changing and Peshwa Bajirao was not

20 Gense & Banaji : The Gaikwads of Baroda, Vol.IV, p.35.

21 Ibid. p.117, letter of Jan.5, 1802.

in a position to maintain his position with a result that Bajirao left Poona and Fatehsing Gaekwad was captured by Holkar. For a long time Fatehsingrao was in the camp of Yashwantrao Holkar and Peshwa Bajirao lost all his control over him.

3. The Peshwa threatened to put an end to the Gaekwad's lease of the Peshwa's share in the Ahmedabad revenue. The lease was to expire in 1804. Bajirao was highly indebted to Daulatrao Sindia, so the Peshwa gave an assignment of ten lakhs of rupees to Daulatrao on the revenues of Gujarat. This money was given by the Gaekwad but it was not received by Sindia.

The Peshwa threatened to discontinue it. This was directed against the Baroda administration and Peshwa wanted to have some of his men as officers in Ahmedabad. The gross revenue of the districts of the Peshwa in Gujarat was Rs.16,15,000²² but due to the inability of the Peshwa's officers the revenue from Gujarat districts hardly was of 4 lakhs. So Peshwa had farmed it for five lakhs, in 1800. The Gaekwad Government in 1804 in order to avoid the inconvenience caused by the Peshwa's Officers had agreed to pay five lakhs every year. Moreover the Baroda Government collected the revenue at little additional expenses so this farm was desired by the Baroda Government. But before

22 Ibid, Vol.V, pp. 429-31.

the expiry of the lease the Peshwa had signed the treaty of Bassain with the English.

By this treaty the Peshwa was compelled to accept the British Company as the arbiter for all its disputes. The questions of arrears owed by the Baroda Government and the cession of the districts by the Gaekwad to the British were now to be settled through the British arbitration.

Bajirao Peshwa and the English East India Company :

Bajirao Peshwa was a virtual head of the Maratha confederacy. But he was solely dependent on Daulatrao Sindia for the rise and continuation of his position. There was keen rivalry between Daulatrao Sindia and Yashwantrao Holkar of Indore. So there were two parties among Marathas, one headed by Daulatrao Sindia and his father-in-law Sarjerao Ghatge and other by Yashwantrao Holkar.

In 1801 Bajirao had rashly provoked Yashwantrao Holkar by having his brother trampled to death beneath an elephant. In such a revenge Holkar soon invaded the Peshwa's territories. Sindia and Holkar waged war against each other. Sindia was helped by the Peshwa but both were defeated and Holkar captured Poona. The Peshwa left Poona²³ and he opened negotiations with the British for help from Mahad on October 25, 1802.

23 Grant Duff. Vol.II, p.208.

Bajirao requested the British Company for the alliwance and protection. He was prepared to cede the territories yielding a revenue of Rs.25 lakhs annually. He was prepared to give a part of the territories of Gujarat or any part of Karnatic.²⁴ The British had a desire to conclude with Bajirao a defensive alliance and to obtain the cession of his territories in Gujarat.²⁵ Bajirao reached Bassein on December 17, 1802 and he placed himself in the hands of the English. Here he signed a treaty on December 31st, 1802 with the British. By this treaty he bartered Maratha independence and basely surrendered the liberties of the Maratha confederacy.²⁶

Treaty of Bassein : Its impact on Peshwa
and on Peshwa Gaekwad relations :

This plan was put in execution by Lord Wellesly, the Governor General of India, in 1798. It²⁷ was mostly concerning the native states of India. By this plan the company's subsidiary force was placed at the heart of Maratha Confederacy. Henry Dundas, the president of the Board of Control observed Wellesly's policy as a comprehensive scheme²⁸ for the partition of the Maratha territory.

24 F.W.Forrester : Secret and foreign department. The Bombay Papers, pp.63-64.

25 P.Gupta : Bajirao II and the East India Company, p.44.

26 S.P.D., Vol.41, Introduction, p.1.

27 C.H.Phillips : The East India Company, 1784-1834. Oxford University Press, p.138.

28. Ibid, p.140.

By this treaty the Peshwa ceded his rights over the city of Surat and agreed to receive a subsidiary force. The Peshwa ceded the districts worth Rs.26 lakhs for the expenses of the subsidiary force.

The Peshwa was to abstain from warfare with the Gaekwad and to recognise the British Company as an arbiter in all his disputes²⁹ with the Gaekwad. The following two articles of the treaty deal with the Baroda State.

Article No.44, of the Treaty of Bassein :

Whereas a treaty of friendship and alliance has been concluded between the Honourable Company and Raja Anandrao Gaekwad Bahadur and whereas the said treaty was mediated and executed without any intension that it should infringe any of the just rights or claims of His Highness Rao Pandit Pradhan Bahadur affecting the sircars of the said Raja, His Highness adverting thereto and also to the intimate alliance now established between the contracting parties, doth thereby formerly acknowledge the existance of the said treaty between the Honourable Company and raja Anandrao Gaekwad Bahadur and in as much as, by reason of certain unfinished transactions, the conclusion of which has been suspended from time to time, various demands and papers of accounts are found to subssist between the

29 Aitchison, Vol.VIII, pp. 52-59.

government of His Highness Rao Pandit Pradhan Bahadur and Sirkars of the Raja aforementioned is said His Highness, placing full reliance on the impartiality, truth and justice of the British Government doth hereby agree that the said Government shall examine into and finally adjust the said demands and papers and accounts and His Highness further stipulates and binds himself, his heirs and successors to abide by such adjustments as the British Government shall accordingly determine.

Article No.17 :

As by the present treaty the Union and friendship of the two States is so firmly cemented that they may be considered as one and the same. His Highness Rao Pandit Pradhan Bahadur engages neither to commence nor to pursue in future, any negotiations with any other power whatever without giving previous notice and entering into mutual consentation with the Honourable East India Company's Government and the Honourable Company's Government; on their part hereby declare that they have no manner of concern with any of His Highness children, relations subjects or servants with respect to whom His Highness is absolute.

The effects of this treaty were of a far reaching character. This treaty put an end the Peshwa's Suzerein authority over the Gaekwads. The Baroda rulers were made

independent of any subsequent interference of the Peshwa. The Peshwa recognised the convention of Cambay and the treaty of Baroda. By this treaty the British establishment was fixed at Baroda and the Peshwas' ascendancy at Baroda came to an end in theory.

The treaty entirely changed the footing of the British in Western India and the British interest became supreme in the Maratha Empire. This treaty later on led to the process of the breaking up of the Maratha Confederacy.

The Peshwa by this treaty, not only officially recognised the treaties of the British with the Gaekwads but he also agreed to abide by the decisions of the British in any of the disputes with the Gaekwad. The Peshwa had to accept the British as the sole mediator and arbitrator in all his disputes with his subordinates. The article 177 of the treaty of Bassein made clear that the Peshwa could establish no relations with any native or foreign courts without the knowledge of the British. This treaty brought security to Bajirao but did not restore him to the dignity and the authority of his former position as the head of the Maratha confederacy.

This treaty had a great influence on a member of the Gaekwad family, Fatehsingrao, younger brother of Anandrao. In 1802 he was closely watched by Peshwa Bajirao but when he left Poona due to the Struggle of Holkar and Sindia,

Fateshingrao was without any protection. He was captured by one of Holkar's officers and a large sum was demanded for his ransom. Holkar and his party threatened to make Fatehsingrao as the head of the army. Holkar sent Fatehsing with an escort of Pathans in Gujarat and Fatehsing came to Baroda. But the Pathans demanded half lakhs of rupees and they were paid half the sum demanded by the Diwan Appaji.

By this treaty of Bassein the Baroda Government also was involved on the British side in the Second Maratha War. The Gaekwad was required to help the British on the ground of friendship and cooperation. The Gaekwad had to send the forces against Sindia. At the end of the Second Maratha war a definitive Treaty was concluded between the British and the Gaekwad Government in 1805.

The Definitive Treaty of 1805 :

This treaty was signed by Maharaja Anandrao Gaekwad and the English East India Company. This was an offensive and defensive treaty and joint action was enjoined against mutual enemies. The British subsidiary force was increased from two thousand to three thousand.

The article Number Eleven³⁰ of this treaty is very important as it affected the Suzereinty of the house of the Gaekwad. The article runs as follows :

30 Aitchison : Treaties Sanads, Engagements, Vol.VI, p.344.

"Whereas there are certain unfinished transactions between His Highness the Peshwa and Anandrao Gaekwad, Sena-Khas-Khel Shamsher Bahadoor, and there exists certain papers of accounts which are unadjusted. Anandrao Gaekwad Sena-Khas-Khel Shamsher Bahadoor doth hereby agree that the Honourable Company's Government shall examine into and finally adjust the said transactions, papers and accounts and the demands resulting therefrom, and Anandrao Gaekwad Sena-Khas-Khel Shamsher Bahadoor binds himself his heirs and successors to abide by such adjustments as the British Government shall accordingly determine. Further, in respect to this unsettled pecuniary affairs existing with the Governments of His Highness the Peshwa and the Gaekwad, it behoves the latter to response a similar faith in the British Government as the Peshwa, who has agreed to abide by the adjustment of these concerns. This settlement shall be affected by the Honourable Company after taking into mature consideration the impoverished State of the Gaekwad finances, and the latter Government entertain a full conviction that no oppressive demand will be enforced under the Company's mediation."

The Effects and Consequences of the
Definitive Treaty of 1805 :

This treaty brought to an end the struggle of the Gaekwads for independence from the Poona and placed them in subordination to a foreign power. The Gaekwads lost their

independence and receded to the condition of mere dependents of the British power. The achievements of the Bombay Government were considerable. What the British could not obtain even after the first Maratha War it secured and much more at a lesser cost this time from the Gaekwad.³¹ The British supremacy was established in Gujarat. For next fifteen years the Gaekwad state was completely controlled by the British Resident.

The British Company was required to interfere in many internal affairs of the State. The Bombay Government agreed to stand as guarantors instead of the Arabs. It extended pecuniary assistance to Baroda to liquidate the arrears of Arab troops. The English eliminated the oppositions of Kanhojirao, Malharrao and Ganpatrao Gaekwad of Sankheda. In order to affect economy in the State expenditure the resident reduced the state forces. By the good offices of the Company the Gaekwad Government renewed the farm of Ahmedabad for ten years in 1804.

The lease of Ahmedabad :

The lease of Ahmedabad was issued for the first time in 1800 for five lakhs of rupees for five years in the

name of Bhagwantrao Gaekwad, son of Govindrao Gaekwad. The Peshwa now renewed to the Gaekwad the lease of Ahmedabad farm for ten years at four and half the lakhs rupees per annum on October 2, 1804. It was nominally in the name of Bhagwantrao Gaekwad. This lease was conferred at a reduced rent on the faith of the Company and the Company guaranteed to Poona Government to pay the sum regularly and to return Ahmedabad at the expiry of the period.