

CHAPTER - III

RAJA PRATAPSIKH AND GRANT DUFF

(1818 - 1822)

James Cunningham Grant Duff was the Political Agent of Satara State from 1818 to 1822. Grant played a significant role in the history of Satara both as an administrator and member of Raja Pratapsinh. He rendered better services as the teacher and guide of the Raja. During this period he wrote 'A History of the Marathas'. In addition to this he received one of the greatest honours of being the Resident and the first Political Agent of Satara. It was Grant Duff who provided to Raja Pratapsinh essential training in the art of administration and taught him to manage ably the affairs of his state. He later became the Raja's 'friend, philosopher and guide'. Therefore, it is intended to study the relationship between Raja Pratapsinh and Grant Duff in this chapter.

Grant was born in the city Bonf of Scotland on 8th July 1789, in Kincardine Oneil family.¹ At an early age of sixteen he left college education incomplete. He left England for India afterwards. He had been appointed as a cadet in the Bombay Native Infantry in 1806. In 1808 he made the first attack on Malia, the castle of plunderers in Kathewad. As a result of this he was promoted to the position of Lieutenant in 1810. In 1817 Grant Duff came to Poona where he came into contact with Mountstuart Elphinstone the then British resident at Poona.² In 1817 he showed exceptional bravery in the battle of Khadki. In 1818 he was promoted to the position of a captain. In 1818 Elphinstone appointed James Grant as the

Political Agent of Satara with necessary guidelines about the administration of Satara State. Grant laid down the foundation of administration of the newly created Satara State.

By the grace of Elphinstone Grant got a chance of becoming the first Political Agent of Satara State. His relations with Elphinstone were quite close. Elphinstone's career covered a period of thirty one years from 1796 to 1827 in the English East India Company. Out of these 31 years he spent 25 years in Bombay and Poona. In 1811 he came as the British Resident at Poona. Afterwards the most difficult task of administering the territories conquered from the Peshwas came to him. He was the Governor of Bombay Presidency for nearly 8 years from 1819 to 1827.³

In 1818 Elphinstone created the new Satara Raj and he enthroned Pratapsinh on Satara Gadi on 10th April 1818. He appointed James Grant as the Political Agent of Satara and Balaji Pant Natu as the native assistant to Grant. Grant got Rs.2,000/- as his monthly salary and Rs.1,500/- as an allowance. He profusely thanked to Elphinstone for this.⁴ Elphinstone has given various reasons for the appointment of Captain Grant. It was necessary to appoint some British Officer as the resident in the court of the newly created Satara State. Moreover, Captain Grant was then serving as an assistant to the British Resident of Poona. The need of keeping control on the King of Satara was felt when the battle against Bajirao II was in progress. At that time Captain Grant overran the entire

territory of the king of Satara and he looked after it carefully. Further Elphinstone pointed out Captain Grant was since the battle of Ashti in the service of King of Satara. Grant Duff accepted that post of Political Agent of Satara because it made him an important person in the Political field.⁵

The creation of Satara State was a victory for Elphinstone's cleverness. It was absolutely necessary to create such a state during the days of British rule in India. If they had not created the new State of Satara they would have been required to face many dangers from Shinde and Holkar. Otherwise Shinde and Holkar might have rebelled against the British rule and the British rule might have collapsed like the play cards. Therefore, he (Elphinstone) said that it was unwise to eat that which we cannot digest. He wrote to one of his friends in 1819, "I am afraid the belief that our Indian Empire will not be long lived is reason and not prejudice."⁶

When Grant assumed his office in Satara State there was anarchy everywhere in that territory. Moreover, the new king was very young and highly inexperienced. Therefore, it was not feasible to entrust to the king the entire power. It was necessary to enforce stability with the help of money and army of East India Company. It was Elphinstone's policy to provide training to the king in the art of administration and to increase the state revenue. He was of the opinion that the administration of State should be transferred to the Raja by and by only when the king understood fully the method of administration.⁷

According to the proclamation of 11th April 1818, Raja Pratapsinh gave to Captain Grant the administrative power for managing the affairs of the Satara State. For the effective administration of Satara State Co-operation of the people was necessary. Grant wanted the Raja to reassure the people that the English were their friends and that they should help the English in carrying on the administration for the welfare of the State. Therefore Grant issued two proclamations in the name of the Raja on 14th April 1818.

"The first proclamation was a declaration of the perfidy of Bajirao II, in the manner he had behaved with the Raja and his family, and the consequent gratitude and friendship of the British Government. The proclamation also stated that nobody should have any contact with Bajirao II. They should keep quiet, if not property would be confiscated."

The Second proclamation delegated power to the Political Agent whom Elphinstone had placed with the Raja for arranging the country intended for the Raja, and called on all his subjects to obey the agents.⁸

On 18th April 1818, Elphinstone wrote an elaborate letter to Captain Grant in which he gave him certain instructions for managing the affairs of Satara Raja. These instructions are as under :

" Having appointed you to act as political Agent with the Raja of Satara until His Excellency the Governor General's pleasure be known, I proceed to communicate

to you the object for which the new government is to be founded and the manner in which it appears to me likely that those objects will be attained."

The Governor General's intention in founding a small state for the Raja is to afford an honourable maintenance to the representative of the ancient princes of this country and to establish among the Marathas a counterpoize to the remaining influence of the former Brahmin Government. In the extent which I intend to propose for the Raja's Government. In the extent which I intend to propose for the Raja's territories, I have taken in the further object of providing for a portion of the soldiery of the country, whose habits might be unsuitable to our service, and likewise of maintaining some of the civil and religious orders whom it might be difficult to dispose of under our own direct government.

For the effectual attainment of these objects it is necessary to gain the Raja's goodwill, and at the same time both the Governor-General's commands and our own security, require the firm establishment of the supremacy of the British Government, unless these points are secured the machine which we are setting up will be liable to be turned us and the release of the Raja of Satara may prolong the disturbances occasioned by the Paishwa's treachery.

The present state of the Raja's affairs appears as well calculated as any that can be imagined for establishing our influence or control. He has just been released from prison

and is about to be placed at the head of a government which is obtained by no effort of his own, but is the spontaneous result of the bounty of the British Government. The advantages we may expect from his gratitude are rendered more certain by the continuance of his dependence; he is at present destitute both of power and territory and depends on us not only for his future establishment, but for his present subsistence. To these advantages are opposed the total inexperience of the Raja and the people about him; their extravagant ideas of their own pretensions, and the facility which these defects would afford to the intrigues of any designing persons, who might have an interest in disturbing the new order of things.

I rely on your exertions and address for overcoming those difficulties. The best means appear to be, to take complete charge of all the Raja's affairs for the present, which is a natural arrangement, while everything is to be done with our troops and our money, and gradually to allow him to manage his own territory as he becomes better acquainted with / affairs, as the country becomes more settled, and as his own means become adequate to the purposes of government.

On this principle, I have already requested him to communicate to you not only any important step he takes; but every particular of his proceeding. I have likewise explained to him the necessity that exists for your taking the management of all affairs as long as the present disturbances last; and

have apprized him that the final settlement of his government will in a great measure be regulated by the disposition which he evinces during the period of probation.

His Highness at present gives proof of a good disposition and a sound understanding, and by encouraging the most respectable of the persons in whom he has confidence I hope you will be able to prevent his changing for the worse. Your first endeavour must be to gain his confidence ought to extend to all members of the Raja's family but it ought to be impressed on him, and on all, that he is the head of the Government. The desire shown by His Highness mother to take a share in the conduct of public business ought to be discouraged, but all interference on our part in the Raja's domestic affairs ought carefully to be avoided. Any complaint or overture on such subjects should be checked by referring the applicant to the Raja as head of his own family. Much odium will be avoided by keeping clear of these intrigues and disputes if any should arise.

The personal expenses of the Raja and his family, ought for the present, to be about three lacks of rupees per annum. The employment of this money ought to be left to his exceeding the amount allowed him.

The rest of the business connected with his Government will for the present be conducted by you. You will, however, explain your proceeding to the Raja, conform to his wishes in cases where there is no objection and endeavour to give him a

taste for business and a knowledge of the principles of Government.

The limits which I intend to propose to the consideration of His Excellency the most noble the Governor General for the Raja's territory are the River Neera on the north, the Krishna and Warana on the south, the Nizam's frontiers on the east and the ghauts on the west."⁹ Such were the instructions of Mountstuart Elphinstone to Captain Grant Duff the British Political Agent at Satara.

In short the objectives of the British policy towards Raja Pratapsinh were to gain his goodwill and to keep him under the British control as well as to win the Raja's confidence and to establish better relations with the members of his family, and also to control his high opinions about himself. All these objectives were to be achieved stage by stage. Moreover, Elphinstone desired that the Raja's flags should be hoisted in the villages and by doing so the people living there should be made aware of the fact that they are none else than the subjects of the Raja. But at the same time the people were to be made to realize that the creation of this new state was by no means the reestablishment of Chhatrapati Shivaji's Swaraj. Further Elphinstone expected that the Raja should be made familiar with the fact that British Government is supreme and his powers are limited. Thus the detailed instructions and the guidelines given by Elphinstone to captain Grant Duff constituted the foundation of the British policy towards Raja Pratapsinh the ruler of Satara State.

Grant strictly followed Elphinstone's instructions while carrying on the administration in Satara State. He set to work to win the Raja's confidence. He did this partly by direct argument persuading him to believe that his interests and mine were the same, that our fortunes were linked together, that my rise depended on his future greatness and so on.¹⁰ Grant also developed an ingenious strategy above all things (he explained to Elphinstone) he must think that every act of mine and his is controlled, and that an infringement of your orders if reported would bring instant ruin upon him. 'I must be his friend and advisor bound by my public duty to insist on his acting with economy, justice and moderation but privately disposed to report as few faults, as can possibly be avoided consistent with my situation, at the same time that I should be displaced immediately if you discovered that I had allowed anything improper to pass unnoticed on without reporting it to you.'¹¹ And Grant Duff explained to the Raja how dangerous it would be to offend Elphinstone. On one occasion he told, 'the poor little Raja', as he wrote afterwards to Elphinstone 'that though you were great in your friendship you were terrible in your wrath'.¹²

One of Grant's earliest and most difficult tasks was to limit the Raja's personal expenditure. Elphinstone told Grant that for the present it should be about three lakhs of rupees per annum. The Raja first demanded nearly half a crore but Grant had no difficulty in making him acknowledge the absurdity of this, and he freely admitted that he had taken

the advice of other people, who had told him that it was proper to give in a large estimate as in fact half a lakh a crore were all the same to the company's government when inclined to bestow favour.¹³ He then said that, 'we can manage with twenty lakhs for the ensuing year'. Grant finally told him how much Elphinstone was willing to allow to which he replied that it was impossible for him do with that paltry amount. Grant then remarked that he himself thought 3 lakhs of rupees was the most handsome amount and the interview ended there in an unsatisfactory way. "We parted less cordially than we had ever done before" wrote Grant Duff later. He decided not to continue the argument personally but to act through his confidential agent.¹⁴ So he sent Ballajee Punt because Grant Duff himself should have experienced difficulty in avoiding personal alteration. Balajee Punt proved to be of the greatest use, and the Raja finally agreed to Rs.25,000/- per month. Raja asked for Rs.2,000/- extra to use in Charity Grant decided to give him Rs.1,000/- and to allow him for further purchase upto an additional Rs.1,000/-.¹⁵ This figure of Rs.26,000/- per month means that the Raja got an additional amount of Rs.12,000/- per year which was more than what Elphinstone had originally proposed. In this respect Grant wrote to Elphinstone on 26th April 1818,

" It has, I assure you, been a troublesome business and in having just matters settled to the Raja's satisfaction. I really think half my difficulties are over. I am quite elated at my good luck in having mustered Kusakusa."¹⁶

According to Marathi Duftar Runal No.2 the personal expenditure of the Raja was as follows :

14281.11	Maharaja Chha.	2273	Maisaheb
1343	Wada Pahila	3750	Bhausahab
602.11	Marji	3750	Appasaheb
TOTAL : Rs.26,000/- ¹⁷			

However, the English records quote the following figures of the Raja's personal expenditure :

Raja	Rs.15,075	
Rani	Rs. 1,152	
Raja's brothers	Rs. 7,500	
Raja's mother	Rs. 2,273	
TOTAL:	<u>Rs.26,000</u>	18

To win the Raja's good will and to make him a good administrator was another important task lying ahead of James Grant. Within a short period he completed that work in a proper way. Grant reorganized the complete administrative structure in Satara State and his new set up is known as 'Grant Sahebacha Dusture'.¹⁹ The Raja being naturally very intelligent and clever soon got insight into the administration under the able and friendly guidance of Grant who trained him in the principles and details of Government and sufficiently acquainted him with a practical knowledge of the world. He not only instructed him in the art of administration but cultivated in him higher tastes for literature and general knowledge and education and instilled into his mind the importance of virtue and character.²⁰

Raja Pratapsinh preserved the same framework of administration and continued the policies of Grant Duff upto 1839.

Captain Grant Duff succeeded in giving effect to Elphinstone's instructions so very well, that about a year later i.e. on 23rd March 1819 he was able to report to Mr. Elphinstone about satisfactory progress in Satara State. That report which is an important historical document today runs as under :

"The principle points... were, to gain the Raja's goodwill, and at the same time to establish the firm supremacy of the British Government, to obtain the Raja's confidence, to conciliate his family, control their expenses, and subdue the extravagant pretensions, which were so observable, even in camp. All these were to be accomplished progressively. Many trifling circumstances have occurred which, however, important in the summary, could not have been detailed officially without appearing ridiculous, but I believe I have privately communicated in conversation or in letters, almost everything that has taken place, or at all events, sufficient to enable you to judge the correctness of any opinions I may venture...."

"My first object was to regulate the expenses of the family, but here there really was some difficulty; I do believe that notwithstanding all you latterly told the Raja, that had the household expenses of the

family, that they would not at this period have looked upon the amount as more than an adequate provision for the purpose.

Ballajee Punt Natoo was requisitioned on the present occasion of settling the expenses, after the interview with the Raja. I have already detailed I did not visit him for three days. I sent Ballajee Natoo because I should have found difficulty in avoiding personal alteration; it was sufficient that I had told the Raja exactly what was to be done without communicating it abruptly. I must, therefore, have stopped all further discussion or argued upon it; either way there was a probability of giving offence of estranging themselves and breaking through the forms of respect necessary to be preserved in our intercourse.

I had generally contrived to get the Raja by himself, but when Ballajee Punt Natoo went up, he found as I had expected that the whole family insisted on being present. Ballajee Punt, on the return from first visit described the Raja's mother as being so extremely violent, that he was apprehensive of losing his character by being abused by her. I, therefore, told him to address himself entirely to the Raja, and to take little notice of anything the others might say. I finding that her opinions were little attended to

the mother complained of being insulted, cried bitterly, said she would jump off the rampart of the fort, or throw herself down a well; regretted that she had not gone suttee with her husband, and said that she would that instant apply to me to be sent to Benares.

Ballajee behaved most properly on the occasion, spoke to her very calmly and respectfully, showing the necessity of our communicating with one person, as head of the family and the government this person was properly the Raja and in short repeated all you had told them in camp and which I had taken frequent occasion to inculcate.

Ballajee purposely dwelt upon what she had said of going to Benares and added, that if she had previously asked that favour of you, perhaps you might have agreed to send her there; that if Satara was disagreeable to her, perhaps her request might yet be complied with.

The Raja was now under probation of the English Agent for over a year and a half, Bajerao was no longer in the field, and there was no disturbance anywhere. The Raja had been made use of in conquering the Peshwa and settling the disturbances of the Deccan. He was now quite helpless and at the mercy of the English. The latter forgot all the advantages they

derived by their alliance with him and they now, dictated to him a Treaty on their own terms. The Raja had no other alternative than to submit to the diction of the stronger party, although in his heart of hearts he must have cursed all these who had negotiated with him for the alliance with the English as double faced liars, hypocrites and treacherous men. He must have looked upon the new Treaty as Jumping out of the frying pan into the fire." 21

While commenting upon Grant Duff's declaration of 23rd March 1819 Major B.D. Basu wrote,

" this declaration of captain Grant Duff is sufficient to show that the Raja was led by Elphinstone and others to expect that the whole of the Peshwa territory would be restored to him and therefore he pitched his scale of unable to settle the bargain with the Raja regarding his expenses and so the good offices of that arch-traitor Balajee Punt Natoo were used.

Ballajee Punt Natoo opened the negotiations with the Raja's mother and so that lady had an interest now in settling the pecuniary affairs of the family. But when she found herself duped by the sweet and specious promises which were not going to be fulfilled, she naturally became violent and tried to abuse that Brahmin scoundrel.

Poor woman, she was quite helpless now and so neither Elphinstone nor his vile creature Ballajee Punt had any regard or respect for her. It was thus by intimidating the queen mother and the Raja, that the difficulty of settling the question of the expenses was removed."²²

The Raja was willing to take the administration of the State under his control but Grant was of the opinion that the Raja was not well experienced. Therefore it was necessary that the Raja should take more efforts for running the State craft. Grant further stated that the Raja should follow the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji. In this respect he states,

"Chhatrapati Shivaji succeeded in battlefields and achieved greatness, therefore, Pratapsinh must make hard efforts for following the ideals of Shivaji".²³

Treaty of Satara (25th Sept.1819) :

Though Raja Pratapsinh was installed on the throne of Satara on 10th April 1818, a treaty of perpetual friendship and alliance was concluded with him on 25th September 1819. According to Elphinstone the treaty had two main objects, fixing his (Raja's) future power and the British control on a more defined basis.²⁴ Grant following strictly the instructions of Elphinstone concluded the Treaty on 25th September 1819.

Treaty of perpetual friendship and alliance between the Hon'ble East India Company, and His Highness Maharaja

Pratapsinh his heir and successors was concluded at Satara on 25th September 1819 by Captain James Grant Political Agent on the part of the Hon'ble East India Company and Wittul Punt — Furnaweese on the part of the Raja, by virtue of full powers from their respective Government. Whereas the British Government having determined in consideration of the antiquity of the house of His Highness the Raja of Satara to invest him with a sovereignty sufficient for the maintenance of his family in comfort and dignity the following articles have been agreed to between the said Government and His Highness.

Article 1st :

The British Government agrees to cede in perpetual sovereignty to the Raja of Satara his heirs and successors the Districts specified in the annexed schedule. (The schedule is given in Appendix No.I.)

Article 2nd :

The Raja for himself and for his heirs and successors engages to hold the Territory in subordinate co-operation with the British Government and to be guided in all matters by the advice of the British Agent at his Highness Courts.

Article 3rd :

The British Government charges itself with the defence of the Raja's Territories and engages to protect His Highness from all injury and aggression. The Raja for himself and for his heirs and successors engages to afford every facility to

the purchase of supplies in his country or may pass through it, and the pasture lands now appropriated for the use of the Troops are to be permanently given up to them.

The Raja likewise for himself and for his heirs and successors engages to afford all the assistance in his power to the British Government in all wars and military operations in which it may be engaged.

Article 4th :

His Highness for himself and for his heirs and successors; engages at no time to increase, or diminish his military force without the previous knowledge and consent of the British Government.

Article 5th :

The Raja for himself and for his heirs and successors engages to forbear from all intercourse with foreign powers and with all Sirdars, Jageerdars, Chiefs and Ministers and all persons of whatever description who are not by the above articles rendered subject to His Highness authority. With all the above persons His Highness for himself and for his heirs and successors engages to have no connection or correspondence, any affairs that may arise with them relating to His Highness are to be exclusively conducted by the British Government. If (for the purpose of forming matrimonial connections for His Highness' family or for any similar purpose). His Highness has occasion to communicate with persons not rendered subjects to his authority by this Agreement such communication is to be made

entirely through the political Agent. This Article is a fundamental condition of the present Agreement and any departure from it on the Raja's part shall subject him to the loss of all the advantages he may gain by the said Agreement.

Article 6th :

The Raja shall ultimately have the entire management of the country now ceded to him but as it is necessary on account of the recent conquest of the country that it should at first be governed with particular care and prudence, the administration will for the present remain in the hands of the British Political Agent, that officer will however conduct the government in the Raja's name and in proportion as His Highness and his officers shall acquire experience and evince their ability to govern the country, the British Government will gradually transfer the whole administration into their hands. He will however at all times attend as above agreed to the advice which the British Political Agent shall offer him for the maintenance of general tranquillity.

Article 7th :

The possessions of the Jageerdars within His Highness territory are to be under the guarantee of the British Government which on the other hand engages to secure their performing the service which they owe to His Highness according to established custom.

Article 8th :

All persons guilty of murder, treason, robbery or other great offences who may fly from the territories of the company into those of the Raja, are to be given up to the British Government; in like manner all criminals as above described who may fly into the territories of the British Government are to be given up to the Raja. For the better execution of Justice and prevention of crimes, the Raja consents that the officers of the British Government may pursue criminals and apprehend them in his territory.

Article 9th :

The Ghats are to be the general boundary of the Raja's territory towards the Concan. Where no specific exception is made those mountains are to be included within His Highness' territory.

A survey is to be undertaken as soon as convenient to fix the frontier where the mountains run into the plain. The British Government reserves to itself the right of retaining such portions of the mountains so situated as may be necessary to make a clear frontier or for other purposes. The British Government also reserves to itself the right of cutting timber on the Western sides of the Ghats. The customs in the line of Ghats are to be levied by the company and an equivalent allowed to the Raja.

Article 10th :

The Hon'ble Company and the Raja, agree to enter as soon as may be convenient on a commercial treaty and successors engages to adopt the same system with regard to customs as that which may be adopted by the British Government in its adjoining territories.

Article 11th :

This treaty, consisting of 11 Articles, being this day settled and concluded at Satara, by Captain James Grant and Wittul Punt Furnaweese. Captain Grant has delivered to His Highness Maharaja Pratapsinh a copy of the same in English, Marathi and Persian under the seal and signature and the aforesaid captain James Grant has engaged to procure and deliver to His Highness, without delay a copy of the same duly ratified by His Excellency the most Noble Francis Marquis of Hastings K.G., one Governor General in council appointed by the Honourable Company to direct and control all their affairs in the East Indias Commander in Chief of His Majesty's and the Honourable Company's Forces and Commander on the receipt of the receipt of which by His said Highness this treaty shall be deemed complete and binding on the Honourable East India Company and on His Highness Raja Pratapsinh and the copy now delivered to His said Highness shall be returned.

(Signed)
HASTINGS
JAS. STEWART
J. ADAM

Relieved by His Excellency the Governor-General in council this 27th day of November A.D. 1819.

(Signed)
C.T. Metcalfe
Secretary

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The frontier extends from the Krishna and Warana on the south, to the Neera and Beema on the north, and from the Western Ghats or Syadree Hills on the west, to the Districts of Punderpore and Beejapur on the east, exclusive of six Jaghires "The possessions of the Raja of Akulkote, the Punt Sucheo, the Punt Pruthee Nidhee, the Jaghire of Duffles in pergunnah of Jut, the Jaghire of Jan Rao Nimbalkar in the pergunnah of Phultun and the Jaghire of Shaikh Meera Waeekar."²⁶

In accordance with Elphinstone's suggestion the boundaries of the new state were fixed. The territories which the British actually conquered from the Peshwas were to be transferred to the Chhatrapati, but they in reality assigned to the Raja a very small portion of the territory between the rivers Nira and Warana. It was estimated in 1821 that the Raja's net annual revenues would be little short of 15 lakhs of rupees per annum.²⁷

Issue of Transfer of Power to the Raja :

It had been decided according to the treaty of 25th September 1819, to handover complete power to the Raja. James Grant had already written to Elphinstone before actual conclusion of this treaty, that he wanted to give complete

freedom to the Raja. About this he further stated,

" I am making proper use of time, my health is deteriorating, therefore, I must leave India for Europe for getting improvement in my health."

He also said,

"whatever may happen to my health, I want to give / complete freedom to Raja within a year or two years".²⁸

Elphinstone was also favourable for the transfer of power to the Raja.

The problem of transfer of power was raised again on 1st May 1820, Handerson the Secretary to Governor General of India asked Grant Duff when the interference of Company's Officer in Raja's power would come to an end. The Company was bound to give freedom to Raja according to the treaty of 1819. But there arose difference of opinion between Grant and Chapline about immediate transfer of power.

Captain Grant was strictly following the 6th Article of the treaty of 1819, which explicitly stated that although the resident would be managing the affairs of the state, he should make efforts to pave the ground for gradual transfer of power to the Raja. Grant wrote a letter to Charlas Grant a member of the Council of Governor on 20th April 1821 in which he stated,



1 " Our Raja has turned out very well, but as no one can be throughly known until seen to what use he applies power we must not be too sanguine in our expectations. Persons who act with great propriety when under direct control, became very different when only under that sort of control which is acquired by influence. I wish him well because I think he has a wonderful good disposition for a Maratha, but I am not an advocate for allowing him unlimited power here within his own territory because the generosity of those who compose his Darbar are such incorrigible villians (a strong but not an unjust expression) that it will be impossible for the Raja to prevent these excesses even if he has the good sense to avoid their bad habits."²⁹

However Grant was of the opinion that the transfer should be effected by stages. But Commissioner Chaplin however objected to the idea of handing over power every by stages. He stated -

"In Satara State all administrative departments seem to me to constitute links of the same chain, the disjoining of which by the gradual process suggested by the Political Agent though admirable in theory would probably be found too speculative for execution without occasioning numberless practical inconveniences."³⁰

Captain Grant in 1822 pointed out that the time for transfer of power had come as the Raja was sufficiently trained then to shoulder the responsibility of the government. But the Governor in council partly accepted Chaplin's argument that the transfer of power should be effected in one operation than in stages but at the same time declared that it should be done as soon as possible.³¹

Thus 5th April 1822, was finally 'fixed for transferring power to His Highness agreeable to the conditions of the treaty, the direct charge and control of his territory which has hitherto been under the immediate superintendence of Grant, the political agent.³² William Chapline was the chief guest of the ceremony. Raja Pratapsinh had great love and admiration for Elphinstone. He actually wanted Elphinstone to preside over the ceremony of handing over the internal administration to him. But Elphinstone who at that time became the Governor of Bombay was busy with other work.³³

On the 5th April 1822, the Seal and Sikka of the State were publicly vested to His Highness by Captain Grant under a Royal Salute by the Brigade drawn up for the occasion.³⁴ At that time Balaji Punt Natu read out loudly a proclamation explaining the circumstances leading to the transfer of full power to the Raja and shortly defining his relations with the Jageerdars placed under his Government. On the following day William Chaplin received the Raja who was accompanied by his brother and his Jagirdars, to all of whom complimentary

presents were distributed proportionate to the rank of each according to the established usage.³⁵

After thus having transferred power to Pratapsinh, James Grant decided to take rest and therefore he resigned himself from Company service and went to England on 27th November 1822. Though Captain James Grant Duff left India for good in 1822 he used to write letters to Raja Pratapsinh even after his departure to England. Some of those letters upto 1833 are available today. In these letters Grant inquired about Raja's likes and dislikes, his relatives, officers, ryot, agriculture and progress of Satara State. In his letter of 11th July 1823, he wrote that he was interested to hear all the good things about the Raja and Satara State and that he had great interest, obsession and affinity about Satara than any other part of the world. Once when he visited Rome he by chance met Lord Hastings the then Governor General of India. That time he had a word with Lord Hastings about Satara State and its administration. Thereafter he wrote a letter to the Raja on 15th May 1824 in which he stated, 'Raja's good deeds / and it is prestigeable for himself'. Raja Pratapsinh sent a letter to Grant Duff on 1st November 1824 in which he stated that he administered his state according to Grant's rules and regulations and everything in the State was in satisfactory condition. Grant sent a letter on 8th June 1828 to the Raja, in which he enquired about the Elphinstone College and its staff, and in the same letter he also advised Raja Pratapsinh to be active, vigilant, economical and liberal. Again on 1st /

July 1830 Grant sent a letter to the Raja and in this letter he wrote that Satara State must be economically advanced, ryot must use advanced machines and new technology in agriculture and that he must not be very much adamant in his decisions about land revenue and that he should always keep a good picture of ryot before his eyes.³⁶ In England he wrote the most important, historical work 'A History of the Marathas' in three volumes during the period from 1823 to 1826. He passed away on 28th September 1858.³⁷

One of his contemporary British Officer James Fitzjames Stephen while commenting upon Grant's work in Satara wrote,

"The East India Company had given complete powers to James Grant at his early age of 25. With his cleverness and firm decision he had done his duties of Satara State in a nice way. In this way he converted a barren land into a paradise."³⁸

While evaluating Captain Grant Duff's role in Satara State the 'Culcatta Review' expressed the view,

"In addition to judgement, energy, and talents for business of no ordinary kind, he possessed in an eminent degree, the power of appreciating the character of the people over whom he was placed and of adopting his measures to suit their peculiarities."³⁹

James Grant had achieved a special position as an administrator in the public of Satara. His method of collecting revenue is popularly known as 'Grant Sahebacha Dustur'. He was supporter of the people. He had fine ears to the grievances of the people James Grant had a two storeyed bungalow at Satara in the eastern area of Pavaee Naka on the Mahuli road near a temple of Fodajai.⁴⁰

Grant left Satara for England on 27th November 1822. John Briggs succeeded Grant in January 1823. He was a great scholar and a very affable and kind hearted gentleman. He parted as a friend of the Raja for whom, he had great respect for his many excellent qualities 'as a man and as a ruler'.⁴¹

Lt.Col.A.Robertson took over office from him in June 1827. Raja Pratapsinh had found in the new Resident a kind and generous friend, who possessed fine manners and an obliging disposition. A.Robertson left Satara in January 1832.[✓] He was followed by Lodwick. John Briggs and A.Robertson followed the policy of Captain Grant Duff and continue it up to 1832. So till the year 1832 utmost harmony, cordiality and confidence prevailed in the relations between the Bombay Government and the Raja. But after 1832, during the period of Lodwick and Col.Ovans the struggle between the Bombay Government and the Raja started. →

All British Residents and Governors of Bombay Presidency during the first few years after the creation of Satara State were full of praisie for the ability, integrity

and efficient administration of the Raja. Mountstuart Elphinstone the first Governor of Bombay Presidency visited Satara in 1822. He wrote the following remark about the Raja of Satara,

" I must tell you what a good fellow the little Raja of Satara is. When I visited him we sat on two musnuds without exchanging one single word, in a very respectable durbar; but the moment we retired to a Khilwat the Raja produced his civil and criminal register and his minute of demands, collections and balances for the last quarter and began explaining the State of his country as eagerly as a young collector...." 43

In 1826 Elphinstone again visited Satara. He made the following observation about the Raja of Satara -

" He is the most civilized Maratha I ever met with, his country in excellent order.... I was more struck with his private sitting-room than anything I saw at Satara. It contains a single table covered with green velvet, at which the descendent of Shivaji sits in a chair, and writes letters, as well as a journal of his transactions with his own hand."43

In 1825 Bishop Heber wrote, "The Raja of Satara is described as a well-disposed youngman of good understanding, whose system of Government, though he is now quite out of

leading strings is still happily influenced by the instruction and example which he received in his early youth from the then the resident Captain Grant. His country is peaceable, orderly and as prosperous as can be expected under the calamitous dispensations of providence which have afflicted it as well as the neighbours. The Raja himself is said to be so ardent a professed lover of peace as almost to bring his sincerity into question." 44

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