

CHAPTER - III

SHIVAJI-II AND THE ENGLISH

1762 TO 1813

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Sambhaji-I, the second ruler of Kolhapur died on December 28th, 1760, near the field of Tope. In his memory a village was established on this field and named after him, Sambhapur. He was cremated on the banks of the Panchaganga where his wife Jijabai subsequently built a memorial temple which still exists.

Sambhaji had seven wives but unfortunately he had no male issue, so after his death the problem of succession arose before Kolhapur State. Sambhaji's last wish about his succession was as follows :

He called up Jijabai and enjoyed her before others on oath that, since Kusabai was pregnant, none of his wives must commit Sati on his funeral pyre, but unfortunately Kusabai gave birth to a female child and a problem of adoption was inevitable. At the same time Poona Government faced another calamity and that was the defeat of Maratha in the third battle of Panipat, in 1761.

Jijabai, the fourth Queen of Sambhaji was prominent figure in the Royal Household as well as in States matter. During the last 10 years of Sambhaji's reign

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she was taking active part in the political affairs. Sambhaji was nominal head. She came from Torgal family and married with Sambhaji in 1726. She was very able and cunning lady. After the death of her husband Sambhaji, Peshwa Nanasaheb was intending to confiscate Kolhapur Gadi because Sambhaji had no issue. Meanwhile the defeat of Marathas at third battle of Panipat saved the Kolhapur Gadi, because immediately after this shock Nanasaheb did not survive long and he died on 23rd June, 1761. Again Tarabai the founder of Kolhapur Gadi, was alive to see this vicissitudes and breathed her last in 1761. Madhavrao Peshwa became new Peshwa and he had many problems to face. Being a cunning lady, Jijabai took advantage of this political chaos and selected a boy from Khanvalkar Bhosale family and adopted him as Shivaji-II in September 27th, 1762.<sup>1</sup>

The English were carrying on an aggressive policy on the Western Coast. In 1765 they captured Sindhudurg which belonged to Kolhapur. Thereafter they conquered the fort of Reddi belonging to Sawants. Jijabai asked for help from the Peshwa, but as she could not get it in time she had to make a treaty with the English returned Sindhudurg and other forts. Jijabai gave 7½ lakhs of rupees. In addition she gave them land for their factory of Malwan



and at other places. She also accepted to refuse -  
permission to non-England Europeans to carry on trade in  
her territory.

He was born on 1758. And at the time of his  
adoption to Kolhapur Gadi, he was minor and the administra-  
tion of the Kolhapur State was carried by Jijabai in his  
reign who was Regent upto her death which took place  
in 1773.

When Jijabai was Regent, the first important treaty  
was signed between the Kolhapur and the English on 12th  
of January, 1766.<sup>2</sup> Jijabai was well aware of the danger  
from these English merchants. So she once aptly remarks,  
" हा कोवळा मोड आहे तो वेळीच निपटून काढावा. " <sup>3</sup>

but the time was against the Kolhapur State, their -  
sources were limited. The English were rising, they  
defeated the French in Deccan in three wars and became  
powerful and finally like other native States in India  
Kolhapur also concluded a treaty with East India Company  
by which English merchants obtained trading facilities in  
Kolhapur Principality.

The magnificent sea-fort of Sindhudurg which  
stands by itself over a rocky Island lying just off the  
coast of Malwan was specially built by Shivaji (the founder)

to serve as the Head quarters of the Maratha Navy. He personally chose the spot after a thorough examination of the Konkan sea-board and laid down specifications about the details of construction. The work began in 1664. Shivaji himself commissioned and named the fort Sindhudurg, the fort of the Ocean.

In the year 1765 the hatmen whose restraint the Peshwa Madhavrao had found commendable, became belligerent and attacked the fort of Sindhudurg. The small naval detachment of Kolhapur stationed in the harbour, comprising according to the account of the Portuguese chronicle, "three pals (frigates) and ten gallivats," must have been easily overpowered by the naval squadron of the British East India Company. On January 28th the Company's ships surrounded the fort and began bombardment.<sup>4</sup> There was a spirited defence by the fort's garrison but after the main magazine had been accidentally blown up, the defenders gave up in the face of overwhelmingly superior fire power. Flushed by this success, the English Squadron promptly went on to attack the nearby fort of Reddi which belonged to the Sawant of Wadi and captured it without much difficulty, within a month or two, however, it seems that a negotiated settlement was carried out with the Sawant by which the Englishmen returned the Reddi fort to him in exchange for the fort of Masure and on payment by the Sawant of a lakh of rupees.

And now this prestigious and supposedly invincible fort had fallen to the English who promptly changed its name to fort Augustus, and as though to emphasize their warlike mood, went and captured another sea-fort in the Kolhapur domain, Yeshwantgad. Voicing her displeasure and protest Jijabai writes to Jivaji Vishram, one of the Sawant of Wadi administrators.<sup>5</sup>

Information has been received that the Naval force of the English having surrounding Yeshwantgad, and after subjecting it to intensive gun-fire, captured that sea-fort on Saturday. But you have not written anything about this, which is most unbecoming. While I have been distressed about the loss of Sindhudurg, this new setback has caused me additional pain. The sea-forts are your responsibility, and while everyone had been pleased about this (division of responsibility) suddenly we are confronted with this alarming setback, which is extremely regrettable. The enemy has taken several places on the sea-board. The remaining places must be defended and those that are gone retaken. The steps you propose to take to effect this as well as your views on the subject should be communicated in writing. The sappling is easily broken off while it is still tender but, when it becomes big, it is (works) to everyone's disadvantage. Bearing this in mind, do everything that is needful (March 12th, 1765).

Jivaji Vishram, to whom the above letter was addressed, was the administrator of the Sawant of Wadi, and even though he was supposed to have been entrusted with the task of looking after the coastal stations, it is unlikely that he would have been able to defend any of the coastal possessions against a resolute naval attack. In any case, Jivaji Vishram who paid little heed to the wishes or orders of his matters, the Sawant, was not likely to take up arms against the English at Jijabai's domain. Jijabai sent off an agent to Bombay to look into the possibility of purchasing cannonshot and powder and also to keep her informed about future British plans and movements. On May 1st, 1765 this agent (who from Bombay proceeded to Sashti, Bassein and Nasik) writes from Bombay.

The English having taken Malwan, have become arrogant. They have returned Reddi to the Sawant in exchange for Masure and in addition, have levied on him a fine of a lakh of rupees to withdraw their squadron ... but ~~the~~ preparations for another offensive go on apace. It is the intention of the British, under some pretext or the other, to occupy every single station ... they seek disputes so that they can conquer places. Cannon balls are available at sixteen and a half rupees per

... 66/-

thousand, and the giral (bigger cannon) balls are obtainable at twenty four rupees per thousand.

A few weeks later (June 23rd, 1765) Jijabai herself wrote on the subject of the threat from the English merchants.<sup>7</sup>

"Having occupied Sindhudurg, the English have become motivated by evil designs ..... After occupying Malwan and the surrounding tract, they captured Reddi ... (and are thus) seizing harbours as well as coastal tracts. How are we going to ensure that, after breaking their spirits they are rendered incapable of taking the - offensive ? Our property and our citizens should be stoutly defended and the enemy should be defeated ..... let me have your views on how best to achieve this. Meanwhile having kept the garrisons at full strength and having ensured that there is constant vigilance by guards and pickets, you should take all possible precautions."

Jijabai had also appealed to the Peshwa Madhavrao to help her against the British but he did not offer - the help.

Thus denied all outside help, Jijabai found herself compelled to seek an accommodation with the aggressors, who bargaining from a position of strength, made -



extortionate demands. Even though the British had seized Sindhudurg without the slightest provocation on Kolhapur part, Jijabai was made to pay a compensation of seven and a half lakhs of rupees for the Company's campaign expenses. The Company had blatantly embarked upon warfare to fill its own coffers.

This treaty which was made at Sindhudurg on January 12th, 1766 was the first important treaty between Kolhapur and the British.<sup>8</sup> It had fourteen clauses.

ARTICLES :

- (I) 1. That there shall be a perpetual peace and from friendship re-established between the Honourable Company and Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, their successors, and her heirs, and for the stricter observance of the following treaty of peace, Maharaja Jijabai, Ranee, agrees to send one hostage of note, with his family to reside at Bombay and to be maintained at her charge.
- (II) 2. Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, agrees to pay the Honourable Company seven lakhs fifty thousand (7,50,000/-) of rupees, as restitution for the expenses, they have been at during the troubles subsisting between the respective parties, and

(II) 2. Contd...

maintaining the different garrisons at fort Augustus and its dependencies :- three lakhs fifty thousand (3,50,000/-) to be paid within two months from the 12th January, 1766, the remaining three lakhs ninety thousand (3,90,000/-) to be paid within four years from the date of : i.e. one lakh (1,00,000/-) for the three first years, and ninety thousand (90,000/-) the last year for the performance of which Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, agrees to give two substantial securities, such as may be approved of by the Honourable the President and Council of Bombay, and she also agrees to allow six (6%) per cent exchange on the three lakhs sixty thousand - (3,60,000/-) i.e. to be paid before the delivery of the fort, which is to be in the following sort of rupees.<sup>9</sup> Hookeree, Perkhanee, Arcotee, Shazanee and Aurungshae and the remainder to be made good, equal to Bombay Rupees.

(III) 3. Honourable Company in consideration of Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, fulfilling the foregoing articles, do agree, on the payment of the first sum, i.e. three lakhs sixty thousand (3,60,000/-)

(III) 3. Contd....

to deliver upto her (Maharaja Jijabai) the fort of Augustus formerly called Sindhudurg, with the forts of the Rajkote, Surjekote, and Pudrumdorge and do further renamée all claim or pretentions to the lands and tenements belonging thereto.

( IV) 4. The Honourable Company will carry away all guns, carriages, morters, shot, shells, powder stores etc. of what kind soever that they may have brought here and they do give up to Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, such guns and carriages as are here, that were belonging to fort Augustus, also those of Rajkote, Surakote and Pudrumdorge.<sup>9</sup>

(V) 5. Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, will permit the Honourable Company to build a factory, with warehouse, at Rajkote, or at such place as may be most convenient for them (at which place they will hoist their flag) or any part of her territories adjacent to the sea shore, for vending their commodities, and to keep there such servants or people, as also vessels or boats, as they shall think necessary for conducting the same, and should any of the merchant, or others, her -

(V) 5. Contd....

subjects, become debtors to the English they shall have free liberty to imprison these persons and seize their effects and vend till satisfaction is made and obtained.

(VI) 6. The English subjects and the subjects of the Ranee shall have free liberty to trade and commerce with each other, without any hindrance or molestation whatever.<sup>10</sup>

(VII) 7. Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee will not directly or indirectly give any hindrance or molestation to any vessels or boats with English colours and passes, or any vessels and boats going under English convoys. In like manner, the English will not molest any vessels or boats belonging to Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, on her subjects.

(VIII) 8. Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, grants to the English an exclusive right of importing and vending all Europe cloths, lead, iron, steel, copper and Europe commodities in their territories and to pass the same through her country.

(IX) 9. Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, will allow all merchants or vanjaras free liberty to pass and repass her territories, to and from the English factory at Malwan, near Rajkote, or at any place where they build one, with their effects, merchandize, packages, carriages and beasts of burden, they paying the duties agreeable to the custom practised at Gheria, Rajapur and no more on any pretence whatever and whatever goods are landed at the English factories no custom whatever are to be levied; when they are carried out by the merchants, then they are to pay the duties agreeable to the custom before mentioned.

(X) 10 Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, will not entertain in her service any people belonging to the English, whatever Europeans or others, but on the contrary give strict orders to her Officers to seize such as many be seen in her dominence not suffer any European deserters to pass through her country, but return them to the Resident of the English factory, on promise of pardon whether they be applied for or not the English will observe the same in respect to the subjects of the Ranee, and slaves to be returned on both sides.

- (XI) 11. If any vessels or boats belonging to the English, their subjects or allies, at any time be driven ashore, or wrecked, in any part of the Ranee's dominions she agrees to afford all suitable assistance for the preservation of men, vessels and their cargoes and whatever part thereof may be saved to be delivered to the lawful owners without any salvage whatever, except the labourers' hire. The English, on their parts to observe the same in respect to the subjects of the Ranee, their vessels or boats.
- (XII) 12. Maharaja Jijabai, the Ranee, will not by menaces or otherwise directly or indirectly plunder or in any shape molest the inhabitants or others that may have served or lived under the protection of the English, during the time they had - possession of fort Augustus and its dependencies, but permit them to enjoy peaceably their houses, lands and tenements, in the same free and ample manner as when the Malwan Government subsisted before, the English took that place.

(XIII) 13 The honourable company will, at the same time that fort Augustus it delivered up to Maharaja Jijabai the Ranee, deliver to her the prisoners taken in - Sindhudurg fort when they conquered it, and who are now at Bombay.<sup>12</sup>

As stipulated in the treaty of 1766, the English vacated Sindhudurg and the neighbouring forts and handed them over to Jijabai's agents and, Jijabai in turn, set about paying the extortionate claim for war-expenses that the British had incorporated in the treaty. By it's very nature, neither side could have regarded the treaty as much more than a makeshift arrangement, to be set aside whenever an opportunity presented itself.<sup>13</sup>

In 1788, Shivaji-II shifted the capital from Panhala to Kolhapur.<sup>14</sup> The English were slowly adding to their power in Western and Southern India. They joined hands with the Nizam and Marathas and defeated Tipu in 1792. The defeat of Tipu made them stronger on the Western coast. They complained to Shivaji-II about the piracy carried on by the navy of Shivaji-II on the Western coast and demanded that he should pay the damages.<sup>15</sup> At this time the English were so strong that Shivaji-II could not resist that demand, He had to pay them a huge sum and allow them to build factories at Malwan and

Kolhapur. He had also to consent to the Union Jack Flying over these factories.

Under these circumstances, the East India Company increasing their demands and Chhatrapati had to grant their demands by signing another treaty of 1792 by which English obtained more trading facilities in Kolhapur state and the power of Shivaji-II was restricted.

The few years of relative peace brought to the new capital, Kolhapur, the great boom of piped water. Thanks to an ingenious arrangement of earthenware pipes laid down from a spring in the Katyani hills, by a clever Engineer, Baburao Keshav, the palace and parts of the town were provided with running water, in 1792: an amenity that, a century and a half later was still not familiar to a vast majority of India's population.

But there were reverses too, reverses without any battles being fought. Along the coast, Kolhapur had always held a small but spirited naval force. For several years past, this navy, having few if any military assignments, the individual commanders of its crafts had been increasingly engaged in an activity from which no naval force of the times could be wholly absolved: that of freebooting, of seizing coastal ships and holding their personnel and cargo to ransom. And since a large



proportion of coastal trading was in the hands of the East India Company, and since the trade interests of the company began to suffer, the Bombay Government, as the company's trading post there used to call itself, planned an expedition to "Crush the piratical powers."

The company however, " in its anxiety to avoid giving offence to the Poona Court", and believing, that Kolhapur was a dependency of the Peshwa," approached Nana Fadnis who cleverly using this threat against Kolhapur, sought to utilize this opportunity to bring Kolhapur within the ambience of the Peshwa's far-flung domain.

At first Kolhapur seemed to agree to fall in with this arrangement (of mediation by the Poona Court between Kolhapur and the company) but soon seems to have worked up to the realization that this was tantamount to virtual abdication of sovereignty, and Shivaji "revoked his consent". In any case, the company was then engaged in warfare with Tipoo Sultan in which there seemed every likelihood that Tippoo might come out as the winner..... as such, there seemed to be no imminent danger of the British embarking on any punitive measures and who knew might never be in a position to do so.

However, these hopes were not realized. Tippoo suffered a defeat (May 14th 1791) and the British, now more powerful than before, promptly fitted out an expedition under William Thomas Sandford to "carry out stringent measures along the Western coast."<sup>16</sup> Hearing this, Kolhapur decided not to hold off any longer, but instantly apologised for the acts of its navy and sought to enter into a new treaty with the British. This treaty was signed in Bombay on November 25th 1792.<sup>17</sup> Its main clauses were:

- 1) Kolhapur to discharge the balance due to the company (of the Rs. 7,50,000 agreed in 1766) in three separate payments, the first to be made on January 1st 1793, and the third and the last on January 1st 1795.
- 2) The company agreed to waive its claim to the interest accrued on this money over the years in return for the Maharaja Undertaking to observe the terms of the treaty faithfully.
- 3) The compensation for the losses suffered by the company owing to the activity of the Kolhapur fleet since the year 1785 was assessed at Rs. 35,000, and this was to be made good in five instalments, an immediate payment of Rs. 20,000 and four subsequent payments made annually in March.
- 4) As a security for these payments, Kolhapur agreed

- a) Not to molest the company's ships.
- b) To permit the company to establish a factory at Malwan and to fly the English flag there.
- c) To permit the company to put up another factory at Kolhapur, if they wished to do so.
- d) To permit the company to maintain as many troops as it wanted for the protection of these factories, and
- e) To pay the expenses of garrisoning these factories.<sup>17</sup>

Thus, by this treaty, Kolhapur not only lost its only major naval station and perhaps the most impregnable fort along the coast, but also in addition undertook the heavy financial burden of paying for the British policing of their own factories on Kolhapur territory.

S/ Bajirao-II fled to the English and by the treaty of Bassein (October 25, 1802) almost accepted a feudatory position. So when Shivaji-II asked for the help of the English against Sidojirao, the English refused on the ground that by the treaty of Bassein they had become friends of the Peshwa and therefore, they were unable to help Kolhapur against a Peshwa Sardar. Predictably the English had been waiting for an opportunity to fish in these troubled waters. In Kolhapur's harassment by one

of its vessels to whom they themselves had offered protection, they detected an excellent opportunity to win for themselves the magnificent sea-fort of Sindhudurg which they had always coveted, and also to bring Kolhapur under their permanent sway. The British Ambassador at the Peshwa's Court. Mountstuart Elphinstone, made approaches to Kolhapur that in return for the exchange of Sindhudurg, they would guarantee Kolhapur territory from all aggression. Admittedly, as we shall see from the terms of the actual treaty, Kolhapur also was called upon to make further drastic, renunciations of many of its claims, but, in the present state of weakness and turbulence, the Maharaja and his advisers had little choice but to accept the British offer. The Kolhapur agent at the British embassy in Poona, Swarupji Kshrisagar, was informed that he should accept the British terms-

(October 29th 1810)

Realising that the formidable power of the British was about to enter into a treaty with Kolhapur, Sidhoji Nimbalkar made strenuous claim to the two talukas at Chikodi and Manoki but abdicated its sovereignty as well.<sup>18</sup>

As far as the Maratha world was concerned, Kolhapur was now certainly in a stronger position than

ever before, the trouble was that the Maratha itself was fast disintegrating, and an alien power, the British, were taking over control of the land.

Even when the Patwardhans had retired and the Poona contingents and Scindia's battalion's gone away,- Dhondopant Gokhale continued to hover menacingly in the vicinity of Kolhapur till May 18th(1800) when Doulatrao Scindia sent him a curt message informing him that :- "Karveer has approached us for a settlement, and accordingly their emissaries are expected."

Dhondopant Gokhale took the hint and retired to the Karnatak where he soon found himself engaged that redoubtable soldier of fortune, Dhondaji Wagh.

This Dhondaji Wagh has made his appearance twice in this history without benefit of an introduction, it would be just as well to complete his story as far as it concerns Kolhapur, and then leave him to fight out his dogged guerrilla campaign with the future Iron Duke. Dhondaji Wagh was originally a Pawar, who had begun his career by joining the Patwardhan army and then changing over to that of Kolhapur, and had subsequently become a successful freebooter. Sometime during the process, he had acquired the surname of Wagh.

During the rains of 1799, sometime in September, according to both Grant Duff and Sardesai, Wagh went to Kolhapur and saw the Maharaja and took employment under him.<sup>19</sup> For a time he is said to have campaigned on - behalf of Kolhapur against the Patwardhans. However, when the Patwardhans came to attack Kolhapur, Dhondji Wagh, seeing that his old adversary Dhondji Gokhale was also coming to assist the Patwardhans, slipped away with his force and resumed his freebooting activities in Karnatak. Its such, he was of no help to Kolhapur whatsoever during the seige, but it is important to remember his short-lived connection with Kolhapur. After the seige had been lifted, Maharaja Shivaji again made efforts to win back Dhondji Wagh as an ally, but since, by this time a joint expedition had been undertaken by the British, the Patwardhans and Dhondopant Gokhale under the command of General Arthur Wellesly to bring Wagh to his knees, these efforts were not pursued. However, since the Patwardhans and the - British had now joined hands, and the campaign was sometimes conducted within Kolhapur territory, Kolhapur naturally surmised that the British had come to fight on the Patwardhan side.

When, during the following August (1800) Dhondji Wagh, together with his 10,000 troops gave the slip to the British expedition and again entered Kolhapur territory, Wellesly on his part was convinced that he was going to take refuge in Kolhapur. He remonstrated to the emissary sent to his camp by Shivaji in the strongest terms :

"Despite the treaty of friendship between us, your commander of Manoli had (in the past) opened fire on our troops pass through without hindrance, your Manoli troops plundered the encampment of our British cavalry. Now it seems clear that you intend to re-employ the rebel Wagh. This contrary to the terms of our treaty of Friendship. Unless there is a satisfactory explanation of this behaviour from your side, we shall attack your Kingdom and destroy it."<sup>20</sup>

Thereupon the Kolhapur emissary made humble submissions to the effect that :-

"We agree that the incidents that you speak of did take place. You may retaliate against the existing garrison (at Manoli) in any manner you think fit. The commander of Manoli (who had fired on the British troops) we shall **hand over to you for punishment**. We undertake

not to give succour to Dhondji Wagh, but on the other hand, are prepared to mobilize a force and send it to assist you in this campaign. You on your part should mediate between the Patwardhans and ourselves we would be quite prepared to accept your arbitration."

Wellesley thereupon suggested that Kolhapur should hand over to the Patwardhans "all the territory that they possessed on either bank of the Malaprabha river, for being administered by Ramchandrapant."

However, even though the emissary passed off the occasion by answering in the affirmative, nothing was done about giving effect to Wellesley's suggestion, Wellesley and his colleagues then went on with their campaign against Dhondji Wagh and Kolhapur. On its part, must have been thankful to realize that the campaign was not after all directed against itself. In the event, the very next month, Dhondji Wagh was surprised by Wellesley at Nandihal and in the battle that ensued was killed and his force routed (September 10th, 1800).

Sidhoji Nimbalkar, who became well-known as Appa Desai of Nipani, came from the family of the Nandikar Desais who for a time, had adopted the Lingayat seat, and who had been the hereditary Inamdars of Nipani, right



from the days of the Bijapur Kings. After the break-up of the Bijapur Kingdom, Nipani had become a part of the Kolhapur Kingdom and the Desais having adopted themselves to the change of masters, had again become Marathas. Over the years, the family had come to be accepted as Marathas and had married into some of the highest born Maratha families - indeed one of Shivaji Chhatrapati's Ranees and Sidhoji Nimbalkar's mother were sisters.

Sidhoji was born in 1774. As a child, he was a frequent visitor to the Kolhapur palace where his aunt lived, and was thus on terms of the utmost familiarity with Shivaji's family. It is said that Shivaji looked upon him as though he were a favourite son and gave a place of honour to Sidhoji in his court by making him a Mankari.

Then came the sudden and dramatic rift. A daughter of the Ghorpades of Gajendragad was offered in marriage to Sidhoji, but before these negotiations could be completed, Shivaji had intervened, and arranged that the girl should married to a son of the Himmatbahadur Chavan family of Kolhapur who, according to Shivaji, possessed a higher lineage. Shivaji's objection is difficult to understand since he himself was related by marriage to Sidhoji Nimbalkar and Sidhoji was understandably incensed

by this effront. He openly vowed that he would wipe out the insult to his lineage by marrying one of the Maharaja's own daughters, and left Kolhapur to take service under Parshurambhau Patwardhan who then was Kolhapur's most formidable enemy.

Both in the battle of Pattankudi and in Ramchandrapant Patwardhan's seige of Kolhapur, Sidhoji had fought on the side of Patwardhans. After the Kolhapur siege had been lifted, he had gratitaded to Poona and there managed to make friends with a man of his own stamp who wielded immense influence in the Poona Court, Sakharam Sarjerao Ghatge. According to Mr. Y. N. Kelkar's excellent introduction to his book on historical ballads, both Sidhoji and Sarjerao were - "As daring as they were ungrateful, cruel as they were unprincipled."

The details of the pact between these two evil geniuses are not known but it is not all unlikely that Sarjerao Ghatge promised Sidhoji that he would not only restore him to his Jagir of Nipani but that he would also ensure that the Talukas of Chikodi and Manoli also were granted to him as soon as they were wrested away from the Patwardhans - at any rate this was what Sidhoji Nimbalkar seemed to believe he was getting.

No sooner had Sarjerao gone away than Sidhoji began to carry out raids into the territory adjoining his estates. As time passed, his depredations grew in intensity and range and to counter them became an urgent concern of the Kolhapur Chhatrapati. Shivaji called upon the Peshwa, Bajirao, to send him help to put down Sidhoji Nimbalkar. As it happened, at this particular time, Bajirao himself was so beset by troubles of his own that he was in no position to send help to Kolhapur. But the fact that Kolhapur should have sought his help at all illustrates a startling change that had come over the pattern of alignments. Barely a year earlier, the Peshwa had sent his contingents to attack Kolhapur.

Shivaji/at this time could have had no serious complaints against Bajirao Peshwa, and in any case he could not have been inclined to participate in the conclusive affairs of the Poona Court. He was far too busy fending off the mounting menace of Sidhoji Nimbalkar. At this time, Kolhapur used to keep Nagojirao Ghatge Zunsarrao, as its permanent emissary with the British representative at Poona, and through him, Shivaji sought to enlist British aid to wind up Sidhoji Nimbalkar's Jagir.

By this time, the British had signed a treaty of friendship with the Peshwa (The Bassein treaty) and Sidhoji Nimbalkar who for all his infidelity, was a highly resourceful man, managed to extract the fullest advantage from this uneasy and short-lived alliance. Bajirao had actually appointed him as his "Ambassador" with General Wellesley's column which was then the campaigning in the Deccan. As such, the reply to Kolhapur's entreaties to the British for help against Nimbalkar was a sharp reminder that Nimbalkar was a servant of an ally and thus was not be molested.

General Wellesley writes (October 15th 1803)  
"Nimbalkar is a servant of the Peshwa and is with our force as his Ambassador .... I have often requested your Highness not to disturb the territories of - Sardars serving with English forces....and now repeat the warning that whoever does so, shall be punished as an aggressor (against) the company's territory.....I have written to Mr. Campbell to protect Nimbalkar's territory."<sup>23</sup>

Thus we see the British already more powerful than all the Indian rulers, are solidly on Nimbalkar's side :

This was how matters stood when Kolhapur's emissary with the British, Nagojirao Ghatage dies on July 22nd, 1804. As though to have as his representative with this rising power a man who enjoyed his special trust, Shivaji now appointed Pritirao Chavan Himmatbahadur, to that post.

While Sidhoji Nimbalkar was himself away with Wellesley's column and the British had made themselves responsible for guarding estates, Kolhapur became involved in the succession dispute that was going on in Sawantwadi Khemsawat of Sawantwadi died in 1803. After him a war of succession began in Sawant family. Shivaji-II helped Fond Sawant so Shriram Sawant, the rival claimant approached Sidhojirao for help. Sidhojirao asked for Peshwa's sanction and on getting it, marched in on Kolhapur with a large army in May, 1807. Because of the rains he had to withdraw. Again in October he came to Kolhapur. On way he captured Chikodi and Manoli. Shivaji-II himself came to face him. In the battle of Savgaon Yashawantrao Ghatage, the Chief of Kolhapur artillery was killed. Narayanrao Patankar, the Sarlashkar of Kolhapur who was a cousin of Sidhojirao treacherously withdrew. The Kolhapur forces were fully routed and Shivaji himself was wounded.<sup>24</sup>

Shivaji II tried to bring about peace. Sidhojirao asked for the hand of Yesubai, one of the daughters of Shivaji II. Much against his will and because of pressure of Bajirao II, Shivaji II had to consent. But even this marriage (June, 1808) did not soften Sidhojirao. The defeat and the marriage lessened the prestige of Shivaji II to a great extent. Under the changed circumstances, Shivaji II had to yield. Rajadnya retired in 1809, the next year Pritirao Chavan died in 1810. The retirement of one and death of the other weakened the Kolhapur to a great extent.

Taking advantage of this, Sidhojirao again attacked Kolhapur in 1811.<sup>25</sup> Again Kolhapur forces were completely defeated. In this difficulty Shivaji once again appealed to the English for help. Since the treaty of Bassein, the English were all powerful on the Western Coast. Only ~~Sindhudurg~~ Sindhudurg belonged to Kolhapur. The English, therefore, promised to help on condition that Sindhudurg together with the entire Kolhapur navy be given to them. Shivaji had to accept and a following treaty was signed on October 8, 1812.<sup>26</sup>

AGREEMENT WITH THE RAJA OF

KOLHAPUR DATED THE 1st OCT., 1812 :

Articles of Agreement concluded between the Raja of Kolhapur and the Honourable Mountstuart Elphinstone, Resident at Poona on the part of the British Government, and accepted by the Raja of Kolhapur on the 1st of Oct., 1812.

ARTICLES : 27

- I) There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the allied Governments of the Honourable Company and his Highness, the Peshwa on the one part, and his Highness, the Raja of Kolhapur on the other.
- II) The Raja of Kolhapur on his own part, and on that of his heirs and successors, hereby renounces all right and claim of whatever description on the districts of Chikoree and Manoli, and all dependencies which have hitherto comprehended in those districts. The districts aforesaid are henceforward to belong in absolute sovereignty to Rao Pundit Pradhan Peshwa Bahadoor, his heirs and successors.

... 90/-

- III) All the forts and country taken in consequence of the wars occasioned by the disputed claims to Chikoree and Munolee, from the Raja of Kolhapur, within the last four years, i.e. since the month of September, 1808 and now occupied by the troops of Rao Pundit Pradhan Peshwa Bahadoor, shall be - immediately restored to the Raja of Kolhapur.
- IV) The Raja of Kolhapur hereby renounces all other claims of whatever description on Rao Pundit Pradhan Peshwa Bahadoors and on all and every part of his dominions, with the exception of the new conquests mentioned in in Article III. His Highness, the Maharaja likewise renounces all claim upon Nepanel, High Highness, the Raja of Kolhapur hereby further renounces all claims of whatever description on all the Peshwa subjects, of whatever rank and denomination.<sup>28</sup>
- V) For the security of the British against a renewal of the practical depredations formerly practised by the Raja of Kolhapur subjects, the Raja of Kolhapur hereby agrees on his own part, and on the part of his heirs and successors, to cede to the Honourable Company in perpetual sovereignty the harbour of Malwan that is to say, the fort and island of - Sindhudurg of Malwan and the forts of Pudungur,



V) Contd...

Rajkote and Sorjekote, with the lands dependent on the said forts, and the British troops shall immediately be put in possession of the said forts and their dependencies.

VI) His Highness, the Raja of Kolhapur, engages on his own part, and on that of his heirs and successors, never to employ and armed vessels, or to permit any armed vessels to be fitted out at or to enter any of the sea-ports which may remain in his Highness's possession, after the cession of the places before mentioned or which he may hereafter acquire, and the Raja of Kolhapur agrees that the Hon. Company's vessels shall have sailed from them and that if any arms are found in vessels so searched, the said vessels shall be lawful prize to the Honourable Company. The Raja further engages to permit agents on the part of the Honourable Company to reside in all ports in his dominions, or which may hereafter fall into his hands, to the purpose of ascertaining the state of all vessels lying in such ports as to permit the said agents to search the said vessel.

- VII) If any ship bearing the British Flag, or furnished with a British Pass, or belonging to the allies of the British Government, should hereafter put in to the Raja of Kolhapur's ports, or be driven by stress of weather, or any other cause, upon his shores, His Highness, the Raja of Kolhapur engages on his own part and on that of heirs and successors that all practicable assistance shall be rendered to such vessels and the Raja further agrees, that no claim shall be advanced by himself or any of his subjects on any vessel belonging to whatever nation that may be shipwrecked or driven by stress of weather upon his shores.
- VIII) In consideration of the cession of the harbour of Malwan and on condition of the effectual suppression of piracy, the Honourable Company, engages to guarantee such territories as shall remain in the Raja of Kolhapur's possession against the aggression of all foreign powers and states. This treaty virtually marked the end of the independent existence of Kolhapur. By the last clause the Chhatrapati had to accept a subordinate position to the English. Shivaji II did not live long to suffer this indignity.

By this treaty Sindhudurg and the area round about was given to the English. Chhikodi and Manoli was given to Peshwa. Shivaji II promised not to maintain a navy and not to have belligerent relations with any power without the consent of the English.<sup>29</sup>

Thus, this treaty virtually marks the end of the independent existence of Kolhapur. By the last clause the Chhatrapati had to accept a subordinate position to the English.

Thus, the Kolhapur became Kingdom to princely state. Shivaji II did not live long to suffer the indignity. He died on April 24, 1813. Shivaji II - ascended the throne at the age of four in 1762. For the first ten years of his reign Jijabai administered. After her death his mother Durgabai played an important role in the administration. At the time of Durgabai's death in 1779, Shivaji II was about 20 years old. Since then he himself looked in to all the state matters. He was perhaps the last member of the Chhatrapati family who commanded the army in person. In a number of sieges and battles he was in the forefront. He ruled for about 50

years. It was the longest rule in the Chhatrapati family. During his reign he had to fight his own feudatories as also the Peshwa. Because of the political exigency he had to make alliances in different occasions with Haider, Tipu and the English. Unfortunately the times were against him. He was born a century too late. Before the rising tide of the English he had to surrender in 1792 and again 20 years after in 1812. By the treaty of 1812, he had to virtually surrender his independence. He was a victim of the times.

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