

## CHAPTER FIVE

### RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PATWARDHANS AND THE BRITISH

The Patwardhans were established in the Southern Maratha Country in order to oppose Haider Ali of Mysore and the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. The Peshwa considered Patwardhans able to control and check these enemies and fight them successfully.<sup>1</sup> After the treaty of Salbai in 1783 between the Marathas and the British, the position of the British was strengthened. In the last decade of the 18th century the British had established relations with various Indian States.

The Patwardhans were not slow in gaining the friendship of the British. In 1791 the joint action of the Marathas and the British had started against Tipu of Mysore. Parshuram Bhaui Patwardhan was the commander-in-chief of the Maratha army. Lord Cornwallis won a brilliant victory over Tipu on 15th May, 1791. But he had to meet tremendous hardship. It was impossible for him to obtain grain and fodder and other needful supplies. The troops were reduced to absolutely sore straits. It was at this critical juncture that Parshuram Pant Bhaui Saheb and other Patwardhans joined the Grand Army on 28th May and rendered all the assistance that was required to relieve Cornwallis and saved the honour and dignity of the British in many ways. The documents which created the Jahagirs and the treaties which

protected and maintained them, describe the relations of the Patwardhans with the British. In fact there was a machinery to maintain the relations.

"India" is defined by the General Clauses Act X of 1897 and the Interpretation Act of 1889 as including British India together with any territories of any Native Chief or Prince under the suzerainty of His Majesty exercised through the Governor General of India or through any Governor or other Officer subordinate to the Governor General of India.

"The territory of the Native States is not British territory nor are their subjects British subjects but the sovereignty over them is divided between the British Government and their rulers in proportions which differ greatly according to the history and importance of the several states and which are regulated partly by treaties or less formal engagements, partly by Sanads or Charters and partly by usages."<sup>3</sup>

The British Government accepted to maintain the status of the rulers of the Sangli State by Article 7 of the Sangli Treaty dated 15th May, 1819, which says "The British Government will maintain the rank and dignity of the Rulers of Sangli, as it was maintained by the government of His Highness the

Peshwa." <sup>4</sup> The Patwardhans "for 20 years before the fall of the Peshwa had become almost independent of that Sovereign", as recognised by the Honourable Court of Directors in their Resolution dated 20th May, 1856." <sup>5</sup> The British Government made treaties direct with the Ruler of Sangli in 1803 and 1812 and in 1817 and the Peshwa agreed to issue no orders to Sangli without full concert with the British Government. <sup>6</sup> By a treaty of 1803, General Wellesley secured for the Patwardhans the friendship of East India Company. In 1800 a further incident took place which brought the Patwardhans and the British closer. This incident is related to Dhondia Wagh. Dhondia Wagh was a daring freebooter whom Tipu had captured and thrown into prison. <sup>7</sup> But somehow he managed to escape from Tipu's prison. He collected a few followers and entered into the environs of Dharwar. He took shelter with Desai of Laxmeshwar and commenced plundering village after village and levying contributions upon the people. Dhondia Wagh attacked Dambal, Gadag and handed over those places to the persons of his trust. He collected five lakhs of rupees from the people of those towns. He also collected tribute from Mulgund, Anigiri, Kundgol and Navalgund. <sup>8</sup> Very soon he became a source of trouble to the Maratha dominion in Karnatak. When the situation became further serious, the Peshwa ordered Dhondopant Gokhale, the Sar-Subhedar of Karnatak to crush the revolt of Dhondia Wagh. Accordingly Dhondopant Gokhale attacked Dhondia Wagh, and plundered his camp,

but Dhondia Wagh fled away and took shelter with the Chhatrapati of Kolhapur. The uprising of Dhondia Wagh created alarm in the minds of the British also. At this time General Wellesley was appointed to manage the recently conquered Mysore territory. So, it became very urgent for the British to enlist the Maratha help. General Wellesley also considered that the destruction of this "King of the two worlds" - as Dhondia Wagh described himself - was very essential for peace of Canara and Malbar coasts. His destruction was very much essential for the tranquillity of the region. General Wellesley collected two brigades of cavalry and three brigades of infantry. The Marathas also joined General Wellesley to march against Dhondia Wagh.

Dhondopant Gokhale, his nephews Appaji Ganesh and Bapuji Ganesh along with Chintamanrao Patwardhan, joined the British forces. The combined army had a serious clash with Dhondia Wagh at a place called Dawangi Nala near Kittur. In this fierce battle Dhondia Wagh killed Dhondopant Gokhale. Dhondia literally fulfilled his vow by colouring his mustaches in the blood of Dhondopant Gokhale. Chintamanrao showed a rare heroism in fighting against Dhondia Wagh. His valour was also acknowledged by General Wellesley in his letter dated 4th July 1800. Even Peshwa Bajirao II admired Chintamanrao for his valour in the battle in a letter dated 11th August 1800. General Wellesley was so much impressed by the valour shown by Chintamanrao that he ordered "a salute of 13 guns to be fired on Chintamanrao's

arrival at General Wellesley's tent on 25th July 1800."<sup>9</sup>

45 The joint Maratha-British endeavour to put down the Wagh rebellion soon took a good turn. In the beginning General Wellesley defeated Dhondia Wagh at Kongal. But on 10th Sept. 1800 he captured and killed Dhondia Wagh. Thus this short campaign against Dhondia Wagh brought the Marathas and the British still closer. General Wellesley wrote to Chintamanrao Patwardhan on 15th Sept. 1800, "We have derived most essential advantages in the last contest from the assistance of the family of Parshuram Bhau, that if they had been as lukewarm or I may say as hostile in the cause of those more immediately connected with the Peshwa, the result would probably not have been so successful as it has turned out."<sup>10</sup>

In 1802 Peshwa Bajirao II entered into the treaty of Bassein with the British. By this treaty Peshwa virtually lost his independence.

In 1803 General Wellesley concluded a treaty with the Patwardhan family.<sup>11</sup> "By a treaty of 1803, General Wellesley secured for the Patwardhans the inviolate friendship of the Honourable East India Co."<sup>12</sup> The Patwardhans were further freely designated as 'Friends' and 'Allies' of the British Government and the English. General Wellesley pointed out to Colonel Close, the Resident at Poona in 1803 "that Parshuram Bhau's

family were the 'oldest friends' the English had in the Maratha Empire. They were also called "Staunch allies of the British Government", and "the most ancient friends" that the British Government have in the Maratha Empire".<sup>13</sup>

When the war against Dhondia Wagh was over the question of settlement of the territory overrun by Wagh came forth for discussion before the Marathas and the British. Bajirao II (1796-1818) was naturally against the Patwardhans. He did not like the manner in which they gained importance in Karnatak. General Wellesley was thinking in other terms. He looked to the Patwardhans "in order to counterbalance the Scindia's influence at Poona Court."<sup>14</sup> The great prestige of the Patwardhans created jealousy in the mind of the Peshwa. "Prior to 1812 the power and influence of the Patwardhan family excited the jealousy of the Peshwa, who had attempted to strip them of their rights. Upto 1811 the relations between the Patwardhans and the British were further cemented. In 1811 Mount Stuart Elphinstone came to Poona as the British Resident. He was in Maharashtra from 1811 to 1827. He worked as the Resident at Poona from 1811 to 1818 and when the Maratha Raj was over he assumed the power as the Commissioner and ruled Deccan from 1818 to 1827. Elphinstone's role in the political affairs of Poona is very important. In 1812, however, the Patwardhans went under the British protection."<sup>15</sup>

When Elphinstone arrived in Poona, Bajirao II had two complaints against the Patwardhans. Bajirao II contended that the Patwardhans do not help the Peshwa whenever called for duties, and they have forcibly acquired territory without a Sanad being issued to that effect.<sup>16</sup> Besides these grievances the Peshwa did not form good opinion about the Patwardhans. He had inherited it from his father Raghunathrao. Chintamanrao Appasaheb of Sangli had given asylum to Baburao Phadke against the Peshwa's wishes. So, the Peshwa was restless. He desired to wrest initiative from the Patwardhans, and establish his own authority over them. General Wellesley was ever in favour of the Patwardhans. He deputed Mr. E. Strachy to settle the dispute between the Peshwa and the Patwardhans. Mr. Strachy put the following plan for discussion:

- 1) Patwardhans should accept to serve the Peshwa by relinquishing their Saranjami rights.
- 2) Patwardhans should not attack Kolhapur without the consent of the Peshwa.
- 3) The Peshwa and Patwardhans should forget the past instances of insults. The Patwardhans should hold only that territory which is precisely mentioned in their Sanad. A permanent list of these lands should be kept with the British. On the contrary, the British should work as

a gurantee.

- 4) Considering the expenditure that was incurred on incessant warfare and famine, the Jahagirdar should maintain  $3/4$  of their force mentioned in the original Sanad and the remaining  $1/4$  should be disbanded.
- 5) The Jahagirdars should keep a trusted person with  $1/3$  of the stipulated force at Poona.
- 6) The Patwardhans should relinquish the territory that was not mentioned in the Sanad.<sup>17</sup>

The Plan was more or less accepted by the Patwardhans. They were not prepared to fight the British. The scheme was sent to the Governor General for consent. Subsequently, the Governor General permitted Elphinstone to proceed along the lines discussed in the scheme.

Elphinstone took Bajirao II with him and went to Pandharpur in July 1812 to conclude a treaty with the Southern Jahagirdars. From Pandharpur, Elphinstone sent letters requesting the Jahagirdars to attend the discussion. Among the Jahagirdars invited were Narayanrao Patwardhan of Miraj, Chintamanrao of Sangli, Appasaheb of Tasgaon and Trimbakrao of Kurundwad. This invitation was couched with a latent threat by Elphinstone. He warned the Patwardhan Chiefs that failing



to attend the discussion should lead to the confiscation of their Jahagirs.

With a little hesitation all the Patwardhans accepted the terms and conditions laid down by Elphinstone on behalf of the Peshwa. Thus the treaty of Pandharpur was signed on 19th July, 1812.

According to the treaty of Pandharpur, there was to be mutual oblivion of past injuries; all pecuniary claims on either side were to be given up; the Jahagirdars were to retain their Saranjami lands as long as they served the Peshwa with fidelity; all other usurpations were to be surrendered ny the Jahagirdars to the Peshwa; they were to serve the Peshwa according to their Tainat Jabta and to old customs and to attend the Peshwa with their contingents whenever summoned; a third of their force under a member of the family was to attend the Peshwa at all times; the British Government was to guarantee the security of their persons, relations and Jahagirs as long as they serve the Peshwa with fidelity.

Suman Vaidya observed, "The hateful arbitration effected by the British came as a severe shock to the Peshwa and filled his mind with bitterness. The treaty made a mockery of his authority over his subjects. It frustrated all his plans to render innocuous the whole class of his rebellious chiefs and

to attain greater consolidation."<sup>18</sup> As was expected, the Treaty of Pandharpur neither enforced discipline or loyalty among the Southern Chiefs nor did it bring peace and tranquillity to the country. Thus the treaty of Pandharpur became an instrument in the hands of the British to deal with the Jahagirdars independent of the Peshwa. This treaty further alienated the Peshwa from his Jahagirdars. As a consequence of this treaty Chintamanrao Appasaheb of Sangli handed over the Thana of Shirala to the Peshwa. Even though Bajirao II was shorn of this authority, his wife played havoc with the Patwardhans. Bajirao II encouraged division in the Patwardhan family. This was a trick played by him to weaken the Patwardhans.

The murder of Gangadhar Shastri in 1815 was the last straw which tilted the balance in British favour. The Gaikwads of Baroda had a longstanding dispute with the Peshwa over the payment of arrears. The Gaikwads had posted Shri Bapu Miral at Poona as their Vakil. In 1815 Gangadhar Shastri was sent by the Gaikwads to Poona, at the instance of the British to settle their dispute with the Peshwa. Elphinstone agreed to protect Gangadhar Shastri. Bajirao II took Shastri with him to Pandharpur on the auspicious occasion of Ashadh Ekadashi in 1815. There he (Shastri) was murdered by Trimbakji Dengale. Elphinstone received the news of the murder when he

was at Ellora. He immediately came to Poona and accused Trimbakji Dengale as the murderer. He also asked Bajirao II to hand over Trimbakji to the British. Naturally Bajirao declined to hand him over. So, Elphinstone laid siege to Poona on 8th May, 1816. Bajirao was totally handicapped by this unexpected action taken by the British.<sup>19</sup> Elphinstone shrewdly exploited the situation caused by Gangadhar Shastri's murder and imposed the treaty of Poona on Bajirao in 1817. At the same time Elphinstone declared Trimbakji Dengale as the traitor. The Europeans have painted Trimbakji as a worthless vain menial, who had gained an ascendancy in the Poona Court by catering to the baser inclination of the Peshwa. In fact he was a man of considerable courage and ability. He strove to the best of his capacities to root out the alien power that had entrenched itself on the Indian soil.<sup>20</sup> This incident brought the British and the Peshwa at the loggerhead. In 1817 the final British assault on the Maratha empire began. In the last Anglo-Maratha war the Patwardhans remained neutral. The attitude of the Patwardhans was based on the intention of self-aggrandizement. In 1818 the British defeated the Marathas and thus ended the Maratha empire once for all.

After the war the question of settlement of the conquered territories came before Elphinstone. From 1818, Elphinstone

assumed the charge of the Maratha territory. He ably dealt with his problems. Elphinstone in his capacity as the Commissioner of Deccan effected independent settlements with Chintamanrao Appasaheb Patwardhan and other branches of Patwardhan family.

The Patwardhan, Chief of Sangli, was wavering and undecided in the beginning of the settlement, because he was apprehensive about his further position under the British. However, Elphinstone had all the things clear in his mind can be seen by his letter to Metcalfe. He wrote, "Although the policy of the Patwardhans was wavering and undecided, they soon took the important step of separating from the army and although this was done by the Peshwa's permission and with the intension of keeping up a close connection with him as well as with us. The impression made by their conduct was nearly the same as that of an open defection ... General Munro has repeatedly assured the Patwardhans that their condition shall be better than it was under Bajee Row."<sup>21</sup> Mr. Elphinstone clung to the treaty of Pandharpur of 1812 as the basis of future relations between the Patwardhans and the British. He had a firm belief in the spirit of the treaty because he held that the treaty was "founded on the ancient custom of the Maratha Empire."<sup>22</sup> He was also of the opinion that the Jagirdars must be entrusted with the management of

their Jahageers along with the powers of civil and criminal justice and must not be interfered wit by the Government. But when the issue of settlement of the territory was actually decided, the Patwardhans were highly benefitted. P.K. Ghosh, while commenting on the settlement stated, "Among the Jagirdars the Patwardhans gained the maximum from the war."<sup>23</sup> The Patwardhans retained their respective Jagirs along with their contingents. They were all rewarded with additions to their personal Jagirs. Elphinstone conceded the claims of Ganpatrao Patwardhan of Tasgaon. Chintaman Rao's services were also amply rewarded. He was given a reward of Rs. 30,000 considering the seniority in the Patwardhan family. Elphinstone was aware of the fact that the rule of the British should appear to be generous, so that the natives may not be alienated. So, he wrote to Chaplin, "We must make our yoke as light as possible."<sup>24</sup>

Chintamanrao Appasaheb of Sangli refused to serve under any government except that of the Peshwa. He contended that there was no provision in the terms of Pandharpur treaty of 1812 which made it obligatory for him to serve the British. "Elphinstone met Chintamanrao at Belgaum and endeavoured to remove his prejudices against serving the British Government, informing him among other arguments that in the event of his adhering to his resolutions, it would be impossible to bestow

on him a grant as has been thought of, and indeed decided upon."<sup>25</sup> Chintamanrao was opposed to accepting subordinate position with the British. A paper was sent to Chintamanrao for his signature acknowledging his dependence on the British Government and renouncing his claim of sovereignty over the Patwardhan family. Chintamanrao refused the compliance. So a force under General Pritzler at once marched against him. When the force approached Sangli, he signed the document and despatched the paper to Poona stating that he had merely signed the paper because there was no time for reference, and reiterated the expression of his inability to perform service and allegiance. The paper that was signed by Chintamanrao Appasaheb runs as follows:

"I was a Sirdar and subject under the Peshwa. The Peshwa's government was set aside and that of the Company established. My Jahageer has with other territories come under the British Government. I will serve the British as I may be directed with fidelity and attachment with such lands as may be graciously bestowed on me. I shall not maintain connexion with or dependence on the Peshwa. I shall not hereafter make any claims according to the former Tainat Jabta. I relinquish the claim I formerly made of my relations, the Mirajkar, Tasgaunkar and Kurundwadkar Sirdars being under my authority. I accept only whatever Jagheer the British government may be pleased to grant me and I beg a memorandum for the continuance of it by which I will permanently abide. This is the agreement."<sup>26</sup>

Treaty of Sangli (15th May 1819)

By the above mentioned piece of paper the Chief of Sangli Chintamanrao virtually lost all his independence. He became totally subservient to the British authority. In order to soften the relations Elphinstone decided to omit the stipulated plan of asking Chintamanrao to serve under the British in lieu of land commensurate with the services in arms to be lent.

(In January 1820 Chintamanrao made over the Paraganas of New Hubli, Turrus and Burdole to the British. The annual revenue of the Paraganas was estimated by him at Rs. 1,38,995. When the actual examination of the papers was made it was revealed that these paraganas could provide the income of only about Rs. 65,000. So, Chintamanrao was accordingly asked to yield additional territory to make up the amount due from him. Chintamanrao evaded the requisition under various pretexts. The Principal collector was authorised to seize certain portions of Chintamanrao's territory to make up the total requirement and also to resume temporarily certain other lands of his as security for Rs. 1,35,000, due for the previous year.) Finally Chintamanrao had to surrender to the powerful arms of the British and concluded a treaty on 15 May 1819 which is known as the Treaty of Sangli. The treaty runs as follows:

**ARTICLE I:** In the Arabic year 1213 a settlement was concluded and a letter and memorandum on the part of the British Government

was despatched from Pandharpur. In the third article of that memorandum it is written that you are to serve the Peshwa according to the ancient custom of the Maratha Empire, as it appears in your Tainat Jabta. With reference to that agreement it has now been settled that you shall serve with (450) horse one-fourth of the contingent of troops, for the maintenance of which you now hold lands or that in lieu of such service you pay to the government in ready money at the rate of Rs. 300/- a horse the amount of the allowance of that number, or that you shall relinquish an equivalent in land, whereupon you have agreed to give up the amount of the allowance in land, you will make over the said land to a separate schedule.

**ARTICLE II:** As long as you remain faithful and true to government your lands shall be continued to you without interruption. This stipulation was contained in the 5th article of the terms of Pandharpur and is hereby confirmed.

**ARTICLE III:** You shall on no account entertain troops for the purpose of engaging in a contest with any person whatever. In the event of any cause of dispute arising, you must not resort yourself to extreme measures but must refer the question to the government for consideration: it will then be impartially adjusted, and you must abide by the decision. This article corresponds with the fourth clause of the terms of Pandharpur, which is hereby confirmed.



ARTICLE IV: You will attend to the property of the rayats of your Jahagir to the strict administration of justice, and the effectual suppression of robberies, murders, arsons and other crimes. This article is an essential condition of the present agreement: you must therefore indispensably maintain the good order of your country.

ARTICLE V: You will continue all rights within your Jahagir whether belonging to the state or to individuals, all Dumala Saranjam and Inam villages and lands all Varshasans (or religious establishments) (or assignments on the revenue) etc., and if in any particular instance any interruption shall have been offered to a grant not annuled by government such grant shall likewise be made good without hinderance to the proprietor. No complaints on this head are to be suffered to reach the Government.

ARTICLE VI: If any offendent from your Jahagir lands shall come into those of the Government you will represent the affairs and they shall, on enquiry, be delivered up to you; and should any offenders against the Government or criminals belonging to its territory, seek refuge in your country, they will be pursued by the Government officials and will afford every assistance in delivering up such offenders.

ARTICLE VII: The British Government will maintain your rank and

dignity as it was maintained under His Highness the Peshwa. It will attend to any of your representations and will decide equitably upon them: you shall in no respect suffer injury but will of course be supported as far as is just.

ARTICLE VIII: Any villages, lands or other possessions belonging to your Saranjam or Inam situated within the lands of Government shall be continued without obstruction as they have been heretofore been continued.<sup>27</sup>

This treaty amply proves the nature of subordinate position of the Patwardhans. The Patwardhans, especially Chintamanrao had to relinquish land worth Rs. 1,35,000 to the British Government. It was also binding on the Patwardhans to remain loyal to the British authority. Chintamanrao was forbidden to maintain his own troops. The British expected Patwardhan to be just and equitable in his dealings with his rayats. The British tried to pacify him by giving him concessions in certain areas and also assuring him of his rank and dignity. The same matter seems to have been further cemented by the treaty concluded between Chintamanrao and the British on 25 January 1820.

The Treaty of 25th January 1820

ARTICLE I : In pusuence of the treaty of Pandharpur you have agreed to assign territory in lieu of the pay of the above number of horses and you are therefore required to make over to

Government territory yielding the full amount according to the deed of relinquishment given in by you.

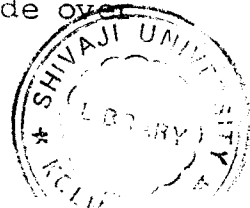
ARTICLE II: As long as you act with fidelity and attachment the Jahageer in your possession and in the possession of the Sirdars of your family shall be continued without any interruption or question.

ARTICLE III: Without Government orders you are on no account to collect men and have an engagement with any person. Should any dispute arise among yourself, you are without having any resource to arms, to bring it to the notice of government for settlement.

ARTICLE IV: You should keep the rayats of your Jahgeer territory in a prosperous state.

ARTICLE V: Should there be in your Jahgeer territory any Government 'Umal', 'dumalla' 'Surunjamee' and inami villages, lands, Warshasuns, dhurmadas, ... dewstans, razeenas, Kuryats, nannooks, etc. which may have been continued from former times you are to continue them without interruption to the respective incumbents.

ARTICLE VI: If any offender of the talooka of your Jagheer take refuge in the Government talooka, you are to make an intimation of it when after an enquiry, they will be made over



you. If offenders and criminals of the Government territories should repair to your territory, you are to assist the Government people who may be despatched to make inquiries regarding them and to make them over to the Government people.

ARTICLE VII: The Company's Government shall continue your dignity and rank in the same manner as they were continued in former times by the Peshwas government.

ARTICLE VIII: Your Saranjam villages, inam lands which may be situated in the Government territories shall be continued as hitherto without any interruption.<sup>28</sup>

After this treaty was concluded the position and status of the Sanglikar Patwardhan was finally established. Though Chintamanrao was never mentally subservient to the British, he reluctantly rendered help to the British. Chintamanrao was a most trusted friend of the Government and had won their confidence and respect. He rendered most valuable services to the British Government when that Government was in need. In the same year (1920) Chintamanrao concluded another treaty with the British on 12.12.1820. In 1830, disturbance arose in Kittur. Chintamanrao quickly despatched his military force under his commander Nilkanthrao to suppress Raya Sangoli, the ring leader of the disturbances. The British Government thanked Chintamanrao for the signal help that he had rendered. Mr.

John Thackeray the chief collector and political Agent, Dharwar wrote to Chintamanrao, "There was an outbreak of revolt in the Kittoor territory ... to suppress it Mr. Nilkhant Rao called for several sardars from you, collected some men, remained present with Government officers engaged on active duty and exerted himself to his utmost in putting down the revolt. This gave immense pleasure to me. Your men rendered great help to the Government."<sup>29</sup>

The next issue that came to the forefront was the issue of adoption. Mr. Chaplin had assured Chintamanrao of right of adoption. The same assurance was carried forward by Elphinstone. And in the year 1830 the Governor of Bombay assured him the confirmation of such right of adoption. The Govern<sup>r</sup>ment of Bombay wrote to him on 30th Nov. 1830, "In reply to your application to have the adoption of a son in your family confirmed I can only now repeat what I have already assured you of my sincere wishes that such a measure may be effected."<sup>30</sup>

Chintamanrao was even very keen in putting a check on the practice of Sati in his State. He had already prevented his daughter-in-law becoming Sati. The Governor of Bombay praised Chintamanrao for this action of preventing Satee on 30 Nov. 1830.

In 1838, Chintamanrao showed willingness to cooperate with

the British during their days of trouble in Persia. He was willing to send his troops to Persia, but Dunlop, the Political Officer, declined his help but paid a rich tribute to him in his letter dated 17th Dec. 1838. The letter runs like this:

"You recently sent a letter which I have duly received through your Vakil Krishnaji Pant, and I have noted its contents. I have had the greatest satisfaction to see you making the following request: 'since an army is being organised and sent the Persians who have raised a quarrel with the Company's Government and are bent on war, considerations of my family name, its military traditions, the demands on it of friendship and attachment, the memory of its unsparing exertions in the campaign against Dhondji Wagh and others - all require that I should send an army to Persia and sacrifice my life in the cause of friendship for the Company's Government and thus earn renown in the world rather than spend my days at home.'" But there is no kind of indication so far that the Persians will engage in a war with the Company's Govt. I am perfectly satisfied that just as you have secured the friendship of the Company and have already done great deeds in its furtherance you will doubtless perform similar deeds in future. If an emergency arises, it will, of course be made known to you."<sup>31</sup>

In the year 1839 when the Afghan war was declared Chintamanrao expressed his desire to join the Company's forces. The Governor of Bombay praised the chief of Sangli saying, "it

is in keeping with your military traditions, that you have volunteered to proceed on war. It has given immense pleasure to Government to receive your offer which is befitting the great fame of your family and your great renown for personal valour. Government has full confidence in you."<sup>32</sup>

In 1844 a serious outbreak occurred in Samangad in Kolhapur State. D.B. Parasnis described Chintamanrao's role on this occasion in the following words: "Chintaman Rao displayed his fidelity and devotion to the British by promptly despatching his military force to the aid of the British authorities thus rendering them most timely and valuable services."<sup>33</sup> Chintaman Rao's services were highly appreciated by the British. H.C. Anderson said: "These services can only faintly be represented by the record of Government."

Taking his services into account the British Government presented a valuable sword to Chintamanrao in testimony of their respect for his high character and in acknowledgment of his unswerving fidelity and attachment to the British nation.<sup>34</sup> For his services Chintamanrao was given as a reward the villages of Yalwatti and Hollapur by the Company.<sup>35</sup> Chintamanrao died on 15 July 1851. He was succeeded by Dhondiraj Tatya Saheb, who attained majority in 1857. Dhondiraj Tatya Saheb followed in the footsteps of his father. In the Mutiny of 1857 the Sangli Chief remained totally on the side of the

British. As a reward for his loyalty to the British he was guaranteed an option of adopting a heir vide a letter written by the Viceroy to him in 1862. Lord Canning, the then Viceroy of India permitted him to adopt a heir according to Hindu Law and the customs of his race. Canning said "Be assured that nothing shall disturb the engagement thus made to you so long as your House is loyal to the Crown, and faithful to the conditions of the Treaties, Grants or Engagements which record its obligations to the British Government."<sup>36</sup> In 1865 at the Durbar held at Belgaum, Sir Bartle Frere, Governor of Bombay, eloquently recalled how the ancestors of the Patwardhans had "been more than mere passive allies of the British Government."

#### Dhondirao Tatyasaheb's Administration

Dhondirao Tatyasaheb ruled the State between 1859 and 1901 i.e., till his death. He was not an efficient ruler. He committed many mistakes and consequently the joint administration was imposed on Sangli State. This joint administration continued from 1874 to 1884. The Chief of Sangli abstained from taking any part in the administration "on the alleged ground that the joint administration should have no possible reason or cause to attribute the failure of his reformatory and revised schemes to any undue interference with their working and progress on his part and the Joint Administrator was during that period in fact the sole and exclusive ruler and Administrator of



the Sangli State."<sup>37</sup>

Sangli State agreed to hand over to the Railway authorities all State lands free of compensation, actually taken for the line, stations, bridges and other bonafide Railway purposes and agreed to hand over the civil and criminal jurisdiction over such lands to the British Government.<sup>38</sup> Sangli also abolished such taxes as Sthalmud, Sthalbhait and Mohtarfa to encourage the British free-trade policy.<sup>39</sup>

The salient feature of the period of joint administration was the introduction of codes of British India into Sangli State. The appointments in the State were made in accordance with fitness and merit than with favouritism. The land revenue was based on survey and settlement system. So, the general revenue of the State considerably increased.

\$ | In order to throw more light on the relations between the British and the Patwardhans in the initial stages some correspondence between the two would clarify the position emphatically. Therefore some selected letters have been purposefully reproduced in the form of Appendices A to O.