

NEPAL

(Continued)

— Sylvain Levi

The king remained deaf, but a presage indicated that heaven had heard; on the 7th of the vaicakha clear, in 927 (1807) a big jackal entered the town, crossed through the bazar and left the town by the northern gate. It was the consequence of the sins of Rana Bahahur, who had retaken from the Brahmans their lands, closed the roads, badly treated the children, committed sacrilege and incest. Rana Bahadur, instructed of plot which his illegitimate brother had schemed against him summons him - Sher Bahadur - orders him to leave the capital and to rejoin the army in the western provinces. Sher Bahhdur replies with an insult; the King threatens to sentence him to death? Sher Bahadur draws the sword, mortally wounds the king and falls himself under the sword of Bala Nara simha Konvar, a Thapa who was destined to have for son, Jang Bahadur, the great minister (1807). Bhim Sen Thapa remaining the prime minister of Girvana Yuddha Vikrama, compels the youngest royal spouse to ascend the pyre, gives out the order to put to death the majority of the chiefs he fears, like the associates of Sher Bahadur and shares the real power

with the regent queen Tripura Sundari. The history of Nepal is henceforth, for thirty years the history of the ministry of Bhim Sen.

King Girvana Yuddha Vikrama Sah, who bore the royal title since the abdication of his father in 1800, does not possess any power and exercises no action until his death. He was two years old when a political combination of Rana Bahadur had borne him to the throne, nine years, when the death of his father had left him as a toy in the hands of the queen and the prime minister, eighteen years old when he died of small-pox in 1816. The chronicle represents him with a fair amount of probability as pious, devoted, peaceful worshipper of Vishnu. He deeply respected the Brahmans and the Holy scriptures (Sastras). He had himself explained the chapter of the Himvat Khanda which exalts the sacred place of Nepal (Nepala mahatmya), fasted the day and the night of the following Givaratri and dedicated the town of Deo Patan to Pashupati, the 14th phalguna dark of the vikrama year 1870 (1813 A.D.).

In 1810 a violent earthquake shook Nepal and caused several deaths at Bhatgaon; it was a dismal preage. Lastly during his reign a war broke out with the English in the terai; but the king struck terror in them and saved the country. Then he summoned the English made peace with and allowed them to live near Rhambahil (suburb of Kathmandu).

Such is the indigenous account and official also, of the Anglo Nepalese war that ended by the treaty of Segowlie and that definitively paralysed the Gurkha conquest. The persistent infringements of the Gurkhas on the southern frontier had ended in exhausting the Company's patience and making it necessary to have recourse to arms. From 1787 to 1813, more than two hundred villages had been seized by the Nepalese under unjustifiable pretexts. Lord Hastings, decided to intervene. When asked for their evacuation within twenty-five days, Bhim Sen replied to the ultimatum by a declaration of war.

Beginning on the 1st of November 1814, the war lasted till the 4th of March 1816. The Gurkhas had 12000 troops only a stand against the 30,000 soldiers and 60 canons that the English placed on the field no sooner the campaign began. Their military virtues, their bravery, their tenacity, their suppleness almost counterbalanced the disparity in numbers and their resistance deserved the esteem and admiration of their conquerors. The incapacity of the British commandants brought about at first a series of disasters general Gillespie, coming from Meerut crosses the Sivalikhs, penetrates in the Dhera Dun and is delayed for a month by the fort of Kalanga Oor Nelapani, backed by 600 Gurkhas under the leadership of Bala Bhadra. The British corps loses 31 officers

and 718 men and its leader fell mortally wounded. When the fort is no longer tenable, Bala Bhadra forces a breach at the head of 90 men who still remained him. General Martindell, who replaces Gillespie, leads his troops before Jythak but he suffers a severe check. He loses 12 officers and 450 men. In February 1815 a company of 200 Gurkhas routs 2,000 irregulars at the service of England. General Marley, told to march on Kathmandu through Bichakoh and Hetaura, allows himself to be 5000 of his men. Major Hearsey who is operating towards Almorah is beaten, wounded and captured. But Colonel Nicolls invested Almorah which capitulates, and the Gurkhas lose Kumaon. The cautious tactic of Ochterlony retrieves all the disasters. Opposed to Amara Simha, the father of Bhim Sen and the most formidable of Gurkha General, he tires him, wears him by small manoeuvres for him to fall back on Malaon, where he is obliged to capitulate. Ochterlony, generous in victory, allows him to walk out with arms and accoutrement "considering the bravery, skill, the fidelity with which he had defended the country entrusted to his cares."

Interrupted by the rainy season and by negotiations which the Darbar lengthly prolongs, the campaign renews in February 1816. Ochterlony, who was unable to force the pass of Bichakoh, manoeuvres round it and appears before Makwanpur. The Gurkhas forts oppose a desperate resistance but the artillery ended in gaining the upper hand. The road to Kathmandu is open. The Darbar sues for peace. On the 4th March 1816, a treaty signed at Segowlie consecrates the defeat of Nepal who loses Sikkim, Kumaon, Garhwal, the whole of that portion of the Terai to the West of the Gandaki and who resigns herself to accept

a British resident. Lord Hastings had made of this clause the fundamental condition of the peace and had side-tracked before hand all discussion on this matter. Edward Gardener was nominated resident in Nepal where Hodgson came to rejoin him as assistant in 1820 ‡

Nepal understood the lesson and profited by it; the Gurkhas did not risk again attacking England. The Government of India on the other hand showed her sagacity; she was careful not to provoke an adversary whose merit she had recognised. General Ochterlony confidentially declared to Lord Hastings that the Hindu soldiers of the Company would never be in a state to resist the shock of those energetic mountaineers on their own soil. In consequence Lord Hastings gave instructions to Edward Gardener to work in transforming the boisterous neighbour into an amicable ally or at the very least peaceful. To better mark his intention, he consented as early as at the close of 1816 to modify a clause of the treaty in accordance to the dearest wishes of the king. The company bound itself to pay an annual indemnity of 200,000 rupees to compensate loss of the revenues which the relinquishment of the Terai caused to the anterior holders of these fiefs; by a new arrangement a portion of the Terai was ceded back to Nepal as an equivalent to 200,000 rupees of yearly revenues. The English discovered too late the bad bargain they had concluded. In 1834, Hodgson estimated at 991,000 rupees the annual revenues of lands ceded back.

Immediately after the war, the king Girvana Yuddha Vikrama was dead. He was replaced by his son of very young age, Rajendra Vikrama Sah (1816). The change of princes that opened a new minority with a long term, consolidated the power of the prime minister Bhim Sen and of the queen Tripura Sundari, grand-mother of Rajindra Vikrama Sah.

Bhim Sen had to face a difficult situation. The Gurkhas were a military nation incapable of living otherwise than by wars and conquests. The revenues of the Nepalese soil could not suffice to maintain an idle population, and the war with British had shown to the Gurkhas that the era of raids had passed. Bhim Sen exerted himself to encourage the traffic between Nepal and her two neighbours India and Tibet. The revenues of the Customs estimated at 80,000 rupees in 1836, rose in 1853 to 250,000 rupees. But defeat had imposed on the vanquished new expenditures; the Gurkhas had understood that to escape the invading power that absorbed the whole of India by degrees, the rampart of the mountains did not suffice without the armics and the canons. Bhim Sen erected founderies for canons, arsenals, built large barracks, maintained and developed the discipline and military instructions. Money was lacking; Bhim Sen appealed in the name of Hindu patriotism, to the Brahmans and temples that possessed through donation, properties free of charges. Few answered the appeal. To assure of his power he then did not fear to charts

‡ For the period that corresponds to the sojourn of Hodgson, I have utilized the biography written by Sir W. W. Hunter: *Life of Brian Houghton*, London, 1896. Hunter has utilized a great number of documents that were half confidential. These can be seen at the India office and the very precise indication of which one can see in the notes of his excellent book.

and certificates that sanctioned them. He had let loose against him adversaries that did not forgive.

In 1832, the old queen Tripura Sundari died. Bhim Sen saw without regret the extinction of an authority which acted as a counter-poise to him. In fact, henceforth he remained exposed, alone for a paradoxical administration that for twenty-eight years left absolute power in the hands of an ordinary servant of the Crown. One of his brothers Rana Vira Simha Thapa had become intimate with the young king whom he had under his authority and whom he excited by ambition to seize the authority once again. In the seraglio, the old rivalry of the Thapas and Panres was preparing a new crash; the first spouse of Rajendra Vikrama was affiliated to the Panres; the second, by her birth and interests, was connected to the Thapas. Since 1833 (the very year in which Hodgson was nominated as resident in Nepal), it appeared that the authority of the prime minister was undermined; at the yearly ceremony of the *paijñi*, when all the officials are subjected to a new nomination, Bhim Sen was not confirmed in his post which remained without titular. His partisans to whom he had entrusted without descretion all the employments of the state, were replaced by adversaries. A few days later, Bhim Sen was recalled to the ministry, but this incident announced an early catastrophe. The very gods turned against him. A dreadful earthquake shook the whole country in the night of the 12th intercalary *bhadrapada*, clear fortnight (25th September 1833); four shocks succeeded one another which overthrew or damaged at Kathmandu 643 buildings, at Patan 824, at Bhatgaon 2747, at Sanku 257, at Banepa 269. Since the reign of Cyama Deva no such disaster had been recorded

in Nepal. In 1834, on the 6th of *Asadha* (dark), the thunderbolt fell on the powder factory at Timi which exploded. Fourteen days later, new earthquake shock and diluvian rains took place. The *Bagmati* overflows. In 1836, a woman of Patan gives birth to two children joined together. So many prodigies spoke only too clearly.

In the spring of 1837, the nephew of Bhim Sen, Matabar Singh the most popular chief of the army, is dismissed from the Gurkha government and his place is given to a son of this Damodar Panre who had been the predecessor and the victim of Bhim Sen. In June the eldest son of Damodar, Ran Jung Panre (Rana Janga Pande) is given again the tiltes and goods possessed by the father. A few days later, the youngest son of the first queens suddenly dies; rumour says that Bim Sen had desired to poison the queen and that the child becomes a victim of his guilty actions; he is arrested, thrown in prison together with Matabar Singh and the whole rest of the family. The doctors of the palace, who were the persons of Bhim Sen are also imprisoned. They are all expelled from the caste, tortured, their goods confiscated. Rana Jung Panre replaces Bhim Sen at the ministry. But the sudden return of the Panres causes anxiety to the other parties. The Chaurias, collateral to the royal family that Bhim Sen has held at a distance since 1804, the Brahmans who had lost the major portion of their revenues by successive spoiliations demand their portion, of the scramble. The rival ambition that exhaust all their strength to become neutral, provoke a semblance of general reconciliation. Bhim Sen humbles himself at the feet of the King who grants him a pardon; the prisoners were released and are looked upon with clemency; the army makes a trium-

phal entry to its old chief and his young favourite. Ran Jang descends from the power where he had just hoisted himself, and leaves the place to the chief of the Brahmanic party, Raghu Natha Padita, who seeks to manage everybody, but whom the army looks upon with antipathy as the representative of a dangerous rivalry. Ran Jang named commander-in-chief cultivates to his benefit this disaffection of the soldiery; he takes advantages of the departure of the officers attached to Bhim Sen and who have resigned to follow him on his enforced retreat.

In the palace, the two queens quarrel between themselves to gain the influence for the benefit of their parties. The first queen who had thought herself triumphant at the fall of Bhim Sen and who had seen with rage the Brahmans juggle away with victory, decides on a scandal. She leaves the darbar and settles down in Pashupati under the protection of her faithful Ran Jang. The unfortunate king comes daily to meet her, succeeding in calming her. She demands that Ran Jang be minister. Matabar Singh, who feels the approach of a new storm, goes to hunt the elephant in the terai, cautiously crosses the frontier, takes abode with old Ranjit Singh at Lahore. Raghu Natha Pandita gives his resignation as prime minister; a Chauntia is called to form a cabinet in which Ran Jang is all powerful; soon he unmask himself, dismissed his colleagues and retains alone all the powers, in the beginning of 1839. The accusation of poisoning flung against Bhim Sen in 1837 is immediately renewed supported by an arsenal of falsehoods that deceives nobody but that gives an air of dignity to the judiciary comedy. The old minister, accused of

treason by the king is thrown in prison, threatened, pushed to commit suicide because none dares to incur the responsibility of his death. They told him that they were going to bury him up to his neck in a ditch of human rejections, to exhibit his wife stark naked through the town. Horrified the old man strikes himself a blow with his knife (Khukuri) and dies of the wound nine days later. His body is dismembered, the stumps exposed to public gaze are afterwards thrown as food for the beasts. The doctor who had cared for (treated) the young prince, a Brahman whom the law forbids to execute is burnt on the forehead and on the cheeks, so that the skull and jaw bones are laid bare; his colleague, a Nevar is impaled, alive his heart is wrenched. A royal decree excludes the Thapas from all employments for seven generations (July 1839).

In order to mitigate these horrors and to gain public favour the Panres exploited the Ghurkha Chauvinism which Bhim Sen took so much pains to curb since the treaty of Segowlic. Prophecies were pronounced regarding the early downfall of the British; canons were manufactured and so were rifles; 800,000 pounds (lbs) of gunpowder were ordered, including bullets and balls, a military census was taken and showed 400,000 men capable of carrying arms. Secret relations were linked with the Rajput, Gwalior, Satara, Baroda, Jodpur, Jaypur, Kotah, Bundit, Reva, and Panna states; with the weak heir of Ranjit Singh who had just died, with Burma, with Parsia, with Afghanistan, and with China. But this policy cost dear and money was lacking. Ran Jang feigned to retribute to the State all the goods he had received free of charge and he demanded the same sacrifice from all those who had received royal donations

since the fall of his father, heavy fines were suddenly imposed with no reasons. The very pay of the army was for a moment under consideration of being reduced, under the pretext that the king had no resources to bring up his six children. The troops rebelled, demanded a war against India, the king was obliged to show himself to appease them.

The universal discontent served the ends of the first queen. To better seize the power and share it with Ran Jang, she worked to discredit the king in the hope that an upheaval would compel him to abdicate in favour of his son and designate her for regent. Death frustrated her calculations; she died of fever in October 1841. Already for the duration of one year the fall of the Panres was consumed. England weary of the ridiculous provocations, had imposed an agreement in Nepal of 1839. Then, in consequence of a movement of soldiers against the Residence, she had demanded the resignation of the minister Ran Jang. A Chauntia, Fateh Jang was been entrusted to form a cabinet of concentration.

The disappearance of the first queen hardly simplified the interior politics of Nepal; the second queen who had impatiently borne the supremacy of her rival, aspired to seize the reigns of power; by the successive elimination of the king and heir-apparent, who would safeguard the throne to her progeny and become certain to the regency. The heir-apparent, then twelve years old was a king of sanguinary lunatic who delighted in the torture and mutilation of animals and men. He longed to reign and to do away with his father who was stubborn in existing. At last, king Rajendra Vikrama, dazed and idiotic, passed from one influence to another without

ever stopping. He fled from quarrels and only asked for peace, but nobody around him was disposed to let him have it.

The situation became so serious that the nobility, judging the state to be in peril, forget for a while the rivalry of parties.

A general gathering held in December 1842, nominated a committee entrusted with the power of asking and of proposing to the king, the necessary measures for the protection of life, of goods and of the legitimate rights public and personal of all the subjects of the crown. The petition was successively submitted to the ministers, to the chiefs, to the municipal authorities of the towns, of the valley, to the officers, was approved of, signed and carried by an immense deputation to the royal darbar on the 7th of December. The king received it, signed and ratified it. The crisis had lasted twelve days.

The queen, who owed to this type of chart an increase of power destined to counter-balance the action of the princely heir, hastened to recall the Thapas to power. Matabar Sing who was living outside for the past four years is recalled. He asks and obtains the public vindication of Bhim Sen, the punishment of his accusers; at last he is nominated prime minister in December 1843. Maintained in power in spite of himself he loses the support of the queen, whom he refused to assist in her criminal schemes; on the 17th of May 1845, at night he is summoned to the palace, presents himself before the king and queen; three rifle shots wound him; he asks for mercy in the name of his mother and his children, stretches his hands towards the throne; a servant cuts off the wrist; the quivering corpse is

let down from the window. The murderer who had slain Matabar was his own nephew, Jang Bahadur.

The personage who entered the scene with such a dismal exploit was destined to the tragedies of the palace. His father, Bala Narasimha had assisted at one time to the murder of Ran Bahadur and had slain the murderer with his own hands, who was the brother of the king. Grand-nephew of Bhim Sen he had obtained a high position at an early date; but tired of the barracks he had deserted, crossed the Kali, visited the provinces of the Company and thought of enrolling himself under Ranjit Singh; brought back to Nepal by his parents he obtained his pardon. Soon the fall of Bhim Sen compelled him to hide; he travelled over Nepal as a discreet observer, initiating himself in the practices customs and languages of all the races exercising his body muscles with the severest of toils. Reaching Kathmandu he shows himself in most brilliant fashion; an elephant who had run amok caused havoc in the town and nobody dares to stop it. Jang slips from a roof on to the back of the animal, throws a cloth over its eyes blinding it and masters it. The darbar offers him a dress of honour and a sum of money which he refuses; he joins the army as a captain, is employed on a secret mission with the rajah of Benares is arrested by the British who bring him back to the frontier. He has already envious persons who strive to ruin him; he baffles them with his audacity. Numerous instances are given. One day whilst he was crossing on horse-back a furious torrent on a bridge of two planks at a giddy height above the abyss the princely heir calls him back. Without hesitating he forces his riding animal to turn round by an audacious leap and rejoins the bank. Another day in

order to escape the ferocity of the same prince, he throws himself into a well, holds on till night time; when his friends come to pull him out, his nails are completely worn through hanging to the bricks of the sides. When Matabar Singh once again in favour returned from India, Jang was the first to welcome the return of the new favourite. In selecting him as the instrument for the crime, the queen had judged him well; he was a man daring enough for anything. She found it later to her costs.

After the murder, Jang Bahadur nominated as general with the command of three regiments was entrusted with the ministry temporarily then he ceded his place to the Chauntia Fateh Jang and remained outside the new cabinet; but the three regiments he commanded guaranteed his influence. The real power belonged general Gagan Simha ancient servant of the harem becomes the lover of the queen. The king threatened with being sacrificed to this adulterous love; hired the services of a bandit of profession who slew with a rifle shot Gagan Simha, whilst he was praying in his room (September 1846).

Mad with sorrow at the news the queen seized in her hands the royal sword, the emblem of supreme authority which the king had authorised her to carry since January 1843; she orders the trumpeters to summon the soldiers and assembles all officials of the State civil and military. The king, embarrassed, aboids the affair under the pretext of the Residence. The nobles hasten to assemble without taking the precaution of arming themselves. "Who among you has killed my faithful friend?" Shouts to them the queen; she rushes at one of the Panres whom she suspects of the crime and wishes to kill him with her own hands. She is held. She esca-

pes, rushed towards the staircase that leads to the higher storey where lay her apartment; three of the ministers follow behind her when she is shot from apparently nowhere, stretch them dead on the floor. In falling Abhimana simha throws himself on one of the brothers of Jang and staircase and strikes him with his sword; he is about to strike another when Jang appears on the staircase and strikes him dead with a gun shot. In the darkness of the hall and the corridors, dimly lighted by the light of night-lamp a murderous duel takes place blindly between the partisans of Jang rallied around him and his adversaries; they hit, they throttle, they massacre without knowing the victims. Outside the regiments of Jang guard the exits; their knives slay mercilessly the enemies or those held in suspicion who hope to find safety in flight. The queen from a window exits them to avenge her. The king, who comes back from the Residence is horrified by the streams of blood which flow from the palace and flees towards Patan to reach Benares; he is brought back in spite of himself. The queen gives the order to expel the women and children of all those she had had slain and to hold under close surveillance the heir and his brother.

Jang, in appearance desirous to order, places near the two princes, guardians entrusted in reality to defend them against the furies of the queen. Deceived the queen organises a new plot against Jang this time. But advised in time, the minister forestalls her, captures and executes the conspirers who belonged to the clan of the Bashniats; he appears before the king and heir-apparent, declares to them that the safety of the State depended on the removal of the queen finding herself vanquished becomes submi-

ssive; she succeeds however in dragging with her, the idiotic husband. The princely heir is entrusted with the regency and Jang of the offices of prime-minister.

The royal couple sheltered in Benares, intrigue with all those discontented and the exiles of Nepal who make a gathering place of the holy city the queen publicly shows the scandal of her adulterous loves. The unhappy king Rajendra Vikram Sah deceived by everybody takes the route to Nepal on the faith of lying reports that assure him of an upheaval; very near at hand and in his favour. The small bank that formed his cortege is scattered by the first attack and the king entered his capital as a prisoner (1847). He is deposed without a word being raised in his favour and the princely heir Surendra Vikrama Sah ascends the throne.

The policy of Jang tends from then to conciliate itself to the favour of the English perhaps with the view of an eventuality that his ambition and his talents permit him to look upon. In 1848, he offers the Government of India the help of the Gurkha troops to reduce the last defenders of the Sikh independence; he is politely refused. In 1850, after long negotiations, he leaves for England as the chief of a mission entrusted "to carry to the queen the respects of the king and the assurances of his friendship; to see the greatness and the prosperity of the country and the state of the people, to examine to what extent the application of arts and sciences is useful to the comfort and the commodity of life." Indeed he hopes to double his prestige in Nepal by his relation with the powerful nations of Europe, to gain by his allurements the English government to

his personal interests; he wishes also as a man of positive state to exactly understand those mysterious masters of India who make the people feel their might without showing themselves. In London, in Paris, whether he proceeds afterwards he is the lion of the season; the strangeness of his costume, the wealth of his attire, the legends published by the press, the prestige of a country that remains impenetrable singles him out for attention; Balls feast and representations are given to him. In Paris the minister of foreign affairs pays him a visit; he is officially led to the Louvre Museum; he gives a diamond bracelet to the Gerito who has dazzled him by her piroettes in the latest fashion ballet. The devil's violin. Strange rumours are spread on the cookery of the embassy, who prepares his meals in a corner of the hotel Sinet. Returning to India in January 1851, Jang and his companions (Jagat Shamsher, and Dhir Shamsher, his two brothers, the officers, a doctor, a painter, two cooks and servants) stop at Benares to accomplish at great costs on the banks of the Ganges the ceremonies of purification imposed on every Hindu who goes out of the country; the grand-priest of the Gurkhas the Rajya guru comes himself to preside to these rites in order to dissipate all preventions.

The precautions were not superfluous; ten days after the return of Jang in Nepal, a conspiracy breaks out. It has for chiefs a brother of Jang and the eldest of his cousins; these avengers of the Brahmanic purity declare that Jang has irremediably lost his caste by eating and drinking with foreigners, the brother of the king entered the conspiracy. Jang's good fortune serves him in good stead once again; informed in time, he captures the culprits but refuses to pass

sentence of death on them or blind them for life which the king wishes to impose as punishment; as an advised politician, he is satisfied in handing over the prisoners to the Government of India who accepts to retain them in a fortress to spare them a more drastic penalty. Since then Jang is all powerful; he marries his sons and daughters with the daughters and sons of the king.

The insolences and violences committed on the Tibetan territory against the Nepalese ambassadors sent to Peking was the cause of another war between Tibet and Nepal in 1854. In spite of the great efforts accomplished by Nepal, the hostilities are prolonged for more than two years without any marked advantage, for ever interrupted by the insurmountable difficulties of a diabolical region where the snow storms the avalanches, the precipices, the barrenness of the soil defy the bravest of men. The passes of Kuti and Kiron at first occupied by the Gurkhas are lost, then retaken. Dhir Shamsher, younger brother of Jang and father of the present maharaja saves the honour of Nepal by his untiring energy; the Tebetans terror-stricken in seeing him appear everywhere called him the "flying Kaji." On the 25th March 1856, Tibet ends in signing the peace treaty; the Gurkhas evacuate the territories they had occupied, but in return Tibet pays Nepal an annual indemnity of Rs. 10,000. She renounces to gather the customs duties on Nepalese goods; she authorizes Nepal to entertain at Lhasa a resident entrusted with defending of the Nepalese merchants.

In August 1856. Jang feigns to unexpectedly renounce to the power, passes the Ministry to his brother Ran Bahadur and

wishes to be satisfied with a king of secret dictatorship. The king on this occasion confers on him the title of Maharaja for himself and his heirs and cedes to him all the sovereign rights of the two principalities of Kashki and of Lamjang in the ancient territories of the twenty four royalities. The office of prime minister is to be perpetually transmitted in his family, to his brothers at first, and to his sons afterwards. Lastly Jang must exercise a power of absolute control on the relations of Nepal with Great Britain and China.

England refuses to abide by this combination which would impose a third party between her and the king the only authority officially recognized outside. Jang retakes the power in 1857 during the mutiny of the sepoys; when Hindustan was anxious to know if she was about to change masters; Jang offers on several occasions to join the British troops to quell the rebellion. England who is reluctant to have a saviour awaits till the recapture of Delhi, and the relief of Lucknow to accept the cooperation of the Gurkhas. Jang at first sends three thousand men, then he leads in person 8000 men. To recompense these services, England restitutes to Nepal by the treaty of 1860 (1st November) that portion of the Terai limited by the country of Oudh which had been taken away from her by the treaty of Segowlie. Jang however does not believe in becoming infeoffed to Britain. In order to show his independence and to provide for the future he discreetly opens Nepal to the vanquished. The famous chief of the rebellion Nana Sahib with about fifty of his principal lieutenants find a complaisant shelter in the inextricable Terai where he disappears carried away by fever or perhaps welcomed in Nepal. Nepal extends an official hospitality to the wives of Nana Sahib and to the

Begam of Lucknow.

Jang Bahadur created a G. C. B. died in 1878, either from fever or from the effect of wounds received in fighting a tiger, Jang had in fact retained the passion for wild-game hunting; he loved to chase them and to bring them to bay himself without any other weapon than the Nepalese knife. This dangerous distraction pleased his indomitable courage, his infallible presence of mind, his intimate knowledge of nature and of human being. He willingly gave the spectacle of his vigour and sang-froid by his struggles with the tiger, or the leopard to spare himself the trouble to tame them more often against his rivals, at the expenses of humanity. After beginning with the murder of an uncle and gained power by a frightful massacre, Jang had the honour of revising and softening the ferocious severity of the Gurkha code and customs; he abolished capital punishment for all crimes, he reserved the mutilation employed till then without scruple to the chastisement of the rarest of faults; he even discreetly attempted to restrain the suicides more or less voluntary of the widows on the conjugal pyre.

At his death Ranodipa Simha his brother, became prime minister while waiting for his eldest son, to be old enough to accept the charge. In 1881 king Surendra Vikrama Sah died after thirty-four years of purely nominal reign. His grandd son Prithivi Vira Sah born in 1875 ascended the throne which he occupies even to-day.

On the 22nd November 1885 a new family tragedy brought to power the nephews of Jang Bahadur, the sons of his brother Dhir Shamsher. Ranodipa Simha was assassinated; of the sons of Jang, some underwent the same fate, others disappeared in exile. Vira Cama Sher (Bir Sham Sher)

Jang Rana Bahadur become prime minister. He had to frustrate at first a plot of his younger brother Khadga Cama Sher (Kharga Sham Sher) whose only punishment was deportation to Palpa as governor of the district (1886); then a bold stroke organised by a son of Jang Bahadur, Rana Vira (Ranbir) Jang (1888); lastly a new conspiracy directed against his life in 1888. He repeated an exploit of his uncle Jang. He rode to Kathmandu on horseback without unbridling and punished the culprits to death. In the administration of the affairs he also showed himself the worthy follower of Jang; he has by means of a reservoir that he built, supplied Kathmandu with drinkable and whole-some water; he erected a hospital, great school (Durbar School), founded a collection of manuscripts without rival for the importance and antiquity of the texts. The "Indianists" cannot forget that science owes to his en-

lightened good-will the first archaeological reconnoitring of the Nepalese Terai so rich in brilliant discoveries (pillars of Acoka, site of Kapilvastu); in short those who have had the privilege of being admitted in Nepal in the name of his government can attest to his height of mind, breadth of views and his precise and clear conceptions of scientific questions. Maharaja Bir Sham Sher Jang Bahadur has been carried away by a sudden death on the 5th of March 1901. His brother Deva Cama Sher (Deb Sham Sher) Jang Bahadur who exercised the functions of commander-in-chief, called to ascend the throne, was obliged to abandon it almost immediately (May 1901). He has been replaced by one of his brothers, the maharaja Candra Cama Sher (Chander Sham Sher) Jang Rana Bahadur, who carries the titles of "Maharaja", a Prime Minister and Marshall of Nepal.

(End of History of Nepal Vol. II)