

with a view to the restoration of a deposed Raja, Saiyajji. In A.D. 1758 it was attacked by the French under Lally, and retaken by Colonel Joseph Smith in A. D. 1773. In A.D. 1776 the Tanjore Raj had become a protected State under the East India Company, its then ruler Tuljajee becoming a direct ally of the British. Haidar's devastations followed in A D 1781 In A.D. 1799 Tanjore became a British principality and its ruler Sarafoji II was given the fort of Tanjore and an area outside it. His successor Sivaji died on October 29, A.D. 1855 without a male heir, direct or collateral, and with him the royal house became extinct. The Tanjore country thus passed directly under the British, its acquisition "never costing the British Government the life of a single soldier, nor the value of a single rupee,"<sup>1</sup> in the same manner as the Mahrattas had taken the country previously from the Nayaks.

Of the various rulers of the country, the Cholas seem to have left in the Great temple of Sri Brihadisvara a striking relic of their genius. This pagoda is "by far the grandest in India"<sup>2</sup>. No traveller to the East, especially to South India has missed a visit to this great edifice or failed to be impressed by its majesty and beauty. Successive Viceroys, Commanders-in-Chief, Provincial Governors, statesmen, politicians, philosophers and globe-trotters have paid their homage to this monument of Dravidian architecture. The visitors' book maintained

(1) *Vide* para 18 of Letter dated 6th November 1855 from the Resident, at Tanjore to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George. "The Government will decide on the justice of the daughter's claim and on the policy of maintaining the Raj. In considering the question, they will not lose sight of the manner in which we became possessed of Tanjore—it is not a conquered country, its acquisition never cost the British Government the life of a single soldier nor the value of a single rupee, the cry of the orphans was never heard nor was the tear of widow ever shed, when the rule of the country passed from the Rajah to the hands of our Government. In the forty years during which we have held possession we have not found numbers drawn from it a total revenue of no less than twenty crores or as many millions sterling. Neither Sarfoge or Sivajee ever offered the smallest hindrance to our peaceable settlement of the country or in any degree whatever departed from the strictest adherence to the Treaty. Truly it deserves consideration how the Government shall act towards the last descendant of a royal line, to a daughter of those who, when their aid was needed were always our firm allies."

(2) *Vide* Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. II, p. 396, 9th edition.

at the temple contains the signatures of a host of royal personages, and of peers, like Curzon, Kitchener and Connemara (to mention only a few) and well-known personalities like Keir Hardie, Ray and Gandhi. The temple stands within the small fort, commonly called the Sivaganga Fort, ascribed to Sevvappa, the first Nayak; and, the big fort which encircles the city and the palace was built by Vijayaraghava the last. It is possible that these two forts are renovations of the much earlier Chola fortifications.<sup>1</sup>

"To have conceived a great temple in that proportion, to have insured by cautious designing that beauty was not sacrificed to size and to have built it altogether of very fine granite from *Upana* to *Stupi* in a city far removed from any good quarry of building stone,<sup>2</sup> this is the glory of Rajaraja and his architects." It is also noteworthy that unlike other temples of the south, the temple was built with all the necessary adjuncts complete in the life-time of the founder, Rajaraja Chola I (A.D. 985—1014) himself "on a well defined and stately plan which was persevered in till its completion." The construction appears to have begun in the nineteenth year of his reign; and, the only inscriptional evidence on which to rely about the time when it was finished reads as follows:—

"In the twenty-fifth year of Rajaraja (A. D. 1002-10) on the 257th day of the year the king handed over the copper pot for the finial at the top of the *Vimana*"—It weighed about 235 lbs., and was overlaid with gold plate of the weight of 2926½ *kalanju* or nearly 35 lbs. Troy. It is thus seen that the temple was completed within a period of six years when he was not occupied with any great wars. The name 'Sri Rajaraja' occurs first in his own inscriptions of the nineteenth year of his reign, his

(1) "இளிய சேர் நல்லியும் இந்நீச்சுந் தஞ்சை  
இரண்டே சென்ற நிமிச்சே" —சகுந்தலேசர்.

(செருமிதப்பல, 10.)

(2) The stones seem to have been brought from the quarries of Mammalai, eight miles south-east of Trichinopoly, over a road of nearly thirty miles.—*Tanjore Gazetteer*, p. 271.