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 Proceedings held at a Durbar in the Palace  
 of Lahore on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1849.

At the appointed hour, after the troops had been prepared against possible tumult, I proceeded to the Durbar accompanied by Sir G. M. Lawrence K. C. B. and the gentlemen of the Presidency, and escorted by a Squadron of the Body Guard which Major Mayne had brought over by forced marches from Serzapore. We were met by the Maharaja Sulcep Singh outside the gate of the Citadel. After the usual salutations and giving and taking of presents we conducted the Maharaja to a seat at the end of the Hall of Audience, and took our places on either side of him. The Maharaja, who is endued with an intelligence beyond his years, and cannot be supposed to have been ignorant of the purpose for which the Durbar was now convened for the last time, conducted himself throughout with cheerfulness and self composure.

The Hall was filled with spectators who ranged themselves on each side of the centre seats, the Europeans on the right, the natives on the left. The latter were in such numbers as almost to give cause to apprehend that, with a view of courting popularity, the Council of Regency might refuse to abide by the terms which they had signed the

Evening

evening before.

After we were seated, the following Note declaratory of the intentions of Govt. to assume the sovereignty of the Punjab, was read out in Persian, and afterwards translated into Hindoostanee, for the comprehension of every one present.

Note.

No. 1.

For many years, while the wisdom of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh ruled the people of the Punjab, friendship and unbroken peace prevailed between the British Nation and the Sikhs.

The British Government desired to maintain with the heirs of Ranjeet Singh the same friendly relations they had held with him. But the Sardars and Sikh Army, forgetful of the policy which the Maharaja's prudence had enjoined, and departing from the friendly example he had set, suddenly crossed the frontier and without any provocations made war upon the British power.

They were met by the British Army four times they were defeated. They were driven back with ignominy across the Sutlej and pursued to the walls of Lahore.

The Maharaja Dulcef Singh tendered there to the Governor General of India the submission of himself and his Chiefs, and implor'd the clemency of the British Government.

The Government of India had ac-  
quired by its conquest an absolute right to subvert

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the Government of the Sikhs, by which it had been so grossly injured. But in that time of victory it showed the sincerity of its declamations, and gave signal proof of the moderation and forbearance by which its policy was directed.

The Kingdom of the Punjab was spared: the Maharaja was replaced on the throne of Runjeet Singh; and treaties of friendship were formed between the States.

Now have the obligations of these Treaties been fulfilled?

The British Government has with scrupulous fidelity observed every promise which was made, and has discharged every obligation which the treaties imposed upon it.

It gave to the Maharaja the service of its troops. It afforded him the aid of its treasures in his difficulties. It meddled with none of the Institutions or customs of the people. By its advice to the Council, it improved the condition of the Army: and it labored to lessen the burdens and to promote the prosperity of every class of the Maharaja's people. It left nothing undone which it had promised to perform; it engaged in nothing from which it had promised to abstain. But there is not one of the main provisions of those Treaties which the Sikh Government and the Sikh people have not, on their part, faithlessly and flagrantly violated. They bound themselves to pay an annual subsidy of 22 lacs of Rupees. No portion whatever has at any time been paid.

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The whole debt due by the State of Lahore has increased to more than 50 lacs of rupees and crores have been added by the charges of the present war. The control of the British Government which the Sardars themselves invited, and to which they bound themselves to submit, has been rejected and resisted by force.

The peace and friendship which were promised by the treaties have been thrown aside. British Officers in the discharge of their duty have treacherously been thrown into captivity with women and children.

Other British Officers when acting for the Maharaja's interests were murdered by the Maharaja's servants, after having been deserted by the Maharaja's troops.

Yet for these things the Government of Lahore neither inflicted punishment on the offenders, nor made reparations for the offence. It confessed itself unable to control its subjects - It formally declared to the British Resident that its Troops would not obey its command, and would not act against the Chief who had committed this outrage against the Gov<sup>t</sup> of India.

Not only did the Army of the State refuse thus to act, but it every where openly rose in arms against the British. The whole people of the Sikhs joined in its hostility. The high Sardars of the State have been its leaders: those of them who signed the treaties of peace were the most conspicuous in its ranks, and the  
Chief

Chief by whom it was commanded was a member of the Council of Regency itself. They proclaimed their purpose to be the extirpation of the British power, and the destruction of the British people, and they have struggled fiercely to effect it.

But the Govt of India has put forth the vast resources of its power. The Army of the Sikhs has been utterly discomfited. Their artillery has been captured - the allies they invited have been driven from the Punjab with shame. The Sikh leaders with their troops have surrendered and been disarmed - and the Punjab is occupied by the British troops. The Govt of India repeatedly declared that it desired no further conquest; and it gave to the Maharaja by its acts a proof of the sincerity of its declarations.

The Government of India has sought and desires no conquest now.

But when unprovoked and costly war has again been wantonly renewed, the Govt of India is bound by its duty to provide for its own security for the future, and to guard effectually the interests and tranquillity of its own people.

Punishment and benefits alike have failed to remove the inveterate hostility of the Sikhs. Wherefore, the Governor General is the only effectual mode which now remains of preventing the recurrence of national outrage, and the renewal of perpetual wars, has resolved upon declaring the British Sovereignty in the Punjab and upon the entire subjection of the Sikh nation, whom their own rulers have long been unable to control - who are equally inaccessible

to punishment or forbearance, and who, as past events have now shown, will never desist from war so long as they possess the power of an independent Kingdom.

The Governor General of India unfeigningly regrets that he should feel himself compelled to depose from his throne a descendant of Maheraja Ranjeet Singh, while he is yet in his early youth.

But the sovereign of every state is responsible for, and must be affected by, the acts of the people over whom he reigns.

As in the former was the Maharaja, because of the lawless violence of his subjects whom his Government was unable to control, was made to pay the penalty of their offence in the loss of his richest provinces; so must he now be involved in all the consequences of their further violence, and of the deep national injury they have again committed.

When a renewal of formidable war by the Army and the great body of the Sikhs has forced upon the Government of India the conviction that a continuance of Sikh Dominion in the Punjab is incompatible with the security of the British Territories; the Governor General cannot permit that mere compassion for the Prince should deter him from the adoption of such measures against the nation as alone can be effectual for the future maintenance of peace and for protecting the interests of the British People

upon

Upon the conclusion of this manifesto, silence was observed for a few minutes; when Dewan Seena Nath observed that the decision of the British Government was just and should be obeyed; but he trusted that the Maharaja and servants of the State would receive consideration at the hands of the British Government, and that some allowance would be granted to maintain them in comfort and respectability. "If France" he observed "after the defeat and captivity of Buonaparte, had been restored to its legitimate Ruler, though the country yielded 30 Crores of Revenue, it would be no very extraordinary act of British clemency if the Punjab which yielded less than 3 crores, should be restored to the Maharaja. However let the Governor Generals will be done."

I replied that the time of concession and clemency was gone, that I was ready on the part of the Governor General to confirm the conditions to which the Council had subscribed yesterday, and which should be read out in Persian and Hindoostanee for general information.

Seena

Terms.

No. 2

Terms granted to the Maharaja Dulsep  
Sing Bahadur, on the part of the Honorable East  
India Company, by Henry Elliot Esquire,  
Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, and  
Lieutenant Colonel Sir Henry Montgomery  
Lawrance, K. C. B. Resident, in virtue of full  
powers vested in them by the Right Honorable  
James Earl of Dalhousie, Knight of the most  
ancient and most noble Order of the Thistle, one  
of Her Majesty's most Honorable Privy Council, Governor  
General appointed by the Honorable East India  
Company, to direct and control all their affairs in  
the East Indies: and accepted on the part of His  
Highness the Maharaja, by Raja Tej Sing, Raja  
Deena Nath, Bhaice Sidhan Sing, Subect  
Nour Deen, (Gurudat Sing Agent of Sirdar  
Dere Sing Sidhanwala, and Sirdar Lal Sing  
Agent and son of Sirdar Ulter Sing Kuleanwala,  
Members of the Council of Regency, invested  
with full powers and authority on the part of  
His Highness.



I. His Highness the Maharaja Duleep Singh shall resign for himself, his heirs and his successors all right, title and claim to the sovereignty of the Punjab or to any Sovereign Power whatever.

II. All the property of the state of whatever description and wheresoever found shall be confiscated to the Honorable East India Company; in full payment of the debt due by the state of Lahore to the British Government and of the expenses of the war.

III. The Gem called the Koh-i-Noor which was taken from Shah Shujaool Mulk by Maharaja Ranjiet Singh shall be surrendered by the Maharaja of Lahore to the Queen of England.

IV. His Highness Duleep Singh shall receive from the Honorable East India Company, for the support of himself, his relatives and the servants of the state a pension not less than four and not exceeding five lacs of Company's Rupees per annum.

V. His Highness shall be treated with respect and honor. He shall retain the title of Maharaja Duleep Singh Bahadur and he shall continue to receive during his life, such portion of the above named pension as may be allotted to himself personally.

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signed

provided he shall remain obedient to the British Govt  
and shall reside at such place as the Governor General  
of India may select.

This was listened to with the deepest  
attention, but it called forth no observation. To the  
former signatures were then added those of Gundur  
Sing, the accredited Agent of Sirdar Shere Sing Sindhan  
wala, and Sirdar Lal Sing, Agent and son of Sirdar  
Uttar Sing Kuleanwala. Thus completing the entire  
number of the members of the Council of Regency,  
who have remained nominally faithful to their an-  
cient engagements. The paper was then handed in duplicate by  
Raja Tej Sing to the Maharaja, who immediately  
affixed his signature, by tracing the initials of his name  
in English letters. The alacrity with which he took the  
papers when offered to him, was a matter of remark to all,  
and suggested the idea that possibly he had been in-  
structed by his advisers that any show of hesitation  
might lead to the substitution of terms less favorable than  
those which had been offered.

When the document had thus been fully  
ratified, I directed the following Proclamation to be  
read aloud in the native languages.

Proclamation