SECTION III.

THE MUSALMA'NS.

It has been already mentioned that the date of the Musalmán conquest is that from which the reliable history of the Konkan may be said to begin, and that the possession of Bombay and Sálsette by the Gujarát kings, although previous to that, cannot be traced to any particular conquest. Elphinstone's view that these islands had long been detached possessions of the Gujarát kingdom is confirmed by the legend given in the last section, and Forbes considers that they fell to the Muhammadan conquerors of Gujarát at the end of the thirteenth century as an undisputed part of the Anahilaváda possessions.

It was about the same time, namely A.D. 1294, that the first Musalmán army of the Dakhan arrived before Devgiri or Daulatabad, and they then found outside the walls a number of bags of salt which had just been brought from the Konkan,\(^1\) and had probably come by the Nána Ghát. Salt is still the chief article carried from the Konkan to the Dakhan, the Nána Ghát being, it is said, the most ancient road from Devgiri to the coast, and having at the top the oldest inscription yet found on this side of India. The first direct mention of the extension of the Muhammadan power to this coast is in 1312, when Malik Káfur, who commanded the fourth great expedition into the Dakhan, laid waste the countries of Maháráshtra and Kánara from Dábhol and Cheul to Raichor and Modkal.\(^2\) In 1318, after the reduction of Devgiri and the death of Harpáldev, son-in-law of the Rája, the Emperor Mubárik I. ordered his garrisons to be extended \(^3\) as far as the sea, and occupied Mámim and Sálsette.\(^4\) It was soon after this that the Friar Odoricus wrote of this part: "Over all this land the Saracens rule, but the people of the country are idolators, worshipping fire, serpents, and trees.\(^5\) Until the Musalmán occupation the Devgir kingdom is said to have included the Konkan north of the Sávitri and Bijnagar the part south of it,\(^6\) the northern division being divided into the pránts or districts of Vasai (Bassein), Kalyán, Karnála, Chaul, and Rájápur, and the southern division into those of Dábhol, Rájápur, and Kudál.\(^7\) When in 1347 the first Báhmani king established his independence

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\(^1\) Briggs, I. 306.  
\(^2\) Briggs, I. 379.  
\(^3\) Ferishta does not mention this extension to the coast, though he gives the expedition and death of Harpáldev. Briggs, I. 373.  
\(^5\) Yule's Cathay, I. 58.  
\(^6\) Briggs, II. 338.  
\(^7\) Jervis, 81.
in the Dakhan it was natural that he should divide his kingdom into governments. Of these he made four; the first, which included Gulbarga the capital, extended to the sea at Dábhol, and the second from Daulatabad to Chaul.¹ Previous to this, about 1341, the Jawhár dynasty had been recognized by the Emperor of Delhi. He conferred the title of Rája on the son of Jayab Mukne, the founder of the family,² whose descendant is now one of the last of the Koli chiefs. His country contained twenty-two forts, and yielded nine lákhs, of revenue.³ There is no doubt that at this time, as earlier, there were a number of petty Rájás, sometimes called poligárs, Kolis in the north and Maráthás in the south, and it does not appear that at this time the whole either of the coast or of the inland parts was conquered by the Musalmáns. These local chiefs obeyed the Hindu Rájás of Bijnagar or the Muhammadan Sultáns of Golkonda as circumstances might require.⁴

These are all the materials of history that can be found in the fourteenth century. In 1429 Malik-ul-Tujár led a larger force into the Konkan, which Ferishta says brought the whole country under subjection. Briggs, however, thinks this was rather a marauding expedition than a conquest, and several elephant and camel-loads of gold and silver were sent as booty to the Báhmani king.⁵ Malik-ul-Tujár then seized on Máhim (Bombay) and Sálsette. This aroused the hostility of the Gujarát king Ahmad Sháh, who to recover the islands sent an army, part of which embarked in seventeen vessels, while the rest went by land. The united force invested Thána by sea and land. The Dakhan general made some sallies, but eventually abandoned the siege of Thána and returned to Máhim. Being reinforced he marched back to Thána, but was there defeated and his army dispersed in an action which lasted all day, and the Gujarát fleet returned home carrying with it some beautiful gold and silver embroidered muslins taken on the island of Máhim.⁶

Erskine says⁷ that Ahmad Sháh during his reign reduced under his power the lowlands to the south (of Gujarát) below the gháts, the Northern Konkan, and the island of Bombay, and in the Mirát-i-Ahmadi a list of the possessions of the Gujarát kings during the time the power and sovereignty of the monarchy continued to increase is given. These are made to include in the Konkan the districts of Bassein, Bombay, Daman, and Dánda-Rájápur, and the ports of Chaul, Dabhóli, Beláwal (?), Bassein, Dánda, Panwelly, Akassi (Agási), Sorab (?), Kallian, Bhimry (Bhiwndi), Dánda-Rájápur, and Goba (Goa).⁸

This may be taken to refer generally to the fifteenth century, for the Gujarát monarchy was established in 1391 and Mahmúd Sháh Begada, who may be considered the last of its great sovereigns, died

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in 1511. It will be noticed that the places named are nearly all north of Bombay, and although this account is probably not altogether reliable in some of its details, it may safely be assumed that the Northern Konkan generally was at that time subject to Gujarát. Ludovico Varthema who travelled in India in 1503 has his ports on the West Coast so misplaced and confused that they are often hard to identify, but he went from Cambay to Cheul and says: "the land of Gujarát is interposed between these two cities," \(^1\) which is in accordance with the other authorities given above.

Returning to the Southern Konkan we find that in 1436 another army was sent by the Bāhmani king Alá-ud-din II. into the Konkan, which was successful, and on this occasion the Rájás of Rairi (Ráygad) and Sonkehr (the position of which has not been ascertained) were made tributary. The daughter of the latter Rája was sent to the king, and became famous under the title of Pari-chera or Fairy-face. The narrative of Ferishta however makes it clear that the Konkan Rájás were not all reduced on this occasion. In 1453, therefore, a plan for the subjection of all the coast fortresses was decided on, and a large army under Malik-al-Tujár, having its head-quarters at Junnar, sent detachments into the Konkan, and after a time moved down in force. A number of Rájás were reduced, and at last one of the Shirké family by the promise of becoming Musalmán induced Malik-al-Tujár to march against Shankar Rái, Rája of Khelna (Vishálgad), with whom he represented himself to have an old feud. Shirké for two days led the army along a broad road, probably across the plain between Sangameshvar and Lánja. On the third day they entered the woods and ravines, and by the evening were so entangled in them that when Shankar Rái, who had from the first been in league with Shirké, fell on the Musalmáns, they made but little resistance, and upwards of 7000 were massacred, among who were 500 Syeds of Arabia and some Abyssinian officers.\(^2\) The survivors escaped above the gháts. The place where this massacre took place has not been ascertained, but it was probably somewhere below and not very far from Vishálgad.\(^3\) The family of Shirké had, probably from very early time and up to 1768, their court at Bahirugal, a little north of Vishálgad, as Rájás of the surrounding country yielding at a later period a revenue of Rs. 75,000 a year.\(^4\) Grant Duff states that the Konkan Ghát-Máthá from the neighbourhood of Poona to the Várna belonged to this family.\(^5\)

This great disáスター was not avenged for sixteen years, a fact which shows how little hold the Musalmán had on the Konkan. About this time Nikitin, a Russian traveller,\(^6\) speaks of Dábhol as the last seaport in Hindustán belonging to the Musalmáns. In the meantime the Rája of Vishálgad, who had a fleet of 300 vessels, harassed the commerce of the Musalmáns. In 1469 however the

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1 Kerrs Voyages, VII. 83.  
2 Bríggs, II. 424, 436.  
3 Ind. Ant. II. 319.  
4 History, 13.  
5 Sadar Adálat Reports (1825), II. 458.  
6 India in the Fifteenth Century, 15.
Prime Minister Mahmúd Khwája Gawán took a force into the Konkan large enough to overcome all opposition, and being joined by troops from Dábhol and Chaul set to work systematically to reduce the country. He soon found that his cavalry was useless in the Konkan, and sent them back, but advancing slowly and steadily through the jungles he gradually reduced a great part of the country. Vishálgad, however, after a siege of five months still held out, when the rains forced the Musalmán army to retreat above the Gháts. At the commencement of the fine season Vishálgad was again besieged, and shortly afterwards taken by treachery, and this Ferishta distinctly states was the first time the Musalmáns got possession of this famous fortress. But the conquest of the Vishálgad district was still a work of time, and was not completed till after the second rains. The army then proceeded towards Goa, and the conquest of the Konkan was considered so important that on his return to the capital Mahmúd Khwája Gawán was received with the greatest distinction. Though this conquest of the Konkan, or at all events of the southern part, must have been tolerably complete, it is not said to have been formed into a separate government, but from subsequent proceedings it would appear that the governor of Dábhol had very extensive authority.

In 1478 the four governments of the Dakhan were increased to eight, and in this division all that part of the Konkan which belonged to the Dakhań was put under the governor of Junnar, which although sufficiently distant, was yet nearer to the Konkan than any previous provincial capital. Soon after this, however, Bahádur Khán Giláni, son of a governor of Goa, got possession of Dábhol and a great many places on the coast. In 1485 Malik Áhmad was appointed to the government of the two provinces of Daulatabad and Junnar and shortly afterwards he reduced a number of Gháts and Konkan forts, some of which had never before been subdued by the Musalmáns. Among these were Koári, Bharap or Sudhágd, Páli or Sarasgad, and Máhuli, and he laid siege to Dánda-Rájápur, but without success. While thus engaged, his father Nizám-ul-Mulk was put to death, and Mulk A’hmad thereupon threw off his dependence on Bidar and established the Nizám Sháhi dynasty of Ahmadnagar. In like manner Yusúf Adil Khán in 1489 founded the Adil Sháhi dynasty of Bijápur. In 1490 the new king of Ahmadnagar took Dánda-Rájápur, and thus secured peaceable possession of that part of the Northern Konkan which did not belong to Gujarát. But Bahádur Giláni was still unsubdued, and in 1493 he burnt Máhim (Bombay) and seized many ships belonging to the king of Gujarát. The latter thereupon sent both a land and sea force to Máhim, but most of his ships were wrecked there in a great storm : the admiral and those of the sailors who escaped

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1 Briggs, II. 483. As to this see Ind. Ant. II. 318 and III. 29. For further particulars as to the Shirké family see Section VII.
2 Briggs, II. 483.
3 Briggs, II. 502; Grant Duff, 29.
4 Briggs, III, 191.
5 Briggs, III. 199.
were either made prisoners or massacred by the enemy. The officer who commanded the army marched through the Northern Konkan, and hearing of the naval disaster on arriving near Máhim halted, and referred to Gujarát for orders. Eventually a large force, composed of troops of Bidar Ahmadnagar and Bijápur, went against Bahádur Khán who in a battle near Kholhápur was defeated and killed. Mahmúd Sháh, king of Bidar, then went with a few of his nobles to Dábhol, called by the Musalmáns Mustáfabad, where they spent a short time sailing about the coast. Bahádur Khán's fleet was made over to the Gujarát admiral.

About this time also the Gujarát kingdom was divided into five governments, one of which, including no doubt the whole of the North Konkan, had Thána as its capital. This arrangement, however, did not last long, as in 1561 a fresh division was made, in which no provincial capital is found nearer to the Konkan than Surat. The reason though not mentioned is obvious: Sálsette and all the best parts of the North Konkan had in the meantime fallen into the hands of the Portuguese as will be shown further on.

The power of the Bidar kings having now entirely declined, their part of the Konkan was divided between the kings of Ahmadnagar and Bijápur. The Sávitri appears from the first to have been the boundary, and accordingly Chaul and Dábhol fell to different masters. These ports were no doubt of greater importance than all the rest of the country, and as early as the fourteenth century they had been mentioned with Bidar, Gulburga, and other large towns as having had orphan schools established in them by Muhammad Sháh Báhmani I. It should be mentioned that Yusúf Adil Khán, the first king of Bijápur, believed to be the son of an Emperor of Constantinople, had first landed in India at Dábhol, and from there had been taken as a slave to Bidar. Mahmúd Khwája Gawán had also come by this route from Persia to Bidar, and a little earlier in the century the Báhmani king Áhmad Sháh Wali had sent two different deputations by way of Chaul to a celebrated saint in Persia, some of whose family came to India soon after-wards by the same route. It may be supposed therefore that by this time more was known of the Konkan than before, and greater interest felt in it than was usual in these Dakhan courts. At all events it was in the time of Yusúf Adil Khán that the first steps were taken to improve the district, for in 1502 the Subhedár of the province of Dábhol, which extended from the Sávitri to Devgad, including therefore the whole of the Ratnágiri district with the exception of the Málvan sub-division and a very little more, gave grants to the first of the khots for the occupation and reclamation of waste lands. It is stated that at this time the country was in an exceedingly unsettled and impoverished condition, and that encouragement was

1 Briggs, II. 523, 529, III. 345, IV. 71; Rás, Málá I. 797; Elphinstone, 680. There is some discrepancy between the different authorities as to the date.
2 Briggs, IV. 62, 156.
3 Jervis, 64; DeBarros, VIII. 172.
4 Jervis, 64; DeBarros, VIII. 172.
5 Briggs, II. 350, 419, 511..
now given to the former landholders to occupy their land at a light rent. Thus many of these grants confirmed in their vatans the old Hindu proprietors desáis, deshpändes, and kulkarnis. It may be here mentioned that the origin of the Hindu institution of desáis or deshpändes and deshmukhs is unknown, but it is certain that the Moghals found them useful in their new conquests. Their authority was therefore confirmed and in some cases extended by the Bijápur government. It may be added that although higher offices under the name of sardeshmukhs and sardesáis are known to have existed, Elphinstone could hear of only two families enjoying the sardeshmukhi, and of no sardesáis, except in the Konkan.

The date of the establishment of the Abyssinians in Janjira cannot be clearly made out. There is one legend which shows them to have got possession about 1489. Another account puts them a great deal later. Two of them were, however, admirals of the Nizám Sháhi fleet in the time of Malik Ámbar, and another had charge of Ráiri. The large number of Abyssinians and other foreigners employed in the armies of the Musalmán kings, not only as private soldiers but also in high command is noticeable. In Daman there was a garrison of 3000 " Abyssinian Turks and other white men," and they are mentioned on several other occasions. In fact, it is evident from the various alliances of Egyptians and Turks with the Rájás of Cochin Cambay &c. and by the whole history of the first voyages of the Portuguese that the Musalmán powers of Europe and Africa were then much more closely connected with the Musalmáns of this coast than at any later time. And this is not to be wondered at, seeing how entirely the followers of that creed had monopolised the trade of Asia.

A more definite account of the divisions of the country and of the importance of the various towns at the beginning of the sixteenth century is obtained from the early Portuguese historians, though there are still but few events recorded. The kingdom of Gujarát extended as far south as Nágothna; that of Ahmadnagar, the king of which the Portuguese always called Nizamaluco from Nágothna to Shrivardhan or Bánkot; and Bijápur included all south of Bánkot. Chaul and Dábhol are called cities and ranked with Surat and Goa: the other places mentioned are Dáhánu, Tárápur, Kelva-Máhim, Agáshi, Bassein, Bándra, Máhim, Nágothna, Shrivardhan, Jaytápur, and Khárepátan. Both Chaul and Dábhol were indeed great commercial marts, with a large trade with Persia and the Red

1 Jervis, 75, 83. 2 E. I. House Selections, IV. 667, 799; Elphinstone, 161.
3 Grant Duff, 63. 4 DeCouto, VIII. 15, 208. 5 DeBarros, VII. 407.
6 No doubt from Nizám-ul-Mulk, father of the founder of the kingdom.
7 DeRarros, VII. 537.
8 Ludovico Varthema in 1503 speaks of Chaul and Dábhol as both having kings who were idolators but with many Musalmán subject The inhabitants of both were much addicted to war and Dabhol had an army of 30,000 men, (Kerr, VII. 83.) It seems impossible to give any weight to these statements.
9 DeBarros, II. 294.
Sea, by which route the whole of the Indian goods designed for Europe then passed. Of seventeen large ships on their way from the coast of India to the Red Sea, which were detained by Sir H. Middleton in 1612, two were from Dábhol and one from Chaul. 1 Dábhol is also spoken of by Nikitin as the great meeting place of all nations living on the coast of India, 2 which of course implies a large coasting trade. In the sixteenth century the Portuguese historians describe it as one of the most magnificent and populous maritime places of those parts, full of noble houses, fine buildings, superb temples, and old mosques, one of which with a vaulted roof standing on the hills above the town was destroyed in 1557. 3 Barbosa also mentions its very beautiful mosques, and says that the town was not very large, but the houses though thatched were handsome, and that from December to March there was a great commerce between the ships of Malabár and Cambay, which met here and exchanged their commodities, while great caravans of bullocks loaded with goods came down from the interior. 4 They went back with wheat and rice grown in the Konkan. 5 Up the river were many pretty towns plentifully supplied and owning much cultivated land and flocks. A route is given from Bijápúr to Dábhol by the Kumbhárli pass, and on account of the traffic along this road Chiplún is said to have been a great village and very populous, stored with all manner of provisions. 6 The importation of horses from Mecca Aden and Ormuz is also mentioned. When Dábhol was first attacked by the Portuguese there were 6000 troops in garrison, but the defences were slight. It is said in 1547 to have had two forts and some redoubts which defended the entrance of the harbour, but these being destroyed the Portuguese in the following year attacked the upper town which was some distance from the sea. 7

Chaul is spoken of in the same terms as Dábhol both as to size and trade, its weavers of silk and traffic in horses being particularly and frequently mentioned. 8 Indeed, from the time of Marco Polo the acquisition of horses from the ports of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf is always spoken of as of the highest importance to the kings of the Dakhan, and in every treaty with the Portuguese stipulations were made as to the importation of horses for the cavalry of the native armies. 9 Later on, notwithstanding the prosperity of the Portuguese town (Lower Chaul), the traffic of the old city is said to have been very great, and the list of imports from Mecca includes many European commodities; while among the

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1 Orme's Fragments, 325.  
2 India in the Fifteenth Century, 15.  
3 DeBarros, V. 266; DeCoutto, VI, 419 and VII. 289.  
4 Barbosa, 69.  
5 Mandelslo, 75.  
6 Ogilby, 5.  
7 Vida de J. deCastro, 264-269. Dábhol is mentioned in the Lusiad, Book X, but the lines are not very striking. In Ogilby's English Atlas published about 1670, there is an engraving of Dábhol, made apparently from a description of the place, for the natural features of this engraving are certainly very little like the reality. It shows wall all round the sea and river sides, and two or three large round buildings just inside the wall, which may be meant either for part of the fortifications or for mosques.  
8 DeBarros, III. 56 and VI. 71; DeCoutto, XIII, 165.  
9 De Barros, VII. 501 and VIII. 69; DeCoutto, VI. 77.
exports are found articles such as indigo and opium which must have come from a great distance inland.\(^1\) And as to the silk Pyrard at the beginning of the seventeenth century says that sufficient was made there to supply Goa and all India, and that, it was better than the China silk and much prized at Goa. It was all made in the Musalmán city, where were also made very fine boxes and other small carved articles.\(^2\) Linschotten also mentions the silk, and says that the raw material was brought from China; he also speaks of the lacquer work of Chaul.\(^3\) Feroz Sháh Báhmání is said to have despatched vessels every year from Goa and Chaul to procure manufactures and productions from all parts of the world, and to bring to his court persons celebrated for their talents.\(^4\) De la Valle, who gives a detailed description of Chaul in 1623, mentions the groves and gardens of palm and other fruit trees which shaded the broad roads and adorned the Musalmán as well as the Portuguese city of Chaul. A long shady street connected the two towns, and in the shops all sorts of necessaries could be bought, and also fine silks and articles of luxury.\(^5\)

With regard to the other ports, Bassein was apparently the most important place after Chaul and Dábhól; it had a garrison of 3000 infantry and 500 cavalry in 1529, but afterwards in 1533, when the Musalmáns were to some extent prepared for the Portuguese, there were no less than than 12,000 troops there. But more is said of the fertility and importance of the surrounding country than of the greatness of the town, the district which is called “one delicious garden” being the most productive in provisions and timber of all those belonging to Cambay. Many ships used to load there with timber and carry it to Mecca where the Turks used it for their fleets, and it was to exclude these as well as to strengthen themselves that the Portuguese took the place.\(^6\) Pyrard says that all the timber required at Goa for building houses and ships came from Bassein, and also a very good building stone like granite, of which all the churches and palaces at Goa were built.\(^2\) Agáshi is spoken of as a large and rich place, but poor in buildings, with a trade in timber. It was defended when first attacked by 5000 infantry and 4000 cavalry; and, as showing the equality on which these places stood with Portugal in the art of ship-building, it must be mentioned that in 1540 an expedition went from Bassein against Agáshi with the sole object of getting possession of a great ship, which was just built there, and was then ready for launching. The ship was taken and afterwards made several voyages to Portugal.\(^7\) One of the Surat ships stopped by Sir H. Middleton on its voyage to the Red Sea in 1612 was 153 feet long 42 beam 31 deep, and said to be of 1500 tons burden.\(^8\) One of the Dábhól ships stopped at the same time was of 1200 tons. Similarly Faria y Souza, explicitly states

\(^1\) Cæsar Fredrick and Ralph Fitch in Hakluyt, II. 384, 398. 
\(^2\) Viagen, II. 227, 226. 
\(^3\) Histoire, 21. 
\(^4\) Briggs, II. 368. 
\(^5\) Viaggi, III. 409. 
\(^6\) DcBarros, VII. 220, 494, 495, 499. 
\(^7\) DeCoutto, IV. 99. 
\(^8\) Orme’s Fragments, 326.
that the Portuguese found their enemies in India much better supplied with guns and powder than they were themselves.\(^1\)

Of Thána an Italian traveller of the fourteenth century, quoted by Colonel Yule, had written that there were the remains of an immense city to be seen, and that there were still 5000 velvet weavers there.\(^2\) It is described in much the same way when the Portuguese arrived, as a decaying town and not so much resorted to by merchants as formerly, but it was full of people who lived by the silk trade, and there were more than a thousand silk looms there. From the description it would seem that Sálsette was to some extent independent of Gujrat, as the 'Xeque' sent an embassy offering a tribute.\(^3\) This may, however, have been only the provincial governor. There were two forts commanding the narrow part of the creek between Bassein and Thána built by the Musalmáns, but afterwards taken by the Portuguese.\(^4\) About the same time Caesar Frederick called Thána a place \(^5\) very populous with Portugals Moors and Gentiles.\(^6\) There can be little doubt that the gradual sifting of the creek reduced its value as a port, while at the same time the increased size of the ships built made it necessary to find harbours with deeper water than Thána could ever have had, and so both causes contributed to its decay.

About the middle of the century Kalyán is described as having a fine fort with a garrison of 1500 men; the Portuguese burnt the suburbs, and took from them a large booty. The river of Khárepátan is frequently mentioned as attracting a great number of Musalmán ships, and as a resort of pirates.\(^7\) The Sangameshvar river is also mentioned as having on its banks a town of much commerce and merchandise, and afterwards as being a great stronghold of pirates. Pepper and iron were among its exports. A river twelve leagues south of Sangameshvar is mentioned under the name of Dobetala as having on its banks several small places with very pretty gardens and orchards of betel.\(^7\) This may probably refer to the river on which Sátavali stands, where there are old paved roads and other Musalmán remains, and which would have been the nearest port to Vishálgad. Malundi, a little north of Málvan, is also stated to have been a place of trade at this time, with a high road leading to the Gháts.\(^8\) Besides these, Barbosa states that there were many other small ports in which vessels from Malabar took inferior rice and vegetables, showing that at this time the Southern Konkan was an exporting district.

Of the inland parts of the Konkan under the Musalmáns very little can be known, but we may certainly apply to this district a remark of Elphinstone's\(^9\) regarding the Musalmán power: "Many mountain and forest tribes throughout India were unsubdued,

\(^1\) Briggs, III. 510.  \(^2\) Marco Poto, II. 330.  \(^3\) DeBarros, VII. 224.  
\(^4\) DeCoutto, VII. 237.  \(^5\) Hakluyt, II. 334.  \(^6\) DeCoutto. VII. 569; IX. 109, 427.  
\(^7\) Barbosa 72, 74; DeCoutto, XII. 30.  \(^8\) Bombay Selections, X. 156.  
\(^9\) History, 421.
though they could scarcely be called independent: they were left out of the pale of society, which they sometimes disturbed by their depredations."

The course of the Portuguese conquests will be given in detail in Section IV. but it seems better to give in this section the remainder of what is known about the Musalmán rule down to the time of Shiváji. The whole of the coast belonging to the kingdom of Gujarát fell to the Portuguese before the middle of the sixteenth century, and thus Kalyán was the only part of the district of any value to which the Moghals succeeded on the fall of the Gujarát sovereignty. The Nizám Sháhi kings of Ahmádnagar were always favourable to the Portuguese, the only exceptions being a misunderstanding in 1557 regarding the rock of Korlai opposite Chaul, their joining the alliance against the Portuguese in 1570, and the hostilities which ended in the capture of Korlai in 1594. Thus the cities of Upper and Lower Chaul, respectively Musalmán and Christian, flourished as long as the Ahmádnagar kingdom lasted, and for some time afterwards. Put the Bijápur kings were always more or less at war with the Portuguese, and their coast was subjected to perpetual ravages, yet it remained entirely in the hands of the Musalmáns until the Maráthás took it. In the decline of the Nizám Sháhi kingdom Malik Ambar, the Abyssinian minister of Ahmádnagar, managed the revenues in the most enlightened spirit, and extended to the Konkan all the advantages of a good government. He abolished revenue farming and committed the management of the districts to Bráhman agents under Muhammadan superintendence. 1 He also carried out a survey on very excellent principles, and this in the Konkan extended from the Vaitarna to the Sávitri, except in the Habshi's territories. 2 His jurisdiction is said by Ferishta to have extended to within eight kos of Chaul, 3 and from this it may perhaps be assumed that that city and creek were under a separate governor. But in 1636, only ten years after Malik Ambar's death, the whole of the Konkan dominions of the Ahmádnagar kingdom were ceded to Bijápur. The cession is said by Kháfi Khán to have been made by the Emperor of Delhi in exchange for districts belonging to Bijápur in the neighbourhood of Aurangabad, and the part of the Konkan given up is described as "jungles and hills full of trees." 4 Sháhji Bhonsla had before this begun to overrun the Northern Konkan, and had taken a number of forts. An account of one of the expeditions made against him by a Musalmán force reads very like the history of the pursuit of Tátia Topi by our troops in 1858. The Imperial general Khán Zamán was ordered to co-operate with the Bijápur general Randaula against Sháhji. After investing Junnar the armies went towards Poona and Sháhji fled into the Konkan by the pass of Kumbha. Finding no support there he returned by the same pass. The Imperial force then went down the Kumbha pass into the Konkan, while the Bijápur general was closing Sháhji in on the other side.

1 Grant Duff, 43. 2 Jervis, 68. 3 Briggs, III. 315. 4 Elliot, VII. 256.
Shāhji then went off to Máhuli, and from thence to Muranjan where Khán Zamán followed him. Shāhji sent a part of his baggage and abandoned the rest, and the Imperial army overtook a number of his followers and put them to the sword. Shāhji again got off to Máhuli hoping to get away by Trimbak and Tringalwari, but found it best to stay at Máhuli and stand a siege with the best of his followers, disabauding the rest. His son was with him in the fort. Khán Zamán came up very soon and opened his trenches and a few days afterwards Randula joined him. Shāhji soon began to treat, and after much fencing when the final attack was near, came out, met Randula halfway down the hill and surrendered.

It is not stated how long the chase or the siege lasted, but this sort of warfare might have gone on for years. When the Emperor of Delhi had made peace with Bijápur there was no longer any excuse for Shāhji's resistance, and he entered into the service of Bijápur. Before this the forts of Kolába, Suvarndurg, Anjanvel, Jaygad, Ratnágiri, and Vijaydurg had been built, but they were all apparently of little importance till enlarged and strengthened by Shiváji.

The Bijápur state was now for a few years the paramount power in the Konkan, and in 1648 before the assaults of the Maráthás had weakened it its government was thus provided for. The forts of Dábhol, Anjanvel, Ratnágiri, and Rájápur, with the districts dependent on them, were held direct from the crown. In Sir Henry Middleton's time the governor of Dábhol was a Persian and a great merchant owning many slaves. In 1612 Sir Henry Middleton stayed there with his ships for twelve days, got as much provisions as he wanted, and an eighteen-inch cable ninety-six fathoms long of Indian make for £8, but he obtained little trade owing to the duplicity of the governor. The remainder of the Southern Konkan was farmed out to the hereditary Deshmukhs, of whom the Sávants of Kudál were the chief. As mentioned the Dábhol subhedári was very extensive, and it is stated that its capital was for some time at Prabânváli. This place, now almost entirely deserted and with no ruins to tell of its former importance, lies at the foot of the great Ghát fortress of Vishálgad, and it is allowable to conjecture that the government of the subhedári was fixed in that secure but retired position in consequence of the ruin brought on Dábhol by the frequent attacks of the Portuguese, who in these later days never mention any Musahmán officer of high rank as commanding at Dábhol. About 1540 the governor of the Konkan under Bijápur, Asad Khán, is said to have had his head-quarters at Sangameshvar and to have made

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1 This is the old name of Prabal near Mátherán, but a fort called Muroanjan is much further south in the Gháts, which Sir H. Elliot supposes to be meant.
2 Elliot, VII. 59.
3 Grant Duff, 52.
4 Jervis, 92, 93.
5 Grant Duff, 40, 62.
6 Astley, I. 374, 418.
7 DeCoutto, VII. 289, IX. 326
8 There is some confusion about the place mentioned as Sangueiar. Faria speaks of it as on the Viziadurg river, and from DeBarros' description it would seem to be further south and nearer the sea than Sangameshvar, But Hamilton whose travels were published in 1727, says: "There is an excellent harbour for shipping eight leagues south of Dábul called Sanguseer." This evidently refers to Jaygad at the
tempts to the Portuguese with a view to getting their assistance if he made himself independent. The Portuguese, however, refused to help him.\(^1\) In 1583 and again in 1585 the Portuguese in conjunction with Bijápur troops attacked the Naik of Sangameshvar, who had seven or eight villages and 600 sepoys, and lived by piracy and pillage. His lands were given to another naik.\(^2\)

The remainder of the Konkan was divided into two subhedáris: the first, Kalyán, extended from the Vaitarna to Nágothna under a Musalmán officer; the rest down to the Sávitri was committed to the management of the Habshi of Janjira, whose own estate was in the middle of this district. His charge included the great forts of Tala, Ghosála, and Ráiri (afterwards Páygad).\(^3\) Thus the government was administered until Shiváji’s invasion of the Konkan. The Northern Konkan was to so great an extent in the hands of the Portuguese that not much besides the inland and wild parts of it were left to the Moghals, and of this a great part, as already mentioned, was held by the tributary state of Jawhár. Although the Moghals in 1572 succeeded to the territories of Gujarát in the Northern Konkan, yet they did not much interfere with the Portuguese, and a treaty was soon made between the two powers.\(^4\) In 1582 they invaded the Daman and Tárápur thána-dáris, and attacked Dáhánu, where the captain and fifty men defended themselves in a tower.\(^5\) At Máhim the captain and villagers fortified the church of the Dominican Fathers to resist them. Peace however was soon made. This moderation may have been attributable to the influence of a Portuguese lady of rank in the seraglio of Akbar, who is said to have obtained favourable concessions for her countrymen.\(^6\)

In 1612 the Moghals besieged Daman Bassein and Chaul, and desolated the surrounding country, and peace was purchased only by concessions and presents,\(^7\) although the Portuguese of the Máhím and Tárápur districts are said to have defended themselves valiantly.\(^8\) Bassein is spoken of by a Muhammadan historian of that time as a Moghal port, though in the hands of the Portuguese.\(^9\) The Emperor Sháh Jahán was however as favourable to the Portuguese, as Akbar had been\(^10\) and no further hostilities by the Moghals against them appear to have taken place till near the end of the century under Aurungzeb, when great cruelties were committed.

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mouth of the Sangameshvar river, and even by Orms Sangameshvar is put for Jaygad. This and Hamilton's remark that "being inhabited by Raparees, it is not frequented," sufficiently identifies Jaygad with the piratical station of Musalmán and Portuguese times. Pinkerton, VIII. There is also some doubt about this Asad Khan, as in the frequent mention of the well-known soldier of that name in Musalmán history he is never said to have been governor of the Konkan, and his constant loyalty is particularly noticed. Scott, I. 275.

\(^1\) DeCoutto, IV. 352, \(^2\) DeCoutto, XII. 30; Faria in Briggs, III. 254.

\(^3\) Grant Duff, 63; Jervis, 90. \(^4\) DeCoutto, X. 84; Mickle, clxxx.

\(^5\) DeCoutto, XI. 195. \(^6\) Jervis, 84. It is evident, however, that this could not have been the cause of the original cessions of territory to the Portuguese as Jervis states, since Akbar was born in 1542, before which time almost the whole of the possessions they ever had on the coast were in the hands of the Portuguese.

\(^7\) Mickle, ccl. \(^8\) O Chronista, III. 218, \(^9\) Tohfat al Mujahidin, 174.

\(^10\) Jervis, 84.
Even then peace was soon made, and on more favourable terms than the Portuguese were then justified by their strength in demanding.\footnote{1} The Musalmâns had however by this time so little influence left in the Konkan that their future proceedings must be looked for in the account of the Marâthás.

The remains of Musalmán buildings in the Konkan are but few and unimportant. Dábhol was so frequently burnt by the Portuguese, and Chaul so thoroughly destroyed by Shiváji, that there is little more than enough to show that they were once great places. At both there are a number of tombs scattered about, but none of great pretensions. At Dábhol there is a fine mosque with dome and minarets standing close to the water's edge, and now almost buried in cocoaunt trees. It is of considerable size, and its situation is striking, but it would not be thought very much of in Gujarát or any other district rich in Musalmân remains.\footnote{2} The site of the Musalmán city of Chaul is even more covered by cocoanut gardens than Dábhol. The most striking ruin is a hamâm khâna or bath, containing one large central chamber and two smaller ones, all octagonal, and each lighted by a circular opening in the cupola which covers it. There is also a mosque of some pretensions. At Kalyân, formerly called Islámabad, there is a large Musalman population and several mosques in use. There is however nothing either old or remarkable except one mosque, which would be very fine if it had a dome in proportion to its other parts. This stands on the edge of a noble pond, round which there are many tombs and other undistinguishable remains, as well as one considerable building said to be the tomb of a governor named Mohartaba Khán, on which is the date H. 1108. This is probably the person called by the Portuguese Mortaba Khán, Nawáb of Bhiwnádi, who ravaged their territories at various times about 1690.\footnote{3} The absence of other buildings is due to the ravages to which this district was subjected in the early days of Shiváji. Fryer, who travelled in India from 1673 to 1676, speaks of the remains of the Musalmán city of Kalyân, then only recently destroyed, as noble and striking, and goes so far as to call them "the most glorious ruins the Mahommadans in the Deccan ever had occasion to deplore."\footnote{4} At Khárepátna there are the foundations of a large Musalmán town in a fine situation and a great number of tombs, but no building remains standing.\footnote{5} At Rájpuri near Janjíra, now a wretched looking village, there are the tombs of four of the Nawábís situated in a pretty glen and close to the creek. There are, of course, tombs and mosques of an ordinary description in many places, but none architecturally remarkable. The tomb of a saint at Bhiwnádi, said to have been previously a diwán of Bijápur, and that of a princess at Lánja, said to have been the daughter of one of the Bijápur kings, may be mentioned.

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\footnote{1}{Grant Duff, 168.}
\footnote{2}{It is said to have been built by a princess of Bijápur in 1659-60, but the real date was probably much earlier. See Ind. Ant. II. 280.}
\footnote{3}{O Chronista, II. 52.}
\footnote{4}{It is needless to say that he had not seen Bijápur or any of the Dakhan capitals.}
\footnote{5}{See Ind. Ant. III. 321.}
When the forts are examined it will be found that from the much greater importance their successors attached to these than the Musalmáns did, the older work is generally hidden by the more modern. At Vizaydurg however the most massive of the buildings within and on the fort walls are evidently Musalmán. At Avchitgad the crenated battlements of the outer wall seem to prove the same origin. The island fort of Árnála near the mouth of the Vaitarna appears to be entirely Musalmán, with domes, Saracenic arches, octagonal recesses, and other features never seen in Marátha forts, though there are also marks inside of its Hindu occupation. But there is scarcely any mention to be found of any of the Konkan forts in the records of the Musalmán time.

One more Musalmán relic must be mentioned, the picturesque bridge at Nágothna. This is said to have been built about 1582 by one Káji Aláuddin of Chaul,¹ and as this date is between the siege of Chaul during the alliance of the Musalmán kings against the Portuguese and the activity of the Nizám Sháhi troops at the same place twenty years later,² it may without improbability be assumed that the bridge was built to facilitate the march of the troops from Ahmadnagar to Chaul, as from Nágothna there was a ghát by Koári considerably nearer to Poona than the Borghát. The chief peculiarity of the bridge is its narrowness, the space between the parapets being only nine feet nine inches.

Villages with Musalmán names are often met with, of the origin of which nothing can be heard. Two small districts close to Dábhol retain the names they received from the Musalmáns, though everywhere else the ancient Hindu names of pránts and tarafs have been preserved. These are Havelí Jafarabad containing thirty-seven villages, and Havelí Ahmadabad containing twenty-one, and the probability is that when Dábhol was first taken by the Musalmáns these villages were assigned for the support of the governor and his establishment.

¹ East India House Selections (1826), III. 786.
² See pages 38, 39.
³ Hamilton, II. 162.