

Sketch of the
Life and Career

of Late

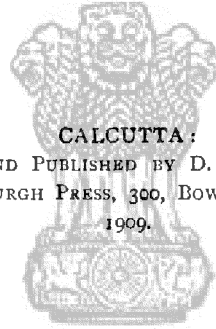
Nawab Bahadur Haji
Syed Willayet Ali Khan,

C. I. E.

By his dutiful and
obedient great-grandson

Syed Mohamad Ismail.

CALCUTTA :
THE EDINBURGH PRESS,
1909.



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सत्यमेव जयते

INTRODUCTION.

IN publishing the following short sketch of the life and career of my late great grandfather, Nawab Bahadur Haji Syed Willayet Ali Khan, C.I.E., I have simply done my duty as an obedient great grandson towards an illustrious gentleman whose many works of public utility are not perhaps sufficiently known to the Public.

It is about ten years since my great grandfather died. I was then only 13 years old and was reading in the lower class of the Mohamadan Anglo-Arabic School, Patna. On account of my tender age and inexperience and lack of literary ability I had not the courage to come forward and publish the life earlier, but for some years past the idea has struck me with increasing force that I ought in duty to leave behind a record of those valuable services which the subject of this sketch has rendered both to the Government and his fellow-countrymen. People will no doubt think that as the life is written by the pen of a great grandson, his account would be an exaggerated one, but truly speaking I have in no case gone beyond the limit of the information which I had been able to gather from the materials and records which had been left behind by my great grandfather.

Many people who were his life-long companions and to whom it would have been a great pleasure to see some account of his life are now dead and gone, but, it is a cause for thankfulness that there are still some living, both among Europeans and Indians, who were acquainted with him during his life time. Among the most prominent of these I may mention among the Europeans in India His Honour Sir Edward Norman Baker, K.C.S.I., the Hon'ble Mr. H. LeMesurier, C.I.E., Mr. Justice H. Holmwood and many others besides; while in England though there are many retired Indian Civilian friends of his, the most prominent of them is Sir Steuart Colvin Bayley, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Besides them there are many other fellow-countrymen, who, I am sure, will be very pleased to peruse the life of their old friend who is no more on earth, but whose memory still survives. These will, I think, be well able to test my work and to say whether the illustrious deceased deserves what I write of him.

It may not be out of place to mention here, that fortunately we have got at present at the head of the Bengal Administration our most enlightened, tactful, farsighted and sympathetic ruler Sir Edward Baker, who has been intimately connected with my family and specially with my late illustrious great grandfather ever since His Honor first arrived in India,

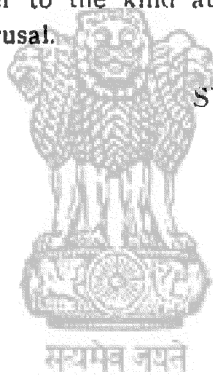
and was posted as an Assistant Magistrate and Collector in Patna in November 1878. As in duty bound we ever pray for His Honor's and Lady Baker's long life and prosperity, and that Bengal shall prosper and have peace and contentment under his wise and benign rule.

I am personally greatly indebted to Mr. W. Maude, I.C.S., our popular Commissioner, for all the interest he takes in me. I am also greatly indebted to the Hon'ble J. G. Cumming, I.C.S., at present Secretary to the Government of Bengal and formerly the Collector of Patna, and to Mr. H. C. Woodman, I.C.S., previously Collector of Patna, for their kind and affectionate attitude towards me, for their kindness in always giving me encouragement to come forward in public life, and for their sound advice.

Lastly I am much indebted to Mr. J. H. Lea, I.C.S., our present popular Collector, and Babu Mukundeb Mukerjee for all the interest they take in the management of our estate in the Court of Wards. With the above few words of explanation I commend the account which I have attempted of the life of my great grandfather to the kind attention of those who may feel disposed to undertake its perusal.

GUZRI, PATNA CITY.

SYED MOHAMAD ISMAIL.



Short Account of the Life and the Career of the late Nawab Bahadur Syed Wellayet Ali Khan, C.J.E.



HE Nawab Bahadur was born at Patna on the 23rd September 1818, he was the son of Syed Mehdi Ali Khan and the grandson of Syed Abdullah Sahib, the rich and wealthy banker of Patna and the founder of the present Guzri Family, whose ancestors held eminent places at the Court of Delhi under the Moghal Emperors. Syed Abdullah came and settled in Patna from Karamanicpoor, a place in Oudh, after the decay of the Moghal Empire. The Syed had a large sum of money with him and by just and proper use of it he acquired large landed properties in many Districts of Behar. The family is a Syed one and traces its descent from Imam Ali Raza, the 8th Imam. Thus the family belongs to the Razwi Syed branch of Mohamadan descent.

Syed Mehdi Ali Khan, the father of Nawab Bahadur Wellayet Ali Khan, was the second son of Syed Abdullah and was married to a daughter of Nawab Syed Hadi Ali Khan Bahadur, who was the son of Saeed-ud-daula Nawab Syed Ali Khan Bahadur Shamsheer-jung and grandson of Basher-ul-Mulk Nasir-ud-daula Nawab Syed Haidayet Ali Khan Bahadur Asad-jung, Deputy Governor of Bihar at the time of the reign of Emperor Shah Alam, on whom the Emperor was pleased to make the hereditary grant of Perganah Japla, in the District of Palamau as a revenue free gift.

Nawaba Hafizun-nisa Begum Sahiba, the mother of Nawab Bahadur Syed Wellayet Ali Khan, was the great granddaughter of the Deputy Governor Nawab Basher-ul-Mulk Naser-ud-daula Asad-jung. The great grandfather of the Nawab Bahadur Wellayet Ali Khan was one of four brothers, the eldest of whom was Nawab Syed Gholam Hosein Khan, the author of the famous History of India, "The Sairul-Mothakh-Kharin," of which I need not write further here as it is available to those who wish to read it. The author of Sairul-Mothakh-Kharin is not an unknown person even in distant parts of the world. I quote a short sketch concerning him from "Buckland's Dictionary of Indian Biography." Nawab Syed Gholam

Hosein Khan, Taba Tabai Mohamadan nobleman, his maternal ancestors were Syed Zamul Abadeen Khan, who was related as a cousin to Ali Verdi Khan Mahabat Jung, the late Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. His father was Basher-ul-Mulk Nasir-ud-daula Nawab Syed Haidayet Ali Khan Bahadur Asad-jung, a Deputy Governor of Bihar, born at Shah Jahanabad, appointed Meer Munshi or Secretary of the Moghal Emperor, resided at the court of Nawab of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, served under the British, befriended General Goddard, Resident at Chunargarh, entered with permission the service of the Nawab of Oudh for a time only and left it. Wrote "Sairul-Mothakh-Kharin," a modern review of the time. The manners of the modern, the chronicle of the decay of the Moghal Empire and the Mohamadan dominions of India during the reign of the seven last Emperors of Hindustan, written in Persian showing the progress of English in Bengal up to 1780 A.D. The second was the great grandfather of the subject of this sketch, namely, Syyaidd-ud-daula Nawab Syed Ali Khan Bahadur Shamser-jung. The third brother was Fakhr-ud-daula Nawab Syed Nagui Ali Khan Bahadur Zafar-jung on whom the Pergana Belonga, in the District of Plamane was hereditarily conferred in recognition of his eminent services to the Empire as a revenue free gift, and which was approved by the Board of Directors of the United East India Company under their seal and signature dated the 5th August 1815 A.D. The fourth brother was Nawab Ghalib Ali Khan Bahadur. Nawab Kazim Ali Khan Bahadur, the son of Fakhr-ud-daula Nagui Ali Khan Zafar-jung, had no issue and he therefore adopted the daughters of his cousin, among whom the eldest had been Hafizun Nissa Begum, daughter of Nawab Hadi Ali Khan, the cousin of Nawab Kazim Ali Khan Bahadur. It is thus that Hafizun Nissa Begum inherited the share in Pergana Belonga, also which was conferred upon Fakhr-ud-daula Nagui Ali Khan Bahadur Zafar-jung. Thus, on the paternal side the Nawab Bahadur Syed Willeyet Ali, C.I.E., was connected with a respectable Mohamadan Syed family which held places of distinction at the Court of Delhi during the time of the Moghal Emperors. On the maternal side also he came of a family well known throughout India and of great respectability and the accounts of which could be found in many Histories of India, and more specially in the Sair-ul-Mutakherin. The above is a short account of the family connection. I now turn to the earliest life of the subject of this sketch, and in doing so I hope I shall be able to prove fully the responsibility I take upon myself when I commenced doing this work.

The Nawab was brought up from his childhood under the protection of his grandfather, Syed Abdullah, and received his early education in Arabic and Persian and showed remarkable progress. At the age of 18 he had the good fortune to receive at the hands of his grandfather the administration of his

zamindari in the District of Tirhut in the discharge of which duty he showed remarkable ability, and in his hands his grandfather's zamindari was vastly improved. He was conspicuous from his early childhood for remarkable tact and intelligence, and soon began to devote some time to public affairs as will be seen in the sketch of his subsequent career. Among his earliest European friends was one Mr. J. B. Elliott and there were many others besides. At the dreadful time of the Mutiny he rendered valuable services at the risk of his life in saving Patna from disaster. The record of this is thus enunciated by Mr. William Taylor, the then Commissioner of Patna, in his book "38 years in India," volume ii., chapter xv., page 281, "with regard to Wallayet Ali Khan, the following extracts from one of my official reports will show the opinions I held regarding his loyalty and the valuable assistance I had received from him during the most critical period of danger.

"It is also gratifying to me to be able at this time to record the assistance I have received from several of the respectable native residents of Patna, more especially from among others, Wellayet Ali Khan has been conspicuous from the very commencement of the disturbance ; and the bravery and frankness with which he has, at a very great risk to himself, cast his lot on the side of the authorities, is deserving of special recognition at the present time, and has been in itself of great use.

"A few days after the news of the Mutiny reached us, he presented to me a petition, stating that he was ready to devote life and property in the service of the State, and from that day he has incessantly exerted himself in the cause of Government, seeking for information, ferreting out bad characters, watching the city and obtaining good information through emissaries employed at his expense from the neighbouring villages, Walayet Ali Khan has accordingly taken possession of an English house at the west end of the City near my compound and began living there day and night at a considerable scale of sacrifice to his life." Page 560 of the same book describes this : "To increase the visionary character of the scene, the only other person thus privately presented to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales when he visited Patna in 1876" was the Syed.

"He was also most graciously received by His Royal Highness, and eulogised for his service in 1857. He has since been decorated with the new order of the Indian Empire." The same account is quoted by Sir Roper Lethbridge, K.C.I.E., in his book "The Golden Book of India" and by Mr. Holmes in his History of the "Sepoy War."

His Loyalty to the Crown was promptly shown whenever opportunity offered. During the famine in 1874 and 1875 he exhibited marked generosity, having spent no less than forty or fifty thousand rupees in relieving the distressed people. He was the prime mover of almost all the social and moral societies in the Province of Behar ; he was one of the chief founders

of the Patna College, now a great centre of learning, of the Temple Medical School, of the Behar School of Engineering, and of many other important Educational Institutions, and has always been prominent in every good work in the Province of Behar. His acts of public and private Charities were very numerous and magnificent in aid of Schools, Colleges, Hospitals and Dispensaries, and Clubs and Societies, Mosques, etc., he spent very large sums. His Charities were not confined to his own country or nationality, and he would subscribe as largely to the relief of the sick and wounded in European wars as to some public movements in India. His donations fill a large catalogue and amount to lakhs of rupees. In 1874 when Lord Northbrook, the then Viceroy of India, paid a visit to the Sonapore Fair, the Nawab Bahadur had the distinguished privilege of being granted a private interview with His Excellency and had a long conversation with him on the condition of Behar. On the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to Calcutta in 1875 and 1876, he was invited to Calcutta to join in the demonstration and, after attending all the functions there, immediately returned to Patna where he had to join in the local reception. At the time of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Patna on his way back from Calcutta the Nawab Bahadur was especially introduced and had the distinguished honor of receiving His Royal Highness's personal thanks for his good services to the Empire. Subsequently he was created a "Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire," on the 1st January 1878, in recognition of his prominent and devoted services rendered during the Mutiny and of his munificent liberality. The Investiture of the Insignia took place at Sonapore Fair in a Darbar presided over by the Commissioner on the 13th November 1878. In delivering the Insignia, the Honorable Mr. F. M. Halliday spoke as follows :—

"SYED WALAYET ALI KHAN,—You have always been a most devoted and loyal subject of Government. During the Mutiny you have eminently distinguished yourself by displaying remarkable and inflexible loyalty. Your services during that crisis were invaluable. They were thus noticed by the then Commissioner of Patna: 'Walayet Ali Khan has been conspicuous from the very commencement of the disturbance and the bravery and frankness with which he has at very great risk to himself cast his lot on the side of the authorities, is deserving of special recognition at the present time, and has been in itself of great use. A few days after the news of the Mutiny reached us, he presented to me a petition stating that he was ready to devote his life and property in the service of the State; and from that date he incessantly exerted himself in the cause of Government, seeking for information, ferreting out bad characters, watching the city, and obtaining good information through emissaries employed at his expense from the neighbouring villages.'

"Profession of loyalty are valuable in proportion as they are voluntary and timely, and their sincerity is tested by acts.

"The proffer of Walayet Ali Khan's services was made in our darkest and most dangerous crisis, and the proffer throughout was supported by deeds.

"The character has ever since been laudably maintained by you.

"You have also been conspicuous in your liberality and public spiritedness, having hitherto contributed no less than Rs. 70,000 towards Charitable and Public Institutions. During the late Famine you exhibited marked generosity, having unostentatiously spent about Rs. 40 or 50,000 in relieving the distressed people. Your services have now received the recognition of Her Majesty the Empress of India and it gives me great pleasure to be the medium of conveying to you the token of Royal favour, and I sincerely hope that you may long enjoy the honor thus graciously conferred on you."

On every happy occasion he was flooded with letters and telegrams of congratulations from both Hindus and Mohamadans and specially from the large circle of his European friends, who were always forward in conveying their sincere congratulations and good wishes. A few letters printed below will give an idea to the public of the esteem and confidence in which the Nawab Bahadur was held by the higher authorities and the general public. It is a remarkable event to be mentioned here, that during the course of his administration as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal Sir Ashley Eden, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., was good enough to consult with him in almost all important matters which had the least concern with Behar. It so happened in the summer of 1880 that His Honor visited Patna and the Nawab Bahadur being then seriously ill, Sir Ashley Eden was so good as to take the trouble to drive over to his house to make kind enquiries after his health. This was not the only occasion on which the Nawab was graced with a private visit of a Lieutenant-Governor to his house. On two other occasions he had a similar honor. Once he had the fortune of receiving his esteemed old friend Sir Stuart Bayley in 1889, and lastly Sir Alexander Mackenzie paid a visit to him while he was again seriously ill in the summer of 1896. It is needless to write anything as to his connection with high officials for it is a well-known fact that he was throughout his life held in high esteem and regard for his noble attitude and straightforward character and was universally popular among both Hindus and Mohamadans. He was the promoter of peace and good-will among the different communities, and always inculcated religious toleration.

On the 14th April 1882 the title of Nawab was conferred on him as a personal distinction.

At a Darbar held at Bankipore on the 11th November 1882 for the purpose of investing him with the title of Nawab, His Honor Sir Rivers

Thompson, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in delivering the Sanad of the title and dignity of Nawab spoke as follows :—

"SYED WELLAYET ALI KHAN,—It is at the instance of His Excellency the Viceroy that I am present here to-day to confer upon you in this public Darbar the title and dignity of Nawab. In any career of life, apart from the testimony of a good conscience, that a man has striven honorably to do his duty, the highest reward which one can secure is the esteem and approbation of one's fellow-countrymen. I believe that element of contemporary approval is not wanting in your own position ; but it is quite fitting that, where an eminent citizen has used unostentatiously and disinterestedly the wealth his hands have gained him, to advance the public good, the Government should not be backward in recognizing such efforts. This is not the first occasion upon which it has fallen to your lot to receive at the hands of official authority the approval which Government desires to express to a loyal and liberal subject. I note that, on the auspicious occasion of Her Majesty's Assumption of the title of Empress of India, among the natives who were selected for marks of distinction, you were one of those who received a Certificate of Honor. I note that at a more recent period you were enrolled as a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire, and now it devolves upon me, both as a pleasure and privilege, to confer upon you to-day the rank and title of Nawab. We may be sure that they could be no light services for which accumulated honors were received, and speaking in the presence of those who know you best, I indulge in neither extravagance nor flattery when I say that in view of the prominent and devoted services rendered by you during the Mutiny and your munificent liberalities for the good of your people and district, the bestowal of such titular distinction as these brings honor alike to the Government and to yourself. You stand forward in the city as an example of loyal patriotism. You have shown in crises of danger and difficulty the reality and sincerity of that patriotism and in times of peace and order you have proved that the responsibilities of wealth and lofty position have been rightly appreciated by you in the co-operation you have given to the advancement of every useful and good work.

"I congratulate you, therefore, in the presence of this large and distinguished audience, upon your accession to a dignity so well merited ; and I wish you sincerely many years of health and future usefulness in the enjoyment of the honor which the Viceroy of India has conferred upon you."

On this occasion also the Nawab was flooded with congratulations and sincere well wishes from Hindus and Mohamadans and specially from the large number of his European friends, and the Hindu and Mohamadan residents of Patna on the 17th April 1883 presented to him a congratulatory address which ran as follows :—

Translation of the Address presented to Nawab Hajee Sayed Wellayet Ali Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., by the residents of Patna, on the 17th April 1883.

"We the undersigned residents of Patna, in presenting this address to you only give expression to the sincere feeling of pleasure and satisfaction which we experience in seeing you deservedly honored. The benevolence which has distinguished your career has elicited from Government its due recognition in the shape of honors conferred, and this, while it serves to perpetuate the memory of that benevolence, furnishes a strong and lasting incentive to others to follow your philanthropic example.

"Believe us, you are as thoroughly esteemed as you are widely known, both for your moral worth and your kindly disposition, and your name is known to fame even in the more distinct parts of the world.

"In the dreadful Mutiny of 1857 you consistently and firmly displayed to a just and watchful Government the pleasing spectacle of a subject unhesitatingly honest when his conscientious dissent was based upon personal experiences and peculiar means of knowledge, and throughout all, disinterestedly loyal, regardless of the extreme personal risk involved; and it was for this right loyal service at a most critical time, that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales personally thanked you, for it was admittedly owing in a great measure to your cool vigilance, wise moderation and unswerving loyalty that Patna owed its escape from overwhelming disaster. Nor have matters of great individual, and social, if of less general political importance, escaped your notice; and notably in the cause of education has your liberal hand been at work, so long back as the year 1856 when you made over to the Government a large estate for establishment and support of an Industrial and Agricultural School, a scheme which we regret has not yet been carried into completion, and again in 1862 you were first to give a large donation for the purpose of assisting the establishment of the Patna College, an institution that has steadily progressed, and whose sphere of useful influence it is hard to overestimate, and which can be compared only as to the good it has done with the Temple Medical School, with which also you are identified by the large donation given by you at its institution in 1874. These contributions, the spirit that promoted them, and the universal good that has resulted from them, are the results on which is based the gratitude of the people of Patna of whatever creed, sects, caste or class. Again in connection with the late famines in India and in Ireland (your contribution aggregating the sum of Rs. 1,20,000) your subscription to the fund for the relief and support of the wives and children of the soldiers, who fell in the Afghan Campaign, your gifts to the Zoological Garden at Calcutta and to the Mangles Tolah in this city, all witness how wide and how generous were your sympathies, how liberal and how universal your philanthropy.

"In the discharge of your duties as a Municipal Commissioner and as a member of different other societies connected with the social and moral improvement of the people of this city, you have shown us how private and selfish individual prejudices must be made to yield to a sense of what is most conducive to the public good.

"In presenting this address, allow us to express the hope that you will continue to take the keen interest you have hitherto done in the welfare of this city and its inhabitants, and we sincerely trust that the Almighty may prolong a life conspicuous for its energy in the cause of good and its activity in the cause of liberality and philanthropy."

The Nawab Sahib replied as follows :—

"GENTLEMEN,—To-day my dearly beloved Hindu and Mohamadan fellow-citizens (whom I affectionately greet) have made me feel both very happy and very proud; happy, that you approve of what I have done, in the belief that I was doing right, and proud in that I have gained your esteem and your regard. Believe me, I am keenly and deeply sensible of the honor you have now conferred on me by the address you have just presented to me, and that the pleasing memory of it will remain in my recollection as long as it shall seem fit to the Almighty to spare me. You estimate too highly the poor services that I have been able to render, and I attribute the high praise that you are pleased to accord to them rather to the liberality of the Government in marking their sense of them and to the kindly sentiments you entertain towards me, than to the inherent value of the services themselves. With particular reference to what I have been enabled to do on the occasions of public calamity and disturbance, and in the cause of forwarding our social and moral progress, I regard it in the one case as my duty, and in the other as the expenditure of a little Capital to secure a great amount of good (as we say in the vernacular a little word in a big mouth). Gentlemen, do not be offended if I say that the money which has been spent in connection with the presentation of this address might have been productive of some infinite good if wisely employed in some public works. But I will not deny that you have this day made me very happy, while you have nevertheless accorded to my poor services a higher merit than they deserve. May you all be spared to enjoy every honor, reward and prosperity that I sincerely wish you, and may I be spared to witness such a consummation of a life acceptable to man and pleasing in the sight of God. Again, gentlemen, I heartily thank you."

He held high offices such as an Honorary Magistrate, a Municipal Commissioner, a Member of the District Board, and of different other societies connected with the social and moral improvement of the people. He was an active Member of the Behar Landholders' Association and of the British Indian Association, and was also a member of the following bodies: the Central

Committee of the Imperial Institution in India, a Vice-Patron of the Lady Dufferin Fund, a life member of the Zoological Garden at Calcutta and also of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India. He also for a long time served as President of the Behar Text Book Committee. In all these capacities he showed remarkable abilities and energy.

In private life the Nawab was the warmest friend of all without distinction of colour, caste or creed or religion; he never let any two parties make unpleasantness, his house was always the scene of warm hospitality and was freely open to all those who wished to hold public meetings and give entertainments. The life of this eminent Mohamadan was remarkable on several grounds and may be studied from different aspects : (1) as an eminent and careful zemindar, (2) as a social and religious reformer, (3) as a loyal patriot. Loyalty to the British Government and their officers has been the traditional motto of our family. His life may be summed up in these words, it was a life of unselfish devotion to improving the then existing condition of Behar in ways which he considered to be to the best interest in every respect of his countrymen. As a pioneer in the cause of Native Education, as an active supporter of all public movements which he considered to be for the general wellbeing of the people, his name will always be remembered by his countrymen, as well as for his staunch orthodoxy throughout a long life in an age of progress. In his late years he had to struggle hard with ill health, which followed on several sad bereavements.

In 1896, however, the 1st of January again came with a happy message. The Nawab was honored with the rank and dignity of "Nawab Bahadur;" and once more congratulations poured in from all sections of the populace. Both the Hindu and Mohamadan residents of Patna further honored him with a congratulatory address, which ran as follows :—

To

NAWAB SYED WALAYET ALI KHAN, C.I.E.

"SIR,—We the assembled citizens of Patna feel the greatest pleasure in being allowed to approach you with this address of congratulation.

"The exalted and honorable title of Nawab Bahadur, which the Government has conferred on you in appreciation of your lifelong service to the Crown and to the Commonwealth, are no more than what you have deserved by your career of invariable self-sacrifice, public spirit and loyalty.

"We have always profited by your example of your stern devotion to the duties and responsibilities of the citizenship of a great Empire and we feel that the confidence which Government has always placed in you is by reflection a confidence placed in your fellow-citizen for which we cannot be adequately thankful to you.

"We fervently pray that the Almighty Father may grant you a long life to enjoy the title and honors bestowed upon you by the Government, and in conclusion beg to thank you for your kind acceptance of this *our humble* address."

During the later year of his life the Nawab Bahadur had many anxieties and sorrows, and he did not live long to enjoy the high distinction to which he had attained. Ever since the death of his beloved son, Syed Tajamul Hussain Khan *alias* Sultan Saheeb, in January 1899, who was loved by both rich and poor, Hindus and Mohamadans, the Nawab Bahadur's illness gradually increased, until at last it terminated in his death on the 3rd of June 1899. When the news of his death reached the Commissioner Sir J. A. Bourdillon, K.C.S.I., and the Collector, Mr. H. LeMesurier, C.I.E., they closed their offices for the day as a mark of respect to the departed patriot, and expressed their sincere condolence in most touching form, they both attended the funeral and accompanied the cortege to the burial-ground. Both the Commissioner and the Collector expressed their sympathy in letters of condolence to Syed Khurshaid Nawab, the grandson of the deceased Nawab Bahadur.

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE.

FROM

J. A. BOURDILLON, ESQ., I.C.S., C.S.I.,
COMMISSIONER OF PATNA.

TO

SYED KHURSHAID NAWAB.

Bankipore, 3rd June 1899.

DEAR SIR,—I have heard with the most profound regret the sad news of the death of your illustrious grandfather, my esteemed friend, this morning, and beg you to accept my most sincere sympathy in this sad event. Your grandfather had been the trusted friend of all the officials for nearly half a century and his death will be a serious loss to Government as well as to the many friends he numbered among the Europeans in this country. The public has lost a trusted and recognised leader. His memory will long survive and it will be difficult for many years to fill his place.

Believe me to be,

Yours very truly,

(Sd.) J. A. BOURDILLON,
Commissioner, Patna.

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM

J. A. BOURDILLON, Esq., I.C.S., C.S.I.,
COMMISSIONER OF PATNA.

Bankipore, 4th June 1899.

DEAR SIR,—On hearing the sad news of your grandfather's death I at once telegraphed to the Government of Bengal. In reply I received last evening the telegram, which I enclose herewith, and which will show you the esteem and regard felt for the Nawab by the highest in the land.

Yours truly,
J. A. BOURDILLON.

Copy of the Telegram received by the Commissioner from the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

FROM
GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

To
COMMISSIONER OF PATNA.

The Lieutenant-Governor had heard with deep regret the news of Nawab Wellayet Ali's death and desires you to convey his sympathy to the family.

FROM
H. LEMESURIER, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E.,
COLLECTOR PATNA.

To
SYED KHURSHAID NAWAB.

Bankipore, 3rd June 1899.

DEAR SIR,—I have just received with great grief the news of the death of my honored friend the Nawab Bahadur your illustrious grandfather. For upwards of seven years that I have known Patna I have been indebted to him for advice and assistance and for a kind and continued friendship which has been one of the things I have been most proud of in my service. He has gone full of years, wisdom and honor not long surviving the son to whom he was so deeply attached. It will be many years before his place will be filled and we shall see the like of him again. The Mohamadan nobles of Patna have lost a recognised leader, and the Government and the cause of

law and order a prominent supporter. I beg you to accept the assurance of my deepest sympathy and condolence in your sorrow. The Commissioner and myself will come and join the funeral. We accept this opportunity of showing this last mark of respect to our departed friend. The offices of the Commissioner and my own have been closed as a mark of respect.

Yours sincerely,
H. LEMESURIER,
Collector, Patna.

Besides the letters published above we have received numerous other letters from every section of the community and especially from the large circle of his European friends both in India and in England. Among them I may mention the names of Sir Steuart Bayley, Sir C. C. Stevens, Sir A. P. (now Lord MacDonell) and numerous other friends besides. After his lamented death the Press wrote thus of him: "Since his death in 1899 his place in his community can hardly be exactly filled, he has been described as the most enlightened and straightforward among the Mohamadans of Bengal. To commemorate his memory the public of Patna had been good enough to convene a Public Meeting on the 2nd of July 1899 which was presided over by Mr. (now Sir) James Austin Bourdillion, K.C.S.I., the then Commissioner of Patna Division, to raise funds for his memorial; it was however successfully carried and a large sum was raised on the spot in which many European gentlemen friends of his liberally contributed. The memorial fund was made over to the Trustees of the Mohamadan Anglo-Arabic School building fund to name a wing after the said illustrious patriot. And after the completion of the building is over a Tablet has been fixed in one of the wings to commemorate his memory. He has left behind as a successor one lunatic son and two daughters, namely, my father's mother and mother's mother, and no male except my father, Syed Khurshaid Nawab, who is ever since according to his humble power following in his footsteps. He has always tried to do useful work to the public and render loyal services according to the tradition of the family to the Crown. I need not say anything about his services because that will be considered as a foolish vanity ever since misfortune has fallen on us and our State on account of our extravagant expenditure and consequent encumbrances, but such is the case with every glorious family in the world that it is liable to decay. However, it is a shame that we could not uphold the traditions of those dear memories. Nevertheless, I cannot stay my pen without mentioning a few facts with regard to my father's service. No one I think will deny the munificence of his presentation of those valuable books of manuscripts of the late Nawab Bahadur's Library to the Oriental Public Library of Patna which forms such a valuable collection,

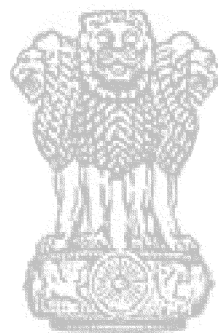
In addition to this came the presentation of land with a handsome donation for the construction of the Mohamadan Anglo-Arabic School building. It will not perhaps be an exaggeration if I say that had he not presented the site in which the present Mohamadan Anglo-Arabic School building stands the School would never have had any property of its own. Further his handsome donation of rupees ten thousand to the Bankipore Hospital Building Fund is well known to the public. He had also the good fortune to be invited as one of the sixty-three (63) guests of the Bengal Government to attend the Imperial Assembly of the Coronation Darbar at Delhi in 1902-1903 and attended it and I was also along with him then. In conclusion I regret to have to admit with great grief that the House which has had such a glorious past has fallen into decay at a time when I have been looking forward to an opportunity of myself taking some part in the public affairs of Patna and Behar.

SYED MOHAMAD ISMAIL.



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