



and married to Hunce Rao, nephew of Kasal, subahdar of Thugs ; she had two or three children by him, but they are dead : all three were residents of the Purdese Mahulla, in Ellichpore ; and they were going to the provinces on the Ganges."

The female referred to, deposed, at the same period, to the following effect. The colouring of passion is not looked for in a law paper ; but, after making all allowance for this fact, it must be admitted, that the coolness with which the deponent relates the murder of her relations and her own captivity, and their consequences, does great credit to her philosophy.

" My mother and father resided in some town in the Deccan ; but their names I do not recollect, as I was only three or four years of age when my uncle and mother took me with them on a journey towards the Ganges. On the road, my mother and uncle were killed, by Thugs, with many other travellers. Kasal Singh Putuck Jemadar preserved my life, and took me with him to Pahlun in Gwalior, where he brought me up ; and when I became of age, he married me to his son, Hunce Rao, who is now dead. As long as he lived, I lived with him ; but he has been dead several years, and I have since lived with his mother, and earned my subsistence by my labour. Your sepahees found me out, and have brought me into Saugor. I had



two sons by Hunce Rao: the first died when fifteen months old; the other is eight or nine years of age, and is named Buksh; he is in Khyrawa in Jhansee, with his grandmother. I was the only person out of the party saved. There is now no Thug left in the family of Hunce Rao, who can provide for me. If you will maintain me, I shall be glad to remain here; but I have never heard whether my parents have any surviving relations or not. I was in advance of the party, when they were killed. The other two girls who were killed were not related to me; but our parents resided at the same place, and we used to call each other sisters. I had no other relation killed but my uncle and mother."

The witness whose deposition was first quoted gives, at another period, a fuller relation of the facts.

He said :—"The roads from the Deccan, across the Nurbudda, had become so unsafe, from the Pindaries, that all travellers from Poona, Hyderabad, and Nagpore, going towards the Ganges, went by way of Surgooja and Sumbulpore; and several of our gangs, that went from Bundelcund and the Dooab to that road, came back with immense booty, for several years. In the rains preceding this affair, it was determined that all the gangs should take that direction; and we accordingly set out. There were more than forty Jemadars of note: among them



them, Bukshee Jemadar, whose head Dr. Spry sent to England; and Ghassee Subahdar; and many others of equal note. We set out from our respective homes, after the Dushera, in October 1806; passed through Mirzapore, in order to make our votive offerings at the Temple of Davy, at Bindachul; and rendezvoused at Ruttunpore in the Surgooja district, where we were assembled above 600 Thugs. From Ruttunpore we went to Tukutpore; where we murdered a good many travellers, who took up their quarters in our several places of encampment. All pretended to have been on furlough; and to be returning from Hindostan to different armies in the Deccan; with some of our relations and friends, as young recruits. On the third day, a female of rank came up. Her husband had been an officer in the Nagpore service; and being left a widow by his death at Nagpore, she was on her way home to his friends, with her deceased husband's brother. She occupied a tent; and was accompanied by a slave girl, and had twelve armed men as a guard. She left Tukutpore the morning after her arrival; and was followed by a detachment from every one of our gangs, making a party of 160 Thugs, under some of our best leaders. For several days they followed them, without finding a convenient opportunity of disposing of them; till they reached the village of Choorā, between which place and the village of Sutrunja the road passed through



through an extensive jungle, without a village on either side for many miles. Leaving this place in the morning, they put the whole party to death, and buried their bodies in a nullah.—I did not go with this party.

“When they set out after the widow, we all proceeded towards Nagpore: and on reaching Lahnjee, a party of sixty Thugs remained there, while the rest went on towards Nagpore. I remained with the sixty at Lahnjee; and, two days after the main body had left us, a party of forty travellers came up, on their way to the Ganges—thirty-one men, seven women, and two girls. The greater part of these people were from Ellichpore; the rest from Nagpore. Our Jemadars soon became intimate with the principal men of this party, pretended to be going to the same parts of India, and won their confidence; and the next day we set out with them; and in four days reached Ruttunpore, where we met the party of 160 Thugs returning after the murder of the widow and her party. They did not, however, appear to be known to us. Soon after, two hundred of the main body, who had gone on towards Nagpore from Lahnjee, came up, having heard of the forty travellers soon after they left us; and all pretended to be going the same road, without appearing to have any acquaintance with each other. It was, however, agreed that sixty of the 160 should go on, and rejoin the party  
who



who had proceeded to Nagpore ; leaving 360 to dispose of this party.

“ From Ruttunpore we proceeded with the party of travellers to the village of Choorā, whence we sent on people to select a proper place for the murder. They chose one not far from that in which the widow and her party had been put to death. Durroo and Sheera were sent on to the village of Sutrunja, to see that all was clear in front ; and about a watch-and-a-half before daylight we set out with the travellers ; leaving scouts behind, to see that we were not interrupted from the rear. By the time we reached the appointed place, the Bhurtotes and Shumsees had all, on some pretext or other, got close by the side of the persons whom they were appointed to strangle ; and on reaching the spot, the signal was given in several places at the same time, and thirty-eight out of forty were seized and strangled. The daughter of Gunga Tewarree was a very handsome young woman ; and Punchum, one of our Jemadars, wished to preserve her, as a wife to his son, Bukholee. But when she saw her mother and father strangled, she screamed, and beat her head against the stony ground, and tried to kill herself. Punchum tried in vain to quiet her, and promised to take great care of her, and marry her to his own son, who would be a great Chief ; but all was in vain. She continued to scream ; and at last Punchum put the roomal round her neck, and strangled her. The widow of Alfie's brother



brother was strangled; but her daughter, a girl about three years of age, was preserved by Kosul Jemadar, who married her to his own son, Hunce Rao Brahmin; by whom she had two sons, one of whom is still living, and about ten or eleven years of age. Since the death of Kosul and Hunce Rao, she has lived with her husband's mother.

"We buried all the bodies in a nullah; and got property to the value of about 17,000 rupees, which we took on with us, and divided at Sutrunja. After this affair we returned home, through Rewah and Chitterkote, the place where we had murdered the sixty persons at one time, about two years before. The widow of Hunce Rao often heard, after she grew up, of the Chaleesrooh affair, in which her mother and uncle were strangled; and she has herself told you all that she knows about it."

The fate of one of the principal actors in this dark scene, and that of his family, is edifying.—"Punchum, on his return, died before we reached home. Of his five sons—Chunderbhan died on a Thug expedition; Bhugholee was hung at Gwalior, by Jacob Sahib; Jowahir died in Gwalior; Odeebhan was hung in Kandeish, in 1829; and Molloo died in the Nursingpore jail. The children of another worthy, Kosul Subahdar, were not more fortunate. One of them, Ajeeta, was transported from Saugor in 1832; and Rawut Rao died in the Saugor jail."



## CHAP. XII.

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MANY years have elapsed since the occurrence of the barbarous acts of Thuggee now about to be related; but very circumstantial accounts of them were given by the approvers examined in 1833. One of them is that which follows:—

“About twenty years ago, I was with a gang of 350 Thugs, under Ghasee Subahdar, Noor Khan, and other leaders, at Jubulpore. Some of us were at Gopaulpore; and some encamped at Adhartal, and some in the bazaar. We remained there three days; and on the third day, Gholab Khan, the Killadar of Gawilgur in Nagpore, with Kadher Khan, and a party of sixty persons, including seven women and a boy, came up, and encamped on the bank of the Gopaulpore tank, in a grove of Mangoe-trees. Ghasee Khan Subahdar went to them, as our Sothae; and told them that he was a subahdar in the service of Rughoojee the Rajah of Nagpore, and on his way home, on leave, with a number of the men of his regiment. Gholab Khan said, he had been the Killadar of Gawilgur; and, having been deprived of the command of that fortress, was now  
on



on his way home. Ghasee said, he and his friend should be glad to travel in his company; and finding the Killadar pleased with his proposal, he returned to us. The Killadar remained the next day, and we remained also; and the following day went to Punnagurh, and thence to Sehora: from this place we quitted the high road through Belehree, and took that through Rewah; and encamped at a village whose name I forget. We sent on people to choose a place for the murder, but no suitable one could be found; and we went on in this manner for eight days, searching every day in vain for a convenient place for the murder. On the eighth day we reached a village, called, from a large Bur-tree, the Burwala village, five cose from Birsingpore, and encamped under trees; and sent on men to search for a Bele. At a place two and a half cose distant between this village and Chit-terkote, they found a place suited to our purpose, on the bank of a nullah; and about a watch before daylight we set out with the party of travellers; and contrived, as we went along, to put a Bhurtote (strangler) and a Shumseea (holder of hands) by every traveller's side. On reaching the spot chosen, Ghasee Subahdar gave the signal; and the travellers were seized by the men placed by their sides for the purpose, and strangled. Their bodies were buried in the sand in the bed of the nullah; and we got from them 19,000 rupees in money, and 7000



or 8000 rupees' worth of other property, which we took on to Chitterkote. From thence we sent back men to bury the bodies deeper; and they found one body exposed, which they buried; but the rest had been all washed down by the flood arising from some heavy rain that fell: alarmed at this, we all dispersed, and returned to our homes.

"The boy was preserved by Mungul and Laljoo, brothers and Brahmins of Sindouse. He was a Brahmin, and transported in 1834 for murder.

"We passed through Rewah, and Simereea and Chandeeah also; and another town, a few cose from Bundoogur."

This substantially agrees with the subjoined statement, made on another occasion; though there is some difference as to names.

"After the capture of Gwalior by General Wellesley (Duke of Wellington), it was restored to the Nagpore Rajah, who appointed Ghureeb Singh to the command of the fortress. Anxious to get some good soldiers from Hindostan to garrison it, he sent his younger brother, Ghyan Singh, with a number of followers, and a large sum of money, to raise them, in the Oude country, and districts between the Ganges and Jumna rivers.

"Ghyan Singh and his party passed through Nagpore; and came to Jubulpore in the month of  
June,



June, while we were there concentrated from the different parts into which we had extended our expeditions that season. His party consisted of fifty-two men, seven women, and a Brahman boy then about four years of age. Some of our gangs lodged in the town; some in the cantonments among the troops; and some were encamped at the Tank of Adhar, two or three miles from the town, on the road to Mirzapore. As soon as we heard of the arrival of this party from the Deccan, every party of Thugs deputed some of its most respectable members to mix with them in the town, and win their confidence. At first, they tried to separate them into different parties, to proceed by different roads: but though they had collected together at different places on the road, it was found impossible to separate any part of them from Ghyan Singh; and we agreed to unite all our gangs, and to lead the party by the most unfrequented roads, till we might find a place convenient for the murder of the whole at once.

“On reaching Sehora, we persuaded them to quit the high road through Belehree and Myhere, and take that through Chundeea and the old Fort of Bundoogur, which leads through very extensive tracts of jungle and uninhabited country. We went with them through all this country, however, without finding what we considered a fitting time and place; and reached Rewah, winning more and more upon



upon their confidence every day. From Rewah we went to Simareea; and from that place to a small village half way to Chitterkote; called by us the Burwala Gow, from a large Bur-tree that stood near it. Thence we sent on people, as usual, to select a place for the murder; and they found one about two cose and a half distant, in a very extensive jungle, without a human habitation for many miles on either side. We persuaded the party to set out soon after midnight; and as they went along, we managed to take our appointed places, two Thugs by every traveller, and the rest in parties of reserve at different intervals along the line; every two managing to keep the person, whom they were appointed to kill, in conversation. On reaching the place chosen, the signal was given at several different places, beginning with the rear party, and passing on to that in front; and all were seized and strangled, except the boy. It was now near morning, and too late to admit of the bodies being securely buried: we made a temporary grave for them in the bed of the river, covered them over with sand, and went on with the boy and the booty to Chitterkote, intending to send back a large party the next night, and have the bodies securely buried. The rains had begun to set in; and, after the murders, it rained very heavily all the day. The party, however, went back, but found that the river had risen and washed away all the bodies, except two or three,



three, which they found exposed, and pushed into the stream to follow the rest. The boy was brought up by Mungul Brahmin, the brother of Laljoo; and, having taken to the trade of Thuggee, he was last year sent to the black water, from Saugor. Mungul and Laljoo both died in a village in Bhopaul, where they had settled.



## CHAP. XIII.

“THE Dhosa affair,” as it is called, lives in the confessions of two of the murderers, Kaem Khan, and Rustum Khan. That of the former runs thus:—

“We were on our way from Madhoorajpore to Gwalior—a gang of about forty Thugs—in the month of March, ten years ago; when we fell in with Bunseelal, the son of Bhujunlal, the Cotwal of Sopur. He was a lad of about seventeen years of age; and had with him two Brahmins, one Rajpoot sepahee, and a servant of the Jat cast; and was going to Rewaree, to fetch his bride. One of the Brahmins had come from Rewaree, to accompany him. They came and took up their quarters in the same Serai with us, and we pretended to be going the same road. The next morning we went on with them to Lolsont; where we again lodged together, in the Serai of Kosul Bhuteeara. The following day we went on to Ramgur with them; and thence Bhikka Jemadar went on, to select a place for the murder; but he came back without finding one that pleased him; and the day after we  
went



went on together to Dhosa. We had now become very intimate with the boy and his party, who told us all their secrets. The boy lodged in the shop of a Buneea who had been long in league with us, while we lodged in the Serai at Dhosa; and in the afternoon, Bhikka went on again, to select a Bele. He chose one in the bed of a nullah a cose and a half distant; and the five stranglers having been appointed, we set out with the boy and his party long before daylight the next morning. On reaching the place appointed, they were persuaded to sit down and rest themselves. The boy sat with one of the Brahmans, upon a carpet that we had spread for him; and the other three attendants sat down upon the sand at a little distance from them. A Shumseea took his seat by the side of each of the five; and the Bhurtotes stood each behind his intended victim. The signal was given by Rustum Khan; and all five were immediately strangled; the boy himself by Bhikka Jemadar, who is still at large, while his hands were held by his brother Chunda. The bodies were buried in the bed of the nullah. While they were strangling them, the fine mare on which the youth rode ran off; and while we were engaged in recovering her, Chunda made off with a purse of gold mohurs, which he found in the boy's waistband."

The witness was asked; "Did you not return to Dhosa soon after, and heard of the boy's friends  
searching



searching for him?" He answered: "Yes; we came back to Dhosa some time after, and heard from our friends the shopkeepers that the bodies had been dug up by jackals, and that the friends of the murdered youth were then at Dhosa, inquiring about him. Going to the Serai, we found the uncle of the youth sitting on a Chubootra, in front of the door, weeping and lamenting the loss of his nephew."—Being questioned whether the father did not die of grief soon after, he said: "Yes; he could never be persuaded to eat any thing after he learnt the fate of his only son, and soon died. This we afterwards learned from the people of Seopore, who still recollect the circumstance of the loss of the son, and death of the old Cotwal."

Rustum Khan's testimony is to the same effect:—

"In Jet, about six years ago, I was with a gang under Nuthee Khan (lately hung at Saugor), Bhurjee, Bhikka, and Saadut, Jemadars, and a gang of forty Thugs, on our way from Madhorajpore: we reached Mularna Dongerka in Jypore, and lodged in the Serai. A little before dark, the son of the Cotwal of Seopore came up, with four companions, on their way from Seopore to their homes in Rewaree, and lodged in the same Serai. Nuthee Khan went to the young man, who was about fifteen years of age, and won his confidence. He agreed to travel with us; and we set out the next morning, and reached

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Lalsont,



Lalsont, and lodged in the Serai of Khosal Bhu-teeara : next day we reached Ramgur in Jypore, four cose distant, and lodged in some shops. Thence we sent on Bhikka Jemadar, to select a place for the murder ; but he could not find one, and returned in despair. The next day we went on to Dhosa in Jypore, which place we reached about noon ; and we lodged the boy and his companions in a shop, while we went to the Serai. The shopkeepers in whose shop they lodged were three, Nanuk, Sewlall, and another, whose name I forgot. We were all well known to these three shopkeepers, and they had shared liberally in our booty ; and their shop was near the Serai in which we lodged. Four ghuries before night, we sent on Bhikka again to look for a Bela ; and he chose one on the bank of a river, a cose and a half distant ; and at night reported his success. Nuthee Khan, Bhikka, Kureema, Incha, and Ramla a Sooseea Thug, were chosen as stranglers, and others appointed to assist them ; and a watch and a half before daylight we set out ; and on reaching the place chosen, in the bed of the river, which was then dry, they were persuaded to sit down to their ablutions. A carpet was spread for them ; and the son of the Cotwal, with one of his companions, sat upon it, and the other three sat at a little distance. The Shumseeas sat near them, and the Bhurtotes (stranglers) stood behind them. I was appointed



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jungle, as we learnt from the Bhuteearas and shop-keepers, who requested us to keep away from Dhosa, in consequence. The Cotwal wrote to his home, to announce the departure of his son: and as he did not reach home, his uncle and another man came out to search for him, and came to the shop where he had lodged him at Dhosa. We returned to the place twenty days after; and found the uncle on a Chubootra in front of the shop, weeping, and saying that he could trace his nephew thus far and no further. We concealed the property we got, after hearing this; but we have none of it now."

The Report of the Aumil of Seopore confirms the evidences, to a certain extent:—

"Lalla Bhujun Lal, in the time of John Baptiste, was stationed at Seopore, on the part of Chutter Bhoje Dewan. He had his family with him. He sent his son, Bunsee Lal, towards Rewaree, to bring back his bride. He had with him Pirthee, Brahmin of Seopore, and Jogul, Brahmin of Rewaree, Heera Singh Sepahee, and Govinda Jat: they had a horse with them. They set out on the 27th of Cheyt, 1885 Sumbut, towards Rewaree: and after three months, a letter arrived, stating that he had never reached home. Bhujun Lal sent people in search of him; and found, that on the other



other side of Madhoopore, and the other side of the Bimas River, a half cose from the Bower Bowlee, they had been all killed. Bhujun Lal died soon after, of grief for the loss of his son.



## CHAP. XIV.

MEN, even of rank and consequence, disappear, from the mysterious operation of Thuggee; and, after a little excitement and a little inquiry, the matter passes over, and is no more recollected, till some fresh atrocity or some unlooked-for discovery again calls attention to it. Sheikh Inaent, an approver, in answer to an inquiry by Captain Sleenman, how often he had been at Thuggee before he saw a murder, gave the following relation:—

“ It was on my return from the first expedition which I made with my father to the Deccan, when I was fifteen years of age, and about thirty-five years ago. We were a gang of about eighty or ninety Thugs, under my father Hinga; and some of the Deccan Chiefs lodged in the Mausoleum, outside of the town of Ellichpore. Two of our leaders, Gumboo and Laljoo, on getting into the bazaar, fell in with the grooms of the Nawab Subzee Khan, the uncle of the Nawab of Bhopaul, Huzeer Mahommed Khan; who told them, that their master had been, with his son and his 200 horse, in the service of the Nizam at Hyderabad; and



and having had a quarrel with his son, he was now on his way home to Bhopaul. They came back and reported; and Dulele Khan and Khuleel Khan, and other leaders of fame, went and introduced themselves to the Nawab, pretending that they had been to the Deccan with horses for sale, and were now on their way back to Hindostan. He was pleased with their address and appearance, and invited them to return the next day, which they did; and the following day he set out with as many of our gang as it was thought safe to exhibit. He had two grooms, two troopers, and a slave-girl, two horses, a mare with a wound in the neck, and a pony. The slave-girl's duty was to prepare for him his daily portion of subzee; and he told us that he had got the name of Subzee Khan from the quantity of that drug which he was accustomed to drink.

“We came on together three stages; and during the fourth stage we came to an extensive jungle this side of Dhoba, and in the Baitool district; and on reaching a nullah, about nine o'clock, Khuleel said: ‘Khan Sahib, we have had a fatiguing journey, and we had better rest here and take some refreshment.’—‘By all means,’ said the Nawab; ‘I feel a little fatigued, and will take my subzee here.’ He dismounted, laid his sword and shield upon the ground, spread his carpet, and sat down. Dulele and Khuleel sat down by his side,



side, while the girl was preparing his potion ; of which he invited these two men, as our supposed chiefs, to partake ; while the grooms were engaged with the horses, and the troopers were smoking their pipes, at a distance. It had been determined that the Nawab should be first secured ; for he was a powerful man, and, if he had a moment's warning, would certainly have cut down some of the gang, before they could secure him. Laljoo also went and sat near him ; while Gomanee stood behind, and seemed to be much interested in the conversation. All being now ready, the signal was given ; and the Nawab was strangled by Gomanee, while Laljoo and Dulele held his legs. As soon as the others saw the Nawab secured, they fell upon his attendants ; and all were strangled, and their bodies buried in the bed of the water-course. On going back to Ellichpore, Gomanee sold the Nawab's shield for eight rupees ; but it was worth so much more, that the people suspected him, and came to our camp to search for him. Our spies brought us timely notice, and we concealed him under the housings of our horses."

The witness being asked, "What was the cause of the quarrel between Subzee Khan and his son?" answered, "The son, in a passion, had drawn his sword, and cut the Nawab's favourite mare over the neck. A quarrel ensued ; and he left his son in charge of the squadron of horse, to return to Bhopaul.



Bhopaul.—This," he added, "was the first murder I ever witnessed, and it made a great impression upon my mind. You may rely upon the correctness of what I state regarding it."

On another occasion, the witness added the following particulars :—

"The bodies were all buried under stones in the nullah; but I did not see the graves; nor could they be now found, after so long a time. We got from them two horses, a mare, and a pony; a gold bracelet, twenty-five gold coins, and fifty rupees; some cloths, and a very handsome bird-cage. Khuleel Khan got one of the horses; Dulele and Gungoo got the mare; my father got a horse; and Gomanee and Laljoo the pony. Dulele sold the mare at Omrowtee; and my father his horse, at Borhanpore. Khuleel sent his horse home; and Gomanee kept the pony for many years. Gomanee got also a valuable shield, which he sold at Ellichpore for eight rupees; and the people said that it was sold too cheaply to have been honestly obtained. Gomanee, hearing this, made off without taking the money, and came to us: the people pursued him, but we concealed him under some housings. As soon as the search was over, we made off: and afterwards, on coming to Ellichpore, we heard that great search was being made for the Nawab Subzee Khan, and left that part of the country."

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The statement of the witness was corroborated by inquiries at the Court at Bhopaul. Mirza Amjud Beg, the Vakeel of Bhopaul, thus addressed Mr. Wilkinson, Political Agent :—

“ On receipt of your order to me, to ascertain whether any such persons, as are stated to have been killed in the deposition of Sheikh Inaent of the 3d of July before Captain Sleeman, disappeared about that time, I wrote to Rajah Khoshwukt Rae, the Bhopaul Minister; who has forwarded to me the deposition of Sultan Khan Afghan, an old resident of Bhopaul;—from which it appears, that, about thirty-five years ago, Subzee Khan, the man named, was the son of Shere Khan, who was a near relation of Nawab Wuzeer Mahommed Khan, the late Nawab of Bhopaul, and Resident of Bhopaul. He was called Subzee Khan, as stated by Inaent, in consequence of the quantity of subzee, or inebriating drug, he drank. He was in service at Hyderabad, with Gholaum Hyder Khan, his son: he became annoyed with his son; and left Hyderabad, on his return home, with some followers, and property laden upon ponies; and on the road was murdered by Thugs. When his son came home, and found that his father, who had set out long before him, had not returned home, he got 200 rupees, and, with four attendants, set out in search of him. He went to Nagpore and Ellichpore; and found traces  
of



of his father to the last place, but could find no trace of him beyond it."

Another witness deposed thus:—"Thirty-five years ago, or more, Gholam Hyder Khan, and his father Subzee Khan, were in service at Hyderabad: and when Hyder Khan came back, he stated that his father had left Hyderabad six months before, in anger with him; and apprehended that his anger had prevented his returning home, and induced him to remain in service on the road. He got 200 rupees, and set out in search of his father, with four attendants: he found traces of him to Ellichpore, and no further."

*Question.*—"Did he use much subzee or Bhung?"

*Answer:* "Subzee Khan used a great deal of that drug, and he got the name in consequence; and I never knew him by any other." *Q.* "Was he related to the Nawab?" *A.* "He was the uncle of Nawab Wuzeer Mahommed, but not the brother of his mother or father." *Q.* "Did the son mention the names of the people who accompanied his father, or the property he took with him?" *A.* "He did not. Twelve years ago, when I was in service there, I saw Gholam Hyder Khan at Ellichpore, with his mother. Where he is now, I know not."



## CHAP. XV.

At Dhoma, on one occasion, twenty-seven persons were sacrificed together, as is related in the following deposition of Zalfukar Jemadar, one of the perpetrators taken at Saugor by Captain Slesman, some years after the occurrence of the facts.

“About twenty-one years ago, at the time of Mohurram, I, with the following leaders and their gangs, in all about 300 men, were assembled at Chooree in Chupara, with intention of proceeding on a Thug expedition:—Bodhoo Jemadar, who was afterwards trod to death under the feet of an elephant at Jhalone—Hingah Jemadar, father of Sheikh Inaent, approver, who died on a Thug expedition twelve years ago, near Bhurtpore—Khan Sahib, alias Noor Khan, hung at Jubulpore, 1835—Khuleel, hung at Pothoreea in Saugor, eighteen years ago, a year after being released from Nagpore—Kurreem, alias Kurondee, hung at Saugor—Dhurum Khan, the stutterer, hung at Saugor—Mohun Brahmin, Purasur (dead), at Dumah—Sheikh Nugoo, hung at Saugor, 1835—Mahasookh, approver—Muchul, who died at home, thirteen years ago—  
Rajah



Rajah Khan, alias Rajale, uncle of Zalfukar, hung at Jawra—his son, Nizamut, at large—Sheikh Inaent, approver—Hur Singh Rae Patuck, who died at home, in Sumter, ten years ago—Hur Singh Rae Tuhungooreea, still at large—Bhudae, at large, arrested 1835—Puhar, who died at home, seven years ago—his son lately transported from Saugor—Laljoo Sookul, who died at home seventeen years ago—Sumadha Brahmin, dead—Adhar Jemadar, hung at Saugor, 1833.

“We encamped two days at this place. The second day, while we were sitting down, after performing the concluding ceremonies of the Mohur-rum, twenty-seven travellers came up, (they were decoits,) on their return from the Deccan to the west, and lodged in the bazaar. Dhurum Khan brought this intelligence to us; and said that they had four tattoos laden with cash, besides much other rich property.

“The next morning the above travellers set out for Chupara, where they lodged in the bazaar: we followed them, and encamped outside of the town. From Chupara they proceeded to Lucknadow; and we again followed, and all lodged in the bazaar. Boodhoo Jemadar, Mussulman, called himself by the name of Kour Khuluck Singh; and went to the shops where the travellers were put up; opened a conversation with them; and won their confidence, by saying that the road was very dangerous, and  
we



we all had better travel together till we could pass through the jungles. They agreed to do so. The next morning, the following leaders, with about 12 Thugs, followed the travellers; while the remainder of our party proceeded towards Nutwara, in the valley of the Nerbudda, where the detached party was directed to rejoin them, after effecting the murder:—Bodhoo Jemadar—Noor Khan, hung at Jubulpore, 1835—Hingah Jemadar, father of Sheikh Inaent, approver—Khuleel Khan, hung at Saugor, 1832—Deponent—Inaent—Hur Singh Rae—Lohmun, approver.

“When the detached party, with the travellers, reached the spot where there are two trees in which people tie pieces of cloths (called Chitureea Peer and Kunkureea Peer), the whole of the travellers were murdered: sixteen of them were strangled, and eleven were cut down with tulwars. Their bodies were thrown a little off the road; and we came on with the booty we obtained from them, and reached Nutwara. The whole of the booty amounted to about 13,500 rupees.\*

“From Nutwara we went to Kutungee, where we divided the booty. On division, we received  
forty

\* “*List of the Property we obtained from them:*

Gold ..... worth 3000 rupees.

Cloths ..... 1500.

Ready Cash ..... 8500 or 9000 rupees.”



forty rupees each. We sent 100 Thugs with money for our families; and of the rest, some proceeded to the east, and others in different directions. The undermentioned took the route to Jubulpore:—Bodhoo Jemadar — Hinga Jemadar — Subhan Jemadar, who died sixteen years ago at home—Kurrondée Jemadar—Khuleel Khan Jemadar — Noor Khan Jemadar — Mahasook, approver—with about eighty other Thugs. I went to my home.—The intelligence of the above murder reached Jubulpore previous to the arrival of our party; and on their arrival, the Pundit manager of Jubulpore confined them all on suspicion. Khuleel Jemadar had a young lad adopted by him. The Pundit Komasdar called this lad to him, and asked him who they really were; and on his denial, the Pundit ordered him to be tied up to a Bur-tree, and flogged with the zerbund. Upon this, Khuleel Jemadar represented to the Pundit, ‘that there was no use in his punishing the boy; and that he had better send for some tulwars, and have us all cut down.’ On hearing this, the Pundit called Khuleel to him, and he confessed all our crimes before him. Bodhoo Jemadar offered to give 10,000 rupees to the Pundit, as a bribe, if he would release them. The Pundit accepted their offer; but, as they were unable to procure the money, he kept the following Thugs in confinement for six months, inside the Fort:—Bodhoo Jemadar,  
Mr.



Mr. Stockwell's approver, who got his nose and hands cut off, three years after, at Seronge—Hinga Jemadar, father of Inaent, deponent—Subhan, ditto—Murdan ditto, who died after his nose and hands had been cut off at Seronge—Kurrondee, hung at Saugor. Two lads, and the under-mentioned Thugs, were kept in confinement in a building called by the name of Beaharka Havelee, at Jubulpore.

“After six months, we determined to attempt our escape; and seven Thugs jumped the Fort wall. Hingah had his back broken; Murdan was severely hurt in his legs; and the other five got off. The sepahees of the Fort-guard came and took away both the wounded men, and confined them again in the Fort.

“After the escape of the above five Thugs, the Pundit sent Khuleel and Murdan to Nagpore; and Hingah was removed from the building to the Fort. Noor Khan Jemadar, with some of his party, obtained some instruments from Newul Singh Byde a Thug, cut the irons, and broke open one of the windows of the building; and while it was raining slightly, they effected their escape.

“When the whole of our party had escaped, the Rajah of Nagpore released Khuleel, Murdan, Hingah, and the others who had been sent to him. The bodies of the twenty-seven victims were eaten by the animals of the jungle.

“Gyan



“Gyan Singh, late a prisoner in the Saugor jail, released after fourteen years’ imprisonment, was saying, while here, that some of his relations had been murdered by the Thugs, among a party of twenty-seven at Dhooma; and these must have been the men.

“A Pundit also saw the bodies, while passing by that way from Nagpore.

“The following are the approvers who were concerned in the above affair: The deponent; Inaent; Lallmun; Peer; Mahomed; Sahoo; Inamee, son of Joomun; Mahasookh; Punchee; Kunhae, son of Laljoo; Mungul Brahmin.

“Most of the Thugs who were concerned in this affair have died, and the others been disposed of. Should there be any in the Saugor jail, I can point them out.

“Many of the Nujeebs are acquainted with this affair.”

Another actor gave the following account:—

“There were a good many gangs, both from Hindostan and the Deccan. We had concentrated at Choorae, in the Geonee district, between this and Nagpore; and were at least 300 Thugs; and had just performed the concluding ceremonies of the festival of the Mohurram, when a party of about twenty-seven persons, decoits I believe, came up, on their way from the Deccan to Hindostan.



They had four ponies laden with rich booty, which they had acquired in an expedition to the South. The following day they came on to Chupara, and we followed. They lodged in the town; we, outside. Bodhoo Jemadar Mussulman, calling himself Kour Khuluck Singh, and pretending to be a Hindoo of rank, went to the party, and told them that the road from Chupara passed through an extensive and very dangerous jungle; and begged that, for security, we might unite our parties, as we were merchants and Government servants, and not very well armed. They agreed; and the next morning, 125 of our gang went on with them, while the rest came by another road; all agreeing to rendezvous at Nutwara, in the valley of the Nurbudda.

"I was with the 125; and on reaching two trees in the jungle sacred to the two saints, Chittureea and Kunkureea, and on which people tie pieces of cloth as votive offerings, the signal was given, and sixteen of the decoits were strangled, and eleven cut down with our swords. We took the bodies into the jungle near the road, and, without burying them, made off with the booty, and rejoined our friends at Nutwara. The booty consisted of gold, silver, and cloths, to the value of 13,000 rupees. We went on to Kutungee, divided the booty, and separated. The Deccan Thugs returned home; and we came, with a party of eighty, to Jubulpore, and



and encamped in the Beohar's grove which you see yonder, where we had a grand natch (ball).

“ While engaged in our feast, we heard that the Subah of the district was sending troops to seize us, and we made off. When the signal for murder was given, a boy happened to be, unperceived, at a distance from the rest; and hearing their screams, he got up into a tree, and, as it was daylight, saw the whole affair, without our seeing him. After we had come on, he descended, came to Jubulpore, found some of our party selling some of their gold lace in the bazaar, and denounced us to the Governor. We all denied any knowledge of the affair, of course; but the Subah got hold of the adopted son of Khuleel Jemadar, tied him up to a tree, and gave him a severe flogging. Khuleel protested against this; and said he had better send for swords, and have us all cut to pieces at once. The Subah would not listen; and at last the boy confessed. The seven leaders were confined in the Fort; the others, all in the Beohar's house; but after having been made to disgorge all their property, they were all suffered to escape, except three leaders, Hinga, my father Khuleel, and Murdan: the two latter were sent to Nagpore, where the Rajah released them. My father Hinga had broken his back in jumping over the Fort wall, and Murdan sprained his ankle.”

Being asked, “ Were you all taken in the grove ? ”



he answered, "No. We had got off, on the Saugor road, to Kutungee; but the Subah sent a squadron of horse after us, and we were all brought back. It was commanded by Khan Mahommed, the present Cotwal of Saugor. Nasid of Telingana was in this affair."

This was confirmed by Nasir, who said it "is all true: and I was obliged to give the chief officer at Kutungee a fine horse, and some other valuable articles that I had picked up in the expedition; as I found that he was an old acquaintance of mine, and well disposed towards us as long as he was conciliated in this way. I had got far off with my gang, before the Subah's party came up with the rest."

Inaent added: "Purumsook was then master of the Adawlut here, and all our property had to pass through his hands. He was an old friend of ours, and must recollect the circumstance well."

Capt. Sleeman observes here: "Purumsook, who is now a kind of attorney at Jubulpore, being referred to, confirms all this, but denies the friendship. He sold the property, he says, for the then Government, and not for himself or the Thugs. He was a kind of Deputy Chief-justice at the time, and in league with all these gangs."

The deposition of such a person as Purumsook cannot but be interesting; and it has fortunately been preserved. This respectable person says:—

"I



“ I recollect, that about the year 1868 or 1869 Sumbut, this affair took place. I was at that time under the Rajah Rughoojee, Punj of the Adawlut. A boy, by caste a Gosaen, who had been saved from the murdered party, came to Jubulpore, and saw the Thugs who had murdered his party selling the gold and silver lace in the Jubulpore bazaar. He came to the Adawlut, and complained to Lalla Ramchund Fauj; and stated that his companions had all been killed by these men, and that the murderers were then in the town, and might be arrested. Lalla sent five or six persons to watch them; and went to report to Bulajie Pundit, the Subah of Jubulpore; who ordered Dhoneerajnana Resaldar, who is now at Laleya in this district, and Khan Mahommed Khan, now Cotwal of Saugor, to go with their Resalahs, and seize the Thugs who were then in the Beohar's grove. The Thugs at that time had assembled a party of dancing-girls, and were engaged in looking at their dancing; but hearing of the preparations for their arrest, they made off towards Kutungee. The Resaldars reached the Beohar's grove; but not finding the Thugs, they pursued them on the Kutungee road, and arrested about forty of them. The Subah confined these men in the Fort, and in the house of the Beohar: four of their principal leaders were confined in a bastion of the Fort. They leaped down from this place four or five days after; and one of them hurt  
his



his back-bone; and being heard, they were all four retaken. These four were kept in the Fort; the others, all in the Beohar's house. A month after, all those in the Beohar's house made their escape, by cutting through the wall; and they were searched for by the Sowars in vain. The four men confined in the Fort were sent to Nagpore, with the lad whose life had been saved. What became of them, I know not: their property, to a very large amount, was confiscated by the Subah, and the assets arising from the sale were carried to the account of the Nagpore Government. The gang of Thugs had been five or six days in the Beohar's garden, in the guise of travellers. The property confiscated was sold through me, but I never sold property for the Thugs themselves.

“The boy said, that the party belonging to him consisted of twelve Hindoos; that seven out of these were killed before his face; and the other five must have perished with the crowd of other travellers, at some distance. I did not see the bodies, nor were they brought to Jubulpore; nor was any body sent to see them, that I recollect.”

The Urzee of Moonshim Ally Mootsuddee, employed in investigating the affair, is another document connected with this transaction:—

“On the 6th of April 1835, Isher Ally, Lance Naick



Naick of Nujeebs, and Uuggun Khan Nujeeb, reached the Tuhseeldaree of the village of Dhooma. The Tuhseeldar was absent, investigating some other affair; therefore we shewed our purwanah to Nobut Raee, accountant. He assembled all those from among the villagers who were most experienced; but these even could supply no information; till, at last, one Kunhie Brazier stated as follows:—‘In the Sumbut 1868 or 1869, as I was coming from Jubulpore with ten or twelve others (not one of whom is now living) to my home at Lucknadow, we perceived, at the outskirts of Dhooma, and some three cose from the village on the north, four or five corpses, with the legs, heads, and arms severed from the bodies: birds and beasts were devouring them; and four pairs of shoes were lying by. Of other travellers who were passing by, I heard that twenty-two or twenty-five travellers had been there murdered by Thugs, and that their bodies were lying about that neighbourhood. This statement confirmed my own observations.’

“This man’s information ended here; and it was supported by the deposition of Jowahir Singh, Putwaree or writer of the village of Khoorsee Par Purgunah Birgee, who spoke as follows:—‘During the reign of Ghoosla, Rajah of Nagpore, I was in service in the Thanna of Dhooma. On my return once from leave to a visit to my home, Ramchund Pundit,



Pundit, who was then Aumil of the village, told me that twenty horse-merchants had been lately proceeding from Nagpore towards Hindostan; that they had been inveigled into junction with a body of seventy-five Thugs; and that, by these villains, of the twenty travellers nineteen had been murdered, near a Bur-tree between the villages of Dhooma and Selnee;—the twentieth escaping by the following circumstances. He had quitted his party, when he heard an outcry, as of human voices, and, in terror, climbed a tree to discover its cause. Here he beheld the Thugs, who had accompanied them, strangling the remaining nineteen of his party, and afterwards beheading them. He further saw, that, after having appropriated the cattle and effects of their victims, they took the road to Jubulpore.

“ Having reached the garden of Duriao Singh Beohar, they halted. The solitary horse-merchant who had alone escaped, had in the mean time descended from the tree, and took the road to Jubulpore. On reaching the above-mentioned garden, he beheld the Thugs engaged with natches and revelry. He then repaired to the Soobah Neelkhet, and entreated him to cause their seizure; relating, at the same time, the above-detailed events.

“ The Soobah Neelkhet thereupon called a Resaldar of horse; whom he directed to take with him a body of troopers, and seize the Thugs alluded to.

But



But ere the horsemen could arrive, the villains had got news of their movements, and made off in the direction of Kutungee. But the Sowars pursued so promptly and so closely, that they seized them at Kutungee; and thence conveyed them back to Jubulpore, where they were confined in the house of Duriao Singh Beohar aforesaid. They alleged, that they were servants of Rughoo Jee, Rajah of Nagpore; and that they paid tribute to that sovereign, on account and from the proceeds of Thuggee. Two months, subsequently, they all escaped from their confinement, in the house of the above Beohar."

The stories of various other parties confirmed these statements.



## CHAP. XVI.

THE statement that follows was given by a person called Sahib Khan, in answer to an inquiry, from Captain Sleeman, into the circumstances that made him fly from the Carnatic :—

“ It was about twelve years ago that my own gang of fourteen, and another of twenty-five, under Jumal Khan, Seodeen, and Fakeer Mahommed, in an expedition between Aurungabad and Ellichpore, joined in the murder of a Subahdar, his servant, and two Rajpoots, at a bowlee near Chandae. The bodies were tied up in blankets, and thrown into the bowlee. Going on towards Jhalna, we fell in with a Marwaree, taking turbans for sale to Jhalna, and near Phaleegow we strangled him: but getting only a rupee each, we agreed to go on, and wait in the Jhalna cantonments till we could find a Bunij more worth taking. We had, however, no sooner come to this resolution, after discussing over our plans on the bank of the river, than we heard the dire Chimmama on our right. We all started up; and, with my gang, I instantly retreated. Jumal Khan, however, ventured to  
take



take his gang on towards Jhalna, in spite of this warning. We came on to Omrowtee, where we celebrated the Mohurram: after which, I returned to my home at Nandair, where I heard that Jumal, on reaching Jaferabad, had got drunk in a spirit-shop, and been seized, with the Subahdar's dooputta upon him, by some of Captain Sherrieff's runners. He gave information against Sied Ally; and he against others, till fourteen of his gang were arrested. The four bodies were taken out of the bowlee; and parties were sent off to Major Parker, who commanded at Hingolee, with information against me and my gang. I kept myself well informed of all these proceedings, and continued to cultivate my fields. Eleven of Jumal Khan's gang having been hung, and seeing no longer any chance of escape at home, I fled. My wife and children, and my brother Bureea, and brother-in-law Chand Khan, were seized and taken to Major Parker, who released the women and children. I went first to my uncle Towukul Sah, a celebrated Fakeer and Thug, but not yet suspected; and fearing to implicate him, I proceeded soon after to Golburga, to my cousin Sahib Khan Jemadar. I found that he, Rusool Khan, Hyder Khan, and other Thugs of his party, had been seized and taken to Hyderabad. As soon as the women saw me, they wept bitterly; and having heard the tale of my misfortune, his wife took me  
the



the next day to Ochergee, eight cose distant, in the hope of finding some Thugs with whom I might serve, and earn my bread. They were absent on an expedition; and I left her, and went to Muheenkulga; where I met Lungotee Jemadar, an old follower of my father's. He made me dine with him; and, after dinner, he told me that he intended to take the auspices in a few days, and, if the omens proved favourable, should take out his gang, and me with them. I told him that I should be glad to join him; but that I would not consent to recognise him as my chief, by paying him the fees of office as Jemadar, like the other members of his gang. He said he would take me on no other conditions. I expostulated with him; and as Peer Khan, the brother of Chand Khan, was with me, I said that he must set aside both our shares before the general division; and asked him whether he had so far forgotten the obligations he owed to my father, who had initiated him, as to have the impudence to demand tokens of subjection from the son. 'Give us,' I said, 'our shares separately, and then divide the spoil with your gang, and take your fees as leader; for I will never consent to pay you any.' He said it would be a bad precedent, and lower him in the estimation of his followers; and having refused to join him on any other terms, I proceeded to Korergee, where Sahib Khan, the husband of my sister, resided, and served in the gang



gang of Nubee Sahib Jemadar. On our way, we spent one evening at Hidjgeera with the families of Baba Jemadar, and eleven other Thugs of note, who had been for some time in prison at Amba, and are now with Captain Reynolds. On reaching Korergee, we found my brother-in-law, who had been sent home by Nubee Sahib with a booty of 7000 rupees. Nubee Sahib being absent on an expedition, he recommended me to go to the great leader, Sahib Khan of Kakurmulla. I did so; and found his brother Sooltan at home. I told him the story of our misfortunes; and he consoled me, and told me, that though Thugs were getting seized all around them, *they* were as yet secure, and had still a few hundred good men for work. Sahib Khan soon after returned from market, received me very kindly, and made me dine with him. While at dinner, however, we heard the Orutputholee, which is considered a very bad omen in the South; and Sahib Khan told me that I ought immediately to return to my home, after such an omen; but that, as this was impossible, under present circumstances, I must leave his house, sleep in another village, and return in the morning. I and Peer Khan did so. We remained with him six weeks; and were so kindly treated, that we forgot all our misfortunes. He consented to comply with my conditions, and not to exact from us two his fees as leader. With a gang of sixty Thugs,



Thugs, we proceeded a cose, to the village of Dewurnatjee, where we waited eight days for favourable omens. Having got them, sixteen old men and boys were sent home, and the expedition was opened by forty-six. It is the custom in the Carnatic to take out all the old men and boys to the first stage where the auspices are taken; and when the omens are favourable, to send them back. When they get booty, they take what is necessary for the subsistence of the gang; and send all the rest to the house of the leader, where it remains till the gang returns; when it is divided, and the boys and old men who are sent back have an equal share of it with the others who go on. The same custom prevails among the Thugs from Arcot, who are said to have taken it from them.

“We proceeded to a village near Dharwar, which we reached in eight days; and there met the great Sheikh Ahmed, the Thug leader from Arcot, with his gang of fifty. Going on to Dharwar together, the two leaders divided the whole into two separate gangs; one, under these two leaders, to operate on the road to Poonah; and the other, under Nathoo, and Sirjee Khan the brother of Sheikh Ahmed, and Sooltan the brother of Sahib Khan, towards Naggur. We were all to rendezvous at Echora, at the end of a month.

After killing a good many travellers, and getting a good deal of booty—which was all sent, as taken,

to



to the house of Sahib Khan—we all re-united at the appointed place, and remained together two days; when our division took the road to Naraenpath; and the other, that to Dharwar. On the bank of the Bhimra river we got a prize of 12,000 rupees' worth of silk, from six men; and returned home. Seven days after our return, seven of the other division came, and reported, that, in a drunken brawl at Dharwar, the secret of their proceedings had been disclosed, and the division, except themselves, arrested; and, as a good many had turned King's evidences, we might soon expect a guard down upon us.

“ Having heard that my cousin and his gang had been released at Hyderabad, and come with their families to Korergee, I went and joined them; and Sahib Khan left his house at Kukurnulla in charge of his brother Meean Sahib, who was not suspected, and concealed himself with an old friend in our neighbourhood. A guard came from Dharwar; seized Meean Sahib; and so maltreated him in order to make him point out his brother, that he threw himself into a well and was killed.

“ Alarmed, I, and my cousin and his party, with all their families, went to Golburga; and leaving the women and children there, with a small gang went to Hyderabad, for we had now nothing to subsist upon. Near Bamnabad we found a traveller washing himself in the stream: he was strangled,



strangled, and his body left upon the sand. The rains had now set in ; and going on beyond Akelee, we found a traveller waiting on the bank of a river for some one to assist him over. He was persuaded to go up the stream, a little off the road, for a better ford ; and there strangled. We went to Hyderabad ; and thence came back, through Akelee, to Nowta Moshturee, killing two men on the road : and here we met Sheikh Ahmed, the great Arcot leader, with a small party of twelve. He told us that Sahib Khan had been arrested, and all the booty of our late expedition taken by the Government guards. The next morning he left us for Hyderabad ; and on our way to Golburga, we, for three successive days, continued to fall in with small parties of Sheikh Ahmed's gang, following each other at long intervals. My cousin and his party changed their abodes from Golburga to Ertalee in Bedur ; and, taking my family, I went to Kunkee, and entered into the service of Dhurumdass, the Amil on the part of Chundoolal the Minister. He employed me to make the collections of two villages for him ; and I resolved to leave off Thuggee, at least for a time. Taking the collections to Hyderabad, two years after this, I met Sheikh Ahmed, who asked me how many Thugs I had with me. I told my story ; and he mentioned that our old friend Sahib Khan of Kakurmulla was confined in the Fort of Sattara ; but that he would effect his release, whatever



ever it might cost him. He soon left me ; and I could perceive that he distrusted me. One of his followers, however, Hossein Khan, told me that they had now all established themselves comfortably about Nulgonda, on the road to Masulipatam ; and, in return, I bade him tell his chief that he need not fear me."

The particulars of the apprehension of Jumal Khan, mentioned in an early part of the above narrative, are recorded on the proceedings of a Court of Inquiry assembled at Jhalna in October 1823. Captain Sherriff, who was actively employed on the occasion, submitted the following statement :—

" On the 20th ultimo, I learnt, by a letter from Major Parker, commanding at Hingolie, addressed to Lieut.-Colonel Lushington, C.B., that four bodies had been discovered in a nullah near the village of Tanklee, in the Purbunnee Purgunnah. The Major's letter was accompanied with four native papers, and a small piece of yellow morocco leather, which had been found near the bodies. On translating two of these papers, I had reason to believe that a gang of Phansigars had left Hyderabad, to march for or towards Jhalna. Having obtained considerable information, in September 1821, of the habits and movements of the Phansigars, I lost no time in disposing of the police in such a manner



as I thought most conducive to the apprehension of the parties; who, I concluded, from the information contained in the native papers, were moving on these roads.

“ Two hurcaras were accordingly despatched to the spot where the bodies had been seen, near Tanklee; whence they were directed to make a vigilant and cautious search for the murderers. On the 22d ultimo, I learnt that five bodies had been seen in a well on the right of the Jafferabad road, and distant about seven cose from Jhalna. About this period, a respectable Brahmin, attached to the bazaar, informed me that his son and nephew had disappeared near the village of Pokery, where they had halted for one night, on their way to Jhalna, from their own village, Laorgee; the Brahmins and the Puteel of Pokery had adopted every measure and means in their power to discover the lads who were missing, but nothing could be found of them. I directed two hurcaras to accompany the Brahmins, to examine the five bodies that had been found in the well. On reaching the well, the hurcaras found four bodies floating on the water; three with their faces uppermost, and one with the face downwards. An attempt was made to take the bodies out of the well, but it failed. They had been so long in the water, that they separated, and broke to pieces on being moved. The villagers informed the Brahmins, that they were of opinion,  
from



from the appearance of the bodies on being first discovered in the water, that they must be Rajpoots or Marwaries, and two of them had been bound together with pieces of jungle-creepers: from this account, and the general size and appearance of the bodies, the Brahmins were satisfied that they were not the lads they had lost.

“I was now certain that the Phansigars had passed towards Berar; and sent two smart hurcaras to find them out. These hurcaras reached Jafferabad on Wednesday the 24th ult., and apprehended Jumal Khan, the leader or Muneem of the gang, and his brother-in-law, Abbas Ally, and sent them into Jhalna, with a tattoo loaded with a quantity of suspicious property. The hurcaras wrote me from Jafferabad, that they had first seen Jumal Khan in the village of Gordegaon, drinking spirits, as they passed for Jafferabad, without his observing them: he reached Jafferabad the following day. The hurcaras knew him to be a thief; as three years ago he had been apprehended in the Jhalna bazaar with suspicious property in his possession, which he had offered for sale. They inquired of him the cause of his being at Jafferabad: he answered, that he had left Jhalna that morning, and was on his way to Ellichpore.

“The hurcaras found a person called Seo Deen talking with Jumal Khan; and as they knew him to belong to the village of Nagewaree, close to



our camp, they inquired the purport of his conversation with Jumal Khan. Seo Deen replied, that he knew nothing about the old man, and had only replied to some questions put to him about travelling; and that they had agreed to march together, early in the morning, for Chickly. The hurcaras supposing Seo Deen to be an honest man, warned him against travelling with Jumal Khan, and recommended his returning immediately to Jhalna: he promised to do so; and came to me on the afternoon of the 27th ult., and apprised me of the apprehension of Jumal Khan and Abbas Ally: he added, that the hurcaras had, by their diligence and arrival at Jafferabad, saved his life, as he would certainly otherwise have been murdered by Jumal Khan and his party. On the arrival of Jumal Khan, the Brahmins were sent for who had lost their sons; and the suspicious articles found upon Jumal Khan were examined. Amongst these articles they recognised a Jemboo and Churaloo, the property of the missing lads. These poor people instantly set up a most dismal yell; and requested Jumal Khan, by threats and entreaty, to divulge how he had disposed of the missing lads. Jumal Khan seemed agitated on the discovery of these articles, and partly allowed that the youths had been murdered. He was given to know, that the property found upon him, as well as the circumstance of the lads being missing, were sufficient evidence



evidence that he had been concerned in their murder; and he was again requested to point out where the lads might be found. Then he mentioned, that the Brahmins had been killed by his people, who had effected their escape when he was apprehended at Jafferabad; and that their names were, Malluk Mahommed, Fakeer Mahommed, Hossein Mahommed, and a boy, Rumzanee.

“Jumal Khan soon afterwards described the spot where the young Brahmins had been killed. The relations went out the next day, and searched all about the place mentioned, but could not discover the bodies, or the remains of them. This induced me to send Jumal Khan to shew the place. He was attended by the Cotwal; and went direct to the part of the nullah where they had perpetrated the murders; and a little further down, in a pool which had deep mud at the bottom, the bones, and two odd slippers that belonged to the lads, were found.

“The hurcaras got two more of the gang, Sied Ally and Hossein Mahommed, at Chickly. These men have made extensive and valuable confessions, which have led to the detection of Seo Deen, the man who met the hurcara at Jafferabad, and who turns out to be an old offender; and three men residing in our bazaar, upon whom property, corresponding with that found upon Sied Ally, Hossein Mahommed, and Jumal Khan, has been found. They have also detected five men, a woman,  
a boy



a boy, and girl, at the village of Dioraee, who are associates of Jumal Khan, by their own free confession; and have a large quantity of articles upon them, taken from travellers whom they have minutely described, as well as the situations where they found and murdered them.—The Phansigars are present, and can be examined by the Court.”

One of the gang, named Sied Ally, was then examined, and said :—“ I am the son of Meer Fuzul Ally, who was a Bhala Admee (respectable man). I was born near Chota Amraotee, in the Unturgaor Sawergaor Purgunah, where my father lived under the protection of Rajah Jand Singh of Mahoon: my father died when I was very young; and having quarrelled with my brothers, I joined the Phansigars when I was a boy, without knowing at first that it was their profession to kill and rob in the way they do. Emaum Sahib initiated me into their habits, and forced me to marry his daughter, by whom I have had two children, who are dead. I am heartily tired of this bad profession; and would have quitted it after the Mohurram, when I came to Jhalna to find better service; but failing, I had nothing for it, but to return to the Mayl, under Jumal Khan. You may inquire of this man, if I had not quarrelled with him, and if my assertions regarding my quitting the gang, then at Budnapore, with the intention of not returning,

are



are not also correct. I have done much injury; and will henceforth make every atonement in my power, by discovering and pointing out every person belonging to the gang. All I require, should my life be spared, is permission to live in irons, or in any situation where I may be protected from the numerous Phansigars who inhabit the Nandair districts, as they will exert every endeavour to destroy me.

“I have already undermined all their houses, and have gone too far in my information against them to recede: no person engaged with this people has hitherto said so much, as every body knows how revengeful these Phansigars are. My wife is now at the village of Khuree: it would be conferring a great favour by letting her live with me, in confinement, or wherever I may be sent. I have nothing more to ask; but will do all I can in putting a stop to the work of my late friends, the Phansigars, as my safety now depends upon their destruction.”

There is, at least, some frankness in the last avowal of the witness's readiness to secure his personal safety by the destruction of his former friends. This man, having identified a number of articles found upon the Thugs, retired;—and was followed by Bundhoo, or Bundegee, a Phansigar of Jumal Khan's gang, who voluntarily offered to point out, to the



the horsemen who escorted him into Jhalna, the names and residence of all the people who have been engaged with him. Being directed by the Court to look at the articles found upon Jumal Khan and Abboo Ally, he generally corroborated the account given by Sied Ally; but differed, in one or two instances, regarding the persons from whom the articles were taken. This difference was easily accounted for, when it is known that the gang act in parties, and scour all the parallel and cross roads on the route which they take. These parties brought in, and gave account of their respective acquisitions; after which, a fair distribution of the whole was made. Bundhoo, alias Bundegee, recognised several articles in the bundle found in the house of Abboo Mahommed, and his son-in-law Esoof, of which Sied Ally had no knowledge; and, from the open and direct mode of this man's communications, and answers to all the questions put to him, the Court had no reason to suppose that he has concealed any circumstance that could throw light upon the questions proposed.

Two horsemen of the Reformed Horse, who escorted the prisoners from Dioraee, were then called in.

They stated, that a brother of one of the Rajpoots killed by the gang and thrown into the well seven cose from Jhalna met them at Dubboree. He said that he came from Ellichpore to look for his brother,



brother, who was missing on the road between Aurungabad and Ellichpore. He entreated permission to look at the swords found upon the prisoners; and when he saw his brother's sword, he began to cry very much. The man was a Rajpoot; and his murdered brother was said to have been a Havildar, a great favourite of Major Davis, and that he was going to Ellichpore to teach the cavalry there the new drill exercise.

Bundegee and Sied Ally, being again called in and questioned regarding these Rajpoots, Sied Ally spoke to the questions proposed, as follows:—

“ We, Jumal Khan's party, which was composed of Jumal Khan and his boy Rumzanee, Abbas Ally his brother-in-law, Burry Khan Puthan, a very wicked young man, Mulluck Mahommed, brother-in-law to Jumal Khan, Mahommed Hossein, Julloo, a man who occasionally lives in the bazaar, and myself. Sied Ally moved from Dharkingaum, on the road between Aurungabad and Moongy Putun, with two Brahmins, and proceeded towards Aurungabad. We killed them in a deserted village, five cose from Aurungabad. We moved into Aurungabad the same night; where we met Sahib Khan's party, and started with them the following morning, towards Jafferabad. At the village of Buroor we joined company with two Rajpoots, and marched  
in



in a friendly and sociable manner with them to a shaded Chubootra at Bundgaum. Here they smoked their hookahs; and one of the Rajpoots, who said that he was going to Ellichpore to teach the sword exercise, amused them, by displaying his skill while they sat on the Chubootra.

“Jumal Khan proposed many friendly questions, and expressed his great satisfaction on having got so pleasant a companion to travel with to Ellichpore. We all marched together; and put up that night at a small village between Bundgaum and Dubbaree. We again started together from this village; and having passed by Dubbaree and Chandie, met another Rajpoot, and a boy with a tattoo going to Ellichpore. We all put up for the night in a small Khera on a village in the Jafferabad side of Chandie.

“Sahib Khan and his party followed the Rajpoot and his boy, and put up with them in the inside of the village. Jumal Khan and myself stuck by the other Rajpoot, Tucker Sahib's Orderly; who was now completely in our power, as he looked upon us as friends and fellow travellers.

“We concerted matters with Sahib Khan's party to start first in the morning; and got up when there were six ghuries of the night remaining, and persuaded the Rajpoot to march: he did so; and we killed him and his companion, tied them together, and threw them into a well one cose from the village.

Here



Here we remained, concealed in different parts of the road, until Sahib Khan's party arrived with the other Rajpoot, the boy, and a tattoo. When they arrived near the well, Sahib Khan and his man killed the Rajpoot and the boy, and threw them into the same well; and we all moved on to Donegaum, with three gold putlies, one sword, one topee, and two red cloths found upon the Rajpoot going to teach the sword exercise. On the other, we got 121 rupees, three brass vessels, and the tattoo, a mare."

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the Court:—

"From the various articles of property which have appeared before this Court, and found upon different individuals employed under the directions of Jumal Khan, the Court is of opinion, from the strong similarity of one article with another, found, as already stated, on different people, that they are parts of a whole, which must have been divided and given from a general stock; and this opinion is made very strong by the concurrent testimony of the individuals, Sied Ally, Hossein Mahommed, and Bundegee, who assert, in the most solemn manner, that they were present, and assisted in the destruction of the persons from whom the articles were taken.

"Captain Sherrieff, Sub-assistant Commissary  
General,



General, has represented to the Court, that he is greatly indebted to the information furnished by the prisoners Sied Ally and Hossein Mahommed; which enabled him to get hold of Seo Deen, an old and active Phansigar, who has, from his being a Hindoo, been peculiarly successful in the art of deception, and has led many Hindoos, Marwaries, and Brahmins to their destruction. The above-mentioned individuals have also divulged the practices of three individuals, Abboo Mahommed, his son Julloo, and son-in-law Esoof, who have had a hut for the last ten months in rear of the General Bazaar in this camp. Julloo has been present for a long period with the gang, and occasionally comes in here with plunder that cannot be disposed of at other places. Abboo Mahommed, by the evidence of Sied Ally and Hossein Mahommed, served with the gang when he resided in the neighbourhood of Nandair; and his son-in-law served with them, until he was obliged to quit, from rheumatism in the knees. These men had in their house a large portion of articles which appear to the Court to be exactly similar to the things found upon Jumal Khan and other acknowledged Phansigars. The Phansigar Seo Deen, after deceiving the police, and the officer commanding, before whom he was taken, on the 27th ultimo, to relate his story regarding the miraculous escape he had pretended to have made by the arrival of the hurcaras at Jafferabad,



abad, was found at the house of Abboo Mahommed : and as Seo Deen does not now pretend to deny having accompanied the Phansigars into Berar and Kandeish on several occasions, and as he describes the murders that were perpetrated there, the Court are of opinion that Abboo Mahommed, his son Julloo (who has effected his escape from Jafferabad, in company with some other individuals of the gang), and his son-in-law Esoof, must be principals, or at least accomplices in these nefarious practices.

“ Though the Court are fully aware that Sied Ally and Bundegee are polluted with innumerable murders and robberies which they have freely acknowledged and confessed, and that their acknowledgments and confessions may have been in the hope of saving themselves, nevertheless, in consequence of the good which they have already done in detecting so many of the gang, some of whom are nearly related to them—added to their promises of pointing out all the people in their own country who are concerned in these fatal practices of secret murder and robbery—the Court consider it to be their duty to bring forward the services of these men, and to recommend them to the favourable consideration of their superiors.

“ The horrid murders of the four Rajpoots, and two Causee Cowree Brahmins, perpetrated so close to Jhalna, and the murders of the Brahmin lads,  
are



are crimes of so black and destructive a nature, as to require no comment from this Court.

“The following are the individuals of the gang who have been apprehended:—Jumal Khan, leader of this gang, and brother to Nunny, a leader of the gang taken at Akoolah in 1821, and now a prisoner at Aurungabad—Abbas Ally, brother-in-law to Jumal Khan—Sied Ally—Hossein Mahommed—Abboo Mahommed—Esoof—Seo Deen—Fakeer Mahommed—Bundegee—Kurreem Khan—Payma Boodha, joined from the Hindostanee gang—Ajoorah, joined from the Hindostanee gang—Hyder, a boy.

“Lists of all the other individuals of these gangs have been sent by Captain Sherriff to Majors Parker and Seyer; and it is expected, that, with the assistance of Sied Ally and Hossein Mahommed, they will all be secured in the course of one or two months.

“From all that has appeared before them, the Court have no doubt in their minds of the guilt of the individuals enumerated above: and it would appear that these Phansigars moved round Aurungabad and Jhalna as two centres, and murdered travellers on all the principal roads leading from and to those places; extending their excursions from these centres as convenience or a chance of plunder suited, and always returning to them.”