

DESCRIPTIVE LIST
OF
SECRET DEPARTMENT RECORDS

VOL. II

1776-80

EDITOR : K. D. BHARGAVA

PUBLISHED FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA
BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
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1960

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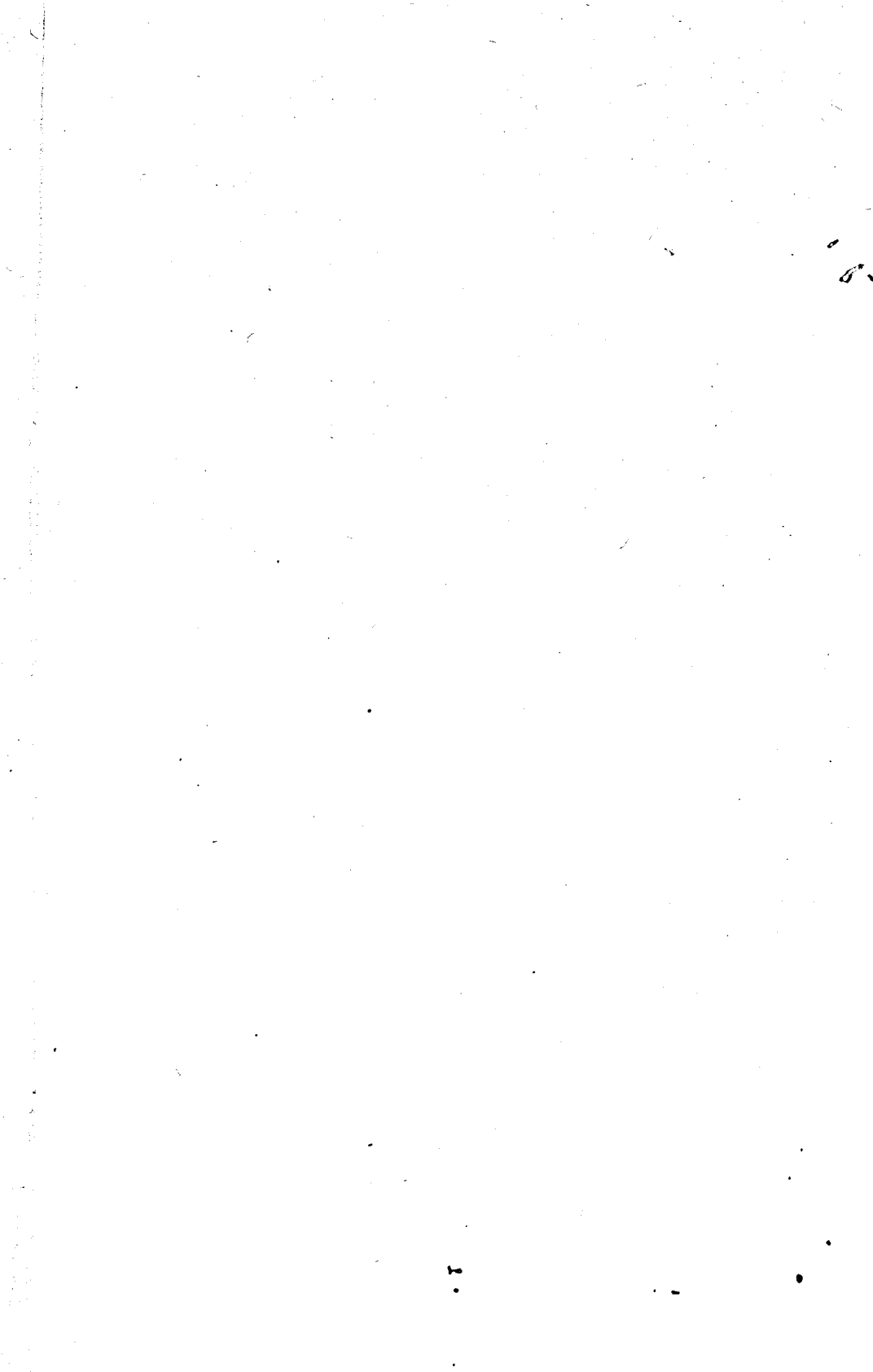
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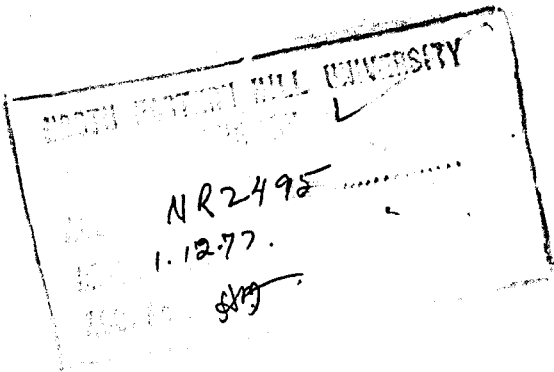
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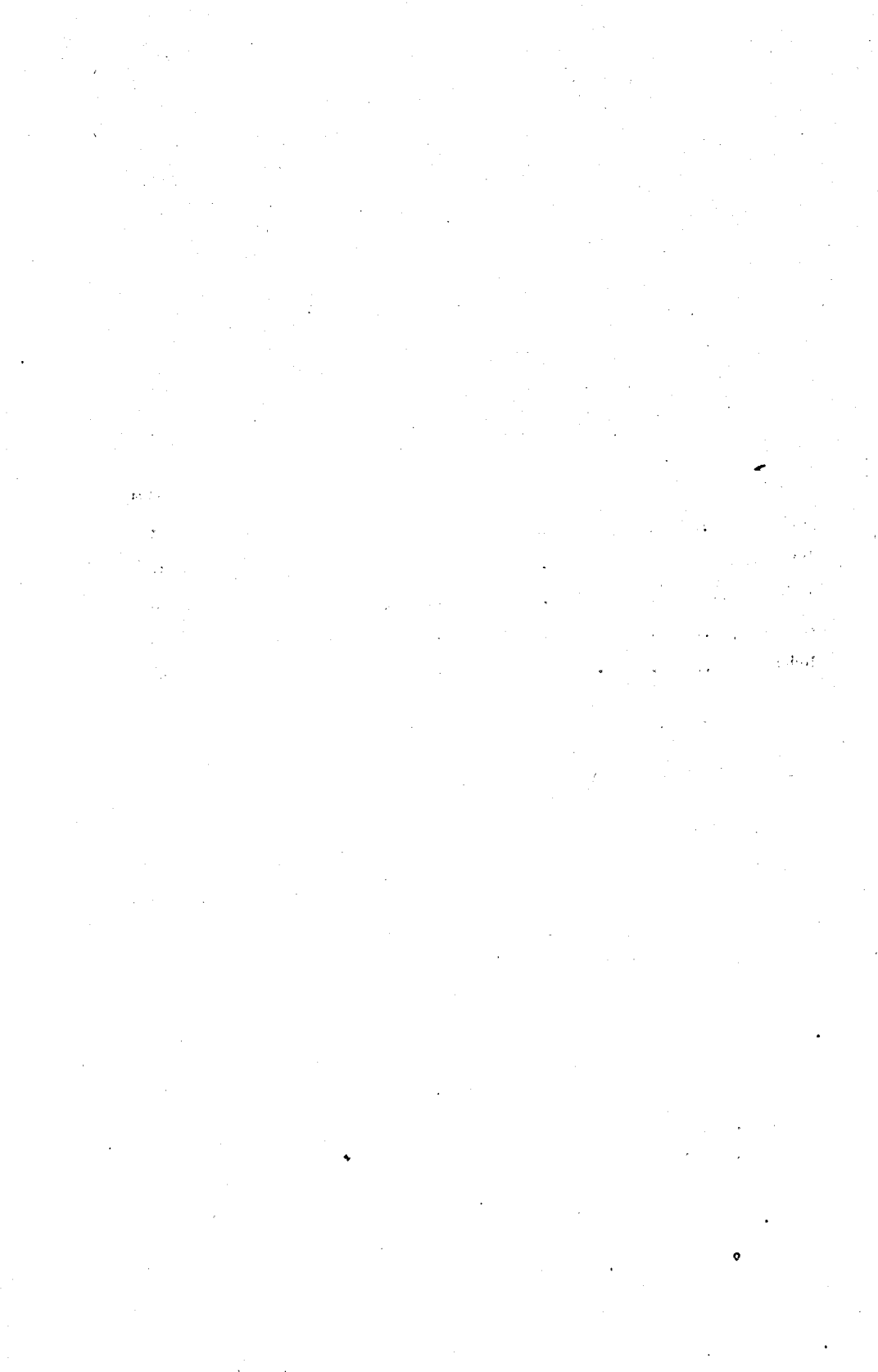
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PREFACE

The work of press-listing, which was suspended in 1918, has been resumed on the special recommendation of the Committee on Archival Legislation appointed by the Government of India. The present volume is in continuation of an earlier one in the series (1763-75), which was published in 1918. In compiling the present list, which has been termed as descriptive list, some changes have been made in the form and in the contents. Firstly, the old tabular form of listing has been given up and in its place run-on form has been introduced to effect economy in space. The size of the publication has also been reduced. The reference to each document is given on the right hand side of the description thereof. The date of a letter, minute etc. and also the place from where a particular document emanated have been mentioned at the beginning of each entry. Exceptions as regards place names have been made only in cases where the letters have been issued from the Supreme Council at Fort William. Nothing besides the dates of the documents has been mentioned there. One improvement has been made in the present list. The nature of the document, whether it is an autograph letter or a minute etc., has been indicated immediately after its description. The autograph letters are mentioned as A.L.S. (autograph letter signed). Minutes, resolutions etc. have been mentioned as such. In the cases of letters issued by the Board, since these were invariably draft copies of such letters, nothing has been mentioned. The length of each document in pages has also been mentioned along with the nature of the document in each case. For the convenience of the scholars the enclosures to a particular document have been entered immediately after the main document, though in the proceedings volumes these have in most cases been recorded at the end of a particular day's consultations.

Something need be said here regarding the compilation of the descriptive list. In most cases the documents contained information on more than one particular aspect. In such cases these have been explained with the help of semi-colons. In recording the names of various persons, their military ranks and/or official designations have been mentioned only once at the very beginning and not repeated subsequently in the list. For example, Rear Admiral Edward Hughes (Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Naval Forces in India), Warren Hastings (Governor General of Bengal) have been so mentioned only where their names occur first. In the subsequent entries they have been simply mentioned as E. Hughes and W. Hastings. The same principle has also been followed in indentifying less known names. In the Index, which is, mainly an index of personal and place names, full name and designation etc. of each person, wherever possible, have been given. In transliterating as well as in identification of Indian place names the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* and *Index to the Foreign and Political Department Records, Vol. I (1756-80)* have been mainly followed.

It is hoped that this Descriptive List will prove useful to the scholars, as it will give them an idea not only about the contents of the documents but also about their nature and length. Being in experimental stage we

are not unaware of the shortcomings of the present volume, but we hope the subsequent volumes will be free from them.

I express my thanks to the members of the Publication(2) Branch for the assistance rendered by them in compiling the list and seeing it through the press.

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Government of India*

*National Archives of India,
Janpath, New Delhi,
19th May, 1969*

INTRODUCTION

This volume contains a list of Secret Department records of the Fort William Board for 1776-80. Although the Secret Department as a distinctly organized branch of the Board's administration was created as late as on 23 September 1783,¹ yet nearly twenty years before that date, on 8 December 1763, the minutes, consultations and letters on military and political transactions were physically separated from the commercial and administrative records of the Public Department.² These separately kept records constitute the series in question.

The period covered by the list was characterised by certain elements of cruciality. Warren Hastings, the Governor General, faced buffets of diplomatic and military crises with inadequate finances, questionable control over the subordinate presidencies and constitutional inability to override a hostile council. Despite these adverse circumstances, the period saw the beginnings of British supremacy in India. War with the Marathas, hostile combination of the Marathas, Mysore and the Nizam, Haidar Ali's attack on the Carnatic sparking off the second Anglo-Mysore War, problems of the Carnatic and Tanjore, maladministration at Madras, inimical shadow cast by the French in the wake of the American War of Independence, aggravation of the plight of the Nawab of Oudh and controversies regarding the *Nizam* of Bengal were among the highlights of the time.

II

Hastings and the Council

Hastings' initial problem, however, was his council. Philip Francis along with Lieutenant General John Clavering and Colonel George Monson formed a majority. The Governor General had a single faithful supporter in Richard Barwell. The majority were bent upon thwarting almost everything proposed by Hastings. During 1774-76, Hastings felt absolutely crippled in exercising his power as Governor General.³ Francis and his partisans influenced the Court of Directors to replace Nathaniel Middleton by John Bristow as Resident at the Court of the Nawab of Oudh. The majority, further, appointed Muhammad Riza Khan as *Naib Nazim* of Bengal. They deprived Munnî Begam of all authority over the *Nizam*. All these were done contrary to the wishes of Hastings. In March 1776 Hastings got so disgusted that he contemplated resignation and retirement. But the death of Colonel Monson on 26 September 1776 helped him to recover his control over the administration as he was able to tip the balance by the exercise of his casting vote. He was quick to hit back. Middleton replaced Bristow⁴. Thomas Graham was appointed Resident at Benares as Francis Fowke, a nominee of the majority, was removed from that office.⁵

1. Home Public Progs. Jul-Dec. 1783, pp.1311-13, 1453.

2. *Ibid.* O.C. 23 Sep. 1763 No. 16.

3. G.W. Forrest, *Selections from the State papers in the Foreign Department of the Government of India, 1772-85*, II, 279.

4. 2 Dec. 1776 No. 11 (p. 126); Progs., 13 Jan. 1777 No. 2 (p. 137).

5. 2 Dec. 1776 No. 13 (p. 126); 13 Jan. 1777 No. 18-20 (p. 139).

III

Nizamat of Bengal

Hastings could not bring about a lasting change in the *Nizamat* of Bengal. He did not even initiate the changes that took place merely to die out. They came in the wake of a representation from Nawab Mubarak-ud-Daulah. In February 1778, the Nawab, on attainment of majority, intended to assume full powers of the *Nizamat*. He also requested for Muhammad Riza Khan's dismissal.⁶ The question came up for discussion in the Board on 2 March 1778. Francis and Edward Wheler, as they commanded a majority because of Barwell's absence, forced the Board to resolve that the proposal be referred to the Court of Directors for decision.⁷ On 5 March, when Barwell attended the Board's meeting Hastings raised the question for reconsideration.⁸ Francis pointed out that the Nawab in his letter of 17 November 1777 had himself requested to entrust Munni Begam with the entire charge of the *Nizamat*.⁹ It was, according to Francis, an admission of incompetence on the part of Mubarak-ud-Daulah. Finally, on 5 March, the Board decided in favour of the Nawab's representation, not by argument but by the Governor General's casting vote.¹⁰

Mubarak-ud-Daulah's assumption of authority was followed by changes in the personnel of the *Nizamat*. Muhammad Riza Khan was dismissed. Sadrul Haq Khan was appointed as *Naib Nazim* and Raja Gurudas as *Diwan*. The allowances of Munni Begam and Babbu Begam were raised¹¹. But the arrangement was shortlived. The Nawab's incompetence and Munni Begam's love of power led to constant interference with the duties of the new *Naib Nazim* and deadlocked the administration. Hastings deeply resented the state of affairs. He asked both the Nawab and Munni Begam to refrain from obstructing the execution of Sadrul Haq Khan's official business. Before the system could settle down, it was scrapped altogether by the Court of Directors. In spite of Mubarak-ud-Daulah's protests Muhammad Riza Khan was placed again at the helm of affairs of the *Nizamat* of Bengal.¹²

IV

The Problems of Oudh

Oudh ran into a series of crises following the accession of Asaf-ud-Daulah. A new treaty with the Company compelled the Nawab Vazir to cede Benares, pay off the balance of subsidy left unpaid by his father and to make a payment of Rs. 2,60,000 *per mensem* to the Company¹³. He

6. 23 Feb. 1778 No. 15 (p. 224).

7. Progs., 2 Mar. 1778 (p. 224).

8. Progs., 5 Mar. 1778 (p. 225).

9. 5 Mar. 1778 No. 1 (p. 225).

10. Progs., 5 Mar. 1778 (p. 225).

11. 4 May 1778 No. 10 (p. 233).

12. *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, V, 1677

13. C.U. Aitchison, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads*, I, XXXIX. 97—99.

was hardly in a position to discharge these financial obligations. His father's treasure was left with his mother (Bahu Begam) and grandmother (Sadr-un-Nisa Begam). He had to secure money from his mother for paying the Company's subsidy. His recurrent demands compelled Bahu Begam to come to a settlement in October 1775. According to its terms Bahu Begam was required to pay 30 lakhs of rupees to her son¹⁴. This, however, did not stop the bickerings between the mother and the son. The Board offered Bahu Begam a place of retreat in the Company's province after the settlement of her affairs with the Nawab Vazir¹⁵.

Troubles were also brewing in Oudh owing to changes in its civil and military administration. The arrogance of Murtaza Khan to whom the Nawab Vazir entrusted the entire internal administration of the kingdom caused widespread discontentment among the Oudh nobility and impelled some nobles to join Mirza Najaf Khan¹⁶. Almost similar was the effect of the Board's decision of subjecting the Oudh soldiery to the command of the British officers. Its avowed purpose was to secure peace within, repel attacks from outside and undo the deadly financial perils of the *Suba*¹⁷. But a number of army officers of Oudh failed to reconcile themselves with loss of command over their soldiers and subjection to the superimposed British officers. The change, further, forced some of the influential senior militarymen of Oudh to quit the Nawab Vazir's service. Among others, Anup Giri Gosain and Major A.L.H. Polier had to leave Oudh and were quickly drawn into the ranks of Mirza Najaf Khan, who was preparing to storm the Jat stronghold at Dig.

But the situation had something more serious to spell. A secret plot was hatched by Mirza Saadat Ali Khan, the Nawab Vazir's brother. The former's aim of destroying the regime was foiled by the plotters who assassinated Murtaza Khan in thoughtless haste¹⁸. The assassin was put to death by the Nawab Vazir¹⁹. Saadat Ali escaped and placed himself under Najaf Khan's protection. Asaf-ud-Daulah was disposed to forgive his brother and agreed to pay an annual allowance of one lakh of rupees if the latter consented to have residence at Fyzabad or any place in the Company's province²⁰. The Board agreed to provide Saadat Ali Khan with a place of residence anywhere in Bengal except Murshidabad and Calcutta, but held that the amount of allowance promised was inadequate²¹. Najaf Khan's protection as well as mutiny and desertions in the Oudh army encouraged Saadat Ali to maintain his rebellious attitude²². The Board continued to persuade Mirza Najaf to prevail upon Saadat Ali so that a rapprochement between the brothers could be effected²³. While Clavering contended that Najaf's non-compliance with the Board's repeated request

14. Aitchison, *op., cit.*, XL, 100-102.

15. 3 Jan. 1776 No. 6 (p. 2)

16. 29 Jan. 1776 No. 6 (p. 13).

17. 5 Feb. 1776 No. 5 (pp. 16-17), 26 Feb. 1776 No. 12 (p. 25), 4 Mar. 1776 No. 8 (p. 29).

18. 5 Feb. 1776 No. 8 (p. 17).

19. 29 Apr. 1776 No. 3 (p. 51) 2 May 1776 No. 4 (p. 52),

20. 6 May 1776 No. 4 (p. 54), 30 May 1776 No. 2 (pp. 65-66).

21. 6 May 1776 No. 5 (p. 54).

22. 29 May 1776 No. 7 (p. 63).

23. 24 Oct. 1776 Nos. 4-5 (pp. 115-116).

amounted to defiance of the same,²⁴ Bristow pointed out that the Mirza was impelled by his enmity towards the Nawab Vazir to behave in the way he did²⁵. Saadat Ali's attempt to capture Bayana was foiled by military defeat. Losing all hopes of Najaf Khan's support he gave up resistance and agreed to a settlement with his brother²⁶.

Before the Nawab Vazir could extricate himself from the troubles with Saadat Ali Khan, his troops in the Doab mutinied and demanded immediate payment of the arrears of their salary²⁷. The British troops were called in to quell the revolt. While the resistance broke down, it gave Hastings an opportunity of putting forward a new defence scheme for Oudh.²⁸ An entire brigade with Lieutenant Colonel Mathew Leslie as its commanding officer was transferred to the Company's supervision. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hannay was authorised to collect revenue from the districts of Oudh assigned for its maintenance²⁹. The new plan spelt a disaster for Oudh. The assigned districts did not yield revenue enough for maintenance of the brigade. But what it yielded was unbearable for the peasantry of that famished and drought-affected *Suba*³⁰. The Nawab Vazir asked for dismissal of the brigade. The Governor General, however, held that without the brigade Oudh would be exposed to the attacks of the Marathas³¹. He suggested retrenchment of Nawab Vazir's expenses. The Board refused to remit arrears of the Nawab Vazir's obligations to the Company. Oudh's finances, consequently, continued to stagger. An overstressed need for security, ironically enough, broke asunder its already enfeebled finances. It was worsed by a scheme that originally promised improvement.

V

The Maratha War

Contending claims to the Peshwaship caused a seven-year-war between the Marathas and the Company. It exposed at once the chronic tendency of disunion among the Marathas and the grave shortcoming of the ill-defined inter-presidency relations in the Company's government in India.

The war had its origin in a murder. Raghunathrao *alias* Raghoba usurped the Peshwaship in 1773 by assassinating Narayanrao. But Nana Phadnavis and Sakharam Bapu (Sakharam Bhagwant Bokil), the notables of Poona, set on the throne the infant Madhavrao Narayan, Narayanrao's posthumous son. Raghoba defeated the army of the regents. Instead of attacking Poona he went to Gujarat to seek the assistance of Fatehsingh Gaikwar. Holkar and Sindhia lined up with him. Nana Phadnavis, however, resorted to intrigues and induced a rift in the alliance. Holkar and Sindhia deserted Raghunathrao's cause.

24. 30 Oct. 1776 No. 6 (p. 118).

25. 30 Dec. 1776 No. 10 (p. 135).

26. 2 Jun. 1777 No. 4 (p. 174).

27. 6 Oct. 1777 No. 9 (p. 194).

28. 5 May 1777 No. 5, A-F (p. 169), 19 Jun. 1777 Nos. 9-10 (pp. 179-180), 7 Aug. 1777 Nos. 4-6 (p. 184), 11 Aug. 1777 No. 1 (p. 184).

29. 7 Aug. 1777 No. 4 (p. 184), 29 Sep. 1777 No. 1 (p. 193).

30. 13 Dec. 1779 No. D (p. 327).

31. Pogs., 15 Dec. 1779 (p. 327), 15 Dec. 1779, No. 6 (p. 328).

Raghunathrao looked to the Bombay Government for assistance. According to a treaty signed at Surat on 6 March 1775, the Bombay Government agreed to assist Raghunathrao if the latter, in return, ceded the island of Salsette and the port of Bassein to them and made an annual payment of 37 lakhs of rupees³².

The treaty of Surat was constitutionally questionable. The Regulating Act of 1773 had placed the subordinate presidencies under the superintendence of the Supreme Government in matters of 'concluding treaties, applying revenues and levying and employing forces.' The treaty, accordingly required authorization by the Fort William Board. The sum of 37 lakhs of rupees which Raghunathrao agreed to pay was payable to the Company and not to its Bombay Presidency.

Meanwhile the Bombay Government had ordered Colonel Thomas Keating to take field against the Poona Darbar. Keating defeated the Poona army at Arras and Fatehsingh Gaikwar joined forces with him³³. At this point the Fort William Board intervened. They declared the treaty of Surat null and void. A treaty was concluded with the Poona Darbar. By the treaty of Purandhar (1 March 1776) the British troops withdrew from the field. The Company gave up all the territory owned by the Marathas except Salsette. Madhavrao Narayan was recognised as the Peshwa. Raghunathrao had to renounce his claims to the Peshwaship. The Poona Darbar promised to pay him 3 lakhs of rupees annually if he agreed to live at any place beyond the Godavari river. The Darbar promised to pay an annual subsidy of 12 lakhs of rupees to the Company as well as the revenue of the Broach District³⁴. But the treaty was ineffective. The Bombay Government continued to adhere to the stipulations of the treaty of Surat. They were at cross purposes with the Board and the Poona Darbar in affording shelter to Raghunathrao³⁵. Another upsetting surprise was in store for the Board. The Court of Directors abrogated the treaty of Purandhar and recognized that of Surat³⁶.

The Poona Darbar was no solid rock of political authority and its inner conflicts came to surface at this moment of crisis. Moroba Phadnavis, Nana's cousin and Sakharam Bapu were secretly conspiring in Raghunathrao's favour. Holkar joined this clique. They appealed to the Bombay Government for help. The Bombay Council strongly recommended their case to the Fort William Board³⁷.

Hastings worked on perhaps a false alarm. The Board had been suspecting Nana Phadnavis of pro-French inclinations. It was deepened by the report of arrival at Poona of Chevalier de St. Lubin³⁸. His presence at Poona forced a change in attitude of the Fort William Board. They recognised Raghunathrao's title under the treaty of Surat.

32. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, VI, V, 21-25.

33. 5 Feb. 1776 No. 1A (p. 15), 12 Feb. 1776 No. 3 (p. 20).

34. Aitchison, *op. cit.*, VI, VI, 28-32, 1 Apr. 1776 No. 21 (p. 38), 16 May 1776 Nos. 1-5 (p. 58), 20 May 1776 No. 7 (p. 61).

35. 1 Apr. 1776 Nos. 15-16 (p. 38), 15 May 1776 No. F. (p. 58), 16 May 1776 Nos. 1-5 (p. 58), 20 May 1776 No. 7 (p. 61).

36. Progs., 10 Aug. 1778 (p. 265).

37. 29 Jun. 1778 Nos. 1-2 (p. 244).

38. 23 Mar. 1778 Nos. 5-7 (p. 228), 15 Apr. 1778 Nos. 4-5 (p. 230).

Nana Phadnavis was prompt to overcome the opposition at Poona. Holkar was bribed off. Moroba Phadnavis was killed in engagement and Sakharam Bapu was taken prisoner. The Bombay Government declared war upon the Poona Darbar. The Bombay troops commanded by Colonel Charles Egerton were routed by a Maratha cavalry charge. The Bengal Army took the field with the most spectacular of the campaigns of the eighteenth century Anglo-Indian History. Colonel Thomas Goddard took the command and marched across North India to strike at the heart of the Maratha power³⁹ Ahmadabad fell to him⁴⁰. Holkar and Sindhia retreated to the Narbada river. General Carnac routed Sindhia's troops by a night attack. Major William Popham captured the fort of Gwalior⁴¹.

In 1780 the Board received the reports of an alliance between the Marathas, Mysore and the Nizam and their plan of concerted attacks on Calcutta, Bombay and Madras⁴². These did not, however, materialise.

VI

Haidar Ali

The beginning of another major military crisis came in the sequel of Haidar Ali's attack on the Carnatic in 1780. This valiant soldier mustered his strength by silently taking opportunity of confusion in the Maratha affairs after Madhavrao's death in 1772. He regained his lost possessions from the Marathas. He annexed Bellary in 1775, sacked Savanour in 1776 and by 1778 his kingdom was extended upto the Kistna river. Hastings did not see anything wrong in Haidar's reconquering his lost territory. But the problem came to a head when the Anglo-French war broke out in Europe in 1779. Haidar Ali sided with the French, and objected to the Company's occupation of Mahe⁴³. Both the Madras Government and Fort William Board made several fruitless attempts to appease him. In July 1780 he marched through the Chengama Pass into the Carnatic. A trail of devastation was left along his march⁴⁴.

The Government of Fort St. George was hardly prepared to meet Haidar's attack. Its army of 8,000 men commanded by Sir Hector Munro was stationed at widely separated places. He repulsed an attack of Tipu and a contingent of the Maratha cavalry. But Haidar interposed his troops between those of Baillie and Munro. On 6 September 1780 Baillie's troops were completely annihilated. Late in 1780 Arcot fell to Haidar⁴⁵.

VII

The Carnatic and Tanjore

In 1773, the Madras Government conquered Tanjore for Nawab Muhammad Ali of Arcot. Tuljaji, the ruler of Tanjore was thrown into prison. The Court of Directors sensed something shady into the matter and suspended Alexander Wynch, the Governor of Madras. Wynch was

39. 7 Dec. 1778 Nos. 1-5 (pp. 284-285), Progs., 21 Dec. 1778 (p. 285). 28 Dec. 1778 No. 9 (p. 288).

40. 20 Apr. 1780 Nos. 1-10 (pp. 339-341).

41. 11 Sep. 1780 No. 4 (p. 366).

42. 17 Jan. 1780 Nos. 1-6 (p. 330), 24 Jan. 1780 No. 9 (p. 332).

43. 13 May 1779 Nos. 3-4 (p. 306).

44. 21 Aug. 1780 Nos. 1-2 (pp. 361-362), 24 Aug. 1780 No. 1 (p. 363).

45. 22 Sep. 1780 No. 5 (p. 368), 2 Oct. 1780 No. 4 (p. 271), 29 Nov. 1780 No. 1 (p. 381)

replaced by Lord Pigot. The latter, as instructed by the Court, restored Tanjore to Tuljaji⁴⁶. This annoyed Muhammad Ali who also took exception to the Court's directly communicating with Tuljaji whom the former claimed to be his vassal.

Muhammad Ali's real problem was his debts. Like the Nawab Vazir of Oudh his subsidy fell in arrears. His private debts were mounting up and large assignments of land revenue could ill-afford to lighten this burden. Loss of Tanjore added to the problems of meeting his monetary obligations to the Company. He suggested two alternatives: either Tanjore should be given back to him or he should be exempted from all financial obligations to the Company. He also asked for appointment of a commission for setting certain disputes with Tuljaji.⁴⁷ The Board did nothing beyond asking Tuljaji to pay to the Nawab the amount the latter had defrayed on Tanjore and allowing the Nawab to repossess the districts of Marava and Sivaganga⁴⁸.

VIII

Affairs at Fort St. George

The Madras Government was an abode of corruption and incompetence. The Nawab of Arcot was forced by his financial plight and indebtedness to borrow money from the Company's servants at high rates of interest. This became a source of profit even for some members of the Council. Some of them were lending money to the Nawab at 60 per cent on the mortgage of the revenue of Tanjore.

Lord Pigot's appointment as Governor in December 1775 struck a note of discord in the presidency. He provoked a stiff opposition by his Tanjore deals and intention of doing away with corruption. The situation proved particularly challenging for him when Sir Robert Fletcher, Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, disputed the Governor's order appointing Colonel James Stuart to command troops at Tanjore⁴⁹. The Governor ordered arrest of Fletcher and suspension and arrest of two other members of the Council. He also refused to admit Paul Benfield's claim of 23 lakhs of rupees on the revenue of Tanjore for the money the latter had lent to Nawab Muhammad Ali. All these led to Pigot's personal misfortune. On 24 August 1776 the old Governor was taken prisoner by Lieutenant Colonel James Eidington and Captain Christopher Lysaught under the majority's orders. He was sent to St. Thomas's Mount as a captive and kept in the custody of Major Matthew Horne of the artillery. Pigot's reporting to the Board of his wrongful confinement was of no avail⁵⁰. On the contrary, the Board approved the action of the majority led by George Stratton and recognised their title and authority to govern the Presidency of Fort St. George⁵¹.

46. 22 Apr. 1776 Nos. 1, A. B (p. 49).

47. 7 Aug. 1776 No. 15 (p. 90).

48. 7 Aug. 1776 No. 16 (p. 90).

49. 10 Sep. 1776 Nos. 1-2 (p. 98).

50. 10 Sep. 1776 Nos. 5 (p. 98).

51. 10 Sept. 1776 Nos. 7-9 (p. 98), 23 Sep. 1776 No. 23 (p. 102).

On 31 August 1776 Stratton assumed office as Governor⁵². Tuljaji, the Raja of Tanjore, who fled to Negapatam at Pigot's discomfiture, came back to Tanjore on being assured of safety by Stratton⁵³. Nawab Muhammad Ali came out with a long list of complaints against the imprisoned Governor⁵⁴. Claud Russel and the minority of the Madras Council wrote to Edward Hughes, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Squadron, that the latter's presence at Madras was essential for restoring the lawful government there and also requested him to keep Pigot under his protection⁵⁵. Pigot, whose appeal was turned down by the Board, requested Hughes to secure his release⁵⁶. Stratton and his government opined that Pigot's release would mean both foreign and domestic troubles⁵⁷. The Government of Bombay were reprimanded by Stratton and the Fort William Board as they questioned the propriety of Lord Pigot's arrest⁵⁸. In May 1777 Pigot died in captivity and passed beyond all controversy and disgrace⁵⁹.

IX

There had been some matters of moment among the plethora of events of this period. The Board saw with satisfaction the destruction of the Jat power in Bundelkhand brought about by Mirza Najaf Khan, a reputed soldier in the Mughal army. It cleared a zone of troubles and uncertainty along the borders of Oudh. The Board's exorbitant demand of tribute from Raja Chait Singh of Benares had already been making the situation at Benares uneasy. The scare of French attack, reported Magh depredations in the south-eastern parts of Bengal, minor commercial disputes with the Dutch and the Danes and controversy on jurisdiction between the *Nizamat of Bengal* and the Supreme Court of Calcutta were among the developments worth mentioning.

52. 23 Sep. 1776 No. 25 (p. 103).

53. 23 Sep. 1776 No. 30 (p. 104).

54. 11 Nov. 1776 No. 2 (p. 122), 11 Nov. 1776 No. S (p. 123).

55. 23 Sep. 1776 Nos. 28-29 (pp. 103-104).

56. 11 Nov. 1776 No. M (p. 122).

57. 11 Nov. 1776 No. 2 (p. 122).

58. 20 Jan. 1777 Nos. 3-4 (p. 142), 27 Jan. 1777 Nos. 1-2 (p. 145-146).

59. 16 Jun. 1777 No. 5 (p. 177).

ABBREVIATIONS

A.D.C.	..	..	..	..	..	Aide-de-Camp
A.L.S.	..	..	..	..	..	Autograph letter signed
B.S.	..	..	..	..	..	Body sheet
Brig. Gen.	..	..	..	..	..	Brigadier General
Capt.	..	..	..	..	..	Captain
C.-in-C.	..	..	..	..	..	Commander-in-Chief
Col.	..	..	..	..	..	Colonel
Cons.	..	..	..	..	..	Consultation
Gen.	..	..	..	..	..	General
Lt.	..	..	..	..	..	Lieutenant
Lt. Col.	..	..	..	..	..	Lieutenant Colonel
Lt. Gen.	Lieutenant General
Maj.	Major
Maj. Gen.	Major General
Progs.	Proceedings

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**DESCRIPTIVE LIST
OF
SECRET DEPARTMENT RECORDS
1776**

1776, Jan 3. Minutes of Consultation.

B. S., 3 Jan., 1776

1775, Dec 21, Bilgram. Lt. Col. J. N. Parker (Commanding 3rd Brigade) intimates to the Board that he will comply with the orders of the Board to return the presents given to him by Raja Chait Singh (Raja of Benares). (A.L.S.)—2 pp.

3 Jan., 1776, No. 1

Dec 11, Delhi. Majd-ud-Daulah (Abdul Ahad Khan, Minister of Shah Alam) intimates to Lt. Col. J. Cumming (Commanding 2nd Brigade) his intention to hand over to the British Qasim Ali Khan (son-in-law of Jafar Ali Khan, Nawab of Bengal) who has come to meet Shah Alam. (Translation)—3 pp.

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1776, Jan 3. Discussion in the Board on the above letter and resolution passed by them authorising J. Cumming to accept the offer of Abdul Ahad Khan. 3 pp.

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Observations of W. Hastings (Governor General), J. Clavering, G. Monson and P. Francis (Members of the Council) on the letter* (received 22 December 1775) from Bahu Begam (mother of Asaf-ud-Daulah) claiming her right to her husband's property. (Minutes)—8 pp.

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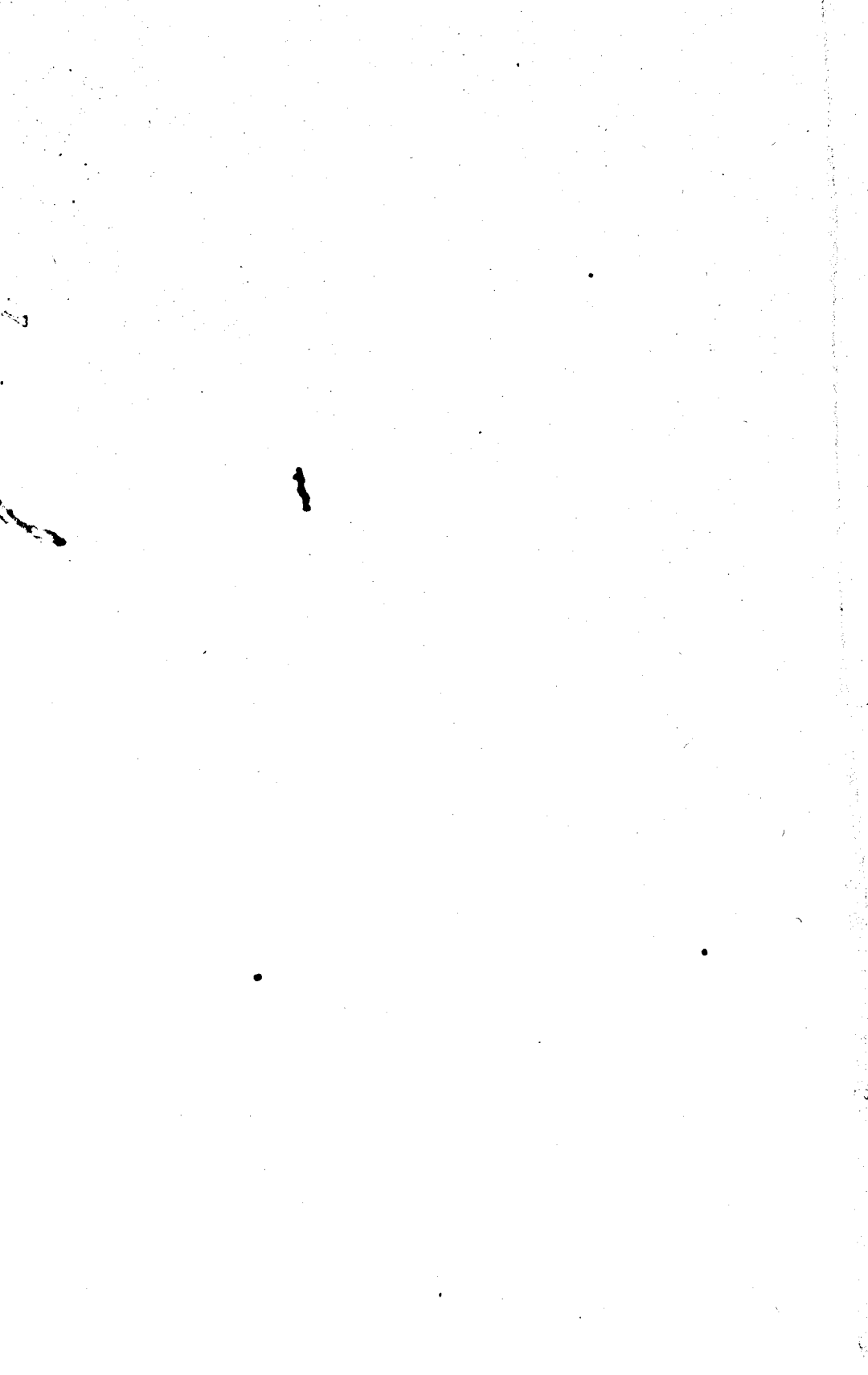
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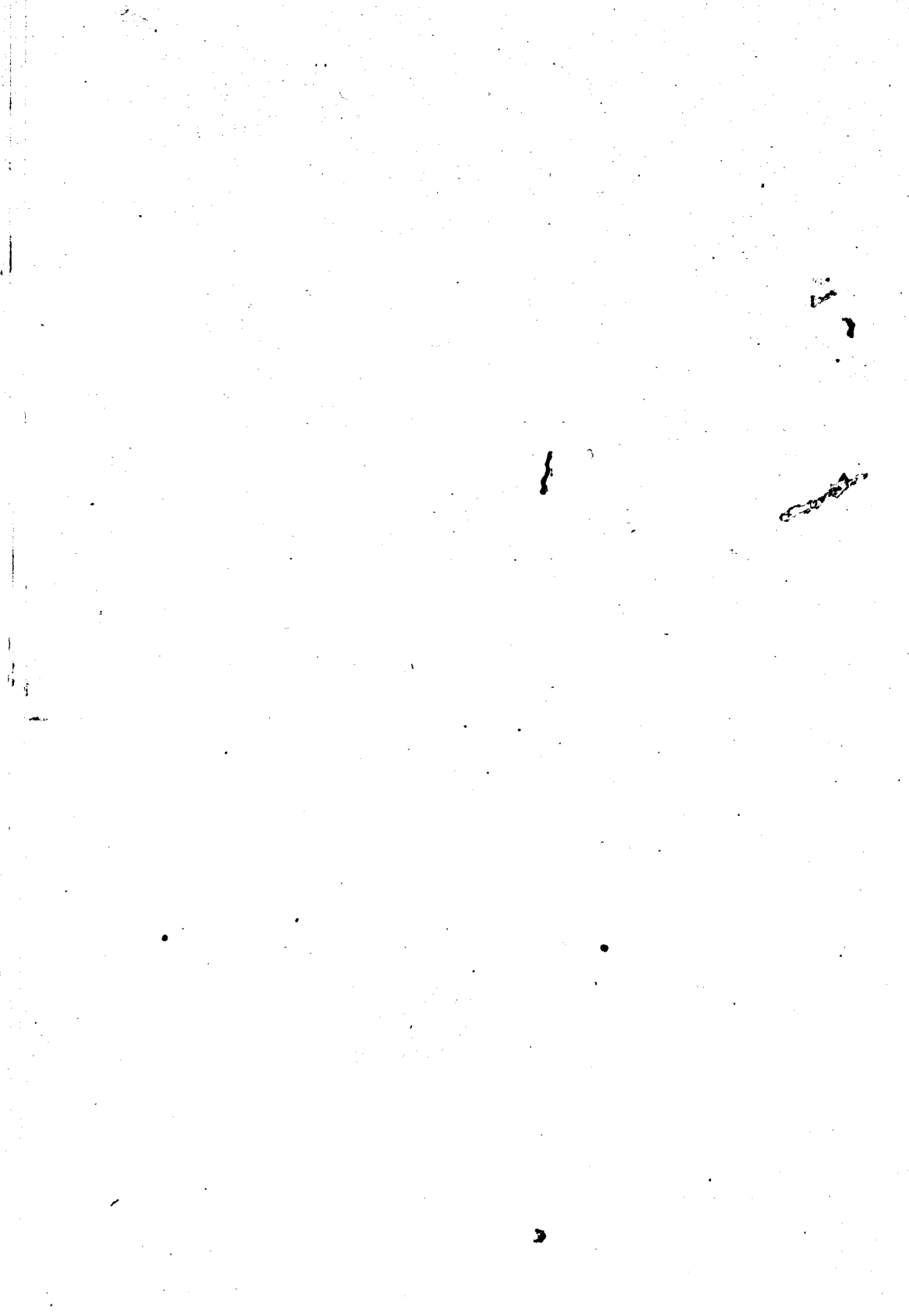
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