
No. 69

**Petition of the Rajah of Ballabgarh, dated 31st July
1857**

To—The King ! Shelter of the World !

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—That Your Majesty is fully aware how entirely my former Official had the most complete authority in every matter, and how unreservedly every business was confided to their care. These men, in their short-sighted cupidity, embezzled and made away with property worth lacs of rupees. When the secret of their misconduct became disclosed, and I took steps to compel them to render their accounts, and to make restitution for the deficiencies, they one and all, upon one plea or another, went off to Delhi, where they are now residing in their respective homes. So little do they dread being brought to account by Your Majesty's Officers, that they have prepared themselves for further acts of ingratitude, and use their worst endeavours to the prejudice and injury of all cases connected with this State, which happen to come before Your Majesty's Government. Thus, for instance, Your Majesty having been more than ever graciously disposed towards this slave, these men have succeeded, by their false and unfounded representations, in making me the

object of your aversion and anger; for they have made you believe that, while I am professedly a servant of the State, in heart I am a friend to the English, that I am collecting stores of lead and powder with traitorous designs; and that I have closed the high road to all travellers and traffic. So completely have Your Majesty's feelings of gracious kindness been changed for those of anger, displeasure and resentment, that Ahmad Ali, who was the trusted Agent of your distrusted slave, and who remained in attendance at your Royal Court, feeling himself in utter disgrace, has come away to this place, at the same time that Kalandar Bakhsh Khan, Risaldar, who had been in attendance according to Your Majesty's own orders, has received his dismissal. Your exalted highness, all that my enemies have alleged, adverse to my interests, are lies which must in the end fail of their object. They trust by such conduct as they have been pursuing, to impress Your Majesty with a firm belief of their own zeal and devotion, hoping, by this means, to secure immunity from all question or enquiry on the part of the Officers of Your Majesty's Government, and the quiet and unmolested enjoyment of the immense riches they have amassed by their frauds against this State. My ancestors and I have ever been the ancient and hereditary devoted slaves and servants of this exalted dynasty, and have never entertained an idea of disloyalty against you, who dispense mandates to the six cardinal points² and the seven kingdoms of the world. For unalloyed gratitude and fidelity, I am as silver which has been thoroughly tried. If you test me a hundred times, I shall not fail in the test. The proof of this profession and statement is this. Before the present disturbances I was staying at Delhi on some business. If I did not cherish the most heart-felt devotion and fidelity for Your Majesty even then how was it that I made proposals through the Superintendent, Mir Fatteh Ali Sahib, that I might be allowed the honour of an interview? If the obligations of fidelity and loyalty were not impressed in their brightest colours on the tablet of my heart, how was it then that this secret and long-cherished wish should have been disclosed, and should have received expression in words? Let my enemies do what they

please. I your ancient slave, shall still, under all circumstances, continue your devoted well-wisher.

“My eyes will not take the impression of any face but yours,
“My mirror will not reflect the countenance of a stranger”.

Moreover, although I your ancient slave, profess the Hindoo religion, having observed the conduct and behaviour of those who say that God above is supreme, I have remained in subjection to the guidance of the leaders of the Mahomedan faith, in so much that, although from the first existence of the town, there had been no Mahomedan Mosque, either in the Fort, or outside in the market, I have caused a lofty one, for congregational prayers, built of stone, to be erected within the Fort itself. I have, moreover, had an Eedgah, a place set apart exclusively for prayers at the festival of the Eed, built near my garden called the Dilkhusha, to encourage and conciliate the Mahomedans. I your ancient and eternal well-wisher, have ever desired that the Mahomedan faith should be extensively proclaimed. Your Majesty ! let your displeasure now be changed for feelings of graciousness, and let me, who am an expectant of your kindness, be as before, regarded anew with eyes of favour and benevolence, and let not Your Majesty give credence to the false allegations and absurd statements of my enemies and adversaries—

“Be watchful against your associate in position,
“For water, though pure by nature, is the rival of the mirror”.

Moreover, in your unbounded favour and graciousness, let orders be issued to the servants of Your Majesty's Government, to seize the above enemies and inimical characters, and to make them over to me, so that their villainies may come to an end, and the cloud of Your Majesty's displeasure and anger may be dispelled; and that I may bring them to an account for my losses, amounting to lacs of rupees. As regards the petition presented to the Lord Saheb Bahadur by Rustam Ali, a resident of Kuraoli, that Gaiindah and others, eleven persons, were taking two carts laden with wheat and wheat-meal, as supplies to Delhi, and that the Rajah's Police Officer seized and sent

them to Ballabgarh, where the freight of the carts were confiscated, I urge that the statements of the petitioner are altogether false, and contrary to facts. The true features of this business, without reserve or exaggeration, are : Gaiindah, who is a leader of ill-conducted characters and highway robbers, had, in the first instance, accompanied by some desperados, residents of his own village, plundered the village of Nuglee, in the Bhadrapur jurisdiction, and conveyed the booty to his own and adjoining villages. Subsequently, bent on plunder, they made a raid on the village of Mugrowlee, in the Ballabgarh jurisdiction. By the merest chance, the Police and Revenue Officers of Farridabad happened in their patrolling excursion to come to the Magrowli boundary, and saw what was going on, when these plunderers and highway robbers immediately consulted their safety in flight; but the Revenue Officer acting with decision and promptitude, seized some of the miscreants, and having pinioned their arms forwarded them to the Criminal Court of this place. The file of papers compiled in this case is forthcoming. If, in proof of what is here stated, it be so ordered, the original, or a copy, as may be required, shall be submitted for Your Majesty's inspection, when you will be thoroughly informed of all facts. The case of the Buggy and Nabi Bakhsh Merchant is similar. The particulars of this matter are, that my servants had purchased the Buggy, which has been attached from a Brahman Subadar of the 11th Regiment of Native Infantry, and Nabi Bakhsh, Merchant, was proceeding in it to Ballabgarh. So pray Your Majesty ! certainly inquire into this case. As one or two English letters were found in the Buggy, I solemnly swear by God, that I, or my servants, have no knowledge of them whatever, as to who is the writer, who the addressed, or what their purport. In accordingly appears evident that some enemy of this State has had these letters written surreptitiously, by some one acquainted with English, and has had them concealed in the Buggy. Let Your Majesty certify yourself of the truth of all that is here submitted, by the testimony of the priests, at the shrine of Muhammad Shah Nizam-ud-Din. May he ever be blessed. I beg I may be honoured with a favourable reply to this petition. Prayers for the prosperity of the reign. Peti-