



**Proclamation** of Birjis Qadar both in Urdu and Hindi, with his Seal at the top. (cf. pp. 45<sup>o</sup>-45<sup>r</sup>)

**Proclamation** (Circular) of Mohd. Ramzan Ali Bahadur Birjoes Kuder:

Addressed to.....

"As I am fully bent upon populating the land, securing all conveniences for its people and betterment of its inhabitants I have, therefore, decided to exterminate the cruel, ill-behaved Kafir (the unbelieving) Feranghis from my hereditary dominions, both old and new. Consequently, I have nominated the brave Rajah Beni Madho Singh for the administration of the Naqas of Jaunpur and Azimgarh and order that in obedience to the instructions of the said Rajah, you should capture, put to the sword and annihilate the entire group of these perverted unbelievers and make every effort to extirpate them from this country. Considering the said Rajah a permanent Amil (administrator) of this part of the country, you should do your very best for the collection of revenue and betterment of the ryot. You will, consequently, be awarded with favours." Dated 26th, Zilhijja 1273 A. H. (17th. July, 1857.)

*Translation of a printed Proclamation issued under the seal of Birjoes Kuder Walee of Lucknow to all the Zemindars and Inhabitants of the country of Lucknow:*

All the Hindoos and Mahommedans are aware that four things are dear to every man; 1st. Religion, 2nd. Honor, 3rd. Life, 4th. Property. All these four things are safe under a native Government. No one under that Government interferes with religion. Every one is allowed to continue steadfast in his religion and persuasion, and to possess his honor according to his worth and capacity, be he a person of good descent, of any caste or denomination, Syud, Sheikh, Moghal, or Pathan, among the Mahommedans, or Brahmin, Ghuttree, Bais, or Kaith, among the Hindoos. All these retain their respectability according to their respective ranks, and all persons of a lower order such as Sweeper, Chumar, Dhanook, or Passee, can claim equality with them. The life of any person of either class is not taken under that Government, nor his property confiscated except for crimes and grave offences. The English are enemies of the four things above named. They wish to deprive the Hindoos and Mahommedans of their religion, and wish them to become Christians and Nazarenes. Under their Government, thousands of people have embraced Christianity and are continuing to do so. The honor and respectability of every person of the higher orders are considered by them equal to the honor and respectability of the lower orders, nay, comparatively with the latter,

(Matlay Bosta, No. 6, Tria) of Rajah Jey Lal Sing. Lucknow Collectorate Records.

they treat the former, with contempt and disrespect; and at the instance of a *chamar*, force the attendance of a Nawab or a Rajah, and subject him to indignity whithersoever they go. They hang the respectable people, destroy their females and children, and their troops commit acts of violence upon their females, and thus take away their honor, dig down their houses, and plunder all the property and leave them nothing. They do not kill Banyahs and Mahajans, but take away all their property and violate their women. Withersoever they go, they disarm the people, and in that state hang, or shoot, or blow up, any one they like, and deprive any one they choose of his faith and honor. At some places they resort to the subterfuge of remitting revenue or reducing the *Jama* to the Malgozars, with the intent, that after they have established themselves and subjected them to their authority, they might do with them as they please, force them to become Christians, or hang them or dishonor them. Some foolish zemindars allow themselves to be thus imposed upon, but the shrewd avoid the snare. Therefore the Hindoos and Mahommedans are hereby warned, that whosoever among you wishes to protect his faith, honor, life and property, may come forward to fight against the English in conjunction with the forces of this Sircar (i.e. himself) and may not succumb to their stratagem. This Sircar will be kind to them and contribute to their relief. And be it known to the Passees that the office of watching every town and village is their hereditary profession, but the English appoint Barkundazes in their stead and thus deprive the Passees of their livelihood. They should also, in concert with the troops of this Sircar and the zemindars, plunder the English, and their dependents, commit theft and gang robberies in their camps, and disturb their rest.