

Minute by the Right Honble the Governor General
dated 10th February 1819.

Synasty of the
House of Winoona
infer

Some months ago the Lieutenant Governor of the North West Provinces and the Agent to the Government at Delhi, brought under my consideration questions of much importance relative to the succession to the Throne of Delhi; and to the course which was to be pursued by the Agent to the Government, on the death either of the King or of the Meer Apparent - events which from the age of the one and the infirmity of the other, might take place at any time.

The questions were delicate & important. I therefore postponed any decision until I should have had an opportunity of consulting with the Lieutenant Governor and with Sir Theophilus Mitchell regarding them.

I had an opportunity of going so on my way to the frontier I was about to address the Court of Directors, for the purpose of submitting to them my views regarding the policy which it would be right to adopt in the various events which might occur; when a despatch arrived announcing that Prince Daria Aulakh the recognized Meer Apparent, had after a few days illness died in the city of Delhi.

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This event greatly simplifies the questions which were laid before me, and facilitates for the introduction of those changes which it appears to me to be wise and politic to make.

During the reign of the present King of Delhi I would not advise that any alteration should be commenced. He may be left in possession of his nominal throne, of his income, and of all the honors of sovereignty which he enjoys.

He is now a very old man, however, and whenever the time of his decease arrives, it should be, in my judgment, the state of fundamental changes in the position of the head of the House of Timour.

In concurrence with the Honble Court and participating in the sentiments which have been declared and acted upon by my predecessors successively, I considered it to be not only unnecessary but impolitic in these latter times, to maintain the King of Delhi in the conditions of sovereignty in which we found him; gradually for many years past the recognition of various prerogatives has been withdrawn from him; marks of submission have been required; unusual terms of address have been insisted - the presentations of ambassadors by high British Officers has been denied; and he has been prohibited from receiving Ambassadors from other Princes, while they have on their part been prohibited from professing any

any (vassalage) to him.

Every attribute of sovereignty has in fact been taken away from him excepting the title of King and the peculiar jurisdiction within the Palace of Delhis which has produced that condition of the Royal Family, which the Honble Court has strongly condemned & which has led to evils, vices and crimes that demand imperatively interference and reform.

The Aier Apparent lately deceased was the last of the race to whom even as a matter of feeling it was really incumbent upon us to show any regard, the consideration due to fallen sovereignty. He was the last of the family who has been born in the purple, and who could recollect the time, when the King of Delhis still sat on the Throne, was recognized as the Paramount Potentate in Hindo.

The next brother of Prince Dara Bukht by name Jug. oos. deew, who is now the natural successor is not more than 30 years old. He was born therefore long after his family had ceased to reign, and not until its sovereignty had been for many years a mere Papant.

We are bound by no treaty or agreement of any kind to concede any thing, whether of power, title or revenue to the family of Shivour.

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There is no longer any reason of policy for maintaining the dynasty even in name. The Princes of Surin and its people, whatever they once were are now entirely indifferent to the condition of the King. This position and I have been informed that even the native Princes has ceased to give them the title of Padeshah, when it alludes to him.

On the other hand there are many strong reasons for our closing the existence of the Dynasty of Surin.

The British Government has become in deed and in truth the Paramount Sovereign in Surin. It is not expedient that there should be even in name a rival, in the person of a Sovereign whose ancestors once held the Paramourship we now possess.

His existence could never really subjugate us, Surin, altho' the intrigues of which he might and not infrequently has been made the nucleus might incommode and vex us.

But it is fitting that we should assert our power and our right to the full, and that we should appear before India to all futurity as being Paramount in name also as in authority and might.

This step is proper & expedient in itself, and would much facilitate the arrangements which will be necessary for removing the Mulla Teen from the Palace, and putting a stop to the abominations which

they will not thereby be led to forget the more
important interests of their own Government but
that having regard to the necessity & the wisdom
of consolidating the power of the British Govt
of removing great abuses which may exist
under their rule of maintaining in safety
their military strength & of not lawfully alienating
in perpetuity large portions of their Revenue all
of which matters are involved in the mainte-
-nance of this most Sovereign on the footing
on which it now stands. The Honble Court
will sanction upon the death of the present
King of Delhi the changes which I now have
the honor of earnestly commending to their
consideration & approval.

I beg Mr Elliot to be so good as to
prepare a letter to the Court reimbursing fully
the proposals above stated & laying before
the Court my views with which he is well
acquainted.

By Dalhousie

(True copy)

P. Melville
Under Secy to the Govt of India
With the Gov. General.

Compd P. Melville