

**MEMOIR OF THE LIFE OF THE
LATE NANA FURNUWEES
COMPILED FROM FAMILY
RECORDS AND EXTANT WORKS**

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Memoir of the Life of the Late Nana Furnuwees Compiled from Family Records and Extant Works by A. MacDonald

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A. MACDONALD

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MEMOIR OF THE LIFE
OF THE LATE
NANA FURNUWEES

COMPILED FROM

FAMILY RECORDS AND EXTANT WORKS,

WITH

Several Illustrations copied on Stone from Original Pictures by
Native Artists.

AND DEDICATED BY PERMISSION TO

VISCOUNTESS FALKLAND.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA
BY A. MACDONALD,

CAPT. 18TH REGIMENT, BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY.

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HENRY MORSE STEPHENS

TO VINO
AMSONLIA

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PREFACE TO THE LIFE
OF
NANA FURNUWEES.

CAPTAIN S. V. HART, the Secretary to the Deccan Vernacular Society, having suggested to me that a Memoir of the late Nana Furnuwees would prove of considerable interest to all interested in Indian History, and that if translated into the Vernacular of the Country, it would be eagerly read by the Mahrattas who look upon him, and not without reason, as the last and greatest statesman of their race, I was induced to employ my leisure hours in the compilation of the accompanying work (with what success I leave the reader to judge) from original manuscripts and family records of the late minister, from verbose conversations with many of his relations and personal attendants, and partly from Grant Duff's History of the Mahrattas and other Indian authorities.

On a late visit to Manowclly, I had the pleasure of an interview with the widow of Nana, who though of an advanced age appears to have the perfect use of her faculties.

Two well executed Oil Paintings, evidently by the hand of a clever artist, the one of Nana Furnuwees himself, and the other of his ill fated Sovereign and pupil, Mahdoo Rao Peishwah, were shown to us, and engrav-

ings therefrom are attached to this work: I regret however that we were unable to discover the name of the artist, nor could the family give any information on the subject.

Nana's country-house at Manowelly is situated in a most picturesque and beautiful spot on the banks of the Kistna, about two miles from the far-famed Brahmin town of Wahy the residence of the Rastia family, and about twenty miles distant from Sattara, the same from the Mahabuleshwar Hills, and about 150 from Poona, and to those who are fond of the picturesque, it will repay the trouble of a visit. The house was originally strongly fortified, but on Nana's imprisonment the place was dismantled, and the ghauts which now surround the place were constructed from the materials. Vast sums of money must have been expended on these works; in front of one of the temples is suspended a very large Portuguese bell, bearing date 1,706 with a Latin inscription in relief round it "Laudate Dominum Cymbilis bene Sanctibus," and a figure of the Virgin and child also in relief.

On enquiry I found that this bell had been plundered from one of the Portuguese settlements (probably Bassein) during the Mahratta war, and brought to his village by Nana Furnuwees.

In the appendix many original letters and documents will be found, as well as extracts from the Duke of Wellington's despatches relating to the subject of this Memoir, when his Grace was in charge of the political affairs of the Deccan.

My task is ended, a critic will doubtless find many defects, but I trust allowance will be made for the work as the production of the leisure hours of a soldier, who writes under many disadvantages unknown to the

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practical author. It will also I hope be borne in mind, that the work was written throughout with a view to translation into Mahratta, this may account for some peculiarities of style which might have been avoided in a work written exclusively for an English public.

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