

perty of the English crown when Bombay was given to King Charles the second ; but the Portuguese defrauded us of it ; they, however, lost this island by the invasion of the Marattas, who inhabit the continent bordering on Bombay: they are a very formidable tribe of Gentoos, who have extended their dominions by dint of arms. Their chief, or king, resides generally in the mountains of Decan, at a fort called Raree ; reported to be the strongest place in the universe: it is so well and powerfully guarded by nature, that no enemy can approach it, being surrounded by steep, inaccessible rocks. In this fort the king, or mar-rajah, holds his court, and lives in great splendor. He has long been the avowed foe of the Moguls, Subahs, and Nabobs ; making war, and concluding treaties, just as he thought his interest might be best promoted. The Marattas are all bred to arms and agriculture: the use of the former they learnt from the Europeans, though they depend greatly on their targets, which will turn the ball of a pistol, and even a musquet from a distance. Their words are excellent, with which they do great execution, but their musquets are very indifferent. Their horses are small, active, and will go through much fatigue. European arts and manufactures receive little encouragement among these people, who prefer those of their own country to the most curious that can be shewn them from foreign parts.

(6.) In 15 deg. 20 min. N. latitude, and 74 deg. 20 min. E. longitude from London, on an island, about 20 miles in length, and six in breadth, stands the large and strong town of Goa, which is the principal place belonging to the Portuguese in India: it was taken by them A. D. 1508. It has the convenience of a fine salt-water river, capable of receiving ships of the greatest burden, where they lie within a mile of the town. The banks of the river are beautified with a great number of handsome structures, such as castles, churches, and gentlemen's houses. The air without the town is very unwholesome, for which reason it is not so well inhabited as formerly. The viceroys palace is a noble building,

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