

this time the revenues of Bengal were not yielding such a surplus as had been anticipated by the Company. Accordingly Hastings received orders to depose Reza Khan and place Nuncomar in his stead. But the Governor held no good-will towards Nuncomar; so he abolished the native rulership, and made Nuncomar's son treasurer of the household. For this act he earned the hatred of Nuncomar, which had an important bearing on all the subsequent troubles of his administration.

The despoliation of the Rohillas of their lands and of their freedom cast a lasting stain on the character of Hastings. The directors of the Company desired more money; they instructed him to obtain it. He cast his eyes around for a suitable opportunity; he was not long in finding one. The prince of the rich province of Oude had permission from the English to assume the royal title, but he was unable to do so on account of the fierce opposition of the Rohillas. They were a powerful tribe, really independent of the prince, renowned for their bravery and their knowledge of war. The prince cast covetous eyes on their rich and fertile district. Hastings entered into an agreement with him. For four hundred thousand pounds sterling the prince was loaned an English army to subdue the Rohillas. Their armies were defeated, their country laid waste in the most barbarous manner, and the Prince of Oude assumed the royal title.

By the regulating act of 1773, Hastings was made Governor-General of all the British possessions in India. He was to be assisted by a council of four. Three of the councillors, headed by Phillip Francis, a man of great ability, were in direct opposition to Hastings. They over-ruled his most important measures. Charges of corruption, bribery and intimidation were brought against him by Francis, who was ably and unscrupulously assisted by Nuncomar, Hastings' old enemy. Through Hastings' influence, Nuncomar was suddenly arrested on a charge of forgery, given a hasty trial, and as quickly hanged. Incensed by this act, Francis brought in a motion to impeach Hastings; it failed. Through the death of one of the opposing councillors, Hastings regained his former power. Francis challenged him to a duel, and was shot through the body. However, he was not wounded fatally.

Hastings was now master of India. He ruled as he wished. In 1775 war was declared between France and England; French troops invaded India, but Hastings was prepared for them. The French were decisively defeated in several great battles, and all their Indian possessions fell into the hands of the English. Hast-