

sion was simultaneous with another sent to Caubul, with similar views as relating to that country.

In the first instance we made no demands, but merely propositions for an intimate alliance for the purpose above mentioned.

Our propositions were met by the most striking display of jealousy, distrust, and suspicion, and by immediate endeavours on the part of Runjeet Singh to complete the subjugation of the country between the Sutlej and the Jumna, to facilitate which he endeavoured to take advantage of the presence of a British mission to his camp, and for a time succeeded in that design.

The character and the ambitious views disclosed by Runjeet Singh induced a change of policy on the part of the British Government. The expectation of making a friend of him was abandoned as vain, and it was determined to restrain him in that quarter in which he might be considered most dangerous as an enemy.

Up to this period the British Government had not resolved to take the Sikh chiefs between the Sutlej and the Jumna under its protection, neither had it ever pledged itself against doing so. Runjeet Singh had been allowed to make great strides towards the subjugation of their country without opposition on our part. All their applications for succour were neglected; and when the British mission arrived in Runjeet Singh's camp, several of the principal chiefs in question were there in compulsory attendance on him, as if he were their sovereign.

When the British Government determined to check the extension of Runjeet Singh's power towards our own frontier, the demands made were, that he should relinquish all pretensions to sovereignty over the remaining chiefs between the Sutlej and Jumna, and evacuate all conquests between these rivers made subsequently to the arrival of the British mission in his camp. He was not required to abandon the territories between the Sutlej and Jumna prior to the arrival of that