

united or steady opposition to his arms. The greater number have become companions of his Harem in order to acquire influence sufficient to ward off his blows from their own territories, and for this purpose do not scruple to guide them, and virtually aid against others. Indeed, the original causes of his obtaining any footing in the country were applications made by some of these chiefs for his assistance against others.

I take the liberty of mentioning, that all that I have said on this subject is under the supposition that it is intended to obtain the co-operation of Runjeet Singh against France by conciliation. I have, therefore, endeavoured to express and support my opinions that some such declaration as that required by the Rajah to the degree that may be thought expedient, is necessary for the purpose of conciliation; and that the withholding of that declaration, unaccompanied by actual opposition to his aggression, will hazard the loss of all that is to be gained by conciliating him, without effectually preventing the subjugation of the country between the Sutlej and the Jumna.

Having submitted my opinion that, without this concession, Runjeet Singh cannot be won by conciliation, it is my duty to state, to the best of my judgment, whether from my personal knowledge of his character, it is certain that this concession will completely attach him to the British Government, and secure his cordial co-operation against France, or whether these points will afterwards be subject to doubt.

They will always, I conceive, from the result of my personal intercourse with the Rajah, be subject to doubt. No part of his personal character presents any satisfactory assurance of cordiality, good faith, consistency, or hearty co-operation. For want of consistency and good faith he is justly notorious; my despatches will have described repeated instances of deceit and evasion; he has no regard for truth, and can descend even to the violation of solemn promises; and the whole tenor of his behaviour impresses me most strongly with the conviction of his total want of principle. In the crisis when his exertions may be required, he will, doubtless, without regard to previous