

captured Meer Cossim was commended as well suited for his station as his father-in-law, and a series of depositions, intrigues, and contests took place, in and which the East India Company, in 1751, sent Sir Calverley (now Lord) Clive, whom they considered the founder of their fortunes in the East, inasmuch as he had been the means of obtaining a footing in the country, of establishing an extensive commercial intercourse, and of directing the foreign influence of the native government, in whose hands still remained the administration of civil and criminal justice, the collection of the revenue, and the general power of internal superintendence. That the desire of the East India Company, at this period, was peace, and not conquest, is evident from the language of their numerous despatches, and if their home orders could have been followed we should now have possessed little beyond the territories of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. So early as 1768, the Court of Directors, in one of their despatches, remark, 'if we are not satisfied with the acquisition of another, till we shall find no security in the subjection of the whole, which by dividing your force would lose us the whole, and end in our extinction from Hindostan.' We utterly disapprove and condemn offensive wars, say the Court, in another despatch, Claverings, Monson, and Francis, in their discussions with Warren Hastings, ably and strenuously advocated the same principles; and it was truly remarked at the time, that it was not ambition that first tempted the East India Company to embark in these wars, — necessity led the way, and conquest had now brought them to the choice of dominion, or expulsion. Self preservation first awakened them from commerce; victory gained the great advantages enjoyed; and force now could only preserve them: the East India company had, therefore, no alternative but to be all, or nothing. Lord Clive arrived at Calcutta in May, 1765, when he learned the death of the late Nabob Meer Jaffer, the minority of his natural son, the war with, and deposition of Jaffer's son-in-law Meer Cossim, the junction of Sujah Dowlah