

British army. After this the *Anicul Polygar* ravaged the country, colonel Read having invited him back to his dominions. According to the accounts of the amildar, this gentle Hindoo has rendered 2-5ths of the whole arable lands a waste; and, from the small number of inhabitants, the beasts of prey have increased so much, that, during the two last years of the sultan's government, 80 of the inhabitants of Cancan-hully were carried away by tigers from within the walls of the fort. These have been since repaired, and the people can now sleep with safety. To keep off these destructive animals, every village in the neighbourhood is strongly fenced with a hedge of thorns. On the approach of the army under general Harris, Tippoo burned the town, and he did not allow to escape this favourable opportunity of destroying an idolatrous place of worship. He broke down the *mandapam*, or portico of the temple, and nothing remains but the gateway, and the shrine; to destroy which, probably his workmen durst not venture. Cancan-hully at present contains 200 houses. Before the invasion of lord Cornwallis there were at least 500.

We have thus endeavoured to select the most amusing and striking features in the character of the Hindoos. From which it is evident, that the separation of the inhabitants into distinct casts, constitutes an insuperable bar to civilization. Intelligence, industry, and property, are not the chief marks of distinction. 'The pride of cast is indeed,' says our author, 'that which is most prevalent with the Hindoos; and there is scarcely a creature so wretched or ignorant but who on this account holds in the utmost contempt many persons in easy circumstances, and respectable situations; for the rank of the different casts is by no means well ascertained; the only one point that is clear is, the immeasurable superiority of the Bramins above the rest of mankind.'

The jealousy that exists amongst the native princes in Hindostan, the terror inspired by the British arms, and the protection afforded from foreign invasion, have conspired to strengthen and extend the authority of the East India company over these immense and populous regions. But the