

were formed into a separate government from those of Madras, under the control of which latter named factory they had previously been. (The exactions of the Mohammedan officers) from Delhi continued to be so great and uncontrollable, that in 1686 the English chief at Hooghly came to a rupture with the Moslem commander at the same place; a battle followed between the British factory and the Nabob's troops, in which the latter were defeated with considerable loss; a Moslem battery destroyed, and eleven guns spiked. Although Capt. Nicholson, with an armed fleet of 10 merchant vessels, opportunely arrived, the Company's factors quitted Hooghly on the 20th December, 1686, as they considered it indefensible, and feared meeting the same fate as their European predecessors had done. The factors fixed their residence at Chuttanuttly village (now Calcutta) on the left bank of the Hooghly, 26 miles nearer to the sea, from which it is distant 100 miles. Here the East India Company carried on their trade until 1696, when the rebellion of Joubah Sing against the Mogul at Delhi took place; and the Dutch, French, and English at Chinsurah, Chandanagore, and Chuttanuttly (Calcutta), requested and received permission to erect defences around their factories, being the first time that the Mohammedans in Bengal had permitted Europeans to fortify their residencies.

In 1700 Azim Ushaun, Viceroy of Bengal, and grandson of Aurungzebe, being in want of treasure to dispute the succession to the Mogul throne, accepted from the East India Company a large sum of money for the township on which their factory at Chuttanuttly stood, together with the adjacent lands which were afterwards ceded. The Portuguese and Moguls having quarrelled, the latter invested Hooghly with a large army, besieged it for nearly four months, and then carried the town by assault. Thousands were put to the sword, notwithstanding their previous offer of submission; one vessel containing two thousand Portuguese was blown up by the Commander, lest it should fall into the hands of their foes; and out of 64 large ships, 57 grabs and 200 boats which were anchored off Hooghly, only one grab and two sloops were saved from the wrath of the Moslems.