

be divided into two great periods, that of the Hindu defence against the Mahomedan invasion and that of the British conquest. Of these the latter is, naturally, better known, as its events have been recorded and are set out in our histories; but as regards the former, even the main facts are largely shrouded in uncertainty, and an attempt to set out even the least conflicting statements is here impossible.

The present Madras Presidency had its start from very small beginnings. The site on which the City of Madras is built was in 1639 obtained by Francis Day, the then chief of the settlement of Armagam of the East India Co. on the Coromandel coast, from one Darmala Ventadri, and the transfer of the land to the Company was ratified by Sri Rangā Raya, the then rajah of the decaying Vijayanagar Empire. This piece of land so granted, and on which Fort St. George was erected, was a strip some six miles long and one wide, and was the first possessed by England in India. Rent was, at first, paid to the Chandrigiri Rajahs, but some years later was transferred to the Sultan of Golkonda, who invaded the Carnatic and laid siege to Fort Madras. The Maharatta invasion of Sivaji in 1677 swept by the walls of Madras, the invaders being bought off with presents; but in 1689, and again in 1701, the Moghul armies laid siege to Madras, and in the latter year the tribute hitherto nominally paid to the Sultan of Golkonda was transferred to the Nawab of the Carnatic, and from this year to the middle of the 18th century Madras was a nominal tributary of the Great Moghul.

At the commencement of the 18th century the five powers controlling the destinies of Southern India were the British, the French, the Nizam of the Deccan, the Nawab of the Carnatic and the Maharattas, the Hindu Kingdoms having, by this time, so declined in power and cohesion as to become mere catspaws of one or other of these Powers. The relation of these Powers and the subsequent complications introduced by the Mahomedan Despotism of Mysore under Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan comprise the history of the 18th century.

France, from its settlement of Pondicherry and England, from its base at Madras, assisted by one or other of the local Powers, were long engaged in a war of supremacy. In 1746, Madras was captured but given back under the treaty of Aix la Chapelle in 1748. In 1759 it was again besieged, but with the arrival of a British fleet, was saved. War was then carried into French territory, where in 1760, at Wandiwash, Lally, the French general, was defeated, and later in the year Pondicherry itself was besieged, and in January, 1761, capitulated, and with its fall the French military power in the Carnatic came to an end.

To the visitor one of the great attractions of Southern India is the number, variety and, often, beauty of its shrines and temples of every size and description. These abound everywhere from the smallest village shrine up to the magnificent productions of the ancient master craftsman covering enormous areas and which, in many instances, have acquired not only a wide sanctity but a world-wide reputation. All have their special festivals and melas or fairs, when homage is paid to the particular deity or deities concerned, or may be the images are displayed or drawn in procession in special cars and to them, on the appointed days, devotees and pilgrims attend, many from the most distant parts of India and often in immense numbers, although in the case of the more important shrines there is a constant influx of those desiring to acquire merit.

The city of Madras (pop. 518,666) is the capital of the Presidency bearing its name. It is the third largest city in India and with its suburbs extend nine miles along the Coromandel coast and three and a half miles inland. It is the seat of government in the cold season and possesses a number of fine public buildings and monuments, among

which may be mentioned its handsome Law Courts, which serve a double purpose as the light for the Madras roadstead is exhibited from the main dome of the High Court. Government House situated in a beautiful deer park and with a detached banqueting hall built during Lord Clive's government to commemorate the fall of Seringapatam, Fort St. George (the old White Town) containing extensive barracks, St. Mary's Church (built 1689 and the oldest church in India), Government Offices and the Arsenal—here, too, in Writer's Building Clive is reported to have twice attempted suicide. The Observatory, which gives standard time to all India, the Cathedral, the Government Museum, Chepauk Palace and a number of monuments, many of historic interest.

The harbour, which is an artificial one, is of considerable extent and is being continually enlarged and improved. The suburb Adyar, to the south, on a river of the same name contains some of the finest European residences and several well-known Clubs. St. Thomas Mount, eight miles from Madras, is named after the Apostle St. Thomas, who is reputed to have been the first Christian missionary and martyr in India and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Thomé is stated to be built over his remains.

Of the other towns of the Presidency, which are of importance or interest, may be mentioned Chingleput, near which are the celebrated Five Rathis (monolithic temples) and the rock sculpture of Arjunan's Penance at Seven Pagodas, the port of Cuddalore (pop. 56,574), Chidambaram (pop. 21,327) of great sanctity containing a number of beautiful temples, covering an area of some 40 acres and famous as having one of the few religious buildings in India, where both Siva and Vishnu have shrines in such close proximity that their respective followers may worship in the same place and view both deities at the same time. Tanjore (pop. 60,314) with its old forts, its valuable collection of Sanskrit manuscripts, palaces and temples, which are considered as the best specimens of the style of architecture peculiar to Southern India. The Tower of the Great Temple is 216 feet high and is surmounted by a single block of granite 25½ feet square, estimated to weigh 80 tons and stated to have been elevated to its present position by means of an inclined plane commencing at a village some four miles distant. Trichinopoly (pop. 125,512) one of the centres of the cigar industry and with its celebrated fortress with temple known as the "Rock of Trichinopoly" rising abruptly to the height of 273 feet and the scene of several battles and sieges, while in close proximity is the holy island of Srirangam with its many remarkable temples, Dindigul (pop. 25,052) also a centre of the cigar industry, Madura (pop. 134,136) the political and religious capital of Southern India from time immemorial with a collection of magnificent temples and palaces containing some of the best specimens of Indian architecture, the New Gallery or Hall of the great Temple erected in 1623-45 at, it is said, the cost of a million pounds, the port of Tuticorin (pop. 40,185), Tinnevely (pop. 44,805) like Madura of historic interest and with many temples. Conjeeveram (pop. 53,864) formerly known as Kanchi or Kanjipuram ("the golden city") full of sculptures and temples many of considerable antiquity, the great Siva Temple containing one of the five principal lingams of Southern India. Hwenh Sang, the Chinese traveller, makes Conjeeveram as old as Buddha for he states that Buddha himself converted the people. Tiruvanna-malai (pop. 21,244) with a large Siva Temple dedicated to the "Tejo" or "Fire" Lingam and containing a beautiful shrine to Ganesha and attracting to the ceremony of the "Dipam" at the annual Kirthigai festival often as many as 100,000 people with whom the rush to obtain the first view of the fire is so great that it is on'y with the most careful police protection that accidents are prevented. Vellore (pop. 49,746) with a fine fort, the scene of