

upon others are so frequent and so multiplied, that in a season of opportunity for his neighbours, he might be attacked on all sides. This, therefore, seemed to be also out of the question.

In order to accede in every practicable degree to the proposals of Runjeet Singh, I prepared an article to be produced, if occasion should require it, binding the two governments mutually to aid in the defence of their territories, provided that the causes of attack upon the territories of either party should have proceeded from circumstances which had taken place in concert; further stipulating, that if either party should undertake any measures without the advice and concurrence of the other, it should not be entitled to call for aid to defend itself against any hostilities that might result from such measures. This article has never been communicated to the Rajah, because, in fact, he has never applied for a defensive alliance; but it contained the utmost that I conceived myself authorised to assent to.

I should have made a point of ascertaining the Rajah's real motives and objects in this proposal previously to this reference, but his impatience to move from Miterkote, and his general habit of evasion and delay, prevented any final and clear proposition on the subject. From the language of all the communications received from him, and from his not stating any objections to the draft which I transmitted to him on this point, I conclude that an engagement of strict friendship with him would satisfy him. The advantage which he proposes to derive from such a treaty is probably that of strengthening his power by the notoriety of the existence of these engagements between the British Government and him.

Second. The acknowledgment of his sovereignty over the whole Sikh country, or an engagement not to oppose his aggressions against the independent Sikh chiefs, and not to assist at any time any Sikh chief against him;—

This is the great object of his views, and the principal motive of this reference. The subject has been brought to the notice