

Hindustan was ruled by viceroys or soubahs, with power delegated from Delhi, but in this year Fakher ud Deen revolted and erected Bengal into an independent kingdom, governed by Mussulman kings. Thus it continued, and in a terrible state of anarchy, until re-conquered by the Emperor Acbar's army in 1576, and re-erected into a soubah or vice-royalty of Delhi. From 1576 to 1632, seventeen viceroys held sway in Bengal, collecting the revenues of the country, administering justice, and remitting to the Imperial Treasury the balance of the taxes left after defraying the expenses of the Government. When the power of the Mahomedan Princes at Delhi was on the wane, the English appeared in Bengal as traders, subsequently as Soubah, or, as it was termed, Dewan (steward) of Bengal for the Mogul Emperor, and finally as rulers not merely of Bengal, but of Delhi itself and the whole peninsula of Hindostan! The mode in which the British acquired territorial supremacy was as follows:—The Moslems had held sway in Lower Bengal for four centuries, when in 1632, A.D. the Mogul Emperor, Shah Jehan, granted permission to the English to trade and establish a factory at Piply, a sea-port in Orissa, the principal resort of European merchants, there being no other port to which they were then admitted.

In 1636, owing to the skill of an English doctor (Boughton) the East India Company received the Mogul's or Emperor of Delhi's sanction to locate themselves on the right bank of the river Hooghly (one of the branches of the Ganges, lat. 22.54. N., long. 88.28. E.), along the banks of which river the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and Danes had previously erected factories within ten miles of each other, viz. at Hooghly, Chinnurah, Chandernagore, and Serampore. The East India Company subsequently formed factories at Colimbar on the same river (lat. 24.10. N., long. 88.15. E.), and at Patna on the Ganges (lat. 25.37. N., long. 85.15. E.). In 1681 the Bengal factories, still merely trading concerns, District of Midnapoor, 28 miles E.N.E. from Balasore, lat. 21.49. N. long. 87.30. E. Now almost washed away, and scarcely to be discovered.