

convicted of the national advantages, resulting from the incorporation of the East India Company. The subscribed capital of the Company then amounted to £730,782. Charles II. granted a new Charter with ample privileges in 1661. In 1665 the Company commenced a trade with China, and among the orders to their factor at Bantam in 1667, was "100 lb. weight of the best tea he could get." As the territorial conquests and acquisitions of the East India Company had now commenced, it will be necessary to detail briefly the history of passing events, merely promising that the East India Company's Charter was confirmed by Charles II. in 1677, again in 1683, and subsequently by James II. In 1686 a new Company was formed by dint of shameful bribery and corruption, the Duke of Leeds was impeached, and the project fell to the ground. Government being in want of £2,000,000, the avaricious ministers established a rival joint stock company in 1698; the rivalry was productive of serious injury to both Companies, and to the nation at large, and under Lord Godolphin's arbitration an union took place in 1702, since which period, as will be seen by the following history, the principal conquests in India have been made.

BENGAL PRESIDENCY—ITS CONQUEST AND FORMATION.

The British territories under the Presidency of Bengal are divided into the *Lower*, or permanently settled, and the *Upper*, or western provinces. Lower Bengal is situated towards the eastern part of Hindostan between the 21st and 27° N. lat., being three hundred and fifty miles long, with an average breadth of three hundred miles; the distinct language and peculiar written character of its people is the chief test of its boundaries and antiquity. Hamilton says, that at the time of the war of the Mahabarata, Bengal formed part of the Magadha or Bahar, and that it was dismembered before the Mahomedan invasion of Hindostan. In 1203 A.D. Cuttub ud Dheen, then on the Mahomedan throne of Delhi, sent an army and conquered Bengal, and until 1340 this granary of