

receiving it, makes a considerable present to the Rajah. This country is then left unmolested for the sake of the chief to whom it has been given, and the Rajah's arms are turned towards a new conquest. Unless a complete change should take place in his system, he must continue to invade new countries, otherwise he will not be able to support his army, although he has only to provide money for his infantry, part of his artillery, and extraordinary levies of troops.

It is almost incredible, yet it is asserted, that he has scarcely any regular revenue from his country. I have heard of one district which is rented for sixty thousand rupees per annum, and there may, and probably must be, some other under similar circumstances; yet the instance was mentioned as an exception to the general state of the country, which is, for the most part, held in Jaidee for the maintenance of troops, or subject to subordinate chiefs. Runjeet Singh is in consequence free from the trouble and expense of civil government, and always at leisure to put himself at the head of his army.

For the support of the army on a campaign, it is his custom to take the field at those seasons when the crops are sufficiently advanced to afford nourishment to the cavalry and cattle. One season is in September and October, and the other in February and March. The horses and cattle have no other food than what is obtained from the country. I am informed that he quits the field as soon as the crops are gathered; the time is approaching, and I shall probably have an opportunity of ascertaining whether this account is true or not.

His troops in general take the field prepared only for a short campaign, and have no relish for a long one. They wish soon to return to their home, and when the sum which they had brought from their villages for their disbursement is expended, they quit the army. Many withdrew when Runjeet Singh marched from Kussoor, and more when he directed his march towards the desert. The chiefs in particular are disgusted at being dragged from their domains to follow him on