

To retreat from this aggression. In August, 1756, the alarming state of the East India Company's affairs at Calcutta reached Madras; and Lieutenant Colonel Clive, who had just returned from Europe as Deputy Governor of Fort St. David, threw his prompt and energetic councils into the Madras Government, for the purpose of re-establishing the East India Company's Factory at Calcutta, and avenging the sanguinary deed of Surajee ud Dowlah. After considerable deliberation, the advice of Clive for the assumption of British power in Bengal was followed; and he was nominated to command the force destined for the perilous purpose. The armament consisting of 900 Europeans and 1500 Sepoy troops, and a small squadron, comprising of the *Kent* of 64 guns, *Conterbuhl* of 70, *Tiger* of 60, *Salisbury* of 50, and the *Bridgewater* of 30, under the command of Sirs (Admirals) Watson and Pocock, sailed from Madras, 16th October, 1756; and with the exception of the *Cumberland* of 50 guns (with the flag of Admiral Pocock) which grounded on the sandheads off Bangur, and subsequently bore up for Vingspatam, anchored in the river Hooghly, off Fulta, 20 miles S. S. W. from Calcutta, 15th November, where the remnant of the British Factory was found. The fort of Mayapore was taken 28th April; the Governor of Calcutta (Monckton) attempted to make a stand near the fort of Budge Budge, ten miles S. S. W. of Calcutta, with 2000 foot, and 1500 horse, but, having been surprised and routed, he retired to the fort. This extraordinary individual, who influenced so powerfully the fate of the British Empire in the East, was the son of a country gentleman of ancient family, but of small estate, at Styche, in Shropshire, and born on the 29th of September, 1725; his father practised the profession of the law at Market Drayton, which young Robert Clive was first destined to follow, but not his daring disposition induced his father to accept for him the offer of a writership in India, from the duties of which he was now roused by the French bombardment of Madras in September, 1746; after serving with wonderful intrepidity as a volunteer in several actions, Clive solicited and obtained the appointment of ensign in 1747, and lieutenant in 1749. How Clive escaped unhurt from all the perilous achievements in which he was engaged, is, indeed, a matter of astonishment. Lord Clive died in his 50th year.