

ings' next encounter was with the great Hyder Ali, the founder of the Mohammedan kingdom of Mysore, and the most formidable enemy with whom the English conquerors of India have ever had to contend. Being provoked by the English, he invaded their territory with a well-disciplined army of 90,000 men. In a comparatively short time, only a few fortified places remained in the hands of the English. At this critical moment, Hastings sent Sir Eyre Coote to oppose him. The progress of Hyder Ali was arrested, and he was completely defeated in the hotly contested battle of Porto Novo. The British dominion in Asia was saved.

Once again the directors desired more money. This time Hastings chose to obtain it from Cheyte Sing, Raja, of Benares. Cheyte Sing bribed him with 20,000 pounds. Hastings took the money, but later gave it into the Company's treasury, owing to the great outcry that was raised against him. Hastings then pursued Cheyte Sing with great vigor, and soon his treasures were gathered into the Company's treasury, and Benares became an English possession. Disappointed in his expectations from Benares, Hastings was more violent than he otherwise would have been in his dealings with Oude. On one pretext or another, he extorted large sums of money from him. Finally, he caused the mother of Oude and her confidential servants to be well-nigh starved to death, until he had obtained twelve hundred thousand pounds from them.

In 1785, Hastings retired from office, and returned to England. The King treated him with marked distinction. Many of his acts in India were now discussed in Parliament. His ancient enemy, Phillip Francis, occupied a seat in Parliament. As soon as possible, a motion was brought in for the impeachment of Warren Hastings. The great orators of England were ranged against him. Burke, Pitt, Sheridan and Fox denounced his Indian administration in scathing terms. However, Pitt decided not to bring the trial to a finish for a few years, since he had favored Hastings at the outset. Eight years after the beginning of the trial, that is in 1795, Hastings was acquitted.

He spent the remainder of his life on his estate at Daylesforth, living on the bounty of the East India Company. Seventy years before this estate had been alienated from his family. Even from his youngest days he cherished the idea of purchasing and refitting Daylesford. In 1787, his life-long ambition was at length satisfied. During the remainder of his life, he spent his time reading Persian literature, riding high-bred Arabian horses,