

mission, nor to reinstate chiefs previously dispossessed; but it was demanded that he should not send any army to the left bank of the Sutlej, and that he should not retain in his possessions in that quarter more troops than might be indispensable for internal duties. It was at the same time intimated to him that we intended to establish a post at Loodhiana, and take the chiefs and the country under our protection.

These demands were disputed by Runjeet Singh, on the ground that he had spent blood and treasure in achieving the conquest of the country between the Sutlej and the Jumna for several years, during which we had virtually acknowledged his right by our abstinence from remonstrance or complaint. He admitted that at the termination of the Mahratta war, if we had planted a post at Loodhiana, he should have acknowledged our right to do so as the successors of the Mahratta power; but he denied our right to revive at pleasure an obsolete claim, which he had satisfied himself, from our conduct, we had entirely relinquished.

The final settlement was the entire accomplishment of our demands; to which Runjeet Singh prudently yielded after a long struggle in negotiation, and every preparation for resistance.

That settlement, either expressly or by implication, restrained the British Government from interfering with Runjeet Singh's dominions, subjects, and dependants beyond the Sutlej. I do not recollect that it imposed any other restraint on the extension of the power of the British Government, but I must beg leave to refer to the treaty concluded at the termination of the negotiation.

No one of Mr. Metcalfe's despatches comprehended a general view of the negotiation and settlement. His despatches from first to last reported the rise, progress, and termination of the negotiation, and related almost exclusively to that subject.

The advantages of having the Sutlej instead of the Jumna for our boundary in that direction were considered to be many: first, as acquiring an addition of power and influence for our-