



CSL

## EARLY HISTORY OF RUNJEET SING.

“Immortals,” and complimented the envoy on the bravery of his small band of followers. He saw, however, in this incident enough to convince him that an army disciplined as these men were, was not to be assailed with any hope of success by his own wild troops, and he gave up for a time his cherished design of measuring his strength with that of his haughty neighbours. Having thus learned the value of discipline, he was seized with the desire to possess a disciplined army, and as is well known, was not content with idly desiring it, but using all means available for effecting his purpose, at length saw himself at the head of a force such as no eastern power had ever before possessed, and with which he hoped when the opportunity occurred to be able to battle with the British for the sovereignty of Hindostan.

In 1818 Run'eet Sing made himself master of Moulton and soon afterwards of Peshawar. In the following year he conquered Cashmere and annexed it to his already extensive dominions. The following account of the fate of the man who was the immediate agent of these and his other conquests will serve to illustrate some curious points in the character of the Maharajh.

While Runjeet was engaged in the conquest of the Hazareh, Chotah, and Gundeghur districts; he found Mahomed Khan, the chief of Goolzeree, a much more powerful and obstinate enemy than any other of the chiefs around him. For this reason he deputed Misser Dewan Chund, the commander of his troops, to visit the chief and endeavour to bring him to terms by making many fair promises. But the Misser when he went on this embassy was not aware that Runjeet's only object was to get Mahomed Khan into his power, when he could do whatever he pleased with him. He therefore exerted all his powers of persuasion to induce the Mussulman chief to accompany him to his master's camp near Rawul Pindee, and he finally succeeded in his purpose. Runjeet at first treated