



however persevered in their attempts to procure the release of Buddur-odeen for nearly a month, when finding their representations and entreaties of no effect they determined to resort to other means. They deputed one of their number to wait upon Runjeet Sing, the young chief of the Sukerchuckia Missall, who then was at Russoolnuggur, otherwise Ramnuggur, on the Chinaub, for the purpose of inviting him to come and occupy Lahore, assuring him that all that they required was his presence there, as they themselves would do all that was necessary for securing their object. They also sent a similar message to his mother-in-law, the widow Suda Kour, inviting her to aid and join the enterprise. Nothing could have pleased Runjeet better than the project thus proposed to him, as his ambition was already boundless. He therefore immediately got together such a force of horse and foot as he could muster on an emergency; and being joined by numbers of straggling Seiks, Akalces, and Mujbees, he at once set out for Umritsir, on the pretence of going there as usual to bathe and perform his devotions at the holy shrine. His real object, however, was to obtain the counsel and aid of his mother-in-law, who being fully as ambitious as himself, willingly gave him both encouragement and assistance, and even the sanction of her own presence and company. Thus re-inforced, Runjeet at the head of about five thousand men, most of whom, however, were but stragglers, proceeded at one march from Umritsir to the Shalimar Gardens near Lahore. Here he was met by Meea Ashuk and Meer Mokun-ood-deen, who informed him that they had provided all that was necessary to secure his easy entrance into and capture of the city. They told him further that for this purpose they had made a large breach in the wall betwixt the Kidderee and Yakkee Gates. But Runjeet, either suspicious of treachery or disdaining to enter the city in such a manner, determined not to pass through the breach which had been made for his convenience. It was there-

*The offer
was by
Ranjit*

phdigan