

losses by re-enforcement, the Mussulmans were literally washed out of the country. Their invasion never brought them any farther than Gauhati, which place they held for a comparatively short time.

Thus, in 1695, when Rudra Sing, the greatest of the Ahom kings, ascended the throne, his dominion was over all of the Assam Valley so far as it was inhabited. He had even succeeded in bringing many of the hill tribes under his sway. During the reign of his descendant, Gaurinath Sing, a formidable uprising took place within the Ahom kingdom which threatened to wreck the country and which finally led to its downfall. The Moarmarias,\* a religious sect, had made several uprisings during previous reigns. Gaurinath was a bitter enemy of the Moarmarias and lost no opportunity to oppress them. He had, however, not properly estimated their strength, and after a number of engagements with them, he was forced to apply to a Mr. Rausch, a salt farmer at Goalpara, for help. Mr. Rausch sent seven hundred sepoy to aid him, but they were cut to pieces.<sup>3</sup> The Rajah of Manipur also sent an armed force to Gaurinath's assistance, but they also were defeated. In the meantime, the King of Darang, Krishna Marayan, took advantage of Gaurinath's distress and marched on Gauhati where Gaurinath was located at the time.

Gaurinath again applied to Mr. Rausch and at the same time sent a deputation to Calcutta asking for help. At the close of 1792, the British government sent a detachment under the command of Captain Welsh to assist Gaurinath. Captain Welsh defeated Krishna Marayan, put down the Moarmarias insurrection, and reduced the whole valley to obedience. Cap-

\* *Moar* is a kind of fish, and *mara* means to kill or catch; hence, moarmarias, a fisherman socio-religious sect or cult.

tain Welsh was recalled, however, in 1794, and a few months later Gaurinath died. He was succeeded by his son Komalswar Singh, who was a mere puppet in the hands of the minister and died in 1809.

Komalswar was in turn followed by his brother Chandra Kanto Singh. He quarrelled with his prime minister, the Bura Gohain.\* The young king applied to the Burmese for help on the ground that Bura Gohain had usurped the king's authority. The Burmese utterly overwhelmed the Assamese troops led by Bura Gohain, and then retired. The quarrel was renewed, however, and the Bura Gohain was killed, or as some believe, committed suicide by swallowing diamonds. His son then became Bura Gohain who immediately dethroned Chandra Kanto, and in order to disqualify him for the throne split his ears and put Purandar Singh on the throne instead. Chandra Kanto, however, again applied to the Burmese for help, and Purandar Singh realizing his own inferior fighting power, applied to the British government for assistance; but as it was the policy of the British government to interfere with the ruling tribal kings as little as possible, he was refused aid and consequently was defeated. The Burmese then came into power and placed Chandra Kanto on the throne as a nominal ruler. He soon quarreled with the Burmese, however, and was expelled.

At this juncture matters had come to a crisis between Burma and the British government, and on March, 1824, war was declared with Burma.<sup>5</sup> The British forces entered Assam via the Brahmaputra, with a gunboat flotilla, conquered the valley as far as Kolia-bar, and during the next cold season completed their subjection of the rest. On February 24, 1826, the Bur-

\* He was the regent, as the king was merely a boy.