

went northwards, and quarrelled with Salabat Jang, Shaikh Ibrâhîm *alias* Ibrâhîm 'Alî Khân who accompanied M. Bussy, secretly helped Salabat Jang. M. Bussy disapproved this conduct of Shaikh Ibrâhîm, who besides sought shelter with a Telugu Vellâla zamindar called Ranga Râo, owning the zamin of Bobbili with a killa, about 50 miles north-west of Chicacole yielding 3 lakhs, and gave him a naubat, etc., and also made friend with Vijayarâma Râjâ. M. Bussy therefore marched against this man with 2,000 soldiers, 10,000 sepoy, guns and other munitions of war; and with Saiyid-ullah Khân, Haidar Jang (son of J'afar 'Alî Khân) some sardârs, 2,000 horse and 40,000 foot who had joined him from Ellore and Rajahmundry. They camped at Kasimkota. Vijayarâma Râjâ of Vizianagar about 50 miles north of Kasimkota hearing of the advance of M. Bussy, wished to see him. But before setting out he sent word secretly to Ibrâhîm 'Alî Khân at Bobbili that, as M. Bussy, the protector of all, was coming, it would therefore be improper to help him and that he should therefore depart. Having thus sent word he set out with his followers and went to Kasimkota where he had an interview with M. Bussy. Zamindar Ranga Râo who was in the fort of Bobbili also sent word to Shaikh Ibrâhîm that, as M. Bussy their protector was coming, he

must leave the country, otherwise he would be in danger. Thereon Shaikh Ibrâhîm left Bobbili and hid himself in a distant place. Now Vijayarâma Râjâ had a grudge against Ranga Râo of Bobbili, as for a long time the latter had not shown him due respect; so Vijayarâma Râjâ resolved to join M. Bussy, and with him to seize the Bobbili fort and country and kill Ranga Râo. With this object, he encouraged M. Bussy to take the fort and country. M. Bussy agreed. Vijayarâma Râjâ therefore marched with an army of 2,000 horse, 40,000 foot, 8,000 artillery, with his sardârs, 40 elephants, guns and munitions of war. The combined armies marched by way of Chicacole to attack Bobbili about 100 miles away and encamped near the fort. Negotiations were begun with Ranga Râo; but as he would not come to an agreement, M. Bussy marched with a small army to attack the fort; about 5,000 of Ranga Râo's picked men came out and fought so boldly with M. Bussy's men that the latter could not stand, but retreated. Vijayarâma Râjâ, ill-brooking this retreat, mounted on his elephant, and having advanced with his army, beat off Ranga Râo's people, approached the fort, crossed the ditch by filling it with bundles of straw, and scaled the walls, while M. Bussy's men scaled the walls from the other side, after a severe fight in which 18

officers, 200 soldiers, 2,000 foot and 1,000 artillery people on M. Bussy's side, and sepoy, guards, Carnatic infantry sardârs—5,000 in all—on the side of the Râjâ—8,000 or 9,000 on both sides—perished, and the ditch ran red with blood. When the fort had been captured, M. Bussy warned Vijayarâma Râjâ that he would be making an enemy if he left a single child alive in the fort. The Râjâ gave orders accordingly as is the European custom, and directed all in the fort, the troops and even women with child should be slain; and thus men, women and even pregnant women and children in the fort—10,000 in number—were killed, including Ranga Râo himself, but his younger brother who was severely wounded survived. Vijayarâma Râjâ recommended M. Bussy to allow his wounds to be dressed. He was therefore removed to a tent for treatment and, in token of victory, the French flag was hoisted on the fort, the naubat was beaten, sugar was distributed to the army, and festivities were held. But after Vijayarâma Râjâ and M. Bussy had retired to their respective tents, one of Ranga Râo's people who had escaped, went to Vijayarâma Râjâ's tent in order to put him to death, and telling the chowkidars that Ranga Râo's younger brother had refused to have his wounds dressed, desired them to tell Vijayarâma Râjâ the

news. The chowkidars did so. Vijayarâma Râjâ then ordered the man who had brought the news to be brought. The guards admitted him, after searching him for weapons; but they did not find a folding knife which he took with him into the Râjâ's presence. He then announced that he bore a secret message, and, being allowed to approach, he ripped up the Râjâ's belly with his knife, so tearing the intestines that he died. Immediately the treacherous man was killed. M. Bussy in great grief wrote this sad news to Ânanda Râjâ, *alias* Jagapati Râjâ, the son of Vijayarâma Râjâ's elder brother at Vizianagar desiring him to come, and on the news Vijayarâma Râjâ's second wife threw herself down a well and perished, while the first wife had to be guarded by those near her. When Jagapati Râjâ visited M. Bussy, the latter consoled him with kind words, saying, 'As this was the will of God, do not fear. The Bobbili fort taken by your father shall be yours together with country yielding two lakhs.' So saying he installed him on the throne, and his people are said to be there.

This Vijayarâma Râjâ was born in the year *Sarvadhâri*, and in this year, *Dhâthu*, he completed his 49th year. His father's name was Ânanda Râjâ and they belong to the solar line of kings. Vijayarâma Râjâ was made