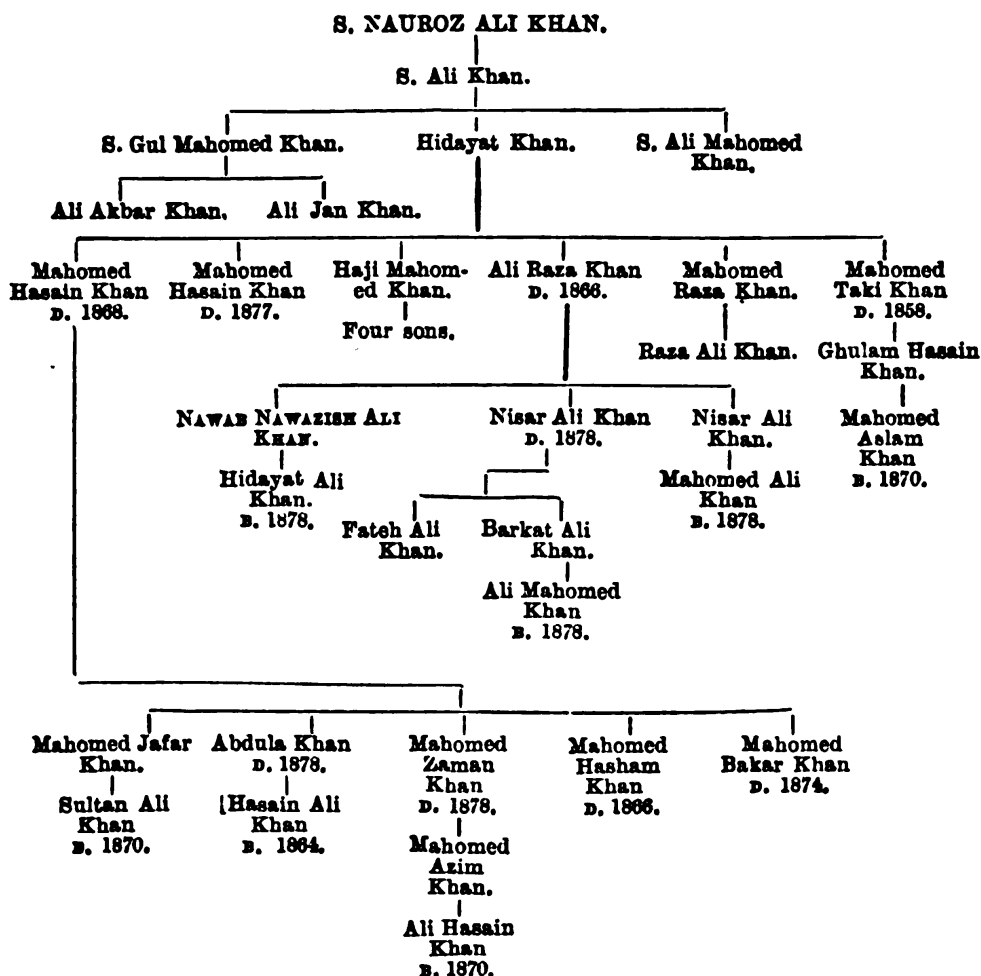


NAWAB SIR NAWAZISH ALI KHAN, K.C.I.E.



Sardar Ali Khan, the grandfather of Ali Raza Khan, was the first to leave the province of Sherwan, on the west coast of the Caspian (now part of the Russian territories), where for many generations his family, Turks of the Kazalbash tribe, had resided and exercised authority. When Nadar Shah, having driven out the Ghiljis and taken possession of Khurasan, prepared to march to India in 1738, he took with him Ali Khan and other Kazalbash nobles, who he feared in his absence might excite disturbances.

Ali Khan served throughout the campaign, and on his return from India he was appointed by Nadar Shah Governor of Kandahar, and other Kazalbash nobles received com-

mands in Kabul and Peshawar, much to the advantage of the kingdom of Persia, which, freed from these turbulent Chiefs, enjoyed peace for eight years, till the assassination of Nadar Shah and the rise to power of Ahmad Shah Durani. The new Prince was crowned at Kandahar in 1747, and, although he thoroughly distrusted the Kazalbash faction, yet he was not strong enough to oppose it, and was compelled to give to its principal Chiefs jagirs and military commands.

Ali Khan obtained the district of Hazara, north of Kandahar, and with a strong force reduced the country around, to the neighbourhood of Hirat itself. He accompanied Ahmad Shah on his last invasion of India, in 1760, and shared in the great victory of Panipat, which broke the Mahrata power. The bravery and influence of Ali Khan during this campaign excited the jealousy of Ahmad Shah, who on his return to Afghanistan tried to deprive him of his estates and command; but Ali Khan held his own successfully against open force, and Ahmad Shah was at length compelled to bribe some of his attendants, who assassinated him in 1770. The eldest of the sons, Gul Mahomed Khan, was but six years of age at his father's death, and the district fell into great confusion. The widow of Ali Khan contrived to maintain her authority for some years; but at last the district was divided into several independent and hostile Chiefships, only united in their hatred of Timur Shah, who had succeeded Ahmad Shah on the throne of Kabul. When the sons of Ali Khan grew up, they recovered by force of arms a large portion of their family estate, and Timur Shah, thinking it well to conciliate them, summoned Gul Mahomed Khan to Kandahar, where he received him with honour and conferred on him the title of Sardar.

Hidayat Khan, father of Ali Raza Khan, accompanied Shah Zaman to Lahore in 1797, where he remained for some months. On his return to Kabul he exchanged estates with

Asad Khan, brother of the Amir Dost Mahomed Khan. In 1813 Ali Mahomed Khan, the youngest brother, with four thousand troops, accompanied Wazir Fateh Khan and his brother Mahomed Azim Khan in their successful expedition against Kashmir, and received there a high military command, which he held for about eight years, when, returning to Kabul, he obtained joint possession, with Hidayat Khan, of the family estate, and died in 1835 leaving two sons, Ali Akbar Khan and Ali Jan Khan. The elder son soon after died, and Ali Jan Khan succeeded to his father's share of the estate, which he still holds in Kabul.

Hidayat Khan died in 1836 leaving six sons, of whom the eldest, Mahomed Hasan Khan, served under the order of Wazir Fateh Mahomed Khan at Hirat; and when his master's eyes had been put out by Prince Kamran he escorted Khandal Khan and Sherdil Khan to Kandahar, where he remained for some years, and later went with his uncle to Kashmir. On his return to Kabul he resided with his brother Ali Raza Khan, and did good service to the British Government during the first Afghanistan campaign. Mahomed Hasan Khan, the second brother, was in great favour with Mahomed Azim Khan, and held a high appointment under him in Kashmir. After Azim Khan's death, Hasan Khan returned to Kabul, and took service with Dost Mahomed Khan. In 1844 he went on pilgrimage to the holy places in Arabia, where he lived for some years. He is now living in Kabul. The third brother is Haji Mahomed Khan, who was Minister of Habib ula Khan, the Ruler of Kabul between the death of Azim Khan and the accession of Dost Mahomed. On the accession of that Prince he retired to Mecca, and on his return took up his abode with Ali Raza Khan, with whom he still resides.

Ali Raza Khan had always lived on his hereditary estate, which was of the description called in Afghanistan

'Zarkharid' hereditary, but subject to military service. When the British army, with Shah Shuja, first entered Kabul in 1839, Ali Raza Khan, being possessed of great influence in the city, was appointed chief Agent of the Commissariat Department. His conduct in this office was unexceptionable, and he never failed in any engagement to supply grain or carriage. When the British cantonment was besieged by the insurgents, he remained firm to English interests, and kept the troops supplied with food and clothing. When the British officers and ladies were taken prisoners, Ali Raza Khan made the greatest exertions to alleviate their sufferings and obtain their liberation. He paid to their keeper, Mahomed Shah Khan Ghilzai, five hundred rupees a month, besides bribing the subordinate officers to induce them to treat the prisoners well, and to allow his servants to convey to them clothes, money and provisions. Nor did his humanity end here. He ransomed and saved from slavery nearly one hundred Hindustani sepoys, and kept them secretly in his own house till the second British army entered Kabul.

When Mahomed Akbar Khan had sent off the prisoners to Khulm by way of Hazara and Bamian, Ali Raza Khan, who possessed great hereditary influence in that country, persuaded and bribed the Hazara Chiefs not to allow the captives to be conveyed to the hills, and he also sent his agent Murtaza Shah, with a large sum of money, to attempt to win over Saleh Mahomed Khan, who was in command of the escort. It was by his influence and by a lavish expenditure of his money that the captives were enabled to make their escape and join the relieving army of General Pollock. When Akbar Khan advanced to attack that General, Ali Raza Khan won over the Kazalbash Chiefs to the side of the British, and they accordingly deserted Akbar Khan before the battle; and after his defeat their hostility made him fear to return to Kabul, and accordingly he fled through the hill country to Turkistan.

On the retreat of the British forces to India, Ali Raza Khan accompanied them. His conduct had excited the bitter hatred of Mahomed Akbar Khan and the Barakzais, and his life was no longer safe in Kabul. His estates (worth three lakhs of rupees) were confiscated, his houses razed to the ground, and with their materials Akbar Khan built two houses for himself.

Such is the dry detail of services the most disinterested, noble and chivalrous, performed by Ali Raza Khan. At the greatest personal risk, with the loss of his wealth, position and hereditary estates, Ali Raza Khan stood bravely and alone in defence of the side to which he had promised allegiance. But he and his family have done good service to the English Government in India as well as in Afghanistan. During the Satlaj campaign he joined the British camp with his brothers and sixty horsemen of his tribe, many members of which had shared his exile and fought in the battles of Mudki, Firozshahar and Sobraon, where four of his sowars were killed. He accompanied Major H. Lawrence to Kangra and Kashmir in 1846, and during the rebellion of 1848-49 furnished one hundred horsemen under the command of his sister's son, Sher Mahomed, for active service. In June 1857, when our need was greatest, Ali Raza Khan volunteered to raise a troop of horse for service before Delhi. This he did and, his own presence being desired at Lahore, he sent them under the command of his brothers Mahomed Raza Khan and Mahomed Taki Khan. In raising this force he did not, at a time when the Government was in want of every procurable rupee, apply for any pecuniary assistance. At his own expense, and by the mortgage of his house and property in Lahore, he equipped the troop and sent with it, besides his brother, his nephews Abdula Khan, Mahomed Hasan Khan, Mahomed Zaman Khan, Ghulam Hasan Khan and Sher Mahomed Khan. Forming part of the celebrated "Hodson's Horse," the troop raised by Ali Raza Khan served

throughout the campaign wherever that gallant corps was sent, and its gallantry was ever conspicuous.

At Khasniganj, Mahomed Taki Khan was slain, fighting bravely, after several mutineers had fallen by his hand. Mahomed Raza Khan, the second brother of Ali Raza Khan, was among the bravest in his fearless regiment. He was twice wounded at Malu and Shamsabad, and had two horses shot under him; and in every place where blows were thickest, there was the gallant Mahomed Raza Khan to be found. After the campaign he received the first-class Order of Merit, the title of Sardar Bahadar, and the grant of his pension of Rs. 200 in perpetuity. He died at Lucknow, whither he had gone on leave, shortly afterwards.

Ali Raza Khan was an Honorary Magistrate of Lahore, justly possessing great influence in the city; influence which he has always used for good. After his retirement from Kabul he received a pension of Rs. 800 per mensem, and his brother Mahomed Raza Khan Rs. 200 per mensem. After the mutinies he received a grant of a talukdari of one hundred and forty-seven villages in Baraich, Oudh, worth Rs. 15,000 per annum. He also received the title of Khan Bahadar; and his nephews, above-mentioned, who served so well during the mutinies, the title of Sardar Bahadar. He was created a Nawab in 1864, two years before his death.

Ali Raza Khan had three sons, the eldest of whom, Nawazish Ali Khan, was with Major G. Lawrence at Peshawar when the Sikh troops mutinied in 1848. He remained with that officer to the last, and his fidelity cost him his house and property at Peshawar. The third son, Nasar Ali Khan, is in charge of the Oudh estate. He has there been created an Honorary Assistant Commissioner, and his conduct has given complete satisfaction to the authorities.

The title of Nawab passed to his son Nawazish Ali Khan, the present holder, on the death of Ali Raza Khan in 1866.

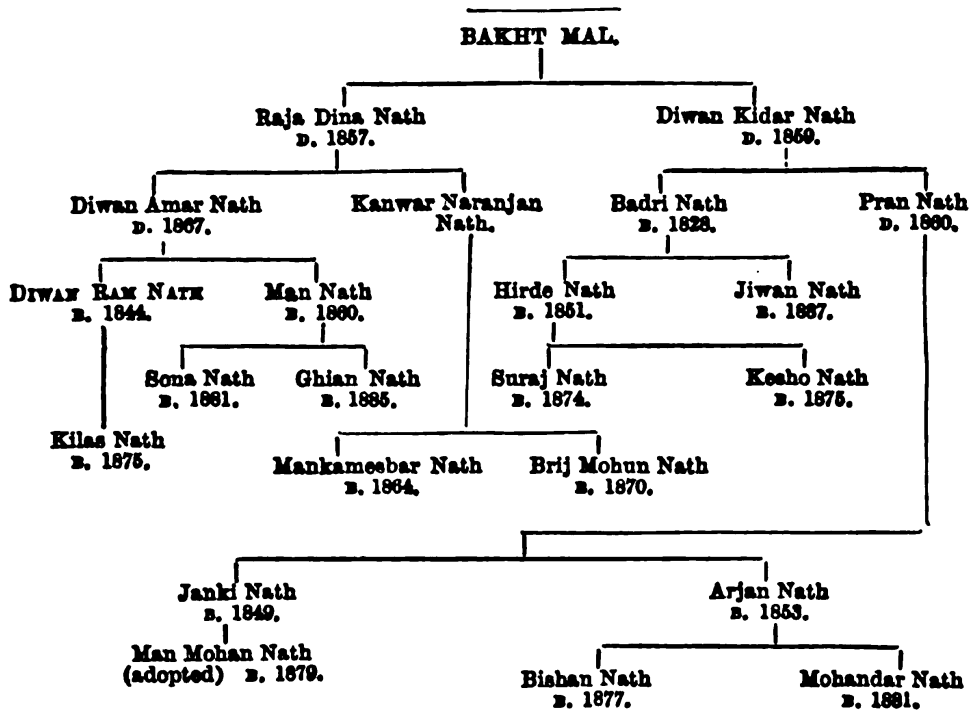
This gentleman has proved himself a worthy successor to his father. He has devoted his whole life to public interests and has earned for himself in these days of peace and tranquillity a name that stands high on the list of Panjab nobles for honour and integrity. He was appointed an Honorary Assistant Commissioner in 1877. He has held the appointment of President of the Lahore Municipal Committee for three years. In 1885 the Companionship of the Indian Empire was conferred upon him, and three years later he was created a Knight of the same Order. He was nominated an Additional Member of the Legislative Council in 1887, and one year earlier he received, as a grant from Government, the proprietary rights in Razh Taliana, Lahore.

Thus, for fifty years Ali Raza Khan and his family have served the British Government with a devotion which has been as perfect as it has been disinterested. He was not by birth a British subject; but it would be difficult throughout Hindustan to find a family, however bound to the English Government by gratitude or duty, which has, for its sake, risked so nobly and disinterestedly life and everything that can make life desirable. As long as the first Kabul campaign, with the greatest disaster that ever befel the British arms, is remembered; as long as the sorrows and the glories of 1857 are household words amongst us—so long should the name of Ali Raza Khan and his gallant family be remembered by all true Englishmen with gratitude and esteem.

NOTE.—The Kazalbash still possess great influence in Kabul, where they number some 8,000 or 10,000. They inhabit a separate quarter to the south-west of the city, strongly fortified, known by the name of Chandol. The present Minister in Kabul (Mustaufi) is a Kazalbash; the chief offices are filled by members of the tribe; and the mother of Dost Mahomed himself was a lady of this tribe. The Shah of Persia is said to be now intriguing with the Kazalbash faction to weaken the Kabul Government.—(GRIFFIN—1864.)

Kazalbash قزل باش or 'red-head' is of Turki derivation, and by some is said to have arisen from the red caps worn by the captives given to Shekh Haidar by Tamarlans. D'Herbelot, however, in his *Bibliothèque Orientale*, published in 1887, states that the name originated with Ismail, founder of a line of kings who reigned in Persia from 907 A. H., who commanded his soldiers to wear a red cap, around which a turban of twelve folds was bound in honour and in remembrance of the twelve Imams, the successors of Ali, from whom he professed to have descended.

DIWAN RAM NATH.



Among the men who rose to power during the latter days of the Sikh empire, the most remarkable was Raja Dina Nath. He has been well and happily styled the Talleyrand of the Panjab, and his life and character bear a strong resemblance to those of the European Statesman. Revolutions, in which his friends and patrons perished, passed him by; dynasties rose and fell, but never involved him in their ruin; in the midst of bloodshed and assassination, his life was never endangered; while confiscation and judicial robbery were the rule of the State, his wealth and power continually increased. His sagacity and far-sightedness were such, that when, to other eyes, the political sky was clear, he could perceive the signs of a coming storm, which warned him to desert a losing party or a falling friend. Honest men do not survive many revolutions, and the Raja's falseness was the measure of his success. He was patriotic, but his love of country was subordinate to his love of self. He hated the English with a bitter hatred, for they were stronger than he or his country;

but his interests compelled him to serve, like Samson, the Philistines he hated. He was not without his own notions of fidelity, and would stand by a friend as long as he could do so with safety to himself. Even when he deserted him, it was more from fear of danger to his wealth and influence than from personal fear, for Raja Dina Nath was physically brave, and also possessed, in an eminent degree, moral courage, though it did not lead him to do right, regardless of consequences. As a financier, the policy of the Raja was intelligent and liberal, and he readily appreciated the advantages of the new system of taxation introduced by the English. He possessed immense local knowledge, and as vast a capacity for work; though, from his desire of keeping power in his own hands, he sometimes retarded instead of advancing business. He was an accomplished man of the world, courteous and considerate; well educated, though nothing of a scholar; and in conversation with Europeans, he would express himself with a boldness and apparent candour, that were as pleasant as they are unusual in Asiatics.

Raja Dina Nath should not be judged harshly. His faults would be still considered in some European countries as diplomatic virtues. Among the Sikh barons who stood around the throne of the young Maharaja Dalip Singh, there was not one who honestly laboured for his country, or who would have made the smallest sacrifice to save her. If Raja Dina Nath was not more honest than his contemporaries, he was, at least, more patriotic.

The family of Raja Dina Nath came originally from Kashmir, where, in the reign of Shah Jahan, some members of it held office about the court. It was not till the reign of Mahomed Shah that Lachi Ram, the eldest son of Bishan Nath, left Kashmir for Lahore, where he obtained employment. Soon after he went to Delhi, whither he summoned his younger brother Har Das, and later to Lucknow, where

he chiefly resided. His son Dila Ram entered the service of the Nawab of Oudh, but was compelled to leave from some court intrigue. He then went into the English service, and was proceeding with the army to Mysore in 1791 when he was taken ill and died. Dina Nath, whose father Bakht Mal had held a subordinate civil appointment at Dehli, was invited to the Panjab in 1815 by Diwan Ganga Ram, a near connection, who was then head of the State office at Lahore. On his arrival he was placed in the same office, and very soon distinguished himself by his intelligence and business-like habits. He first attracted the notice of Ranjit Singh after the capture of Multan, in 1818, when he made out the lists of those entitled to rewards with great rapidity and clearness. He shortly afterwards adjusted the accounts of the province of Multan, which the first Nazim, Sukh Dayal, had thrown into great confusion. In 1826, when Ganga Ram died, he received charge of the Royal Seal, and in 1834, on the death of Bhawani Das, he was made head of the Civil and Finance office; and in 1838 he received the honorary title of Diwan. Ranjit Singh had the greatest confidence in Dina Nath's judgment, and his influence during the latter years of the Maharaja's reign was very great. He was consulted on every occasion of importance, and received jagirs in the Amritsar, Dinanagar and Kasur districts to the value of Rs. 9,900. During the time of Maharaja Kharak Singh and Nao Nahal Singh, Diwan Dina Nath retained his office, and received new jagirs, and Maharaja Sher Singh treated him with the same consideration. He was one of those in immediate attendance on the Maharaja* when he was assassinated by the Sindhanwalias, and when Raja Hira

* Diwan Dina Nath was standing immediately behind Sher Singh when the Sindhanwalias entered the apartment. He would, in all probability, have been wounded or killed by the shot which killed the Maharaja, had not Mahar Khasitah, a Sindhanwalia Wakil, who was in the plot, drawn him aside pretending to have something important to communicate to him.

Singh rose to power he had no more zealous adherent than the Diwan. When Hira Singh had quarrelled, or had pretended to quarrel, with his uncle Raja Gulab Singh, the Diwan was sent in company with Bhai Ram Singh and Shekh Imamudin to Jamu to arrange matters with the Raja, and their mission was completely successful. They returned, bringing with them as a hostage Mian Sohan Singh, the son of Raja Gulab Singh, who was murdered with his cousin Hira Singh not long afterwards. On Hira Singh's death, Jawahir Singh, the debauched and contemptible brother of Maharani Jindan, obtained the chief power, but Diwan Dina Nath still held office.

After the murder of Prince Pashora Singh, the troops rose in mutiny and decided to kill Sardar Jawahir Singh, who had been the instigator of it. The Sardar was much alarmed, prepared the fort for defence, and on the 19th September sent Diwan Dina Nath, Atar Singh Kalianwala and Fakir Nurudin to conciliate the troops. The mission was only received with scorn, and Atar Singh and Dina Nath were kept prisoners in camp. Here they were detained till the 22nd, the day after the murder of Jawahir Singh, when the soldiery, over whom the Rani had still much influence, released them that they might soothe her violent grief; and they accompanied her back to the fort. Jawahir Singh was burnt with his four wives the same evening, and Diwan Dina Nath was present on the part of the Maharani. The unfortunate women who were to burn with the body were shamefully treated by the soldiery, who stripped them of their jewels and tore their nose-rings away. A *Sati* is a sacred object among Hindus, and her last words are considered prophetic. At the feet of these women, Dina Nath and others fell down, asking for their blessings. The *Satis* blessed him, the Maharani and her son, but cursed the Sikh army. When asked the fate of the Panjab, they answered