

To,

His Serene Highness,

PRINCE BISMARCK,

Imperial Chancellor of Germany.

BERLIN.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

After a tender of my most profound respects ; I venture to approach your Serene Highness with the following statement, which I humbly pray your Highness may be pleased to place at the foot of the throne of His Imperial Majesty, the august and exalted Emperor of Germany.

My great grandfather was the companion and relative of Count Schimmelman, at that time Commissary General to the then famous King of Prussia.

The Count on leaving Prussia, went to Denmark, where he became Prime Minister, and assigned my grandfather a prominent position at the Danish Court.

My grandfather and his brothers, were educated with the Count's sons at the Royal College of Copenhagen, and some of them, on finishing their education, obtained commissions in the Army and Navy. Two or three of his sisters were married in the Count's family.

My grandfather had Estates in HOLSTEIN, which he inherited from his father ; but consequent on the first Napoleon's wars, and pressure placed on him and other male members of the Count's family—owing to their attitude of antagonism towards the conqueror—he was constrained to quit the country, and with it, to abandon his Estates.

My grandfather then proceeded to England ; and thence to Ireland, where he married a daughter of Colonel French, whose surname he assumed, in substitution of his family surname of " CLUGE."

Prompted by his active nature and adventurous spirit, he exchanged his sedentary life in Ireland, for a more congenial and energetic one, by setting sail for India, where he landed at Madras. In that Presidency, he followed various pursuits, under the auspices of the then Governor, Lord Elphinstone, whose friendship and patronage he enjoyed, from a previous acquaintance with His Lordship.

On hostilities breaking out between the British Government and Tippoo Sultan, son of Hyder Alee, my grandfather volunteered his services in a military capacity. In such capacity, he fought under the Commander of the Forces, General Harris, and Chief of the Staff Colonel Wellesley (the late Duke of Wellington) and was killed with the storming party led by General Baird, either in entering the citadel, or in scaling the ramparts, of Seringapatam.

Prior to his death, and while still at Madras, he wished my father to claim the family estates in Holstein, by adopting his real surname of " CLUGE." But Napoleon's continued wars, as well as the undisputed sway he then exercised in the counsels, and on the continent, of Europe, still formed an insuperable barrier and an insurmountable obstacle, in the way of his asserting his claims.

Between Napoleon's career of conquest and his final defeat at Waterloo, resulting as it did, in his being exiled to St. Helena ; much too protracted a period had intervened, for my father to identify himself as the rightful claimant to his father's Estates in Holstein.

An intimate friend of my grandfather, Colonel Kirkpatrick, on being accredited and appointed to His Highness the Nizam's Court, as Resident of Hyderabad, in the Deccan, took my father with him in the capacity of Persian Translator. But becoming acquainted with Sir Wm. Rumbold, Dr. Lamb and Mr. Wm. Palmer, three influential and opulent gentlemen, who established a Banking business at that place, they selected him, on account of his talents, to be the Manager of the Firm, in which he afterwards became a partner and a shareholder.

Sometime subsequently, owing to unforeseen circumstances, and adverse local causes, as well as the simultaneous failure of similar kindred Firms in Calcutta, (notably those of John Palmer & Co. and Colvin and Company) led to the failure of William Palmer & Co.'s house of business likewise. This result imposed heavy pecuniary losses on my father, whose prospects in life were thus irretrievably blasted and ruined.

Acting on the advice of Sir Charles Metcalfe, (the then President in Council of the Government of India, and whom he knew when he was Resident of Hyderabad) my father proceeded to Calcutta in search of employment. His attainments as an Orientalist, apart from his other acquirements, obtained for him the appointment of Government Translator in the "Sudder Court" (now the High Court) of that metropolis; where he also practised as a Pleader and acted as a law-agent. Weighed down with his various vicissitudes, and after a few more years of his chequered career, he died in Calcutta from an attack of cholera.

Much about this time, (i. e. in 1833-34) the formation of a separate Governorship for the administration of the North-Western Provinces of India, was sanctioned by the Hon'ble the Court of Directors of the East India Company residing in England. Sir Charles Metcalfe was accordingly appointed Governor of Agra, and I came up as a young Assistant, attached to the Persian Department. In 1857, I proceeded to Lucknow in an improved position, but only in time to bear the brunt of the memorable Indian mutiny, by immediately having to form one of the beleaguered garrisons of the Lucknow Residency. For my services during the siege of the so-called "Baillie-guard," (set forth in the accompanying printed testimonials) and for being present at the re-capture of the city and suburbs of Lucknow (by Sir Colin Campbell, the late Lord Clyde) I received a money gratuity, the Mutiny Medal and a Clasp, and some time subsequently, a good service pension to a small extent. Its inadequacy for the support of myself and family, induced me to try other pursuits: which, however, proved of too precarious a character, to add much to my slender pecuniary resources.

Under the foregoing circumstances, which I have taken the liberty of recapitulating, at the risk of rendering myself somewhat tedious; and as the Duchy of Holstein forms a component part of the extensive dominions of the vast German empire; I pray that I may be pardoned for humbly and respectfully representing my peculiar case, for the favorable consideration of your Serene Highness: and, if it so pleases your Highness, to submit it for that of His Imperial Majesty, the present and powerful Emperor of Germany.

With a reiteration of my humble apologies for thus obtruding myself on the notice, and trespassing on the time and attention, of both His Imperial Majesty and of your Serene Highness.

I do myself the honor, of submissively subscribing myself,

Your Highness'

Most obedient, and very humble Servant,

CHARLES JOHN FRENCH.

SIMLA.

PUNJAB PROVINCE, INDIA.

The 7th June 1880.