

dom of Bengal. When Fakhruddin saw that the royal authority had thus passed from the family of the Sultan Nasiruddin, whose descendant he was, he raised a revolt in Sadkáwán and Bengal, and declared himself independent. The hostility between him and Ali Shah was very bitter. When the winter came, bringing rain and mud, Fakhruddin would make an attack upon the Laknaoti country by the river, on which he could muster great strength. But when the dry season returned, Ali Shah would come down upon Bengal by land, his force that way being predominant.¹

¹ These events are thus related by Stewart from Firishta and other Persian authorities:—

Mahomed Tughlak soon after his succession appointed Kadir Khan to the government of Laknaoti, and confirmed Bairam Khan in that of Sunarganw. These two chiefs governed their respective territories for some fourteen years with much equity. In 1338 Bairam Khan died at Sunarganw at the time when Sultan Mahomed was busy with the transfer of his capital to Daulatabad. Fakhruddin, the armour bearer of Bairam Khan, took the opportunity not only to assume the government, but to declare himself independent under the title of Sultan Sikandar. The Emperor ordered his expulsion by Kadir Khan, who marched against the rebel from Laknaoti, defeated him, and took possession of Sunarganw. There was a large sum in the treasury there, which Kadir Khan was preparing to forward to Delhi. Fakhruddin made known to the troops of Kadir Khan, that if they would kill their master and join him, he would distribute the treasure among them. They consented; Kadir Khan was slain, and Fakhruddin again took possession of Sunarganw, where he fixed his capital, proclaiming himself sovereign of Bengal, coining and issuing edicts in his own name. This was in 1340. He then sent an army to seize Laknaoti, but it was resisted and defeated by Ali Mubarak, one of the officers of the deceased governor, who, on this success, applied to the emperor for the government, but assumed it without waiting a reply, under the name of Alauddin, marched against Fakhruddin, took him prisoner, and put him to death, after a reign of only two years and five months, in 1342-3. A year and five months later, Ali Mubarak was assassinated by his foster brother, Iliyas, who took possession of the kingdom under the title of Shamsuddin, and established his capital at Pandua (now a station on the railway between Calcutta and Burdwan, where there are some curious remains of the Mahomedan dynasty). See *Stewart's History of Bengal*, pp. 80-84.

We see from Ibn Batuta, that the date assigned to the death of Fakhruddin by the historians is much too early. For the traveller's visit to Bengal appears to have occurred in the cold weather of 1346-47, so that Fakhruddin was reigning at least four years later than Stewart's author-