

p. 57. regular sacrifices, no sacrificial lamps, no annual support, no salaries of 12 Rs. for each monk annually, no food and drink for the water-carriers and goat-herds, and, moreover, no more tilling of the ground !' Such and other petitions were offered before the highest authority, [who replied], ' From the taxes of the country in general one or two annas in every rupee [may be] remitted ; as regards the monasteries, one half of the new taxes [may be] remitted ; the other half will be paid !' As they could not agree even on that, the great man became angry, and, using oaths, he said, ' I will not decide !' The government blamed its own servants, and the proverb of ' God and the hungry man ' was being fulfilled. The wāzīr and the people of the country could not agree in their speech, and the old proverb

When the falcon and the little bird wrestle,
The ground becomes covered with feathers!

was being fulfilled. Whilst Lekhman-Dās, the Nawāb of Kha-chul, was investigating the case of the Ladakhi petitioners, who had come to Kha-chul from above (La-dvags), a letter was actually issued, and a Si-pa and an order were sent to the Ladakhi nobility, who were assembled at Jammu, commanding them to start at once [for Kha-chul]. They were not even allowed to wait for their house-mates ; and the nobility, after they had spent two or three nights on the [open] ground, all huddled together, arrived in Kha-chul. There they met with the [ordinary] people of La-dvags. But at that time the relatives, near or distant, or people who lived in the same house, would not look at one another. The Dewān made a drawing and gave orders that any petitions were to be in writing, commanding the two Ladakhi kings, the warden of He-mi, and ten leaders (chiefs ?) to write a petition [of their own], and the ordinary people of the country to write separately. Thus the Ladakhis, being pressed on three sides, had no more consideration for near or far (neighbours or relations). They wrote that there were various estates in the country, that there were sites [which had been seized] by beating, bribing, or favouring a certain party ; [and they wrote] many bad things about the wāzīr, which ought never to have been said. In his decision the Dewān [said], ' The Kings of Tog and Mañ-spro both shall retain the jāgīrs given to them by the government. For it was right,' he said, ' that a king should have power to impose taxes.' But the 42 [Rs.] annually which they had taken in addition [to what was due to them] they were admonished to return to the people. To the descendants of Golām-Khān of Chu-śod, (viz.) Salām-Khatun and Golām was given a jāgīr, [which has remained in their hands] down to the present day. Through the intercession of Śer-Siñ, who had formerly been in La-dvags as wāzīr, the Dewān said to the kings, the Kardārs, and the ordinary people, ' Tell me how much has been added to the taxes of the subjects in La-dvags in the former year 1941 (A.D. 1884) beyond what had been imposed by Meta-Maṅgal-Siñ ? Besides, how much do you want me to deduct from the taxes imposed by wāzīr Rādhā-Kriśna ?' Thus he said. Then the nobility [of Ladakh] and the ordinary people with one accord [answered], ' Formerly Maṅgal-Siñ fixed the taxes in proportion to the property [of the taxed] ; but, since the survey was undertaken, through excessive partiality things have not gone straight. The rich people having paid bribes, some of their former