

east, and from the borders of the great desert on the north to the Persian Gulf N. on the south.

Ismail Sámání was a just and firm ruler, and, though a sincere Muhammadan, a liberal patron of his native literature; and during his reign the Persian language was revived in its former purity, after two centuries of suppression by the Arabs. After a prosperous and glorious rule of thirty years, the last eight as Viceroy of Khurásán and Máwaránahar, he sickened, and died at Zarmán, whither he had been carried for change of air, on the 15th *Safar* 295 H.=907 A.D. He is known in history as the Amír Mází=past Prince. His son, Ahmad, succeeded to the throne. He subdued a revolt in Sístán, and on his return, whilst on a hunting excursion on the banks of the Jyhon, received intelligence of the revolt of Tabaristán. The news so disturbed his mind that it disarmed his usual precaution, and the tiger, habitually chained at the entrance to his chamber as a guard at night, was on this occasion forgotten; and his slaves, seizing the opportunity, entered and beheaded him, at the instigation of one of his own family, on Thursday, 11th *Jamadi Akhir* 301 H.=913-4 A.D. He reigned six years and four months, and is called Amír Shahíd=martyr Prince.

Abúl Hasan Nasr, his son, succeeded at the age of ten years. His reign was disturbed by revolts in the western provinces, and noted for a conflagration at the capital, which lasted three days, *Rajab* 325 H.=936 A.D., and was seen at Samarcand. The greater part of the city was destroyed, together with the palace, full of treasures and rarities of art, which all perished in the flames. Bukhárá has never since, it is said, recovered its former magnificence. Abúl Hasan Nasr died after a reign of thirty-one years in *Shabán* 331 H.=942 A.D. He is called Amír Sáid=prosperous Prince. His son, Núh, succeeded. His reign was disturbed by anarchy, and a serious revolt at Marv. Order was not restored till 341 H.=952 A.D., and he died, having reigned twelve years, a couple of years later in *Rabí Akhir* 343 H. He is called Amír Hamíd=laudable Prince.

He was succeeded by his son, 'Abdul Malik, aged ten years, who reigned seven, and was killed by a fall from horseback at the game *Chaugán*="hockey" in *Shawál* 350 H.=961 A.D. He is called Amír Rashíd=intelligent Prince.

His brother, Mansúr, succeeded, but was at first opposed by Ulaptakin, the Governor of Nishábor, who seized Balkh. He relinquished this "material guarantee," however, and consented to the succession, on the tribute of 50,000 *diram* being paid, as before, to Nishábor. Mansúr, on the other hand, subsequently exacted from the Dailami or Dilami Chief of Fars and Irác a similar annual tribute. He died after a disturbed reign of fifteen years and five months on Sunday, the 16th *Muharram* 365 H.=976 A.D., and is called Amír Shadíd=impetuous Prince.

His son, Núh, called Amír Sàid Abúl Kásim, succeeded. His reign was characterised by general anarchy and confusion. The border province revolted, and the Samání power quickly declined. Abú Alí Samchor, the Governor of Khurásán, revolted, and joining with Faik, the deposed Governor of Herat and Balkh, invited Bughra Khán, Chief of the Uighúr Tartár of Káshghar, to attack Bukhárá. This he did, and, driving Abúl Kásim out, took possession of his capital. He did not long enjoy his success, however, for he almost immediately sickened with a fever, and, hastening to regain his native air, died a few stages out from the city. His army retraced its steps to Farghana and Káshghar, and Abúl Kásim on its departure returned to his capital, and, recovering his power, drove his refractory nobles out of the country into Khurásán. Here they raised a strong party, and, securing the aid of the Dilami Prince, renewed their hostility. Abúl Kásim, on this, unable alone to cope with their combined forces, called to his aid Subuktakin, the newly established independent Prince of Ghazni, and with him attacked and routed the rebels at Herat. After this Abúl Kásim was forced once more to seek the aid of Subuktakin against a threatened attack by the rising Iylik Khan, son of Bughra Khan, at the instigation of the restless Faik. On this occasion the threatened