

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SUCCESSOR OF DEVA RĀYA II. OF VIJAYANAGARA.

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DEAR PROFESSOR RHYS DAVIDS,—In his highly interesting book “A Forgotten Empire” (London, 1900), Mr. R. Sewell has dealt with the history of the kingdom of Vijayanagara, one of the most powerful empires that ever existed in India. In the lucid way which distinguishes all his works he has succeeded especially in throwing new light on the reign of Deva Rāya II. There cannot be the slightest doubt now that this king began to reign in the year A.D. 1419, and died about 1443 or 1444. As regards his successor things are not quite so clear. Sewell says (p. 80), “that at present it looks as though there had been a Deva Rāya III. reigning from A.D. 1444 to 1449, but this point cannot as yet be settled.”

May I draw your attention to a passage in the work of Kallinātha, the celebrated commentator on the Saṃgīta-Ratnākara of Śārṅgadeva. Kallinātha's work is entitled Kalānidhi, and has been edited by Pandit Mangesh Ramkrishna Telang in the Ānandāśrama Series (Poona, 1897). In the introduction to his commentary, after having described

the country in which he is living, our author continues (v. 6-9) :—

Bhogisthitā bhogavatī ca nityaṃ suparvaramyā divijasthalīva |
puriha vidyānagarī cakāsti tuṅgātaraṅgair abhiṭaḥ
pavitrā || 6 ||

Etāṃ śāsti praśastapratibhaṭamukutaḥprotaniryatnaniryad-
ratnajyotiḥpravalāvanamanacaṭulāṭopātāpapratāpaḥ |
karṇātāghāṭalakṣmicaraṇaparilasatpauruṣotkarśasālī prau-
ḍhaḥ śrīdevarājo vijayanṛpasuto yādavānāṃ vareṇyaḥ || 7 ||
Viśvambharābhāgyakṛtāvātāras tasyāsti putro yaśasā pavitraḥ |
saṃgītasāhityakalāsv abhijñāḥ pratāpavān immaḍideva-
rāyaḥ¹ || 8 ||

Sudharmeṇa sabhā yasya samullāsikalādharā |
gāndharvaguṇagambhīrā vidyādharavinodinī || 9 ||

I translate these verses without regard to the double meaning of some of the words :—

6. Resting upon the serpent, ever teeming with pleasures, beautiful in the happy distribution of its various parts, like unto a heavenly abode, shines yonder brightly the town of Vidyānagara,² purified on all sides by the waves of the Tuṅgā.

7. It was ruled by Prauḍha Devarāja, the son of king Vijaya, the best of the race of the Yādavas, a hero whose incomparable valour, by vanquishing Karṇāta, rose up even unto the feet of Lakṣmī. In trembling glitter shone his majesty's crown of light—a radiance reflected from the gems in the diadems of his noble adversaries—as they bowed before him in submission.

8. Pratāpa Immaḍi Devarāja was his son. In him was incarnate the welfare of the whole world. Steeped in glory, he was moreover deeply learned in the arts of rhetoric and of music.

9. His audience hall was like unto the hall of the gods, radiant as the full moon, thronged with the choicest singers, graced even with the presence of the Vidyādharas.

¹ The reading of the manuscript G is the correct one.

² About the two different names of the town see Sewell, l.c., p. 19 and n. 2.

In these verses it is expressly stated that Pratāpa Immaḍi Deva Rāya was the son of Deva Rāya II., and the grandson of Vijaya. Further, he bears all the titles of a king, and to him, as to his patron and protector, Kallinātha is applying. Therefore Deva Rāya III. must have ascended the throne after the death of his father, and must have been reigning when Kallinātha wrote his commentary. This statement is corroborated by an inscription found at Conjeeveram, dated A.D. 1449, and published by Hultzsch (*South Indian Inscriptions*, i, 110). It records a grant by a king called Vira Pratāpa Praudha-Immaḍi-Deva Rāya: his name is exactly the same as that ascribed to him by Kallinātha. I therefore think we are not only able but even obliged to assume that there must have been a Deva Rāya III. reigning from A.D. 1444 till at least 1449.

As to the inscription found at Srāvana Belgola, dated A.D. 1446 and published by Kielhorn (*Ind. Ant.*, xxv, 346), which relates to the death of a Pratāpa Deva Rāya, I am as little able to say anything as Sewell. That this inscription arouses suspicion on account of the remarkable style of its writing, Sewell has already pointed out.

Concerning the inscription, dated A.D. 1476-77 and mentioned by Sewell (*l.c.*, p. 97), in which a Praudha Deva of Vijayanagara occurs, it may not be quite impossible that it relates also to our Deva Rāya III. We have, it is true, inscriptions which show that the other two sons of Deva Rāya II. were on the throne, the one, Mallikārjuna, about A.D. 1452-62, the other, Virūpākṣa I., about 1470. But either three brothers were reigning at the same time (which would not be impossible, considering the great extension of the kingdom), or, in consequence of the tempests and troubles which followed the death of Deva Rāya II., the three brothers were struggling for the throne, and reigned at different times according to their changing fate.

However this may be, it cannot be doubted that a Deva Rāya III., a son of Deva Rāya II., was in existence, and reigned from A.D. 1444 till at least 1449.—Yours very truly,

R. SIMON.