

HISTORY OF BRAZIL.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Measures of Gomes Freyre at Maranham. Expedition against the tribes on the Orellana. Settlement of the French at Cayenne. Mathias da Cunha Governor General. Mutiny at Bahia. Antonio Luiz Goncalvez da Camara Coutinho. D. Joam de Lancastro. Money coined in Brazil. War against the Negroes of the Palmares. Disputes with France concerning the boundary. Death of Vieyra. Troubles excited by the Bishop of Maranham.

After Gomes Freyre had seized the ringleaders of the rebellion in Maranham, his first business was to restore all those persons to their offices who had been deprived of them by the usurping government. He re-established the monopoly, rightly perceiving, that if its abolition should be deemed expedient, the measure ought to proceed from the legitimate authority ; and he recalled the exiled Jesuits from Para. The good policy of bringing out persons connected by ties of relationship with the inhabitants of S. Luiz was now experienced ; through their means the disaffected were conciliated, and he obtained full information concerning the public feeling and the characters of individuals. He appointed the most useful of these persons to such

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1686.
*Measures
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CHAP. posts of honour and emolument as were vacant, and rewarded
XXXI. others with grants of land on the coast, or in the interior, . . sparing
1686. ing thus a treasury which was not in a condition to answer the
demands upon it, and improving the colony. In order the better
to regulate the affairs of this turbulent State, he desired the
Camara of Belem to come to S. Luiz, not thinking it proper as
yet to leave Maranham himself: on their arrival he entertained
the senates of the two cities with a feast, in which every article
was the produce of the mother country ; America, it is said,
having furnished nothing more than the wood and water for
dressing it. The dinner was the worse for this ; but it displayed
the character of the man : for on all former occasions, when
there was any surplus from a Governor's sea stores, it had been
sold at a high price.

*Domingos
Teyxeira.
2. 2. § 212
—220.
Berredo.
§ 1345.*

*The mono-
poly abolish-
ed.*

Having convened the two *Camaras* for business, and received
them with as much ceremony as the circumstances of the place
permitted, he addressed them upon the state of the country.
The necessity of agricultural labourers, he said, was manifest,
and means therefore must be taken for introducing slaves from
Africa. The Indians were to be reserved for a more important
service ; that some being domesticated might induce others
to subjection, and all when properly instructed contribute to the
increase of Christendom in these wide regions ; . . an object which
would be frustrated, if the Portuguese should persist in wrong-
fully enslaving men, who although rude by nature and fierce by
custom, were nevertheless by inheritance owners of the land,
and had enjoyed an uninterrupted possession of it till the Por-
tuguese arrived. To promote this holy end, the appointments
of the clergy should be doubled, and the number of missiona-
ries increased. He then requested that the Chambers would
deliberate concerning the continuance of the monopoly, and the
means of importing Negroes in a manner less expensive to the

CHAP.
XXXI.
1686.

Teyxeyra.
2. 2. § 220
—226.
Berredo.
§ 1345.

General distress in Maranhão.

Teyxeyra
2. 2, § 226
—229.

*Expedition
against the
savages on
the Meary.*

He proposed also to relieve the distress at S. Luiz, by drafting from its population for a new settlement. For this purpose a party was sent to examine the coast toward the South:

CHAP. they fixed upon the country between the rivers Itacú and
 XXXI. Mony, there being so good a landing place near the mouth of
 1686. the former stream, that a plank might be laid from the canoe to
 the shore. These rivers approach so nearly in the interior as
 almost to form a Delta : and it was thought that two forts at the
 neck of this peninsula might secure it against the savages : for
 many tribes had retired into this part of the country, flying from
 the adventurers in Piauí, on one side, and on the other from
 the Paulistas who descended the Tocantins. Having proposed
 this plan to the Court, Gomes Freyre sent an expedition against
 the savages who infested the Meary, where there had been for-
 merly so many *Engenhos* that the state was supplied from thence
 with sugar and produce of various kinds, and there remained a
 considerable surplus for exportation. All these had been des-
 troyed, or were fallen to decay, and some runaway slaves who had
 taken possession of a deserted establishment had been massacred
 by the Indians. A considerable force for such warfare was ap-
 pointed, consisting of one hundred Portuguese troops, and
 two hundred and thirty Tapuyas, under Joam Sarayva. He
 advanced some days' journey up the river, discovered an am-
 buscade which had been skilfully laid for him, defeated the
 savages, with considerable loss on their part and only that of
 one soldier on his, and then returned ; for which he was cen-
 sured by the people, and put under arrest by Gomes Freyre,
 his error of judgement being thought injurious to the reputation
 of the Portuguese arms. The Governor determined to erect a
 fort upon this river. A party was sent to chuse a good situ-
 ation ; and upon an eminence well suited to their purpose, they
 found a *Nossa Senhora* dressed in silk, lying upon the ground,
 uninjured by exposure to the weather. It was immediately
 inferred, that the savages had brought it there from some
 church or chapel which they had destroyed : the preservation

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of the dress was imputed to the virtue of the image: so a fort and settlement were established here under the name and patronage of S. Maria, and the river Meary was thought secure under the care of so powerful a protectress. Gomes Freyre was desirous that a way should be explored to Bahia through the interior. Joam Velho do Valle undertook to make the attempt: he made peace as he went with some tribes upon the Mony, the Itapicuru, and the Parnaiba; some Portuguese had settled upon the latter river, and it was desirable to secure their communication with Seara. The adventurer continued his perilous journey, and made a map of his route; but the fatigue and hardships which he underwent proved fatal, and he reached Bahia in a dying state.

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The way from Maranham to Bahia explored.

Teyzeyra.
2. 2. § 246
—269. 280
—285.
Do.
2. 3. § 2.

Gomes Freyre's predecessors had arrogated to themselves the power of giving commissions in the *Ordenança*, a right which properly appertained to the *Camara*; and they had abused it, to the great detriment of the state; . . giving them to persons who held them only two or three months, and becoming noble in consequence, were exempted from public duties and certain public burthens. The *Camara* complained to him of this; he saw the evil of thus multiplying a privileged class by illicit means, and gave orders, that in future the right of nominating to the vacant commissions should be exercised throughout the state by the Chambers of the respective towns. After waiting some time at S. Luiz in expectation of being relieved by a successor, or at least that some person would arrive from the Kingdom to whom he might transfer the Captaincy of Maranham while he proceeded to Para, where his presence was daily becoming more desirable, he appointed to the command Balthazar de Seyxas Coutinho, who had retired into the interior during the rebellion. This done, he departed for Belem; and coasting the whole way, made a chart of the perilous course. No Governor had ever

Gomes Freyre reforms the abuses of his predecessors.

Teyzeyra.
2. 2. § 277
—278.

Teyzeyra.
§ 286—7.

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CHAP. been received at Belem with more display of honour, nor with
XXXI. such real joy : he had made himself respected by his firmness ;
1686. and his conduct toward the widow and daughters of Beckman
had won for him the love of the people. A delicate task
awaited him here, and the more painful because of his religious
feelings. The Bishop was at variance with the civil authorities ;
accusations had been preferred against him at Court, which al-
though exaggerated, were not without some ground ; and Gomes
Freyre was instructed to examine into the affair, and if it were
necessary, send him to Portugal. It was not necessary to pro-
ceed so far ; but the Prelate's deportment had not been irrepre-
hensible, and Gomes Freyre had to represent to him the faults
which he had committed. That this might be done in the ten-
derest manner, he paid him a private visit, late in the evening
and without attendants ; entered into conversation with him till
he perceived that the Bishop had recovered from the surprise
which such a visit occasioned, and then kneeling at his feet,
solicited a hearing. The Bishop naturally supposed that he
came for ghostly counsel ; and was not a little astonished, in-
stead of the confession which he expected, to hear a recapitula-
tion of his own offences : but this representation was made so
kindly, so gently, so wisely, as well as so forcibly, that the old
man was completely overcome by it, and wept like a child :
he saw his error and acknowledged it, and promised to amend
it. This promise he fulfilled so well, that the remainder of his
life was useful and acceptable to the people, and honourable to
himself.

*He convinces
the Bishop
of his im-
prudence.*

*Teyreyra.
2. 3. § 1—
35.*

*The Orel-
lana infest-
ed by hos-
tile tribes.*

Para no longer enjoyed that state of peace which Vieyra and
his zealous comrades had established with the Indians far and
near. Under the government of Francisco de Sa, Gonçalo Paes
de Araujo went with an expedition up the river to treat with the
Caravares, a tribe who desired to place themselves under the

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protection of the Portuguese. Ground was chosen where they should establish their village, and a small party under Gonalo Paes himself went forward to begin to clear the land. They came to the country of the Taquanhapes and ¹ Gerunas, who inhabited the banks and the islands of the Xingu. These tribes had long been upon good terms with the Portuguese ; but now, in the hope of cutting off this detachment, (enmity to the Caravares being perhaps their motive) they offered to shew them a place near at hand which abounded with wild cinnamon, and thus decoyed them into an ambush. One of the Portuguese was killed. The domestic Indians fought bravely, and perished to a man ; thirty of the Caravares fell also, displaying the most undaunted courage, and a sense of honour which had seldom been found among these people. Gonalo Paes, being severely wounded, was carried by these faithful Indians from the field, while their companions kept up a desultory fight, falling back continually upon the Portuguese, who retired in a compact body, and protected them with their fire-arms. In this manner they effected their retreat to the country of the Caravares, where Paes was hospitably entertained, and cured of his wound. Other tribes were emboldened by this successful outrage to take arms ; the Aroaquizes and Caripatenas cut off many trading parties, and the Portuguese could no longer navigate the Orellana without imminent danger. The Gerunas manned a flotilla of more than thirty canoes, and carried as a standard in the Cacique’s boat, the head of one Antonio Rodriguez, a serjeant whom they had slain.

CHAP.
XXXI.
1686.

Teyzeyra.
2. 3. § 36—
62.

To chastise these savages was not merely justifiable in itself, it was necessary for the well being, and even the existence of the

An expedition sent against them from Belen.

¹ Probably the Juruunas, who are described, *Vol. 2, p. 510.*

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CHAP. Portuguese : but the State was ill able to fit out an expedition.
XXXI. Men, stores, and vessels were wanting ; the treasury was empty,
1686. and the *Aldeas* were not as Vieyra had left them : some had
been forsaken, others nearly depopulated by disease, by ill
treatment, or by the losses which they had suffered during these
harrassing hostilities. It was now perceived of what importance
it is that the Governor should possess the confidence of the peo-
ple. Gomes Freyre asked the inhabitants to come forward in
this emergency, and lend the government as many canoes as
they could spare. He might have demanded them ; the peo-
ple, thankful for this moderation, and sensible of the neces-
sity of the measure, gave him at once all that were in the port
contributed five hundred *alqueires* of *farinha*, offered slaves to
supply the want of boatmen, and volunteered themselves for the
expedition. The *Capitam Mor*, Hilario de Sousa, took the
command, . . . better employed now than on his bootless mission
to Beckman. Forty Portuguese were drafted from the garrison
of Maranham ; Belem furnished fourscore : one hundred and
twenty Indians were all that could be collected there. They
sailed at the close of the year, and coming to Camutá, found a
reinforcement of canoes and Indians made ready for them by
Antonio de Albuquerque Coelho. A village of Nheengaibas
on the banks of the Aracuru, where they touched, was nearly
deserted, the greater part of the inhabitants having removed to
the Cabo do Norte, allured there by the French at Cayenne,
from whom they obtained fire-arms, and set the Portuguese at
defiance. Sousa threatened them for this contraband inter-
course, but had neither time nor instructions to do more. He
proceeded to Curupá, a place so dilapidated and neglected,
notwithstanding the importance of this post, that its almost dis-
mantled fort had no better garrison than two officers and fifteen
invalids. Here therefore he left a reinforcement, and here he

Vol. 2. p.
614.

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ordered stores to be collected from Xingú, an *Aldea* three days' journey distant, upon the river of the same name, that on his return he might punish the Taquanhapes. The flotilla now entered the great river. The first place where it anchored was in a port called Jagacará: the adjoining *Aldea* was deserted, and when the Chief was found, it appeared that the inhabitants were afraid of military service, being so unwarlike a tribe that it was said many of them would not make a soldier. Leaving them therefore to enjoy the benefit of their unwarlike habits, the expedition took a supply of fiercer allies from Cassary, an *Aldea* of the Aratus, where all the men eagerly volunteered; . . they were a people who loved war for its own sake, and disdained the spoils.

CHAP.
XXXI.
1687.

Teyzeyra
2. 3. § 63.
88.

The expedition now crost to the left bank, to some *Aldeas* of the Tapajozes, and Aruryucuzes, . . warlike tribes who would gladly have joined it, but were reserved for nearer operations against the Taquanhapes; a few only were received under Sebastian Orucurá, the baptized Chief of Curupatubá. Having proceeded some way further, and touched at all the *Aldeas* upon the way, Sousa detached a party in light canoes to reconnoitre the river of the Aroaquizes, and take a prisoner if possible. They came up with some canoes; the men on board fought when they found it useless to fly, and the Portugueze Indians in their ferocity gave no quarter, but put every man to death; frustrating thus the purpose for which they were sent. The flotilla now entered this labyrinth of waters, and captured three Indians in a small canoe; they belonged to an *Aldea* which the Carapitenas had laid waste, and these persons were ambassadors to solicit aid from their allies for revenging the wrongs they had sustained. The Portugueze accompanied them to their *Aldea*, and found it as they had affirmed, in ruins. By this time the news of the armament had spread far and wide. The war-

*Success of
the enter-
prize.*

CHAP. riors who had committed this last aggression, knew their danger
XXXI. and fled ; but Sousa, knowing the nature of these savages, sent
1687. messengers up the rivers Negro and Amatary offering rewards
to those who would deliver up the offenders ; so they perished
by the hands of those from whom they sought protection. Ha-
ving well examined the islands in the river which they were
now navigating ; taken observations, and laid down its shoals,
they proceeded to a rapid ¹ in the Orellana, which was navigable
when the waters were full : at this time it was necessary to
land, open a way through the thicket, and tow up sixty of
the lighter canoes, leaving the rest behind. Having arrived at
the first *Taba*, or town of the Carapitenas, Sousa landed and
surprized the place. Sharp stakes had been concealed in the
pathway to lame or impale their enemies : this however availed
them little, and after slight opposition they abandoned the
town, leaving many prisoners in the conquerors' hands. Many
other of their settlements were destroyed, and all their canoes
taken ; and Sousa intrenching himself on the banks of the
river, sent Braz de Barros with two hundred men, chiefly
Indians of the *Aldeas*, to pursue the fugitives by land. He
followed them eight days before he overtook and defeated
them. While the expedition was rejoicing for this success,
their spies brought intelligence that the main strength of the
enemy was collecting in Caysáva, a place two days' journey

² *Chegaram os nossos à primeyra cachoeyra ou catadupa, em que todo o
pezo das aguas do Rio das Amazonas se despenha ; e como se achasse dema-
siadamente diminuido fazia quasi impraticavel a passage das embarçaõens.*
(*Teyreyra*, 2. 3. § 100.) Teyxeyra is the only author who mentions any inter-
ruption of this kind in the navigation of the Orellana ; . . it is very possible that
he has supposed the expedition to be in that river, when they were engaged in
one of its tributary streams.