

CHAPTER VI

THE OCCUPANTS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Before giving a list of the occupants of Government House since it was first erected it would be desirable to set out briefly the various changes there have been in the ruler ship of Bengal and India since the beginning of British power.

The oldest British Settlement in India is that of Fort St. George, Madras, the next being Bombay. The first British factories in Bengal were established in 1633 and from that date to 1700 the Bengal establishment was subordinate to Madras except for a period of two years between 1682 and 1684 when William Hodges was appointed independent Governor of Bengal. Bengal was made a Presidency in 1699 and the period of permanent independent Governors of Bengal started in 1700, the first being Job Charnock's son-in-law. Sir Charles Eyre and the title that was held till 1774 was President in the Bay and Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Fort William in Bengal for the United East India Company.

From 1699 therefore there were three Presidencies Madras, Bombay and Bengal, each of which, governed by a President or Governor with a Council, was entirely independent of the others and subordinate only to the Directors in London. The Trend of events happened to make Bengal, though the most junior in creation, the most important of the three politically, and by Lord North's Regulating Act of 1773 the Governor of Fort William was given control over the other two Presidencies, his supremacy being indicated by a change of title to Governor General of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal. Warren Hastings who had already been Governor of Bengal for over two years became the first Governor General and held that office for a further eleven years. This state of things continued for 60 years till the Charter Act of 1833 was passed renewing the Company's charter for a further 20 years which altered the title from Governor General of Fort William in Bengal to Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal and Governor General of India, Lord William Bentinck (1825-1835) being Governor General at the time. Twenty years later in 1854 on the occasion of a further renewal of the Charter of the East India Company by Parliament, when Lord Dalhousie was Governor of Bengal and Governor General of India, A lieutenant-Governor was appointed for Bengal (Sir Frederick Halliday being the first) relieving the Governor General of his Provincial cares. Shortly after this, in 1858, when Lord Canning was Governor General, the Crown took over the administration of India and the Governor General became Viceroy also.

From 1910 the lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was given a Council to assist him. The last change came in 1912 when the Imperial Capital was moved from Calcutta to Delhi and as some compensation to Bengal the Lieutenant-Governor with Council gave place to a Governor with a Council thus completing the circle and reverting to the position which had obtained 200 years previously.

We thus have the following periods of rule in Bengal: - a Governor with Council from 1700 to 1774; a Governor General with Council from 1774 to 1834; a Governor-cum-Governor General of India with Council from 1834 to 1854; a Lieutenant-Governor from 1854 to 1910; a Lieutenant-Governor with Council from 1910 to 1912; and once more a Governor with Council from 1912 up to the present day.

The holders of these various offices who have resided at Government Houses, Calcutta and Barrackpore, are as follows, the names in italics being those who acted only.

GOVERNORS GENERAL OF FORT WILLIAM (1774-1834).

Name	Assumed charge of office
Marquis Wellesley 	18th May 1798
Marquis Cornwallis 	30th July 1805
Sir George Barlow (I.C.S.) ...	10th October 1805
Earl of Minto 	31st July 1807
Marquis of Hastings 	4th October 1813
John Adam (I.C.S.) 	13th January 1823
Earl Amherst 	1st August 1823
W.B. Bayley (I.C.S.) 	13th March 1828
Lord William Bentinck 	4th July 1828.

**GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT WILLIAM IN BENGAL
AND GOVERNORS GENERAL OF INDIA (1834-1854).**

Name	Assumed charge of office
Lord William Bentinck 	16th June 1834
Lord Metcalfe (I.C.S.) 	20th March 1835
Earl of Auckland 	4th March 1836
Earl of Ellenborough 	28th Feb 1842
W.B. Bird (I.C.S.) 	15th June 1844

Viscount Hardinge	...	...	23rd July 1844
Marquis of Dalhousie	...	...	12th January 1848

GOVERNORS GENERAL OF INDIA (1854-1858)

Name			Assumed charge of office
Marquis of Dalhousie	...	...	1st May 1854.
Earl Canning	...	...	29th February 1856.

VICEROYS AND GOVERNORS GENERAL OF INDIA (1858-1912)

Name			Assumed charge of office.
Earl Canning	...	...	1st November 1858.
Earl of Elgin	...	...	12th March 1862.
Lord Napier of Magdala	...		21st November 1863.
Sir W. Denison	...	...	2nd December 1863.
Lord Lawrence (I.C.S.)	...		12th January 1864.
Earl of Mayo	...	...	12th January 1869.
Sir John Strachey (I.C.S.)	...		9TH February 1872.
Lord Napier of Merchistoun	...		23rd February 1872.
Earl of Northbrook	...	...	3rd May 1872.
Earl of Lytton	...	...	12th April 1876.
Marquis of Ripon	...	...	8th June 1880.
Marquis of Dufferin	...	...	13th December 1884.

Marquis of Lansdowne			10th December 1888.
Earl of Elgin	...	...	27th January 1894.
Marquis Curzon of Kedleston		...	6th January 1899.
Lord Ampthill	...	...	30th April 1904.
Marquis Curzon of Kedleston...			13th Dec 1904.
Earl of Minto	...	...	18th Nov 1905.
Lord Hardinge of Penshurst			23rd Nov 1910.

GOVERNORS OF BENGAL

Name			Assumed charge of office.
Lord Carmichael of Skirling	...		1st April 1912
Earl of Ronal Dashy	...	...	26th March 1917
Earl of Lytton	...	...	28th March 1922
Sir John Kerr (I.C.S.) (Lord Lytton appointed to act as Viceroy.)		...	10th April 1925
Earl of Lytton	...	...	6th August 1925
Sir Hugh Stephenson (I.C.S.). (Lord Lytton granted leave.)			10th June 1926.
Earl of Lytton	...	...	9th Oct 1926.
Sir Stanley Jackson		...	28th March 1927.
Sir Hugh Stephenson (I.C.S.). (Sir S.Jackson granted leave)...			5th June 1930.
Sir Stanley Jackson	...	...	21st Sept 1930.
Sir John Anderson	...	...	29th March 1932.
Sir John Wood head (I.C.S.). (Sir J. Anderson granted leave.)		...	10th Aug 1934.
Sir John Anderson	...	...	2nd Dec 1934.

