

Governor of the town—which he had most remarkably improved. He had kept the streets of the city clean; and had got a beautiful carriage made for himself, and a fine palace. He was a clever, cheerful man, and full of fun. He told Wolff at once, that he would show to him his *Angeli custodi*, or “Guardian Angels;” and then he took him to his bed-room, the walls of which were covered with pictures of *Kunchnee* (*i. e.* “dancing girls.”)

He and Wolff one day rode out together on elephants, and he said to him, “Now, I shall show you marks of civilization which I have introduced into this country.” They rode outside of the town, and there Wolff saw before him about six gibbets, upon which a great number of malefactors were hanging. Though the man was full of fun, yet whenever the conversation was directed to important subjects, he became most serious. Though he had amassed in India a fortune of £50,000, he was always panting after a return to his native country, Naples; and he said to Wolff, “*Per amore di Dio, fatemi partire da questo paese.*” And this is not to be wondered at; for though Rundjud Singh was a man of extraordinary genius, yet, after all, he was, at the bottom, a barbarian, and incapable of regarding any one but with suspicion and distrust; so that whenever he gave an order to be executed at Vuzeer-Abad, by Avitabile, he always sent it by some regiments of soldiers and artillery. Avitabile feeling this, once wrote to him in a sarcastic manner, “In order to convince your Majesty of my attachment to you, I will embrace the religion of the Sikhs.”

But Wolff will here, at once, finish the history of Avitabile. When the English (in the years 1838 and 1839) marched into Affghanistan, Avitabile furnished them with all the provisions required in war—for which they gave him bills on England; and thus he got all his money out of the country, and placed it in the Bank of England. And, besides this, he induced Sheer Singh, the suppositious son of Rundjud Singh, who succeeded to the throne of his adopted father after the murder of Karak Singh, to advance £500,000, and place it in his hands, of which sum Avitabile promised to give him account. But all the money advanced by Sheer Singh was placed in the Bank of England, in Avitabile's name. Sheer Singh was murdered by Dehan Singh, his prime minister, and Dehan Singh was killed by the people. Then Avitabile left the Punjaub, came to England, took possession of the whole property, went to Naples, married his own niece, with a dispensation from the Pope; built a beautiful country house near Naples, and there died after some years.