

SECTION 3

(a) Nana Farnavis**(b) Conflict between Warren Hastings and his Council**

(a) Nana Farnavis. Nana Farnavis was undoubtedly one of the ablest statesmen that the Maratha race has ever produced. It was he who was very much responsible for maintaining unity and co-operation among the different Maratha Chiefs towards the later half of the 18th Century. He had also taken part in the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) but he had luckily escaped from that disaster. Later on because of his exceptional abilities he rose to the position of minister of the Peshwa and remained on this post for many years. He fully knew the evil designs of the English so he never trusted them. During his life time he completely baffled all their designs to bring the Marathas under their influence.



Nana Farnavis

In 1772 when Raghoba got murdered Narayan Rao, the Fifth Peshwa, it was Nana Farnavis who opposed that traitor and did not allow him to fulfil his evil designs. When the English took up his side he established a confederacy with the Nizam and Haider Ali and gave crushing defeats to the English one after the other. It was all due to him that the Marathas defeated the Nizam at Kharda in 1795. In short we can conclude that Nana Farnavis tried to save the Maratha unity at a time when it was being threatened both from within and without. So long as he lived he did not allow any harm come to the honour and prestige of the Maratha nation. In 1800 he, however, died and with him passed away the most notable statesman of the Marathas of those days. Soon after his death the Marathas fell out and consequently they brought about dishonour and disaster not only to themselves but also to their country.

(b) Conflict between Warren Hastings and his Council. Warren Hastings had to face many difficulties but the difficulty which he experienced from the members of his own council was perhaps of the worst type. According to one of the provisions of the Regulating Act a council of four members was set up in 1774 to assist the Governor-General. As decisions in this council were to be made by a majority-vote the Governor-General was only given a casting vote and not the final say. As ill-luck would have it three members out of four, i.e. *Philip Francis*, *Manson* and *Clavering* with the exception of *Barwell* alone, were hostile to the Governor-General and hence began the

actual difficulty of Warren Hastings. Even after using his casting vote, Warren Hastings could not win the absolute majority and hence he was made to do things which he did not approve at all.

The opposition leader Philip Francis himself wanted to become the Governor-General of India and he began to oppose Warren Hastings on every occasion, good or bad. Any other man but Hastings would have been soon expelled from office. To begin with, the *Rohilla War* was severely condemned though it was a thing of the past. Again *Nand Kumar* was allowed by the Council itself to charge Governor-General of corruption. Later on the Councillors themselves condemned him as guilty of receiving a huge amount as bribe. Likewise, the Councillors recognised the claims of the *Begums of Oudh* to their treasure and Jagirs. Thus, Warren Hastings had a very critical time at the hand of his hostile Council. This struggle alone would have exhausted the powers of any but a very strong man like Warren Hastings. However, things became better after the lapse of some time. In 1775 Manson died and Clavering soon followed him the very next year i.e. 1777. Thus Francis was left alone, not so powerful as he was before. In 1780 Warren Hastings disabled him in a duel and the latter sailed for England. Warren Hastings is said to have remarked on this occasion. "My antagonists sickened, died and fled." Thus ended the six years (1774-80) of long struggle between Warren Hastings and his Council.