CHAPTER V.
IV. The Pandava Dynasty.
(1388 to 700 B.C.)

Shortly after the ascension of Yudhisthira, Hastinapar was invaded by a Non-Aryan Chief named Krishna from the northern mountains. The Pandavas in their shattered condition could not prevail against him. At last, Prince Vrisha-ketu, the heroic son of Karna, defeated and brought him before Yudhishthira as a captive. The Pandava emperor spared his life and the sermons of Krishna turned him into an ascetic. "Having got the kingdom, Yudhishthira ordered the people of the four races to live after their own modes and gave away thousands of gold viṣkhas. Restoring peace and order in the realm, he made over the charge of administration to Dhritarashtra, queen Gandhari and Vidura" (Mahabh. Peace Book, Chap. 45). But the blind king, his queen, Kunti mother to the Pandavas and minister Vidura, disgusted with the world, withdrew to a wood where they soon died in a conflagration. Soon after, Krishna, the principal figure
of the Yadavas, then master of Western India from Muttra to Dwaraka, was killed by a hunter. Erelong, another sad incident followed. The powerful Yadavas of 18,000 heroes, mostly given to excessive drinking, destroyed themselves in an inglorious war following a petty quarrel. After that, a sudden rising of the Western Sea flooded a considerable part of the Peninsula. Dwaraka was engulfed. The Yadavas mostly scattered in different directions. The Chief of Jasalmir (Rajputana) claims a direct descent from Krishna. Long long after, the Yadavas built an empire in the Decoam.

It seems probable that after the Great War, fresh Aryan immigrants came to India from the North. In one case at least we have a proof of it. Prince Samva son to Krishna had brought a pretty large colony of Sakali Brahmans from Central Asia to conduct the worship &c. in his famous “Sun-Temple” at Mooltan. Org. Mula-sthana Sambapura mentioned by Y. Chwang as Mooltambara.

Having crowned Parikshit, grandson to Arjuna, Yudhisthira, with his brothers and wife went to the Himalayas for eternal peace. Parikshit came to the throne about 1370 B.C. He was endowed with all the princely qualities. The kingdom was highly prosperous under him. He was very fond of hunting excursions. It is said that he died by a snake-bite at the age of 60. The snake-bite means death at the hands of the Turks. To cover disgrace, the later writers invented the tale of the snake-bite. The Turks had already occupied Kashmir and came down on the plains in large numbers.
Parikshit went to fight them out, but was killed in an action. Krishna who had attacked Hastinapura in 1388 B.C. from the North, was most probably a Turk. This is not a mere assumption but a fact confirmed by the Mahabharata, Rāja-Tarangini and the Sata-patha Brāhmaṇa. GonaTRA, king of Kashmir went with Jarasandha to attack Mathura. There he was killed by Bala-Rama, brother to Krishna. Dāmodara, son to GonaTRA, burned with revenge. Krishna and the Yadavas were present at the marriage-assembly at Gaṇodhar. There Dāmodara with his army, attacked Krishna and the party. But he was treacherously murdered by wily Krishna who declared his pregnant wife Yasomati Queen of Kashmir. Prince GonaTRA II. was born. During his minority, the War came off. The Turks wrested Kashmir from this GonaTRA. Kāhna says that 35 rulers followed GonaTRA II., whose names he could not recover. These were Turks. The Mahabh. Wood Book. Ch. 83. verse 90 calls Kashmir Takshaka Nāga Bhavana i.e. country of the Turks: His infant son Janamejaya was then placed on the throne by the priests and the ministers. He married fair Vāpustomi, princess of Kasi. He began to rule from 1321 B.C. His was an eventful long reign. About 1300 B.C., king Sesostris (Rameses II. of Egypt) is said to have invaded India and penetrated it as far as the Ganges. It was perhaps a passing storm. His government was involved in a war which may be called the Turkish War. The Turks of ancient times were known to the Hindus as Takshakas or Nagas i.e. Snake-people. We have
seen that the Indian Turkish Chief, being ousted from his kingdom by the Pandu brothers had fought against them. Now the Turkish colonists of India and the Turks of the North allied and made war upon Jana- mejaya who also rose equal to the occasion, defeated them signally and forced them to enter into tributary engagements with him at Taxila. This has been woven into the fine legend of Janamejaya's Snake Sacrifice at Taxila. The Turks were driven to Kashmir. Other Non-Aryan risings and invasions were put down. After great conquests, he performed a Horse sacrifice. This is mentioned in the Satapatha Brahmana. He could not be a party to the Great War, as is wrongly supposed by some. The rest of his life was spent in peace and prosperity. The illustrious sage Vyasa published his epic entitled *The Bhārata Sāṅkha* during his Imperial Sacrifice. Sukadeva, son to Vyasa, was a minister of this king. He probably ruled till the middle of the 13th century B.C. The political history of India for the following five or six centuries, is wrapped up in darkness. We only possess the bare king-lists of different dynasties. After the great wars, the country at last enjoyed peace. Before 1200 B.C. Hastinapur being eroded by the Ganges, the capital was removed to Kau- sāmbi (now Kosam), some 30 miles west of Allahabad.

The Gangetic kingdoms continued. In the Panjab and the Indus Valley, many principalities started into being. Of them, Kashmir was the most important. Many clans had merged into tribes and many tribes had merged into nations.
The long period (1800 to 700 B.C.) witnessed the decline and the fall of the Indo-Aryans, due partly to the following causes:—(i) Long-continued struggles with the Non-Aryans. (ii) Their fight among themselves. (iii) Their fight with the later Aryan immigrants. (vi) The enervating climate and the fertility of their new abode on the Ganges and Jumna, were more conducive to religious contemplation and peaceful courses than to martial excitement and military life. (v) Gradual adoption of Non-Aryan customs &c. Priestly domination.