

## CHAPTER VI.

## TOWNS &amp; MUNICIPALITIES.

At the Census of 1881, all places possessing more than 5,000 inhabitants, all municipalities, and all head-quarters of districts and military posts were classed as towns. Under this rule the following places were returned as the towns of the Karnál district :—

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General statistics of  
towns.

Tahsil.		Town.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Karnál	...	Karnál	23,133	12,626	10,507
	...	Kunjpura	4,725	2,269	2,456
Pánipat	...	Pánipat	25,022	12,431	12,591
	...	Kaithal	14,754	7,302	7,452
Kaithal	...	Síwan	5,717	2,992	2,725
	...	Pándri	4,977	2,379	2,598

The distribution by religion of the population of these towns and the number of houses in each are shown in Table No. XLIII, while further particulars will be found in the Census Report in Table No. XIX and its appendix and Table No. XX. The remainder of this chapter consists of a detailed description of each town, with a brief notice of its history, the increase and decrease of its population, commerce, manufactures, municipal government, institutions, and public buildings; and statistics of births and deaths, trade and manufactures, wherever figures are available.

Town of Karnál.

Karnál is a municipal town and the administrative head-quarters of the district. It lies in latitude 29° 42' 17" north, longitude 77° 1' 45" east. Its population is 23,133 souls, consisting of 15,215 Hindus, 110 Sikhs, 213 Jains, 7,550 Musalmáns, 45 others. It stands upon comparatively high ground, just above the old bank of the Jamná overlooking the Khádar or lowland tract. The river now flows 7 miles away to the east, and the old Western Jamná Canal passes just beneath the city.

The town is enclosed by an old wall, immediately outside of which runs a metalled road, and has ten gates, of which the Nawáb, Kalandar and Ghazni to the east, and the Júndla to the west, are the principal ones. To the west of the town lies an extensive suburb, which was the *sadr bázár* of the old cantonment. To the north, about a mile from the town, lie the civil lines and public offices, on the site of the old cantonment. The streets of the town are all well paved or metalled, but almost all of them are narrow and

crooked. The drainage and indeed the sanitary arrangements inside the town are fairly good. The principal buildings of antiquarian interest are—(1) Qalandar Sáhib's tomb, situated just outside and to the east of the town. The grave is made of marble, and decorated with sculpture. This tomb was built by Ghiás-ul-din, Emperor of Dehli, to the memory of Boali Qalandar (see Chapter III, page 94). The inhabitants of Pánípat, however, deny that this *faqir* was buried at Karnál, and they have a large tomb also to his memory in their town. Within the enclosure are a mosque and a reservoir with fountains built by the Emperor Alamgir, and outside, a kettle drum balcony. (2) Cantonment Church tower.—This is a fine old massive tower, and can be seen at the distance of several miles, as it is 100 feet in height. The body of the church was dismantled after the Cantonment of Karnál was abandoned in 1841 on account of its unhealthiness from the swamps of the Western Jamná Canal in its vicinity; the materials of the church were removed to Ambála. The tower is surmounted by a large ornamental cross, and inside the tower are several memorial tablets, which were removed from the walls of the church; the entrance gate has lately been renewed.

There are two cemeteries of the late cantonment with crowded tombs bearing evidence to the terrible mortality of the troops from the ravages of swamp created maladies. The grass and jungle grow apace; in a lattice organized by the District Officer, 22 head of large game, hog and deer of different kinds, were killed in one morning within the limits of the ex-cantonment and among the bush-smothered ruins of the military buildings.

The fort of Karnál once belonged to Bhág Singh, former Rájá of Jínd. It was taken from him by the Mahrattás, and eventually came into the possession of Sardár Gurdit Singh of Ládwa. It was captured by the English in 1805 and made over by General Ochterlony to Mohamdi Khán (Mandal), grandfather of Azmat Ali Khán, the present Nawáb of Karnál. On Karnál being formed into a British cantonment, it was decided by the authorities to take over the fort, suitable compensation being made to the Nawáb. It was finally selected as a residence for Dost Muhammad Khán, Amír of Kábul, in which he was detained for about six months, on his way to Calcutta. The fort was used as a jail, as quarters for Native Cavalry, and as a poor-house. In 1862 it was made over to the Education department when the *Zilláh* (now district) school was removed into it from the city.

The city of Karnál is said to have been founded by Rájá Karna, a General on the side of the Kauravás in the war of the Máhábharat. It would seem to have been a place of but little importance in early historical times; for while Pánípat, Kaithal and Thánesar are mentioned even by the early Arab geographers, and these towns and Samána and Sunpat are commonly referred to by the early historians, Karnál is first mentioned towards the end of the Pathán dynasty. The battle of Karnál has already been described in Chapter II, as indeed has the history of the town under the Sikhs. As a town, it owes much of its importance to Rájá Gajpat Singh of Jínd, who built the wall and fort, and under whose rule it increased considerably in

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size. Jacquément describes it in 1831 A.D. in the following words :—  
“In the interior, an infamous sink, a heap of every sort of unclean-  
liness. Amongst heaps of dung, brick-rubbish, and concourse of  
“beasts, are winding paths scarcely passable for horses, and having  
“here and there a few miserable huts. I have seen nothing so bad  
“in India; and it is fair to mention that amongst the natives its  
“filth is proverbial.” This is very far from applying to the present  
state of the town, which is internally well drained and clean. The  
inhabitants are Játs, Ráíns, Rors, and the ordinary miscellaneous  
mixture of Bráhmans, Baniás, Musalmáns, and menials which always  
collects in a city. In the *sadr bázár* live many Púrbíás and Khatíks  
&c., who came here with the troops, and used to find employment on  
the stud lands. The breeding stud has been given up for some three  
or four years; but Government cattle still occupy the lands.

The city of Karnál has the very worst possible reputation for  
unhealthiness, and not undeservedly. The canal cuts off a great loop  
of the Khádar to the west of the city, while to the south lies a great  
natural bight. The drainage of the Bángar runs over the bank, and,  
held up by the canal and the Grand Trunk Road, forms a huge  
swamp right under the city; while rice cultivation is carried on up  
to the very walls. When, after the increase of irrigation following  
upon the famine of 1833, the carrying capacity of the canal was  
increased to the utmost, the swamps thus formed became pestilential  
to a degree; and the sickness in cantonments became so great that  
the troops were moved to Ambála about 1844, and the cantonments  
finally abandoned. In 1844 rice cultivation near the city was pro-  
hibited, and remained forbidden for many years, but has since been  
resumed. And canal irrigation was temporarily stopped in the  
neighbourhood of Karnál on sanitary grounds. The raising of the  
canal banks, so as to stop the canal water itself from inundating  
the country, has done something to diminish the evil, and the realign-  
ment of the canal will no doubt still further reduce it. The civil  
station is protected from malaria by a broad belt of trees growing on  
the stud lands, and is comparatively healthy.

The filling up of the ditch which formerly surrounded the town,  
and the substitution of a masonry drain, has done much to improve  
its sanitation. The Karna tank, situate at the north of the town,  
named after Rájá Karna its founder, is held in much veneration by  
the Hindú community. This tank was believed to add to the unheal-  
thiness of the town by its not infrequent overflow. This has in a  
great measure been remedied by deeper excavation, while its margin  
has been embellished with masonry steps.

The opening of the railway on the opposite side of the Jamná  
has somewhat prejudiced the commercial position of Karnál, having  
attracted from it much of the commerce formerly passing along the  
Grand Trunk Road. The municipality of Karnál was first constituted  
in 1867. It is now a municipality of the 2nd class. The Committee,  
consists of the Deputy Commissioner as President, the Civil Surgeon  
and District Superintendent of Police, two Extra Assistant Commis-  
sioners at head-quarters, one of whom is Vice-President, Executive  
Engineer, Head Master and 12 non-official members, appointed by  
nomination. Table No. XLV shows the income of the municipality

for the last few years. It is chiefly derived from octroi levied at a rate varying from 5 to 8 *país* per rupee on the value of almost all goods brought within the municipal limits for the consumption or use of its inhabitants. The chief manufactures are—country cloth for local consumption, and blankets, boots and brass vessels for export. A considerable trade in leather is carried on; and there is a large population of *Chamárs* who execute contracts for harness, saddlery, boots and leather articles required by the cavalry and artillery. Skilful artificers are still to be found here, survivals from the old cantonments.

The public buildings in the civil station are Deputy Commissioner's Court, Treasury, Police station, Police Lines, Staging Bungalow, Church and Jail, also the tower of the old cantonment church, and the two cemeteries. In the suburbs there are a District School, and a Post Office, one Government and two other *saráis*, a dispensary and the Municipal Committee room. Close to the Municipal Committee room there is a masonry tank of large size called Karna, which gives the name to the city.

The Government maintains here a branch of the Hissár Cattle Farm. General Parrott, a retired officer of the Stud Department, took over the Government horse stud, which was formerly kept here, on its being broken up in the year 1875 (see pages 189-191).

Limits of enumeration.	Year of Census.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Whole town .. {	1868	29,007	15,951	13,056
	1881	23,133	12,026	10,507
Municipal limits .. {	1868	29,007	..	..
	1875	24,015	..	..
	1881	22,323	..	..

The population as ascertained at the enumerations of 1868, 1875, and 1881 is shown in the margin.

It is difficult to ascertain the precise limits within which the enumerations of 1868 and 1875 were taken; but the details in the margin, which give the population of suburbs, throw some light on the matter. The figures for the population within municipal limits according to the Census of 1868 are taken from the published tables of the Census of 1875; but it was noted at the time that their accuracy was in many cases doubtful. In 1881 the town included all that lay within municipal boundaries, together with the encamping ground, Civil lines, and Stud Dépôt.

Town or suburb.	POPULATION..	
	1868.	1881.
Karnal town ..	29,007	21,400
Matak Majri ..		734
Chand Sarai ..		294
Civil Lines ..		605

The Deputy Commissioner wrote as follows in the district report on the Census of 1881 regarding the decrease of population:—"The decrease is in some measure due to the diminished trade owing to the opening of the railway, to the removal of the Stud Department, and to the presence of troops on the encamping ground in 1868, but still more to the unhealthiness caused by the canal and the swamps around it, which has been intensified since 1868" (See birth and death-rates given below).

The constitution of the population by religion, and the number of occupied houses are shown in Table No. XLIII. Details of sex will be found in Table No. XX of the Census Report of 1881. The annual birth and death-rates per mille of popu-

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lation since 1868 are given below, the basis of calculation being in every case the figures of the most recent Census:—

Year.	BIRTH RATES			DEATH RATES.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1868	...	...	...	9	10	9
1869	...	...	...	16	36	36
1870	15	15	14	33	31	35
1871	16	20	18	28	26	31
1872	17	10	7	33	30	38
1873	96	5	3	17	17	18
1874	29	14	13	28	25	32
1875	21	15	14	55	48	63
1876	35	18	13	58	59	57
1877	36	18	17	41	41	41
1878	35	19	16	67	65	69
1879	23	14	12	88	85	90
1880	2	13	10	45	48	42
1881	34	19	15	45	44	45
Average	26	15	12	43	43	46

The actual number of births and deaths registered during the last five years is shown in Table No. XLIV.

Kunjpura is a small municipal town in latitude 29° 43' north, longitude 77° 7' 15" east. It has a population of 4,725, consisting of 2,174 Hindus, 1 Jain and 2,550 Musalmáns. It is situated in the Khádar of the Jamná, which now flows about 2 miles to the east, and is distant from Karnál 6 miles north-east. It is the residence of a distinguished Muhammádan family, whose head enjoys the revenue of the neighbourhood as *jágidár* and bears the title of Nawáb, with jurisdiction as honorary magistrate of the 2nd class on his own estates.

The town is enclosed by an old *pakka* wall, which is now in a delapidated state, and the municipality is too poor to keep it in good repair. The public buildings are—a school, a police *chauki*, and dispensary. The Municipal Committee consists of the Deputy Commissioner as president, the Nawáb as Vice-President, and 9 other non-official members appointed by nomination. Its income for the last few years is shown in Table No. XLV and is derived from octroi levied at a varying rate from 5 to 8 pies per rupee on the value of almost all goods brought within the municipal limits for the use or consumption of its inhabitants. The trade of the town is wholly local and unimportant. The history of Kunjpur a has already been given in Chapter II. It was from the cover of the fine orchards which still exist close to the town, that a division of the Persian army under Nádir Sháh made an important flank movement on the

Limits of enumeration.	Year of Census.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Whole town ..	1868	5,162	2,658	2,504
	1881	4,725	2,269	2,456
Municipal limits {	1868	5,162	..	..
	1875	5,049	..	..
	1881	4,725	..	..

force of Muhammad Sháh at the battle of Karnál in 1739 A. D. The population as ascertained at the enumerations of 1868, 1875 and 1881, is shown in the margin.

Town of Kunjpura.

It is difficult to ascertain the precise limits within which the enumerations of 1868 and 1875 were taken. The figures for the population within municipal limits according to the Census of 1868 are taken from the published tables of the Census of 1875; but it was noted at the time that their accuracy was in many cases doubtful. The town is in an exceedingly unhealthy situation, the surrounding country being annually inundated by the floods of the Jamná; and this accounts for the steady decrease of population. The constitution of the population by religion, and the number of occupied houses are shown in Table No. XLIII. Details of sex will be found in Table No. XX of the Census Report of 1881.

Pánípat is a municipal town and administrative head-quarters of a *tahsil* of the same name. It lies in latitude 29° 23' north, longitude 77° 1' 10" east, and has a population of 25,022 souls, consisting of 7,334, Hindús; 1 Sikh; 768 Jains; 16,917 Musalmáns, and 2 others. It is situated on the Grand Trunk Road, 53 miles north of Dehli, near the old bank of the Jamná, upon a high mound composed of the debris of centuries. From all sides the town slopes gently upwards towards an old fort, which is its highest point, and has low and squalid outskirts, receiving the drainage of the higher portion. The town is enclosed by an old wall which is formed by the back of many houses, and has 15 gates, of which the Salárganj to the north, Sháhviláit to the south, Mádhoganj to the east, are the principal ones; suburbs stretch in all directions except to the east. The town is traversed by two main *bázars* running respectively from east to west and from north to south, the latter being the principal one. The streets are all well paved or metalled, but are narrow and crooked.

The principal building of antiquity within the city walls is the Dargáh Qalandar Sáhí. Buáli Qalandar was the son of Salár Fakír-ud-dín, and is supposed to have been born in the year 602 and to have died in the year 724 Hijri, aged 122 years; this tomb, with the exception of the pillars of the "dálán" or hall, which are of touchstone, was erected by Khizi Khán and Shádi Khán, sons of the Emperor Ala-ud-dín, Ghori. The touchstone pillars aforesaid were erected by one Razákulla Khán, son of Nawáb Mukarab Khán, a *Hakim* in the service of the Emperor Akbar. The "*Khádims*" of the Dargáh still hold from Government a grant of land yielding Rs. 1,000 a year. They originally received Rs. 2,000 a year, but the income was reduced in 1858 in consequence of its having been discovered that a crusade had been preached against the British Government in 1857 at this place.

The town is of great antiquity, dating back to the period of the war between the Pándavás and the Kaurvás, when it formed one of the well known five "*pats*" or "*prasthas*" demanded by Yudishthira from Duryodhaná as the price of peace. In modern times the plains of Pánípat have thrice formed the scene of decisive battles, which sealed the fate of Upper India. In 1526 Bábar, with his small but veteran army, met Ibráhím Lodhi at the head of 100,000 troops near Pánípat, and, after a battle which lasted from sunrise to sunset, completely defeated the imperial forces. Ibráhím Lodhi fell with 15,000 of his followers; and in May 1526 Bábar entered Dehli, and established the so-called Mughal dynasty. Thirty years later, in

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1556, his grandson, Akbar, on the same battle-field, conquered Hemú, the Hindú General of the Afghán Sher Sháh, whose family had temporarily driven that of Bábar from the throne, thus a second time establishing the Mughal power. Again in 1761, the Durránis conquered the Mahrattás under the walls of Pánípat. A detailed account is given in Chapter II. In the first battle of Pánípat Ibráhím Lodhi fell; and an inscribed platform has been erected in his memory by the District Committee, just outside the octagonal tower of a garden wall which is still standing. When, however, the Grand Trunk Road was made, the Road Department destroyed the tomb (so says General Cunningham), and now an insignificant masonry platform, with a commonplace inscription, is all that stands in the name of the Emperor. The old tomb used to form a place of pilgrimage for the people of Gwáliar, since the last Rája of the old Gwáliar dynasty fell in the same battle.

The city is built upon a small promontory round which the old bed of the Jamná flows, and the city is well raised on the accumulation of centuries, the old fort in particular commanding the country for a considerable distance. The town is embowered in trees, and the white buildings shining through them present a very pleasing appearance as you approach it. The city must in old times have been of much greater size than it now is, and Jacquemont describes it as the largest city, except Dehli, which he saw in Northern India. Ruins of old shrines extend to a considerable distance round the town, and many mosques, shrines and gardens of very considerable pretensions still existing, but now in sad disrepair, tell of former importance. Many of the buildings possess considerable historical interest. An old Indian gun, some 8 feet long, made of bars of iron bound together by iron hoops, and with its name of *ganj shikan* or 'fort-breaker' cast on it, stood in the fort till after the mutiny, when it was destroyed and the gun thrown over the parapet. It has lately been moved to Dehli. The inhabitants are Arabs, Rájputs, Patháns, Bairúpias, Káyaths, and the ordinary city classes.

The city of Pánípat used to be comparatively healthy, till, in 1852, a cut called the Rer escape was made to drain some swamps at the junction of the Dehli and Hissár canals. This cut, assisted by the Grand Trunk Road, holds up the Bángar drainage in a loop of the Khádar, just as the canal does at Karnál, till the banks break and pour the water down the Búrhi Nadi, which would ordinarily carry it off harmlessly, but which has silted up to a great degree since the cut stopped the regular flow of drainage on to the city of Pánípat. The sickness so caused was so great that in 1854 the head-quarters of the district were moved from Pánípat to Karnál on this ground. Rice cultivation was then prohibited in the neighbourhood of the town, but the prohibition is no longer in force. Mr. Ibbetson thus describes the people of Pánípat. The chief families have already been described in Chapter III, Section F. :—

"The people of Pánípat are proverbially classed with those of Kasúr and of Jagádhri as bearing not the highest of characters.—I think that, taken as a whole, they perhaps deserve their reputation. They are almost all more or less educated men; they have the misfortune to hold their land revenue free, so that they are never wholly without means; but they are too *sharif* to cultivate themselves, while the body of landowners

has out-grown the capacity of the land to support idle hands in comfort. Of course there are numberless individuals who earn an honest livelihood by service or the like, and very many whose character for probity is unblemished, for many of whom I have the highest personal respect. But there is a very large residuum indeed who have attained the most consummate skill in chicanery; and their nearest female relations, all of whom are strictly secluded, and almost all of whom possess land under the Muhammadan law of inheritance, afford them a wide field for its practice without danger, which they take advantage of to the full. Their law of succession, and the tendency to intellectual subtlety which marks the race, have rendered their tenures and titles extraordinarily complicated; and an 8-anna power-of-attorney, attested by a couple of friends, and purporting to empower the holder to dispose fully of the lands and other property of his wife, sister, or mother, is often the basis of very curious proceedings indeed. I should add that the above description is far less true of the Rájputs than of the other classes of inhabitants; and is especially inapplicable to the Kaliár Rájputs, who, cultivating themselves, and being therefore looked down upon by their fellows, have generally escaped contamination. But the typical Pánípat suitor, with a petition of great length and intricacy, and displaying great research in fields of jurisprudence wholly irrelevant to the matter at issue, with a small law library of repealed Acts in his pocket, and who pours out in very high-flown language an interminable argument of which the locus is a circle carefully described round the point in dispute, is not a pleasant man."

The opening of the Railway on the opposite side of the Jamná has somewhat prejudiced the commercial position of Pánípat, having attracted from it much of the commerce formerly passing along the Grand Trunk Road. The municipality of Pánípat was first constituted of the 3rd class in 1867. The Committee consists of the Deputy Commissioner as President, *Tahsildár* as Vice-President, the Hospital Assistant and 12 non-official members appointed by nomination. Table No. XLV shows the income of the municipality for the last few years. It is chiefly derived from octroi levied at a rate varying from 5 to 8 pies per rupee on the value of almost all goods brought within the municipal limits for the consumption of its inhabitants. The next important occupation after agriculture is that of trade and banking. There is little trade with towns at a distance. What there is, is chiefly local trade and banking. The manufacture of copper vessels for export is of some importance. There are several large establishments for the manufacture of glass for ornamenting women's dress. The only other manufactures, other than those carried on in almost every village, are cutlery and the making of silver beads in imitation of pearls. The glass manufacture is of some interest. The glass is blown into large globes, and into these, while still hot, some amalgam is poured and the globes turned about, then receiving an internal coating of quick-silver. They are then broken up into small pieces, which are used as spangle ornaments both by women for their dress, and for the decoration of the walls of rooms.

The public buildings in this town are; the police station, the school, and the Municipal Committee room. These three stand on the top of the old fort mound. Beside these in the suburbs there are a dispensary, a post office, and a large *sarái*. The *tahsíl* building and



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Town of Pánipat.

Limits of enumeration	Year of Census.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Whole town ..	1868	25,276	13,146	12,131
	1881	25,022	12,431	12,591
Municipal limits ..	1868	25,276		
	1875	24,500		
	1881	25,651		

a small road bungalow is situated about a quarter of a mile north, and the civil rest-house about a mile to the west. There is also a large *pakká* tank to the north of the city. It was built by Mathra Dás Baniá in the time of Emperor Muhammad Sháh. The population as ascertained at the enumerations of 1868, 1875, and 1881 is shown in the margin.

It is difficult ascertain the precise limits within which the enumerations of 1868 and 1875 were taken; but the details in the margin, which give the population of suburbs, throw some light on the matter. The figures for the population within municipal limits according to the Census of 1868 are taken from the published

Town or suburb.	POPULATION.	
	1868.	1881.
Panipat town ..	25,276	25,022
Nurwala ..		221
Bichpuri ..		629
Amirnagar ..		100

tables of the Census of 1875; but it was noted at the time that their accuracy was in many cases doubtful. It would appear from information supplied by the Deputy Commissioner that Nurwála and Amirnagar were included in the Census of 1868. The above figures show that they were excluded from that of 1881, as also was Bichpuri and though being within municipal limits. The Census of the town itself was confined to the area within the octroi barrier.

The constitution of the population by religion, and the number of occupied houses are shown in Table No. XLIII. Details of sex will be found in Table No. XX of the Census Report of 1881. The annual birth and death-rates per mille of population since 1868 are given below, the basis of calculation being in every case the figures of the most recent Census :—

YEAR.	BIRTH RATES.			DEATH RATES.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1898	...	...	...	6	6	6
1869	...	...	...	14	15	13
1870	46	44	48	36	36	37
1871	39	42	36	50	48	53
1872	43	24	19	45	48	46
1873	36	18	18	43	39	48
1874	40	22	18	34	33	35
1875	46	24	22	46	45	46
1876	46	23	23	29	29	29
1877	45	23	22	32	32	32
1878	38	20	18	37	39	36
1879	29	16	13	46	47	46
1880	34	17	17	30	32	29
1881	45	24	21	39	40	37
Average	40	21	19	37	37	37

The actual number of births and deaths registered during the last five years is shown in Table No. XLIV.

Kaithal is a municipal town and administrative head-quarters of a *tahsil* of the same name, and the station of an Extra Assistant Commissioner in independent charge of the sub-division. It lies in latitude 29° 48' 7" north, longitude 76° 26' 26" east, and has a population of 14,754 souls, consisting of 8,597 Hindús, 171 Sikhs, 134 Jains, and 5,852 Musalmáns. It is picturesquely situated on the bank of an extensive artificial lake or moat, which half surrounds it, with numerous bathing places and flights of steps. A high wall, partly *pakka* and partly of mud, encloses the opposite side of the town. It has eight gateways, of which the Karnál gate to the east, the Keorak and Súrajkund gates to the north, and Kasáí gate to the west, are the principal ones. Most of the streets are well paved or metalled but are nearly all narrow and crooked. The principal buildings of antiquarian interest are as under :—

1.—Tomb of Shekh Sháháb-ud-dín, Balkhí at the Síwan gate. This prince is said to have come from Balkh to Hindustán in 673 Hijri ; he was slain in battle at Kaithal ; his grandson built this tomb to his memory ; the pillars and cupola are entirely of stones ; the inscription is in Arabic on the cupola ; the *táwiz* was removed from the tomb by one of the Rájás of Kaithal.

2. Masjid of Shekh Táyúb.—Built by himself in the time of the Emperor Akbar Jalál-ud-dín ; the cupola is coated with enamel.

3. Tomb of Sháh Wiláyat.—It was built in the reign of the Ghorís. Sháh Wiláyat's father built the tomb.—Some lands in the village of Síwan are released for the support of this shrine.

4. Tomb of Sháh Kamál.—Faqír Sháh Kamál is said to have come from Baghdád 250 years ago ; the tomb was erected by his descendants ; twice every year a fair is held at the spot ; lands and a well have been released for the support of the shrine.

5. Asthán Anjai, mother of Hanúmán.—This temple of Anjni, the mother of Hanúmán, was lately repaired by the Hindús of Kaithal.

The town is clean and picturesque.—The ruins of the old fort, or residence, of the Kaithal family stand out prominently on the high bank of an extensive artificial lake of irregular form, which sweeps half round the town, and seems to have been partly made by the excavation of bricks for building the town and fort, and partly formed to act as a moat for defence. Its margin is ornamented with extensive flights of steps leading down to the water, and with numerous bathing places for men and women, all built of solid masonry. The tank is one of the holy places of the Kurukshetra.

This town is said to have been founded by the mythical hero Yudisthira, and is connected by tradition with the monkey-god Hanúmán. It bears in Sanskrit the name of Kapisthala, or the abode of monkeys—a name which still applies. The town was renovated, and a fort built under Akbar. In 1767 it fell into the hands of the Sikh chieftain, Bhái Desu Singh, whose descendants, the Bháis of Kaithal, ranked amongst the most important and powerful Cis-Satlej chiefs. Their territories lapsed to the British Government in 1843. For a few years Kaithal formed the head-quarters of a separate district ; but in 1849 it was absorbed into the district of Thánesar, and again transferred in 1862 to that of Karnál (see Chapter II). The ruins of the fort or palace of the Bháis stand out prominently on the bank of the lake.

Chapter VI.  
Towns and  
Municipalities.  
Town of Kaithal.

The municipality of Kaithal was first constituted of the 3rd class in 1867. The Committee consists of the Deputy Commissioner as President, the Extra Assistant Commissioner as Vice-President, Hospital assistant and Head-Master and 12 non-official members appointed by nomination. Table No. XLV shows the income of the municipality for the last few years. It is chiefly derived from octroi levied at a rate varying from 5 to 8 pies per rupee on the value of almost all goods brought within the municipal limits for the consumption or use of its inhabitants. A great blow was struck at the prosperity of the town by the fall of its Rájás, and the removal of their mimic court. To this cause is to be attributed the falling off in population. A sleepy trade is carried on in gram, sal ammoniac, saltpetre, horned cattle, sheep and country blankets. The refinement of saltpetre is brought to considerable perfection. Lacquer ornaments and toys are also made in some numbers both in Kaithal and in some of the surrounding villages. The public buildings are—a court-house, a *tahsil*, a police station, a dispensary, and a school. There are many large tanks round the city, of which the Beddidár, the

Limits of enumeration.	Year of Census.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Whole town .. {	1868	14,940	7,456	7,484
	1881	14,754	7,302	7,452
Municipal limits .. {	1868	14,848	..	..
	1875	15,799	..	..
	1881	14,754	..	..

Shukarkúnd and the Sárakúnd are the principal ones. The population as ascertained at the enumerations of 1868, 1875 and 1881 is shown in the margin.

The small falling off in population is amply accounted for by the drought which preceded the Census, and by the fever epidemic of 1879.

The constitution of the population by religion, and the number of occupied houses are shown in Table No. XLIII. Details of sex will be found in Table No. XX of the Census Report of 1881. The annual birth and death-rates per mille of population since 1868 are given below, the basis of calculation being in every case the figures of the most recent Census:—

YEAR.	BIRTH RATES.			DEATH RATES.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1868	...	...	...	8	8	7
1869	...	...	...	13	14	12
1870	32	35	29	22	23	21
1871	28	31	25	26	31	21
1872	20	11	9	29	29	29
1873	14	8	6	16	17	16
1874	30	16	13	22	25	19
1875	25	15	10	15	18	13
1876	29	15	14	24	22	26
1877	34	18	16	18	18	18
1878	22	13	9	51	50	52
1879	11	6	5	35	33	37
1880	16	8	7	22	23	21
1881	21	12	9	22	23	21
Average	23	12	10	24	25	24

The actual number of births and deaths registered during the last five years is shown in Table No. XLIV.

Síwan is a small town, or rather a large village of 5,717 inhabitants, situated in the Khádar of the Suruswatí, about 6 miles west of Kaithal. The town itself is an unpretentious collection of native houses without a well or any building of importance. It has a school recently opened. Its lands include an enormous hollow in which rice is extensively grown with the aid of the flood-waters, of the Suruswatí.

On the stream is an old Mughal bridge and an abandoned village site of great size, where ancient bricks and Indo-Scythian coins are found in considerable numbers. This site is known to the people as Teh Polar. The population as ascertained at the enumerations of 1868 and 1881 is shown in the margin.

Year of Census.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1868 ...	6,206	3,224	2,982
1881 ...	5,717	2,992	2,725

The decrease in population is attributed by the Deputy Commissioner to the years of drought which preceded the Census of 1881, and to the fever epidemic of 1879. The constitution of the population by religion, and the number of occupied houses are shown in Table No. XLIII. Details of sex will be found in Table No. XX of the Census Report of 1881.

Púndri is a small municipal town in latitude 29° 45' 30" north, longitude 76° 36' 15" east. It has a population of 4,977 souls, consisting of 3,343 Hindús, 3 Sikhs, 1 Jain, 1,630 Musalmáns. It is situated on the bank of an extensive tank known as the Púndrak tank, which gives its name to the town, and which nearly half surrounds it with bathing places and flights of steps. Púndri was in old days the head-quarters of the Púndri Rájputés (see Chapter III, Section D). The town is enclosed by a mud wall, and has four gates, of which the Púndrak gate is to the north, the Kaithal gate to the west, the Páí gate to the south, and the Hábrí gate to the east. Nearly all its streets are paved. There are many large *pakka* private buildings, and a good *pakka saráí* built by a banker. The public buildings are a school and a police station. The Municipal Committee consists of the Deputy Commissioner as President, the Extra Assistant Commissioner of Kaithal as Vice-President, and 7 non-official members appointed by nomination. Its income for the last few years is shown in Table No. XLV, and is derived from the octroi levied at a varying rate from 5 to 8 pies per rupee on almost all goods brought within the municipal limits for the use or consumption of its inhabitants. There is little trade. The bankers generally have their firms at Sehore cantonment. The population as ascertained

Limits of enumeration.	Year of Census.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
Whole town ...	1868	4,773	2,360	2,413
	1881	4,977	2,379	2,598
Municipal limits ...	1868	4,749		
	1875	5,433		
	1881	4,977		

at the enumerations of 1868, 1875 and 1881 is shown in the margin.

It is difficult to ascertain the precise limits within which the enumerations of 1868 and 1875

## Chapter VI.

## Towns and Municipalities.

Síwan town.

Púndri town.

Chapter VI.  
Towns and  
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Pándri town.

were taken. The figures for the population within municipal limits according to the Census of 1868 are taken from the published tables of the Census of 1875 ; but it was noted at the time that their accuracy was in many cases doubtful. The constitution of the population by religion, and the number of occupied houses are shown in Table No. XLIII. Details of sex will be found in Table No. XX of the Census Report of 1881.

Tiráori.

Tiráori, though not classed as a town, is a place of some historical interest. Here in 1191 the invading army of Muhammad bin Sâm was defeated by the united Hindú armies under Pirthwi Raj, the Chauhán King of Dehli (see Chapter II). Here Prince Azim, son of Aurangzeb (afterwards for a short time Azim Sháh), was born. In memory of him the place was named Azimábád, and is still so called by many Musalmáns. A wall round the town, a mosque and a tank, said to have been built by Aurangzeb, are still in existence. The old highway ran through Tiráori, and there is a well preserved specimen of the old royal *saráis* here. This building appears to have been used by the Sikhs as a fort. It is now the property of the Nawáb of Kunjpura and is unused and neglected.

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