

Aurangzeb imposed the poll-tax according to scale. Manucca, who was at the Mogul court, says, "Great merchants paid thirteen and a half rupees, the middle class six and a quarter rupees and the poor three and a half every year." This was done "to force the Hindus to become Mohammedans."¹ Many appealed to Aurangzeb to do away with the tax. His own sister, Begum Sahib, went on her knees before him and begged him to consider his subjects, but he replied that he had the best of examples in the Prophet Mohammed, who had to adopt similar taxation for the purpose of bringing idolaters to their senses.²

Pressure of taxation was put upon non-Moslems in many other ways, particularly in the doubling of customs duties.³ It is not surprising then that Manucca should say that "Many Hindus become Mohammedans, spurred by ambition or interest, and such are constantly to be met with."⁴

Another method adopted by the Moslem was that of forcing men to break their caste, thus placing them hopelessly outside the pale of Hindu society. Jallal ud din forced many a Hindu to eat beef. In the Chittagong district of East Bengal, there is a community of Moham-

¹ Nicolas Manucca in "Storia Do Mogor," Vol. III, p. 290.

² *Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 288.

³ Manucca tells us that two and a half per cent. was levied upon the goods of Moslems but non-Moslems were charged five per cent. In the history of the Moslem occupation of Greece about the same period, the same taxation was adopted and exactly the same per centage charged upon Moslems and non-Moslems there. There was also the same kind of capitation-tax, and Finlay in his "History of Greece" says that in the reign of Suleiman the Legislator, "This tax yielded a revenue of seventeen million of piastres, while the whole revenue of the empire only amounted to twenty-seven million or about £6,000,000 sterling."

⁴ Manucca, Vol. II, p. 452 and additional notes.