







by the Sultan, and to collect taxes and to exact free labour from the peasants.

Baginda Omar declined to appoint successors when territorial chiefs died and instead appointed Penghulus in charge of one or more villages who were directly responsible to him. As an example, separate Penghulus were placed in charge of the Trengganu Valley, the Upper Kerbat, the Chergul river and the lower part of the Ulu Trengganu river, although formerly all this country was under the Orang Kaya Belimbing, on whose death the post was left vacant. In more thickly populated areas each village was managed by a Penghulu. The Baginda moved so freely among his subjects that during the latter part of his reign he was affectionately referred to by the peasants as *Toh Nyang*, and on Friday mornings, when he was in Kuala Trengganu, he frequently made tours of inspection, carrying with him a sackful of coins which he distributed to the poor.

The Baginda had married many wives but remained without heirs and Tengku Ahmad, son of Tengku Mahmud his full brother, and of Tengku Dalam, the daughter of Sultan Muhammad of Lingga was then made heir apparent. In 1874 the Baginda, who was then an old man, appointed Tengku Ahmad, to rule on his behalf and took little part in the affairs of state until his death two years later. He received the Governor, Sir William Jervois, at Kuala Trengganu in the middle of 1875 and was described by the latter as "an old man of 69, much paralysed". The Governor was on a tour of the East coast which included visits to Singora and Patani.

In 1876 Baginda Omar died, having ruled his country with firmness and wisdom for thirty-seven years, and was buried with great ceremony in the Abidin Mosque, his coffin being accompanied by four white umbrellas, and carried to the sound of four salvos fired by sixteen guns.

