



FARMĀNFARMĀ, FĪRŪZ MĪRZĀ NOŞRAT-AL-DAWLA

FARMĀNFARMĀ, FĪRŪZ MĪRZĀ NOŞRAT-AL-DAWLA (1233-29 Jomadā II 1303/1817-4 April 1886; [Figure 1](#)), the sixteenth son of ‘Abbās Mīrżā and grandson of Fath-‘Alī Shah (qq.v.). His political and military career flourished in the reign of his brother Moḥammad Shah (1250-64/1834-48) and continued under his nephew Nāşer-al-Dīn Shah (1264-1313/1848-96), under whom he held numerous governorships and other prominent posts. Upon the accession of Moḥammad Shah, Ḥosayn-‘Alī Mīrżā Farmānfarmā, the king’s uncle and governor of Fārs, laid claim to the throne and was supported by his brother Ḥasan-‘Alī Mīrżā Šojā-‘al-Salṭana (qq.v.). An army was dispatched from Tehran under Manūčehr Khan Mo‘tamed-al-Dawla and two English officers Henry Lindsay-Bethune and Justin Sheil to quell the rebellion and install the youthful Fīrūz Mīrżā as the new governor of Fārs. The rebellious army was defeated at Qomša near Isfahan, the rebels were sent to Tehran, and Fīrūz Mīrżā took over the governorship of Fārs with Manūčehr Khan as his minister (Fasā‘ī, *Fārs-nāma*, ed. Rastgār, pp. I pp. 762-65, tr. Busse, pp. 233-41; E‘tezād-al-Salṭana, pp. 432-35; Hedāyat, *Rawzat al-şafā* X, pp. 156-62; Curzon, *Persian Question* II p. 63; Jahāngīr Mīrżā, pp. 235-36; Kūrmūjī, p. 24). In 1252/1836 Fīrūz Mīrżā was removed from the government of Fārs and sent as governor to Kermān to replace Āqā Khan Maḥallātī (q.v.), who had been summoned to Tehran (Kūrmūjī, p. 28; E‘temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓam-e nāşerī*, ed. Reżwānī, p. 1637; Wazīrī, pp. 386-88). Āqā Khan, however, took refuge in the citadel of Bam but surrendered after a siege of fourteen months (E‘tezād-al-Salṭana, p. 518;



E'temād-al-Salṭana, *Montaẓam-e nāṣerī*, ed. Reẓwānī, p. 1637; Wazīrī, pp. 366-88; Kūrmūjī, p. 28). Subsequently Fīrūz Mīrẓā held the following positions: governor of Fārs for the second time in 1266/1849-50, governor of Arāk in 1274/1857, governor of Tehran in 1275/1858, the head of the government in the king's absence during the latter's three-month tour of the country in 1276/1859, minister of war in the years 1285-88/1868-71 and 1290/1873-74, three times vizier of Azarbaijan beginning in 1280/1863, governor of Arāk in 1292/1875, and governor of Kermān and Baluchistan in 1296/1879. He was also a member of the Government's Consultative Assembly (*Majles-e šūrā-ye dawlatī*) in 1276/1859 and a member of Nāṣer-al-Dīn Shah's entourage on his first European tour in 1290/1873. Fīrūz Mīrẓā led several military campaigns in the reign of Nāṣer-al-Dīn Shah, from whom he received in 1293/1876 the title of Farmānfarmā (Bāmdād, *Rejāl* III, p. 114). He was also a man of letters and a master of the *kamānča*, a spiked fiddle (Kāleqī, I, p. 16). In his memoirs of a tour of Kermān and Baluchistan in 1297/1879, he describes in detail the geographical and social conditions of each place he visited, showing great knowledge of fauna and flora. He also displays genuine, compassionate distress when describing the prevailing poverty of the area.

Fīrūz Mīrẓā married Homā Kānom, a granddaughter of Faṭḥ-'Alī Shah, and the present Fīrūz and Farmānfarmā'īān families are their direct descendants.

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Figure 1. Drawing of Fīrūz Mīrzā Farmānfarmā by Abū Tor āb Ġaffārī Naqqāş-bāşī. Courtesy of H. Farmayan.