

that he brought with him no supply of money, to which the General had so anxiously and confidently looked forward.*

Meanwhile the Turks began to manifest a strong disposition to commence hostilities against the Beys and Mamelukes, who had deemed it prudent to retire further into Upper Egypt from Syout; and from the general appearance of affairs, it seemed now quite certain, as had been anticipated, that the departure of the British forces from the country would be the signal for the opening of a campaign between them.

* In cases of plague, a nourishing regimen has been found generally serviceable. The Count de Noé, in his book, already often quoted, relates the following circumstance, for the truth of which he vouches :

“The plague,” says the Count, speaking of the period to which we are now referring, “had begun to shew itself in Boulac, at Cairo, at Rahmanie, and in Middle Egypt; the General (Colonel Ramsay) in consequence took the strongest measures to preserve Gizeh from the pestilence. Communication with the capital was prohibited, and the Djerms which navigated the river were subjected to quarantine. The necessity for these precautions was rendered more urgent by the fact that Gizeh was almost the only town in Egypt that had escaped the contagion.” * * * *

“A circumstance occurred with respect to a private soldier of the 26th Light Dragoons, which deserves to be recorded. The man, who had been attacked by the disease, felt his end fast approaching, in the midst of all the tortures of burning thirst,—‘I have but a few moments to live,’ said he to the surgeon who was attending him; ‘give me a bottle of port-wine—perhaps it may relieve the agonies I am suffering.’ Considering it a dying request, we suppose, the surgeon gave him the

Here, then, was General Baird detained in Egypt, without a command and without a prospect of service; a civil war between two allies of England impending — the plague increasing — his finances exhausted, and his army nearly four months in arrear of pay.

When General Baird, however, made inquiries of Sir Home Popham on the subject of the disappointment occasioned by his coming thus "empty-handed," it appeared that the omission was not one of either thoughtlessness or neglect. Lord Wellesley's resolution not to transmit treasure to General Baird was grounded upon intelligence which his Excellency had received, that two frigates had been despatched from England for Egypt, with money for the forces employed there.

Upon gaining this information, General Baird considered himself fully justified in making an application to Lord Cavan for such assistance from the

bottle, the contents of which the dragoon swallowed at a draught, and immediately after fell asleep. He awoke from his slumber, feeling much better; his thirst was gone; the excruciating pain in his bowels had subsided; his courage recovered with his strength, and in a short time he was perfectly restored.

"The surgeon afterwards administered port wine to all his patients, and lost none of them; and it is certain, that although several soldiers perished by the plague, not one officer died. Is it," asks the Count, "because their mode of living was superior, that they escaped? It seems extremely probable." And this supposition of the Count's has been borne out by the general results of the more recent epidemic of the present year, called by many people, cholera."

military chest, as might enable him to pay the troops, offering, of course, to grant his Lordship such receipts as would become available vouchers in any subsequent settlement of the question of expenditure between the British Government and the East India Company.

But no : although Lord Cavan, and those military officers of higher rank, to whom the question had been referred, entertained no doubt whatever as to the necessity and regularity of uniting the two armies for the sake of bringing them under one command, his Lordship considered that, *in a financial point of view, they were as much separate as ever*; for his Lordship, in answer to General Baird's application upon the subject, says—

Respecting that part of your letter wherein you request me to advance you money from the public purse for the subsistence of the troops upon the Indian establishment, I conceive I should not act correctly if I so did, unless under circumstances such as made it impossible for you any where else to obtain cash ; in which case it certainly would become my duty to afford you such assistance as you require ; but as this is not so, from your informing me in your letter that you have several offers of cash for your bills on England, and which I have no doubt but that the India Company would honour, (if you will pardon my presumption in advising you on this subject) I recommend your availing yourself of them, as the necessity of the case fully justifies. Exclusive of this opinion, the state of the military chest is not so considerable as to admit of my advancing you a sum therefrom, equal to what you might want, without hazarding, from the present unsettled appearance of affairs concerning peace, an hereafter great

inconvenience to that *part* of the army which is on the British establishment.

In consequence of this refusal, General Baird was compelled to have recourse to the somewhat informal measure to which we have already referred, of drawing upon the Honourable East India Company in London.

Whatever doubts Lord Cavan might have entertained with respect to the conclusion of the peace, they were set at rest on the 23rd of April, five days after the date of his letter, by the arrival of a vessel from Leghorn, after a passage of seventeen days, which brought copies of the definitive treaty, signed at Amiens on the 25th of March.

Expecting now every day to receive orders for commencing his return to India, General Baird, in addressing Lord Wellesley, writes thus :—

On this occasion, my Lord, I deem it my particular duty to report to your Excellency, that during the whole of the service this army has been employed on, which from its commencement has been of a fatiguing and harassing nature, I have ever found a most zealous and strict attention to duty, both in officers and men, and the utmost cheerfulness in combating every hardship and surmounting every difficulty.

I deeply regret that I had not an opportunity of bringing them into action against the enemy, as I am well convinced, from their superior state of discipline, and led on, as they would have been, by the able and active officers at the heads of brigades (Colonels Ramsay and Beresford, Lieutenant-Colonels Montresor and Harness), and corps,

that they would have done honour to themselves, and gained the approbation of their King and country, by maintaining the character which the Indian army have so long and well supported.

From the general, as well as my own personal staff, I have derived every assistance which in their respective situations they could possibly afford me; but more particularly from that active and distinguished officer, Colonel Auchmuty, whose ability and professional knowledge have been of the very greatest benefit to the service. In a word, it is particularly gratifying to me to have to declare, that from the first formation of the army under my command to the present moment, it has been actuated but with one spirit of zeal and cordiality.

Such a testimonial, so highly honourable to this gallant body of men, should not be lightly passed over, although, in describing the merits of the Indian army, we shall not content ourselves with the commendations of the brave General who commanded them. The following extract from a letter, addressed to General Baird, by the Pacha of Egypt, deserves a place amongst the records of the expedition, and affords, from the pen of a chief, whose impartiality is beyond suspicion, a striking corroboration of the report which the General made to the Marquess Wellesley.

Témoin oculaire des services memorables, et signalés par des victoires que les braves troupes de Sa Majesté Britannique ont rendus à la Sublime Porte en Egypte, je ne puis exprimer combien je suis comblé de joie et de satisfaction pour avoir été très heureux de servir dans une

expédition si glorieuse, en grand intelligence et harmonie avec vos habiles officiers et vos troupes si braves et si distingués, que je ne cesserai jamais de me louer de leur bonne conduite, probité, et honnêteté, aussi bien que des règles de justice qu'ils ont suivies très exactement envers les habitants d'Égypte.*

J'ai l'honneur, &c.

On the 30th of April the Chamelion sloop-of-war arrived at Alexandria from Malta, bringing the long-expected despatches which were to decide the future movements of the assembled force. At the time the Chamelion left Malta no official accounts of the signing of the definitive treaty had reached that island from England, but General Fox had received a despatch from the English minister at Naples, informing him of the event.

The letter by which the proceedings of General Baird and his army were to be regulated, was addressed by Lord Hobart, at that time Secretary of State for War and Colonies, to General Fox, and is subjoined.

* "Eye-witness as I have been of the memorable and victorious services which the brave British troops have rendered to the Turkish Government in Egypt, I cannot sufficiently express to you how truly happy I feel in having been employed in so glorious an expedition, in perfect friendship and harmony with officers so skilful, and soldiers so brave and well disciplined; and I never shall cease to bear the highest testimony to their good conduct, probity and honesty, and the strict justice which they have uniformly observed towards the inhabitants of Egypt."

Downing Street, 18th March, 1802.

SIR,

It being judged expedient that the native troops from India serving in Egypt, should be sent back to their establishments by the ships now at Suez, I have His Majesty's commands to direct that you will, upon the receipt hereof, take the necessary measures for carrying this service into execution, and that you will order Major-General Baird to proceed with those corps, and with such detachments of the European corps belonging to the Indian establishments as the separate instructions of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief may point out to you.

You will give instructions to Major-General Baird to consult with the naval officer in command of His Majesty's ships in the Red Sea, at what port in India it may be most advisable to land the sepoy's of the Bombay establishment, as well as to concert with him respecting the debarkation of the European detachments.

The Bengal sepoy's should be sent by sea to Calcutta, unless the Governments of India should have otherwise directed, or unless, from well-authenticated information relative to the situation of affairs in the southern provinces, Major-General Baird should be induced to think it essential to the public service that the troops under his command should be landed to reinforce the army in those provinces; in which event it will be proper that he should immediately acquaint the Governments of India with the motives of his conduct, and conform to whatever instructions he may receive from them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

HOBART.

A duplicate of this despatch was forwarded to Lord Cavan, with the following letter, specially addressed to his Lordship.

Downing Street, 18th March, 1802.

MY LORD,

Inclosed I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of my letter to General Fox, and I have to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure that you should consider it as an instruction for your conduct, and that you should immediately act upon it without waiting for orders from General Fox.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient and humble servant,
HOBART.

Immediately on the receipt of these despatches Lord Cavan, having consulted with General Baird, sent the following letter to the officer commanding His Majesty's ships in the Red Sea.

Alexandria, 3rd May, 1802.

SIR,

I have the honour to inclose you extracts of a letter from Lord Hobart to me respecting the embarking the troops at Suez, that are to return to India. I have desired Major-General Baird, under whose directions they will be marched to Suez, to transmit to you embarkation returns of their numbers. The last division of them leave this garrison to-morrow, and the General follows on the 7th instant. From our distance rendering a speedy communication impossible, I beg to refer you to Major-General Baird, who will be at Gizeh, near Cairo, to make such arrangements as you may accordingly think necessary. The General has my direction to carry them into execution without waiting for orders from me.

As I have reason to believe some volunteers from the British regiments at Malta, that have been enlisted from the Militia for a limited time and service, will be re-enlisted

for unlimited service into the 80th and 86th regiments, about to embark at Suez, it will be necessary that some ship should be left at Suez, after your departure with the troops, to convey them to India. I cannot give any guess at their numbers. I should not conceive they could possibly exceed two hundred and fifty men.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient very humble servant,

(Signed) CAVAN,

Major-General, Commanding-in-chief

H. M. Troops in Egypt.

As soon as the orders were issued for striking off from the Indian allowances those regiments which were to return to England, it occurred to General Baird, that as in consequence of the great diminution of the force ordered to return to India, there would be a considerable portion of spare tonnage on board the transports, it would be a measure of great importance to purchase as many good and serviceable horses for the use of the cavalry regiments in India, as could be accommodated in the different vessels which were destined to convey the army to the different Presidencies.*

It appears also, that General Fox had received instructions in compliance with the directions of Lord Wellesley, and the suggestion of General Baird, to allow the men of the militia regiments at Malta,

* The regiments ordered to return to Europe were the 10th, 61st, and 88th; and the number of horses for which the accommodation intended for those corps, could be made available, was about 220 or 230.

who were only engaged for a particular time, to enlist into the regiments on the East Indian establishment, as well as the limited service men of the 61st regiment. For the accommodation of these troops, it will be seen by Lord Cavan's letter to the senior naval officer at Suez, that a ship was to be left at that place, in which they were to follow the main body of troops to India.*

No sooner had these preliminary measures been taken, than General Baird, with his usual readiness and foresight, sent forward parties from Gizeh, to be stationed along the desert, in order to dig for water; and he appears in all the measures which he took for facilitating the march of his army by that route, to have been greatly cheered and encouraged by the certainty which he felt in his mind, of the zealous and active co-operation of Sir Home Popham, of whose professional abilities he had evidently formed the highest opinion from their earliest acquaintance.

It was on the 7th of May that the General himself quitted Alexandria. He arrived at Gizeh about noon on the 11th, having passed through a remarkably fine country, with good roads, and an ample supply of provisions and water. In the course of the march, the General did not himself fall in with any of the Bedouin Arabs, but from intelligence which he obtained from different officers of the army who had visited their camps, it appeared that they were

* These recruits and volunteers from Malta, and the foreign corps serving in Egypt, amounted to three hundred and sixty, all healthy and serviceable men.

extremely civil and friendly, not only to the troops, but even to the followers of the army.

As soon as General Baird reached Gizeh, he sent to the Pacha, announcing his arrival, and informing him that he expected every necessary assistance from him during the march across the Desert to Suez; to which demand, or request, the Pacha replied with great cordiality and good will, assuring General Baird that he might rely upon his aid and co-operation; indeed, the whole prospect before the General, was now cheering and agreeable, and in addition to the actually prosperous appearance of affairs, it may easily be conceived that Lord Wellesley's despatch of the 8th of February, which we have already quoted, but which the General received at this period, was extremely gratifying.

While recounting the various marks of favour and approbation with which the General appeared destined to be loaded at this juncture, we cannot omit the detail of his reception by the Pacha on the 15th, on which day he paid his Highness a visit of ceremony, for which account we are indebted to an officer of General Baird's army.

On the 15th, the General, attended by his staff and other officers, with an escort of the 8th light dragoons, crossed the river from Gizeh to Cairo in the morning, where a Turkish guard of honour of horse and foot were drawn up to receive him. On landing, the General was met by the Pacha's chief secretary and interpreter.

After the usual compliments and honours being paid, the guards moved off in front at a slow pace towards his

Highness's palace, the kettle-drums and other music of the Turkish cavalry playing during the procession, while the heralds proclaimed the approach of the English General.

On coming near the palace—formerly General Kleber's residence, and in which he was assassinated—we found the streets lined with Albanian guards up to the steps of the great staircase. The appearance of the soldiers was more sanguinary than martial; every man, besides his musket and bayonet, being armed with a brace of pistols, a sabre, and a dagger. Having arrived at the palace, the General dismounted, when he was received by the officers of state, and conducted to the Chamber of Audience. Here the Pacha met the General at the door, and received him in the most flattering and distinguished manner. After being served with coffee, sherbet, &c. and the compliments customary on such occasions had passed, as well as a conversation of some length, relative to the march of the army across the Desert, in the forwarding of which his Highness offered in the most unreserved manner, every assistance in his power, the General rose to take his leave, when the Pacha requested his acceptance of a war horse fully caparisoned, and a sword; adding that they were the gifts of esteem and friendship. The staff and other officers of the General's suite, each received a sword.

The General was requested by the Pacha, as a particular honour, to mount the horse when he left the palace, which he accordingly did, and was saluted with nineteen guns on crossing the great square.

We then returned home in the same manner we came, amidst an immense concourse of people; and as is usual in most Mussulmaun countries, were importuned for bucksheas (money) on all sides.

The saddle presented to General Baird was of solid silver, gilt, the furniture of crimson velvet, with stars and crescents

of the like metal. The horse was one of the most beautiful animals I ever beheld, and of the finest breed in Turkey. The General's sword was no less costly; the scabbard and mounting being made entirely of gold, and the blade one of the true Damascans. We afterwards learnt that the whole of them had been sent by the Grand Signior to the Pacha, upon raising him to his present high station in the empire.

Two days afterwards the Pacha returned the General's visit. His Highness came to the Gizeh side of the river in his state barge, attended by a great number of others, full of grandees, Janissaries, and attendants. The morning being remarkably fine, heightened the interest of the scene. The effect of the Turkish music on the water, and the gay appearance of the various flags and pendants, were truly striking; add to this, the reflections arising from a proper pride on beholding a British—and a British Asiatic army, from "farther Ind," drawn out upon the banks of old father Nile, to do honour to the Ottoman crescent, and you will, I think, envy us, as well as regret in no common degree your absence on such an occasion.

The Pacha, on landing, was received by two of the General's staff, a salute of cannon was immediately fired; the troops formed in a street, presented arms, and the bands began to play. His Highness seemed highly pleased, bowed to the officers as he passed with much urbanity, and frequently remarked to the Pacha of the Albanians, and the other great officers of his suite, the fine and martial appearance of the soldiers. The sepoy's attracted much of his attention.

A few yards from head-quarters (formerly the country house of Morad Bey), the General, accompanied by the principal officers of the army, met the Pacha, and after welcoming him to the garrison, and the usual compliments having passed, the whole procession entered the grand

saloon, which had previously been fitted up in the Turkish style, with divans, carpets, &c. Here the officers formed a circle, and coffee, sherbet, &c. were served in the Oriental manner, the band of the 86th playing all the time. The Pacha seemed particularly delighted with the music; he remarked that the tambourine and triangle, very nearly Turkish, afforded him much pleasure, especially in the "Battle of Prague," in which Kotzwarow has introduced one of their national airs as the quick step. The eyes of the Janissaries kindled at hearing their favourite call to battle.

After being entertained for a considerable time in this manner, and much civility having been exchanged, the Pacha rose to take leave. The General then requested his Highness and his principal officers to accept of some arms of English workmanship, consisting of fuseses, pistols, &c. He also presented the Pacha with some jewels, set in the Eastern mode.

On his Highness leaving the gateway, the General having ordered two of the finest Mocha bulls to be brought there, begged his Highness's acceptance of them. This last present the Pacha seemed highly pleased with, as the breed is unknown in Turkey. The humps on their shoulders occasioned many observations from the attendants.

The General having accompanied the Pacha a few yards towards the river, his Highness requested he would go no farther. He expressed himself highly gratified with his reception, and repeated his professions of friendship, and anxious wish to assist the army in their march across the Desert. He then embarked under the accustomed honours and salute.

Having thus detailed to you this ceremony, I shall not intrude longer on your patience, and only add, that from the cordial and friendly disposition of the Pacha, I think we shall accomplish this march across the Desert to Suez,

without much loss or difficulty, and unattended by those fatigues and hardships so severely felt, yet so nobly surmounted in the former ordeal, from the shores of the Red Sea across the arid, burning desert of the Thebaid.

General Baird, immediately after his arrival at Gizeh, put the army in motion, and began the march to Suez, which place he himself reached on the 25th. The troops crossed the Desert in successive divisions, in five easy marches each, without experiencing much inconvenience, and with the loss of only three Europeans.*

In describing this march, and the state of the army to the Governor-General, General Baird says—

As the troops are now about to return, I experience a satisfaction in reporting to your Excellency that they are for the most part healthy, nor have we suffered lately from the plague. I am sorry, however, to add, that in consequence of the disease having appeared in the 7th Bombay regiment, I ordered that corps to be halted on the first stage on the Desert, there to remain in quarantine till all the army had passed on, and on its arrival at Suez, afterwards to complete the stated period, previous to embarkation. I am also constrained to mention, that since my arrival here, a case of plague has appeared in the Madras Ordnance

* It should be recollected, that this brief account of the march, is from the pen of General Baird himself, the last man in the world to magnify difficulties, or mention the success of his own exertions, in reducing them. The fact is, however, that the distance from Gizeh, or rather Cairo, to Suez, is twenty-three leagues, and that without such precautions as were taken by the General, not one drop of water is procurable between Birket El Hadji, at the entrance of the Desert, and Suez itself.



N.B. The black figures denote the places we have tried at for water. The red figures the stages, on the lower road, for the Army to halt at. The spot N^o 6 was pointed out by an Arab; water continued in the wells that were dug only 4 days. At N^o 7, water was procured in abundance the whole time the Army was crossing: it was rain water lodged in the sand, no appearance whatever of a spring.

Department, which corps will likewise have to remain until they have completed their quarantine; the other part of the troops I have every reason to believe will embark free from any latent infection of this malady.

From the unremitting exertions and indefatigable activity of Sir Home Popham, the transports were ready to receive the troops nearly as soon as they arrived, and those ships which were destined for the horses, were fitted with incredible rapidity, so that the General felt assured that he should be able to sail from Suez on the first week in June.*

Previously to crossing the Desert, it appeared to General Baird, that the ordnance stores remaining on hand were scarcely worth the difficulty and charge of transport through the march, and having obtained the report of a committee of officers, which entirely justified his view of their value, he resolved upon delivering the whole of them over to the Turkish government, as a return for the aid and assistance afforded to the army by the Pacha of Egypt, and for grain and other provisions which he had provided. The same course was adopted at Suez, for cogent reasons, with regard to the gunpowder and ammunition which they had carried with them across the Desert.

* The Count de Noé says, speaking of General Baird's departure from Gizeh—"Nous nous en séparâmes avec regret : ce digne chef s'étoit toujours distingué par le vif intérêt qu'il prenoit aux officiers sous ses ordres ; et par sa sollicitude envers le soldat.—Sévère, mais juste, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, il étoit également chéri et respecté de tous ses soubordonnés."—*Expédition Anglaise*, p. 260.

On the 5th of June, the General embarked on board His Majesty's ship *Victor*, Captain Collier, having previously given orders, that the whole of the troops, (except those belonging to the Presidency of Bombay, who would of course proceed thither direct,) should touch in the first instance at Madras, whence, in case their services should not be required there, the Bengal troops would proceed immediately to Calcutta.

Just on the point of embarkation, General Baird wrote two letters, one to the Earl of Cavan, and the other to Sir Home Popham, extracts from which we submit to the reader as forming the conclusion of his services in connexion with those officers, as far as relates to the Egyptian expedition.

To Lord Cavan, after detailing the state of his proceedings, General Baird says—

“ I beg your Lordship to accept my warmest thanks for the ready assistance you have given me ; I have been in consequence enabled to cross the Desert with great facility, comparatively little fatigue, and with the loss of but three men. On this subject I have taken the liberty to express my sentiments to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and shall not fail to do so to his Excellency the Marquess Wellesley.

“ Allow me to assure your Lordship, that I am highly sensible of, and much gratified by, the handsome manner in which you have been pleased to carry on the service with me since I have had the honour to be under your Lordship's command, and for the very flattering terms in which your Lordship has been pleased to express your approba-

tion of my conduct in public orders, and in your letters to me on that subject.”

To Sir Home Popham, the General, speaking almost prophetically in some part of his letter, says—

“ The object of the expedition on which we have been mutually employed, being now so happily brought to a conclusion, and as we are so soon to separate, I deem the present a fit occasion publicly to express how much I have at all times been sensible, and felt the value of your zealous exertions and cordial co-operation in forwarding the service.

“ It has been a duty on me, no less just towards you than a pleasing tribute to my own feelings, to convey these my sincere and perfect sentiments of your meritorious conduct and able assistance to his Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief, and to his Excellency the Marquess Wellesley, Governor-General of India.

“ Should it ever be my lot on any future occasion to be on active service, where the navy and army may be required to act together, I can only add that it will be to me a source of real satisfaction, again to co-operate with you, and if not, I shall wish it may be my good fortune to meet with an officer possessed of your zeal, ability, and military experience.”

Having written these letters, and being as we have already said on the point of embarkation, the General was informed that three new cases of plague had made their appearance: these, like the former ones, were ordered into strict quarantine, and in the evening of the 5th the General sailed on board the Victor.

On the 7th of June, General Baird reached Kosseir, where he found that Paymaster Melville, who had been charged with despatches for him, had arrived about a fortnight before, and had proceeded overland by way of Ghennah to Cairo to join the army; this, however, now that the General was rapidly proceeding homewards, (if India might be called his home,) was a mortification of no great importance. On the 16th he reached Mocha, and on the 6th of July, exactly one month after his departure from Suez, anchored in Madras Roads, where he merely remained while the ship replenished her water, and then proceeded to Calcutta.

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL BAIRD ARRIVES AT CALCUTTA—HIS RECEPTION THERE—MARKS OF DISTINCTION CONFERRED ON THE NATIVE TROOPS—GENERAL BAIRD REMOVED AT HIS OWN REQUEST TO THE STAFF OF THE MADRAS ARMY—APPOINTED TO THE COMMAND OF A DIVISION—MARCH TO ARCOT—NEGLECT OF THE COLLECTOR OF THE DISTRICT—CONTINUATION OF MARCH—ARRIVAL AT THE PASS—REACHES THE BANKS OF THE TOOMBUDRA—GENERAL WELLESLEY JOINS THE ARMY—GREAT DIMINUTION OF GENERAL BAIRD'S DIVISION IN CONSEQUENCE THEREOF—GENERAL BAIRD APPLIES TO BE RELIEVED—OBTAINS LEAVE OF ABSENCE—PROCEEDS TO FORT ST. GEORGE—QUITS INDIA IN DISGUST—ARRIVAL AT ST. HELENA—INTELLIGENCE OF WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE—TAKES HIS PASSAGE IN A SOUTH SEA WHALER—IS CAPTURED BY A FRENCH PRIVATEER—RECAPTURED OFF CORUÑA—ARRIVES IN ENGLAND—APPOINTED TO A COMMAND IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ENGLAND UNDER SIR JAMES CRAIG.

WE now come to the period when General Baird was to receive the honours to which his conduct of the Egyptian expedition so fully entitled him. At Calcutta rejoicings of every kind awaited his arrival.

In the periodical prints of the time we find the details of the General's reception at Fort William, from which, as well as the official documents, which it will be our duty to lay before the reader, a tolerably fair estimate may be made of the feeling of admiration and respect which his gallantry and perseverance had so generally excited.

The following is a copy of the general order issued on the day of General Baird's arrival :

G. O.

Fort William, July 31st, 1802.

Major-General Baird, commanding the forces employed in the late expedition from India to Egypt, arrived this day at the Presidency, attended by the Governor-General's state boats, and was received on his landing at Chaundpaul Ghaut, by the officers of his Excellency's staff.

The Governor-General in Council derived sincere satisfaction from the highly honourable testimony borne by Major-General the Earl of Cavan to the services of Major-General Baird, and of the troops from the establishments of India lately employed in Egypt. Under a grateful impression of the important aid derived to the common cause of our country, by the able and successful conduct of the expedition from India to Egypt, his Excellency is pleased to order that honorary medals be conferred on all the native commissioned and non-commissioned officers, troops, and sepoys, golaundaza, and gun lascars, who have been employed on service in Egypt.

The following is an extract of the Earl of Cavan's letter to his Excellency the Governor-General, alluded to in the above order, dated Alexandria, May 6th, 1802.

“ I am sensible no opinion of mine can increase the very high and deserved estimation that the professional abilities of Major-General Baird have acquired. But it is a justice I owe to him, and the troops he brought under his command from India, to testify to your Excellency the very full satisfaction they have given me on every occasion since I have had the honour of having them under my command.

“ Their excellent discipline and obedience, and their patience under great fatigue and hardship, have been equalled by their highly exemplary conduct in the correct

and regular discharge of every duty of soldiers ; and though they may lament that circumstances rendered it impossible for them to have taken part in the brilliant actions of this country during the last campaign, it must be a satisfaction for them to know that their services in Egypt have been as important, and as essential to their country, as those of their brother soldiers that gained such distinguished victories in it.

“ I have requested of them to accept of my humble approbation and very best thanks ; and I beg leave to recommend General Baird and them strongly to your Excellency’s notice.”

On the 9th of August his Excellency the Governor-General entertained at breakfast, in the new Government House, Major-General Baird and the officers of the army returned from Egypt.

At eight o’clock a. m. the flag was hoisted at Fort William, and a royal salute was fired in honour of the return of the army from Egypt.

As we are now concluding the account of the Egyptian campaign, we think it more convenient (although without some explanation it might involve us in a charge of anachronism) to bring together at this point the official testimonials to the conduct of General Baird, in the different departments of service to which his active and capacious mind had been devoted during the enterprise.

The first of these documents is a letter from Captain Hook, Secretary to Government in the military department, addressed to General Baird, under date Council Chamber, Fort William, Sept. 14th, 1802.

SIR,

I am directed by his Excellency the most noble the Governor-General in Council, to acquaint you, that such of the staff appointments specified in the extracts delivered by you to his Excellency, of general orders issued by you to the army under your command during the late expedition to Egypt, as have not been already approved and confirmed by his Excellency, *are* approved and confirmed by his Excellency in Council.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is perfectly satisfied of the propriety and necessity of your having made the several staff appointments specified in the extracts of orders referred to.

With respect to the allowances which may have been drawn by the several staff officers nominated by you, it will be proper that their allowances should undergo the usual examination of the public officers at the Presidency, and should be reported on, if necessary, to the Governor-General in Council, according to the established rules of proceeding in the government.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

L. HOOK,

*Secretary to Government in the
Military Department.*

From this communication we derive the opinion of the Governor-General in Council as to the wisdom and propriety of all the staff appointments made by General Baird. The next letter, which is also from Captain Hook, is addressed to Captain Salmond, the military Auditor-General, and settles the question of finance, which alone remains incomplete in the one already quoted.

To Captain Salmond, Military Auditor-General.

SIR,

I am directed by his Excellency the most noble the Governor-General, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, with the report referred to in your letter, on sundry contingent charges incurred by the Indian army in Egypt under the command of Major-General Baird.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers the charges detailed in the several bills included in your report, to have been necessarily incurred, and the charges appear to his Excellency to have been sanctioned with particular attention to economy on the part of Major-General Baird. His Excellency in Council also observes, from your report, that the charges are so well vouched that you recommend their being passed.

On these grounds, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to pass the whole of the charges detailed in the bills received with your report.

The remainder of this letter relates to two small items, upon which directions are given to the auditor. But we think it is no small addition to the glory of the hazardous enterprize just ended, that in every detail, either of patronage or finance, General Baird's conduct should have thus authoritatively met with the most unqualified sanction and approbation.

General Baird did not, however, continue very long at Fort William. He appears always to have had a strong feeling in favour of the Madras establishment, to which he first belonged; and accordingly we find the following letter addressed to him, under date the 9th of September 1802.

SIR,

I am commanded by his Excellency the most noble the Governor-General in Council, to acquaint you that his Excellency in Council (in compliance with the wish signified by you to his Lordship, and also to the Commander-in-chief, Lieutenant-General Lord Lake,) has been pleased to transfer you to the staff of the establishment of Fort St. George.

I am also commanded by his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, to state, that the orders of his Excellency in Council for transferring you to the staff of the establishment of Fort St. George, have been transmitted to the Right Honourable the Governor in Council at that Presidency, and also to his Excellency the Commander-in-chief.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

L. Hook,
Sec. Mil. Dep.

General Baird quitted Calcutta for Madras almost immediately after the receipt of this letter, and almost as soon as he arrived at the latter place, was again called into active service.

It will be recollected by the reader, that some time previous to the period of which we are now treating, the Mahrattas had formed a most extensive and powerful combination against the British power in India; and that the ancient Rajahs of Satarah, who had originally laid the foundations of the Mahratta empire, had gradually sunk into a state of privacy and insignificance.

The ministers of the Peshwa had persuaded him

to allow the seat of government to be removed to Poonah, and to constitute that city the capital of the empire, until by degrees he was shorn of his dignity, and deprived of his sovereignty, and eventually driven by Holkar's army beyond the confines of his own territories.

In order to restore something like a balance of power between these contending chiefs, and release the British Government from the danger which was inseparable from the usurpation of the whole of the Mahratta dominions by one individual, a treaty of alliance was entered into with the Peshwa by the East India Company, at his Highness's earnest solicitation, which treaty was as speedily as possible ratified at Bassein, to which place he had fled, to escape the barbarities of Holkar.

By this treaty, it was stipulated that the Peshwa should be restored to his dominions, and to the enjoyment of his power and authority, on condition of maintaining, for the protection of his territories, a force of 10,000 British troops.

As soon as this treaty was signed, General Wellesley, at the head of 12,000 men, marched to Poonah, which place he took, and expelled the enemy from that country. Preparations were immediately made for the restoration of the Peshwa, which event was celebrated with every mark of rejoicing by the people.

These successes, however, and the consequent triumph of the Peshwa over his enemies, seemed to awaken in the breasts of the other chiefs, a new

spirit of hostility towards those allies, by whose instrumentality his restoration had been effected ; Scindiah and the Rajah of Ragpore entered into a league to frustrate the fulfilment of the stipulations contained in the treaty of Bassein ; and each of these chiefs collected a powerful army, which proceeded from different quarters to a given point of assembly, fixed in the neighbourhood of the territories of the Nizam, a prince in alliance with the East India Company.

In order to counteract this formidable combination, five different armies were brought into the field, in order to invade the extensive dominions of the enemy simultaneously : a plan rendered more easy of execution by the alliances which Lord Wellesley had formed with the Peshwa and the Nizam, their territories being open to the British forces to the very boundaries of the Mahratta country.

From the west they were invaded by Colonel Murray, and a strong detachment of troops from Bombay. On the northern extremity of Scindiah's dominions, and where the main body of his army, together with General Perron's brigade was stationed, General Lake was to attack him. In Bundelcund, on the east, the same mode of operation was to be adopted ; and on the south, a large portion of the Madras army was put in motion, of which General Baird was appointed to command a division, and on the 12th of January, 1803, he joined the detachments encamped at Vellout, consisting of the artillery from the Mount, His Majesty's Scotch

brigade, and a detachment from the 17th regiment of native infantry.

On the 17th of January General Baird encamped near Arcot, after a march, which appears by his letters to the Secretary of the Commander-in-chief to have been anything but easy or agreeable, principally owing to the defective state of the bazars.

The inhabitants of the villages through which they passed, demanded such exorbitant prices for all the necessaries of life, that the public officers were unable to purchase; and with respect to grain, they positively denied having any to sell, so that the followers of the camp were reduced literally to a state of starvation.

General Baird complained seriously of the inattention, or rather studied neglect which the conduct of the Collector exhibited; who, although apprized of the intended march of the troops through his district, remained at his ease at Carrangoolie, between fifty and sixty miles from the scene of action.

At Arcot, General Baird's division was augmented by the 19th light dragoons, and five companies of the 74th regiment; and on the 20th of January, he encamped within two miles to the north of Vellore, where he found Major Bownas and Captain Sir John Sinclair, with the magazines and stores, and Major Tanner with four brass eighteen pounders, ten six-pounders, two eight-inch howitzers, two five and a half ditto, two twelve-pounders, and twenty-six ammunition tumbrils. Colonel Bell was ordered to take the command of the artillery, and every pre-

paration for moving forward was made with that energy and clearness, and regard for the comforts of the men, which invariably distinguished the General's proceedings on service.

It was arranged by General Baird, that as the troops reached the Pass, each department of the army should move so as to have the Pass entirely to itself during the march. On the 25th of January he was eleven miles from the Pass, on which day Colonel Bell, with the artillery, reached the top; on the following day Major Robinson ascended, and the next day General Baird himself proposed bringing up the rear, and halting one day on the top; but it appears that Colonel Bell found it necessary to make four marches to gain the foot of the Pass (28 miles), and to halt on the fifth; however, the General ordered him forward, and on the 28th of January he was himself at the head of it.

General Baird, the following day, encamped at Vinkelghurry. In the mean time, General Wellesley arrived with a strong reinforcement of troops, and moved forward across the Toombudra, taking with him a very large portion of the Madras army.

Up to this period, excepting a few hours necessarily devoted to rest, General Baird was never off his horse; no sooner was the day's march terminated, and the encampment formed, than he visited every corps, examined into the state of the Commissariat, and every other department, and afterwards reconnoitred the country, through which the troops were to move the next day.

From these excursions he galloped back so as to be in time for evening parade, when he again minutely inspected every regiment. This was no easy duty under the burning sun of India; and some persons in the army of less active habits, and with less of the *esprit du corps* about them than the General possessed, seemed to be of opinion that such constant exertion was scarcely necessary. Of this, General Baird was perfectly aware; but he used to say, that in *his* opinion, all that he did was absolutely necessary to maintain the proper discipline of the troops, and that he should receive ample recompense for any trouble or fatigue, whenever he could place them opposite to the enemy in the field. "Then," said the General, "they will be thankful to me for keeping them in effective order; they may grumble now, but they will forget all these little annoyances when they cross bayonets with the enemy."*

* It was to this indefatigable energy and activity of mind as well as of body, that the success of his memorable march across the Desert of Egypt, may in a great degree be attributed. Almost immediately after Sir David's arrival at Kosseir, and while reconnoitring the country in its neighbourhood, attended by his staff, he observed that the Arabs who accompanied them as guides, invariably galloped away from them at some period of the day until they were out of sight, and after a certain space of time reappeared in their places.

Convinced that these men must have some purpose to answer, and some object to attain by their sudden excursions, Sir David, one day, without communicating his intention to any of the officers with him, the moment he saw them dart

Shortly after reaching the river Toombudra, finding his command so considerably reduced by the drafts made from the detachment of the army he commanded by General Wellesley, and feeling that he was again destined to be thwarted and neglected, General Baird made a remonstrance upon the subject to the Government of Madras, which was the cause of a correspondence between him and the government. Its character and tendency were not such as to satisfy General Baird of the groundlessness of his unpleasant anticipations, and its result was an application on his part for leave of absence.

Knowing General Baird's sentiments and attributes, the reader will readily believe that it must have been no unimportant grievance which could induce him to relinquish a command at the opening of a campaign. To this resolution, however, it seems he was driven, and having received permission to proceed to Europe, he left the banks of the Toombudra for Fort St. George, at which place he remained no longer than was absolutely necessary, and quitted the land of his early sufferings and his later glory for ever,

away in their accustomed manner, dashed after them, and being himself mounted on a fleet Arab horse, succeeded in coming up with them just as they were assembled round some wells which they had dug in the sand.

Taken by surprize, they seemed extremely anxious to conceal their resources, and actually began to fill up the wells on the General's approach. Upon this discovery we have been told that Sir David founded his successful plan of digging for water in the Desert.

in the Honourable Company's ship *True Briton*, accompanied by several officers of his staff.

In rounding the Cape of Good Hope, they encountered one of those tremendous storms which are peculiar to that tempestuous region ; in consequence of which, they were prevented making the Cape, and being driven considerably to the southward, they eventually reached St. Helena, upon their arrival at which place news having been received there of the renewal of hostilities between England and France, the *True Briton* was detained for convoy.

This delay was most unseasonable to General Baird, to whom the intelligence of war gave hopes of service and distinction, and he determined to remove himself and his staff into a South Sea whaler, which he engaged for the voyage, and as soon as she could be got ready for sea, they quitted St. Helena in her for England.

This design of gaining time was however frustrated ; for in crossing the Bay of Biscay, considerably to the westward, they were chased and captured by *Le Brave*, French privateer, Captain Etienne.

When the whaler was taken, General Baird sent one or two of his staff on board the privateer, to request permission to remain in the prize, in which all his baggage, and that of his friends were stowed. To this, the French captain demurred, and expressed some apprehensions of his own fate if by any accident an English General should escape.

After much argument and persuasion, however, he

at length consented, on condition that General Baird should give him a written declaration, purporting that he and his officers considered themselves prisoners of war, and that they would not in any way impede the voyage of the prize to Bourdeaux, whither she was ordered to proceed. He also required as hostage an officer of rank, who accordingly proceeded on board the privateer.

These terms and conditions having been agreed upon and concluded, the prize took leave of the captor, and shaped her course for Bourdeaux, but the weather falling calm, and provisions and water being scant, the prizemaster determined to make for Coruña. This change of destination proved extremely fortunate for General Baird and his staff, for they were within sight of the Spanish coast, when His Majesty's ship *Sirius*, Captain Prowse, was seen bearing down upon them; in less than an hour the vessel was recaptured, and in the course of the day joined the squadron to which the *Sirius* belonged, and which was under the command of Sir Edward Pellew, now Lord Exmouth.

It happened that His Majesty's cutter, *Mary*, was on the point of sailing, to join the fleet under Admiral Cornwallis, off Ushant, and in her, General Baird and his staff embarked.

Here again they had some narrow escapes, and found themselves early in the morning close to a French battery, which they had approached somewhat too nearly during a dark and foggy night, and from which several shots were fired into the cutter, one

of which passed within a few inches of General Baird's head, while he was standing at the gangway reconnoitring the enemy.

At length, however, the General reached Falmouth in safety, and proceeded immediately to London, where it was decided, that although recaptured, he had so pledged himself to the French government, that he could not serve again, until exchanged with a French officer of equal rank. This exchange was effected with the French General Morgan, and almost immediately afterwards General Baird was appointed to the staff of the Eastern district of England, under the command of Sir James Craig.

CHAPTER IV.

SIR DAVID BAIRD REMOVED FROM THE EASTERN DISTRICT—APPOINTED TO COMMAND AN EXPEDITION AGAINST THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE—LETTER OF LORD CASTLEREAGH—PROCEEDS TO CORK—ARRIVAL OF SIR HOME POPHAM—SAILING OF THE EXPEDITION—ARRIVAL AT FUNCHAL—ST. SALVADOR—LOSS OF TWO SHIPS—DEATH OF BRIGADIER GENERAL YORKE—DEPARTURE FOR THE CAPE—ARRIVAL THERE—LANDING—GENERAL BERESFORD DETACHED TO SALDANAH BAY—MARCH OF THE TROOPS—ACTION WITH THE ENEMY UNDER GENERAL JANSSENS—THEIR DEFEAT—DESPATCH OF SIR DAVID BAIRD TO LORD CASTLEREAGH—GENERAL JANSSENS RETIRES INTO THE COUNTRY—SIR DAVID BAIRD MARCHES UPON CAPE TOWN—SURRENDER OF CAPE TOWN—OPERATIONS AGAINST GENERAL JANSSENS—LETTER TO HIM—RESULT THEREOF—NEGOCIATIONS—TERMINATION OF THEM BY THE SURRENDER OF GENERAL JANSSENS AND THE WHOLE OF HIS FORCE—GENERAL BAIRD ASSUMES THE GOVERNMENT—REPORT OF FRENCH EXPEDITION AGAINST THE CAPE—DEPARTURE OF GENERAL JANSSENS AND THE GARRISON FOR HOLLAND—CAPTURE OF THE FRENCH FRIGATE LA VOLONTAIRE.

FROM the command of the Eastern District, General Baird was destined soon to be removed for more active service. In July 1805 he received a letter from Lord Castlereagh, of which the following is a copy, and which we insert here, as detailing the objects of the expedition which was about to be entrusted to his care, as well as exhibiting a fresh proof of that confidence in his great abilities, which

we have already so frequently shown to have been felt by those who best knew how to appreciate his merits and his virtues.

Downing Street, 25th July, 1805.

SIR,

In consequence of information having been received that the Cape is now defended by not more than from fifteen hundred to two thousand regular troops, not of the best description, and that the militia and inhabitants look with anxiety for the arrival of a British force, and also from the facility afforded to an operation against that settlement from the troops now embarked and proceeding to India, being applicable without inconvenience to the service, in progress to their ultimate destination, it has been determined on to attempt the reduction of that colony by a combined operation of a force from Cork, added to that now on board the East India Company's ships at Falmouth.

I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to select you for the command of this expedition, and that directions have been given to embark, with the utmost despatch, the regiments named in the margin, (24th, 38th, 71st, 72nd, 83rd, 93rd,) in transports now lying at Cork to be employed on this service.

As the troops cantoned in the neighbourhood of Cork have been directed to embark on board transports, which are kept constantly in readiness and victualled for six months, I have every reason to hope that the armament will be in readiness to put to sea in the course of a few days; and the whole naval and military force, when assembled at the Madeiras, will be as follows:—

Naval Force.

Diadem	.	.	.	64 guns.
Raisonable	.	.	.	64

Belliqueux	64 guns.
Diomede	50
Narcissus	32
Leda	32

Military.

24th Foot	504 rank and file.
38th	925
59th	1000
71st	768
72nd	730
83rd	750
98th	890
20th Lieut. Dragoons . .	221
Artillery and Artificers . .	320
Recruits	546

Total . 6654 rank and file.

It is of the utmost importance that the object of this expedition should not transpire; and lest the enemy should be apprised of your approach, the troops at Cork have been directed to embark under your command for the Mediterranean. The India fleet has been ordered to proceed at once to India: both fleets will therefore sail with these ostensible destinations, but having sealed orders, to be opened in a certain latitude, directing them to rendezvous at the Madeiras, where the whole naval and military force, including the Company's ships, will be directed to place themselves under your orders, and those of Sir Home Popham.

It is His Majesty's pleasure that you delay as short a time as possible at Madeira, and that even there every precaution is to be taken to prevent the object of the expedition being made public, which will best be done by

giving out that the Cork fleet is to separate at a certain latitude for the West Indies.

Having departed from the Madeiras, you are to proceed at once to the Cape, unless the officer in command of His Majesty's ships should think it advisable to land at St. Helena, in which case you will use your utmost diligence to obtain the latest and most precise information with respect to the state of the Cape, its garrison, defences, means of subsistence, &c. ; and you will confer with the Governor of St. Helena (who is directed to render you every aid consistent with the security of that island) as to the possibility of making any of the resources at his disposal applicable to the success of the expedition.

Having arrived off the Cape, you will, should you have no previous reason to suppose that your approach has transpired, endeavour, by a vigorous and immediate attack (having previously summoned the garrison to surrender) to avail yourself of the probable neglect of due vigilance and precaution on the part of the garrison.

As it is not impossible, however, that two French ships-of-the-line, which sailed in May from Rochefort, with troops on board, and which are yet unaccounted for, may have thrown themselves into the Cape with a reinforcement, you will not rely with too much confidence on the enemy's means of resistance being confined to the numbers stated at the outset of their embarkation.

Should you be of opinion that the reduction of the place may be facilitated by opening a communication with the inhabitants and persons in authority, you are authorised and directed, in conjunction with the officer in command of His Majesty's naval force (taking care not to waste too much time in such negotiations), to grant to the inhabitants and the garrison such favourable and liberal terms of capitulation as may appear to you best calculated to ac-

quire possession of the place in the most expeditious manner, and with the least loss or hazard to the ships and troops employed on the service.

Upon the surrender of the place to His Majesty's arms, taking possession of it in the King's name, and duly attending to the stipulations of any capitulation which may be previously agreed upon, you will take upon yourself, under the title of Lieutenant Governor, the Civil Government of the settlement, until His Majesty's further pleasure is declared, and continue to carry on the administration (preserving to the inhabitants the enjoyment of their private property, usages, and religion), as nearly as may be, according to the system laid down and established by His Majesty's authority during the late war, and under which the colony enjoyed, till the period of its restitution, so much prosperity and happiness.

As I understand the troops now in garrison at the Cape are mostly Germans, and much disgusted with the Dutch service, you will take the earliest opportunity of inducing them to enter into His Majesty's 60th regiment, attaching them in equal proportions as supernumeraries to the regiments in garrison, until measures can be taken for transferring them under their own officers. If, after using your best endeavours to procure the whole of these men for His Majesty's service in the manner above directed, any foreigners (not being French subjects), having so declined to engage, should nevertheless be willing to enlist for service in the East Indies, you will engage them for the service of the East India Company, according to the terms of enlistment usual in the European branch of their army, a statement of which you will receive herewith enclosed, and you will use your own discretion in retaining or enlisting Hottentots, in case the public service should appear to you absolutely to require that this additional expense should be incurred.

As it is important that the Company's ships directed to co-operate in the expedition, and placed with a view to this special service under the orders of the naval officer in command, should be delayed at the Cape as short a time as possible, I have His Majesty's commands to direct that you use your utmost diligence to have the troops and recruits destined for India expeditiously re-embarked, in order that they may proceed under the convoy of the *Belliqueux* to their ultimate destination, notifying by them, or by the earliest opportunity which you can find, the surrender of the Cape, to the several Presidencies in India, in order that the accustomed intercourse with the Colony may be opened, and such supplies received as may be required for the use of the settlement.

In the event of circumstances arising either to discourage you from landing the troops, or (in the event of your having made good your landing) to determine you to desist from the enterprize (contingencies, I trust, equally improbable), it is His Majesty's pleasure (the India ships being detached to their destination) that you do return with the remainder of your force to St. Helena, there to refresh the troops and squadrons, and to receive further orders for the direction of your conduct.

In case you should not find fresh instructions at St. Helena, continuing there not longer than fifteen days, unless the refreshment of the squadron should render a longer stay indispensable, you will at the end of that period return to Cork, unless you should receive a different destination at Fayal, where you are directed to call and enquire for orders.

His Majesty has entrusted to you the conduct of the military part of this service, under a full confidence in your experience, zeal, and discretion; and His Majesty implicitly relies on your cultivating the most cordial good understanding with the officer to whom the command of his naval

force has been confided—the ultimate success of the expedition principally depending on the cordial co-operation of the respective services. His Majesty is persuaded that their united exertions will be such as to entitle them to His Majesty's gracious and unqualified approbation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

CASTLEREAGH.

To Major General Baird,

&c. &c. &c.

To General Baird this summons was sufficient to rouse all his energy, and awaken all his activity, and accordingly we find him at Cork busily employed superintending the arrangements of the expedition, the destination of which was commonly believed to be the Mediterranean, in order to favour which belief, it is said, that some horses belonging to the garrison of Gibraltar, were actually shipped on board one of the transports.

General Baird, however, upon an inspection of the force which he was destined to command, was apprehensive that it would not be adequate to the success of the enterprise. It was quite possible, and even most probable, that the ships from Rochefort which Lord Castlereagh had spoken of, and which it was supposed had on board a very considerable number of troops, had thrown them into the Cape, as a reinforcement; having, in addition to this probability, obtained information from an officer who had recently arrived from the Cape in a Danish ship, that its garrison was infinitely

larger than our Government thought it to be, the General solicited an increase of strength; for although, according to his calculation, the force under his command might exceed that of the enemy by 1200 or 1500 men, when it was considered that the garrison would be covered and protected by walls and batteries, and commanded by experienced French officers, and that the invading force would have to make good its landing through a heavy surf, and in the face of their lines and forts, it seemed next to impossible to imagine that they would not oppose an obstinate defence; and although General Baird was the last man alive to object to the glorious work of duty, he had been told in the instructions contained in the letter of Lord Castlereagh just quoted, that his object was to be to get possession of the Colony in the most expeditious manner possible, and with the least possible loss or hazard to the troops or ships under his command.

His apprehensions, however, with regard to the Rochefort squadron were soon set at rest, for in Lord Castlereagh's reply to his request for additional troops, his Lordship informed the General that it had been ascertained that the ships in question had proceeded to the West Indies.

General Baird had, of course, received from his Royal Highness the Duke of York all the instructions for the details of service, but as the substance of those details is embodied in Lord Castlereagh's letter, it is unnecessary here to give that of the Commander-in-chief.

Upon the arrival of Sir Home Popham at Cork, in His Majesty's ship *Diadem*, General Baird immediately removed his head-quarters into that ship from the *Narcissus* frigate, on board of which Brigadier-General Beresford took his passage, while Brigadier-General Ferguson went in the *Leda*.

On the 27th His Majesty's ship *Diomedé* arrived, and with her, the additional artillery and artificers under Brigadier-General Yorke, and the detachment of the 20th light dragoons; but the General was still disappointed by the non-arrival of the volunteers from the militia regiments, who had nevertheless passed Plymouth several days before the departure of the artillery, and were supposed to be lying in some port near the Land's End, with their convoy the *Pelter* sloop of war. Of this apparent neglect, General Baird very naturally complained to Lord Castlereagh, in a letter dated August 28th, and again solicited—even in consequence of the loss of their services—for the addition of the 8th regiment to his expedition, but he failed to carry his point.

The whole armament was now collected. The outward bound East India fleet, under convoy of the *Belliqueux*, which had arrived for the purpose of embarking the 59th regiment, and the detachments for the regiments serving in India was also ready; and after encountering various delays of different sorts, orders arrived for the departure of the expedition, and on the 31st of August it put to sea.

The passage to Madeira was both tedious and boisterous, and the ships did not reach Funchal

until the 28th of September. The troops were all in excellent health. At Madeira, General Baird found the officers of the Commissariat, and two sloops of war which had arrived the day before, but he was greatly disappointed at not finding also Sir Samuel Auchmuty, whom he hoped to meet there, or the 8th regiment, which he to the very last expected would be added to the expedition.

From Funchal, General Baird, with the concurrence of Sir Home Popham, despatched His Majesty's frigate *Narcissus* to St. Helena, in order to procure information, and sent forward in her, Captain Sorell of the 86th regiment, an officer of great talent and judgment, and in whom he reposed the highest confidence, as bearer of a despatch to the Honourable Robert Patton, the Governor of the island, in which he requested him to give him whatever intelligence he could respecting the state of the Cape, and the power it possessed of resisting the expedition; at the same time informing him of his intentions, and those of Sir Home Popham, to fall back upon St. Helena in case of failure, and bespeaking his good offices in order to afford them such accommodation as might be in his power, should that extremity occur. The General referred Mr. Patton for all farther particulars to Captain Sorell, and concluded by again pressing him to give him every information in his power.

On the 10th of November, General Baird with the expedition arrived at St. Salvador. Sir Home Popham and the General had agreed that the rendezvous should be at Rio de Janeiro; but the

voyage having been extremely tedious, and some of the transports being crippled in their masts and rigging, they deemed it advisable to put into St. Salvador on the 10th, where they remained some time to replenish their water, and take in fresh provisions, as well as to refresh the men, and make some new arrangements as to their distribution.

This last measure was rendered more immediately necessary by the loss of the King George transport, and the Britannia East Indiaman, which were wrecked on the morning of the 1st, on a low sandy island called the Roccas, which is surrounded by rocks, and lies in latitude $3^{\circ} 53'$ south, longitude $33^{\circ} 54'$ west.

By this accident the hulls, stores, and cargoes (with the exception of twelve chests of dollars saved from the Britannia,) of both ships were lost; but providentially only three individuals perished; amongst the number, however, was Brigadier-General Yorke, commandant of the artillery.

After the occurrence of this unfortunate event, Major Spicer succeeded to the command of the artillery, and by removing the provisions out of two of the victualling transports, and engaging an extra East Indiaman, the General was able to accommodate the people of the lost ships comfortably, at the same time providing them with such articles of clothing as could not be purchased on the spot.

During the time that the fleet remained at St. Salvador, the regiments were successively landed, and carefully inspected by their indefatigable com-

mander, who had every reason to be satisfied with their condition and state of health. He also succeeded in procuring about fifty horses for the 20th light dragoons, but they were of an inferior breed, and, as it proved, incapable of enduring much fatigue. At length, however, every necessary arrangement being completed, the fleet again put to sea on the 28th of November, and after a favourable passage made the coast of Africa, a short distance to the northward of Cape Town, in the afternoon of the 4th of January 1806.

The accounts of Table Bay and Cape Town are so numerous, and so accurate, that a few words upon the subject here will be quite sufficient; although in order to give the reader a just idea of the attack, it is right that his memory should be refreshed by a brief description of the localities.

Table Bay, on the shore, and almost in the centre of which Cape Town stands, receives its name from that extraordinary eminence called Table Mountain, which rises about 3687 feet above the level of the sea, and which terminates in a perfectly flat surface at that height, whence the face of the rock on the side of Cape Town descends almost perpendicularly. To the eastward of the mountain, separated from it by a chasm, is Charles's Mount, more generally called the Devil's Tower; and on the westward of the Table Mountain a round hill rises on the right hand of the bay, called the Lion's Head, from which a ridge of high land, terminating in another smaller hill, called the Lion's Rump, runs to the sea.

Cape Town stands in the valley at the foot of the Table Land; and although from the sea it appears a place of small size and importance (probably from the gigantic character of the country by which it is surrounded), it is, on approaching it, a beautiful and capacious town—the streets are broad, airy, and long, intersecting each other at right angles; the houses are built chiefly of stone, with stoops or terraces before them; the public walks, the Hergraat, the Company's gardens, and the spacious parade for the troops, on the opposite side of which, from the town, stands the castle, give an air of gaiety and comfort to the place, which the continued exertions of our Government have since contributed greatly to improve, rendering Cape Town one of the handsomest and most agreeable colonial towns in the world.

Table Bay, although the usual place of resort for merchant vessels, on account of the contiguity of the colonial capital, is by no means a secure port—the violent gusts which rush down the valley from the mountains are perfectly irresistible.

“ The prevailing winds at Table Bay, and near the Cape of Good Hope, are from south-east and southward during the summer, the south-east wind blowing more or less in every month in the year, and generally being settled weather.

“ The summer is from October to April, in which season it has been thought safe for ships to lie in Table Bay; notwithstanding which His Majesty's ship *Sceptre* and several other ships were wrecked by a severe north-west

storm in November 1799. These north-west gales are occasionally experienced about the Cape in every season of the year; but they seldom blow home into Table Bay from November to May; and although several ships have been driven on shore by them more than once in April, the Dutch fixed the 10th of May as the period for all vessels to leave this place, the strong north-west winds being then daily expected. Such a mountainous sea is forced into the bay by some of the north-west gales, that it is almost impossible for any ship to lie safe.*

Excepting in the bays, and at particular seasons, it would be impossible to effect a landing; for from March to October the eastern coast is protected by the prevalence of the south-easterly winds, rendering an approach to the land dangerous; and during the rest of the year the western coast is equally well secured from the incursion of an enemy by the north-westers which Horsburgh has described, and which continually succeed each other during that period.

In the season when the north-west gales prevail, a secure anchorage may be found in Symonds Bay, which is a bay within a bay, of considerable extent, called False Bay. At Symonds Town, situated in the bay, which takes its name from it, the dock-yard, victualling-offices, naval storehouses, and hospitals, have been erected, and there at present all the men-of-war employed on the station or touching at the Cape may lie at anchor; but according to the arrangements made by General Baird for his opera-

* Horsburgh, vol. i. p. 74.

tions against the colony, this place, which is nearly twenty miles from Cape Town, could not be selected for the landing, although in the former successful expedition against the Cape the British forces had landed in its vicinity.

At the time of General Baird's arrival at the Cape, the colony was governed by General Janssens, an officer whose gallantry was universally acknowledged, and who, in addition to his military reputation, had a high character for ability in his civil capacity. He was extremely popular as chief of the administration at the Cape, and judging from all the testimonials which are yet extant, to his numerous good qualities, very deservedly so.

The garrison consisted of a strong detachment of Batavian artillery, of the 22nd Dutch regiment of the line, a German regiment of Waldecks, and a corps of Hottentots, disciplined to act as light infantry. To this more regular description of troops were added several battalions of Colonial militia, and a numerous corps of cavalry, composed of Boors and farmers, well mounted, and armed with long guns, capable of throwing shot to a much greater distance than ordinary muskets.

To co-operate with the land force, General Janssens had the support of an auxiliary battalion, formed of the seamen and marines belonging to the *Atlanta* frigate and the *Napoleon* corvette: the former vessel having been stranded in Table Bay during a heavy gale of wind, and the latter having been

driven on shore in Houts Bay by His Majesty's ship *Narcissus*, Captain R. Donelly, which vessel, the reader will recollect, had been despatched by General Baird from Madeira to St. Helena, and had arrived off the Cape a few days before the expedition.

The means of resistance in the enemy's hands were by no means inefficient, and as far as numbers went, they were considerably superior in strength to the English. General Janssens considering the defence of Cape Town a secondary object, as it must at all events follow the destinies of the colony, and as he justly believed would of itself be untenable by an enemy for any length of time if he could deprive it of supplies from the country, resolved, if attacked by a force with which he could not contend in the field, to retire into the interior with the greatest part of his regular army, leaving only a sufficient number of men as a garrison to Cape Town to ensure a capitulation; and thus supported by the country militia, over whom he possessed unbounded influence, carry on a desultory warfare against the invaders, in order to gain time until he might be relieved by the arrival of a Dutch or French fleet from Europe.

This plan of defence, had he resolutely persisted in it, must inevitably have led to the desolation of the colony, but it would have made its final subjection to the invading force a matter of infinite difficulty. Such, however, was the posture of affairs,