







Printed by G. B. R. & Co. London.

Engraved by E. Finden.

GENERAL, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR DAVID BAIRD,

P. C. B. — H. C. Sec. Sec.

London, Published, 1832, by Richard Bentley, 6, New Burlington Street.

THE LIFE

OF

GENERAL, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR DAVID BAIRD, BART.

G.C.B. K.C. &c. &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON :

RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

(LATE COLBURN AND BENTLEY.)

1832.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY HENRY RAYLIS.
Fleet Street.

THE following Memoir of SIR DAVID BAIRD has been carefully collated from the voluminous papers and extensive correspondence of that eminent and estimable man.

If to those, better acquainted with the subjects treated of, than the writer, there should appear any omissions or imperfections in the detail of the services which he performed for his country, they may be attributed to the inherent modesty which ordinarily accompanies exalted merit, and which, in the case of Sir David Baird, led him at all times sedulously to avoid referring to his own exploits, or alluding to the dangers and difficulties which he had encountered during his long, arduous, and distinguished career.

For the valuable assistance which the writer of this memoir has received from several quarters, his acknowledgments will be found specifically made in those parts

of the work which more particularly derive their interest from it. For himself, his object has been faithfully to transcribe what has now become matter of history; and wherever it appeared to him that a question of opinion might *possibly* arise, he has taken the direct course of submitting to the reader the letters of the different individuals concerned in the discussion.

London, Oct. 28, 1832.

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

Birth—Military education—Appointment to an ensigny— Joins his regiment at Gibraltar—Promoted to a company in the 73rd—Ordered to India—Proceeds to Guernsey—Returns to Portsmouth—Insubordination among the troops—Sails for Madeira—Goree—Cape of Good Hope—Madras 1

CHAPTER II.

State of Affairs at Madras—Conduct of the Government of Fort St. George—Hyder Aly—His war with the Mahrattas— Appeal to the East India Company—Their refusal—His junction with the French—Improvement of his army—Coalesces with the Mahrattas—Advances to the mount—Differences of opinion in the Council—Lord Macleod refuses the command of the army—Sir Hector Munro takes the command—Captain Baird marches with Colonel Fletcher to Conjeveram—Joins Colonel Baillie—Attack of Hyder and Tippoo—Sanguinary battle—Treachery and barbarity of Tippoo—The English force betrayed and cut to pieces—Captain Baird desperately wounded 8

CHAPTER III.

Captain Baird providentially escapes death—Hyder retreats to Dæmal—Barbarity of his triumph—Colonel Baillie—Captain Phillips—Dr. Wilson—Captain Baird's sufferings after the action—Sir Hector Munro retreats to Madras—Arrives there safely, closely pursued by Hyder's cavalry—Captain Baird reaches the French camp and surrenders himself to M. Lally

CHAPTER IV.

Reception by the French officers—Removed to Hyder's camp—Detained with the army—March—Tippoo's duplicity—Arrival at Seringapatam—Description of their prison—Put in irons—Dreadful illness of Captain Baird—Death of Captain Lucas and Mr. Hope—Hyder proposes terms to such officers as would enter his service—His offers rejected—Death of Colonel Baillie 34

CHAPTER V.

Death of Hyder—Disappointment of the hopes entertained of Tippoo's leniency—His religious zeal in forcing the Europeans to embrace Mahomedanism—Colonel Braithwaite—Captain Leech—Alarming report—Account of one of Tippoo's sons—Affecting letter from General Matthews—His death—Insanity of Lieutenant Stringer—His accusation—The probable consequences—Murder of sixteen officers—Prospect of release—The prospect realized—Rejoicings and congratulations—Departure for Madras 51

CHAPTER VI.

Captain Baird proceeds towards Madras—Interview with Captain Robertson—At Madras finds himself anticipated in a recommendation for the majority of his regiment—Memorial of his brother officers—Confirmation of General Stewart's recommendation refused—Captain Baird assumes the command of the 73rd—Secures the majority—Proceeds to England—Purchases a Lieutenant-Colonelcy, and exchanges into his own regiment—Returns to India—Joins Lord Cornwallis's army—Appointed to the command of a brigade—Capture of Hill Forts—Siege of Rundydroog—Its fall 71

CHAPTER VII.

Siege of Savendroog—Lieutenant-Colonel Baird commands a brigade—Capture of the Fort—Lord Cornwallis concentrates his forces—March of the allied armies from Hooleadroog—Arrives before Seringapatam—Account of that place—Orders

issued for the march—Detail—Colonel Baird attached to the third column—Gallant attack and pursuit of the enemy—Perilous situation—Joined by Colonel Stewart—General Meadows deceived by his guides—Fails to execute Lord Cornwallis's design—His feelings on the occasion—Colonel Baird ordered to recross the river—Arrival of the Bombay army 86

CHAPTER VIII.

Orders for opening the trenches—Tippoo's distress and revenge—Destruction of his beautiful gardens—Attempt to assassinate Lord Cornwallis—Frustrated—Attempt to dislodge General Abercromby—Its failure—Tippoo's defeat—Extensive preparations for the siege—Stopped by negotiation—Treaty—Delays of Tippoo—His sons sent as hostages—Account of their reception—Striking anecdote of General Medows—Treachery of Tippoo—Hostages put under restraint—Tippoo's explanation—Treaty signed and delivered—Peace concluded—The army returns to the different Presidencies 104

CHAPTER IX.

Colonel Baird proceeds to Warrienne as Commandant—State of the 71st regiment—Ordered to the siege of Pondicherry—Commands a brigade—Surrender of Pondicherry—71st ordered to Tanjore—Extraordinary conduct of Mr. M. ——— with regard to the Rajah—Correspondence with Colonel Baird—Lord Hobart—General Floyd—Salute fired—Consequences resulting therefrom—The 71st ordered to Pondicherry—Their destination changed—Proceed to Wallajahbad—General order—Orders to disband the 71st—Colonel Baird's feelings upon that occasion 115

CHAPTER X.

Real causes of Colonel Baird's removal from India—His conscientious feelings upon the point—Injustice of the treatment he received—Arrives at the Cape of Good Hope—Sent for by Lord Macartney the Governor—Offered a command there, with the rank of Brigadier-General—Explanations and arrangements—He accepts it, and takes charge of a brigade—Colonel Middlemore's report of their condition and improvement—

French policy with regard to India—Tippoo sends Ambassadors to Mauritius—Perilous situation of the British Government at Madras—Arrival of Lord Mornington at the Cape—Meets Lord Hobart—Conversations with General Baird on the state of public affairs in the East—Orders from the Court of Directors concerning Tanjore—Baird's anxiety to know their character—Lord Mornington declines communicating them—Subsequent conduct of the Honourable East India Company 147

CHAPTER XI.

Lord Mornington arrives in India—Commences operations against Tippoo—Malartic's proclamation at Mauritius—Ignorance of Tippoo of the French force in that Island—His baseness and duplicity—Colonel Baird promoted to the rank of Major-General—Appointed to the staff in India—Leaves the Cape of Good Hope—Arrives at Madras—Meets the Governor-General—Co-operation of the Nizam—Affair of Hyderabad—Overthrow of French influence—Voluntary contributions at the different Presidencies—General Harris enters the Mysore—Negotiations with Tippoo—General Baird appointed to the command of a brigade—Colonel Wellesley commands the Nizam's force—General Baird's remonstrance and letter to General Harris—Communications between Tippoo and General Harris—March towards Seringapatam—Battle of Malavelly—Defeat of the enemy—Advance beyond Malavelly—Tippoo's anxiety and want of decision 163

CHAPTER XII.

March to Sosilay—Description of the surrounding country—Alarm of the inhabitants—Passage of Sosilay—Passage of the Cauvery—Retrograde movements of Tippoo—Affair of the Sultaunpettah Tope—General Baird's return—Lieutenant Lambton and the stars—Second attack under Colonel Wellesley with the 33rd, and Colonel Shaw with the 12th—Colonel Wellesley returns in the night to camp—A third attack ordered under the command of Colonel Wellesley—His absence from parade to take the command—General Baird directed to assume

it—His generous conduct—Colonel Wellesley arrives and takes the command—Explanation of the causes of his absence—Captain Mackenzie's statement—Partiality of General Beatson—General Harris's army takes up its final position—Tippoo opens fresh negotiations—Curious correspondence—Demands of the East India Company—Final conclusion of the negotiations 185

CHAPTER XIII.

The breach reported nearly practicable — General Baird volunteers to command the storming party—His answer to Colonel Agnew—Letter of Instructions — Detail of storming party—Orders — Baird leads the party, and crosses the river—Complete success of the assault — Details of the battle within the fortress — Attack of the Palace — The Princes surrender themselves—Report of Tippoo's being wounded—Search made for him —Detail of his proceedings during the day—Effects of disasters upon his mind—His determined bravery—Is wounded —Receives a second musket-shot close to the first — Tremendous slaughter by the fire of the 12th regiment — Personal rencontre of the Sultaun with a soldier — Wounds the soldier, and is shot dead by him — His body discovered by General Baird — Removed by his order to the Palace — Recognized by his people—Shameful misconduct of certain officers — General Baird establishes his head-quarters in the Palace — General order from General Harris — Proclamation of General Baird—Order restored — General Baird superseded in the command of Seringapatam by Colonel Wellesley 199

CHAPTER XIV.

General Baird returns to camp — Transmits his despatch announcing the details of the capture of Seringapatam to General Harris — Additional Orders — Letter of General Baird — Official reply through the military secretary — General Baird's answer — Second letter — Colonel Wellesley presents General Baird with the state sword of Tippoo — Claimed by the prize committee — presented by them to General Baird — General Baird receives another sword — Thanks of the House of Commons—Mr. Dundas's speech—Thanks of the East India

Company—Distribution of General Officers — Colonel Wellesley left in command of the Mysore—General Baird proceeds to Madras	227
---	-----

CHAPTER XV.

Arrival at Madras — Flattering reception by Lord Wellesley — Offers General Baird a command in Bengal — General Baird declines, but subsequently follows Lord Wellesley—Appointed to Dinapore — Expedition projected against Batavia and Mauritius — Interview with Lord Wellesley — Remonstrance — Is finally appointed to command — Details of preparations and instructions — Colonel Wellesley to be second in command — Proceeds to Saugur—Overland despatch from England — Destination of the expedition changed — delays and difficulties — Despatches and correspondence between Lord Wellesley, General Baird, and Colonel Wellesley—Mr. Dundas's Despatch — Final arrangement — General Baird proceeds to Columbo and Point de Galle— Arrives at Bombay, where he finds Colonel Wellesley	249
---	-----

CHAPTER XVI.

General Baird arrives at Bombay — Finds Colonel Wellesley there — Sails for Mocha — Colonel Wellesley's illness — Left behind—General Baird arrives at Mocha—His reception there — Letters and proclamations of Lord Wellesley — His continued anxiety concerning the French islands—Colonel Montresor's arrival—General Baird proceeds to Jeddah—Negociations with the Sheriff of Mecca — Their result — Arrival of Sir Home Popham — Voyage to Kosseir — Colonel Murray — Admiral Blanket — Despatches for General Hutchinson — Commencement of the march — Orders — Colonel Beresford — Difficulties which arise — General Baird accompanies the division on its march — Account of Kosseir — General Baird returns to Kosseir	289
---	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

General Baird takes new precautions — Report of a large French force at Cairo — General Baird's determination thereupon — Staff of the army—Arrival of the Wasp — Letters from	
--	--

Colonel Wellesley — Memorandum — Sir Home Popham's instructions for the fleet—General Baird quits Kosseir—Arrives at Moilah—Distresses of the March—Count de Noé—Legeta—Ghennah—Continued silence of General Hutchinson—General Baird's anxiety—Letter from Admiral Blanket—Surrender of Cairo—General Baird resolves upon halting, and prepares to re-embark the army—Despatches from General Hutchinson—Makes preparations for moving forward to join that officer 332

CHAPTER XVIII.

General Baird's anxiety—Friendly disposition of the inhabitants of Upper Egypt—Their sincerity.—Rising of the Nile—Change of Plan—Colonel Champagné promoted—Colonel Quarrell ordered to march to Girjee—Impressment of boats—Proposition of Colonel Murray with respect to the ulterior destination of the army—Frustrated—Despatches from General Hutchinson—Disposal of the troops—Tonnage of vessels—General Baird embarks for Lower Egypt—Notice of Ghennah—Regnier—Bruce. 369

CHAPTER XIX.

General Baird arrives at Gizeh—Removes his head quarters to Rhouda—Proceeds towards Rosetta—Damietta—Lesbie—Refusal of the Grand Vizier to surrender the former—Recall of Colonel Lloyd—Surrender of Alexandria—General Baird's disappointment—Sir John Hutchinson resolves to quit Egypt on account of his health—Arrangements consequent thereupon—Despatch from England—Lord Cavan appointed to command in chief—The Indian army to be united with the European force—General Baird's remonstrance—Reasons against the measure—Appearance of the plague among the troops . 386

CHAPTER XX.

Solicitude of the Beys—Their danger—Visit of the Capidan Pacha to General Hutchinson—Invitation to Constantinople—General Hutchinson sends to the Beys—Arrival of the Mamelukes at Gizeh—Colonel Ramsay's precautions—Letter of Sir John Hutchinson to the Grand Vizier—Colonel Ramsay's ne-

gociations—The Vizier's answer—Presents arrive from Constantinople for General Baird—Declines them—Arrival of M. Rosetti—General Baird sends him to see Sir John Hutchinson—Sir John Hutchinson's departure in the *Egyptienne*—Lord Cavan Commander-in-chief of the whole army 409

Portrait of Sir David Baird	Vol. I. Frontispiece.
Prison of Seringapatam	p. 41
March across the Desert from Kosseir to Alexandria	p. 322
March back from Cairo to Suez	Vol. II. p. 64

ERRATA.

VOL. I.

- P. 5, line 10, for "East India ships" read "the East India ships."
 P. 10, line 22, for "councils" read "their councils."
 P. 58, line 3, for "had been poisoned at Mysore on the 5th" read "had been poisoned at Mysore; on the fifth," &c.
 P. 60, line 14, for "alone that for their own sakes" read "nor was it for their own sakes alone."
 Ibid. bottom line, for "was Stringer" read "Stringer was."
 P. 116, line 29, for "letter" read "letters."
 P. 155, line 5, for "discovered all" read "discovered that all."
 P. 177, line 26, for "Paiswash" read "Paiswa."
 P. 201, note, for "Sre. Ranga Patana under Seringapatam" read "Sre. Ranga Patana Unde Seringapatam."
 P. 253, line 10, for "effects" read "influence."
 P. 334, line 25, for "that" read "who."
 P. 394, line 8, for "seems" read "serves."
 P. 423, line 28, for "boats" read "boat."