

THE LIFE
OF
GENERAL, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR DAVID BAIRD, BART.
G.C.B., K.C., &c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

**BIRTH—MILITARY EDUCATION—APPOINTMENT TO AN ENSIGNCY—
JOINS HIS REGIMENT AT GIBRALTAR—PROMOTED TO A COMPANY
IN THE 73D—ORDERED TO INDIA—PROCEEDS TO GUERNSEY—RE-
TURNS TO PORTSMOUTH—INSUBORDINATION AMONG THE TROOPS—
SAILS FOR MADEIRA—GOREE—CAPE OF GOOD HOPE—MADRAS.**

SIR DAVID BAIRD, the distinguished subject of the present memoir, was the fifth son of William Baird, Esq., of Newbyth, N. B., at which place he was born in December, 1757. Mr. Baird died when his son David was only eight years old; but his mother, a remarkably clever woman, very soon discovered the promise of future excellence in her favourite boy. His temper and disposition were every thing that could be desired:—active, spirited, and daring, yet gay, gentle, and affectionate. Blessed with a great

share of natural talent, he was too volatile to attend closely to study. He seemed to have been born a soldier, and the evident inclination of his mind and character for a military life was very early gratified; for, on the 16th of December, 1772, just as he had completed his fifteenth year, he entered the service as an ensign in the second regiment of foot. He was then placed at Locie's academy, at Chelsea, where he remained some months actively and zealously improving himself in the knowledge of military tactics, a pursuit congenial with his taste and inclinations, and which, eventually, he turned to such noble account. He however joined his regiment, at Gibraltar, in the year 1773.*

* An anecdote related by one of his companions at the time to which we now refer, will serve to illustrate his early sense of discipline. At Mr. Locie's academy, as is now the case at Sandhurst, the pupils were subjected to all the routine of military service. One evening, when young Baird was on duty as sentry, one of his companions, considerably his senior, wished to get out, in order to fulfil some engagement he had made in London, and tried to persuade Baird, over whom he was conscious he had great influence, to permit him to pass. "No," said the gallant boy, "*that* I cannot do, but if you please you may knock me down and walk out over my body."

Another instance of a similar determination to let nothing interfere with duty, occurred soon after he joined his regiment at Gibraltar. One evening, when he was on guard, having dined with some of his brother officers, they resolved to detain him with them, and locked the door of the room to prevent his visiting his sentries at the usual time. Baird found remonstrance in vain; but fixed in his resolution, he sprang to

In 1776, Lieutenant Baird returned to England, and on his arrival in this country obtained leave of absence for the purpose of visiting his mother, and the other branches of his family, in Scotland, to all of whom he was most affectionately attached, and with all of whom he was a great and deserved favourite.

Our young soldier, however, was not destined to enjoy, for any great length of time, either the society of his nearest and dearest friends, or the repose and tranquillity of private life. In 1777, when ten new regiments were raised, he was appointed captain of the light infantry company in Lord Macleod's regiment of Highlanders, the celebrated 73d, (afterwards the 71st,) which was raised at Elgin. In the spring of 1778 the regiment was formed at Fort George.

The personal appearance of Captain Baird at this period, is described as adding greatly to the chivalrous bearing of his manner. His figure was tall and symmetrical; his countenance, cheerful and animated, was indeed the index of his mind; and on his open manly brow were legibly displayed the indications of that lofty courage, that firmness of purpose, and that vigour of intellect, which so conspicuously marked the splendid course of his after-life.

the window which overhung the rampart, and with an agility and dexterity for which he was always remarkable, threw himself out, escaped unhurt, and was at his post at the very minute appointed.

When the 73d arrived at Portsmouth, the East India Company's ships were not ready to receive it. For the moment, therefore, its destination was changed, and it was sent to Guernsey, where it remained for six months; at the end of which period, that fine regiment, a thousand strong, returned to quarters in Portsmouth, in order to await the still delayed sailing of the India fleet,

While the corps was thus stopped, *in transitu*, a serious and diabolical attempt was made by some vile incendiaries to poison the minds of the Highlanders composing it. To effect their purpose they endeavoured to persuade the men that they were sold to the East India Company; that their officers were only to accompany them until they were on board the vessels destined to convey them to their place of banishment, and that when they had once seen them safely off, they were to return.

The minds of the Highlanders (naturally suspicious), removed, in the first instance, as the men had been, to a remote distance from their native homes; were seriously operated upon, by the detestable falsehoods of the hidden traitors who incessantly laboured to deceive them; and the effect produced by the exertions of these people, in representing to the brave soldiers of the king and country that they had been trucked and trafficked away to a joint-stock company of merchants in London, was such, that one company of the regiment (Captain Shaw's), which was quartered at Fareham, actually mutinied, and positively refused to march.

Reason and reflection, however, shortly got the better of the treacherous falsehoods which had been so actively propagated; but the extent to which the machinations of the plotters had been carried may be pretty clearly estimated, by the fact that they had gratuitously furnished disguises of various sorts for the men, in order to enable them to desert with impunity.

In January 1779, the protracted difficulties with respect to the departure of East India ships having been at length overcome, the regiment was embarked, Captain Baird being in command of a hundred and fifty men on board the Earl of Oxford. But although the important preliminary step of getting the troops afloat had been achieved, it was not until the 7th of the March following, that they actually sailed.

On that day the fleet, under the command of Admiral Sir Edward Hughes, left Portsmouth. It consisted of six sail of the line, some frigates, and about twenty East Indiamen, and carried out, besides the 73d regiment, the 75th, and a part of the African corps, under the command of Governor Wall, who was destined at that period to assume the command at Goree in the event of its capture, and who, as the reader will no doubt remember, was executed in front of Newgate, twenty-three years afterwards, for an act of tyranny committed during his government in that settlement, in the year 1782.

At the end of March, the ships arrived at

the beautiful Island of Madeira, and remained there three weeks, and from its richly clad shores proceeded to the confined and wretched settlement of Goree, the taking of which had been determined upon by our government; but scarcely had the preparations for attacking it commenced, when it was discovered that the French had, upon the appearance of our fleet, considered it prudent to evacuate the place. The ships then came to anchor in the bay, and the 75th, a remarkably fine body of young Welshmen, and the African corps, intended for the garrison of the island, were landed.

During the stay of the ships at this horrid place, Captain Baird went on shore to attend the funeral of a brother officer, who had died on board. Some native Africans, who were employed to dig the grave, remained to witness the melancholy and impressive ceremony of interment. One of them approached Captain Baird, and looking anxiously in his face, gave him to understand, by signs, that all the white men who had come that day, would soon be there—pointing to the grave. And this prediction was too truly and fatally fulfilled, for nearly the whole of the 75th were buried in that wretched settlement; than which, not even the hateful Sierra-Leone, nor the delusive Fernando Po, is more baneful and destructive to European constitutions.

From Goree the fleet proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope. The Earl of Oxford, and another of the Indiamen, got into Table Bay on the

1st of August 1779. The men-of-war, and the other Indiamen, stood round for Simon's Bay, in False Bay, the usual naval rendezvous and anchorage, where the dockyard and other marine departments are established; some of them, it appears, did not get to anchor until three weeks after the arrival of the two companion ships in Table Bay.

At the Cape, however, which at that period was a Dutch colony, the fleet remained for three months: a period little less than that which is now occupied by a whole voyage from England to India; and during this unaccountably long detention, a homeward bound India fleet arrived.

It was not until November, 1779, that the outward-bound fleet was again on its way to India; and it was not until January, 1780, that Lord Macleod and his gallant Highlanders landed at Madras; an entire year having been consumed in the completion of the voyage from the date of their first embarkation at Portsmouth.

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—COAL-ESCES 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.

At the time of the arrival of the 73rd at Madras, the general appearance of affairs was favourable to tranquillity; but those to whom the administration of the government was entrusted should have penetrated below the surface, aware, as they ought to have been, of the hatred—not perhaps altogether unjustified—which Hyder Aly Cawn bore the English, and more especially the presidency of Fort St. George.

In order to understand the causes of this peculiar animosity, it may be necessary to state, that in the year 1769, eleven years before the period to which we are now referring, Hyder Aly, after

having been engaged with varying success against the English, had suddenly appeared within a few miles of Madras, greatly to the embarrassment of the government of that presidency, which, besides being extremely reduced in point of revenue, had been for some time divided and distracted by dissensions among the council and superior officers, and driven to expedients which, it must be confessed, reflect no great credit upon the integrity of those who devised them, or upon the wisdom of those who put them into execution.

Matters, however, pressed, and with the enemy almost at their gates, they found it necessary to check his farther proceedings by negociation, into which he, on his part, was equally ready to enter; and accordingly a treaty, offensive and defensive, was concluded between Hyder and the British government, on the 3rd of April, 1769, the principal condition of which was understood to be, that the forts and places taken on either side should be restored to their original possessors, and each party sit down contented. But in point of fact there was another article in the treaty which was still more important—it was specially agreed, that in case either party was attacked by its enemies, the other should lend the party so attacked its aid and assistance; and to make this compact more binding, the actual number of troops to be supplied for the purpose was distinctly stated. Whether from forgetfulness of that to which they had pledged themselves, or from carelessness of

a distant enemy, at whom they had trembled when near at hand, it is not our province to determine; but certain it is, that when Hyder Aly, a short time after the ratification of this treaty, became involved in a war with the Mahrattas, and applied to the Madras government for the guaranteed assistance, the Madras government flatly refused to afford it, because, as they alleged, if they took a decided part with Hyder against the Mahrattas, they should in all probability become involved in a Mahratta war themselves.

Stung by the flagrant injustice of this paltry evasion, in a case all the difficulties of which the Madras government should have considered before they pledged themselves; Hyder, after numerous applications, which were constantly refused, resolved upon making up his differences with the Mahrattas as soon as he could, and revenging himself upon his faithless allies, the English. Painful it is, indeed, to think that the English name should have been so sullied in the presidencies of the Honourable East India Company and councils.

To this shameless breach of faith may fairly be traced the combination of miseries and misfortunes which subsequently involved and overwhelmed thousands of our countrymen, and amongst them, the gallant and distinguished subject of this memoir; for the course taken by Hyder to satisfy his thirst for revenge upon the English, was one which led to a chain of events, the extent and magnitude of which were not in the slightest de-

gree anticipated by the Madras government, when, upon a cool calculating principle of self-preservation, they resolved to violate the faith of their engagements, and outrage the sanctity of their treaties.

Hyder knew by experience, and by the common course of events, that the French, if made acquainted with the facts of the case, and the feelings of our discarded ally, would not hesitate for a moment in affording him any means that he might require for reducing his Indian enemies, as the first important step towards wreaking a future vengeance on his English friends. Hyder's anticipations with respect to succour and support from this quarter were fully justified by the event: the French supplied him liberally with arms and ammunition; and French officers were permitted, if not encouraged, to enter into his service, to train and organize his armies, and to form a powerful force of artillery upon the European system.

The effect of this improvement upon the discipline of his troops was sensibly and rapidly felt; and in a much shorter space of time than even he himself could have hoped or expected, he found himself enabled to take the field against the Mah-rattas, and the result of his brilliant campaign was a treaty in the highest degree advantageous to his interests.

But, as if to shew in more glowing colours the real character of the evasion with which the Madras government met Hyder's requisition, on

the faith of their mutual compact made by him ; and to exhibit the fallacy of their expressed apprehension of involving themselves in hostilities with the Mahrattas ; we find the Madras government immediately afterwards actually involved in a Mahratta war ; and as the causes which led to that war seem to be quite as creditable to the then government of Bombay, as those which induced the former pacific resolutions of the government of Madras, we shall briefly lay them before the reader, more especially as they may tend to throw light upon subsequent important transactions.

The seat of the Mahratta government was originally fixed at Setterah, and the government itself was vested in a Rajah ; and although, in the course of time, the sole and absolute power of the prince had been deteriorated, and the nation become divided into numerous small states, the chiefs of all those states continued to own allegiance to the ram-rajah, to whom they still conceded the right of assembling them, or of calling out their troops whenever he felt inclined to do so.

But at length the greatness of the ram-rajah became little more than a shadow, and his dignity little else than a name ; the whole power of the government being in the hands of the paishwa, or chancellor. The paishwaship being usurped, as we are told, by the family of Nana-Row, the reigning paishwa seized the ram-rajah, and threw him into a dungeon at Setterah.

When the paishwa died he left two sons, Mada-

Row, and Narain-Row, of whom Mada-Row, being the eldest, succeeded to the paishwaship, to which, however, his uncle, Roganaut-Row, laid claim. Mada-Row, anxious for his own safety, and the peaceable enjoyment of a dignity to which he was unquestionably entitled, had this uncle seized and placed in confinement; but being himself attacked by illness, he released him before his death, recommending, in his last moments, his brother, Narain-Row (who was of course to succeed to the paishwaship), to his special care and affection.

It is not very difficult to anticipate the fate of the unhappy heir to the honours of his fond brother, when he was confided to the hands of another and more desperate claimant of them. Narain-Row was shortly after murdered by his uncle, who fled to the East India Company's government at Bombay, where, on *promising to cede a certain portion of the territories which he was to acquire, as the price of his nephew's blood*, the Company's government were pleased to approve his pretensions to the throne of Poonah, and gave him their protection and countenance in supporting them.

Against this most flagrant act, the Mahrattas, shocked and disgusted at the heartless conduct of the sanguinary monster, whose hands were imbrued with the blood of his nearest living relative, and that relative committed to his fostering care and protection, strongly and pathetically remon-

strated ; but, will it be believed, that the principle then apparently laid down by the Honourable East India Company, of availing themselves, whenever they can, of any civil dissensions amongst the natives, in order to extend their own territorial possessions, prevented any notice whatever being taken of their appeal ?

The outraged Mahrattas then, having resolved upon revenge, formed a coalition not only with Hyder Aly Cawn, but with many other powerful princes and rajahs, (who naturally sympathized with their feelings,) for the purpose, if possible, of expelling from amongst them, a race of people, whom (to use the words of an able writer upon the subject) “ no concessions could satisfy, and no treaties could bind.”

But, as if the previously cautious and calculating government of Madras had been inclined to excite their enemies to mischief, they chose, just at this period, to march a body of troops through a part of Hyder’s* territory, without his permission, in order to assist a prince who was not in alliance with him ;

* Hyder Ally Cawn, the Regent of Mysore, had attained that dignity by a combination of powerful abilities and daring crimes, by bravery in arms and by policy in negotiation. He entered the service of the Rajah, whose throne he afterwards possessed, as a corporal, and like another hero, who seems to have emulated his vices and successes, was distinguished by the appellation of *Corporal* for many years. He rose to the command of the army, and on the death of the Rajah seized the government, and confined the heir to the throne, and the whole of the royal family, in the fortress of

and as if to cement more firmly the union which existed between him and his new friends, the French, they at the same time thought proper to take possession of the French settlement of Mahie, on the Malabar coast, which formed part of his dominions, at a moment when he declared the French were actually under his protection.

While these things were in progress, the Madras

Seringapatam, occasionally shewing them to the people to assure them of their existence and safety.

He could neither read nor write, but such was the power of his mind, that he invited and encouraged the manufacturer and workman of every nation to settle in his territories. His army was disciplined in the European manner, and he ultimately succeeded in the formation of dock-yards and the establishment of a navy.

The writer, to whom we are indebted for much information, in his "Memoirs of the War in Asia," says, speaking of this extraordinary man, "At the same time that he was sublime in his views, he was capable of all that minute attention which was necessary for their completion. His ends were great—his means prudent—a regular economy supplied a source of liberality, which he never failed to exercise whenever an object which he could render in any shape subservient to his ambition solicited his bounty. He rewarded merit of every kind, but he was particularly munificent to all who could bring important intelligence. He made a regular distribution of his time, and although he sacrificed to the pleasures of life as well as to the pomp of state, in business he was equally decisive and persevering.

The extent of population in his dominions at the time of which we now treat (1780) was never accurately ascertained. His army, however, at that period, amounted to three hundred thousand men, and his annual revenue to above five millions sterling.

government remained in a state of stupid security, and Hyder, who had been availing himself of every opportunity for making the most extensive warlike preparations, found his way through the Ghauts, and burst like a mountain-torrent into the Carnatic, driving all before him.

No care whatever had been taken to guard the passes or defiles, nor did Hyder meet with the slightest impediment or opposition to his passage, beyond that which naturally arose from the narrowness or difficulty of the passes themselves. Some idea may be formed of the dismay of the presidency, and as it should seem its surprise, when the government found that the invading power amounted to nearly 100,000 men, including a large force of European troops, officered by Frenchmen, and commanded by a very distinguished person, Colonel Lally.

When the crisis which suddenly presented itself came to be discussed in council, a very great difference of opinion arose at the board, as to the most adviseable mode of repelling the invaders. One party wished to keep Sir Hector Munro, the commander-in-chief, at the presidency, in order to retain a majority in the council, and to despatch Lord Macleod in command of the army (which did not exceed, at that period, six thousand men), against Hyder; and this it was proposed to do without an hour's delay, and without, of course, waiting for the necessary equipment of a body of troops destined

for such an arduous service. This could hardly be believed, if the facts were not recorded; and much less would it be credited, that, although the council themselves admitted Hyder's force to exceed 80,000 men, a great proportion of whom were cavalry, fully prepared for the field; the opinion they entertained, or, perhaps, affected to entertain, of the efficiency of his army, in order to palliate their own former ignorance or neglect, was such, that even the enormous inequality of numbers in his favour was scarcely considered as a serious disadvantage.

Lord Macleod, however, who was an able man, and a good soldier, took a calmer and wiser view of the subject. He readily agreed to assume the command of the army, when it should be properly formed and equipped for service, but positively refused to do so while it was in its present state; at the same time offering readily to march instantly at the head of his own regiment.

In his remonstrance to the council upon what can be called nothing but the absurdity of their conduct, Lord Macleod used the following expression, which, though perhaps somewhat rough, proved, in the sequel, awfully prophetic:—"I," said his lordship, "have been a great many years in the service, and I have always observed, that when you despise your enemy, he generally gives you a d—d rap over the knuckles."

In consequence of Lord Macleod's refusal, Sir Hector Munro took the command.

On the 24th of July, 1780, the cavalry of Hyder Aly were within nine miles of Madras; and his troops burned all the villages on the road, which had been abandoned on their approach by the unhappy inhabitants. Things now began to wear an extremely serious aspect, and in order to assemble the English force with all possible expedition, a despatch was sent off to Colonel Baillie, who was in the Northern Circar, with from three to four thousand men, to join Sir Hector Munro's army at the Mount at Madras. Most unfortunately, however, the order was subsequently changed, and Colonel Baillie was directed to proceed direct to Conjeveram, a place about forty miles from the Mount on the road to Arcot, by which change an opportunity was afforded Hyder (of which he took advantage) of throwing himself between the two British commanders.

Sir Hector Munro marched from the Mount on the 25th of August, 1780, to Conjeveram. In the meanwhile Baillie, who was on his way to join him there, fell in with a detachment of Hyder's army, under the command of his son, Tippoo, consisting of 30,000 cavalry, 8,000 foot, and twelve pieces of cannon. Notwithstanding the vast numerical superiority of this force over that of Colonel Baillie, which was considerably weakened by a mutiny in the first regiment of cavalry, which it had been found necessary to march prisoners to Madras, they were most decisively repulsed. This victory, splendid as was the achievement, was dearly

bought, since, by again diminishing the effective strength of his little army, he considerably added to the dangers and difficulties of his situation.

At this juncture, Colonel Baillie sent off a messenger to Sir Hector Munro, informing him of the precarious state in which he found himself. The severe loss he had sustained, rendered him incapable of advancing, while the distressing want of provisions, under which his troops were suffering, made it equally impossible for him to remain long where he was. This representation from Colonel Baillie greatly embarrassed Sir Hector Munro, for it was clear he must either decide on marching to his relief, leaving his sick and stores at Conjeveram under a guard, or on remaining himself at Conjeveram, and sending a detachment to strengthen Colonel Baillie where he was.

Unfortunately—as it turned out—for it is the common disposition of man to judge of conduct by consequences—Sir Hector decided on the latter alternative, and a detachment was sent to Colonel Baillie's assistance, under the command of Colonel Fletcher, of which detachment the flank companies of the 73d, under Captain Baird, formed part; there were two other companies of European grenadiers, and eleven companies of Sepoys, making altogether about a thousand men.

The security of this force, and the probability of its effecting a junction with Colonel Baillie, appeared to Colonel Fletcher to depend so very

much upon the silence of its proceedings, that he refused four six pounders which were offered him, and marched on the 8th of September, at nine o'clock at night. It appears, however, that Hyder, notwithstanding all the caution that was observed, had obtained accurate intelligence of the movement of this detachment, and accordingly despatched a strong body to intercept it. Colonel Fletcher and Captain Baird, however, having reason to suspect some project of the sort, suddenly altered their line of march, and by a wide *detour*, which, although it added to their fatigue, ensured their safety, succeeded in joining Colonel Baillie on the morning of the 9th, having, nevertheless, fallen in with Hyder's picquets, close to his position at Perambaukum.

The troops of this detachment, wearied as they were, were permitted to halt only till the evening, when the whole force marched, under the command of Colonel Baillie, to join Sir Hector Munro. Hyder had again obtained the most correct intelligence of their movements, and taking advantage of the necessary delay in the return of this gallant body of troops, enfiladed every part of the road by which they were to march, with artillery, and placed his best infantry in ambuscade at every available point.

The English troops had not proceeded more than four miles, when an alarm was given that the enemy was on their flank. They immediately

formed, but finding the attack was not serious, continued their march. The road lay through an avenue of banyan trees, with a jungle on either side, and upon their entrance into this road, they were again attacked on the flank, by the enemy's opening two or three guns, and commencing a fire of some musquetry from the thick part of the jungle. They instantly halted, and immediately afterwards endeavoured to take the guns, but the darkness frustrated their efforts; and then it was, that Colonel Baillie determined to halt till day-light—a determination at first sight incompatible with the admitted necessity of making the march by night; while it not only afforded an opportunity to the enemy to draw off his cannon to another and stronger point, which the English had inevitably to pass in the morning, but practically announced to Tippoo the exact position in which he had checked them, and moreover of suggesting to Hyder the importance of advancing, in order, to take advantage of their unexpected halt. Colonel Baillie's words explanatory of his decision addressed to Captain Baird were, "that he was determined to halt till day-light, that he might have an opportunity of seeing about him."

At day-light they accordingly re-commenced their march, and as the column moved out of the avenue into the plain, a battery of eight guns opened upon it, supported by a strong body of cavalry and infantry. Baillie immediately ordered

Captains Kennedy and Gowdie, with the native grenadiers, to attack them; they did so, and succeeded in taking most of the guns, and in driving back the troops who supported them.

But at this moment the heads of the different columns of Hyder's army appeared, (Hyder having passed Sir Hector Munro in the night,) moving down upon the line, which induced Kennedy and Gowdie immediately to call off their detachment from the captured guns to join the main body. At this juncture, Baillie formed his force, consisting of little more than three thousand men, in line upon the bank of an old nullah, or water-course, and opened his guns upon the enemy. But Hyder, too powerful an antagonist for a mere handful of men, so disposed his immense army, as completely to surround him, and commenced a destructive fire upon him from his artillery in every direction.

The various descriptions of this memorable and most unequal contest, however, all agree in confirming the belief, that vast as was the disparity between the contending armies, and although Hyder had upwards of seventy pieces of cannon in the field, the day would have been won by the English, if the fortune of war had not been so decidedly against them. The enemy were repeatedly and continually repulsed, their infantry gave way, while their cavalry were falling in all directions, and, it is said, Hyder was only prevented from

retreating, by the persuasions of Colonel Lally, who represented to him, that retiring would bring him in contact with Sir Hector Munro, who was in his rear; and at this moment, and while the English were actually sustaining the combined attack of Hyder and his son Tippoo, two of their tumbrils exploded, and in an instant the brave men who were on the eve of gaining one of the most splendid victories ever achieved, were deprived of their ammunition, and the services of all their artillery. In this helpless, dreadful state, under a heavy and tremendous fire of cannon and rockets, these gallant but unfortunate soldiers remained from half-past seven until nine o'clock.

The slaughter of the British began to be tremendous, as the enemy closed in upon them on every side. Colonel Fletcher had carried off the grenadier company of the 73d to support the rear-guard, and was never heard of more. Hyder Aly came with his whole army on their right flank, charging them with columns of horse, while the infantry kept up a heavy fire of musquetry. These were followed by the elephants and Mysore cavalry, which completed the overthrow of the gallant band of heroes. In the midst of this, Colonel Baillie, wounded as he was, formed his men into a square, and, without ammunition, received and repulsed thirteen different attacks of the enemy's squadrons. At length the case became evidently

hopeless, and the Sepoys, under Captain Lucas, having been broken and dispersed, Colonel Baillie, seeing that further resistance was vain, tied his handkerchief on his sword as a flag of truce, and ordered Captain Baird, who was now second in command, to cease firing.*

Hyder's officers refused to attend to Colonel Baillie's signal, pointing to the Sepoys who in their confusion were still continuing to fire; this, however, being explained, they agreed to give quarter, and Colonel Baillie directed Captain Baird to order his men to *ground their arms*. The order was of course obeyed, and the instant it was so, the enemy's cavalry, commanded by Tippoo Saib in person, rushed upon the unarmed troops before they could recover themselves, chopping down every man within their reach.

* In a letter written by Mr. (afterwards Sir Thomas) Munro, and recently published in Mr. Gleig's able and interesting life of that distinguished officer, Mr. Munro, in describing this event, which he does only upon hearsay evidence, says, "Colonel Fletcher, holding up his handkerchief on the point of his sword as a signal for quarter, was wounded in the arm, and wrapping the handkerchief round it, he received a cut across the belly—his bowels dropped out, and he fell dead from his horse." It was Colonel Baillie, and not Colonel Fletcher, who made the signal for quarter, and he was not killed, but lingered long afterwards in captivity. Nothing can more clearly prove the difficulty of ascertaining the truth even in the country where the events have happened. Mr. Munro had heard the account, no doubt, and repeated it as he heard it.

The greater part of Captain Baird's company were literally cut to pieces by these wretches, and he himself having received two sabre wounds on his head, a ball in his thigh, and a pike-wound in his arm, fell senseless on the ground.

CHAPTER III.

CAPTAIN BAIRD PROVIDENTIALLY ESCAPES DEATH—HYDER RETREATS TO DAMAL—BARBARITY OF HIS TRIUMPH—COLONEL BAILLIE—CAPTAIN PHILLIPS—DR. WILSON—CAPTAIN BAIRD'S SUFFERINGS AFTER THE ACTION—SIE 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.

ON recovering, Captain Baird found himself in the midst of the dead and dying, and still surrounded by the merciless enemy, who were yet busily employed in the horrid work of slaughter. The very circumstances of his moving and opening his eyes, were sufficient to attract the attention of these blood-thirsty barbarians, and in an instant, one of Tippoo's men raised the spear with which he was armed, to despatch him, when another unfortunate soldier happening to stir at the same instant, the new object diverted the fellow's notice, and received the deadly blow. And thus, by an almost miraculous accident, the gallant Baird was preserved by Providence to revenge the fatal

devastation of Perambaukum, by the glorious conquest of Seringapatam.*

Nothing can exceed the horrors of the scene which this defeat produced. Amidst the wounded and bleeding English, the horses and elephants of Hyder were paraded and marched in fiend-like triumph; and those miserable sufferers, who were not at once released from their agonies, by being trampled to death by these animals, were doomed to linger out a wretched existence, exposed during

* The following note has been communicated by Captain Mackenzie, late 71st Regiment.

“ The writer of this had, in the year 1796, the honour and good fortune to go over the field of Perambaukum, (called by the soldiers the field of blood,) with Colonel Baird; when he described with great animation and strong feeling the various occurrences of the memorable 10th of September 1780, and clearly traced and remembered the different positions and movements of Colonel Baillie’s unfortunate detachment on that dreadful day, from the very commencement of the action to the last position taken up by them on the rising ground where the flag of truce was hoisted and quarter promised by the enemy; a promise broken the moment their confiding opponents had grounded their arms, when they rushed in upon them, and commenced the massacre, the issue of which is so well known.

“ At the time the writer visited the field, fragments of pouches still remained lying about, and many of the buttons of the 75th Regiment were picked up. The scene brought to the Colonel’s brave and generous mind reflections that deeply affected him; little imagining at the moment that in less than three years he should fully retaliate for his own sufferings and those of his gallant companions, by overthrowing a treacherous tyrant, and annihilating his government, which he amply did by the capture of Seringapatam, on the 4th of May 1799.”

the day to the raging heat of a vertical sun, and through the night to the ravages of tigers and jackals, allured to the scene of their misery by the scent of human blood.

Hyder, who, naturally apprehensive of pursuit from Sir Hector Munro, had retreated after the action to Damal, six miles from the field of battle, gratified his vengeance by enjoying the sight of his prisoners and the heads of the slain, as he sat in his tent, enthroned as it were, on a chair of state. Colonel Baillie, wounded as he was, was dragged to his presence on a cannon, and while he, and several other officers, in an equally dreadful condition, lay on the ground, in the open air at his feet, they experienced the additional misery of seeing the heads of many of their late companions in arms, presented to the heartless conqueror. Nay, to such a pitch of barbarity were his cruelties extended, that the duty of presenting these bleeding trophies of his victory, was imposed upon the yet surviving English prisoners. One English gentleman in particular was forced to carry two heads to the tyrant, which proved to be those of his intimate friends Captain Phillips, and Doctor Wilson. For every European head brought in, Hyder gave his people five rupees, and for every European prisoner alive, ten.

Amongst the victims who had as yet escaped the misery of these scenes was Captain Baird. One of Hyder's horsemen, who found him wounded on the field, took charge of him,

and strange to say, had the humanity to give him a little water to drink. From loss of blood he fainted twice on his way towards the camp, and twice his guard and conductor stopped and waited for his recovery, in order to obtain the reward paid for bringing in a prisoner ; but when the unfortunate sufferer a third time sank under pain and fatigue, the patience of the soldier was exhausted, and he left him to die.

Here then, stretched upon the ground, covered with wounds, still bleeding, lay the noble-minded subject of our memoir, without a human being to minister to his wants, without a living creature to compassionate his sufferings. How long he remained in this state is not known, but at length his eyes were gratified by the appearance of a serjeant and a private of his own company. The latter was disabled in both arms, and the former, (Serjeant Walker,) in one. They had fortunately escaped so far from the field ; and as they could both walk, while the Captain, from the wound in his thigh, could not move without the greatest pain and difficulty, they raised him from the ground, and helped him along as well as they could, and procured him water to drink, a luxury, the extreme value of which, no one who has not suffered the parching thirst caused by still reeking wounds, under a burning sun, can at all appreciate.

Captain Baird, while he lay senseless on the field, had been stripped by the enemy, who left him nothing but his shirt and trowsers, which

were saturated with blood; and yet, thus tortured as he was, he, and his equally destitute and bleeding companions crawled on, animated by the hope of reaching Sir Hector Munro's camp, which they naturally concluded could be at no very great distance, since they had left it only two days before. But they greatly miscalculated, if not the distance of Sir Hector's camp, the military tactics of Sir Hector himself.

Sir Hector Munro had been near enough to hear the firing when the action between Hyder and Colonel Baillie began, and, it is generally believed, that his first impulse was to move forward to Baillie's assistance; but before he had proceeded far on his march, in pursuance of this intention, he met some runaways from the scene of action, and in consequence of what these fugitives, under *their* impression of affairs, told him, Sir Hector Munro went to the right about, leaving Colonel Baillie and his gallant and devoted little army to their fate.*

So strong was the impression made upon the mind of Sir Hector Munro by what he had heard, although his informants had given practical evidence of the value of their opinion by saving them-

* When the orders were given by Sir Hector Munro to go to the right about, Lord Macleod remonstrated with him in the strongest manner; nay, the brave old soldier from whose mouth this statement was taken, declared that his lordship went on his knees to Sir Hector, to entreat that he would at any rate allow him to go to the relief of "his own poor fellows;"—the flank companies of the 73d, his lordship's regiment.

selves, that he proceeded rapidly to Conjeveram, which he reached by six o'clock in the evening. Here he proceeded to give orders to destroy his cannon, being twenty-four pounders, and a vast quantity of ammunition, which appeared likely to encumber the movements which he had decided to make as rapidly as he could towards Chingléput, to which place, at two o'clock in the morning, the British force moved off without beat of drum, and reached it at day-break on the 12th. The next morning they moved again, and at one o'clock in the morning of the 14th arrived safe at the Mount, at Madras, having been very much annoyed all the way by Hyder's horse, which continued to pursue, and hover about their rear.

It is impossible to quit this part of the subject, without stating the opinions and feelings to which the sudden retreat of the army to Madras gave rise. The grief which the loss of so many gallant officers excited, was scarcely less powerful than the alarm consequent upon the probable result of their defeat. Many of the inhabitants made preparations for quitting the Presidency, and flying to England. Others looked for assistance from Bengal. But such a demonstration of popular feeling perhaps modern history can scarcely afford: every inhabitant of Madras put on mourning. The negligence, indolence, infatuation, or stupidity of certain individuals, who had neither prudence to foresee dangers, nor fortitude to withstand them when they came, were the themes of

general invective and discontent amongst both the civil and military population ; while the peculiar character of the general sentiment might be clearly understood, by the manner in which the same individuals extolled the characters of Colonel Fletcher and the brave officers and men who perished with him, and did justice to the valour of Baillie, and applauded the advice given by Lord Macleod ; who, as we have already said, used his most earnest endeavours to prevail upon Sir Hector Munro to move forward to the relief of Baillie's force.

But to return to our narrative. Captain Baird and his weak and wounded companions, still under the delusion of hope, continued moving as well as they could in the direction of Sir Hector Munro's encampment ; but although they pursued the track they had selected as the best, they saw nothing to encourage them ; on the contrary, the enemy were visible in every direction, in small bodies, and evidently in perfect security. These appearances disheartened them, and completely worn out by fatigue and loss of blood, they resolved to abandon all further efforts to escape, and to resign themselves to a fate, which now seemed, alas ! too truly, inevitable ; and, accordingly, they laid themselves down under a banyan-tree, where, in spite of all his tortures, mental and bodily, Captain Baird slept soundly, for several hours.*

* It was a peculiarity in Sir David Baird that he could sleep soundly for the period which he had allotted for repose,

When he awoke from his slumber he was told by his faithful companions, who had watched by him, that a large body (they imagined the whole) of Tippoo's cavalry had passed by, near where he lay, in pursuit of Sir Hector Munro ; for as soon as Hyder was convinced that Sir Hector, instead of pursuing him, had moved off towards Chingléput, he became pursuer in turn, and so continued, as we have seen, to harass and annoy his enemy during the whole retreat, even to the neighbourhood of Madras itself.

In this position of affairs, and being perfectly convinced that their lot must be captivity, Captain Baird resolved to attempt to find M. Lally's camp that day, where he hoped that himself and his companions might be made prisoners to the French, instead of falling into the hands of the merciless author of all their misfortunes. Accordingly he and his companions took the direction of the French head-quarters, and by the aid of Providence reached them before night.

under the most trying and difficult circumstances ; a peculiarity attributable perhaps to the general tranquillity of his mind. Without this power he never could have been equal to the arduous and important tasks, which in the course of his eventful life he had to perform. He has often said that he never slept better than he did, after having made all the necessary arrangements the night before the Storming of Seringapatam.

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.

THE reception which Captain Baird and his fellow sufferers met with in the French camp was such as might have been expected from a brave and generous enemy. The officers gave them tea and refreshments, and a surgeon was immediately ordered to attend them and dress their wounds: but although these personal attentions were shewn them, they were made to understand that they must not expect protection, nor be permitted even to remain where they were; the orders of the French being imperative to deliver up all prisoners to Hyder himself.

Every hope, which these unfortunate men had till now entertained of escaping the barbarities of their cruel foe, vanished; and they found, to their inexpressible grief and mortification, that the kind-

ness which they had experienced, in the French camp, was but the forerunner of cruelties and persecutions, which that very kindness served only to make more dreadful. Remonstrance, however, was in vain, and accordingly they were sent under a guard to the camp.

When Captain Baird arrived near Hyder's tent he was conducted into a circle formed by centinels, in which were a few tents pitched under some trees. Here he found Colonel Baillie and the rest of his ill-fated brother officers, who had survived the dreadful slaughter of Perambaukum. The men were separated from the officers, but were lodged in a similar place at a little distance.

Previously to Captain Baird's arrival all the officers had been carried before Hyder; but the tyrant having satiated his vengeance by the protracted scene of cruelty which he had been enjoying, this ceremony of exhibition was in Baird's case dispensed with, and he remained, with Colonel Baillie and the others, in the place to which he had been at first conveyed until the 14th, where a regular allowance of rice was served out for their subsistence.

At about eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the 14th, Hyder being about to move his camp to the neighbourhood of Arcot, Kistna-Row, Hyder's treasurer, went into the quarter where the English officers were, and ordered such of them as were capable of walking, to stand up. This order having been of course obeyed, an immediate division of

the prisoners took place. Colonel Baillie, Captains Baird, Rumley, Lucas, Sherlock, and Wragg, with Lieutenants Lindsay and Fraser were ordered to remain with the enemy's camp; and palanquins, which had been taken by Hyder, with the baggage of Baillie's corps at Perambaukum, were sent for their conveyance.

The officers who were not wounded, amounting to twenty-three, were sent to Bangalore and the Mysore country, and there put in irons; and those who were wounded, in number twenty-seven, were sent to Arnée, a fort about fifteen miles from Arcot. The wounded privates were by a similar arrangement sent to Arnée, and those not wounded to Bangalore; and this measure of separation was carried into effect with such rapidity by Hyder and his officers, that the prisoners had not the opportunity of exchanging a syllable with each other; and after the division had actually taken place, any attempt of the one party to communicate with the other would have been visited in all probability with the severest punishment.

Painful as it is to record such scenes of misery as those in which these unhappy prisoners were doomed to bear a part, we should not do justice to the firmness and fortitude with which our gallant countrymen endured their sufferings, if we did not describe, in the words of one of the victims, the departure of those who had been ordered to the different forts, for the places of their destination.

“Soon after this,” says the writer, “some doolies were brought for the party destined for Arnée—i. e. the wounded. These doolies are the most inhuman vehicles in which Europeans were ever placed. The common sort are from three feet and a half to four feet long and about two feet and a half broad; they consist of a frame made of bamboo or common wood, with four posts at the corners to which the sides and ends are fastened at about eight inches from the ground. To each of these posts is fixed a bamboo or large pole by means of which the machine is carried by four coolies, or bearers. The frame is lashed together by ropes made of the fibres of the cocoa-nut, and sometimes by small rattan canes, which, at the same time they serve to fasten the machine, supply the place of a seat. The doolies are usually covered with coarse cotton cloth, but as ours had no covering of any kind, many of our gentlemen suffered very severely.

“The poor soldiers, who laboured under every misery, were some of them put into these doolies, and above fifty of them placed on arrack-bandies or carts. It is impossible to describe the sufferings of these unfortunate men, desperately wounded, their bodies exposed to a severe sun, placed six or eight together in these vehicles, knocking against each other from the jolting, and refused even a drop of water.”

Captain Baird and his six unfortunate companions were destined, as we have already said, to move and

subsequently remain with the army; and accordingly when the camp broke up, they accompanied it. During the first day's march Tippoo came up, in his palanquin, to Colonel Baillie, and spoke to him in the handsomest manner, complimenting him upon his gallantry, and bidding him keep up his spirits, as his defeat was attributable only to the uncertain fortune of war. He also assured him that it was the intention of his father, Hyder Aly, to render him every assistance, and not to suffer him to want for anything during his captivity; and even went so far as to request Colonel Baillie, if he found at any time any cause for complaint, to send to *him*, promising to see the grievance, whatever it might be, properly adjusted.

It will scarcely be believed, that at the very moment Tippoo was making these professions and protestations, he knew perfectly well that it never would be in Colonel Baillie's power to send any complaint or remonstrance to *him*, except with the permission and through the medium of his father, whatever might be his wants and sufferings, or the wants and sufferings of his fellow prisoners.

It would be difficult to account for this piece of hypocritical acting in Tippoo, unless we should attribute it to a malignant desire of raising false hopes and exciting illusory expectations; but after the first day's march he never came near the prisoners; nor, as will be seen in the sequel, did he ever evince the slightest disposition to shew them favour, or even mercy, when, after his father's

death, they became entirely subject to his power, and completely under his control.

Although Hyder had suffered so considerably at Perambaukum, that he studiously concealed the extent of his loss, he was not prevented from undertaking the siege and effecting the capture of Arcot, a city belonging to one of the most faithful allies of the English. By his success, in getting possession of this place and an adjoining fort, an immense quantity of ammunition and stores fell into his hands.

While he was carrying on his operations against Arcot, the English prisoners were kept in the neighbourhood; their place of confinement was a tent, pitched in the skirts of a village, to which a black doctor was occasionally sent, to look at and dress their wounds. We say occasionally, for it not unfrequently happened that several days passed without his taking the trouble to visit them. The consequences of this inhuman neglect were almost too dreadful to relate; but such was the state to which the unhappy sufferers were reduced from the combined effects of negligence and the dreadful heat of the climate, that while they lay languishing in agony, their wounds were literally crawling with maggots.

In this dreadful condition did they remain for a fortnight, when Captain Baird, together with Lindsay, Bentinck, and Wragg, were separated from Colonel Baillie (with whom Rumley and Fraser remained) and were marched to Seringapatam.

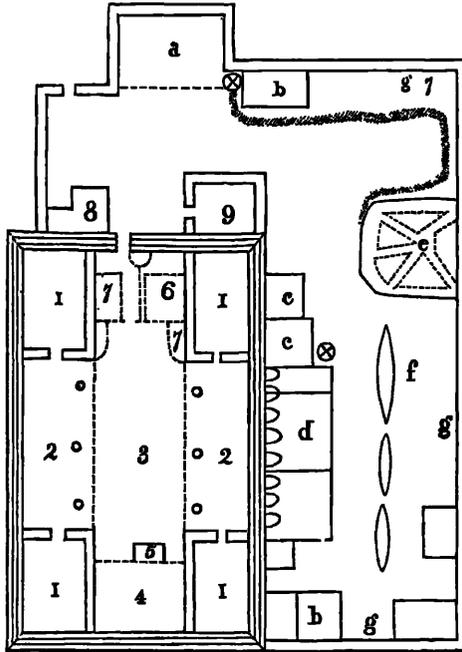
During the march to that scene of Baird's protracted captivity and future glory, nothing of any importance occurred. At the different forts where they halted for the night, the natives seemed disposed to treat the prisoners with pity and respect; and hard indeed must have been the heart that could refuse such a tribute to sufferings like theirs. Nothing in nature could be more pitiable than their appearance, nothing more hopeless than their position, marching under the accumulated sufferings of pain and fatigue to the horrors of a dungeon, whence, in all human probability, death alone could release them.*

When the captives reached Seringapatam they were conducted to the Durbar; whence, after a considerable, and as it appeared needless delay, they were conducted to their prison, which was situated at the other end of the square.

As this hideous place was destined for so

* Natural as these gloomy reflections appear to the narrator of such a history, they are widely different from those which filled the heart of the gallant subject of these memoirs. At a later period of his valuable life he used often to say that he never for a moment yielded to despondency: he never doubted that he should somehow and at some time get out of the hands of his enemies, and when in aftertimes he was induced to speak on the subject of his sufferings, which in point of fact commenced only when he reached Seringapatam, it was with so much simplicity, and so little disposition to dwell upon the most painful circumstances of the history, that he seemed desirous of lessening the horror they were calculated to inspire, rather than of exciting the feelings of his auditors.

PLAN OF THE PRINCIPAL PRISON OF SERINGAPATAM.



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corner Rooms, each containing 4 cotts. 2. Verandas matted off, each containing 7 cotts. 3. Inner Yard. 4. Old Cook Room, containing 6 cotts. 5. Mr. Massy's Kitchen Garden. 6. Sied Ibram's Berth. 7. Pyals. 8. Sied Ibram's Cook Room. 9. House. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hospital, 2 cotts. b. Colliery Guards. c. Servants Huts. d. Prison Cook Room. e. Captain Baird's Garden. f. Old Mud Walls. g. Mud Wall, 18 feet high. h. Outer Door of the Prison. <p>N.B. Each corner room of the Prison about 16 feet long by 10 feet wide.</p> |
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long a period to be the residence of our unhappy countrymen, a particular description of it cannot fail to be interesting.

The prison consisted of an oblong square, about seventy feet in length, with a sort of shed inwards, and open in the middle, like a square of open stalls for cattle. The space appropriated to cooking was at one end, opposite to the entrance where the guard was stationed. There were four dark rooms at each corner of the square, wholly unfurnished except with mats, which were laid upon the floor, and intended for beds, and this was the extent of the accommodation provided for the wretched tenants of this dismal habitation.

In lieu of provisions, or any of the necessaries of life, the prisoners were allowed one gold fanam (about sixpence per diem), out of which they were to supply themselves with food, clothing, and every thing they might require; and as a special indulgence, they were permitted to appropriate enough of these funds to buy one bottle and two-thirds of a bottle of arrack each per week. This favour was granted on account of the dampness of the climate.

In addition to these kindnesses a Frenchman, who called himself a surgeon, was permitted to attend and dress the still open wounds of Captains Baird and Lindsay; and two or three black boys, who had been taken with them, were allowed to stay in the prison, and permitted to go to the bazaar to purchase their provisions. It was through

the medium of these menials that the anxious inmates of the dungeon sometimes heard rumours of what was going on. The French surgeon occasionally brought them news; but from the extraordinary caution with which he appeared to speak, and the natural suspicion with which they listened to his reports, they gained but little from his communications.

They remained in this state for about six weeks, when they were joined by a party of their wounded countrymen from Arnée. On the 23d of December, 1780, at about five o'clock in the evening, this detachment of prisoners reached Seringapatam, and increased the number of the whole to five-and-twenty. The newly arrived captives were not all prepared to find Captain Baird and the other officers at Seringapatam; nor had they anticipated (which under the circumstances afforded them indescribable pleasure) that they should be permitted to share the horrors of imprisonment with their former companions in arms.

Our space will not permit us to avail ourselves of the entire journal kept by one of the sufferers during the whole period of their confinement; but we shall so far borrow from its contents, as to record the occurrence of any remarkable events which for the most part sadly distinguished one day from another, through the monotonous course of time, in their wretched incarceration.

On the 29th of January, 1781, their number

was increased by the arrival of Captain Lucas and Ensign Macauley, and, on the 8th of March, Colonel Baillie, Captain Rumley, and Lieutenant Fraser, the two former in irons, were brought from Arcot, two hundred and forty English miles, to Seringapatam; Mr. Skardon, resident at Pondicherry; Mr. Brunton, an ensign in the Company's service; and Mr. M'Neal, mate of a country ship. Mr. Skardon was the only one of this detachment lodged in the prison with the others, and the pittance allowed him was but six cash per diem, and one sear of rice, half a sear of dholl, and a little ghee. But it is one of the most remarkable and beautiful features of this dreadful captivity, that every man during its continuation seemed more anxious for his fellow-sufferers than for himself; and that every opportunity was seized by the whole party, to ameliorate the condition of those who were at times even worse off than themselves.

On the 10th of May, the French surgeon's visits were prohibited, and all the prisoners, except Captain Baird, were put in irons, weighing about nine pounds each pair; and this seemed to be generally considered the first step of a deliberate system which had been adopted of ending their existence without absolute violence; and so it really proved to be. No reason, other than a desire of eventually exterminating the unhappy captives, could be adduced for this new act of severity; but it seemed, from what transpired at the time, that they

had only hitherto escaped this additional cruelty through the humanity of those who had charge of them, without the privity or sanction of Hyder. It is in vain to attempt to describe the feelings of the captives when the order for their being ironed was announced to them ; they remonstrated, but remonstrance was vain, and, as we have just said, the order was carried into effect.

When about half the prisoners were manacled, the Myar seemed considerably relieved from an apprehension of danger, which had previously affected him ; for although he had only to enforce compliance with his orders upon five-and-twenty captives, he was evidently alarmed lest they should make any determined shew of resistance.

When they were about to put the irons upon Captain Baird, who was completely disabled in his right leg, in which the wound was still open, and whence the ball had just then been extracted, his friend Captain Lucas, who spoke the language perfectly, sprang forward, and represented in very strong terms to the Myar the barbarity of fettering him, while in such a dreadful state, and assured him, that death would be the inevitable termination of Captain Baird's sufferings, if the intention were persisted in.

The Myar replied, that the Circar had sent as many pair of irons as there were prisoners, and they must be put on. Captain Lucas then offered to wear two sets himself, in order to save his friend. This noble act of generosity moved the compassion

even of the Myar, who said he would send to the keeladar to open the book of fate. He did so, and when the messenger returned, he said the book had been opened, and Captain Baird's fate was good; and the irons were in consequence not put on at that time. Could they really have looked into the volume of futurity, Baird would undoubtedly have been the last man to be spared.

On the 20th, Lieutenant Coke, taken at Pandalore, arrived. On the 4th of June, being the anniversary of the birth of King George the Third, these staunch subjects of that excellent monarch drank his majesty's health in a chatty of sherbet.

On the 16th of September several of the unhappy prisoners, after having been in irons for four months, solicited the keeladar to release them from the sufferings which they occasioned, but in vain. On the 10th of November Captain Baird was put in irons, and thenceforward, things continued with little variation until the 27th of January, 1782, when a Circar Bramin arrived at the prison, and ordered all the captives to be brought before him; after examining them closely, he selected six: Captains Baird and Wragg, Lieutenants Lindsay, Bowser, and Cooke, and Ensign Macalister.

On the 17th of March, Colonel Baillie's irons, and those of Captain Rumley and Lieutenant Fraser, were taken off; those of Captain Baird

were removed on the 9th of April, on account of his sickness. The next day, Lieutenant Lind's irons were removed, and on the 14th he died.

On the 27th of March, the Myar made his appearance in the prison, and described the object of his visit to be to ascertain how many more inhabitants it could contain. This announcement astonished the captives, since they were already crowded to suffocation, yet they told him they were ready to make any sacrifice to accommodate others; for they hoped to obtain some information from the new comers. The Myar told them that eighteen or twenty more European officers would be sent in almost immediately.

The conjectures of the prisoners as to whom these new comers could be, were various; they turned out to be seventeen officers of Colonel Braithwaite's detachment, who had fallen into the hands of Tippoo in the Tanjore country, in the previous February. Tippoo had been extremely kind to them; he had furnished them with clothes and money, and given orders to his keeladar to be attentive to them during their march to Hyder's camp; but when they arrived there they were stripped of every thing, and threatened with the loss of their noses and ears, if they concealed the most trifling article. Colonel Braithwaite himself was detained in the camp.

The information received from these gentlemen was only calculated to increase the gloom and despondency of their fellow-captives; in addition to all other reports, it appeared that our army was lying useless near Madras for want of carriage bullocks, and that a French fleet had passed Pulicat. To a question put by Captain Baird to Dr. White, the medical officer of the detachment, whether there were any rational hopes of release, that gentleman declared his sincere belief that there were none, unless, indeed, very great exertions were made from home.

On the 15th of May, the servants of the prisoners were prohibited from visiting the bazaar. On the 31st, Ensign Graham's irons were removed, in consequence of sickness. Again, on the 4th of June, the sufferers did all the honour they could to the celebration of another anniversary of their king's birthday.

Towards the middle of June more European prisoners arrived, who were kept separate from those in the dungeon. On the 22d, Mr. Hope's irons were taken off, on account of illness, and the following week those of Captain Lucas and Ensign Macauley were also removed.

At this period symptoms of violent disease exhibited themselves amongst the captives, but all applications to the keeladar for medicine or medical attendance were wholly disregarded. On the 5th of July died Captain Lucas, whose conduct towards

Captain Baird, which we have recorded, will speak volumes in his praise, and whose amiable and engaging manners, and cheerfulness and vivacity of temper, made his loss a matter of deep calamity to his fellow-sufferers. On the 7th died Mr. Hope, Captain Baird's particular friend, and the eldest son of Sir John Hope; a slight medicine would have relieved—saved him—but it could not be obtained. On the 9th, Ensign Machonochy also fell a victim to similar barbarity.

Captain Baird himself, at this period was suffering dreadfully from dysentery, and he has often described the torture, when under the blessing of Providence he was recovering, that he experienced from hunger, which the scanty prison allowance did not afford the means of allaying, even with the coarsest food. He used frequently to declare, that the inclination he felt to snatch a portion of their food from others was almost unconquerable, and that if the least morsel was left by any of them, he swallowed it with the greatest eagerness and delight.

During this period Hyder sent some of his principal officers to endeavour to induce the English to enter his service. He offered them three times as much pay as they received in our army, as many horses, palanquins, *and wives*, as they chose, and promised that they should be considered and treated as his children. Of course these offers never obtained a moment's consideration. The

prisoners assured the emissaries of the tyrant that nothing in the world could tempt them to serve any sovereign except their own, and desired never again to be insulted by a repetition of such a proposal.

Towards the close of the year 1782, the arrival of European prisoners became very numerous, and most of them had, previous to their arrival, been forced to embrace the Mahomedan religion, and undergo all the frightful ceremonies connected with its adoption. On the 13th of November Colonel Baillie expired, an event which, it should seem, had been anticipated and provided for, by the tyrant; for during the whole course of his confinement, and his severe and painful illness, he never received medicine or assistance, nor even the advice of a medical man.

The second year of their captivity was now drawing to a termination. They had from time to time been tantalized by various reports, which had sometimes excited in their breasts a faint hope of regaining their liberty; such as Colonel Macleod's having landed on the Mahratta coast, subsequently a similar rumour with respect to General Matthews, and accounts of victories said to have been gained by Sir Eyre Coote. At length, however, these flattering fables died away, and nothing appeared before them but the prospect of languishing for the rest of their lives in dismal captivity. Captain Baird, however, as has been already noticed, never gave way to despair;