

he always anticipated, even against all probability, that he should again see his native country, and this one hope, by God's blessing, supported him through incalculable sufferings both of mind and body, under which almost any other man would have sunk.

## CHAPTER V.

DEATH OF HYDER—DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE HOPES ENTERTAINED OF TIPPOO'S LENIENCY—HIS RELIGIOUS ZEAL IN FORCING THE EUROPEANS TO EMBRACE MAHOMMEDANISM—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.

It was on the 2nd of November, that Tippoo and Lally proceeded to the coast, and on the 15th of December intelligence was received in the prison, by means of the washerman, that Hyder was dead. Anticipating as they did from the general character of Tippoo, as well as their own experience of his conduct, a favourable change in their circumstances from this event, the prisoners hesitated to believe it implicitly, although they observed an unusual bustle about the fort and amongst the guards, which seemed to corroborate the report. Shortly, however, new keeladars arrived, and new officers took charge of the prisons, which again excited hopes not only of the truth

of the rumour, but of the justice of their hopes of an amelioration of their position; on the 27th of December these hopes were in a very considerable degree increased by the fact that the news of Hyder's death was made public at the Cutcheree, and orders were given that the naggars (great drums beaten every day at twelve o'clock in the great square) were not to be sounded for three days in consequence.

The intelligence thus authenticated, they anxiously waited for the realization of their hopes in its results; but they were disappointed. So far from any change for the better taking place in consequence of the accession of Tippoo to the sovereignty, it turned out, that besides proving himself as great a political tyrant as his father, he added to his sanguinary disposition for conquest the fiercest bigotry, and believing, (perhaps sincerely,) that the surest mode of rendering himself acceptable in the sight of the prophet, was making proselytes to his religion by any means, all his efforts, from the moment he ascended the throne, were directed to that one great end. He commanded that all the handsomest and youngest of the European soldiers should undergo the hateful ceremonies of Mahomedanism; a compliance with which odious mandate was only secured by giving them a quantity of deleterious stuff called majum, which deprived them of their senses while the barbarians effected the horrid object of their misdirected zeal.

Of Captain Baird's company, eighteen men were selected for these ceremonies, and in a state of stupefaction delivered over to the priests and their myrmidons ; and after their recovery from the maltreatment to which they had been subjected, they were compelled to act as drill sergeants to Tippoo's slave battalion of Carnatic boys, who had been driven out of their country like flocks of sheep.

The first day that Captain Baird saw, from the window of his prison, these Highlanders on the parade, in the square, in their capacity of serjeants, his distress and horror at beholding men of his own company voluntarily, as he thought, doing duty in Tippoo's service, are not to be told. He was observed by some of the poor fellows peeping through the grating of his dungeon, and overcome by the sight of their much-loved officer, they rushed from the ranks and called out to him, " Captain Baird, rely upon us, this is not *our* fault," and wept bitterly. Captain Baird's feelings may be more easily conceived than described, when his guards forced him from the grating, in order to prevent his committing the inexpiable crime of replying to his gallant countrymen and comrades.

Tippoo was in the Calicut country when his father died, and immediately on hearing of his death, having, with the natural, or at least usual love of change so conspicuous in regal successors, appointed a new keeladar at Seringapatam, pro-

ceeded with Colonel Lally to take the command of the army in the Carnatic.

On the 25th of January, 1783, Colonel Braithwaite and Ensign Holmes arrived at Seringapatam, not in irons ; and the same day Captain Leech was brought in, but placed in a different prison. On the 6th of February Lieutenants Lindsay and Massy were put in irons. On the 26th of the same month Captain Rumley and Lieutenants Fraser and Sampson were removed to Mysore, the last almost dying when he left Seringapatam. On the 22nd of March the body of Hyder Aly Cawn was interred in the Loll Baug garden, one mile from the fort.

On the 4th of June the prisoners, for the third time since their dismal captivity, celebrated the king's birthday.

On the 26th of June a letter was received by the prisoners from General Matthews, who, it appeared, had been a prisoner in the fort ever since the 27th of May.

On the 8th of August it was reported to the prisoners that they were all to be burned as a retaliation for some loss experienced by Tippoo on the Malabar coast.

At this period, one of the sons of Tippoo, who afterwards became an object of interest, by being one of the hostages to Lord Cornwallis, was in the habit of taking the air in Seringapatam daily, and we copy from the journal, to which we have before alluded, the account given by one of the

captives of the exhibition made upon the occasion.

“ We peeped,” says the journalist, “ eagerly through some small apertures which we had found means to make or improve a little, in the walls of our prison. The young sultan was mounted on a beautiful maneged Arabian horse, finely caparisoned. He was preceded and attended by a number of people, some of whom bore his umbrella, others fanned his face, others proclaimed his rank and high descent. At one particular place which he passed and repassed, two elephants were stationed to pay their compliments to the young prince amongst the rest of his adorers. The creatures were not only taught to kneel at his approach and shew other marks of obedience, but to fan his face as he went along with fans which they grasped and wielded with their trunks.”

On the 11th of August the guard over the prisoners was increased, and on the 17th they heard, through the usual medium of the washerman, who had been a havildar or serjeant, and had been taken with Baillie’s detachment, that General Matthews had been put in irons.\*

\* General Matthews tells his own story in the letter just mentioned, dated the 20th of June, which he sent to the prisoners, in a manner so simple and unaffected that we cannot but think (explaining too, as it does, his peculiar situation) it will be acceptable to our readers.

“ I am sorry for the misfortunes of my friends. Rumley is dead—Featherstone was killed. I was a brigadier-general and

Having felt it necessary to attract the reader's attention to the case of General Matthews, it may be as well to conclude the sad history of that

commander-in-chief on the Malabar Coast. Mangalore has a very good garrison, and I think will hold out till relieved from Madras. Our fleet is superior to the French in India. Our army victorious in the Carnatic, likewise in the Cuddapa Country. Lang, a brigadier-general, has taken Corrore, and has 10,000 good men under him. Our affairs wear a tolerable aspect. The Mahrattas have made peace and alliance with us. I had 300 Europeans and 800 sepoy's effective, at Nagram, and made a treaty with Tippoo, which he broke, plundered us, and made us close prisoners. I think that Tippoo wishes for peace with us, and that something towards it may take place in November. I am used ill, but not in irons. I have neither pen, ink, nor paper, and it is dangerous to correspond. All the strong forts are in our possession. I took the whole Malabar Coast. I brought from Bombay 400 Europeans, and 1,000 sepoy's, and was afterwards joined by the Calicut army. The number of places taken by me required all my troops to garrison, and I had not any support from any place. We knew not of your situation—if we had I should not have been a prisoner. General Stewart commands at Madras. The troops of the French, landed, have been defeated. For myself, two European servants, and one black, I am allowed one fanam and a half per day, with one sear of meat, three of bad rice, and three of ghee. I am compelled to receive what they give, and not allowed to buy any other from the bazaar. I cannot procure any thing but through the Hircarrah. Should any thing happen to my life, I beseech you to remember that the Company owe me for money advanced by me during my command, 33,000 rupees, besides all my pay and allowances from the time of my arrival in India. The troops that were with me are some in the Nabob's service, the rest sent in irons to different parts of the country.

“ RICHARD MATTHEWS.”

ill-fated officer, with another extract from the journal.

“Sept. 8th, 1783. The washerman gave us the melancholy account of General Matthews’s death. He died the 7th, and at the time he departed this life, he was in irons.

“The General, when he learnt from a combination of suspicious circumstances, as well as hints let fall from those who were occasionally about his person, that it was the Sultan’s intention to cut him off by poison, was afraid to taste the victuals that were sent to him, at stated times, from the keeladar ; some of the guards, and even the servants who carried the poisoned food, took compassion, and gave him some of theirs.

“The havildar, who had charge of the General, connived at these acts of humanity at first, but when it was found that General Matthews still protracted his melancholy existence, this officer was sent for by the keeladar, who told him that the General’s life, if much longer continued, must be paid for by the havildar’s death. Upon this, the havildar communicated his orders with the threat that accompanied them, to his unfortunate prisoner, who had now no alternative left, but perishing by poison or famine. The anxious love of life for several days maintained a struggle with the importunate calls of hunger. These, however, prevailed in the issue of the contest ; he ate of the poisoned food ; and drank too, whether to quench the rage of inflamed thirst, or to drown

the torments of his soul in utter insensibility, of the poisoned cup; within six hours after this fatal repast, he was found dead. This is a faithful and true account of the death of Lieutenant General Matthews, which has been set forth in various ways."

October the 3rd, the prisoners heard that their companions, Rumley, Fraser and Sampson, had been poisoned at Mysore on the 5th; they received further information from Comrah, Sepoy, a Tanjore man, that eighteen or twenty officers confined at Kavel-Drook, had been poisoned by order of Tippoo. On the 9th of November, Lieutenant Butler died absolutely of neglect.

From this time, until the 7th of March, 1784, another dismal period of five months, nothing but increasing arrivals of European Mussulmans occurred to vary the sameness of the scene; but on that day, one of the prisoners became insane, and during the paroxysms of his dreadful disorder, unfortunately raved upon subjects the most vitally important to the hopes and interests of his almost bewildered companions.

This officer, Lieutenant Stringer, unluckily knew the language so perfectly as to converse fluently with his guards, and the first act of his insanity was to go to the officer on duty, and request that he might be permitted to speak to the keeladar, as he had something of the greatest importance to communicate to him. The consternation occasioned amongst the other prisoners by this appli-

cation, is not to be described: there was no possibility of guessing what a madman might say, actuated as he was, by a spirit of animosity against his fellow sufferers, upon whom he was prepared to charge the intention of poisoning him. They had, amongst others, one very serious cause of alarm, for although the use of pen and ink was prohibited, on pain of death, they had contrived to obtain them, and several of the officers kept journals, and, as we have already shewn, corresponded with prisoners in other places of confinement. It was quite clear, that if this very important infringement of the regulations was detected, the extreme punishment awarded for it, would be inflicted.

In these trying circumstances it was debated, whether it would not be expedient, for the common safety, to smother the unhappy maniac during the night. Against this barbarous proposition, suggested only by the natural feeling of self-preservation, Captain Baird resolutely opposed himself; and although he did so, upon the high principles of feeling and duty, he made it appear to those, who were but little inclined to put sentiment in opposition to security, in such an extremity, that, it would be most inexpedient, as a matter of policy, and that the sudden death of one of them, who had manifested a desire to make some communication to the keeladar, would certainly cause a dreadful consternation, which even the wild disclosures of the lunatic himself

might not have the effect of producing. At the same time, he entreated his companions to wait the event of the morning, and to occupy the previous hours of the night in disposing of all written documents which they might have in their possession.

In pursuance of this advice, the party proceeded to burn some of their papers, digging holes and hiding others, or depositing them under the tiles of the prison, until some future period; and in the course of the night, they destroyed upwards of an hundred sheets of paper, which they had collected, by stealth, in order to amuse themselves by learning different languages. Nor was it alone that for their own sakes they were so anxiously engaged; it was quite certain, that all those who had contributed to the clandestine introduction of the prohibited materials, would have been equally compromised.

Nothing could be more dreadful than this night; the unhappy maniac, with a pair of irons, weighing nine pounds, began to walk about the prison at five o'clock in the evening, and continued to do so incessantly at a rapid pace until two in the morning, vowing the most terrible vengeance against all his fellow-sufferers. Next morning the Myar came, and asked to see Stringer; and at this moment, the feelings of all the prisoners were worked up to the highest pitch of excitement. The question upon which their safety or preservation hung, was, whether was Stringer to be carried before the keeladar, or

not? Their satisfaction can scarcely be imagined, when they found that the keeladar declined seeing him, and had authorised the Myar to receive any communication he might have to make.

This was another awful moment of suspense to his companions, who now gathered round him, and of course were unable to anticipate the nature of his charge or communication. After much delay, the effect of which was greatly to prejudice the Myar against him, Stringer said that his life was in danger, that a conspiracy had been formed against him, and, as a proof of the fact, he drew from his pocket a piece of bread which he affirmed was poisoned. Captain Baird was next him at this moment; the Myar seemed struck by the proof adduced, when Baird, having stated that the man was mad, and not to be credited, snatched the bread from his hand, and ate it: thus, by a prompt and judicious movement, terminating an affair which, even in its lightest consequences, might have been to the captives a matter of the most serious importance.

The unfortunate officer was afterwards confined in a lunatic asylum, at Madras, where, many years afterwards, Captain Baird saw him; and although, after the period at which he made his charge to the Myar, he had become more tranquil and composed, there appeared not the slightest hope of his future restoration to reason.

It was just at this time that a guard, who had been for some time placed over Captain Baird,

but who had been ordered to a hill fort called Assee-Droog, with the officers of General Matthews, returned; he appeared melancholy and cast down, and extremely shy of communicating with the prisoners, although before his departure he had been on remarkably friendly terms with them. At length, however, the mystery was solved, and he disclosed the fatal history to which we have before cursorily alluded, of the death of sixteen of General Matthews's officers, who had been poisoned with the milk of the cocoa-nut tree.\* Besides these it was ascertained, that Lieutenant Matthews of the Bengal establishment, brother to the unhappy General, and Lieutenant Wredon, of the Bombay army, were, by Tippoo's orders, taken out of the fort at Bednore, at ten o'clock at night, carried to a retired place overgrown with grass, and there cut to pieces. Indeed it was certain that orders had actually been issued by the Sultan, to murder all the English officers in his different prisons, who would not enter his ser-

\* The following are the names of the English officers who suffered :—

Capt. Campbell, 98th regt.	Lieut. Barnwell.
Capt. Alston, 100th.	Capt. Jackson.
Capt. Fish, do.	Captain Richardson.
Assist.-Surgeon Gifford, do.	Lieut. Olivier.
<i>In the Company's Service.</i>	Capt. Eames.
Brigadier-Major Young.	Capt. Lendrum.
Major Fewtrill.	Capt. R. Culloch.
Capt. Clift.	Commissary Stewart.
Capt. Gottick.	Dep.-Commiss. Cheek.

vice, but that intelligence having arrived in the middle of the bloody work, that the commissioners for negotiating a treaty of peace had set out from Madras, the barbarous orders were for the present countermanded.

Rumours like these, which reached the prisoners one day, only to be contradicted the next, as it may easily be conceived, kept them in a constant state of excitement, fluctuating between the brightest hope and the darkest despair. The days passed on, and no new events occurred, by which to form any just idea of the probability of results, except that on the 19th of March, the Subadars, who were confined in another prison, with Captain Leech, were withdrawn, and a servant of the late General Matthews's was removed. These alterations, however, indicated nothing important; but on the 2nd of March, the Myar and a Bramin, whose duty it was to pay the prisoners their scanty allowance, called upon Captains Baird, Lindsay, and Montrath, and having directed that their irons should be struck off, ordered the prisoners to accompany them to the presence of the keeladar.

Baird, who was convinced that this mandate had been issued only because the keeladar had determined to put into execution the barbarous threats which he had some time before fulminated against him, positively refused to stir unless he was informed of the true reason of his being sent for. The Myar, seeing that he was determined,

and knowing that the season for violence was past, announced to him, that peace had been proclaimed—that he had orders to conduct him to Colonel Braithwaite, who had letters for him.

Letters! Home! Friends! Liberty!—all in a breath—who can attempt to describe the crowd of happy thoughts and delightful images that these few words conveyed to his mind?—Those who knew and loved him best, describe the animation of his noble countenance, when, in after-life, his eyes glistened at the recollection of this sudden reverse, when all that was dear to him was restored, at the very moment in which he expected to be doomed either to death or eternal captivity.

When Baird and his companions were conducted to the keeladar, there was a considerable crowd gathered about the Kutcheree, or Court-house, amongst whom were several of the poor lads who had been compelled to become Musulmans, and to take service in Tippoo's army. The moment they saw Captain Baird, and comprehended the object of his being brought thither, they ran to him, and entreated, on their knees, that they might not be exempted from the general liberation and left behind, and when the keeladar, addressing Captain Baird, told him that, in consequence of the conclusion of peace, he was free! Captain Baird said, "I hope that ALL the British are to be included." "Ah!" replied the keeladar, "not so much as a dog shall be left be-

hind." "Then," said Captain Baird, taking hold of one of the English boys in the Mussulman dress, "I claim these;" upon which the keeladar, treacherous to the last, made a sign to the guard, who instantly surrounded the boys, and drove them away. They were seen no more.

Captain Baird was then conducted to Colonel Braithwaite's prison, where, according to the promise of the Myar, he had the inexpressible delight of receiving the first and only letters from his family and friends, that had reached him for three years and eight months—the tedious period of his horrid captivity; besides which, he found an essential supply of money, from the officers of his regiment for his own use and that of his gallant companions belonging to the 73rd, who had been his co-mates in prison.

With Colonel Braithwaite, Captain Baird found Lieutenant Holmes, of the East India Company's service, who had been taken prisoner with him. They were in a small, dismal dungeon, similar to his own, and had been used very much in the same way that he and his companions had been. After this interview, they were removed from the fort into a Choultry, at Soomna Pettah, a village distant two miles from the fort, where, the next day, they were joined by all the other prisoners, from Seringapatam.

The description which we find in the journal to which we have several times before alluded, of the feelings which were excited in the breasts of the

captives, by the announcement of their immediate liberation, tells us that the pleasure they experienced almost amounted to pain. The whole prison resounded with the frantic voice of excessive joy and exultation.

“This tumult,” says the writer, “having in some degree subsided, a proposal was made, and most heartily embraced, to collect all the ready money in our possession, without the least regard to shares or proportions, and to celebrate our approaching deliverance with a regale of plantain fritters and sherbet—the only articles of luxury we could command, on account of our extreme poverty.

“By nine o’clock at night, supper was announced, consisting of sixty dozen of plantain fritters, and a large chatty of sherbet; every one being seated on the ground, the repast was received with the utmost content and satisfaction. Friends and toasts were drunk as long as our chatty stood out; and such was the agitation of our minds, that there was not one of us who felt the least inclination, or, indeed, who possessed the power, to compose himself to sleep.

“We now waited with the utmost impatience for the return of day, and were impressed with a strong desire that our irons might be knocked off immediately; but, to our great mortification, there arrived, about seven in the morning, only one armourer. Every one struggled to have his fetters knocked off first: promises, threats, bustling and

jostling, every expedient that could be imagined was put in practice, in order to obtain that which would come unsought, in the course of a few minutes, or hours at farthest. The same men who had suffered for years the rigours of imprisonment and the menaces of a barbarous policy, with invincible patience and resolution, as well as with general sympathy, were so transported by the near prospect of liberty, that the delay of a few moments seemed now to be more insupportable than even the tedious languor of our long, most alarming, and anxious confinement. About two or three in the afternoon our irons were all knocked off, and we were conducted to the keeladar."

Their limbs being released from restraint, they joined their former companions, Baird and the others, and proceeded with them to Soomna Pettah; on their arrival at which place, having an opportunity of conversing with the soldiers, they had the gratification of receiving every mark of affection and respect from their humbler companions in arms.

At Soomna Pettah they were permitted to walk about, and bathe in the river. Every object and every recreation, however simple, became a source of ardent delight. All the satiety which the free enjoyment of the beauties of nature generates, had been overcome by years of restraint and abstinence; and the mere sight of the country, with all the advantages of scenery and climate, from which they had been so long excluded,

excited of itself alone the most agreeable emotions in their hearts and minds.

One physical fact is curious, but natural; although their irons were knocked off, it was a long time before these liberated prisoners recovered the use of their limbs, so as to walk with perfect freedom. "Never," says the writer of the journal, "was the inveterate power of habit more forcibly displayed, than on this occasion; we could never get the idea of being in fetters out of our heads. No effort of our minds, no act of volition, could, for several days, overcome the habit of making the short and constrained steps to which we had been so long accustomed. Our crippled manner of walking was a subject of laughter to ourselves as well as to others."\*

\* It may not be uninteresting to the reader, to enumerate the articles which were manufactured by the prisoners during their captivity. They are as follows:

Hats of leather.

Caps of coarse dungeree.

Stocks of ditto.

Bungar shirts of ditto.

Sir David Baird used frequently to jest about his expertness in cutting out and making his own shirts. One of them he long kept as a memento of his captivity; but it was lost with his carriage and baggage, many years after, during Sir John Moore's retreat at Corunna.

Jackets, ditto.

Waistcoats, trowsers, socks.

Buttons of thread.

Tables of bamboo, covered with mat.

Stools of ditto.

After Captain Baird and his companions had remained some time at Soomna Pettah, in order to procure clothing, and make other necessary preparations for their journey, they set out for Bangalore, escorted by a party of Tippoo's troops. On their arrival at that place, they were detained for a fortnight, and confined with a strictness and severity for which it was very difficult to account, more particularly as Mr. Sadlier, the chief commissioner for negotiating the peace, was actually living in Tippoo's bungalow, in his garden, on his way back to Madras.

Captain Baird and some of the officers were

Cots of bamboo, made by means of an old knife, notched into a saw, the cot lashed with coarse rope made from the cocoa-nut.

Bamboo bird-cages.

Bamboo trunks, 1,100 pieces in one trunk.

Rat-traps of ditto.

Squirrel-traps.

Forks.

Backgammon-tables.

Dice, sawn with an old knife, the ivory procured by stealth from the bazaar.

Chess-boards, of paper and cloth.

Cards, two folds of paper and one of cloth, stuck together with thick congee, and polished with the jaw-bone of a sheep.

Ink made of lamp-black, with a little gum-water. One chatty was placed over another to collect the smoke of the wick, which was swept off every day.

Pens of fowl quills.

This catalogue affords a striking example of the power of the human mind, and the convertibility of its resources in the time of need.

permitted to dine with that gentleman. It was the first dinner, properly so called, that they had seen for nearly four years; and, under all the circumstances of the case, confessed by themselves to be one of the most agreeable that they had ever partaken of in their lives.

At length, after various needless delays, the prisoners were allowed to proceed, and on their arrival at Calle, they were joined by Lieutenant Dallas (who had been appointed by the commissioners to receive the prisoners) with a detachment of Madras cavalry, and two companies of Sepoys.

Here, then, the captives were finally released. Lieutenant Dallas had brought out with him clothes, wine, and other necessary stores, from Madras, by order of the government, for their relief. And at this place, once again at liberty, the gallant subject of our memoir took leave, for a time, of Tippoo's territories, to return to them, however, under very different circumstances. It is needless to add, that the rest of the liberated sufferers lost no time in taking advantage of their emancipation, and pushing forward with all possible speed to Madras.

## 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 73D—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.

IN his way to Madras, Captain Baird fell in with a body of his own gallant regiment, the 73d, and it is impossible to describe his feelings, upon recognising his companions in arms, and their recognition of him. In the course of the ensuing evening, he reached Poonamallee, where his particular friend, Captain Robertson, was stationed.

At the time of Captain Baird's arrival at his quarters, Captain Robertson was playing at cards, in the verandah, and Baird, softly stealing behind him, placed himself on the corner of the chair on which he was sitting. Robertson started, and

turned round to see who was the intruder ; when, in spite of the change that severe wounds, continuous privation, and nearly four years of rigorous captivity, may be supposed to have worked in the appearance of his gallant young friend, he instantly recognised him, and caught him to his heart.

To this meeting Sir David Baird used frequently to recur, as one of the most gratifying events of his early life.

The next day Robertson accompanied Captain Baird to Madras, and, it was upon his arrival there, that the latter was doomed to receive his first, but by no means the last, severe mortification which he encountered in his professional career. He found, to his inexpressible regret, and, we may justly add, surprise, that during the period of his sufferings, and at the end of a series of active services, General Stewart had recommended Lord William Murray, a junior captain from the half-pay, over his head, for the majority of his regiment, and that, until the appointment were confirmed from home, his lordship was actually in command of the regiment.

The feelings which would be naturally excited in the breast of Captain Baird, by this most unaccountable proceeding, had been anticipated by his brother officers, who, before his return to the regiment, had forwarded a memorial to England, representing the cruel injustice that the confirmation of such an appointment would inflict, not

only upon Captain Baird, the next officer for promotion, personally, but upon the regiment generally.

The eventual result of this memorial, was the refusal, on the part of the Secretary at War, to confirm the appointment to the majority; which (as if in order to exhibit the impropriety and indelicacy of the case in the strongest possible light) turned out not to have been vacant at the time Lord William Murray was nominated to it.

The letter of the Secretary at War, which contained the refusal to ratify General Stewart's nomination, contained some extremely flattering compliments to Captain Baird, who shortly after had the gratification of assuming the command of the 73d, as senior captain, during the absence of Captain Dalrymple, at Pondicherry.\*

Captain Baird, after he rejoined the 73d, continued to do duty with his regiment at Madras and Arcot, and then proceeded with it to Bombay, where he experienced the only attack of illness, excepting from wounds, that he ever suffered, during his long and glorious course of service in India.†

\* It was not until about this period that the ball which Captain Baird received in his thigh at Perambaukum was extracted.

† Sir David Baird, in speaking of this illness, used to attribute his recovery, under providence, to the care and kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Bruce, who took him to their country-house, and treated him with the greatest care and kindness.

In the year 1787, Captain Baird received the majority, of which he had before been so nearly deprived; and the same year, having obtained leave of absence, he proceeded to Europe, to enjoy the unspeakable gratification of again beholding his numerous relations and friends.\*

Major Baird, whose affection for his family neither time nor circumstances could alter or weaken, arrived safely in his native country. The delight and welcome with which he was received may easily be imagined, and the unmitigated happiness he at that time enjoyed was never effaced from his recollection.

It was while he was staying at his elder brother's

\* Major Baird had a very extensive family connection in Scotland. His eldest sister had long been married to Mr. Erskine, of Dunnottar, a gentleman of good fortune, and representative of an old family in Angus-shire; of this marriage, the only surviving issue (1831) is the Marchioness of Ailsa. Sir David's second sister married Mr. Renney, of the same neighbourhood; and in 1777, before his departure for India, Sir David was present at the marriage of his favourite sister, favourite because nearest his own age, to Mr. Wauchope, of Niddrie. She, at the period of his return, in 1787, was the mother of a fine family, whom he had never seen. In his absence, also, his youngest sister, who was remarkably beautiful, had married Lord Haddo, the eldest son of George, Earl of Aberdeen, who died before his father, October 2d, 1791, leaving seven children. His eldest brother, Mr. Baird, of Newbyth, had also married, and lived at the family seat in East Lothian, and he arrived in England in time to be present at the marriage of another sister, to Mr. Gordon, of Haughead, in Aberdeenshire, a near relation of Lord Haddo.

at Newbyth that he received, by express from London, a letter from his friend Captain Dalrymple, from India, which began by entreating him before he read two lines of it, to order post-horses and start for the Horse Guards instantly, wherever he might happen to be.

Captain Dalrymple then proceeded to state, that Lieut.-Colonel Elphinstone, of the 71st, had been put on board ship, on the day his letter was despatched, so ill that in all human probability he would not survive the next fortnight; and advised Major Baird immediately to start for head quarters and endeavour to secure the lieutenant-colonelcy for himself, and—the majority for his anxious correspondent.\*

Baird, all zeal and activity, and really as anxious for the welfare of his friend as for his own, obeyed the injunctions contained in his letter, and posted day and night to London; but with all his energy and expedition he arrived, alas! too late. Not only had the fatal prognostications respecting Lieutenant-Colonel Elphinstone been but too surely verified; not only had the announcement of his death reached the Secretary of War, before Major Baird's arrival, but the ulterior step of filling up the vacancy had been taken, and

\* It may be proper to remark that, just previous to the period here referred to, the 73d Regiment had changed its number to the 71st Highlanders, and that it was in fact the lieutenant-colonelcy and majority of Baird's own regiment to which Captain Dalrymple's letter referred.

Colonel Baring had been actually appointed to the lieutenant-colonelcy.

Major Baird, however, very shortly ascertained that Colonel Baring had no very particular inclination to join his regiment in India, and that if Major Baird could find any officer willing to sell his lieutenant-colonelcy, he (Colonel Baring) could exchange with him, by which means Major Baird might still attain his favourite object of becoming lieutenant-colonel of that regiment in which he had served so long, and to which he was so warmly attached by numerous ties and feelings.

All this, however, was sooner said than done, for Colonel Baring not only stipulated that Major Baird should pay the full price for the lieutenant-colonelcy, but that he should take all the trouble and risk connected with the arrangement of the affair upon himself, and that the various exchanges and commissions should appear simultaneously in the gazette.

In order to facilitate the completion of this somewhat complex arrangement, Major Baird proceeded by another rapid journey to Dublin, (where the officer of whom he was to purchase the lieutenant-colonelcy in the first instance, was quartered,) in order personally to make the necessary arrangements with him, as well as to have an audience of the Lord Lieutenant, whose consent to the sale and purchase was absolutely necessary. Every thing, however, eventually turned out as he

wished ; and after a short delay, occasioned as it is represented by the negligence of his agent, the commissions were gazetted as required by Colonel Baring, and the matter was finally and agreeably settled.\*

In March, 1791, Lieutenant-Colonel Baird again left England for India, and arrived at Madras in

\* When Major Baird was in London at this time, and upon this business, he happened one morning to go into a coffee-house, and was expressing to a friend, who was with him, the annoyance he felt at the negligence of his Scotch agent, who had neglected to send up the money requisite for concluding the purchase of the commission. He had not observed that Mr. Ewen, a Madras civil servant, who had been his fellow passenger on the voyage home, was sitting in the adjoining box, and had been paying particular attention to what he had been saying.

Mr. Ewen, however, followed him out when he quitted the coffee-house, and confessing that he had overheard his conversation, offered him any pecuniary accommodation he might require. Major Baird, although he declined the offer (apprehensive that something more serious than negligence might have delayed his agent's remittances), was yet sensibly touched by the kindness of the proposition, for which he expressed his warmest thanks. But it is curious to observe that in consequence of this very piece of delicacy on his part, coupled with the unwarrantable delay of his man of business, Lord Cavan, Lord Ludlow, and Sir John Moore, were gazetted before him ; and trifling as that circumstance appeared at the moment, its consequences were afterwards most striking. With all these officers Sir David afterwards met on service, and was of course their junior (by three or four days), instead of commanding them, both in Egypt and in Spain. Nothing can more fully justify the common remark, that the most important effects frequently result from the most trivial causes.

the June following. Upon reaching that place he found that his regiment (now the 71st,) had taken the field with the army under Lord Cornwallis. It may naturally be supposed that with *his* feelings and anxiety for service, Colonel Baird remained no longer at Fort St. George than was actually necessary for his equipment; he joined the troops at Oussoor, in company with his gallant friend the Hon. Colonel Knox, of the 36th regiment (a brother of Lord Northland's), a most particular friend of his, and who had been his fellow-passenger on the voyage from England.

As soon as Colonels Knox and Baird arrived at head-quarters, Lord Cornwallis nominated the former, who was the senior officer of the two, to the command of a brigade of Europeans; Colonel Baird was appointed to the command of a brigade of Sepoys; and with this appointment commenced his first campaign against Tippoo.

It may be here proper to give the reader some slight idea of the actual state of affairs in India at the time of Colonel Baird's joining the forces in the field.

On the 27th of May, after overcoming a series of difficulties which it is not necessary to recapitulate, Lord Cornwallis's army had encamped opposite to Seringapatam, in front of what are called the French Rocks, having previously ascertained that the army of Purseram Bhow, amounting to 20,000 horse and foot, and two battalions of Sepoys commanded by Captain Little, were approaching

to effect a junction with the English, and that they would be almost immediately followed by 12,000 horse commanded by Hurry Punt.

Tippoo obtained intelligence of this proposed union of his enemies, and although he had been greatly elated by the disasters which the climate and other misfortunes had occasioned in Lord Cornwallis's army, he resolved if possible to conclude a peace with his lordship before this formidable concentration of force could be effected; and accordingly on the day succeeding that on which they took up their position, Tippoo sent a flag of truce and presents of fruit for the use of the English Commander-in-chief. The flag and the fruit were returned with an answer declaring that the English could make no peace which did not include their allies; and that no negociation, even should Tippoo agree to that stipulation, would be entered into, unless, as a preliminary step, all British subjects who were prisoners in Tippoo's dominions were, in the first instance, unconditionally liberated. To this part of the proposition Tippoo replied by denying that he had any British subjects prisoners.

On the 28th, the British army fell back towards Milgotah to effect its junction with the Mahratta forces. The meeting and conference between Lord Cornwallis and General Meadows, and the chiefs Hurry Punt and Purseram Bhow were highly satisfactory to all parties.

The junction was effected most seasonably, for this immense force came provided with every article not only of necessity but luxury ; and the English soldiers, after having been subjected to the greatest privations, ran with delight and eagerness to purchase (at exorbitant prices, it is true,) comforts to which they had been for some time utter strangers.\*

Lord Cornwallis had a difficult card to play to keep on friendly terms with his allies. He was obliged to defer to all their superstitions, and to endure their constant inattention to their appointments ; want of punctuality being with them a mark of dignity. Nor was it less necessary for his lordship to be constantly on the alert in order to induce them to keep steadily to the arrangements entered into for the prosecution of the

\* The description of the appearance of the Mahratta camp, as given by Major Dirom in his work on this campaign, is extremely graphic.

“ The Mahratta camp,” says the writer, “ was at the distance of above six miles from ours, and on approaching it had the appearance of a large irregular town ; for the chiefs pitch their standards, and take up their ground around the general, without order ; and their tents, being of all sizes, and many different colours, at a distance resembled houses rather than canvass. The streets too of the camp, crossing and winding in every direction, display a variety of merchandize, as in a great fair. There are jewellers, smiths, mechanics, and people of every trade and description, as busily employed in their occupations, attending as minutely to their interests, as if they were at Poonah and at peace.”—*Vide Dirom's Campaign*, p. 10.

war, since it appeared equally characteristic of their high caste to be as careless of promises, as unmindful of appointments.\*

Lord Cornwallis, however, continued actively and zealously employed in strengthening himself on all sides, and on the 10th of August he was joined by a reinforcement from Amboor, consisting of one hundred elephants, marching two and two abreast, (on the foremost of which was displayed the British flag,) accompanied by six thousand bullocks loaded with rice, one hundred carts loaded with arrack, and several thousand Coolies with trunks and baskets of private supplies.

About this period another attempt was made by Tippoo to open negotiations with the confederated powers, and for that purpose he despatched a Vakeel, named Apagy Row, to Oussoor (where Colonel Baird joined the army), but it was soon evident, from his pertinacious adherence to matters of mere form and ceremony, that he had been

\* Major Dirom gives the following trait illustrative of their customs and discipline.

“The ground,” says he, “upon which our army had encamped at the junction, being bare of grass and extremely dirty, Lord Cornwallis was desirous of marching, and sent to the Mahratta chiefs to request they would move next morning, as their camp lay directly in our route; they returned for answer, ‘that they should be happy to obey his lordship’s commands, but as they had halted eight days, it was not lucky, nor could they, according to the custom of their religion, march on the ninth day.’ His lordship gave way to their superstitious prejudice and deferred his march.”

sent rather as a spy than an ambassador, (not always incompatible characters,) and he was sent back to his master without having been permitted even to enter the camp.

It was after this occurrence, and after he had taken every precaution with regard to the efficiency of his commissariat, that Lord Cornwallis resolved upon the reduction of several hill forts, which lying between Bangalore and Gurramconda, interrupted his free communication with the Nizam's army, and endangered the regularity of whatever supplies he might expect from that quarter, or which might be brought by that route from the Carnatic. These forts were called Raymanghur, Ambajee - Durum, Chillum - Cottah, Rundy-Droog, and Callarumconda, in the neighbourhood of China Balaporam, a highly cultivated and fertile district, through which our army had already passed, in going to join the Nizam's troops, after the reduction of Bangalore.

Of these forts, Raymanghur was taken by Major Gowdie and Captain Read; and on the 18th of September, Ambajee-Durum, and Chillum-Cottah, the former five, and the latter ten miles from Raymungur, surrendered at the first summons of the latter officer.

It was immediately after the arrival of Colonel Baird that the siege of Nundy Droog was decided upon, and the particulars of the execution of that design are much too important to be passed over without particular notice.

Nundy Droog, the capital of a very extensive and valuable district, is built upon the summit of a mountain one thousand seven hundred feet in height; three-fourths of its circumference are positively inaccessible, and the only side on which it can be ascended was protected by two strong walls and an outwork, which, covering the gateway, afforded a formidable flank fire,

The great object was to cut a road to the top of a hill near the mountain, upon which a battery was erected, and guns carried up with infinite labour; but when all these extraordinary preparations had been made, it was discovered that the distance was too great, and the battery wholly ineffective. Under these circumstances there was no alternative but to abandon the attack, or attempt to work up the face of this rugged and stupendous mountain to within breaching distance of the fort. The latter was adopted. The exertions and labour required to form a gun-road and erect batteries in the front of this work, exceeded any thing previously known in India, and for a fortnight the troops were employed in the arduous work under a constant and tremendous fire.

On the 17th of October two breaches were reported practicable, and the following day Lord Cornwallis, with a view to intimidate the garrison, encamped within four miles of the fort, and having examined the breaches, ordered the firing to be continued against the fort till night, and that the rising of the moon should be the signal for

attack. The period for the assault was afterwards delayed till a later hour.

Captain Robertson, the senior officer of flank companies, whose name has been before mentioned in this memoir, led the grenadiers of the 36th and 71st regiments to the breach in the curtain, and Captain Hart took the command of the light companies which were to attack the outwork, while Captain Doveton, with the flank companies of the 4th native infantry, were destined to escale the inner wall. General Medows, second in command of the army, himself headed the storming party.\*

No sooner had the gallant band rushed forward to the attack, than they were discovered by the enemy. The fort was instantaneously illuminated with blue lights, and a heavy fire of cannon, musketry, and rockets was immediately opened upon the assailants. Luckily it was ill-directed; but, nevertheless, infinite mischief was done by heavy stones thrown down the rock, which gaining increased power and velocity in their descent, made great havock amongst the ascending troops. The storming party, however, effected a lodgement in both the breaches, and having

\* When every disposition had been made for the attack, and the time for moving forward had nearly arrived, some one observed, inconsiderately, in the hearing of the troops, that it was reported there was a mine very near the breach, General Medows, overhearing the remark, said, "A mine! If it be a mine, my boys, it must be a mine of gold."

pursued the enemy with sufficient rapidity to prevent their barricading the gate of the inner wall, forced it open and entered the body of the place.

The slaughter which must have ensued would have been dreadful, if great numbers of the inhabitants had not effected their escape over a low wall on the other side. To this circumstance in some degree, but still more particularly to the humane exertions of Captain Robertson, who, seeing the place was carried, made every exertion to save the effusion of blood, may be justly attributed the smallness of the loss on the part of the enemy.

The principal people and fighting men taken, were sent prisoners to Vellore; the women and Brahmins were conducted to a small hill fort about six miles from the scene of action.

For this gallant affair, the consequence of which was the immediate surrender of Cummeldroog, a hill fort dependent on Nundy Droog, the troops concerned, received the thanks of Lord Cornwallis.

## 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—ARRIVE 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 MEDOWS DECEIVED BY HIS GUIDES—FAILS TO EXECUTE LORD CORNWALLIS'S DESIGN—HIS FEELINGS ON THE OCCASION—COLONEL BAIRD ORDERED TO RE-CROSS THE RIVER—ARRIVAL OF THE BOMBAY ARMY.

EVEN after the fall of Nundy Droog, and the other Droogs which we have enumerated, there yet remained another more important object to be attained—namely, the reduction of Savendroog, the enemy's possession of which, appeared to Lord Cornwallis to be one of the most serious obstacles to the reduction of Seringapatam. It was a place of immense strength—one huge mountain rising to the height of half a mile from a base eight or ten miles in circumference, enclosed by a wall on every side, and defended in every possible way, wherever it seemed to have been left vulnerable by nature. It had the peculiar advantage of

being divided, towards its summit, into two hills, both of which being strongly fortified, formed, in fact, two citadels, capable of holding out, independently of the lower works, and naturally affording shelter and security to the garrison, even in the very last extremity.

Situated eighteen miles west of Bangalore, its position, in a military point of view, was formidable and commanding. It was no less celebrated for its strength and age, than for its noxious atmosphere, whence it derived its fearful name of *Savendroog*—the rock of death. The garrison to whose care it was entrusted, at the period of which we are speaking, confided greatly in this combination of defences, more especially as the rock itself was surrounded on all sides by a bamboo jungle. Indeed, Tippoo is said to have been very highly elated when he was apprised of Lord Cornwallis's intention to attack it, and even congratulated his army on the rashness of his enemy's undertaking an affair which must end in their discomfiture, seeing, as he expressed himself, that half the Europeans who besieged it would be killed in the attack, and the other half destroyed by the noxiousness of the climate.\*

\* The labour of penetrating such a jungle or wood, can only be appreciated by those who are acquainted with the peculiar character of that shrubby bush, the bamboo, which grows in clumps, from the corners of rocks, and more effectually, perhaps, than any other tree resists the influence of fire, or the operation of the axe. A jungle, or "bound hedge" as in this case it was

The preliminary measures of this memorable siege, having been taken under circumstances of inconceivable difficulty, (the troops being in many places obliged to drag the guns over rocks of considerable height, and nearly perpendicular,) two batteries were opened on the 17th of December, one at a thousand, and the other at seven hundred yards. On the 19th, another battery was opened, which had been advanced to within two hundred and fifty yards of the wall; and in the course of that and the succeeding day, made a practicable breach; whereupon Lord Cornwallis ordered the assault to be made on the 21st.

The storming party was entrusted to the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Nesbitt, and directed to four different attacks. Captain Gage, with the grenadier and light infantry of the 76th, to gain the eastern hill on the left; the Honourable Captain Monson, with the light company of the 52d to scour the works towards the western hill; and the Honourable Captain Lindsay and Captain Robertson, with the flankers of the 71st, to attack whatever works or parties they might discover in the hollow or ravine between the eastern and western peak of this military Parnassus. The 52d and 72d regiments were to follow the flankers.

termed (and the word will be found hereafter to recur frequently in the account of the sieges of Seringapatam), surrounded the whole of the lines of the stupendous fortress of Savendroog.

Lieutenant-Colonel Baird, with his brigade of Sepoys, was directed to proceed, very early in the morning, to the opposite side of the mountain, to make his way through the jungle, and shew himself in force just at the time that the assault was made on the other side, in order, in the first instance, to draw off the attention of the garrison, and, in the second place, to be prepared to cut them off, should they attempt to escape on that side.

This service Colonel Baird most successfully executed, notwithstanding the difficulties which the nature of the ground opposed to him; and made good his entrance into the fort on one side, at the very moment the storming party had carried the place on the other; and such was the ardour of the attack, that Captain Monson, with his own company of the 52d, and a serjeant and twelve grenadiers of the 71st, entered the different barriers, mingled with the retreating enemy, and killing a considerable number (amongst whom was the second keeladar), they never relaxed their exertions, till they got possession of the top of the mountain, when the head keeladar was captured. Some idea may be formed of the boldness and rapidity of the pursuit, when the reader is told, that the man who was shutting the first gate against the assailants, was shot by Serjeant Leary, of the 71st.

The promptness and gallantry of our troops need little eulogy on this occasion, further than

the statement, that the hitherto-believed impregnable fortress of Savendroog fell into their possession, after a storm in open day, *without the loss of one individual*,—one soldier only having been wounded in the attack.—In a few hours after the completion of this important conquest, in which he bore so effective a part, Col. Baird and his brigade returned to the camp.

On the 24th the important fortress of Outredroog, twelve miles from Savendroog, was taken by Lieut.-Col. Stuart's detachment, without the loss of a single man; and on that day Lord Cornwallis followed with the army, and encamped at Magré, a place lying between the two places.\*

\* "Colonel Stuart, on his arrival before Outredroog, sent a party to summon the place. The keeladar, who, when summoned the year before, had answered that he would not surrender his post till we had taken Seringapatam, seemed still determined in that intention, and, to avoid any communication, fired on the flag of truce.

"In consequence of this conduct, Colonel Stuart made his disposition to attack the lower fort and Pettah next morning. Captain Scott, of the Bengal Establishment, with four battalion companies of the 52d and 72d regiments, and his own battalion of Sepoys, were sent on this service: while another body made a feint and opened some guns on the opposite side of the fort.

"Captain Scott carried the lower part of the fort by *escalade* so rapidly, that the keeladar sent to request a parley; while this took place, an appearance of treachery was observed in the upper fort, and that the garrison were employed in moving and pointing guns to bear upon the assailants. Fired at this sight, and impatient of delay, the troops again rushed on

These conquests were followed by the capture of several other important places, the garrisons of which, strongly affected by the fate of Savendroog, no longer seemed disposed to offer resistance to a force which they began to believe irresistible.

It would be foreign to our purpose to enter into the details of Lord Cornwallis's arrangements subsequent to the fall of the places we have enumerated, and the siege and relief of Gurrumcondah. Suffice it to say, that having, towards the end of January, 1792, concentrated his forces, and made every necessary disposition for carrying into effect his intended expedition against the capital of the Mysore country, he commenced the march of the

to the assault. Lieutenant M'Innes, of the 72d regiment, led the storm with part of the Europeans and the pioneers, commanded by Lieutenants Dowse and Macpherson, supported by Captain Scott, who followed in more regular order with the rest of his force. Some of the gateways were broken open, others escaladed, till passing five or six different walls which defended the steep and difficult rock, the troops at length gained the summit, and put the garrison to the sword. So infatuated were the enemy, that whenever they saw a single European above the walls they fled, and although such was the steepness and narrowness of some parts of the road in the ascent, that a few resolute men might have defended the place against an army, it was only at the last gateway that they attempted any resistance, and that only by firing a few musquet shot, by which two soldiers were wounded. The keeladar was made prisoner; a number of the garrison were killed, and many, terrified at the approach of the Europeans with their bayonets, are said to have precipitated themselves over the rocks."—*Dirom's Narrative*, pp. 74, 75.

allied armies from Hooleadroog on the 1st of February in that year, and on the 5th of the same month, having arrived on its ground, took up its position under the French rocks, about six miles from Seringapatam.

The camp was divided by the Lockany, a small stream whose course is from the lake below Milgotah, through the valley to the Cavery, of which it is a tributary stream. The right wing of the British army reached from the river, along the rear of the French rocks, to a large tank which covered that flank; the left wing with the artillery reached from the other side of the Lockany to the foot of the hills which had been last passed. The stores and baggage being parted between the line and the reserve (joined afterwards) at about a mile distance.

The whole force was so disposed as to create the least possible alarm to Tippoo, who was encamped with all his force under the walls of Seringapatam, having previously cleared the country of every thing like forage, which might otherwise have been within reach of his enemies.

From the position taken up by the English, there was a perfect view of the city, and of the sultan's fortified camp. Colonel Baird was not a man who ever enlarged upon his personal feelings on any occasion,—yet even *he* admitted that the sensations he experienced on his return to Seringapatam, under circumstances so utterly at variance with those under which he first beheld it, were of

no ordinary nature, nor could they be easily controlled when he found himself in a proud situation of command, reconnoitering the spot where for nearly four years he had suffered the torture of an unmitigated confinement, aggravated by the barbarity of the tyrant with whom he now came to cope upon equal ground.

As we shall have to recount the events of two sieges of this most important fortress of Seringapatam, it may not be unnecessary (although perhaps the subject may be familiar to many of our readers) to give a short topographical sketch of its position and defences.

Seringapatam is situated on an island in the river Cavery; on either side of which, a space of land, opposite to the island, is enclosed within what is called a bound hedge, or fringe of bamboo jungle. This jungle is the limit of the capital, and moreover offers shelter to the people of the country, being on the outer side, from incursions of predatory cavalry. The space within this bound hedge, on the south side of the river, was filled with inhabitants—that on the north side was occupied by Tippoo's troops.

The space comprized within the bound hedge on the north side of the river, is about three miles in length, and of a breadth varying from half a mile to a mile, stretching from the western end of the island to the estuary of the Lockany, where it falls into the Cavery. Within this enclosure was the most commanding ground, on the north side of the

fort, for besides the bound hedge, it was covered in front by rice-fields, by a large canal, and partly by the windings of the Lockany itself. The left of the encampment was covered by a very large and powerful redoubt, near a mosque on a rising ground within the north-west of the hedge, while four other redoubts upon elevated positions, although not so much advanced as the one already mentioned, added most strikingly to the strength of a position, the right of which was not only equally well covered by the Lockany, but beyond that river by the great Carrighaut Hill, which Tippoo had recently fortified most efficiently, and which being opposite to the lower part of the island, actually commanded the ford.

The eastern end of the island was fortified towards the river by various redoubts and batteries, so that the island itself formed a second line, which supported the defence of the first line, on the other side of the river; thus it was clear, that if the enemy were beaten from their posts on the main land, they could with perfect safety retreat into the island, and then into the fort, as if they were falling back from outworks to the body of a place.

Tippoo had most judiciously fortified himself. In his first line, a camp—in which camp he had at least a hundred pieces of cannon, and in the island and fort (which, as we have just observed, formed in fact his second line,) at least three times that number.

Having taken up his position then, on the 5th of February, Lord Cornwallis, on the morning of the 6th, ordered Colonel Maxwell, who commanded the left wing, to proceed with the chief engineer, and a strong party from Colonel Baird's brigade, which Baird himself commanded, to reconnoitre the right of the enemy's position:—very shortly after Colonel Maxwell had made his report to Lord Cornwallis, the following orders were issued—

“ February 6, 1792.

“ The army marches in three divisions, at seven this evening, to attack the enemy's camp and lines. Picquets to join field-pieces, quarter and rear-guard and camp to stand fast.

Right division—General Medows.

36 }  
76 } Regiments—Lieut.-Col. Nesbitt.

3rd Brigade—Lieut.-Col. Cockerell.

22d Native Battalion—Capt. Oram.

Lieut. Lennox's Pioneers, a detachment of officers from the Engineer Corps, and a proportion of scaling ladders.

Centre—Lord Cornwallis.

52 }  
71 }  
74 } Regiments—Lieut.-Col. Knox.

4th Brigade—Major Russell.

2nd }  
21st } Native Battalions—Major Langley.

Lieut. Dowse's Pioneers, a detachment of officers from the Engineers, and a proportion of scaling ladders.

Left division—Lieut.-Col. Maxwell.

72nd Regiment }  
5th Brigade } Lieut.-Col. Baird.

Ensign Sloper's Pioneers, and a proportion of scaling ladders.

In the right division there were 900 Europeans, and 2,400 Natives—together, 3,300 men.

In the centre, 1,400 Europeans, and 2,300 Natives, making 3,700.

And in the left division, 500 Europeans, and 1,200 Natives, making 1,700. Altogether comprising 2,800 Europeans, and 5,900 Natives. A total of 8,700 men.

Nothing could be more beautiful or more imposing than the movement of these gallant troops; the evening was cool and calm, and the moon shone in all its splendour, and as the steady columns moved to the attack, not a sound could be heard but the tramp of their feet as they marched to victory.

The plan of the attack was as bold as it was novel, and perhaps its boldness and novelty may best account for Tippoo's disbelief in its probability. With *his* views and ideas of military tactics he could not be persuaded that Lord Cornwallis would think of attacking a fortified camp—a powerful army—and a large train of artillery—with infantry alone, without cannon, and at night; nor were our allies themselves at all convinced of the prudence of the Commander-in-chief in trusting his infantry to fight at such odds; but when they were told that he was gone himself personally to mingle in such a conflict, their amazement knew no bounds.

We shall, of course, notice the proceedings of the different divisions of the army, but the third or left column being that to which the gallant sub-

ject of this memoir was attached, it is the only one of which we are enabled from his personal observations to give a distinct account.

The troops proceeded in silence along the hills on the left of the line to the enemy's post on the Carrighaut Hill. This was about half-past ten; and just as the centre column within a mile of the bound hedge had disturbed the enemy's grand guard, a body of cavalry who were advancing towards our camp to harass and annoy us with rockets as they had previously done, rapidly retired, the moment they discovered the approach of the column, leaving, however, the rocket-boys to endeavour to impede its march.

Just at this moment the great Carrighaut Hill became illuminated with the fire of the musquetry of the left division; the whole line being alarmed by the rocketing below, and the sentries having fired on the advance of Colonel Baird's column, he instantly dashed forward, sprang over the breast-work before they were aware of his intention, and, gallantly backed by his brave comrades, drove all before him at the point of the bayonet. The enemy fled to a post lower down, near a pagoda, into which Colonel Baird followed them till they were forced from the hill, when he was compelled to halt his men and wait for Colonel Maxwell, who, upon his arrival, also halted for a short time to observe the movements of the centre column, which at that time had become generally engaged. As soon as he perceived, by watching the line of fire, that this

column was evidently gaining ground, he ordered Colonel Baird to proceed down the hill with the advance, and pointed out the road, which proved to be nothing better than a difficult, steep, rocky, and winding path ; and when Baird, whose anxiety to get forward nothing could check, reached a water-course to which it appeared the path only led, and with which it terminated, his astonishment may be better conceived than described, when, on turning round, he found himself accompanied but by one officer (Wheatly), and about twelve grenadiers of the 72d regiment, and a few Sepoys.

At this moment a heavy firing began on his left, and, true to his principle of advancing, he again pushed forward at the head of his little band, and luckily fell in with the rest of his men, who having been less eager than their commander in the pursuit of glory, had continued to descend the hill by an easier though somewhat more circuitous rout. Thus strengthened and cheered, Colonel Baird continued to follow the enemy even across the Lockany river into their own camp.

The troops of this column were very much galled by the enemy during their descent, for besides being harassed from the other side of the water-course, they had to sustain the fire of the right of Tippoo's line within the bound hedge ; they however eventually dashed through the enemy's camp, and effected a junction with the centre of Lord Cornwallis's division. In descend-

ing the hill Captain Mackenzie of the 72d regiment was killed, and Major Fraser of the same regiment severely wounded.

Colonel Baird, when he reached the enemy's camp, fell in with Major Petrie, and a small party of the 72d regiment, and immediately expressed the most anxious desire to cross the north branch of the Cavery, but the water was deep and rapid, the bottom rocky and uncertain, and the attempt appeared extremely hazardous. It was however made, and in spite of all the natural difficulties, considerably aggravated by a heavy fire from the lines and batteries on the island, Colonel Baird, after a desperate struggle, in which the 71st and 72d regiments lost a great many men, gained the opposite bank, with Lieutenant Sutherland, and about twenty men of the 72d, and was almost immediately followed by Major Petrie, and another small party. The moment they had reached a place of safety, if dry land exposed to fire may be so called, they discovered, that in fording the river, which in some places was neck deep, they had destroyed all their ammunition, and found themselves actually on the island, within the lines of their ferocious enemy, without a serviceable cartridge; the British weapon, the bayonet, was, however, left them, and no doubt exists, that had its use been necessary, it would have been found as efficient upon that occasion as it has been in British hands, every where else in the world. It fortunately was not