

required, for as the party advanced towards the batteries in front of which they had landed, they found that the enemy had been just driven out of them by Colonel Knox's division.

Colonel Maxwell had discovered a better ford to the left, than that by which the more impetuous of the troops had passed, and entered the island, followed by Colonel Stewart, who having joined Baird and Knox at the Pettah, a town on the outside of the fortress of Seringapatam, assumed the command of the whole, as senior officer.

It would occupy a larger space of our memoir than we should be justified in giving to details which have already been before the public, were we to enter into a minute description of the operations of the other divisions of the victorious army ; but, in order to give some idea of the results, it is necessary to state, that the intention of Lord Cornwallis was to penetrate with the centre division the centre of the enemy's position ; and in pursuance of these intentions, his lordship's orders were that the two other columns, the right under General Meadows, and the left under Colonel Maxwell, should turn the two flanks and move forward, so as to join the centre column through the middle of the enemy's camp—that is to say, from flanks to centre.

In these arrangements, the centre and the left completely succeeded ; but unfortunately, the right being misled by their guides, got too near the Eadgeah, a redoubt near the mosque, which

we have already noticed as protecting the enemy's left flank, and which Lord Cornwallis had no intention whatever of disturbing, but which, as it turned out, Colonel Herbert, who commanded the advance of this column, found himself absolutely compelled to attack.

This proved an extremely severe business, and, although ultimately successful, caused a great loss of time and strength ; besides which, in consequence of the exertions necessary to secure that redoubt, they were obliged to leave the enemy in possession of two others, which lay in their line of march, and the capture of which did actually form part of Lord Cornwallis's plan of attack.

The possession of those redoubts by the enemy, situated as they were in the centre of the camp, compelled the British forces to return to the outside of the bound-hedge, after having passed it, and so to march towards the centre division ; under the immediate command of Lord Cornwallis, which by some fatality they missed, and it was not until they found their way to the Carrighaut Hill, on the extreme left, that they fell in with any part of the English army.

The feelings of General Medows, at this most untoward frustration of his own hopes, and the designs of the Commander-in-chief, may easily be imagined, although it was universally admitted, that no blame whatever could personally attach to him. Sir David Baird used, whenever he related

the particulars of this affair, to state his entire conviction, that the whole misadventure arose from the stupidity of the guides ; and added, that in night-attacks such mistakes must often occur.*

Although the success of the British force had been eminent, much yet remained to be done, in order to secure the rich harvest of victory. Colonel Baird was ordered to remain with Colonel Stewart, who took up a position across the island, of which Colonel Baird commanded the left division.

The gallant conduct of the troops, on every occasion during this trying service, but particularly the defence of the Sultan's redoubt, by Captain Sibbald, of the 21st, who gloriously fell within it, are already chronicled in the annals of fame. Suffice it therefore to say, that the successes of the following night put Lord Cornwallis in a situation to commence operations against the fortress of Seringapatam, on the 9th of February, 1792, when he made his arrangements for the siege. Colonel

* When General Medows at last *did* meet Lord Cornwallis on the Carrighaut Hill, which the reader will recollect was on the extreme left of the whole line, he naturally exclaimed, " Why, Medows, where have you been all night ?" " Your Lordship may well ask that question," said the mortified General, and after giving all the explanation he could of the disaster, perceiving Lord Cornwallis to be wounded in the hand, he said, with an expression of stronger feeling than the words convey, " It is I, my Lord, and not you, who should have got a rap over the knuckles on this occasion."

Stewart was then ordered to maintain his position in the island, while Colonels Knox and Baird were directed to re-cross the river with their brigades, and take up their positions in the new camp; where on the 16th Lord Cornwallis was joined by the Bombay army, under the command of General Sir Robert Abercromby.

CHAPTER VIII.

ORDERS FOR OPENING THE TRENCHES—TIPPOO'S DISTRESS AND REVENGE—DESTRUCTION OF HIS BEAUTIFUL GARDENS—ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE LORD CORNWALLIS—FRUSTRATED—ATTEMPT TO DISLODGE GENERAL ABERCROMBY—ITS FAILURE—TIPPOO'S DEFEAT—EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THE SIEGE—STOPPED BY NEGOCIATION—TREATY—DELAYS OF TIPPOO—HIS SONS SENT AS HOSTAGES—ACCOUNT OF THEIR RECEPTION—STRIKING ANECDOTE OF GENERAL MEADOWS—TREACHERY OF TIPPOO—HOSTAGES PUT UNDER RESTRAINT—TIPPOO'S EXPLANATION—TREATY SIGNED AND DELIVERED—PEACE CONCLUDED—THE ARMY RETURNS TO THE DIFFERENT PRESIDENCIES.

THE arrival of the Bombay army was an event of the highest importance; consisting as it did of four European regiments, and seven battalions of Sepoys, it put at the disposal of Lord Cornwallis a force of 2,000 Europeans, and 4,000 natives; and his lordship thus reinforced, issued his orders, on the 19th of February, for opening the trenches, giving directions for a diversion to be made simultaneously from the island, in order to break up the enemy's horse-camp, on the south side of the river.

It does not appear necessary, in this place, to detail minutely the progress of this vastly important siege, which was carried on with the most consummate skill and unqualified courage. Tippoo, as the work of conquest proceeded, became more and more irritated ; the condition of his mind may be better imagined than described, when he saw his beautiful gardens hacked to pieces by the enemy, and that, too, merely as a preparatory step to the destruction of his citadel. He could not command his feelings, but indulged his animosity and revenge, by firing, from all parts of the fort, towards an army which, being out of range of his shot, witnessed with scorn and impunity the ill-judged effects of his malice and indignation.

Tippoo, however, had recourse to expedients more dangerous to the interests of his enemies than these displays. He despatched a party of horsemen in the night, to assassinate Lord Cornwallis ; and in all probability they would have effected their sanguinary purpose, had they not betrayed their intentions, by too anxiously inquiring for his lordship's tent. When they were discovered, they galloped off with such rapidity, that they suffered little for their rashness—a rashness by no means indicative of inherent bravery, but rather attributable to the state of intoxication to which it is necessary to bring the troops of the native princes before they can be excited to undertake such perilous expeditions.

Tippoo, at length, wearied with the sight of

his progressive ruin, resolved to make one desperate effort to dislodge General Abercromby, who was in command of the Bombay army. But as that effort was unsuccessful, so it was his last. After maintaining an action for the whole day under the guns of the fort, he was forced to retreat towards evening, and thenceforward abandoned all hope of retrieving his broken fortunes.

On the nights of the 22d and 23d of February, the second parallel was completed, and the ground for breaching batteries was marked out within about five hundred yards of the fort, and furnaces for heating shot were prepared. These batteries, one of twelve and the other of twenty guns, would have been ready to open on the 1st of March; which, together with the cross fire from the island, and Sibbald's redoubt, with the mortars and howitzers of the train, would have brought no less than fifty pieces of ordnance to bear upon the enemy. In addition to this force, Purseram Bhow's army, consisting of 20,000 cavalry, and several thousand infantry, with thirty pieces of cannon, were, as well as a brigade of Sepoys, commanded by Captain Little, hourly expected. Major Cuppage, from the Coimbettore country, with a European brigade, three battalions of Sepoys, and several field-pieces, had already ascended the Guzzelhatty Pass, to which place supplies, to a vast amount, from Trichinopoly and Pulgautcherry were in readiness to be brought up. Lord Cornwallis had the entire command of the

grain merchants in all quarters, whilst a constant supply was ensured from the Malabar coast, in communication with General Abercromby.

With such prospects and advantages, what had the besiegers to fear? But, under the same circumstances, what had the besieged to hope? It is impossible to describe the dejection, the sorrow, the disappointment, which filled the breast of every soldier in the army, when, on the very eve of conquest, and on the threshold of glory, orders were received from head-quarters, on the morning of the 24th, to discontinue working at the trenches, and to desist from all further hostilities.

The preliminaries of peace between the confederated powers and Tippoo had been settled the previous night; a fact, the announcement of which was not rendered more palatable to the troops by being coupled with another; namely, that long since the negotiations had been entered into, and even after they had actually received the order to desist from work and hostilities, a heavier fire than ever was kept up upon them from the great guns, and even musketry, of the fort, wherever they could be brought to bear upon them; nor was it until noon that this outrageous infraction of every honourable principle was put a stop to.

By the four articles of the treaty which had been entered into, it was stipulated:—

I. That one-half of Tippoo's dominions, of which he was possessed before the war, should be ceded to the allies.

II. That he should pay three crores and thirty lacs of rupees, in gold mohurs, pagodas, and bullion.

III. That all prisoners of the four powers should be unequivocally released.

IV. That two of Tippoo's three eldest sons should be given as hostages for the performance of the treaty.

This last article has formed the subject of so many works, literary and graphic, and was so replete with interesting consequences, that we shall not hesitate to give a condensed account of its fulfilment, from the work of Major General Dirom, to whom we are already indebted for many particulars connected with this campaign, in which he himself bore a distinguished and honourable part.

Some time was spent in persuading Tippoo to consent to the terms which were proposed to him, and even when, as a last sacrifice, he had made up his mind to part with his children, the uneasiness their proposed departure excited in the seraglio was extreme, and another day was begged, under the pretence that they were not quite prepared to attend his lordship. Lord Cornwallis, not insensible to the ties of nature, kindly granted the request.

On the 26th, at noon, it was found that the step must be taken, and accordingly the young princes left the fort, which was everywhere crowded to witness their departure. Their father was on the rampart over the gateway. A salute of twenty-one guns was fired as they left the

fort; another salute of twenty-one guns was fired as soon as they reached our camp, and the line which they passed, turned out and received them with all the honours of royalty. They were met by Sir John Kennaway, the Mahratta and Nizam vakeels, and so conducted to Lord Cornwallis's tent.

Their procession was splendid and picturesque in the extreme. It was led by several camel hur-carrahs and seven standard-bearers, carrying small green standards suspended from rockets, followed by a hundred pikemen, bearing spears inlaid with silver. The princes were mounted each on an elephant richly caparisoned, seated in silver how-dars, and attended by their vakeels. Two hundred Sepoys and a body-guard of horse brought up the rear. As they approached the English headquarters, the battalion of Bengal Sepoys, commanded by Captain Welch, formed a street through which they passed.

Lord Cornwallis, surrounded by his staff, and attended by the principal officers of his army, received the princes at the door of his tent, and having embraced, led them, one in either hand, to seats which had been prepared for them, placing himself between them. When he had done so, Gullam Ally, the chief vakeel, addressed his lordship, and said: "These children were this morning the sons of the sultan, my master; their situation is now changed, and they must look up to your lordship as their father."

Lord Cornwallis, who had received the princes as though they had been his own children, assured the vakeel, as well as the princes themselves, that every attention should be paid them, and every care taken of their persons. Their little faces brightened up ; the scene became highly interesting, and not only their own attendants, but all the spectators, were delighted to see that their confidence was established, and that they would be soon reconciled to their new friends.

The grace and elegance of both the boys, and the propriety of their manners, had a striking effect upon the English, particularly those of the younger one ; independently of being, not only the favourite son of Tippoo and his intended heir, but moreover handsomer in his person and more amiable in his manners, he became an object of increased interest from the fact that his mother, a beautiful delicate woman, sister of Burhamud-Deen, who was killed at Sottimungulum, had actually died of alarm in the early part of the siege. After some conversation, Lord Cornwallis presented each of them with a gold watch, which pleased them greatly. Betel nut and otto of roses being served according to custom, they departed, and the next day Lord Cornwallis went in state to visit them at the tents which had been pitched for their reception, when they presented his lordship with two Persian swords ; Lord Cornwallis, in return, gave the elder a fowling-piece, and the younger a pair of pistols. The

splendour and magnificence with which, even in their captivity, they received Lord Cornwallis, produced a very extraordinary sensation in the minds of the Europeans who witnessed them.*

After this interesting ceremony, which seemed to mark the termination of hostilities, great delay

* On the day of the arrival of the princes in camp, a circumstance occurred productive of great alarm and uneasiness, but which fortunately did not terminate fatally. General Medows, to whose bravery, skill, and good conduct, Lord Cornwallis repeatedly and pointedly referred, in private conversations and public orders, during the siege, never recovered the mortification he experienced by the failure of his division of the army in the night attack, which, although (as we have already shewn,) it originated in the negligence and ignorance of his guides, preyed deeply upon the General's spirits. One of the first evident effects of his feelings was his constant and heedless exposure of himself to fire upon all occasions, in spite of the remonstrances of his brother officers.

On one occasion he placed himself on the top of the trenches in the thick of the musketry from the fort, and when his aid-de-camp, Colonel Harris, afterwards Lord Harris, found him deaf to his entreaties to move from such a perilous position, he jumped up and placed himself beside him, saying, "If you, Sir, think it right to remain here, I know it is my duty to stand by you." This had its effect for the moment, but the same disposition to invite destruction frequently evinced itself during the siege. At length, after the affair had terminated brilliantly, and on the very day of the arrival of Tippo's sons in the camp, General Medows, declining to be present at their reception, retired to his tent, and drawing one of his pistols from his holster, lodged the contents in his side. By one of those interventions of Providence which frequently occur, it appears that the ball had accidentally dropped from the pistol, and the wadding alone entered his body. But even under these

and procrastination took place on the part of Tippoo, who, during the period of negociation, continued the military improvement of the fort, a proceeding contrary to the usual practice of war; until at length Lord Cornwallis, tired of the frivolous evasions of his adversary, gave notice that the hostage princes should be moved to the Carnatic; and their guard and escort were made prisoners, and treated accordingly.*

The princes themselves were very much affected by this change, and when the order came to prepare themselves for the journey, they declined entering the palankeens which were to convey them, unless they were assured that they belonged to Lord Cornwallis himself.

At this juncture the vakeels pressed for another

fortunate circumstances the wound assumed a very serious appearance, and for some days his life was despaired of.

A short time after this, the Honourable Colonel Knox (who had obtained leave of absence to return home) called on the General, to know if he had any commands for England. He said to him, "Knox, you are going to England, you will see many of my friends, tell them that Mr. Medows and General Medows have had a quarrel, but that they have settled it like gentlemen, and are now perfectly good friends."

* Upon receiving Lord Cornwallis's first remonstrance upon his unwarrantable conduct in strengthening his military works pending the consideration of a treaty, Tippoo is reported to have replied to his lordship, with a degree of courageous effrontery, that his lordship must have been misinformed as to his actions; but that for his lordship's satisfaction, if he desired it, he would throw down one of the bastions that he might see into the fort.

day's delay, in the course of which Tippoo sent to assure Lord Cornwallis, that desiring as he did that the treaty might be delivered into his lordship's hands by his sons themselves, the postponement arose only from his anxiety that it might be done with all due solemnity. On the 18th, the vakeel returned from Tippoo, the princes' guard was restored to them, and the next day fixed for the delivery of the treaty.

On the 19th, the princes went, in similar state to that which had been observed on their first arrival, to the tent of Lord Cornwallis, by whom they were again received with the greatest kindness and cordiality, and the eldest boy, after having been seated, rose and delivered the treaty in triplicate to his lordship. This part of the ceremony he performed with great ease and grace, but when he was told that he was to deliver the two other copies to the vakeels of the other Native Powers, his manner assumed an air of constraint and dissatisfaction, wholly different from that which accompanied his presentation of the copy for the English government.*

Thus terminated the war with Tippoo in 1792,

* One of the vakeels who received the treaty (for neither the Nizam's son, nor Hurry Punt thought it consistent with their dignity to appear in person) muttered something as he took it from the Prince, who, without giving him time to explain himself, told him, "that they might as well be silent, for certainly their masters had nothing to complain of." This remonstrance, indicative of the boy's manliness and spirit, made a powerful impression on the bystanders.

in which he lost 49,340 men, 801 guns, and no less than 67 forts, together with the territories we have mentioned as ceded under the treaty, and three crores and thirty lacs of rupees.

The results of this brilliant campaign have already employed the pen of the historian, to whom we refer such of our readers as may not have turned their attention very much towards Indian politics. In the capacity of biographers it is our duty merely to state, that immediately after its termination the army broke up and returned to the different presidencies.

CHAPTER IX.

COLONEL BAIRD PROCEEDS TO WARRIENNE AS COMMANDANT—STATE OF THE 71ST REGIMENT—ORDERED TO THE SIEGE OF PONDICHERRY—COMMANDS A BRIGADE—SURRENDER OF PONDICHERRY—71ST ORDERED TO TANJORE—EXTRAORDINARY CONDUCT OF MR. M—WITH REGARD TO THE RAJAH—CORRESPONDENCE WITH COLONEL BAIRD—LORD HOBART—GENERAL FLOYD—SALUTE FIRED—CONSEQUENCES RESULTING THEREFROM—THE 71ST ORDERED TO PONDICHERRY—THEIR DESTINATION CHANGED—PROCEED TO WALLAJAHBAD—GENERAL ORDER—ORDERS TO DISBAND THE 71ST—COLONEL BAIRD'S FEELINGS UPON THAT OCCASION.

UPON the dispersion of the troops, Colonel Baird returned with the southern division of the Madras army to Warrienne, where he was commandant, and thence proceeded with his own regiment to Secundumallee, and two companies were detached under Major Dalrymple.

Few regiments ever were in so high a state of order and discipline as the 71st at this period; in none were there fewer corporal punishments; nothing indeed but the most serious crimes, subjected the men to flogging. The punishment inflicted by Colonel Baird for more venial offences, consisted of some additional hours labour in a garden from which the regiment was supplied with vege-

tables. The men were every morning put through some few manœuvres, by which means they were kept in constant practice without inordinate fatigue. Officers and men were on parade every day at sunrise, excepting two days in the week, on which the officers were permitted to hunt, and on Sunday the barracks were minutely inspected by Colonel Baird, the officers of each company being in the barrack-rooms ready to receive him.

Colonel Baird paid the greatest attention to the comforts of his men; under his care the regimental fund rapidly increased; not only was the regimental school entirely supported by it, but each woman received a weekly allowance if she kept her children neat and clean; and when on the Sunday mornings they appeared respectably dressed, the women themselves received little rewards to encourage their good conduct.

Temperate and regular in his own conduct, Colonel Baird succeeded more than almost any commanding officer in securing at once the respect and obedience of the soldiers, while his known courage and dauntless presence of mind in action gave them that confidence in him as a leader, which more than any thing else contributes to the successful issue of the most desperate enterprises.

Ample evidence of Colonel Baird's conscientious care for the prosperity and comfort of his regiment is before us in his letter addressed, during this period, to General Gordon, their colonel, and to Ross and Ogilvie the agents in London; but it

would be needless to make extracts on this point, when we are permitted to make use of the communications contained in the note below ; one from General Robertson, who will be remembered by the reader as the gallant Captain Robertson so often mentioned already in this memoir, and the other, from Captain Mackenzie, also living in Scotland, and who served in the 71st during the whole period that Colonel Baird commanded it.*

In 1793, Colonel Baird was again destined for active service. The capture of Pondicherry had been resolved upon by the East Indian Government, and an army was ordered to be formed, under the command of Colonel Braithwaite, for

* General Robertson says, “ Whenever any new regiments arrived at Madras from England, the officers were anxious to know the best method of managing the men, and settling the economy of their corps ; the commander-in-chief recommended them to go up to Wallajahbad, where they would see the 71st regiment, in the highest state of discipline, not only with respect to their movements in the field, but with regard to their interior economy and arrangement.”

Colonel Baird never lost sight of the personal comforts of his men, and took care that their different allowances were regularly and duly delivered ; and in 1793 he established a regimental mess, which at that period was a very uncommon thing.

Captain Mackenzie says, speaking of the discipline of the corps, “ Yet with all this he was the sincere friend and social companion of his officers, joining in their amusements, and enjoying their happiness. Parties of them were constantly invited to his house to partake of his hospitality, where the suavity of his manners engaged their esteem, as his undoubted ability commanded their respect for their commanding officer.”

the purpose of carrying this resolution into effect; and of this force, the European brigade was to be commanded by Colonel Baird.

Pondicherry, on the Coromandel Coast, is a large town situated on a flat ; the anchorage for ships being at least a mile and a half from the shore. The fort is an irregular brick building, covered with chunam, about two hundred paces from the sea. All its fortifications had been destroyed in 1761, when Sir Eyre Coote took it from the French, but in 1763 the settlement had been restored to them.

For the reduction of Pondicherry, which, from the barrenness of the surrounding country, is chiefly indebted to extraneous supplies for support, the troops took up a position on the Red Hills, and shortly after preparations were made for commencing the siege, but no resistance was offered, and the place surrendered. The fact was, that the garrison were in a state of open mutiny. Intelligence had been received of the “glorious revolution” in France, and anxious to follow the noble example of the liberal cut-throats of Europe, the myrmidons of the colonies were everywhere in the highest possible state of excitement.

The British troops, while before the place, received accounts of the martyrdom of the unfortunate Louis XVIth, in Paris, and in order that the garrison might as speedily as possible be made acquainted with so great a result of liberalism and reform, newspapers and prints, descriptive of the

execution of the murdered king, were thrown into the place in dead shells by the commanding officer of artillery.

After the surrender of Pondicherry, the army again broke up, and the 71st were ordered to Tanjore, of which place Colonel Baird was appointed to the command ; and there, in fact, his more distinguished career of public service began, under circumstances, which, without stopping to designate the conduct of the great body to whom he was opposed, we must say, reflected the highest honour upon his firmness, his wisdom, and his benevolence.

The Rajah of Tanjore was a man of extremely good character and high principle, and exceedingly well disposed towards the British Government. He had been placed by Sir Archibald Campbell, on the musnud on the death of his brother, who left only an adopted son. During the early part of Colonel Baird's military command at Tanjore, he acted also in the capacity of civil resident, but not being duly acknowledged by the Madras government, and finding that letters for the Rajah were forwarded direct to his highness by the ordinary post, Colonel Baird, on the 3rd of October, 1794, addressed Lord Hobart, the Governor of Fort St. George, upon the subject ; and after stating that upon the abolition of the civil residency at Tanjore, the senior military officer (as in the case of Colonel Maxwell, to whom he had succeeded,) had always acted as

civil resident, added, that he should feel gratified by being so considered, which, as it would add to his personal weight, would naturally give increased respectability to his character as senior military officer ; the request, however, was not acceded to, and shortly after the office of civil resident was revived in the person of Mr. M——— of the Honourable East India Company's service.

Mr. M——— had not long assumed the functions of his office before the Rajah, who had a warm affection for and an implicit confidence in Colonel Baird, began to complain bitterly of his conduct, which he represented as not only disrespectful, but positively harsh ; and, in the course of time, circumstances gradually transpired which convinced, not only the Rajah, but Colonel Baird himself, that this civil servant of the Honourable East India Company had been placed at the court of Tanjore for no other purpose than that of inducing, or even (if necessary,) compelling, the unfortunate Rajah to give up his territory and become a pensioner of the said Honourable East India Company for the remaining term of his natural life.

We have had occasion, in an earlier part of this memoir, to shew that in those days, whatever may be its mercy and moderation now, the Honourable East India Company was not exceedingly scrupulous as to the means by which territory was to be acquired ; and Mr. M———'s proceedings in furtherance of the object of his mission at length

became so evident and so oppressive to the Rajah, that his highness stated to Colonel Baird that Mr. M—— was far exceeding the just limits of his duty; that he had expressed to him his readiness to abide by the treaty into which he had entered with the Company, and that he was ready and willing to continue to pay in full, the tribute which had been agreed upon by that treaty, and which guaranteed to him under such payment the quiet and undisturbed possession of his kingdom; but it was perfectly clear that Mr. M—— was not to be so satisfied, and that the primary object of his mission was to make new terms with the Rajah while under the influence of fear. To the proof of this fact we shall presently come.

To persons conversant with such subjects, it will not be necessary to make any observation upon what can only be considered the honourable jealousy which exists between civil and military officers on service, and perhaps that jealousy is not decreased upon occasions where the one individual belongs to the king's army, and the other to the writer's department of the East India Company's service. In the present case, it is placed beyond a doubt, that the hostility which confessedly manifested itself on the part of Colonel Baird to the arbitrary proceedings of Mr. M—— had its origin in no such feeling; he was actuated by sentiments of a much higher character, and by feelings of an infinitely more generous nature.

While matters were in this delicate state, and while the Rajah was pouring his fears and lamentations into the ear of Colonel Baird, the colonel, at nine o'clock in the evening of the 28th of December, 1795, received the following letter from Mr. M——.

*To Lieut.-Col. Baird, commanding Tanjore.**

SIR,

HAVING received some instructions from the government for the execution of certain objects, to perform which, I am to call upon you for a military force, I have to request that on receipt of this, you will be pleased to order a company of your regiment to march with all possible expedition, and halt in the street, near the New Gate of the Palace, with orders to the officer commanding the party to follow such directions as he may receive from me.

I have the honour to be, &c.

A. M——, Resident.

Tanjore, 7 p. m. 28th Dec. 1795.

Colonel Baird, whatever his private feelings or opinions might be, did not hesitate for a moment in sending the troops, under the command of a captain; but they had scarcely reached the appointed spot, when Mr. M—— sent out a verbal message from the interior of the palace that *the troops might go.*

On the following morning, Colonel Baird, in

* One of the numberless peculiarities which distinguish the public correspondence of the Honourable East India Company, is that of addressing their letters at the top, and dating them at the bottom.

consequence of this conduct, wrote to Mr. M——, and after recapitulating that part of his letter which contained his request for the soldiers, their consequent march, and their ultimate dismissal, the Colonel says, “but I beg to acquaint you that the government order of the 10th of December, 1794, draws the line so clearly between the power of the civil and military, that it is out of my power to comply in future with any requisition from you for troops, unless I am at the same time made acquainted with the nature of the service to be performed, when I shall be enabled to judge what force will be adequate to the execution of it.”

This correspondence Colonel Baird forwarded to Lord Hobart and Colonel Floyd, and in his letter giving cover to it, stated to his lordship the great inconvenience (putting the principle out of the question,) of the interference of Mr. M—— with military details, shewing that from that gentleman's ignorance of the meaning of the word company, the greatest mischief might arise. “The established strength of a company in the 71st regiment,” said Colonel Baird, “is one hundred rank and file, but from the reduced state of the corps at this time, the company sent out on the requisition of Mr. M—— at a minute's warning last night, besides its men sick, on duty, leave, and detachment with the artillery at Trichinopoly, regimental works, &c. consisted of no more than thirty-four rank and file.”

This course of proceeding, which Colonel Baird felt it his duty to adopt, was very much at variance with that which the Honourable East India Company considered most conducive to its interests, and the abrupt conduct of Mr. M——— was justified and supported by the following letters which Colonel Baird received; the first in answer to his letter to Lord Hobart, the second in reply to that which he addressed to Colonel Floyd.

To Lieut.-Col. Baird, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the President and Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 29th ult., and to acquaint you that as the situation of the Resident at Tanjore is merely political, the order of the 29th of December 1794, does not apply to him.

You will be pleased in future to acquiesce in any recommendation of Mr. M———'s for granting an armed force, that may be consistent with the safety of the garrison under your command.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. C. JACKSON, *Secretary.*

Fort St. George, 17th Jan. 1796.

Colonel Floyd's was an infinitely more elaborate letter, but as the case is one of peculiar interest, and well calculated to throw a light upon the civil proceedings of the East India Company,

we think it will not be unamusing to the reader, to sift the affair to the bottom.

Lieut.-Col. Baird, or Officer commanding at Tanjore.

SIR.

Mr. M——, Resident at Tanjore, has stated in an official letter to me, dated the 2d instant, that he is charged by Government to execute some objects of a secret nature, which make it necessary he should have a considerable military force at his disposal—that he is so strictly enjoined to secrecy that he is not at liberty to disclose the nature of those objects to me at present, and that it is important it should not be known that Mr. M—— wishes to call in troops till the moment they are wanted.

For these reasons I have judged it necessary to comply with the Resident's desire, and shall immediately report to Government accordingly, not doubting but such compliance will be approved.

You will therefore be pleased, upon the requisition of Mr. M——, Resident at Tanjore, in the name of the Right Honourable the President in Council, to give him such troops as he may deem necessary, and order the commanding officer to comply with such instructions as Mr. M—— finds it necessary to give.

You will please to reserve a sufficient portion of your garrison for the purpose of temporary security, and with the reflection of the very great improbability of any serious attack being made upon you.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

T. FLOYD,

*Colonel, commanding the Southern
Division of the Army.*

Trichinopoly, Jan. 3, 1796.

Thus encouraged in his pretensions, and supported in his operations against the unfortunate Rajah, it is not to be supposed that Mr. M——— lost any time in exhibiting the power and authority with which he was invested, and accordingly, on the 23rd of January, he addressed *several letters* to Colonel Baird.

In the first, he says, “ In consequence of instructions which I have received from government, I beg leave to require, in their name, that you give orders, so that neither Shiverow, the Rajah’s Sirkeel, nor either of his brothers, Trimbee, or Shankerow, be permitted to pass out of the fort.” And in this he encloses a second, beginning :—

MY DEAR SIR,

EXCLUSIVE of the accompanying letter, I have in my hands a public letter, directed to you, and to be delivered to you or not, as occasion may require. I may probably have occasion to send it in the course of this day. It respects the employment of a large part of your garrison

Yours, very truly,

ALEXANDER M———.

23rd.

Circumstances, which certainly were not then allowed to transpire, but which we will charitably suppose to have been of more importance than Mr. M———’s mere anxiety to display his potentiality, occurred, which induced that gentleman, in the course of the same day, to send Colonel Baird the

following letter, enclosing a copy of that from Colonel Floyd, which the reader has already seen. The style and diction of the following epistle need no comment.

To Lieut.-Col. Baird, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

ENCLOSED I have the honour to send a letter from the officer commanding the Southern Division of the Army, I have also another order from Government to the same effect, but as it is not directed immediately to you, and involves public circumstances which I do not think myself authorized to communicate, I do not send it.

I have now to require, in the name of Government, that you order as large a portion of your garrison, both Europeans and sepoys, as you can spare, from the necessary guards, &c., consistently with the defence of the fort, to parade in front of the Resident's house in the fort, with orders to the officer commanding the party to follow such directions as he may receive from me.

The first paragraph of your letter of this date seems to suppose that my orders from Government extend merely to the restriction of the Sirkeel and his brothers to the fort. The orders extend much further.

In your letter you have been pleased to suppose it possible that the military force may be employed against the person of the Rajah, and that such employment of it would tarnish the honour of our country. As representative of the Honourable Company here, I am entrusted with a certain portion of the British honour, which I will take care shall never be tarnished; I will further take care that the suspicion of the possibility of having it tarnished, shall not, as far as respects my representations, pass without remark and explanation.

When the military force above required shall be assembled, I shall do myself the honour to communicate to you the object of the Government orders, and to rely upon you for the execution of it.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER M——

Tanjore, 6 p. m. 23rd Jan. 1796.

Upon the receipt of this requisition, Colonel Baird, whose generous nature recoiled at the idea of the service to which it but too plainly appeared his brave soldiers were to be devoted, and anxiously alive to the peculiar situation of the unfortunate Rajah, sent to Mr. M—— to entreat him to explain his object then. This Mr. M—— positively refused to do.

The results are so pleasingly, so candidly, and so honourably stated by Colonel Baird, in a letter, which on the following morning he wrote to Lord Hobart, the governor of Madras, that they cannot be given to the reader in any way so touching and affecting as in his own words. Copies of the same letter he despatched to Colonel Floyd and General Clark.

*To the Right Hon. Lord Hobart, President in Council,
&c. &c. &c.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of two letters received from Mr. M——, the Resident, yesterday, together with a copy of my answer, and of another received from Mr. M—— in the

evening, enclosing Colonel Floyd's orders to furnish the Resident with any number of troops he might require in the name of the Right Honourable the President in Council; in consequence of which I instantly complied with the requisition made in the Resident's letter, and put all the troops under arms, went myself to Mr. M——, whom I found at the house of Mr. Swartz, and endeavoured to prevail on him not to employ the troops, assuring him repeatedly, that I could answer with my life for the compliance of the Rajah, without force, with any demand I should make of him in the name of Government, and that it would be more for the honour of our country to carry the orders of Government into effect in this mild manner, than by offering any personal affront to the Rajah, by marching troops, with an appearance of using violence against him; which was the meaning of the expression in my letter to Mr. M——, and not what he seems to have misunderstood it, that the employment of the force that might be directed would tarnish the honour of our country—and this I explained last night to Mr. M——. Mr. M—— still requiring the march of the troops, I sent orders for that purpose (taking such precautions as were necessary for the security of the place), directing that they should halt in the street between the Resident's house and the palace. I then earnestly requested Mr. M—— would allow me to accompany him into the palace, being confident from the attention I have ever paid to the Rajah, and the good footing we have been on, that he considered me as his real friend, and that what I might say on the occasion could not fail to have great weight.

But Mr. M—— declining my offer, and not communicating to me his instructions from Government, I went and placed myself at the head of the troops, determined to take upon myself the execution of the orders of Go-

vernment, and to take care of the personal safety of the Rajah, should matters have proceeded to extremities.

But after halting in the streets for several hours, I received a note from Mr. M——, informing me that he had no further occasion for the force under my command.

I beg leave to inform your Lordship that I have this day received your instructions to acquiesce in future in any recommendation of Mr. M——'s for granting an armed force that may be consistent with the safety of the garrison under my command, which shall be strictly complied with.—I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) D. BAIRD, *Lieut-Col.*

Tanjore, 24th Jan. 1796.

Colonel Baird, when he had despatched this letter and its enclosures, felt that he had performed his duty to his country and to the Rajah, who was living under its protection. But whatever satisfaction he might himself have derived from those feelings, his efforts on behalf of the unfortunate prince were unavailing ; for on the following day, the unhappy man communicated to Colonel Baird, that at the dictation of that most zealous minister, Mr. M——, and under the positive influence of fear, he had been induced, on the preceding evening, to sign a document, ceding the whole of his territory to the management of the Honourable East India Company ; but that, considering how much he had been alarmed by threats, and how grossly deceived by misstatements, he

resolved to address the governor general, and appeal to him for the restoration of his country.

From this determination, he was certainly not discouraged by Colonel Baird, who was so deeply impressed with the justice of his claims, and the rectitude of his intentions, that he himself forwarded a copy of the correspondence here published, to Sir John Shore, at Calcutta. The consequences of this measure to Colonel Baird are yet to be seen.

As far as the Rajah was concerned, his own remonstrances, coupled with the explanations and statements of Colonel Baird, induced the governor general to order restitution to be made ; and so far Colonel Baird succeeded to the full extent of his wishes, and had the gratification of seeing his much injured friend reinstated in his rights and sovereignty ; but even in this unwilling act of justice, there were quibbles and delays, the meanness of which, if they were minutely examined, would astonish the reader. Amongst others, Mr. M———, having received orders to replace the Rajah in possession of his territories, refused to do so, unless he became security for whatever *private debts* his people might owe to British subjects.

The Rajah's answer to this demand, translated literally, by a native writer, is so cogent, and yet so simple, that we think, as a contrast to the more polished literary effusions of the oriental diplomatist with whom he had to treat, it may be acceptable to the reader.

To Alexander M———, Esq., Resident at Tanjore.

SIR,

I have received your letter, last night, at ten o'clock, and have understood the contents. You mentioned in your's, that the three Soubah's collectors as advanced some money to the inhabitence for Vurkum and Morromett, and moreover that I should be answerable for the debts of the inhabitence, to let you know on the subject if the collectors sends the account of what money advanced for the Vurkum and Morromett, and if the inhabitence acknowledges that they have received whatever amount rises in the time of arrest, I shall pay the amount to the Company's treasure ; and if the inhabitence have contract any private debts, what business of mine to be responsible for their debt. If my country is restored, I shall give such necessary order to the inhabitence to pay their debts.

Yours, &c.

Tanjore, 5th August, 1796.

Colonel Baird was quite aware that the part he had taken in the affair, however congenial to his own feelings, and consonant with the purest principles of justice, would subject him to the frowns of the Madras government.

The disposition he thus anticipated manifested itself at the very first possible opportunity—upon the occasion of the restoration of the Rajah, when, at his Highness's request, Colonel Baird caused a salute to be fired from the battery. This was complained of by Mr. M———, and a reproof was in consequence forwarded from the presidency.

If this conduct of Colonel Baird's should require any explanation, the following letter, which he addressed to Lord Hobart, will not only amply afford it, but will throw additional light upon the wavering and undecided conduct of those who had received the commands of the government to carry its orders into execution.

*To the Right Hon. Lord Hobart, President in Council,
Fort St. George, &c. &c. &c.*

MY LORD,

I have the honour to inform your lordship, that his excellency the Rajah sent to me yesterday, acquainting me that Mr. M —— had informed him, that your lordship had been pleased to order the delivery of his countries to him at twelve o'clock. At the same time he informed me, that he had published it to all his nobles and principal men, and that he would be ready to receive their congratulations at that time, and requested that I would order a royal salute to be fired.

As my instructions from Sir Charles Oakeley, on being appointed to this command, were to pay every attention in my power, and comply with all proper requisitions from the Rajah, and being well convinced that these are your lordship's sentiments, I immediately gave the order for the salute, but directed the non-commissioned officer who commanded not to fire till his excellency sent him word to do so. No salute being fired by half-past two o'clock, I sent my hurcarrah to learn the reason ; on his return he acquainted me that Mr. M —— had sent his dubash to the Rajah in full durbar, when they were waiting for the ceremony, who told his excellency, that he was desired by his master to inform him, that he could not give up the countries till

next day, as he understood a salute was to be fired, and that he must write to your lordship on that subject.

I of course ordered the men from the battery ; they had not got to the little fort, when they were sent after by the Rajah, requesting they would come back and fire the salute, which was complied with. His excellency fired afterwards a number of guns in his own palace on this occasion. Of course I conceived the countries were delivered over to him. But this morning I was astonished to be informed from his excellency, that the countries were not delivered over to him, agreeably to Mr. M——'s promise, made in your lordship's name, and that, rather than submit to the disgrace of acknowledging that he had been deceived, in the eyes of his people, he desired the salute to be fired.

As the circumstances are so very particular, I considered it my duty to acquaint your lordship with these particulars, which I trust will meet your lordship's approbation.— I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect and esteem, your lordship's most obedient servant,

D. BAIRD.

Tanjore, 3d Sept.

The restoration of the Rajah, and the firing of the salute, took place on the 2nd of September ; on the 7th of that month, Colonel Baird received the following letter from head-quarters.

To Colonel Baird, commanding at Tanjore.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the President in Council to acquaint you, that orders have been this day transmitted to Major General Floyd, for the immediate removal of the whole of the 71st regiment to Pondicherry. This communication is made to you that there may be no

delay in the execution of the orders, after you have received them from General Floyd. It is of course meant that all the officers of the corps, yourself included, should proceed to Pondicherry.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant.

W. C. JACKSON, *Secretary.*

Fort St. George, 7th Sept. 1796.

To this letter, Sir David Baird wrote the following answer:—

To W. C. Jackson, Esq., Military Secretary.

SIR,

I AM honoured with your letter of the 7th instant, acquainting me, by order of the Right Honourable the President in Council, that orders had been that day transmitted to Major General Floyd for the immediate removal of the whole of the 71st regiment to Pondicherry. I have the honour to request that you will acquaint the Right Honourable Lord Hobart in Council, that his Majesty's 71st regiment has always been, and is ready to march at an hour's warning. I expect to receive General Floyd's orders for the march to-morrow morning, and am only sorry that I cannot march the regiment in the evening, as I know the state of the stores cannot furnish us with camp equipage. But as I am determined that no time shall be lost on my part, I have this day indented on the stores at Trichinopoly for what articles this place does not furnish.

You will oblige me by informing me, if it is the Right Honourable the President in Council's wish that his Majesty's 71st regiment should make forced marches to Pondicherry.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

D. BAIRD.

Tanjore, 11th Sept. 1796.

On the 14th, Colonel Baird received the following, from the military secretary, which is worthy of a place here, as having elicited the manly answer of Colonel Baird, which follows it.

To Colonel Baird, commanding His Majesty's 71st Regiment.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the President in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 3rd instant, and to acquaint you, that his lordship is decidedly of opinion that the orders issued by you for firing a royal salute on the occasion of the surrender of the Soubahs to the authority of the Rajah of Tanjore, was unnecessary and improper, and that, in receiving a message from the palace, and acting upon it, without any communication with the resident, you opposed yourself to the general order of government dated the 27th of November, 1795, which specially enjoined all Europeans from having communication with the Rajah of Tanjore but through the channel of the Company's resident.

As you have, however, been recalled from Tanjore, the President in Council refrains from further animadversion on your conduct.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. C. JACKSON, *Secretary.*

Fort St. George, 14th September, 1796.

It was not until Colonel Baird's arrival at Madras that he received this letter, and several very important events had occurred in the interim. This, however, appears to be the proper place for the insertion of the answer which he returned to it.

To W. C. Jackson, Esq. Military Secretary, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

I WAS only yesterday honoured with your letter of the 14th September, informing me of the Right Honourable President in Council's decided disapprobation of the order issued by me at Tanjore for firing a royal salute on the restoration of the country to the Rajah.

I request you will be pleased to express to his Lordship in Council my regret that he should have formed an opinion of my attempting to oppose myself to the orders of government on such an occasion, when in reality I conceived I was paying equally proper respect to the government by whose orders the restoration was made, as to his excellency the Rajah; especially as at his request a royal salute had been fired on a similar occasion formerly, and as it had been usual, ever since the arrival of the resident at Tanjore, to fire salutes and grant guards at the request of the Rajah's people without any remark or objection having been offered. I therefore did not then conceive it necessary that it should come through the resident, nor possible it could in any way be construed into the slightest disrespect to government, so contrary to my intention on this and on all occasions.

You conclude by saying, that as I have been recalled from Tanjore, his Lordship in Council refrains from further animadversions on my conduct. I must beg leave to state that I was not recalled, which would have perhaps implied a censure; but ordered to march with the 71st regiment, to which I belong, and have the honour of commanding, and the reason I have since learnt was to have us at hand to embark for the Cape, and, if necessary, to form part of an army in the field. Let me add, that being unconscious of deserving the animadversions of the Right

Honourable President in Council, I am truly sorry that any part of my conduct should have been misconstrued into the slightest intention of disrespect to government.— I have the honour to be, Sir, yours obediently,

D. BAIRD, *Colonel.*

Madras, 9th Nov. 1796.

It will be easily seen how unacceptable to the Madras government and its agents the independent conduct of Colonel Baird was; he was necessarily removed with his regiment from Tanjore, where his presence afforded very great satisfaction to the Rajah, and deprived of what, in a pecuniary sense, was the only advantageous command he ever held during the long period of his service in India, and sent to Pondicherry, where the climate is execrable, and the command was worth nothing; and, what is worse, as the sequel will shew, any temporary advantages which arose, from his strenuous exertions in behalf of the Rajah, and of justice, turned to no other account than that of affording Colonel Baird the gratifying reflection of having acted honourably. The Rajah was devoted, and ere long, added another proof, to the many already existing, that whenever policy or aggrandisement seemed to warrant the measure, a pretext was never wanting to the *Honourable East India Company*, to remove a native Prince.

It is as impossible for us to deny, as it was impossible for his candid generous nature to conceal, the mortification which Colonel Baird

experienced at the abrupt and sudden order for his removal, and that of the regiment. At first, conscious of having done nothing, but that which honour and generosity prompted, and which justice and wisdom must have approved, he imagined that intelligence had been received of a projected invasion of Pondicherry by the French, or rather that they had actually landed there, and hence, his anxiety to ascertain whether it were considered essential to push forward by forced marches to its relief or defence; than which nothing would have given him greater pleasure,—but no—having reached Trichinopoly, on his way to Pondicherry, where every thing was perfectly quiet, he there found another order, changing the route of his regiment, and ordering it to Wallajahbad,—this alteration at once unveiled the mystery, and explained the real cause of his removal from Tanjore.

But unpleasant as was this manifestation of the feeling of the Honourable East India Company's government towards him, which he could only have excited by the generous and humane conduct that he had adopted with regard to the persecuted Rajah, there were yet greater trials in store for him.

At Wallajahbad, Colonel Baird remained till the autumn of 1797, and considering the arrangement which very shortly afterwards was made, it will not perhaps be considered out of place, to give here the official description of His Majesty's

71st regiment, at that period from the general order of Major General (now Field-marshall) Sir Alured Clark.

G. O.—By the Commander-in-chief.

MAJOR General Clark experienced infinite satisfaction this morning at the review of his Majesty's 71st regiment. He cannot say that on any occasion of field exercise he ever was present at a more perfect performance. Where a corps is so striking in its appearance, and so complete in every branch of its discipline, little can occur to the Commander-in-chief to particularize—he cannot, however, but notice that the 71st has excited his admiration from its expertness in those parts of its exercise which are most difficult and most essential to execute. He alludes to its order and regularity when moving in line, its extreme accuracy in preserving distance, and the neatness and promptitude that are so evident in all its formations. So much perfection in a corps, whose services in India will long be held in remembrance, does the greatest honour to Lieutenant-colonel Baird and all his officers, to whom, and the corps at large, the Commander-in-chief desires to offer his best thanks.

Signed, **BARRY CLOSE,**
Asst. Ad. Gen. of the Army.
Head-quarters, Wallajahbad, 2d Jan. 1797.

A general order, more flattering, more gratifying than this, is rarely, if ever, to be met with, and no one certainly ever conveyed a stronger idea of the efficiency of a regiment than it does.

At no very considerable distance of time, from the period at which Colonel Baird experienced all

the pleasureable feelings which such a testimonial could not fail to excite in the heart of a thorough soldier, he found, one day, on returning from field exercise to his quarters, a number of letters, each of which was opened and read in its turn, until at length he found in his hand, an order immediately to break up his regiment, and draft the men fit for service, into the 73rd and 74th, directing him then himself to proceed with the colours, officers, non-commissioned officers, band and drummers to Madras, so as to arrive there within four days from the receipt of the order.

Words would but inadequately describe Colonel Baird's sensations, when he had read this letter. He had been in the 71st regiment from the day it was raised; he had served with it constantly; had risen after long and hard service to command it—had commanded it for six or seven years, during which period (as we may easily judge, by General Clark's order, were there no other evidence of the fact) he had brought it to a perfect state of discipline. Attached to his men by every tie that exists between soldiers and their commanders who have fought and bled together, he was completely overcome by the very unexpected mandate he had received; but duty (to which every personal consideration of Colonel Baird's succumbed,) was to be done, and *that*, as he was directed to do it, promptly.

He ordered the men of the regiment to remain in barracks till he came to them, as he had some-

thing to communicate to them from head-quarters. Shortly afterwards, he proceeded to the barrack-yard ; the men were ordered to fall in ; and he attempted to read the order for their dispersion, and for his eternal separation from them ; but the effort was vain ; and the lion heart, for which war had no terrors, danger no fear, melted at the thought of parting from comrades who had so long and so nobly shared his toils, his perils, and his glory.—He gave the paper to the adjutant, who read the order.

The effect produced by it was beyond description. It seemed as if a sudden dismay had seized the whole regiment. The old men who had families in India were distressed that they should be forced to leave them, while the young ones were equally affected by the prospect of being drafted into other regiments, and left behind. It was a moment of trial in which there was something awful ; but Baird, who knew his duty, and who always did it, addressed the men thus : “ My poor fellows—not a word—the order must be obeyed.” And then, to conceal emotions of which even he need not have been ashamed, he turned round, and ordered the band to strike up the popular Scottish air, the chorus of which is in these words—

“ The king commands, and we'll obey,
Over the hills and far away.”*

* The power of their own national music over the minds of Highland soldiers is inconceivably great, as has been indeed

Having performed thus much of his painful task, he returned to his quarters to make all necessary arrangements for its completion ; and those who are conversant with military matters will easily comprehend what the internal state of the 71st at that period was, when they are told that after settling every detail, paying up every account, and regulating every part of its economy, every thing was ready for the literal fulfilment of the government order, and that on the fourth morning from that in which it was received, the regiment was dispersed, and the colours, officers, band, and invalids, were on their march to Madras.

They were accompanied for some part of the way by their comrades, who now being turned over to other regiments, had at the moment they took leave of their fellow soldiers, no prospect whatever of revisiting their native country.

Such scenes as these never can recur—thanks to the kind, the humane, the excellent Duke of York—the soldier's friend—The barbarous custom of transferring the effective men from one regiment to another, in India, has been abolished, and soldiers now have the option of coming home with

proved on many occasions. Baird himself was passionately fond of the native airs of his country ; they were associated with the home of his childhood, and he used frequently to speak with the most affectionate delight of the way in which his mother used to sing them, and had them similarly arranged for the band of his regiment.

their colours, if they choose, and no man can be so far enslaved as to be drafted from one regiment into another without his own consent.*

Colonel Baird proceeded in the command of his regiment to Madras, where he arrived on Saturday, the 14th of October, according to the very letter of his instructions, and we find the subjoined order issued on the Monday following :—

Fort St George, October 16, 1797.

G. O.—By Government.

THE officers non-commissioned officers, drummers and privates of the 71st regiment under orders for Europe, to embark to-morrow morning at six o'clock.

The President in Council has much satisfaction in expressing the just sense entertained by the government of the active, zealous, and important services of the 71st regiment during the eighteen years they have been stationed in India, by which they have contributed so largely to the reputation of the British army, and so essentially promoted the interest of the East India Company.

By order of the Right Hon. the President in Council.

Signed, T. WEBBE,

Secretary to Government.

This high testimonial of the approbation of the civil government, was accompanied by the following mark of commendation from the military commander-in-chief :—

* Several of the men now left behind were in the trenches at Seringapatam, in 1799, with Colonel Baird, when he, as General Baird, commanded the memorable attack and conquest of that place.

General Orders by Lieutenant-General Harris.

THE Commander-in-chief cannot think of parting with a corps that has been so eminently distinguished as the 71st regiment in India, by a series of long, spirited, and arduous services, without requesting Colonel Baird, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and every man belonging to that regiment, to accept of his warmest acknowledgments for conduct which has been equally honourable to themselves and advantageous to their country. The alacrity with which Colonel Baird has arranged, at a short warning, every thing relative to the drafting, confirms Lieutenant-General Harris in the favourable opinion he had formed of the internal order and discipline of that corps, and he trusts that the regularity and zeal of the men destined for the 73d and 74th regiment will be such as to maintain the high reputation they have so deservedly acquired.

Signed, J. ROBERTSON,
Dep. Adj. General.

Head-quarters, Choultry-plain, Oct. 16, 1797.

If any thing could alleviate the regrets which a commanding officer must naturally experience at parting from a regiment receiving such praises as these public documents convey, it was the assurance that it deserved them, and a consciousness, which (however modest he might be) Colonel Baird could not fail to feel, that he himself had mainly contributed to bring the corps to that state of discipline and good order, which had elicited the commendations it obtained. Ac-

cording to the instructions above quoted, the skeleton of the regiment embarked on Tuesday, the 17th of October 1797, on board an East Indiaman, for the Cape of Good Hope.

CHAPTER X.

REAL CAUSES OF COLONEL BAIRD'S REMOVAL FROM INDIA—HIS CONSCIENTIOUS FEELINGS UPON THE POINT—INJUSTICE OF THE TREATMENT HE RECEIVED—ARRIVES AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE—SENT FOR BY LORD MACARTNEY THE GOVERNOR—OFFERED A COMMAND THERE, WITH THE RANK OF BRIGADIER-GENERAL—EXPLANATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS—HE ACCEPTS IT, AND TAKES CHARGE OF A BRIGADE—COLONEL MIDDLEMORE'S REPORT OF THEIR CONDITION AND IMPROVEMENT—FRENCH POLICY WITH REGARD TO INDIA—TIPPOO SENDS AMBASADORS TO MAURITIUS—PERILOUS SITUATION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AT MADRAS—ARRIVAL OF LORD MORNINGTON AT THE CAPE—MEETS LORD HOBART—CONVERSATIONS WITH GENERAL BAIRD ON THE STATE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN THE EAST—ORDERS FROM THE COURT OF DIRECTORS CONCERNING TANJORE—BAIRD'S ANXIETY TO KNOW THEIR CHARACTER—LORD MORNINGTON DECLINES COMMUNICATING THEM—SUBSEQUENT CONDUCT OF THE HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

THE regret which Colonel Baird so deeply felt in leaving India, at this period, arose not only from a repugnance to quit his noble regiment, but from seeing it dispersed and scattered, while in point of fact it had not been so long from Europe as several others; and what made the case even still stronger, was the circumstance of drafting the men of the 71st principally into the 73rd,

the regiment of the longest standing in India, except the 71st itself; and from which it would have been just as proper to draft men into other regiments which had arrived many years after it. In fact, it was upon military feeling alone, that his disinclination to return to England was founded, because upon every other account he was anxious to be removed.

By his conscientious partizanship in the cause of the Rajah, and by the earnestness with which he had espoused the cause of that unhappy prince, he had made an implacable enemy of Lord Hobart and the Madras government; for, in consequence of Colonel Baird's letter on the subject, to Calcutta, having been much spoken of, Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth, called for the official correspondence which had occurred respecting Tanjore; and it is clear that Sir John's subsequent reprobation of the conduct which had been observed towards the Rajah, was, as has been already suggested, the real cause of the removal of Colonel Baird, by Lord Hobart, who had encouraged if not originated all the measures of the resident.*

* Sir John Shore, eldest son of John Shore, Esq., of Melton, in Suffolk, was born in 1751, and early in life proceeded to India, as a writer. He rose progressively in the service, until in 1792, he succeeded Lord Cornwallis, as Governor-General, in which year he was created a baronet, and on the 7th of November 1797, he was created an Irish peer, by the title of Baron Teignmouth. His lordship married, in 1786, Charlotte,

It appears also that this was not the only mark of displeasure which had been manifested by the Madras government towards Colonel Baird; for about the time of which we are now speaking, it had been resolved to undertake an expedition against Manilla, the preparations for which had proceeded so far that the first division of the fleet, with part of the troops, had actually sailed for Prince of Wales's Island, where the whole force was to assemble, when an overland despatch, announcing that the Emperor had made peace with France, caused the undertaking to be abandoned. This expedition was to have been commanded by Sir James Craig; and Colonel Baird, always eager for service, concluded, that from the acknowledged and declared efficiency of the 71st, his regiment would have been amongst those to be employed in this enterprize; but the same influence prevailed against him, and the 12th, under Colonel Harvey Aston, and the 33rd, under Colonel the Honourable Arthur Wellesley, (the present Duke of Wellington,) were selected for the purpose, although neither of those regiments were thoroughly formed, but were at that time in every respect inferior in the essen-

only daughter of James Cornish, Esq., of Teignmouth, by whom he has three sons and four daughters.

His lordship has published the Life and Works of Sir William Jones, and a variety of tracts and pamphlets with reference to the propagation of Christianity in India, and to the proceedings of the African Institution.