

tials for active service to the 71st, which, besides its own merits, had the advantage of a strong recommendation from General Clarke, whose opinion we have already recorded in his general order from Wallajahbad.\*

All these things combined to harass Colonel Baird severely. He felt himself marked for injustice and persecution, and as he himself says, in one of his letters, written about this period, "I have often thought of returning to Europe, but at such a time, how is it possible to absent myself from my post."†

With respect to the order for drafting the regiment, Colonel Baird had been given to understand that such a measure was decided upon so early as the latter end of August; but he still entertained hopes that the active preparations of the enemy would at all events delay, if not supersede it altogether. The effect it produced upon him when it actually arrived, we have seen, and

\* Colonel Harvey Aston, who was for a long period a prominent member of fashionable society in England, was subsequently killed in a duel in India.

† It appeared highly probable just then, that war would almost immediately be declared by Tippoo, who had collected a very large army, and seventy pieces of artillery, in the neighbourhood of Seringapatam. Colonel Baird, in a letter to General Gordon, dated August 29, 1797, from Wallajahbad, mentions that fact, and adds, "it is reported that he expects to be supported from France." How completely these reports were eventually confirmed, our record of subsequent events will best shew.

a reference to the expression of his personal feelings, contained in his private letters, completely proves that that effect was excited entirely by an affection for the corps which he had so long served with, and commanded.

Colonel Baird, with the skeleton of his regiment, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, in December 1797, a day made memorable in that colony by the execution of several sailors, who had been the ringleaders in a mutiny which had broken out on that station, in the fleet under the command of Admiral Pringle, and which had just been suppressed.

As Colonel Baird and his fellow passengers rounded into Table Bay, the yellow flag of death flying on board the men-of-war at anchor, told from afar that the dreadful work of retribution was yet in progress. It is curious to observe the wide spread of those detestable principles, which, in the earlier part of the same year had overthrown the discipline of our sailors at home, and excited that formidable naval revolt at the Nore, which, luckily for the country, was terminated by the same awful results as those which we have just stated to have occurred in Africa.

As soon as Colonel Baird landed, he proceeded to the government-house, to pay his respects to the governor, Lord Macartney, not merely as a matter of ceremony, but because he had been well known to him in India. His reception was as extraordinary as it was uncourteous

—not by his lordship, but by one of those subordinate ornaments of a government-house, who are not unfrequently in the habit of displaying airs somewhat at variance with the characters and dispositions of their chiefs. An aid-de-camp who received Colonel Baird, not only refused him admittance to the governor, but told him, in a scarcely civil manner, that his excellency could not see him.

The importance of this gentleman must, however, very soon after his abrupt dismissal of the gallant and distinguished soldier, have undergone a painful degradation, when he found himself made the medium (if not by actually carrying, at least by writing, a note to Colonel Baird) of expressing his Excellency's deep regret at not having seen the colonel when he did him the pleasure of calling, and begging that he would do him a similar favour the next morning.

If these indications of Lord Macartney's feelings towards Colonel Baird had any effect upon the miscalculating subordinate who had thought it high and fine to treat him in a very different manner, he and his colleagues must have felt them-

\* Although Colonel Baird did not think it worth while to notice to Lord Macartney the ill-breeding of this member of his personal staff, he never forgot it; and he has been heard to say that this officer's behaviour taught him to keep what he called "a sharp look-out" after his own aids-de-camp when he himself was called to high commands, so that no officer who came to him, should meet with the same sort of reception as that with which he was greeted upon this occasion.

selves in a somewhat difficult position when they learnt that Lord Macartney's earnest desire to see Colonel Baird the next morning, arose from his anxiety to make a proposal to him, of no less importance than that of sending the skeleton of the 71st home, and retaining the colonel himself at the Cape, with the rank and command of brigadier-general.

This flattering offer Colonel Baird hesitated at the moment to accept. He begged Lord Macartney to allow him four-and-twenty hours to consider whether he could with propriety, and without injury to the service, avail himself of it. His request was immediately granted, and as soon as their interview was over, he proceeded to find General Dundas, the commander of the forces, who was an old and esteemed friend of his: but, anxious as he was to see that officer before he gave his definitive answer to Lord Macartney, he was foiled in his hopes, for the general had gone into the country, and was not expected to return until after the hour appointed for Col. Baird's announcement of his determination to the Governor.

Finding this to be the case, and having satisfied himself as to the propriety of accepting the command offered him, he returned to Lord Macartney, and told him that for himself, he should be happy to meet his Excellency's wishes, and remain on the Cape staff: but that his motive in requesting the delay of four-and-twenty hours was, that he might have the opportunity of consulting General

Dundas, and ascertaining whether his stay there would be equally consonant with the general's views and wishes.

Lord Macartney, who in a moment saw that this caution and delicacy on Colonel Baird's part arose from his friendship for Dundas, and from a recollection of a serious misunderstanding which had arisen in India between his lordship and the king's officers at Madras, put an end to all his apprehensions lest the appointment might have been proposed to him in consequence of the existence of some unpleasant feeling between the governor and the general, by telling him that he had himself consulted the general on the point, that he was equally anxious with himself for his stay at the Cape, that he, Lord Macartney, had full power to appoint him to the staff, and, added his lordship, "had I known as much of you military gentlemen, when I was in India, as I have learned since, we never should have had any difference; for I should have put the general between myself and the army, as I have done in the present instance."

Treated in this liberal and candid manner, and encouraged by the approbation of his friend, Colonel Baird no longer resisted the wish of the governor, and his name appeared the same day in general orders as brigadier-general, and president of a court martial, to assemble for the trial of Lieut.-Colonel Robinson, of the 86th, on charges of disrespectful conduct towards General Dundas.

The circumstances which gave rise to this trial, were but the prelude to future scenes of insubordination, and Brigadier-General Baird had been at the Cape but a very short time before he discovered all the officers in command of regiments were violently opposed to the general: opposed in so serious a degree as to render the appearance of military affairs in the colony any thing but agreeable or satisfactory. To Baird, who had been for many years the personal friend of Dundas, this was particularly painful; but the course he pursued was at once so active and so judicious, and its effect so striking, that we shall avail ourselves of a communication from Colonel Middlemore, now inspecting field officer at Cork, then a captain of the 86th, and an eye-witness of what he so vividly describes, to give the reader a just idea of its complete success.

“General Baird,” says Colonel Middlemore, “soon after his arrival at the Cape, was appointed to the command of a brigade, composed of the 86th and the Scotch brigade, each 1000 strong, and both remarkably fine bodies of men. This brigade he employed himself in drilling and completing on the new (Dundas’s) system.”

“These young regiments,” continues the colonel, “required a master’s hand to perfect them in discipline: and we (the 86th) had the good fortune to form part of the brigade.

“By some mischance we happened to labour under the ban of an ill name, and it must be ad-

mitted, that we felt somewhat uneasy, not to say indignant, under the constant animadversions of our superior ; but the very idea of becoming one of Brigadier-General Baird's regiments, roused us into zeal and energy. His open, manly, kind manner, soon won our hearts ; and could you have seen a fine body of men, a thousand strong, leveling before them, at his command, a whole wood, to form a field for exercise, you might have judged the effect of a stimulus given to exertion, by the voice of authority, when mingled with encouragement and approbation.

“ We were placed in a perfect wilderness, and until *he* taught us first to laugh at difficulties, and then to overcome them, had despaired of ever having ground to work upon ; but he instructed us how to use, and yet husband, our strength, by mingling judgment with labour ; and in a week we had changed the whole face of the country, and animated by his constant presence, and his cheering praise, had formed a regular and excellent parade, where a few days before was a forest, which had stood undisturbed for ages.

“ Our intervals of labour, and our time of relief from hard work and hard drills, were occupied in hunting, a diversion to which our chief was extremely partial, and on these occasions we were favoured by invitations to his hospitable table.”\*

\* Sir David Baird was an excellent horseman, and like all his family, exceedingly fond of the sports of the field, hunting especially. An anecdote is related of him in Scotland con-

“ Our review was excellent. The commander-in-chief was delighted to witness our great and rapid improvement. Nor was ours the only regiment that became perfect in order and appearance, under General Baird’s care and abilities. The whole brigade was in the highest state of discipline, and every man that served in it gloried in belonging to General Baird.”

If General Baird, by constant activity, urbanity, and a display of all those qualities which soldiers first admire, and then try to emulate, rendered himself so popular with those immediately under his command, his satisfaction was not a little in-

connected with its pursuit, highly illustrative of that quickness in emergency, and presence of mind in the midst of peril, which so much distinguished him on greater occasions.

He was once following his elder brother, the late Mr. Baird, after the hounds, at full speed, when the horse of the latter, in attempting to take a hedge, fell with his rider into a ditch on the opposite side. Major Baird (as he was at that period) was so close upon them that it was utterly impossible to pull up or avoid them; but seeing his brother’s danger, the only mode of preserving him from farther mischief occurred to him with the rapidity of lightning, and instead of hesitating or endeavouring to avoid the objects before him, he stuck spurs into his horse, and taking the leap which the other had missed, cleared hedge and ditch, together with the horse and its master, who were still lying in it. He used often to joke Mr. Baird, who was also a capital rider, upon this event, who did not above half like to be reminded of it; although the dexterity and anxiety of the major would not be a little enhanced in value in the opinion of a great many sportsmen of the present day, by the recollection that Mr. Baird was the major’s elder brother.



creased by the uniform and unqualified kindness of Lord Macartney, the governor, and the unvarying friendship of General Dundas, the commander-in-chief.

It will be recollected that previous to General Baird's departure from Madras, it was believed there that the French nation had serious intentions of assisting Tippoo with all the means in its power, against the government of British India; a very short time only was wanting to disclose the whole of their designs, the countenancing and furthering of which, appeared extremely natural in Tippoo, whose hatred of the English was increased to an inconceivable ferocity by his defeat at Seringapatam. But besides Tippoo, there were other powers of great consideration, all at liberty to unite themselves with the French against our troops and territories. More than two-thirds of the ancient Mogul empire remained in the possession of princes professing the Hindoo or Mahomedan faith. Of these, the Nizam and the King of Mysore, held the first rank; while in the states which were independent of those, five powerful Mahratta chiefs, professing Brahmanism, maintained unlimited sway.

It had been the policy of the old French government, and a policy which had succeeded admirably well, to engage some of those princes in the French interest, and thus divide the forces which they were able to throw into the scale of either contending power; but the new republican

government, not satisfied with half measures, proposed to unite the whole of these magnates in one great confederation against the English. Spies and agents had been sent out, officers from France had disciplined their troops, and for several years the system had been working with the view of undermining British influence in India, until the opportunity should arrive for exploding it altogether.

The Island of Mauritius was at that time possessed by the French, and afforded a certain shelter for any force proceeding from Europe with a view to operations in the east; thither Tippoo sent ambassadors, who were received with the greatest cordiality and respect by the governor, General Malartic, as well as by the inhabitants, who were at that period inflamed with the wildest and most savage notions of republicanism, and an innate hatred of the English, which our subsequent possession of the island, and kind treatment of its population, have not even up to this time entirely eradicated.

The certainty that the objects of this mission from Tippoo, were connected with his extensive projects against the British possessions, in conjunction with France; the knowledge of the formidable preparations making by the French in the Mediterranean; the peculiar position in which the court of Hyderabad was placed; the avowed threats and suspected intentions of Zemaun Shah; the critical state of our alliances in the

Deccan ; the weakness of the Madras army, owing to the necessary detachments made from it to the recently captured Dutch East India islands, as well as to different parts of the Carnatic, and to Ceylon, all combined, rendered the situation of British India at this particular juncture, perilous in the highest degree.

It was at this period, but before all the suspicions which had been excited were verified, and before the anticipations of such a vast combination were realized, that the Earl of Mornington, now Marquess Wellesley, was appointed governor-general.

In his way out to assume his authority, Lord Mornington touched at the Cape of Good Hope, where he met Lord Hobart, who was on his return to England. Lord Mornington was extremely anxious to obtain from General Baird whatever information he could, with respect to the state of India when he quitted it ; and General Baird, with his characteristic openness, gave all the details of which he was in possession, as well as his views and opinions upon the facts and circumstances connected with them.

Upon the subject of the Tanjore country, (one particularly exciting to General Baird,) Lord Mornington's inquiries were extremely numerous and minute ; and General Baird discovered, in the course of their conversations on this topic, (which appeared to be as interesting to the governor-general as to himself,) that his lordship actually

carried out with him definitive orders relative to its settlement, founded, of course, upon the representations which had been made to Leadenhall-street ; and he was naturally anxious to ascertain the probable fate of the oppressed Rajah, and whether he was to be eventually permitted the quiet enjoyment of his own territories.

Having candidly expressed his own opinion, General Baird, with his accustomed frankness, inquired of Lord Mornington what were really the intentions of the Honourable East India Company upon this important and delicate matter ; but Lord Mornington stated that he felt himself bound not to answer General Baird's questions at that period, the decision of the Court of Directors being only known to himself and the secret committee.

This diplomatic avoidance of giving him any information, General Baird too justly construed into an unfavourable result for the Rajah. What the specific instructions from Leadenhall-street actually were, General Baird never discovered ; but Lord Mornington had not long been in India, before, as usual, a pretext was formed, and the *adopted son* of the Rajah's elder brother was placed on the musnud, although his claims, which had been formally and carefully investigated long before, had been disallowed by Sir Archibald Campbell and all the lawyers at Madras.

But what have legal decisions in India to do with strokes of state policy? or who shall be

of sufficient importance to stop the progress of a resolution of the secret committee of East India directors? Interest declared for the possession of Tanjore—justice upheld the claims of the Rajah, the undoubted heir, the legally acknowledged prince, the actual possessor of the territories. But when the Honourable East India Company discovered that this prince, who had sense enough to resist their usurpation of his rights, until actually frightened by British bayonets (how misused!) into an opposite line of conduct, was, in his present state, not sufficiently subservient to their will, the claims of the *adopted son* were again seriously brought forward and admitted; and an unknown foundling was placed on the Rajah's throne, upon condition that he would cede the revenue of his country to the company, and become their pensioner for the rest of his precarious life.

We have traced this case from its beginning to its end, rather with a view of illustrating the generous firmness of Colonel Baird's attachments and friendships, than of entering into any disquisition upon the policy of the company's government in its conduct and termination.

## CHAPTER XI.

LORD MORNINGTON ARRIVES IN INDIA—COMMENCES OPERATIONS AGAINST TIPPOO—MALARTIC'S PROCLAMATION AT MAURITIUS—IGNORANCE OF TIPPOO OF THE FRENCH FORCE IN THAT ISLAND—HIS BASENESS AND DUPLICITY—COLONEL BAIRD PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF MAJOR-GENERAL—APPOINTED TO THE STAFF IN INDIA—LEAVES THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE—ARRIVES AT MADRAS—MEETS THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—CO-OPERATION OF THE NIZAM—AFFAIR OF HYDERABAD—OVERTHROW OF FRENCH INFLUENCE—VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE DIFFERENT PRESIDENCIES—GENERAL HARRIS ENTERS THE MYSORE—NEGOTIATIONS WITH TIPPOO—GENERAL BAIRD APPOINTED TO THE COMMAND OF A BRIGADE—COLONEL WELLESLEY COMMANDS THE NIZAM'S FORCE—GENERAL BAIRD'S REMONSTRANCE AND LETTER TO GENERAL HARRIS—COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TIPPOO AND GENERAL HARRIS—MARCH TOWARDS SERINGAPATAM—BATTLE OF MALLAVELLY—DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY—ADVANCE BEYOND MALLAVELLY—TIPPOO'S ANXIETY AND WANT OF DECISION.

WHEN Lord Mornington arrived in India, he immediately set about commencing operations against Tippoo, a step to which he was led without hesitation by the general appearance of affairs, which we have already attempted to describe; but amongst all the *authenticated* circumstances which had transpired relative to the views of the sultaun, none produced the effect which was cre-

ated by the arrival in Bengal, in June, 1798, of copies of a proclamation issued at Mauritius by the governor, Malartic, upon the arrival there of the ambassadors from Seringapatam, whose mission we have before noticed.

This proclamation, considering that its contents were the first, and remain almost the only official declaration of Tippoo's real objects and resources, as well as from the effect its receipt in Calcutta produced, may not be considered unworthy of a place here,

LIBERTY!—EQUALITY!

*The French Republic One and Indivisible.*

PROCLAMATION,

By Anne Joseph Hippolite Malartic, Commander-in-chief and Governor-General of the Isles of France and Reunion, and of all the French establishments eastward of the Cape of Good Hope.

CITIZENS,—Having for several years known your zeal and attachment to the interests and to the glory of the republic, we are very anxious, and we feel it a duty to make you acquainted with the propositions which have been made to us by Tippoo Sultaun, through two ambassadors whom he has despatched to us.

This prince has written particular letters to the colonial assembly, to all the generals employed under the government, and has addressed us a packet for the executive directory.

1. He desires to form an offensive and defensive alliance with the French, and proposes to maintain at his charge, as long as the war shall last in India, the troops that may be sent to him.

2. He promises to furnish every necessary for carrying on

the war, wine and brandy excepted, with which he is wholly unprovided.

3. He declares that he has made every preparation to receive the succours which may be sent to him, and that on the arrival of the troops the commanders and officers will find every thing necessary for making a war to which Europeans are but little accustomed.

4. In a word, he only waits the moment when the French shall come to his assistance, to declare war against the English, whom he ardently desires to expel from India.

As it is impossible for us to reduce the number of soldiers of the 107th and 108th regiments, and of the regular guard of Port Fraternité, on account of the succours which we have furnished to our allies, the Dutch, we invite the citizens who may be disposed to enter as volunteers, to enrol themselves in their respective municipalities, and to serve under the banner of Tippoo.

This prince also desires to be assisted by the free citizens of colour; we therefore invite all such who are willing to serve under his flag, to enrol themselves. We can assure all the citizens who shall enrol themselves, that Tippoo will allow them an advantageous rate of pay, the terms of which will be fixed with two ambassadors, who will further engage, in the name of their sovereign, that all Frenchmen who shall enter into his armies, shall never be detained after they have expressed a wish to return to their own country.

Done at Port North-West, the 30th of January, 1798.

(Signed)

MALARTIC.

There are some circumstances connected with this proclamation which are worth noticing, in order to exhibit the extraordinary mixture of intellect and ignorance, bravery and treachery, which existed in the mind and character of Tippoo.



As a specimen of his ignorance, take for example, that his final direction to his ambassadors to Mauritius, was to bring back with them 30,000 cavalry, and 40,000 infantry, with 100 guns and mortars, from that island, the troops in which, never at any time exceeded 1500 or 2000 men, and did not, when General Decaen made his own terms of surrender to General Abercrombie, at the head of an army of 13,000 men, in the year 1810, possess a greater force (marines included) than about 900.

As a proof of his baseness and duplicity, take his letter to Lord Mornington, dated 25th December, 1798, explaining the nature of this very negotiation. He says, "In this Sircar, (the gift of God) there is a mercantile tribe, who employ themselves in trading by sea and land. Their agents purchased a two-masted vessel, and having loaded her with rice, departed with a view to traffic. It happened that she went to Mauritius, whence forty persons, French, and of a dark colour, of whom ten or twelve were artificers, and the rest servants, paying the hire of the ship, came here in search of employment; such as chose to take service were entertained, and the remainder departed beyond the confines of this Sircar (the gift of God); and the French, who are full of vice and deceit, have, perhaps, taken advantage of the departure of this ship, and put about reports, with a view to ruffle the minds of both Sircars."

But a previous letter, dated 20th of November, is, if possible, more declaratory of the attributes of his character, than this; it is as follows:—

“ It has lately come to my ears, that in consequence of the talk of interested persons, military preparations are on foot. Report is equally subject to the likelihood of being true or false. I have the fullest confidence, that the present is without foundation. By the favour of God, the conditions or obligations of peace established between us, have obtained the utmost degree of strength and firmness; under the circumstances of their having been firmly observed and adhered to, of the daily increasing union and friendship, and of the constant intercourse of correspondence, the report cannot be possibly entitled to credit. But the promulgation of such reports. My friendly pen writes this. I hope your lordship will be pleased to gratify me by writing of it. From a desire to maintain the obligations of treaty and engagement, I have no other intention or thought, than to give increase to friendship; and my friendly heart is, to the last degree, bent on endeavours to confirm and strengthen the foundations of harmony and union.

“ Let your lordship continue to gratify me with gladdening letters, notifying your welfare.”

Lord Mornington, who received these professions with a confidence regulated by information obtained from other quarters, never doubted the course to be pursued, and the absolute necessity of striking a great blow before Tippoo could receive any available assistance from the French, and while he was labouring under disappointment, created by the weakness of the reinforce-

ments which they had as yet been able to afford him, and under anxiety excited with respect to those which were to follow.\*

It is a remarkable coincidence, that at this period the English government were employed in framing instructions for the administration of affairs in India, (rendered necessary by the presence of a French force in the Mediterranean, and by Malartic's proclamation at Mauritius,) and that Lord Mornington having devoted his mind to the same subject, so completely anticipated those instructions, that upon a comparison of the two papers, there does not appear the most minute variation between the orders of the ministry at home, and his lordship's propositions, previously recorded in council at Calcutta.

While these matters were in progress on the continent of India, a reference to which we have considered essential, in order to keep up the chain of the narrative, (shortly to be rendered interesting to our readers, by the prominent part borne in coming transactions by the distinguished object of our memoir,) H. M. S., Albatross, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, from England, bringing Brigadier-General Baird intelligence of his promotion to the rank of Major-General; accompanied by orders for him to rejoin the army in India, to the staff of

\* At the very time Tippoo wrote the letter from which the last extract is made, he was in actual correspondence with Buonaparte, who was at Cairo.

which he had been appointed, and to take with him the Scotch brigade, and the 86th regiment, and the men of the 28th dragoons, who were to be drafted into the different dragoon regiments already in India.

With his usual promptitude, General Baird obeyed these instructions, and embarked as speedily as possible on board *H. M. S., Sceptre*, for Madras, where he arrived in January, 1799. There he found the governor-general, who had come thither from Calcutta, for the purpose of collecting and forming the army, which he had determined should take the field against Tippoo, the hollowness of whose professions, and the idleness of whose delays, in coming to terms, had become too evident to admit of further doubt or qualification. Indeed, if the intentions of Lord Mornington could have been earlier carried into effect, they would not have been so long delayed; but he had been informed, that from the dispersed state of our military forces on the Coromandel coast, it would occupy a much greater space of time than he had previously conceived necessary, to assemble a body of troops equal to any offensive movements against the enemy; and thence arose the postponement of the execution of his design.

At Bombay, the governor-general's orders were carried into effect with the greatest alacrity; but the difficulty of mustering the Carnatic army, combined to force him into abandoning his first

intention of taking the field immediately, and therefore his lordship applied himself to the arrangement of such a system as, while it would restore to the Madras government the power of repelling any hostilities on the part of the sultaun, might enable his lordship to demand a just indemnification for the expences which Tippoo's unjust violation of faith had occasioned, and an available security against the consequences of his coalition with the French. While, therefore, the armies were gradually collecting on the Malabar and Coromandel coasts, his lordship devoted his attention to the improvement of the defensive alliance, which had been formed with the Nizam and the Peishwah, under several treaties, so as to keep in check the insatiable ambition of their common enemy ; for, as matters stood, when Lord Mornington first took his extended view of the subject, the English appeared to him to have lost every advantage deriveable from the cessions extorted at the surrender of Seringapatam, by the actual weakness of their allies, and by the establishment of a French force of 14,000 troops, which were now close at hand, for the service of the sultaun, on the very frontier of the Carnatic.

In October, the British succeeded, in co-operation with the Nizam's army, in surrounding the French camp at Hyderabad, and taking advantage of a mutiny, which had broken out among the combined forces, achieved without bloodshed the important object of disarming no fewer than

eleven thousand men. This was a blow of the greatest importance; in fact, the overthrow of the French influence was its almost immediate result, and that too, at the very moment when all the energies of the revolutionized republic were devoted to the spread of conquest and the annihilation of the British power in India, and indeed every where else in the world.\*

But when in addition to this partial, however important success, intelligence was received at Calcutta, on the 31st of the same month, of Lord Nelson's glorious victory of the Nile, the appearance of affairs was totally changed; for as the events at Hyderabad had quieted the uneasiness of the governor-general, with respect to the power of the French near at hand, so the decisive blow struck by our fleet in the Mediterranean, calmed his apprehensions of attack from the French force in Egypt; and accordingly, having assembled what he considered an adequate military force, to maintain his demands, he commenced those negotiations with Tippoo, of which the letters we have already extracted, to exhibit the sultaun's baseness and duplicity, formed part.

It was in the midst of these preparations,

\* The French officers taken in this affair, who were with difficulty preserved from the violence of their own men, were treated with every respect due to their respective ranks, and sent to Bengal in his Majesty's frigate *Bombay*, where they were allowed every indulgence compatible with the security of their persons.

and with a view to accelerate them, that Lord Mornington quitted the usual seat of the supreme government, and proceeded to Madras, where his excellency's presence inspired the merchants and bankers, as well as the civil servants of the presidency, with such zeal and activity, that a large sum of money was raised by way of loan for the public service, so that, aided by the simultaneous exertions of Sir Alured Clark, whom he had left vice-president in council at Calcutta, Lord Mornington, in so short a time that the movement of the army was not delayed for an hour, had raised an additional aid of twenty lacs of rupees, or £240,000 sterling.

Finding it impossible to bring Tippoo to any thing like a serious consideration of the objects proposed to him, General Harris was directed, on the 3d of February, to enter the Mysore country with the army under his command; the same day orders were issued to Lieut.-General Stuart to be in readiness to co-operate from Malabar; and notice was given to Admiral Rainier, as well as to the company's allies, that the governor-general considered the British government to be at war with Tippoo Sultaun.

It is not here necessary to go into a vindication of Lord Mornington's policy, the results of which have been so long and so advantageously known; but it may be right, even now, to say (especially as the praise we are bound to bestow, we are by no means induced universally to afford to all orien-

tal proceedings) that the course adopted in this crisis by the government towards Tippoo, is generally admitted to have been marked by every prudent consideration, and an anxiety for permanent peace; while, on the other hand, the sultaun's bearing towards the English was indicative of a carelessness amounting to insolence, and a studied neglect of communications and appeals, which too clearly proved that he was not likely to be satisfied with the mere enjoyment of the territories he yet possessed, but that his restless ambition sought to recover those which he had previously been compelled to surrender.

At the time of Major-General Baird's arrival at Madras, the army under the command of Lieut.-General Harris, was assembled at Vellore, where Gen. Baird was appointed to the command of the first European brigade, consisting of his majesty's 12th, 74th, and 94th regiments, and the Scotch brigade. On the 11th of February the army moved towards Mysore, and on the 28th encamped at Carimungalum, where, on the 18th of February, it was joined by the Nizam's force, consisting of above 6,000 of the company's troops subsidized by his highness—about an equal number of his own infantry, including a portion of a French corps, (late Peron's,) now commanded by English officers, and a large body of cavalry.

At the head of this force Meer Allum, the Nizam's son, was nominally placed, but the whole body of troops was in fact under the command of



Colonel the Hon. Arthur Wellesley, brother to the governor-general.

The circumstance of placing an officer so much junior in rank to General Baird in a command so considerably superior, occasioned a strong remonstrance on the part of the general, who expressed to General Harris a deep sense of the grievance, considering himself as he did, upon all established principles, entitled to the preference. Accordingly, after consulting several officers of high reputation on the subject, he addressed the following letter, on the 4th of March, (the day the army encamped at Ryacottah,) to the commander-in-chief on the subject:—

DEAR GENERAL,

By a conversation I had with Captain Young this morning, I was happy to learn your private sentiments with regard to myself, and to find, that the reasons which have induced you to appoint a junior officer to a higher command in this army than that which I hold, were such as would have been satisfactory to me, had they been publicly known. I am perfectly sensible that you have the right to select such officers as you may think proper for every service that may occur, without being obliged, or expected, to assign your reasons to any one; and I am the very last who would expect you to act inconsistently with your situation.

It must, however, appear to every one, extraordinary that a major-general, sent out expressly by his Majesty to serve on the staff in India, should remain in command of three battalions, while a lieutenant-colonel, serving in the same army, is placed at the head of seven, or rather thirteen corps.

Meer Allum's request to have the brother of the governor-general in command of the troops under him, is certainly a reason ; but this is only made known to *me* privately, whilst, as the order now stands, I am apparently degraded in the eyes of the army, and of my friends at home. Under these circumstances, I trust to your adopting such measures as to you may appear proper, that the real cause may be made known, why Colonel Wellesley is appointed to a superior command.

I have the honour, &c.

*To General Harris.*

D. BAIRD.

This appeal was most natural, but it produced no result. General Baird's long and distinguished services in India, and his perfect knowledge of the local circumstances of the country to which they were going, where, seven years before, he had commanded a brigade, and of the enemy to whom they were to be opposed, (for his previous service against whom, under Lord Cornwallis, he had received no common share of approbation and applause,) all strengthened his claim, in a military point of view, to the command which had been conferred upon Colonel Wellesley ; more especially as his promotion to the major-generalship was made, and he was sent back to India by the Duke of York, without any application on *his* part, *for the express purpose of serving in this particular campaign.* It should be here distinctly understood, that, although General Baird felt these circumstances deeply, yet his feelings were not of a nature to deteriorate, in the slightest degree,

the high opinion which he always entertained of his more favoured companion in arms.

From Ryacottah, General Harris forwarded a letter addressed to Tippoo, from the governor-general, expressive of his regret at the line of conduct which his highness had thought proper to adopt, assuring him that his desire was still for peace, that nothing but his continual delays and procrastinations had induced the movement of the troops, and that General Harris was fully authorized, even now, to receive any communications that the sultaun might be inclined to make, or any ambassadors whom he might feel disposed to send. The same day General Harris published his lordship's declaration against Tippoo (which was made in the name of the allied powers), and commenced hostilities by sending a detachment, under the command of Major Cuppage, against the hill-forts of Neeldurgun and Anchitty. This force, however, met with no opposition; the forts had been abandoned and dismantled before their approach.

On the 7th March Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver took possession of Oodeadurgum; and another hill-fort called Ruttengheri, was captured, after a slight resistance, by a small detachment under Captain Urton: on the 9th, the whole army, consisting of 30,959 fighting men, exclusive of 6000 of the Nizam's cavalry, were assembled at Kelamungalum, and never was force in India more perfectly equipped or victualled, as the details (which even if we had room for them,

it would be superfluous here to insert) clearly shew. The cavalry was more numerous than any European power had ever brought into the field in India. General Stuart's division on the Malabar coast, was equally efficient; that under Lieutenant-Colonel Brown in the south, and that of Lieutenant-Colonel Read from the Barramaul, were also in the highest order; and the simultaneous appearance of Admiral Rainier's fleet, with two large Indiamen (which at such a distance might, by inexperienced eyes, be mistaken for-line-of battle ships), off Tippoo's coast, added to his embarrassments, as destroying at once all his hopes of succour or reinforcement from the French. The gloom which this combination of circumstances tended to cast over the sultaun's affairs, was rendered more powerfully effective by the prosperous appearance of things on the part of his enemies. The court of Hyderabad, whose policy hitherto had been considered questionable, and whose ardent co-operation had been by many very much doubted, had now in the most unequivocal manner, evinced its readiness and zeal. The Nizam's force was actually in the field, and besides that, a considerable force was expected in aid of the Marhattas from Bombay, and the Paishwash had promised to lend his assistance with a large body of cavalry. At the same time it was known that Tippoo's finances were in no flourishing state, and that his councils were disunited; in short,

it seemed, as it eventually proved, that the sun of his splendour was near its setting.

It would be foreign to our purpose here, to describe in detail each day's march of the army towards Seringapatam ; but it may be necessary to observe, that on the 6th of March, Tippoo crossed his own frontier, and made an attack upon part of the Bombay army, under General Stuart, which, however, proved unsuccessful. Tippoo's defeat in this affair, was decisive, and he retreated rapidly to Periapatam, having lost about 1500 killed and wounded ; the loss of the Bombay army being only 29 killed, 98 wounded, and 16 missing.

To shew, however, that a delusion very similar to that which has been prevalent amongst the French generals and subalterns in later battles, existed in the mind of the sultaun, we beg leave to submit to the reader a memorandum which was found in his own hand-writing, relating to this affair ; nor should we do justice to the extraordinary attributes of his mind, were we not to add, that he was principally incited to the hazardous undertaking, because it rained very hard on a particular day, a circumstance which he has recorded, as being of most auspicious omen.

The autograph memorandum of Tippoo, is as follows :

“On Wednesday, the 30th, or last day of the month Razy, of the year Shadid, 1226 from the birth of Mahommed, corresponding with the 29th

of Ramzan, (when the moon is not visible,) 1213, of the Hegira, or 6th of March, 1799, the victorious army of the sultaun, having left their baggage at Periapatam, and formed themselves into three divisions or detachments, entered the woods of Coorga, by three different roads, where the Christians had taken post, and advancing, gave battle, fighting with firelocks and spears, and the whole army of the infidels was routed, some of the Christians taking to flight."

On the 10th of March, the army under General Harris moved from Kelamungalum by the right; the cavalry in advance, the baggage on the right, and the Nizam's contingent, which had marched by the left, moved parallel at some distance on the right flank of the army—the army reached Callacondapilly, where it remained until the 12th, when it marched and encamped two miles south-east of Jiggeny. It continued moving forward with little or no interruption, and on the 24th, encamped on the west bank of the Madoor, on the same ground which Tippoo's army had occupied for five days. Here it was that General Harris received the first official intelligence of Tippoo's attack upon the Bombay army, which we have just mentioned.

This intelligence was highly important, as it clearly proved that at the very moment the sultaun was expressing a wish to negotiate, he had himself commenced hostilities upon the English, and that too, without waiting a sufficient time to

allow of his receiving an answer to the last letter he had addressed to the governor-general.

On the 25th, the army again moved, and on the 26th, encamped at Mallavelly; here the enemy's advanced posts were visible upon a distant ridge of hills, but they by degrees disappeared. At daybreak of the 27th, the army marched from its left flank; the Nizam's force moving in a parallel line on the left, to cover the baggage, or ready to act as circumstances might render it necessary for it to do so.

A division under Major-General Floyd, consisting of five regiments of cavalry, formed the advance; but a large body of the sultaun's horse being discovered on the right flank, with a considerable force of infantry resting on the heights beyond Mallavelly, it halted at the distance of a mile from the village. At this period, the enemy were employed in moving several guns to the right of their line, towards a rising ground, whence it appeared to be their intention to open a fire upon the troops, as they crossed the valley. It was determined to foil this attempt, by immediately attacking them.

Colonel Wellesley's division was ordered to attack their right flank, supported by General Floyd's five cavalry regiments, and the right wing of the army, under Major-General Bridges, was to march with the picquets under Colonel Sherbrook, straight through the village of Mallavelly to the centre of the enemy's line, while the left wing

and the rear-guard were to remain in Mallavelly, under the command of Major-General Popham.

Upon the first movement of the Nizam's troops under Colonel Wellesley, the enemy withdrew his guns to a second rising ground, farther removed, and here his infantry took post. General Harris, who had led the piquets and the right wing himself, was at Mallavelly, and so convinced was he that the enemy had actually begun to retire, that he ordered Colonel Richardson, the quarter-master-general, to mark out the ground for the day's encampment; but the moment Colonel Richardson proceeded to execute this duty, supported by the piquets, the king's 25th light dragoons, and the 2nd regiment of company's cavalry, twelve or fourteen of the enemy's guns opened upon them at the distance (General Beatson says) of two thousand yards: they soon got the range and did some execution; but when Colonel Richardson had completed his duty, Colonel Sherbrook pushed forward and drove the enemy out of a village in front of their left, in which Colonel Cotton, with the 25th dragoons, maintained his position, and kept in check a body of the enemy's cavalry, which were on our right flank.

The action here, in reality, commenced, for the piquets being so much in advance, although posted with great judgment, by Colonel Sherbrook, and the cannonade continuing, orders were given for the 5th brigade to advance and



form upon Sherbrook's left, while Baird advanced with the first or European brigade, to form on the left of the 5th, and the 3d on that of the 1st, and Wellesley with the Nizam's force, advanced *en echelon* of battalions, supported by Floyd with the three remaining regiments of cavalry.

The line thus formed moved slowly, so that the whole might act together. Such field pieces as could be brought up answered the enemy's cannonade, and the action became general along the whole front, but Wellesley and Floyd bore the brunt of it.

It was at this period that General Baird observed a body of the enemy's cavalry coming rapidly down on the left of his brigade, upon which he ordered three companies of the 74th to advance, give fire, and fall back—but it is no easy task to moderate the courage of British troops when once elated, and instead of obeying these orders, the whole regiment fired, cheered, and rushed forward to the charge.

At the instant this occurred, General Baird perceived a second mass of cavalry, coming at the charge from the right—the danger of the 74th was imminent, but Baird was in an instant resolved, and galloping into the front (although by so doing he exposed himself to the fire of both parties), he succeeded in restoring order and compelling the men to halt and form, while a steady and well directed fire from the gallant 12th, and the Scotch brigade, on his right, checked the attack of Tip-

poo's horse: such however was the intrepidity of the sultaun's troops, that many of them succeeded in penetrating the intervals in the British line, and passing so far beyond it, as to fall in with General Harris and his staff, with some of the officers of which, they even exchanged pistol-shots. It is scarcely necessary to add that to these adventurous men there was "no return," and that they all paid the forfeit of their temerity with their lives.

A body of 2,000 men moved forward in the best order towards Colonel Wellesley's regiment, the 33d, which reserved its fire, and received that of the enemy at a distance of about sixty yards, when it rapidly advanced upon the approaching column, which instantly gave way; this advance being seconded by General Floyd, who made a rapid charge with his cavalry, completed the disorder, and the enemy retreated before the whole of our line, which immediately moved forward. The retreat was continued until the enemy was beyond the reach of guns, when General Harris considering that no serious advantage was derivable from further present pursuit, ordered the troops to return to camp at Mallavelly. The loss of the enemy in this engagement amounted to 1,000 killed and wounded, but the moral effect produced upon the mind of Tippoo by so decided a defeat of a chosen body of his troops, was, even, of greater importance than any immediate result of the action. He became unsettled

and anxious, in a degree which he had never evinced before, and, as will be perceived by the variations of his designs and movements in the subsequent part of the campaign previous to the siege, doubtful upon the most important points of his conduct.\*

On the 28th, the day following the battle, the army quitted Mallavelly, and took up a position four miles to the south-west of it, it being General Harris's intention to cross the Cauvery at Sosilay, a determination which it was quite certain the enemy did not anticipate.

\* The loss of the allied forces in this brilliant affair was very trifling: six Europeans killed, and thirty-four wounded—one native killed, sixteen wounded, and six missing—twelve horses killed, thirty-three wounded, and three missing.—*Beatson*.

## CHAPTER XII.

MARCH TO SOSILAY—DESCRIPTION OF THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY—ALARM OF THE INHABITANTS—PASSAGE OF SOSILAY—PASSAGE OF THE CAUVERY—RETROGRADE MOVEMENTS OF TIPPOO—AFFAIR OF THE SULTAUNPETTAH TOPE—GENERAL BAIRD'S RETURN—LIEUTENANT LAMBTON AND THE STARS—SECOND ATTACK UNDER COLONEL WELLESLEY WITH THE 33D, AND COLONEL SHAW WITH THE 12TH—COLONEL WELLESLEY RETURNS IN THE NIGHT TO CAMP—A THIRD ATTACK ORDERED UNDER THE COMMAND OF COLONEL WELLESLEY—HIS ABSENCE FROM PARADE TO TAKE THE COMMAND—GENERAL BAIRD DIRECTED TO ASSUME IT—HIS GENEROUS CONDUCT—COLONEL WELLESLEY ARRIVES AND TAKES THE COMMAND—EXPLANATION OF THE CAUSES OF HIS ABSENCE—CAPTAIN MACKENZIE'S STATEMENT—PARTIALITY OF GENERAL BEATSON—GENERAL HARRIS'S ARMY TAKES UP ITS FINAL POSITION—TIPPOO OPENS FRESH NEGOCIATIONS—CURIOUS CORRESPONDENCE—DEMANDS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY—FINAL CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOCIATIONS.

THE country leading to the ford at Sosilay having been reconnoitred, and the reconnoitring force, consisting of about 300 men, having returned in the night, with a favourable report, the army was put in motion at day-break, on the 29th.

The country which the troops had just entered was fertile and open, and the beauties of nature

appeared yet uninjured by the devastating hand of war. The villages, although the inhabitants had fled, were full of forage, and in the open fields numerous stacks still remained untouched; but as the troops approached Sosilay, they discovered thousands of the former tenants of these peaceful plains huddled in clusters under the walls of the fort. They had deposited their flocks and herds, amounting in number to not less than twelve or fifteen thousand head of cattle, besides abundance of sheep and goats, in the dry ditch which surrounded the place. For the protection of their property they had built themselves temporary huts, and the first object of the British officers was to conciliate them, to overcome their fears and apprehensions, and induce them to remain on the spot where the actual presence of so large a stock of provisions enabled the army to take up its ground before Seringapatam with all the advantage of a well-supplied commissariat.

From intelligence received in the English camp, it was ascertained that the last movement of the English troops had been wholly unexpected on the part of Tippoo, who was so firmly convinced that they would advance by Arakery, that he had not only neglected taking any measures for checking or harassing them on their march, but had despatched the main body of his army to Arakery on the morning of the 30th, for the purpose of giving them battle.

The line, however, taken by General Harris

was in every respect the most advantageous ; for, besides the good which naturally arose from gaining Sosilay and all the *materiel* which it afforded, the possession of it not only facilitated the communication with the Bombay army, but enabled General Harris to obtain supplies from the stores which had been providently prepared in the Coorga country, while at the same time it gave him the power of ensuring the approach of the convoys from the Barramaul and the southern districts.

At two o'clock the tents were struck, and the army, except one battalion left to cover the rear and give protection to the people at Sosilay, crossed the Cauvery. This river, the name of which is already familiar to the reader, is a fine clear stream with a sandy botton, and, at the ford, three hundred yards wide and about three feet deep.

On the 31st, when the troops halted, it was ascertained that Tippoo had, with his cavalry, re-crossed to the south side of the river, and that all his guns and infantry had gone to Seringapatam.

The following day the army had arrived within thirteen miles of Seringapatam. On the 2d of April they marched by the left; but owing to some negligence on the part of the Nizam's cavalry, a considerable delay took place, and the army encamped for the night only three miles in advance of their position on the 1st.

This day Tippoo in person reconnoitred the enemy's forces from a hill, and his cavalry continued in front of it during the whole of the day, at the close of which, the British army encamped within five miles of Seringapatam. From this position the island and city of Seringapatam were distinctly visible, and from the appearances which presented themselves, it was evident that the sultaun had anticipated an attack from the eastward, and had regulated his proceedings and preparations accordingly.

On the 3d and 4th the army marched by the left, along the high grounds about four miles from Seringapatam; and of this march Tippoo on the latter day was an eye-witness. What he then saw, probably had the effect of disconcerting his previous arrangements, and making alterations in his plans of defence; for when he returned from reconnoitring on the 2d, it was ascertained that he had formed the intention of opposing the march, of which he was now a peaceable spectator, by cannonading the enemy *from the very ground over which they were actually passing*; and had even gone so far in his proceedings towards this operation, as to send, in addition to his cavalry, seventeen or eighteen thousand infantry, and twenty guns, across the river. It was clear, whencesoever this indecision and change of measures had arisen, that his plans were totally altered; for he had taken up a position under the east and south faces of the fort of Seringapatam, and,

having destroyed and abandoned all the pettahs on the eastern part of the island, had determined upon a defence likely to be available if the enemy commenced a similar course of attack to that which they had adopted in the last siege.

It was on that day that a body of troops and rocket-men assembled in considerable force in front of the line under cover of a betel tope,\* called the Sultaunpettah Tope. General Baird was directed, with part of his brigade, to dislodge them. He marched at eleven o'clock at night, and after scouring the tope in all directions, (at no time a work of easy operation, on account of ditches five or six feet deep by which it is intersected for the purpose of watering the betel plants, and rendered infinitely more difficult by the darkness,) he discovered that the enemy had already quitted their post. Their retreat rendered General Baird's further stay in the tope unnecessary, and he accordingly prepared to return to the camp, and an officer, who had been attached to his force as a guide, confidently undertook to lead the way.

At that period, Lieutenant Lambton of the 33rd regiment, (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Lambton, whose scientific labours have made his name so familiar to the learned of all countries,)

\* A tope is a small wood or thicket. Betel, is the *piper betel* of Linnæus, and an article of universal consumption amongst the natives of India.



who was on General Baird's staff, came up to him, and assured him that the troops were moving in an opposite direction to that which was intended, and were in fact marching directly towards the enemy. The guide was again appealed to, and was confident as before, although Lieutenant Lambton supported his opinion by the fact, that as the night was clear, he had convinced himself by watching the stars, that instead of proceeding in a southerly direction, which it was necessary to do, to regain head-quarters, they were travelling due north.

In this dilemma, General Baird took a compass from his pocket, and putting a fire-fly upon the glass, ascertained beyond a doubt that Lieutenant Lambton was right, or as he used humourously to observe, that the "stars were correct," and immediately the troops were faced about; but owing to the detour which they had made, they fell in with one of the enemy's piquets, which they surprised, and having made prisoners of several of the men composing it, and seized their horses, they returned to camp, whence next morning the army was to march, to take up its ground before Seringapatam.

The next day, however, the enemy again possessed themselves of the Sultaunpettah Tope, as well as of some other neighbouring posts, whence it was deemed absolutely necessary to expel them. For this purpose, his Majesty's 33d regiment, commanded by Colonel Wellesley, was directed

to perform a similar duty to that which it would have been General Baird's province to execute the night before, if the enemy had not abandoned their position; and Colonel Shawe, with the 12th regiment, was ordered to take possession of some other posts to the left.

This force marched at sunset—Colonel Shawe got possession of a ruined village, and completely succeeded in his object; but Colonel Wellesley advancing at the head of his regiment, the 33d, into the tope, was instantly attacked, in the darkness of the night, on every side, by a tremendous fire of musquetry and rockets—the men gave way, were dispersed, and retreated in disorder, several were killed, and twelve grenadiers were taken prisoners.

The report of this disaster, ran through the camp like wildfire, and the mortification and distress of Colonel Wellesley himself, are described as having been excessive.

On the following morning, General Harris ordered a detachment to be formed, consisting of the 94th regiment, two battalions of Sepoys, and five guns, under Colonel Wellesley's command, to make a second attempt upon the tope. As the 94th regiment formed part of General Baird's brigade, he accompanied it to the parade, where he found General Harris walking about. Upon the arrival of the 94th, all was in readiness for the march, but Colonel Wellesley did not appear

to take the command. The troops having waited more than an hour under arms for their leader, General Harris became impatient, and ordered General Baird himself to take the command of them. He instantly mounted his horse, and called his aid-de-camp; but a moment afterwards a generous feeling towards Colonel Wellesley, (although he seemed destined to be his rival throughout the campaign,) induced him to pause, and going back to General Harris, he said, "Don't you think, Sir, it would be but fair to give Wellesley an opportunity of retrieving the misfortune of last night?" General Harris listened to the kind and considerate proposal, and shortly afterwards Colonel Wellesley appeared, took the command of the party, and at its head succeeded in getting possession of the tope.

This plain statement, while it successfully vindicates Colonel Wellesley from any imputation but that of ill success in a night attack upon the tope, establishes the magnanimity and honourable feeling of General Baird, in the highest degree; and it ought to be added, that it was with the greatest difficulty, in after times, that General Baird could be brought ever to allude to the circumstance; and it was only a most absurd report connected with Colonel Wellesley's conduct upon the occasion, that induced the general to explain the case which, as it occurred on parade, and in the face of the whole army, is universally

known to have been exactly as it is here described.\*

\* What we have given above, is that which occurred within General Baird's own knowledge. By statements of various persons, and especially that (which is subjoined) of Colonel M'Kenzie, who was with Colonel Wellesley in the tope, his absence from parade is easily accounted for.

"When the light company of the 33d, with which Colonel Wellesley was leading the column, pushed perhaps too eagerly into the tope, they came suddenly on a work of the enemy, who opened a heavy fire upon them: the men, too much in advance, finding themselves not supported, retreated precipitately, leaving Colonel Wellesley and Captain M'Kenzie by themselves. In such a helpless and hopeless situation, the only thing for these two individuals to do, was to endeavour to regain the division; but in attempting it, the darkness of the night was such, that they lost their way, and it was not until they had groped about through strange ground for several hours, that they alone reached the camp.

"When they arrived, Colonel Wellesley proceeded to headquarters, to report what had happened; but finding that General Harris was not yet awake, he threw himself on the table of the dinner tent, and, worn out with fatigue and anxiety of mind, fell asleep."

This is the statement made by the gallant Colonel M'Kenzie, who was Colonel Wellesley's companion in the adventure. We give it as it has been repeated to us, and as we believe it; but we cannot quit the subject without remarking on the invidious partiality of Colonel Beatson (who, before he wrote his history of the war with Tippoo, had been an aid-de-camp of Lord Wellesley's), who, in describing the affair of the discomfiture of Colonel Wellesley's detachment in the tope, says:—"Colonel Wellesley advancing about the same time, to attack the Sul-taunpettah Tope, was, upon entering it, assailed on every side by a hot fire of musquetry and rockets. This circumstance,

The possession of the Sultaumpettah Tope, and the other posts which had now fallen into our hands, enabled General Harris to proceed with the regular approaches of the siege. General Floyd, on the 6th of April, with four regiments of cavalry, and the whole left wing of the army, except Meuron's regiment, marched to Periapatam, to join the Bombay army.

On the 7th the army took up its final position—the enemy were employed in fortifying a ruined powder-mill at the distance of seven hundred and fifty yards from the north-west angle of the fort, and their cavalry marched towards Periapatam.

On the 9th General Harris received the following letter from Tippoo, who appeared considerably moved by the extensive preparations which he saw in progress.

*joined to the extreme darkness of the night, the uncertainty of the enemy's position, and the badness of the ground, induced him to confine his operation to the object of causing a diversion, and to postpone the attack of the enemy's post until a more favourable opportunity should offer."*

Did Colonel Beatson imagine that such a misrepresentation, however it might please Lord Wellesley, would gratify such a man as his brother? or did Colonel Beatson's concealment of the whole affair which transpired on parade the next morning, arise from the fear of exciting Lord Wellesley's displeasure, by exhibiting General Baird's magnanimity and high feeling in their proper colours? The tone given to this portion of Colonel Beatson's narrative is somewhat too courtier-like to be satisfactory to the man who reads for information.

“The governor-general, Lord Mornington Bahander, sent me a letter, the copy of which is enclosed—you will understand it. I have adhered firmly to treaties. What, then, is the meaning of the advance of the English armies, and the occurrence of hostilities? Inform me. What need I say more?”

To this General Harris, on the following day, returned this answer :—

“Your letter, enclosing copies of the governor-general’s letter, has been received. For the advance of the English and allied armies, and for the occurrence of hostilities, I refer you to the several letters of the governor-general, which are sufficiently explanatory of the subject. What need I say more?”

“April 10, 1799.”

The peculiar style of oriental diplomatic literature, will perhaps render this letter and answer worthy the notice of the reader. General Harris, however, continued his operations, and no further communication took place between his lordship and the sultaun until the 20th of the same month, by which time numerous batteries had been erected, several important outposts taken, and the means of defence upon which he had relied turned against himself—again Tippoo made an appeal, and General Harris, on the evening of the 20th, received the subjoined address from him.

“In the letter of Lord Mornington it is written, that the clearing up of matters at issue is proper, and that, therefore, you having been empowered for the purpose, will ap-

point such persons as you judge proper for conducting a conference, and renewing the business of a treaty. You are the well-wisher of both Sircars. In this matter, what is your pleasure? Inform me, that a conference may take place. What can I say more?"

To this General Harris made the following reply, which was despatched from camp by noon of April 22, 1799.

"Your highness's friendly letter has been received, and its contents understood."

"The governor-general, Lord Mornington Bahander, informed you in his letter of the 8th of November, that the British government and the allies wishing to live in peace with all their neighbours, entertaining no projects of ambition, nor any other views in the least incompatible with their respective arrangements, and looking to no other objects than the permanent security and tranquillity of their own dominions and subjects, will always be ready, as *they now are*, to afford you *every demonstration of these pacific dispositions*.

"The governor-general in that letter expressed his desire of communicating to your highness a plan calculated to promote the *mutual* security and welfare of *all*\* parties, and proposed to depute Major Doveton to you for that purpose. You rejected the pacific advances of the governor-general and the allies, and you refused to receive Major Doveton, until the lateness of the season had compelled the governor-general to order the armies to advance. But since you now express a desire to know my pleasure upon the adjustment of the business at issue, and as I hope this request is made with sincerity, and with a regard to your

\* Sic orig.

true interests, I have to inform you in reply, that being *vested* by the governor-general with full powers of treating and concluding a treaty, the demands contained in the enclosed draft of a preliminary treaty, are those alone on which any negotiation can be founded—and I have further to acquaint you, that unless these demands are agreed to and your acquiescence signified to me under your seal and signature within twenty-four hours from the moment of your receiving them, and the hostages and *specie delivered!* within twenty-four hours more, the allies reserve to themselves the right of extending these demands for security, even to the possession of the fort of Seringapatam, till a definitive treaty can be arranged, and its stipulations carried into effect.

“ The four sons demanded of your highness as hostages are, Sultaun Padshaw, Futteh Hyder, Moyer ud Deen, and Abdul Khalick ; the four sirdars, Meer Kummer ud Deen, Meer Mahomed Sadick, Syed Goffar, and Purneah.

“ What need I say more ? ”

It would be rather difficult to answer this *naïve* official question ; but it appears that General Harris *did* say much more in his draft of a treaty, amongst the other conditions of which, were these—that Tippoo was not only instantly to dismiss all the French, and other Europeans in his service or dominions, but to send them to the British camp, in forty-eight hours. That he was to surrender half the dominions of which he was in possession before the war, agreeably to the selection of the allies. He was to relinquish all claims to any thing he had ever disputed with the allies ; to grant a free and uninterrupted communication



with the Malabar coast, and the Carnatic; to release all prisoners, and to pay two crores of sicca rupees, one immediately, in pagodas or gold mohers, or in gold and silver bullion, and the other crore in six months.

These were amongst the conditions which the Honourable East India Company deigned to offer to the same Tippoo whom they had condescended to relieve, by a similar process of treaty, of three crores and thirty lacs of rupees, just seven years before.

During these amicable negotiations the building of batteries went on with undiminished activity, various posts were carried and taken possession of, and by the 1st of May all the preparations were completed.

Tippoo had indeed made another attempt at negotiation on the 28th of April, but General Harris, in reply, told him that he had allowed the time to elapse which he had mentioned for treating, and that now he was prepared to reject any ambassadors who did not come fully prepared to agree to all the conditions of the treaty, and bring the money with them.

With this letter, and its concluding question, "What need I say more?" the negotiations for ever terminated.

## CHAPTER XIII.

THE BREACH REPORTED NEARLY PRACTICABLE—GENERAL BAIRD VOLUNTEERS TO COMMAND THE STORMING PARTY—HIS ANSWER TO COLONEL AGNEW—LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS—DETAIL OF STORMING PARTY—ORDERS—BAIRD LEADS THE PARTY, AND CROSSES THE RIVER—COMPLETE SUCCESS OF THE ASSAULT—DETAILS OF THE BATTLE WITHIN THE FORTRESS—ATTACK OF THE PALACE—THE PRINCES SURRENDER THEMSELVES—REPORT OF TIPPOO'S BEING WOUNDED—SEARCH MADE FOR HIM—DETAIL OF HIS PROCEEDINGS DURING THE DAY—EFFECTS OF DISASTERS UPON HIS MIND—HIS DETERMINED BRAVERY—IS WOUNDED—RECEIVES A SECOND MUSKET SHOT CLOSE TO THE FIRST—TREMENDOUS SLAUGHTER BY THE FIRE OF THE 12TH REGIMENT—PERSONAL RENCONTRE OF THE SULTAUN WITH A SOLDIER—WOUNDS THE SOLDIER, AND IS SHOT DEAD BY HIM—HIS BODY DISCOVERED BY GENERAL BAIRD—REMOVED BY HIS ORDER TO THE PALACE—RECOGNIZED BY HIS PEOPLE—SHAMEFUL MISCONDUCT OF CERTAIN OFFICERS—GENERAL BAIRD ESTABLISHES HIS HEAD-QUARTERS IN THE PALACE—GENERAL ORDER FROM GENERAL HARRIS—PROCLAMATION OF GENERAL BAIRD—ORDER RESTORED—GENERAL BAIRD SUPERSEDED IN THE COMMAND OF SERINGAPATAM BY COLONEL WELLESLEY.

ON the 3d of May the breach was considered nearly practicable, when General Baird, who had gallantly volunteered his services to command the storming party, (it having been determined that