

the storm should take place the following day,) was sitting with General Harris in his tent, discussing some details of service, together with Colonel Agnew, the deputy-adjutant-general, when a sudden explosion took place in one of the batteries which had taken fire. General Baird and Colonel Agnew instantly ran to the front to discover the cause not only of the explosion, but of a heavy firing which was kept up upon those who were attempting to extinguish the flames, in which service many lives were lost, amongst others, that of Captain Henry Cosby, who was killed by a grape-shot after he had descended from the merlons into the battery.

In looking at this affair, General Baird saw in an instant that the whole strength of the enemy's fire came from a number of guns planted all round the breach. This he observed to Colonel Agnew, and also observed that under the circumstances he thought it would be better to give the breach an additional four-and-twenty hours' firing, in order to knock off those defences, and prevent the needless loss of a great number of men in the assault.

Colonel Agnew replied, "If *you* knew our actual situation as well as *I* do, you would not think so. We have but two days' rice in camp for the fighting men, and if we do not succeed to-morrow, we must go."

"I am answered, Sir," said General Baird, "either we succeed to-morrow, or you will never

see me more ;” and he instantly prepared to proceed on the service.\*

The following is a copy of the official letter from Colonel Barry Close, adjutant-general of the army, containing General Baird’s instructions.

*To Major-General Baird.*

SIR,

You have been informed by the commander-in-chief, that he proposes placing you in the command of the troops which are to assault the fort of Seringapatam.

A statement of the troops intended for this service is by his desire enclosed. He wishes the whole to be lodged in the trenches during this night, in the order detailed in the enclosure, from which you will perceive that the European flank companies, from the division under Lieutenant-General Stuart, are to lead the attack.

Of the troops destined for the supporting party in the trenches, the 2d battalion, 5th regiment, is to be ordered from camp—it will be on the general parade at 3 o’clock, and there wait to receive your orders.

The whole of the troops for the assault will be placed under your orders this evening, and you will be pleased to direct the different corps to proceed to the trenches at such hours during the night, and in such succession as will place them in the trenches agreeably to the order required, a little before daybreak.

Colonel Sherbrooke, coming on the duty of a general

\* Seringapatam lies in Lat. 12° 26’ N., 76° 51’ E. In the Mysore country Seringapatam is called Patana ; and in their maps, *Sre. Ranga-Patæna*—under Seringapatam. It is distant from Calcutta 1170 miles, from Bombay 622, and from Madras 200.

officer of the trenches, will be directed to obey such instructions as you may have occasion to send him relative to the movement, or disposition, of the troops in the trenches.

When the whole of the troops intended for the assault have left camp, you will report on the subject to the commander-in-chief, who will then give you his further instructions.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant,

BARRY CLOSE,  
*Adj. Gen. of the Army.*

*Head Quarters, Camp before  
Seringapatam, 3d May, 1799.*

The force appointed for the storming party is detailed in the following official return :—

*Return of the Strength of the different Corps composing the Assault on the Fort of Seringapatam, on the 4th May, 1799.*

	Lt.-Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Ct. Lieuts.	Lieuts.	Ensigns.	Adjutants.	Surgeons.	Assistant Surgeons.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	Subidars.	Jemidars.	Havildars.	Naigs.	Drummers.	Sepoys.	Tindals.	Puckallys.	
<b>HIS MAJESTY'S TROOPS.</b>																					
Flank companies of the 75th regiment.....	1		2		6				1	6	6	200									
.. .. of the 77th ditto.....			2		4		1	1		8	6	200									
.. .. of the Scotch brigade.....			2		4				1	5		119									
.. .. of the regiment de Meuron			1		2	1	1			8	5	102									
His Majesty's 12th regiment.....		2	2	1	11	4			1	25	11	386									
.. .. 33d ditto.....	1	1	3	1	11	3	1	1	2	36	13	413									
.. .. 73d ditto.....		1	2		13	2	1	1	2	28	14	417									
.. .. 74th ditto.....		1	2		13	3	1			24	20	403									
<b>THE HONOURABLE COMPANY'S TROOPS.</b>																					
<b>Artillery</b>																					
Flank companies of the Bombay Europ. regt.					6					8	4	200									
10 do. do. of Bengal Sepoys.....			3		5													900			
8 do. do. of Coast do.....								1					8	8	33	34	16	498			
6 do. do. of Bombay do.....	1		4		4										30	30	6	420		8	
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2494</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1818</b>		<b>20</b>	

N.B. 100 men not included in the above belonging to the artillery.

Natives....1882

Naigs.... 64

Total.....4376  
100

1882

Total....4476

This force, under General Baird's orders, was disposed of as follows :—

Disposition of the troops ordered for the Assault of the Fort of Seringapatam, on the 4th of May 1799, under the command of Major-General Baird.

Left attack, under Lieut.-Col. Dunlop, to consist of six companies of European flankers from the Bombay army.

His Majesty's 12th regiment.

33d ditto.

Ten companies of Bengal Sepoy flankers, under Lieut.-Col. Gardiner.

Fifty artillery-men, with a proportion of gun Lascars, under Capt. Prescott.

To move in column, left in front.

To take possession of the cavalier, close to the breach, and move along the north rampart of the fort ; to proceed till they join the night attack, leaving a battalion company of the 33d regiment in charge of the cavalier already mentioned, close to the breach, and occupying such other parts on the ramparts, by detachments from the 12th and 33d regiments, as shall be thought necessary by Lieut.-Col. Dunlop.

Right attack, under Col. Sherbrook, to consist of four companies of European flankers, from the Scotch brigade, and regiment de Meuron.

His Majesty's 73d regiment.

74th ditto.

Eight companies of Coast Sepoy flankers, under Lieut.-Col. Dalrymple.

Six companies of Bombay Sepoy flankers, under Lieut.-Col. Mignard.

Fifty artillery-men, with a proportion of gun Lascars, under Major Bell.

To move in column, right in front.

To move along the south rampart of the fort, leaving such parties as may be thought necessary by Colonel Sherbrook, from the 73d or 74th regiments, in charge of such parts of

the ramparts as he may deem it essentially necessary to occupy.

Half of the European, and half of the Native pioneers, to accompany each attack with hatchets, the European pioneers to carry the scaling ladders, assisted by forty men from the battalion companies of each of the leading regiments; the native pioneers to carry a proportion of fascines.

If the road across the river and the breach shall be deemed sufficiently broad, the two attacks to move out to the assault at the same moment; on coming to the top of the breach they are to wheel to the right and left, so as to get on the face they are ordered to move on, but if the road and breach are too narrow, the left attack is to move out first.

The leading companies of each attack to use the bayonet principally, and not to fire but in cases of absolute necessity.

Each attack to be preceded by a serjeant and twelve volunteers, supported by a subaltern officer and twenty-five men.

The leading flank companies of each attack to be provided with hand-hatchets.

The whole of the troops here detailed were in the trenches before day-break on the 4th, and in passing along, General Baird, as has been already mentioned in a note, recognized a number of his old companions of the 71st, (who were, as the reader will recollect, drafted into other regiments,) and even some of his fellow sufferers in his original captivity at Seringapatam. To these he spoke with his usual kindness and affability, and bade them recollect that they would soon have an opportunity of "paying off old scores." It may easily be imagined that such an appeal from their old commander had its effect.

In the course of the forenoon General Baird

received the following communication from Colonel Close, the adjutant-general.

*To Major-General Baird, commanding the Troops ordered for the Assault of Seringapatam.*

SIR,

The breach being reported practicable, the commander-in-chief desires that the assault may be made this day, at 1 P. M.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

BARRY CLOSE,  
*Adj. Gen. of the Army.*

*Head Quarters, Camp, 4th May, 1799.*

P.S. You are requested to shew this order to Major-General Popham, senior officer in the trenches.

B. C.

It was ten minutes past one o'clock in the afternoon, when General Baird, having completed all his arrangements for his heroic enterprise, stepped out of the trenches, and drawing his sword, exclaimed to the men, in the most gallant and animating manner, "Now, my brave fellows, follow ME, and prove yourselves worthy of the name of British soldiers."

The effect was like magic. In an instant both columns rushed forward, and entered the bed of the river, and being of course immediately perceived by the enemy, were in a few minutes assailed by a tremendous fire of musketry and rockets.

The night before the assault Lieutenant Far-

quhar had crossed the river and placed sticks, indicating the best ford of the Cauvery. Colonels Sherbrook and St. John of course led the flankers of each column. General Baird had intended to lead the left column himself, but observing that the troops, being very severely galled by the enemy's fire, had swerved from the line of marks which had been made to direct their passage over the river, and had got into deep water, (where, although they found themselves protected by the high bank of an old tank, their progress was necessarily retarded,) dashed forward himself by the shortest and most exposed passage.\*

By this intrepid movement he gained the opposite bank just at the moment the head of the first column reached it. He cheered the men by his personal example, and himself rushed onwards close to the forlorn hope, which in spite of the determined opposition of the enemy, made good its lodgment in the breach, in which, in six minutes from the first assault, the British colours were seen proudly floating in the breeze, by the troops, who were eagerly following their noble leaders. The gallantry and rapidity of this attack overcame all obstacles.

In a few minutes more, the breach was crowded with men, who, according to General Baird's

\* An eye-witness has described this scene as most extraordinary. General Baird, he says, went forward with a cool, steady intrepidity, as if "he bore a charmed life," while the shot fell around him in every direction like hail.



orders filed off to the right and left. As the troops pressed forward, the enemy retired, and in a very short space of time, another British flag was hoisted on the north-west bastion.

When General Baird had reached the top of the breach, he discovered, to his inexpressible surprise, a second ditch full of water within the outer wall. The almost insurmountable difficulty of overcoming this unexpected impediment staggered him, and he exclaimed, "Good God! how shall we get over *this*?" Fortunately, however, in leading the troops along the ramparts, he discovered some scaffolding, which had been raised for the use of the workmen who had been repairing the wall, by availing himself of which, he was enabled to surmount that which at first appeared an unconquerable obstacle. Having immediately taken advantage of the opportunity which thus luckily presented itself, he crossed the inner ditch, and proceeded by the ramparts to the other side of the fort, where the two columns were to meet, and enter the body of the town.\*

The attack was so sudden and even unexpected, being made in the broad noon of day, and at the general hour of dinner, that the assailants met with no very considerable resistance. The left

\* General Baird's official report of the storm made to General Harris, will be found in a subsequent page, where, as it was not forwarded to head-quarters until the 6th of May, it is placed for the purpose of coming in chronological order.

column, however, was more vigorously opposed; they proceeded along the north rampart, which they found traversed and well defended. It was there Tippoo placed HIMSELF—he was the last man to quit the traverses, as they were successively taken possession of by the European troops, and was seen firing upon his enemies with his own hand, his attendants loading and handing him the firelocks; being wounded, however, he endeavoured to return with his people through the sally-port into the fort.

It is necessary to observe that part of the 12th regiment, not in strict obedience to orders, instead of proceeding with the rest of the left column along the ramparts, pressed forward into the body of the town, and kept along the inside of the rampart, and found themselves opposite the sally-port, through which the sultaun proposed returning. They instantly halted, and commenced firing from the inside, while the rest of the column were firing from the outside, so that Tippoo was literally placed between both fires; and it is to this accidental variation from the orders given to the 12th, that his death may be attributed, for it was on this very spot, as we shall presently see, that he was found buried under the bodies of hundreds of his faithfully devoted subjects and defenders.

Meanwhile, General Baird, with the right column, having cleared the south rampart, halted at the east cavalier to give the men breathing-

time after the fatigue they had endured under a burning sun, before they entered the town to summon the palace ; and while they were resting, Colonel Close came to General Baird, and told him, that a native officer who accompanied him, assured him that Tippoo had caused the twelve grenadiers of the 33d regiment, whom it will be recollected had been taken prisoners on the night of the 5th of April in the Sultaunpettah Tope, to be murdered.

General Baird desired Colonel Close to be extremely particular in his inquiries touching the truth of his report, which the Mussulmaun persisted in repeating ; and when General Baird marched towards the palace, he told Colonel Wallace, of the 74th, that if the man's story was true, the instant he laid hands on Tippoo, he would deliver him over to the grenadiers of the 33d regiment, to be tried for the murder, in cold blood, of their comrades.

As the troops were now in possession of every part of the ramparts, and it appeared hopeless in the sultaun to make further resistance, General Baird sent forward Major Allan, to offer protection to all persons, Tippoo himself included (for General Baird did not believe the story of the murder of the English soldiers, knowing the mendacity of natives, who may be interested in doing mischief), provided they all surrendered themselves unconditionally ; and this proposition was made, with

the alternative, that if it were not accepted, the palace would be instantly assaulted, and no quarter given.\*

Upon arriving at the palace, Major Allan found Major Shee, with part of the 33rd drawn up opposite to the gate, in the balcony, over or near which, several of the sultaun's family appeared, evidently in a state of great alarm and agitation. In a short time, however, Major Allan, together with Captain Scohey and Captain Hastings Frazer, were admitted into the palace by the killadar, and brought into the presence of two of the younger princes, whom the British officers endeavoured to re-assure by promises of protection; and for the purpose of calming all their personal apprehen-

\* Although General Baird could not bring himself to credit this report, it eventually proved to be true. Captain William Macleod, who conducted what in Indian phraseology is called "the intelligence department of government," subsequently made an official report upon the subject to General Harris.

Eight of those who suffered death were men belonging to the 33d, who had lost their way on the night of the Sultaunpettah Tope affair, a fact ascertained by Colonel Wellesley, who sent some of the officers of the regiment, by whom the body of one of their men was identified, a Peon having undertaken to show where the European prisoners were buried.

These unfortunate captives, it seems, were murdered at night, in parties of three at a time—the mode of killing them was by twisting their heads, while their bodies were held fast, and thus breaking their necks. It seems, therefore, not improbable that much of the desperation of Tippoo, which has been dignified into heroism, arose from the consciousness of what he himself deserved, should he fall into the hands of his enemies.

sions, Major Allan offered to remain with them himself.

Soon after this, General Baird arrived at the gates of the palace, when Major Allan communicated to him what had occurred with regard to the two princes, who both continued most solemnly to declare that they knew nothing of the sultaun, their father, except that he was not in the palace; but as far as they themselves were personally concerned, they were ready to surrender themselves and the palace itself on the promise of protection from the British.

General Baird at this period utterly disbelieved the statement of these youths that the sultaun was not in the palace, and, entering as he did, into the feelings which were quite natural in their state, hesitated to grant terms to the sons, in hopes that they might be excited by the delay to give information of their father's place of concealment; threatening at the same time, if they refused, to search the most private quarters of the palace. but as their repeated denials of any knowledge of the sultaun were persisted in with apparent innocence and simplicity, he resolved at all events to take charge of the princes, and convey them out of the fort before it became dark; and accordingly he gave them into the charge of Major Allan, who having received them with every mark of kindness, and given them every assurance of personal safety, delivered them over to Lieutenant Colonel Agnew and Captain Marriot, who con-

ducted them, under a suitable escort, to General Harris in camp.\*

It still remained a point of the greatest political importance to ascertain the actual fate of Tippoo himself; and General Baird was so fully impressed with the absolute necessity of reducing this question to a positive certainty, that, accompanied by Colonel Close and Major Allan, he proceeded to search the palace, scrupulously avoiding, however, the zenana, over which a sufficient guard had been placed to prevent the sultaun's escape, should he have taken refuge in its sanctuary. The killadar, however, who attended them, betrayed such emotions on being severely questioned, that they no longer entertained any expectation of finding him there, and at length that officer, who seemed anxious as long as possible to conceal the truth, admitted his having heard that the sultaun had been severely wounded in a gateway in the north face of the fort, and that he still lay there; adding that he would conduct them to

\* The following passage from Major Allan's narrative we feel it right to submit to the reader:—"The indignation of General Baird was very justly excited by a report which had reached him soon after he had sent me to the palace, that Tippoo had inhumanly murdered all the Europeans who had fallen into his hands during the siege: this was heightened probably by a momentary recollection of his own sufferings during more than three years' imprisonment in that very place; he was nevertheless sensibly affected by the sight of the princes; and his gallantry in the assault was not more conspicuous than the moderation and humanity which he displayed on this occasion."

the spot, and if found to have deceived them would willingly suffer death.

Upon receiving this information General Baird quitted the palace, accompanied by several officers, and proceeded to the gateway pointed out by the killadar. The details of the result of this search, as collected from the killadar of Seringapatam and some of the sultaun's servants, are so curious and interesting, that, although they are somewhat lengthened by the account of what had previously occurred to Tippoo on the day of his overthrow, we are inclined to submit them to our readers entire.

“ When the sultaun left the palace he was dressed in a light-coloured jacket, wide trowsers of fine flowered chintz, a sash of dark red silky stuff, and a turban with one or two distinguishing ornaments. He wore his sword in a rich belt slung over his right shoulder, and a small cartridge-box hung to another embroidered belt thrown over his left shoulder; his talisman was fastened under the jacket on his right arm, a little below the shoulder. He went out early in the forenoon, as was his custom daily, to one of the cavaliers on the outer rampart of the north face, whence he could observe what was doing on both sides. He remained there till about noon, when he took his usual repast under a pandal. It would appear that he had at that time no suspicion of the assault being so near; for when it was reported to him that our parallels and approaches were unusually

crowded with Europeans, he did not express the least apprehension, nor take any other precaution but desiring the messenger to return to the west face, with orders to Meer Goffar, and the troops on duty near the breach, to keep a strict guard.

“ A few minutes afterwards he was informed that Meer Goffar had been killed by a cannon-shot near the breach ; which intelligence appeared to agitate him greatly. He immediately ordered the troops that were near him under arms, and his personal servants, to load the carbines which they carried for his own use, and hastened along the ramparts towards the breach, accompanied by a select guard and several of his chiefs, till he met a number of his troops flying before the van of the Europeans, who he perceived had already mounted and gained the ramparts. Here he exerted himself to rally the fugitives, and, uniting them with his own guard, encouraged them by his voice and example to make a determined stand. He repeatedly fired on our troops himself ; and one of his servants asserts, that he saw him bring down several Europeans near the top of the breach.

“ Notwithstanding these exertions, when the front of the European flank companies of the left attack approached the spot where the sultaun stood, he found himself almost entirely deserted, and was forced to retire to the traverses of the north ramparts. These he defended, one after another, with the bravest of his men and officers ; and, assisted by the fire of his people on the inner



wall, he several times obliged the front of our troops, who were pushing on with their usual ardour, to make a stand. The loss here would have been much greater on our part, had not the light infantry, and part of the battalion companies of the 12th regiment, crossing the inner ditch, and mounting the rampart, driven the enemy from them, and taken in reverse those who, with the sultaun, were defending the traverses of the outer ramparts.

“ While any of his troops remained with him, the sultaun continued to dispute the ground, until he approached the passage across the ditch to the gate of the inner fort. Here he complained of pain and weakness in one of his legs, in which he had received a bad wound when very young; and, ordering his horse to be brought, he mounted: but seeing the Europeans still advancing on both the ramparts, he made for the gate, followed by his palankeen, and a number of officers, troops, and servants. It was then, probably, his intention either to have entered and shut the gate, in order to attack the small body of our troops which had got into the inner fort, and, if successful in driving them out, to have attempted to maintain it against us, or to endeavour to make his way to the palace, and there make his last stand; but as he was crossing to the gate, by the communication from the outer rampart, he received a musket-ball in the right side, nearly as high as the breast: he, however, still pressed on, till he was stopped,

about half way through the arch of the gateway, by the fire of the 12th light infantry from within, when he received a second ball close to the other. The horse he rode on, being also wounded, sank under him, and his turban fell to the ground. Many of his people fell at the same time, on every side, by musketry, both from within and without the gate.

“The fallen sultaun was immediately raised by some of his adherents,\* and placed in his palan-keen, under the arch, on one side of the gateway, where he lay, or sat, for some minutes, faint and exhausted, till some Europeans entered the gateway. A serjeant, who has survived, relates, that one of the soldiers seized the sultaun’s sword-belt, which was very rich, and attempted to pull it off: that the sultaun, who still held his sword in his hand, made a cut at the soldier with all his remaining strength, and wounded him about the knee; on which he put his piece to his shoulder and shot the sultaun through the temple, when he instantly expired.†

“Not less than three hundred men were killed,

\* “Loyal subjects” would, perhaps, have sounded as well in a conqueror’s account of the death of a sovereign prince.

† One cannot but regret, for the honour of human nature, and even for the sake of England, that the end of such a man as Tippoo (for, let it never be forgotten in this great contest, who were, in fact, the oppressors), that he should have been shot in cold blood by a man who was endeavouring to rob him. Doubtless the feeling that prompted the blow which actually cost him his life, was that of rage at the indignity and contamination he had suffered by the attack of the private soldier. Let us hope the man was a Sepoy.

and numbers wounded under the arch of this gateway, which soon became impassible, excepting over the bodies of the dead and dying.

“About dusk, General Baird, in consequence of information he had received at the palace, came with lights to the gate, accompanied by the late killadar of the fort, and others, to search for the body of the sultaun; and after much labour it was found, and brought from under a heap of slain, to the inside of the gate. The countenance was no ways distorted, but had an expression of stern composure. *His turban, jacket, and sword-belt were gone!* but the body was recognised by some of his people, who were there, to be the sultaun, and an officer who was present, with the leave of General Baird, took from off his right arm the talisman, which contained, sewed up in pieces of fine flowered silk, an amulet of a brittle metallic substance of the colour of silver, and some manuscripts in magic Arabic and Persian characters, the purport of which, had there been any doubt, would have sufficiently ascertained the identity of the sultaun's body. It was placed on his own palankeen, and, by General Baird's orders, conveyed to the court of the palace, where it remained during the night, furnishing a remarkable instance to those who are given to reflection, of the uncertainty of human affairs. He who had left his palace in the morning a powerful imperious sultaun, full of vast ambitious projects, was brought back a lump of clay; his kingdom overthrown, his capital taken, and his palace occupied

by the very man (Major-General Baird), who, about fifteen years before, had been, with other victims of his cruelty and tyranny, released from near four years of rigid confinement in irons, scarce three hundred yards from the spot where the corpse of the sultaun now lay.

“Thus ended the life and the power of Tippoo. It will require an able pen to delineate a character apparently so inconsistent; but he who attempts it must not decide hastily.”\*

After General Baird had discovered the body of the sultaun, and had caused it to be brought to the palace, he despatched officers and parties in every direction, to endeavour to restore order and prevent the plunder and confusion which hardly any efforts could entirely suppress at the first moment of success; although it ought to be

\* In another very interesting account of this scene by Major Allan, a more particular description is given of the personal appearance of the sultaun.

“When Tippoo,” says Major Allan, “was brought from under the gateway, his eyes were open, and the body was so warm that for a few moments Colonel Wellesley and myself were doubtful whether he was not alive—on feeling his heart and pulse, that doubt was removed: he had four wounds, three in the body and one in the temple, the ball having entered a little above the right ear and lodged in the cheek.

“Tippoo was of low stature, corpulent, with high shoulders and a short, thick neck; but his feet and hands were remarkably small—his complexion was rather dark, his eyes large and prominent, with small arched eyebrows, and his nose aquiline—he had an appearance of dignity, or perhaps sternness, in his countenance, which distinguished him above the common order of people.”

stated, to the honour of the victors, that although eight thousand of the enemy's troops fell in the assault, very few of the unarmed inhabitants suffered, and those who did, subsequently proved to have been hit accidentally, a circumstance highly indicative of the admirable discipline of the troops, and the humane exertions of their officers.

The loss of the European and Indian army during the siege, was twenty-two officers killed, and forty-five wounded, one hundred and eighty-one European non-commissioned rank and file killed, six hundred and twenty-two wounded, and twenty-two missing, one hundred and nineteen natives killed, four hundred and twenty wounded, and one hundred missing—of the officers twenty-five were killed and wounded in the assault.

Upon his return to the palace, General Baird took with him the 74th and the 33d regiment, ordered them to pile their arms in one of its magnificent courts, and posted guards for the protection of the zenana, and after the fatigues of the eventful day, laid himself down to rest on a carpet in the verandah ; thus ensuring and enforcing by his presence the protection he had promised to the helpless women and the family of the dead sultaun, who had in the days of his ascendancy inflicted on him the horrors of a long and dismal imprisonment, and that too, as has been observed, within a few paces of the very spot where he then reposed, HIS CONQUEROR!

Several of General Baird's staff, and Colonel Wallace, of the 74th, were, like the general, en-

joying the comfort of rest after their toils ; but their quiet was soon disturbed ; for very shortly after they had lain down, intelligence was brought to them that the town was on fire in several places, and that the followers of the camp, who had come in, were committing all sorts of excesses. General Baird instantly roused himself, gave the necessary orders for checking the irregularity, and then again settled himself to sleep, when a new alarm was raised that the soldiers had gained access to the treasury, and were loading themselves with gold.

Colonel Wallace and his aid-de-camp were immediately despatched to the spot, which proved to be the "expense" treasury, where Tippoo always kept an immense store of money and jewels for present use. This treasury had been pointed out to General Baird, and he had posted a strong guard over it, but a door had been discovered which opened into it from another court of the palace, through which the marauders had entered.

Colonel Wallace, on his arrival, found the place filled with soldiers and (to their shame be it said) officers, loading themselves with gold and jewels. One *gentleman* in particular, when he perceived Colonel Wallace and the aid-de-camp approaching, affected to be highly incensed against the men, and actively employed in preventing the pillage, while at the very moment they saw him filling his own pockets. That individual is now dead, and General Baird never would run the risk of paining

his family by the chance of the story reaching their ears—he knew, but never mentioned his name.

Soon after the dawn of day, one of Tippoo's sons, Abdul Khalick, was brought to General Baird—he had surrendered himself to an officer outside the fort, who had been reconnoitring. He was received by the general with the greatest kindness, who, after a short time had elapsed, inquired of him if he knew any thing of the sultaun, his father. He replied—No—but earnestly begged to be informed if the general did. The general told him that it was thought he had fallen in the assault, and that a body, supposed to be that of his highness, lay in the adjoining apartment.

“That may be easily ascertained,” said the prince; at the same time requesting permission to send for an old man, one of his attendants, in order that he might go and look at the corpse—the permission was granted—the old man went—he returned bathed in tears.

The young prince looked stedfastly at him for an instant, and laying his finger on his lips to impose silence, turned to the general with a calm dignity, and without uttering a syllable, signified by the expression of his countenance that the body was his father's.\*

\* “The remains of the late sultaun were interred in the evening of the same day; the bier was supported by the attendants of the late court, preceded by two companies of English grenadiers, and followed by a similar force. Abdul Khalick followed the corpse on horseback, attended by the killadar and

It was on this day, the 5th, that General Harris issued the following general order from head quarters, and although the insertion of that order just at this point of time may involve us in something like an anachronism, it seems more convenient, with reference to circumstances which closely follow, to give it in this place.

*G. O.—By the Commander-in-chief.*

*Camp at Seringapatam, 5th May, 1799.*

THE commander-in-chief congratulates the gallant army which he has the honour to command on the conquest of yesterday. The effect arising from the attainment of such an acquisition as far exceeds the present limits of detail as the unremitting zeal, labour, and unparalleled valour of the troops, surpass his power of praise. For services so incalculable in their consequences, he must consider the army as well entitled to the applause and gratitude of their country at large.

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other officers on foot. The cauzee chanted some verses from the Koran, which were repeated by the attendants.

“The streets were thronged with the inhabitants, the greater part of whom prostrated themselves before the earthly remains of their late monarch and master. At the entrance of the town, Baug Meer Allum, and the chief of the Nizam’s army, after paying their respects to the prince, fell into the procession; when, having reached Hyder’s mausoleum, the grenadiers formed a street and presented arms. The burial service having been performed, a keerout, or charitable gift of 5,000 rupees, was distributed by the cauzee to the different Facquirs and to the poor who attended the funeral; and, to add to the solemnity of the scene, the evening closed with a most dreadful storm, attended by rain, thunder, and lightning, by which two officers, and some others in the Bombay camp, were killed, and many severely hurt.”—*Beatson’s War with Tippoo.*



While Lieutenant-General Harris sincerely laments the loss sustained in the valuable officers and men who fell in the assault, *he cannot omit* to return his thanks in the warmest terms to Major-General Baird, for the decided and able manner in which he conducted the assault, and the humane measures which he subsequently adopted for preserving order and regularity in the place. He requests that Major-General Baird will communicate to the officers and men who, on that great occasion, acted under his command, the high sense he must entertain of their achievements and merits.

The commander-in-chief requests that Colonel Gent, and the corps of engineers under his orders, will accept his thanks for their unremitting exertions in conducting the duties of that very important department; and his best acknowledgments are due to Major Beatson for the essential assistance given to this branch of the service by the constant exertion of his ability and zeal.

The merits of the artillery corps are so strongly expressed by the effects of their fire, that the commander-in-chief can only desire Colonel Smith to assure the officers and men of the excellent corps under his command, that he feels most fully their claim to approbation.

In thus publicly expressing his sense of their good conduct, the commander-in-chief feels himself called upon to notice, in a particular manner, the exertions of Captain Dowse and his corps of pioneers, which, during the present service, have been equally marked by unremitting labour, and by the ability with which that labour was applied.

On referring to the progress of the siege, so many occasions have occurred for applause, that it is difficult to particularize individual merit; but the gallant manner in which Lieutenant-Colonel Sherer, the Hon. Col. Wellesley, Lieut.-Col. Money Penny, the Hon. Lieut.-Col. St. John, Major Macdonald, Major Skelly, and Lieut.-Col. Wal-

lace, conducted the attacks on the several outworks and posts of the enemy, demand to be recorded ; and the very spirited attack led by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, of H.M.'s 74th regiment, which tended so greatly to secure the position our troops had attained in the enemy's works on 28th ultimo, claims the strongest approbation of the commander-in-chief.

The important part taken by the Bombay army since the commencement of the siege, in all the operations which led to its honourable conclusion, has been such as will sustain its long established reputation. The gallant manner in which the village of Agrar was seized by the force under Colonel Hart, the ability displayed in directing the fire of the batteries established there, the vigour with which every attack of the enemy on the outposts of that army was repulsed, and the spirit shewn in the assault of the breach by the corps led by Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlop, are points of particular notice for which the commander-in-chief requests that Lieut.-General Stuart will offer his best thanks to the officers and troops employed.

Lieutenant-General Harris trusts that Lieutenant-General Stuart will excuse his thus publicly expressing his sense of the cordial co-operation and assistance received from him during the present service ; *in the course of which he has ever found it difficult to separate the sentiments of his public duty from the warmest feelings of private friendship.*

Having, with a view to exhibit distinctly the feelings of exultation, praise, and gratitude, which pervade the general order of the commander-in-chief, submitted a copy of the original document in this part of our narrative, we shall return to what was doing in the interior of the palace on the morning of the day upon which that order was issued.

In spite of all his anxious exertions, General Baird perceived that plunder was still going on, and he therefore sent out the *tom-tom* (or great drum used upon all occasions of making proclamation), and announced publicly that any man, be he whom he might, detected in pilfering, should be hanged; and in order to shew the earnestness of his intention upon this important point, the provost marshal was ordered to be in attendance. This decision had considerable effect.

General Baird having done this, was proceeding to make further arrangements for the tranquilization and regulation of the town, when Colonel Wellesley arrived at the palace, bringing with him an order from General Harris to General Baird, directing him to deliver over to *him* (Colonel Wellesley) the command of Seringapatam; the city which he had conquered the day before, and the conquest of which was to him, above all living men, most glorious—and, to use the memorable words of the hero himself (found in the copy of a letter in his possession), “Before the sweat was dry on my brow, I was superseded by an inferior officer.”

Deeply did General Baird feel this unexpected blow—but his regret, though mingled with surprise, we may even add, with indignation, partook of no personal feeling of hostility against Colonel Wellesley, whose actual merits, as we have already observed, he always justly appreciated, and whose future exaltation he always confidently anticipated.

## CHAPTER XIV.

GENERAL BAIRD RETURNS TO CAMP—TRANSMITS HIS DESPATCH ANNOUNCING THE DETAILS OF THE CAPTURE OF SERINGAPATAM TO GENERAL HARRIS—ADDITIONAL ORDERS—LETTER OF GENERAL BAIRD—OFFICIAL REPLY THROUGH THE MILITARY SECRETARY—GENERAL BAIRD'S ANSWER—SECOND LETTER—COLONEL WELLESLEY PRESENTS GENERAL BAIRD WITH THE STATE SWORD OF TIPPOO—CLAIMED BY THE PRIZE COMMITTEE—PRESENTED BY THEM TO GENERAL BAIRD—GENERAL BAIRD RECEIVES ANOTHER SWORD—THANKS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—MR. DUNDAS'S SPEECH—THANKS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY—DISTRIBUTION OF GENERAL OFFICERS—COLONEL WELLESLEY LEFT IN COMMAND OF THE MYSORE—GENERAL BAIRD PROCEEDS TO MADRAS.

WHEN General Baird returned to camp (which he did immediately after he was superseded), and not before, he discovered that, *without waiting for any report from him*, General Harris had issued the general orders which we have already given in a preceding page, in which, as the reader will have seen, thanks were offered to the storming party, particularizing several officers, and omitting the names of several others who had distinguished themselves as much as those who were named, if not more. By what rule, or upon what *data* the commander-in-chief had regulated his praises and commendations of individual merit in the begin-

ning of that order, it is difficult to guess ; for the fact is, that the first report his excellency ever received from General Baird, of the storming or any thing connected with it, was *after his having been superseded by Colonel Wellesley, and after his return to camp.*

This report is here subjoined.

*To Lieutenant-General Harris, Commander-in-chief,  
&c. &c.*

SIR,

HAVING, in obedience to your orders, taken the command of the troops ordered for the assault of the fort of Seringapatam, consisting of a corps of the six companies of European flankers from the Bombay army under Lieut.-Col. Dunlop, a corps of four companies of European flankers from the Scotch brigade, and the regiment de Meuron, under Colonel Sherbrooke.

His Majesty's 12th, 33d, and 74th regiments, ten companies of Bengal Sepoy flankers under Lieut.-Col. Gardiner, eight companies of coast Sepoy flankers under Lieut.-Col. Mignan, one hundred artillery-men, with a proportion of gun-Lascars, under Major Bell, the European and native pioneers, under Captain Dowce, amounting, as per enclosed return of men actually under arms at the assault, to

Firelocks	{	European..... 2494	}	Total...4376
		Natives..... 1882		

I have now the honour to report to you the measures I took to secure the success of the important object intrusted to me, and the result, and to enclose a return of the killed and wounded on the assault. Having received your instructions to make the capture of the ramparts, my first object, as the force under my command was not deemed sufficient to assault the ramparts and the town at the same time, when defended by Tippoo's whole army, I directed

Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlop, with six companies of Bombay European flankers, supported by his Majesty's 12th and 33d regiments and ten companies of Bengal Sepoy flankers, with fifty artillery-men, to assault the north ramparts, and to push on with the European flank companies until he met the south attack under Colonel Sherbrook, consisting of the flank companies of the Scotch brigade and regiment de Meuron, reinforced by the grenadier companies of his Majesty's 73d and 74th regiments, in consequence of the vigorous resistance there was reason to apprehend at the several heavy batteries on the south face of the fort; and supported by his Majesty's 73d and 74th regiments, eight companies of coast natives, and six of Bombay native flankers, with fifty artillery-men, when the whole were directed to form on the east face until arrangements were made for the attack of such of the cavaliers as might not have already been seized, or for proceeding to the attack of the body of the place, if with the force remaining, such a measure should be deemed advisable.

The assault commenced, in obedience to your orders, at one P.M. Colonels Sherbrook and Dunlop were directed on no account to quit the inner rampart, previous to their junction, for any other object but that of seizing on the cavaliers in the neighbourhood of their respective attacks, and to lose no time in regaining their situation on the ramparts as soon as that object should be obtained; and every cavalier, or post, on the ramparts, which it might be deemed essential to secure, were immediately to be occupied by a battalion company, or companies, from the supporting European regiments; so that the whole of the ground once captured might be secured, and the flankers, on their junction, be in full force to follow up their success by an attack on any of the cavaliers which had not fallen in their way, or by an assault on the body of the town and the palace of the sultaun.

In the success of every part of this plan my warmest wishes were gratified. The whole of the ramparts and every cavalier in the fort were, in a vigorous assault of a few hours, in the possession of our troops, who were too well acquainted with the value of their conquest to render their retaining it against the whole of Tippoo's army at all doubtful.

The place, therefore, being so securely our own, I was not anxious, by an immediate attack on the palace, to bring on a fresh and unnecessary slaughter; and, indeed, the exhausted state of the gallant flankers rendered it expedient for me to halt a short time before I proceeded to the attack of the palace, which, if Tippoo was in it, there was every reason to suppose would, if possible, be as gallantly defended as attacked.

During this halt two fresh battalions of Sepoys arrived, and, trusting that by this time the sultaun would see how fruitless any further resistance must prove, I requested Major Allan, deputy quarter-master-general, who had just arrived from camp, and who, from his knowledge of the language, was well qualified to execute the duty, to proceed with a flag of truce to the palace, and offer quarter to Tippoo Sultaun, and every person in his palace, on his immediate and unconditional surrender of himself and family to me; at the same time informing him, if there was the smallest hesitation in accepting this offer, that an immediate assault on the palace would take place, and every man in it be put to the sword.

The grenadier and part of the 12th regiment, under Major Craigie, with the 2d battalion, 9th regiment of Sepoys, accompanied Major Allan to put this threat into immediate execution, if necessary; and I prepared the flankers, now a little recovered from their fatigues, to follow to the attack of the palace on the first signal of hostilities having recommenced (for the firing had ceased on all

sides for upwards of an hour). In the mean time, I received intelligence from one of the prisoners of whom I caused inquiry to be made, as to the place where the English soldiers, who had been taken in the different assaults on the enemy's outposts during the siege, were confined, that they had all been put to death, about ten days before, in the most barbarous manner, by having nails driven through their skulls. On this, I immediately advanced with the flankers of the 74th regiment, and the light infantry and remaining part of the 12th regiment, resolved, if quarter had not already been granted, and the dreadful accounts of the fate of our fellow-soldiers were confirmed, to sacrifice the tyrant to their manes.

On reaching the palace, Major Allan came out to me, and informed me he had been with Tippoo's two youngest sons, who were ignorant where their father was, but were disposed to surrender themselves and the palace on a promise of protection. Anxious, if possible, to discover Tippoo, who, I had been informed, was certainly in the palace, I hesitated to agree to these conditions unless they would inform me where their father was, and threatened to search the most secret recesses of the palace if he was not instantly produced; but not being able to learn from them where the sultaun was, and wishing to get them out of the fort before it was dark, after giving them every assurance of protection and kind treatment, I sent them off to you under charge of Lieutenant-Colonel Agnew, your public secretary, and Captain Marriott, your aid-de-camp, escorted by the light infantry company of his Majesty's 33d regiment. The palace was thus taken possession of without opposition.

I now proceeded to search the palace, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Close and Major Allan, taking care, however, to avoid the zenana, round which I had posted a sufficient force to make his escape from it impracticable.



In the palace we found a man who, on being severely threatened, said that the sultaun was killed in attempting to escape through the northern sally-port, and offered to conduct us to the body; we accordingly proceeded thither, and, under a slaughtered heap of several hundreds, many of whom were men of consequence in his service, had the pleasure to discover the body of the sultaun. He had been shot through the head and body, and was quite dead: I caused him to be immediately put into a palanquin and conveyed to the palace, where the body was identified by some of the principal men who had fallen into our hands, and by two of the eunuchs belonging to his haram.

I now proceeded to give such protection to the inhabitants as was in my power; and, although it was by this time dark, as I have heard no complaints of outrage or insult being offered to any after the conflict ceased, I think I may venture to say the natives of India will be satisfied that the British soldiers are not more brave than humane.

Early the next morning Abdul Khalick, the second son of Tippoo, and the elder of the two who were delivered to Lord Cornwallis as hostages, at the conclusion of the last war, was met by Lieutenant-Colonel Dalrymple coming from the island to deliver himself up; he was immediately assured of protection and the most liberal treatment, and I went to meet him, to shew him how much satisfied I was with the confidence he placed in us, by thus delivering himself into our hands when the means of escape were perfectly in his power. Having been led to expect you in the fort yesterday morning, I waited with Abdul Khalick to deliver him into your own hands, but, on being relieved by Colonel Wellesley, I proceeded with him to camp, and delivered him over to you.

I perceive in the general order of yesterday that no mention is made of Colonel Sherbrooke; this, I presume,

is owing to that order being published before I had time to make any report to you of the conduct of the troops under my command in the assault, which was highly exemplary throughout; and if, where all behaved nobly, it is proper to mention individual merit, I know no man so justly entitled to praise as Colonel Sherbrooke, to whose exertions I feel myself much indebted for the success of the attack.

I make no doubt Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlop, who commanded a party of equal force with that of Colonel Sherbrooke, would have merited equal praise for his exertions, had he not, most unfortunately, been disabled by a wound very early in the assault,—a circumstance I most sincerely regretted, as, from the well-known character of that officer, and the clear manner in which he understood the instructions I gave him relative to the attack he was to lead, I felt the greatest confidence in its success.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

D. BAIRD.

*Camp, Seringapatam, 6th May, 1799.*

The effect produced by this letter of General Baird was the publication of an additional extract from general orders, which follows.

*Seringapatam, 8th May, 1799.*

LIEUTENANT-General Harris has particular pleasure in publishing to the army the following extract of a report transmitted to him *yesterday* by Major-General Baird, as it places in a distinguished point of view the merit of an officer on the very important occasion referred to, whose gallantry and good conduct, since he has served with his

army, have not failed to recommend him strongly to the commander-in-chief:—

“ If, where all behaved nobly, it is proper to mention individual merit, I know no man so justly entitled to praise as Colonel Sherbrooke, to whose exertions I feel myself much indebted for the success of the attack.”

‘ True copies.

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,

*Military Secretary.*

Although General Baird, by making the report just given, had fulfilled his duty to his superior officer, it appeared to him that there yet remained a duty to be done to himself. It was impossible for him to sit down patiently and quietly under the injury which he considered had been done him by his removal from Seringapatam. To have been eventually relieved from the command, would have been nothing—perhaps even as it was, not much, had he not been superseded by a junior officer, and that junior officer one who had previously, and several times, been “preferred before him,” and one for whom (although that had nothing to do with mere details of duty) he had shewn a noble and generous consideration; but it *was* something—it was much, very much, that he should have been removed so abruptly, so suddenly, and with as little courtesy or ceremony as if he had failed in the attack, instead of having achieved a conquest, the vital importance of which to the integrity of British India, is amply detailed in the despatches of Lord Wellesley himself, and universally acknowledged by every individual at all conversant with oriental politics.

General Baird had of course no alternative but submitting to authority—yet he felt it, as we have just said, a duty incumbent on himself to put upon record such a protest against the proceedings by which he felt himself aggrieved, as might vindicate his character to the army in India, and his friends in Europe; and accordingly he accompanied the official report above given, by the following letter addressed to General Harris:—

*To Lieutenant-General Harris, Commander-in-chief,  
&c. &c.*

SIR,

HAVING, in a letter which I had this morning the honour to address to you, given a detailed account of the assault of the fort of Seringapatam, the conduct of which you did me the honour to intrust to me, permit me now, Sir, to address you on the subject of the events which have taken place since that time.

Having been honoured with the conduct of the assault, and having executed that duty to your satisfaction, I naturally concluded that I should have been permitted to retain the command of Seringapatam, or, at least, that I should not be superseded in it by a junior officer. Judge, then, my surprise, when expecting to have the honour of delivering to you the keys of Seringapatam, in the palace of the late Tippoo Sultaun, and of congratulating you on the most brilliant victory that ever graced the British arms in India, to have an order put into my hands by Colonel Wellesley, by which I found myself instantly superseded in the command by that officer. I am really ignorant what part of my conduct could merit such treatment.

When, on a former occasion, Colonel Wellesley was appointed to the command of the detachment serving with his highness the Nizam, while I remained in charge of a

brigade, you informed me that matters of a political nature made it necessary to have that officer with the Nizam's army. Although I severely felt the appointment of a junior officer to so distinguished a command, while I remained in an inferior station, I submitted to the necessity which you informed me dictated the measure; but this second supercession I feel most sensibly, as it must have the effect of leading his Majesty and the commander-in-chief in England to believe that I am not fit for any command of importance, when it has been thought proper to give the command of Seringapatam to Colonel Wellesley, while he, at the same time, continues to hold the command of the Nizam's detachment.

In camp it is rumoured to have been at my own request that another officer was appointed to the command of Seringapatam; you, Sir, must know that this is not the case. The request, if made, must have been made by me to you; and, so far from its ever being my intention to make such a request, if (after the assurances I have repeatedly received from you, that you would take the first opportunity of placing me in a situation more adequate to the rank I hold than that of the command of a brigade,) I had deemed it necessary to make any request to you, it would have been to be placed *in the command* of Seringapatam; and when I reflected that my two seniors, belonging to the coast army, continued to stand appointed to the northern and southern divisions of the Carnatic, and that the Hon. Col. Wellesley, the next junior to me, stood appointed to the command of an *army*, while I remained in charge of a *brigade*, I should have felt that I was hinting a doubt, which I never entertained, of the sincerity of those assurances, if I had made a particular application for the command of Seringapatam—indeed, I could not think it necessary.

Some mistake may have arisen from my having, through

Major Beatson, expressed a desire that the whole storming party might be relieved from camp ; so that order might be established, and troops more equal to take the fatigue of guard mounting during the night, be placed in the fort ; and I wished to be relieved for a short time that I might myself have had the honour of reporting our success, and informing you in person of every particular relative to the storm. This not having been found convenient, I desired Captain Young, deputy adjutant-general of his Majesty's troops, who was proceeding to camp at daylight next morning, to inform you that, as I was much recovered from the fatigues of the preceding day, I wished not to be relieved till I had examined the state of the works and ascertained the number of cannon captured. I received a letter from Captain Young, long before Colonel Wellesley superseded me, informing me that he had made my request known to you.

I cannot but feel obliged by your having enabled me to act so distinguished a part in the storm, though I find so little attention has, in every other instance, been paid to my requests, that I am almost led to believe my being employed on that occasion, was owing to my being the only officer of rank who had made a voluntary offer of his services.

I request that copies of this letter may be transmitted to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, Commander-in-chief, for the information of his Majesty, that, at the same time he is informed of my having been twice superseded by Colonel Wellesley, he may be in possession of such reasons as you shall think proper to give for it, that he may be satisfied the measure was dictated by necessity, and not by any want of capacity on my part to fill the situation.

I have the honour, &c.

D. BAIRD.

*Camp, Seringapatam, 6th May, 1799.*

The official answer to this letter, written, or rather signed by Colonel Agnew, the military secretary (for we cannot imagine that a military secretary would venture to originate so much of himself in a matter of such importance,) we lay before our readers ; and we believe we may challenge the annalists of history to find either precedent, or parallel, or prototype for such an address to a victorious general two days after his having achieved a conquest, the memory of which will live till time shall be no more.

*8th May.—Camp, Seringapatam.*

*To Major-General Baird, &c. &c. &c.*

SIR,

THE commander-in-chief directs me to inform you that he has this day received from Major of brigade Falconer, your report of the assault intrusted to your conduct on the 4th instant, and that, ever ready to do justice to the merits of officers under his command, he is happy in the occasion you have given him *for taking particular notice of the conduct of Colonel Sherbrooke !*

I am also directed to acknowledge the receipt of the *very improper letter* which accompanied your report.

The distinguished command for which you were selected by the commander-in-chief, and the sentiments he has so publicly and recently expressed on that occasion, sufficiently mark what was his sense of your military merit ; and it is with regret that he now finds himself compelled to blame *a total want of discretion and respect* in an officer of your high rank and length of service, in terms so opposite to those in which he was lately so happy to applaud your gallantry, humanity, and zeal.

Lieutenant-General Harris is persuaded that an officer *who thinks himself authorised to remonstrate with his immediate superior, can never be usefully employed in the army he commands.* Should you, therefore, continue to hold sentiments so opposite to the principles of military subordination, you have his permission *to proceed by the first safe conveyance to Fort St. George.*

The commander-in-chief will certainly forward to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, copies of your letter and his reply.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,

*Mil. Sec. to the Commander-in-chief.*

To this letter, which we have already taken the liberty of characterizing, General Baird made the following reply, addressed to General Harris :—

SIR,

I YESTERDAY received a letter from Lieut.-Col. Agnew, your public secretary, which has created in me the greatest astonishment.

Conceiving myself injured, and my military character in some degree impeached, in the repeated preference that had been shewn to my junior, the Honourable Colonel Wellesley, in nominating him to distinguished commands, while I, serving with the same army, was still left in my original situation of commandant of a brigade; and feeling, as I conceived every military man in a similar situation would have felt, on being superseded by the same officer in the command of the important fortress of Seringapatam, I thought it due to my own character to address you on that subject, and I can safely affirm that, in that



address, it was my firm intention to make to you the *most respectful* statement of facts.

On the receipt of your secretary's letter, I again and again perused the one I had had the honour to address to you; and, after every attempt, must acknowledge myself unable to discover one paragraph, or even one word, which can be construed into the smallest disrespect. God knows, such an idea was the farthest from my thoughts. I, therefore, feel with double sensibility the unmerited asperity of your secretary's letter, which I can hardly bring myself to believe to contain your real sentiments. If, however, I am wrong in this conjecture, I trust you will enable me to clear myself before a general court martial, from which I can have nothing to fear, being satisfied in my own mind that there is not an officer in this, or in any army, who more abhors the crime of which I stand accused.

It was my intention, from the moment I was superseded in the command of Seringapatam, to apply for permission to quit the army, as soon as I deemed my services to my king and country no longer required my remaining with it. My wish is still to do so, and I shall, when there is no longer an appearance of the army's being actively employed, make an application to you to that effect. If, however, you should still persevere in your determination of ordering me from the army, in consequence of the respectful representation I have thought myself authorized to make to you, I shall, in that case, only have to regret the necessity there will be for making my removal from the army, and the circumstances which occasioned it, equally public.

(Signed) D. BAIRD.

This explanation of General Baird's feelings and views seemed to have no effect upon the commander-in-chief, who, again through the medium

of his military secretary, made the following reply to it :

*To Major-General Baird, &c. &c. &c.*

SIR,

THE commander-in-chief has received your letter of the 9th instant, and directed me to inform you in reply that the explanation therein given *has produced no change in the sentiments expressed by his order on the 7th instant, in my letter to you.*

It was not the words, but the tenor of your letter of the 6th instant that the commander-in-chief thought it his duty to remark. He never can admit the right of any subordinate officer to remonstrate with him on the propriety of measures he has adopted for the public service, or on his selection of officers for situations of public trust. In assuming this privilege, he still thinks that you have been wanting in discretion and respect ; *and your letter of yesterday has in a great measure removed the concern he felt at the necessity which obliged him to inform you that such were his opinions.*

Lieutenant-General Harris desires that this letter may conclude a correspondence which you are at liberty to make as public as you think proper.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) P. A. AGNEW,

*Mil. Sec. to the Commander-in-chief.*

*Seringapatam, 10th May, 1799.*

There are few people in the world, not versed in the complexity of public arrangements, who would be prepared for such a correspondence between a commander-in-chief and a major-general

who had devoted himself to the post of danger and difficulty, who had overcome both, in the most decisive and victorious manner, and who was chiefly anxious—let his other feelings be what they might—to establish the fact that it was for no professional fault (whatever was the policy of the case) that he had been so suddenly displaced from a command which, at the moment of his removal from it, no human being on earth so unquestionably deserved.

It appears that Colonel Wellesley, to whom no blame whatever but that of accepting promotion when offered (no very heavy charge) could attach, felt a strong personal anxiety to evince his regard and esteem for Major-General Baird; for at the very time that this peculiarly disagreeable correspondence was in progress between the major-general and the commander-in-chief, he wrote a very handsome note to General Baird, accompanied by Tippoo Suldaun's state sword, which had been found in his bed-chamber, requesting General Baird's acceptance of the splendid trophy, to which he said he was convinced the major-general had the best right.

But here the good-natured intentions of Colonel Wellesley were crossed by the interference of the Prize Committee, who, in a letter addressed to the commander-in-chief, General Harris, by General Floyd, its president, stated that it having been understood that Colonel Wellesley had sent General Baird the state sword of the late Tippoo

Sultaun, he, the commander-in-chief, was requested by the committee, in the name of the army, to desire that the sword might be immediately returned to them, as it was theirs and not Colonel Wellesley's to give—and General Floyd added (which it should seem, under the existing circumstances, could not have been a very agreeable announcement to General Harris), that their object in pressing the immediate restitution of the sword was, that they might forthwith fulfil a resolution which they had formed of presenting it themselves to General Baird, *by the hand of his excellency the commander-in-chief, himself.*

This letter coming less in the shape of an appeal than a demand, was answered by the issuing of an order from head-quarters for the general and field-officers to assemble in General Harris's tent, where his excellency "had the pleasure" of presenting the sword to General Baird, "in the name of the army, as a testimonial of their high admiration of his courage and conduct in the assault."\*

But additional honours from his brethren in arms were in store for the general; and on the morning of the anniversary of the king's birthday a meeting was held of the field-officers who had served under him at the storming of Seringapatam, when it was unanimously resolved to present him with a sword, as a mark of the high

\* This sword is now at Fern Tower, the seat of the late Sir David Baird.

sense they entertained of his admirable conduct on that occasion; and Colonel Sherbrooke, the senior officer present, was desired to write the following letter to General Baird upon the occasion:—

SIR,

I AM requested by the field-officers who had the honour of personally serving under you at the storming of Seringapatam, on the 4th ultimo, to inform you that they have ordered Messrs. Jeffreys and Jones to make a dress sword, value two hundred guineas, bearing the following inscription:—"SERINGAPATAM, taken by storm the 4th May, 1799," on one side, and on the other, "*Presented by the Field Officers who personally served under Major-General Baird on that occasion,*" which they beg you will do them the honour of accepting as a mark of their esteem, and of their admiration of your personal exertions on that day. Jeffreys and Jones have been directed to send out the sword by the earliest conveyance, and we hope you will receive it before the anniversary of the capture.

I have the honour to be, with respect,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SHERBROOKE, Col.\*

*Camp, 4th June, 1799.*

*To Major-General Baird.*

To which General Baird returned the following answer:—

SIR,

I HAVE been favoured with your obliging letter, informing me of the honourable testimony of their approbation intended to be presented to me, by the field-officers

\* Afterwards SIR JOHN COAPE SHERBROOKE, one of the heroes of the Peninsula, and subsequently Governor of Canada.

who served in the successful and glorious assault of Seringapatam; and I beg you to assure them, that this distinguished mark of the favourable opinion and esteem of those excellent officers, whose gallant exertions secured the memorable victory of that day, will ever be regarded by me as a recompense of the highest value.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

With the utmost respect,

D. BAIRD.

*To Colonel Sherbrooke.*

The following were the field-officers who served on the occasion, viz. Colonel Sherbrooke, Lieutenant-Colonels Dunlop, St. John, Dalrymple, Mignan, Wallace, Gardiner, and Monypenny, Majors Shee, Picton, Forbes, Craigie, and Bell.

These marks of esteem, regard, and admiration from men who loved him and appreciated his merits, must have been highly flattering and gratifying to General Baird; but, strange to say—and it is a miracle which more than once or twice recurs in the course of the eventful narrative which follows—they were his only rewards.

He received an extremely handsome letter from Lord Mornington, who had been created Marquess Wellesley, in which, after expressing his high sense of General Baird's services, he offered to recommend him either to the Honourable East India Company for a pension, or to the King for the red riband. Can anybody doubt for a moment which Baird would select?—a badge of honour from his sovereign, or an annuity from a company of

merchants in Leadenhall-street, trading to India? He of course made choice of the riband. But for all that happened subsequently, it appears he might as well have chosen the pension, for neither the one nor the other did he receive, nor indeed did he ever hear more from Lord Wellesley on the subject, nor did he even get so far into the history or mystery of the affair as to ascertain whether his lordship actually *ever did* make the application in his favour to the British government.\*

The thanks of both houses of parliament were voted, on the 4th of October, 1799, to General Baird, and the other officers who commanded at Seringapatam, upon which occasion Mr. Dundas said, in the House of Commons,

“ With regard to the military, I can only say, that from the highest of them to the lowest of them, they vied with each other in doing service to their country—to all of whom a proper acknowledgment should be made by this house. But I cannot help observing here the great praise that is due to General Baird for his brave conduct in the storming of Seringapatam. It is singular that this heroic officer was upwards of three years in

\* Lord Wellesley's letter, in which the offer of recommendation for the riband was made, we are unable to lay before our readers, General Baird having, in the year 1821, sent it to Lord Sidmouth without keeping a copy of it. It should be recollected, that at the period when Lord Wellesley's offer was made, the honourable order of the Bath consisted of but twenty-four military and twelve civil knights.

imprisonment by order of the very tyrant whose barbarity in this instance he was the instrument of Providence to avenge."

A copy of the resolution of the House of Commons was transmitted to General Baird, in a letter from Lord Mornington, of which the following is a copy:—

*Fort William, April 26, 1800.*

SIR,

IN obedience to the commands of the House of Commons of Great Britain, I have the honour to transmit you a copy of their resolutions of the 4th of October, 1799.

It is a peculiar satisfaction to me to be employed to signify to you, in the name of the Commons of Great Britain, their sanction of those sentiments of applause and approbation which it has been my duty to express in public orders on various occasions during the progress and since the termination of the late glorious war in Mysore.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of the letter from the Speaker of the House of Commons, which accompanied the resolution.

With the most grateful and cordial sense of your distinguished and meritorious services, I remain, Sir,

Your faithful and humble servant,

MORNINGTON.

*Major-General David Baird.*

At the East India House, a meeting of the directors and proprietors, or, as it is called there, a general court, was held on the 13th of November, and resolutions of thanks, similar in purport to those of parliament, were unanimously carried; the one more particularly applying to the distinguished subject of our memoir is in the following words:—

“ Resolved—That the thanks of this court be



given to the officers of the king's and company's forces *employed in the assault of Seringapatam*, on the 4th of May, 1799, for the rapidity, animation and skill which they manifested in the execution of that important service; and to the non-commissioned officers and privates for the courage and intrepidity of their conduct on that brilliant occasion, and especially for the exemplary humanity displayed by the assaulting party under circumstances which reflect equal honour upon their discipline, valour, and exalted generosity."

A special resolution of thanks to General Baird was proposed, in which a detail of his personal merits and services was most elaborately embodied, but it was withdrawn, on a suggestion from the chairman that a comprehensive resolution was preferable to separate resolutions of thanks to each officer, and because it appeared to some of the proprietors to partake more of the character of a disquisition than a resolution. As we shall in a subsequent part of this memoir refer somewhat at length to the circumstances connected with these proceedings, we shall in this place make no further observation upon them.

Shortly after the capture of Seringapatam, and the consequent subjugation of the Mysore country, the different general officers were directed to return to their several stations and presidencies; an order which left Colonel Wellesley in the command of the whole Mysore country—General Baird went to Madras.

## CHAPTER XV.

ARRIVAL AT MADRAS—FLATTERING RECEPTION BY LORD WELLESLEY  
—OFFERS GENERAL BAIRD A COMMAND IN BENGAL—GENERAL  
BAIRD DECLINES, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY FOLLOWS LORD WELLESLEY  
—APPOINTED TO DINAPORE—EXPEDITION PROJECTED AGAINST  
BATAVIA AND MAURITIUS—INTERVIEW WITH LORD WELLESLEY  
—REMONSTRANCE—IS FINALLY APPOINTED TO COMMAND—DE-  
TAILS OF PREPARATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS—COLONEL WELLES-  
LEY TO BE SECOND IN COMMAND—PROCEEDS TO SAUGUR—OVER-  
LAND DESPATCH FROM ENGLAND—DESTINATION OF THE EXPEDI-  
TION CHANGED—DELAYS AND DIFFICULTIES—DESPATCHES AND  
CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LORD WELLESLEY, GENERAL BAIRD,  
AND COLONEL WELLESLEY—MR. DUNDAS'S DESPATCH—FINAL  
ARRANGEMENT—GENERAL BAIRD PROCEEDS TO COLUMBO AND  
POINT DE GALLE—ARRIVES AT BOMBAY, WHERE HE FINDS CO-  
LONEL WELLESLEY.

WHEN General Baird reached Madras, he found there, his excellency, the governor-general, who had been created Marquess Wellesley, and who had, as it will be remembered, temporarily removed the seat of supreme government from Calcutta, for the specific purpose of personally superintending and accelerating the war in the Mysore country, which had now terminated so successfully.