

As soon as Lord Wellesley was made acquainted with General Baird's arrival at the government-house, he ran down stairs to meet him, caught him in his arms, and embraced him. Words cannot do justice to the warmth of his excellency's reception; and having loaded him with the most gratifying expressions of regard and esteem, his excellency inquired, more particularly with reference to the letter which we have already mentioned, but which we have not in our possession, in what way he could most agreeably and satisfactorily promote his interests in India; indeed, his excellency even went so far as to beg the general to state frankly what command he should like to have.

General Baird, whose opinion of others was formed upon a knowledge of himself, and who met the cordial inquiry by a candid avowal, told Lord Wellesley, that, as he understood his valued friend, General Floyd, was on the point of returning to England, the object of his ambition would be to succeed that distinguished officer in his command of the southern division.

Lord Wellesley (speaking of whom it would be an ill compliment to deny him the character of a finished diplomatist) hesitated for a moment, and then told General Baird, that he considered the southern district to be in the patronage of Lord Clive (Governor of Madras), with whose arrangements, as the general might know, his excellency made a point of never interfering; but he advised

the general himself to make his application to Lord Clive, adding a promise to support that application by his own influence. Lord Wellesley, however, at the same time suggested to General Baird a readier road to the attainment of his object, and one which he most earnestly desired him to take—namely, that of accompanying *him* (Lord Wellesley) to Bengal, assuring him that if he chose to accede to that proposition, any command that he chose to select in that presidency, should be at his service.\*

Nothing could be more gratifying to General

\* Lord Clive, now Earl of Powis, is son of the governor-general, Lord Clive, one of the most celebrated officers of his age, by whose means the East India Company acquired the extensive territories and vast revenues of the provinces of Bengal, Orissa, and Bahar. His lordship dying in 1774, was succeeded by his son, the present Lord Clive, who was born in 1754; in 1784 his lordship married Lady Henrietta Herbert, daughter of Earl Powis, and, her ladyship's brother dying without issue, she succeeded to the whole of the family estates. In 1794, Lord Clive was advanced to an English peerage, as Baron Clive of Walcot; and, in 1802, was appointed Governor of Madras; he returned to England in 1804, and received the thanks of both houses of parliament for his conduct in his government; in the same year his lordship was created Earl of Powis and Viscount Clive, and was nominated, in 1805, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which office, however, in consequence of the death of Mr. Pitt, and the consequent change of ministers, his lordship did not assume. Lord Clive, his lordship's eldest son, is married to a daughter of the Duke of Montrose, one of his lordship's daughters is married to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, and another daughter is the present amiable and excellent Duchess of Northumberland.

Baird than this display of kindness and friendship on the part of the governor-general. But Baird was a soldier, and he considered that Madras would probably continue the seat of war for some time to come, and that events might occur, in the course of which he might again do good service to his country and distinguish himself in the field. This honourable and gallant feeling, added to the circumstance, that as he never *had* served on the Bengal establishment, he should enter upon it as a stranger, instead of being surrounded by officers and men by whom he was perfectly known, and (as he must have been conscious) highly esteemed, induced him to prefer making his application to Lord Clive for the southern district, according to Lord Wellesley's suggestion. But his hopes were completely dissipated by Lord Clive's answer, from which it was clear that his lordship was aware of the pre-determination of Lord Wellesley, to remove the major-general from the Madras establishment, in order, as it might appear to some, that his superior rank should not interfere with the interests of Colonel Wellesley, to whom his excellency (not very unnaturally) was attached as a brother, and whose encouragement of that brother's pretensions to fame, it must be universally admitted, time and circumstances have most fully justified. In a military life, however, in which every step and promotion is regarded, as it should be, with honourable jealousy, men are sensibly alive to the effects of favouritism,

however great the merits of its object; and although in the present instance, as in all the others, where, as if by some fatality, the claims of General Baird and Colonel Wellesley had been brought into collision, he attributed neither blame nor indelicacy to an officer who merely accepted the favours with which his exalted relation took every opportunity of loading him, he could not help feeling their immediate effects.

Under these circumstances, General Baird resolved upon accepting the invitation of Lord Wellesley, to follow his excellency to Calcutta. At Fort William he was received by his excellency with every mark of affectionate friendship and respect; but when they came to business, and General Baird alluded to his excellency's promise of allowing him to select any command which he might prefer, he found, to his surprise and disappointment, that the choice was very closely circumscribed, seeing that *only one* command was actually vacant—that of Dinapore; this, of course, as he had no choice, General Baird accepted, and it was conferred upon him by Lord Wellesley, with renewed expressions of good will.

To Dinapore, General Baird in consequence proceeded, to assume the command, which he continued to hold for upwards of a year, when rumours reached him from Madras, that an expedition was fitting out at that presidency, the object

of which, it was generally believed, was the capture of Batavia, and eventually that of the Isle of France. General Baird, having ascertained from his friends at Fort St. George the correctness of this report, immediately wrote to Sir Alured Clarke, the commander-in-chief, to solicit to be appointed to command it.

To this application his friend, Sir Alured, returned an answer, stating that he would most readily comply with the request, and that in fact he had originally intended General Baird for the service, and had mentioned his name to the governor-general, but as his excellency had taken the whole of the appointments connected with the enterprise into his own hands, he considered it impossible to interfere any further.

Upon the receipt of this information, General Baird requested leave of absence from Sir Alured Clarke, in order that he might make a personal application to Marquess Wellesley on the subject, which Sir Alured not only granted, but gave General Baird special permission to use his name as the authority whence he had derived all his information upon the subject.

On General Baird's arrival at Calcutta, he proceeded to pay his respects to the governor-general, who was at Barruckpore. His excellency received him with all his usual urbanity and kindness; but notwithstanding these agreeable appearances, his excellency spoke so rapidly, and changed the topics of conversation so

suddenly and so frequently, that with all General Baird's anxiety to draw his excellency's attention to the subject nearest his heart, (and indeed the only object of his visit,) he was completely foiled, and actually took his leave of Barruckpore in the evening, without once having found an opportunity of doing so.

General Baird's desire to come to some understanding upon the point, however, having been in no small degree increased, by hearing it positively stated, that the new and extensive force in preparation was to be commanded by Colonel Wellesley, he requested an audience of the governor-general the next morning, which, being granted, he, in the course of a long, and somewhat *stormy* conversation with his excellency, repeated all that he had heard, and urged the injustice that would be committed by giving the command of the proposed expedition to a junior colonel, when he, General Baird (as indeed he had unsuccessfully argued before) had been actually sent back as a major-general from the Cape, without being permitted to reach Europe, because the services of an officer of that rank were expressly required in India, and because he had been personally selected as the best qualified officer to go there.

Truth, the historian's only guide, compels us to state, that this remonstrance had, if possible, a more violent effect upon the noble marquess, than even General Baird's former representation, upon

a similar point, had upon General Harris; and in a high state of irritation, his lordship told General Baird (misunderstanding his intentions), that if he meant to ask him any questions as to the destination of the expedition, he very plainly told him he would not give him an answer.

General Baird expostulated—assured the marquis that he had no desire to know where the expedition was going; all he wished to know was, who was to command it, as he felt it his duty to press his own claim as a major-general on the staff, appointed from home, in preference to that of a regimental officer of inferior rank.

The conversation was warm and animated, and much was said on both sides, until at length General Baird prepared to take his leave, saying,—“I suppose then, my lord, I am to consider your lordship’s answer final, and that I am *not* to command” (or to be employed) “on this expedition?”

The marquis, who had by this time overcome the violence of his first excitement, desired General Baird to remain in Calcutta until he heard from him again, and the next day the General received a note from Sir Alured Clarke, desiring him to wait upon the governor-general immediately, which of course he did; when his excellency informed him that he had finally arranged matters so that *he*, General Baird, should command the expedition.

The object of this expedition proved to be, as

the general had heard, and as we have already stated, the capture of the islands of Java and Mauritius. The force to be employed on this service consisted of his Majesty's 10th, 19th, and 80th regiments, with detachments from the 86th and 88th, a corps of Bengal native volunteers, and two companies of European and native artillery, with Lascars attached.

These troops were assembled at Trincomalee; and on the 5th of February, 1801, General Baird received orders to proceed to that place to assume the chief command; the Honourable Colonel Wellesley being the second in command.

Lord Wellesley had long contemplated this undertaking, the advantages of which, although not destined at that period to be achieved, have since been made evident by our possession of both the objects of the then meditated attack.\*

The governor-general's orders were, that the whole force which we have just detailed should proceed in the first place to Batavia, and having reduced it by siege or obtained possession of it by capitulation, should then be divided; and whilst an adequate number of troops were left at Batavia with General Baird, who was to remain there with the rank of lieutenant-governor, all who could be

\* The attainment of Mauritius from the enemy by any moderate opposing force had always been treated as problematical, from the very well contrived histories of its military strength and natural protections, which had been constantly kept up by the French.



spared from the defence and maintenance of the new conquest were to proceed under the command of Colonel Wellesley to gain possession of Mauritius, an island eminently favoured by nature as possessing a port where ships may securely anchor, and facilities for repairing and refitting in case of any damage having accrued to them before their arrival.

General Baird was directed to proceed with the force assembled at Trincomalee as soon as he should have been joined by Admiral Rainier, without waiting for that division of the army, which was coming from Point de Galle, under the command of Colonel Wellesley; leaving, however, instructions for that officer to make the best of his way to Batavia.

Lord Wellesley had clearly and minutely provided for all contingencies which might arise in the progress of this undertaking.

In case of a capitulation being entered into, before the actual commencement of hostilities, General Baird was instructed, in assuming the lieutenant-governorship and chief military command in the colony, to form a garrison of so many of the Dutch troops as he might consider it prudent or advisable to entertain in his Britannic Majesty's service, together with the whole of the Bengal volunteers and the detachments from the king's regiments which we have already named; in addition to which, the 51st regiment had been ordered to proceed from Point de Galle;

and as Lord Wellesley anxiously expected and anticipated that the reduction of Batavia would be completed by the 30th of March, he was in hopes that this regiment would arrive there in time, partly to strengthen the garrison which was to be left, and partly to co-operate with the force destined for Mauritius.

But to guard against the consequences of their possible delay, the governor-general directed General Baird to select 500 men from his Majesty's 80th regiment and put them under the command of Colonel Champagné; and when these arrangements were completed Colonel Wellesley was forthwith to proceed with the force under his command on the distinct service, the acceleration of which appeared to Lord Wellesley to be a matter of the greatest importance; and the departure of which force he positively commanded should take place the moment it was possible for it to move—naming indeed the 30th of March, the very day upon which his excellency calculated that Batavia would be completely in our possession—and that not even the junction of the 51st regiment from Point de Galle should be waited for, unless Colonel Wellesley himself should consider its aid indispensable to the success of the enterprise.

The adding the 51st to Colonel Wellesley's expedition, or retaining them to strengthen the garrison in case they did arrive, was, however, left to the discretion of General Baird, subject only to some suggestions of Lord Wellesley's, with respect

to the badness of the climate of Batavia; a knowledge of which had induced him to form the determination of keeping down the European force in garrison at that place as much as possible. It was in consonance with this feeling that he directed, in case Colonel Wellesley should *not* require the 51st, and General Baird could possibly spare it, that it should return to the Coromandel coast or to Ceylon, rather than be detained on so unhealthy a station as Batavia.

It was upon this feeling and opinion, too, that Lord Wellesley had given directions to General Baird to raise a native corps in Batavia for the permanent defence of the place, and also to make application to Lord Clive, the governor of Madras, for one of the regiments of native infantry from that presidency for the same service.

If, however, contrary to the expectations Lord Wellesley entertained with regard to the reduction of Batavia, the place held out, and the consequences of a siege and resistance so reduced the troops, or that other circumstances should absolutely require the presence of so large a garrison as to render the force destined for the command of Colonel Wellesley, too weak in *his* judgment to ensure his success, Colonel Wellesley was fully authorized to exercise his own unshackled opinion upon the point, and the detachment was by no means, and in no case, to proceed upon the second expedition without Colonel Wellesley's express consent and approbation; and in case under the

circumstances he should decline proceeding, General Baird was then to select his garrison by rules which were laid down for his guidance, and to send the rest of the forces, under Colonel Wellesley's command, to the nearest port, as in the former case, either in Ceylon or on the Coromandel coast, at the same time communicating the relinquishment of the enterprise against Mauritius to the governor of the Cape of Good Hope, and to the Admiral, Sir Roger Curtis.

At all events (at least in case of success), Colonel Champagné was to remain at Batavia as second in command, and member of the provisional government, which Lord Wellesley proposed eventually to establish for the administration of affairs in that colony: but in case of failure, which Lord Wellesley (knowing the character of the force employed) seemed never to anticipate, General Baird and Colonel Wellesley, if they concurred in opinion that they could jointly make the attack on the Isle of France with whatever remained available of the force under their command, were authorized to undertake it; but upon the clear understanding, as Colonel Wellesley was perfectly master of the whole arrangement and design of the attack upon Mauritius, as projected by his noble brother, that if *he* objected to such a proceeding it was to be abandoned, and the remaining force was to return, as had been already directed under other circumstances, either to Ceylon or the Coromandel coast.

Thus it appears that Lord Wellesley had made the most ample provision for every possible or probable casualty or contingency; for in his instructions to General Baird, he proceeds to say that, "if he and Colonel Wellesley agree to proceed to the Isle of France, he in the chief command and Colonel Wellesley as second in command, the instructions previously given to Colonel Wellesley are to direct General Baird's operations." In case of success at the Isle of France, Colonel Wellesley was to assume the civil and military government of the French islands, and to exercise his discretion as to the formation of the garrison there; in which case General Baird was to return with whatever troops Colonel Wellesley might not feel inclined to retain, to the nearest and most accessible port of India or Ceylon.

All that we have hitherto noticed in detail, relates to the military operations and arrangements at Batavia, or at the Isle of France. Lord Wellesley had, with equal minuteness, furnished other instructions for the establishment and conduct of the civil government; and his excellency hoped that General Baird would duly appreciate the extent of the confidence which he manifested in his temper, judgment, and public spirit, by subjecting in so great a degree to his power the success of an expedition subsequently to be commanded by another officer. He entertained no doubt that he should find his conduct in the whole of the interesting and delicate trust which was

reposed in him answerable to his expectations, and to the character which the general had established in his excellency's estimation by his exertions in the late glorious war in Mysore.

General Baird was further instructed, when the expedition sailed for Mauritius, that Colonel Wellesley was to select such transports as he chose, aided by the Admiral (Rainier), if he were present, and if not, by Mr. Charles Stokes, the agent, or any naval officer he might choose to name.

Several minor difficulties which might present themselves in the course of negotiation, from the incompetency of the Batavian government to negotiate for certain dependencies, Lord Wellesley was equally prepared to meet. Ample funds were allotted to the undertaking and every thing was done that could conduce to its success, to the extremest point of its professions.

The "additional instructions" forwarded to General Baird, from Lord Wellesley, evince the acumen and foresight which his excellency possessed. As they were destined never to be acted upon, we should needlessly occupy our space by recapitulating them here. His excellency, however, issued an order, directed to General Baird, Colonel Champagné, and Richard Conyers Birch, Esq., appointing the first named officer acting lieutenant-governor, and the two latter gentlemen, respectively, councillors; which order contained the form of an oath to be administered to each other, and subscribed by each of them, and by

all persons who might succeed them in the offices of lieutenant-governor and councillors.

The despatches and instructions from which these details are derived, were dated February 5, and we find that General Baird had on that day embarked in the Phoenix, Captain Moffatt, in Saugar Roads, where he remained for two days after the receipt of his instructions.

On the 6th of February, however, only two days after his departure from Calcutta, an over-land despatch was received by the governor-general from Mr. Secretary Dundas, of which the following is a copy :—

*(To Marquess Wellesley.)*

*Downing Street, 6th October, 1800.*

MY LORD,

By the private letter I received from your lordship, No. 25, dated the 5th of March last, and the communications I have since had with Major-General Stewart, I am apprised that the subject of annoying the French army in Egypt, from the Red Sea, has been under your consideration. For that reason, and because I concur in your lordship's sentiments, as stated in the letter above-mentioned, I feel it the less necessary to enter into any details in this despatch; which cannot, indeed, be extended to any great length, as it is to be forwarded over-land. I shall, therefore, confine myself to shortly stating to your lordship that Sir Ralph Abercrombie has received his Majesty's orders to proceed up the Mediterranean, and, by an attack on Alexandria and the coast, to co-operate with the Turkish army assembling in Syria, in whatever plan may be concerted with them for expelling the French

army from Egypt; and that it is thought expedient that a force should also be sent from India to act in such manner as may appear conducive to that essential object, from the side of the Red Sea. With this view, Captain Sir Home Popham, with a proper squadron, will be immediately sent into that sea, taking with him a regiment from the Cape of Good Hope. His first rendezvous will be the Port of Mocha. I enclose for your information, the letter I have written to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the subject of the expedition under his command, and I am to signify to your lordship his Majesty's pleasure that a force of about 1000 Europeans and 2000 native infantry is to be sent from India to the proposed place of rendezvous in the Red Sea, with as little delay as possible, to co-operate with Sir Home Popham in the object of his instructions. The command of these troops should be given to some active and intelligent officer, and care should be taken that they be furnished with every necessary requisite for such a service. I have thought it right to send a copy of this despatch to the governors of Fort St. George and Bombay. To the latter it is necessary, because Bombay is the most proper place from whence to send the proposed force; but I have thought it likewise proper to send it to Fort St. George, in case, upon a full consideration of the places where the force upon the two coasts is at present stationed, it should appear to that presidency expedient to make any new arrangement of any part of the army under their presidency, in order to enable the Bombay government to detach the requisite force from their coast without any real inconvenience to the territories under their own immediate charge.

I have directed those two presidencies to proceed in making those preparations without delay, and even to carry these orders into execution without waiting for your lordship's directions, if they are ready in other respects.



If nothing unforeseen occurs to prevent or to retard it, I hope that the armament under Sir Ralph Abercrombie will reach the coast of Egypt in the month of December ; and that Sir Home Popham may arrive in the Gulph of Arabia in the month of February. It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that the forces from India may join him as soon after as possible ; for this reason it will be desirable that you should not wait till the troops are all collected, if it will save time to forward them in two or three distinct detachments.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

HENRY DUNDAS.

The following is Lord Wellesley's private letter to General Baird :—

*Fort William, February 6th, 1801.*

*Major-General Baird.*

MY DEAR GENERAL,

I WAS upon the point of sealing my instructions, and of dispatching them to you by express this morning, when I received despatches, over-land from England, which will probably render it necessary for me to make some essential variations in the objects of the armament which I have equipped. No change, however, can take place which will deprive you of a respectable and active command.

As much time would be lost by your returning to Calcutta, I desire that you will remain on board the Phoenix, and urge the captain to make every necessary preparation for sailing. In the course of this day I hope to be able to decide the precise nature of such variations as the recent intelligence from Europe will require in my plans. I therefore entertain little doubt that you will receive your

sailing orders within eight and forty hours after the receipt of this despatch.

I have the honour to be, my dear General,  
 With great esteem, your faithful servant,  
 WELLESLEY.

The arrival of this over-land despatch changed the whole course of events, and while General Baird was anxiously expecting merely some alteration in his final instructions for the reduction of Batavia, he received the following letter from Colonel Kirkpatrick :—

(*Secret.*)

*Calcutta, 10th February, 1801, 3 P.M.*

MY DEAR GENERAL,

LORD WELLESLEY desires me to inform you that your new instructions are nearly ready. I am in hopes that they will be despatched either to-night or early to-morrow. The over-land packet from England has made it necessary for his lordship to change his whole plan; and you are now to assist Sir Ralph Abercrombie in driving the French from Egypt instead of seizing on Batavia.

I am, my dear General,

Your's most faithfully,

WM. KIRKPATRICK.

*Major-General Baird.*

To this letter General Baird wrote the following characteristic answer :—

*Colonel Kirkpatrick, &c. &c. &c.*

*Saugar Roads, Feb. 11, 1801.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

I AM this moment honoured with yours of yesterday, dated 3 o'clock P.M., by express. I request you will as-

sure Lord Wellesley *that I am always ready and willing to serve, wherever I am required by my king and country.* I am also happy to inform you that the ship is ready for sea. I beg you to present my best respects to Lord Wellesley.

I have the honour, dear Colonel, &c.

D. BAIRD.

It was perhaps one of the most curious coincidences that ever occurred, that at the very moment at which Lord Wellesley was sealing the despatches, which directed the movements of *one* of his most favourite schemes, he should have received Mr. Dundas's letter, which induced, or rather forced him to turn the whole power of his resources to *another plan* which he had not only projected a year before, but on the subject of which, he had been in constant communication with Admiral Blankett, with the view of establishing ports in the Red Sea, and eventually applying the resources of India to the ejection of the French from Egypt. From putting this plan into execution he had been deterred only by inevitable ignorance of the actual state of the French force in that quarter; but now that he had derived authentic information from England, and found, moreover, that the views of the government at home coincided with his own, he considered the correspondence in which he had been engaged with the admiral, of so much value and importance, as to annex a copy of it to the despatches which were transmitted to

General Baird for his subsequent guidance and information.

The full extent of the objects contemplated by the English government will be best understood by a perusal of Mr. Secretary Dundas's letter to the Board of Admiralty.

*Downing Street, 6th October, 1800.*

MY LORDS,

IT being judged expedient that measures should forthwith be taken for dispossessing the French of Cosseir, Suez, and any other ports and places they may now occupy upon the coast of the Red Sea, and to encourage the inhabitants of the countries bordering on that part of Egypt to assist in expelling them from the whole of that province, I am commanded to signify to your lordships his Majesty's pleasure that a ship of war of not less than fifty guns, together with such armed troop-ships as may be competent to the accommodation and conveyance of a regiment of not less than 800 men, destined to assist in this service, are forthwith to be fitted for foreign service, and sent to the Cape of Good Hope, where the said regiment is to be embarked.

It will also be necessary that the troop-ships in question should, in the first instance, convey another regiment, amounting to at least the same number of men, from this country to the Cape; and it is therefore his Majesty's pleasure that your lordships should give directions and make the necessary arrangements accordingly.

Your lordships will not fail to select for this service an officer of acknowledged enterprise and ability; and, with respect to the instructions with which he is to be furnished from your lordships, it is his Majesty's pleasure that, after receiving on board the regiment which the commanding

officer at the Cape will be ordered to embark, he should be directed to make the best of his way into the Red Sea, and on his arrival there to endeavour to procure intelligence respecting the number of the enemy at Cosseir and Suez, and the state of defence of each of those places. Should the reports he may receive on this point be such as, in his judgment, and that of the officer commanding the land forces, to warrant an immediate landing and attack on one or both of these places, no time is to be lost in making the attempt; and, should it prove successful, they are to make the best arrangements in their power for retaining possession of the same. As soon as in this, or in any other manner, a secure footing shall have been obtained in the country, or sooner, if possible, every proper method is to be used to conciliate the inhabitants to our interests, and to induce them to make a common cause with us against the enemy. In order to enable them to do this with more effect, it will probably be necessary to supply them with arms and ammunition; and I shall therefore give orders that a certain proportion of side-arms, muskets, and cartridges shall be sent on board the ships of the squadron with a view to this object.

Supposing the enemy to be driven from Suez, Cosseir, and the whole coast, it will then remain for the respective commanding officers of the land and sea forces to take every method in their power for harassing and annoying them in any other posts they may retain in Upper Egypt, and to prevail upon the Arabs, the Mamelukes, and other troops in that part of the country, to act against the French, wherever they may take post, with union and vigour, until they can be finally expelled from Cairo and the remainder of the province, giving the beys, or other officers having command in those countries, such advice and assistance as may appear best adapted for that purpose. Upon this point, as well as upon every other which

relates to the mode and detail of proceeding in the execution of the services I have pointed out as the objects of this expedition, much latitude must be left to the discretion and judgment of the commanding officers; and it is therefore impossible for me to do more than point out, as I have already done, the views for the attainment of which the plan has been formed; and to add, that they are to be pursued with the utmost vigour, and by every means that may suggest themselves to the ingenuity of the commanding officers, provided only they are not inconsistent with those usages which are deemed fair and honourable between nations in a state of war.

It is intended that the land forces to be sent from the Cape should be reinforced as soon as possible by another regiment of Europeans, and about 2000 Sepoys from India. It will be right that the commanding naval officer should be apprised of this circumstance, in order that he may suspend until their arrival the proposed attacks against Cosseir and Suez, unless the prospect of success with the regiment from the Cape is so satisfactory as to warrant the attempt without waiting for a further reinforcement.

Should this last division of troops, on the other hand, find our forces in possession of Suez and Cosseir, they will be employed from thence in making diversions in Upper Egypt; and in annoying and harassing the enemy as much as possible, in conformity to the suggestions already mentioned in these instructions.

In the event (not impossible) of the French having actually evacuated Egypt before the arrival of the expedition in the Red Sea, the troops must be carried back to their former stations; and the ships, in that case, may be disposed of for such other purposes as your lordships may think proper. But should Cosseir and Suez be retaken from the enemy by his Majesty's forces, the one or the

other, as may appear most commodious for the troops and shipping, is, for the present, and until further orders can be transmitted from this country, to be retained by a detachment of his Majesty's forces. The commanding officer, however, taking care, in order to avoid all jealousies, to have it understood that he remains there, not from any intention of interfering with the right of sovereignty vested in the Ottoman Porte, or with the rights and privileges of the native princes, or their subjects; but that, from considerations of military precaution, with a view to our Indian interests, which cannot appear extraordinary after what has happened, the British troops cannot be withdrawn without further authority from home.

Your lordships will not fail to direct the commanding naval officer, and, through him, all other officers serving under him, to maintain and cultivate the friendship and good understanding now existing with the native princes and powers of Asia having ports or territories upon the coast of the Red Sea.

You will also direct the said officer to transmit a detailed report of his proceedings, by every opportunity, for his Majesty's information; and to correspond with the company's governor at Bombay, and with the governor-general in council, who will give the necessary directions to furnish him with any supplies of which he may stand in need, and to pay every attention to such requisitions as he may make for the advancement of the service on which he is employed.

HENRY DUNDAS.

The result of the receipt of these despatches and their enclosures, was, as we have already seen, an immediate change in the destination of the whole collected force, and the necessary instructions for effecting the change were immediately forwarded

to General Baird. As their object has been already made manifest, it would only needlessly occupy a space here to recapitulate them, we therefore omit them, as well as the instructions to Admiral Rainier, and their enclosures, which consist of a long correspondence between Admiral Blankett and the different presidencies, relative to an inquiry concerning the localities of the Red Sea, which had been instituted by Lord Wellesley when he first contemplated the undertaking which he was now officially directed to execute.

The letter of Marquess Wellesley to Colonel Wellesley, as being the shortest we have before us, and yet containing all necessary information upon the subject, we submit.

*To the Honourable Colonel Wellesley.*

SIR,

1. SINCE the date of my last despatches to you on the subject of the intended expeditions against Batavia and the Isle of France, I have received despatches overland from England, which have determined me to relinquish for the present the prosecution of these expeditions.

2nd. For the contents of those despatches, and for the measures which I now propose to pursue, I must refer you to my instructions of this date to Major-General Baird, which he is directed to communicate to you.

3rd. I have appointed Major-General Baird to command the armament which is now destined to the Red Sea, and I have appointed you to be second in command on that important service.

4th. For my instructions for your guidance, I must



refer you to my above-mentioned despatches of this date to Major-General Baird.

5th. I have forwarded a copy of this letter to Major-General Baird for his information and guidance.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WELLESLEY.

*Fort William, February 10th, 1801.*

The following private letter, addressed by the Governor-General to General Baird, and dated the same 10th of February, we lay before our readers, because we consider the answer which General Baird made to it, quite worthy the hero, who had ever exhibited the most friendly feeling towards one who, by events over which, it is true, he himself had no control, had been frequently brought in contact with him, under circumstances which might (as it seems Lord Wellesley anticipated) have excited a sentiment in the bosom of a senior officer, which General Baird most assuredly never entertained.

*Fort William, February 10th, 1801.*

MY DEAR GENERAL,

You will find by your instructions of this date that your present destination is to the Red Sea and Egypt, for the purpose of co-operating in the great object of expelling the French from that most important position. A more worthy sequel to the storm of Seringapatam could not be presented to your genius and valour. I have chosen my brother to second you in this glorious enterprize; and I rely on your giving the public the full benefit of his

talents, by admitting him to your cordial confidence, and by uniting most harmoniously and zealously with him in the prosecution of my wishes.

I have manifested an honourable confidence in you by selecting you for this service, which, if successful, will attract the applause and admiration of the whole world. In return, I claim from you the full benefit for myself and my country, not only of your services, but of those of my brother, and of all the gallant and able officers whom he has brought with him to the army. I desire that you will arrange some mode of confirming in active and honourable stations the whole of his staff, and of those who have accompanied him.

I recommend it to you also to employ Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, of the 84th, whom I shall send to Mocha; he has been active, and has manifested ability at Suez and Aden. I also recommend Captain Wilson, aide-de-camp to Mr. Duncan, on the same grounds of experience in the affairs of Arabia and Egypt.

May the same providential protection which accompanied you to the gates of Tippoo Sultaun's palace conduct you to Cairo; and may you be the happy instrument of completing the expulsion of the French from India; a work so nobly commenced in Mysore. Remember, that the harmony and cordial union of our counsels in the field were the main sources of all our triumphs in that glorious war, which has rendered your name memorable in the annals of your country. For the rest I have no apprehension; and I trust you will preserve my favourable opinion by preserving unanimity in your army.

Believe me, my dear General,

Your obliged friend and faithful servant,

WELLESLEY.

*To Major-General Baird.*

General Baird replied to this letter in the following terms :—

*To the Marquess Wellesley.*

*Saugur Roads, 13th Feb. 1801, 1 o'clock, P.M.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE this moment been honoured with your lordship's letter of the 10th instant, accompanying your final despatch.

Your lordship may rest assured that every thing in my power shall be done to promote and maintain harmony in the army of which you have honoured me with the command; and particularly with your brother, for whom I entertain the most sincere regard.

I shall have much pleasure in doing every thing in my power for the staff, but your lordship will, I trust, be aware that I must have some of my own confidential staff about me.

I am happy to find that your lordship has ordered Colonel Murray to join me, as from my knowledge of him, as well as from your lordship's mention, I am convinced he will be of the greatest use.

I will also pay particular attention to your lordship's recommendation of Captain Wilson.—I have, &c.

D. BAIRD.

General Baird, in another letter to Lord Wellesley, dated from the ship *Phoenix*, at sea, tells him, that having studied his orders, and looked at the serious difficulties which must attend their execution, he shall use every exertion to surmount them. "As yet," says General Baird, "I have never met with any obstacles that were not to be got the better of, by steady perseverance,

and I hope I shall not upon this occasion. The greatest difficulties I shall have to encounter are, the absolute necessity of a regular supply of provisions, and the attainment of a power of moving with celerity. But these greatly depend upon your lordship's foresight; and from the arrangements you have already made, I have no doubt that we shall surmount them.

“It is unnecessary, my lord,” he continues, “to say more than that the most vigorous measures shall be adopted to endeavour to carry into full effect the grand object of the expedition. Equally unnecessary is it for me to assure your lordship that the talents of your brother, as well as of every other officer in the army, shall have full scope. Trust me, my lord, I harbour no little jealousy—all in *my* breast is zeal for my KING AND COUNTRY.

“I shall endeavour to make such arrangements for the employment of those officers intended for the staff by the Honourable Colonel Wellesley, as I trust will meet with your lordship's approbation.

“I have now to request your lordship's acceptance of my warmest acknowledgments for the very handsome and friendly manner in which your lordship has been pleased to express yourself towards me, and particularly on this occasion, in your private letter of the 10th instant.”

The next we hear of the progress of this most important expedition, one which would alone have

immortalized the name of Baird, we find, in a letter dated on board the Phoenix, at Trincomalee, the 23d of February, in which it appears, that upon General Baird's arrival there, he discovered that Colonel Wellesley *had sailed from that place* and was to touch at Point de Galle.

“ I,” says General Baird, “ shall follow him with all despatch—I also find that the 19th regiment has been left behind to garrison Trincomalee. I trust your lordship will order them to follow—and I have also written to Lord Clive that they may be relieved and forwarded:

“ I imagine Colonel Wellesley has not received any of your lordship's despatches, as I have seen Captain Malcolm's orders to the naval commanding officer at this port, for all ships belonging to the expedition to follow him to Point de Galle, Cannanore, and Bombay.”

But it seems that General Baird, although placed in the situation which he could have wished, was still destined to encounter fresh worries and anxieties; for having left Trincomalee in pursuit of the force under the command of Colonel Wellesley, where, as he proceeded to join him, he expected to find him, he pushed forward to Point de Galle, whence he again addressed the governor-general, in a letter from the Phoenix, dated the 28th of February, which, as it is strongly indicative of that ardour and energy by which all his public services were characterized, we give.

*Hon. Company's Ship Phœnix, Point de Galle,  
28th February, 1801.*

*Marquess Wellesley, &c. &c. &c.*

MY LORD,

I DID myself the honour to address your lordship from Trincomalee on the 23rd instant, a duplicate of which I now enclose.

Having remained only a few hours I omitted, from hurry and my anxiety to follow the troops, to mention to your lordship that I could not procure any certain intelligence respecting his Excellency Vice-Admiral Rainier; the naval commanding officer at that port, Lieutenant Mayo, of his Majesty's armed brig Providence, mentioned to me that he expected the vice-admiral, but had no information as to the certainty of his excellency touching at that port. On that account, and my being hopeful of overtaking Colonel Wellesley and Captain Malcolm at Point de Galle, I thought it proper to bring on with me your lordship's despatches for Vice-Admiral Rainier, with the view of consulting Captain Malcolm as to the most speedy mode of their being transmitted to his excellency.

I have now to inform your lordship, that on my arrival at this port yesterday evening, I learned, with much concern, that the armament had sailed hence on the 19th instant. From this circumstance, and from my not having found any letters for myself from Colonel Wellesley, I am aware he could not have received any of your lordship's despatches respecting my being appointed to the command of the expedition, though for this I am at a loss to account, considering the time that has elapsed since your lordship first communicated your having been pleased to confer that honour upon me.

Every practicable expedition in my power shall be used

in order to overtake the armament, and I have accordingly ordered Captain Moffat to proceed with me until I fall in with the fleet. The ship *Shah Byramgow* being a heavy sailer, I have ordered her to follow me under convoy of the Honourable Company's brig *Waller*, Lieutenant Davidson, to whom I have given sealed instructions as to the port of destination. I have taken out of the *Byramgow* a quantity of provisions for the use of the troops on board the *Phoenix*, and the master-attendant at this port has supplied me with water and firewood at my request.

I have thought it proper to leave your lordship's despatches for his Excellency Vice-Admiral Rainier, of the 5th and 11th instant, the letter on service, copies of Mr. Secretary Dundas's despatch to your lordship of the 6th of October 1800, of Mr. Secretary Dundas's letter to the Lords of the Admiralty, and a copy of your lordship's secret instructions to me of the 10th instant, enclosed for his excellency the vice-admiral, with Lieutenant-Colonel Dalrymple, commanding this garrison, to be by him delivered to the admiral's order. I have written to the commanding naval officer at Trincomalee to communicate to his excellency in the event of his touching at that port. I have also requested of his Excellency the Honourable Governor North to forward by express my despatch of this date to the vice-admiral, whenever he may have heard certain intelligence from his excellency.

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\* Frederick North, afterwards Earl of Guilford, was the third son of Lord North, so long prime-minister of England. He was born in 1764, and was early in life appointed one of the chamberlains of the Tally Court in the Exchequer. He was appointed governor of Ceylon, and remained there some years. His lordship died in 1829 unmarried, and was succeeded in his titles and estates by the Reverend Francis North, eldest son of the late Bishop of Winchester, now Earl of Guilford.

Having had several conversations with Mr. Stokes\* on the subject of the future supplies of provisions, &c. for the army, I have this day, in consequence, transmitted to the government of Fort St. George an application for the quantity, as per enclosed statement. And I have done this the more, because I am led to believe the armament assembled at Ceylon must have sailed in consequence of orders from the president of Fort St. George, acting under Mr. Secretary Dundas's despatch of the 6th of October, 1800, and, therefore, cannot have provided sufficiently for the extent of the armament intended by your lordship for the Red Sea; and I have again requested of the presidency of Fort St. George that his Majesty's 19th regiment may be relieved and ordered to join the armament with all practicable expedition.

As it is my intention to touch at Cannanore in hopes of receiving information respecting the armament, I shall transmit to the presidency of Bombay the like demand of supplies required for the army as that made on the government of Fort St. George.—I have, &c.

D. BAIRD.

After having despatched this, General Baird ordered the ship to be got under way for Cannanore, and just as he was on the point of sailing he received a letter from Colonel Wellesley, which was forwarded by General Macdowall, announcing that he had sailed for Bombay for provisions, and that he had left the 19th regiment behind, thinking that Lord Wellesley would perhaps undertake both expeditions at the same time.

It was evident to General Baird, upon the

\* Mr. Stokes was agent and commissary of provisions.



receipt of this letter, that Colonel Wellesley had become acquainted with the change in the destination of the expedition, although he had not yet fallen in with him; and accordingly General Baird wrote to Lord Wellesley from Columbo, stating that he had received this announcement from Colonel Wellesley, at the same time detailing all the principal points of his letter; that he had proceeded to Columbo in order personally to make the necessary application for getting the 19th regiment embarked on board the provision ships expected daily at Trincomalee from Calcutta, which it was his opinion should be done with the greatest expedition, and that thence they should proceed, without any delay, to Mocha.

On the following day, when General Baird had reached the Gulf of Manara, he wrote the subjoined letter to Colonel Wellesley.

*Phœnix, Gulf of Manara, 5th March, 1801.*

*Hon. Colonel Wellesley, &c. &c. &c.*

MY DEAR COLONEL,

I RECEIVED a copy of yours to me on the 21st, at Point de Galle, forwarded by General Macdowall. It is much to be regretted that you had not remained at Trincomalee until my arrival, or until you had received some of your brother's letters after my appointment to the chief command, as you would then have learnt that three transports were to sail in the course of a few days after my departure from Calcutta, laden with provisions, &c. for the army—a statement of which I enclose for your informa-

tion—and that Lord Wellesley has made every possible arrangement for supplying the army with provisions, &c. As the above three ships call at Trincomalee, I am in hopes the 19th regiment may be embarked on them, as I have made an application to Governor North for it. These ships, however, are not to be detained but to proceed direct to Mocha.

As the season is so far advanced, I am apprehensive we shall be too late to get to the head of the Red Sea, I therefore request that you will endeavour to have as many of the troops as possible embarked in the men of war and fast sailing transports. I am confident Captain Malcolm will give every assistance in his power to forward the service. I am in hopes, on my arrival at Bombay, I shall find the fleet ready for sea. I send this by the Waller brig, on the chance of her arriving a few days before us. I wrote you yesterday from Columbo by express.

I have the pleasure to inform you that you are appointed second in command.—I am, &c.

D. BAIRD.

This letter from General Baird was forwarded from the Gulf of Manara on the 5th of March; but it appears from the following despatch, addressed to the General by Lord Wellesley, dated the 18th of the same month, that Colonel Wellesley had, as General Baird anticipated, been put in possession of the change of circumstances, and of Mr. Secretary Dundas's letter long before. As this despatch is of great importance to the thread of our narrative we give it entire.

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

SIR,

1. ON the 3rd instant I received advices from the Honourable Colonel Wellesley, intimating that he had received from the government of Fort St. George copies of Mr. Secretary Dundas's despatches of the 6th and 10th of October, 1800, to the Right Honourable Lord Clive and to me, and informing me that he had determined, in consequence of those despatches, to proceed with the troops under his command (excepting his Majesty's 19th regiment, for which he could not procure tonnage) to Bombay, and thence to the place of rendezvous pointed out in the despatches from Mr. Secretary Dundas; and, by a subsequent despatch, I am informed that, in pursuance of that determination, he embarked with the troops from Ceylon on the 14th ultimo.

2. Colonel Wellesley was induced to adopt this measure by the consideration that my principal object in assembling those forces at the island of Ceylon, was to be prepared to meet the eventual demand on the part of his Majesty's ministers for the co-operation of a force from India in an attack upon the French possessions in Egypt. By proceeding to Bombay, Colonel Wellesley supposed that he would be enabled to complete the number of native troops directed to be employed in this expedition, and would have it in his power to obtain for the troops a sufficient stock of such provisions and refreshments as are not procurable at Ceylon. Colonel Wellesley also supposed that in proceeding with the troops to Bombay, he should not materially retard the arrival of the armament at the place of rendezvous, and that my orders might reach him at Bombay before the close of the month of March, if I should deem it expedient to employ the troops under his command in any other direction.

3. Under all the circumstances of the case, I entirely approve of the alacrity which Colonel Wellesley has manifested in moving the troops towards the place of rendezvous, and I trust that this measure will accelerate their arrival at the ultimate point of their destination, and will enable you to assume the command under additional advantages.

4. With a view to give the earliest intimation to Colonel Wellesley of the measures which I have adopted for carrying his Majesty's orders into effect, I directed a copy of my instructions addressed to you on the 10th of February, to be dispatched to him by Bombay on the 3rd instant. He will consequently be prepared to receive you either on your arrival at Bombay (to which place I conclude you will have proceeded from Ceylon at the earliest opportunity) or at Mocha.

5. I enclose for your information a copy of the letter addressed, by my directions, to Colonel Wellesley by the chief secretary.

6. By a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Clive, under date the 2nd instant, I understand that his lordship has determined to send six companies of his Majesty's 74th regiment to Bombay by the ships under dispatch at Fort St. George, for the purpose of supplying the place of the 19th regiment left by Colonel Wellesley at Ceylon. The 19th regiment will therefore remain at Ceylon for the defence of that island. This arrangement appears to be judicious, as, in the approaching season, it would require a considerably longer time to transport the 19th regiment from Ceylon to Bombay, than will be occupied in conveying the six companies of the 74th directly to that place from Fort St. George.

7. Advices have recently reached me which induce me to apprehend that the French may have reinforced Mauritius, with a view to hostile operations against India;

I have therefore judged it expedient to leave the governor in council of Bombay the option of detaining the companies of the 74th for the garrison of Bombay, if he should judge it necessary.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WELLESLEY.

*Fort William, 18th March, 1801.*

If this despatch to General Baird contains an ample justification of Colonel Wellesley's proceeding, the following letter, addressed to Colonel Wellesley by the governor-general in council, in answer to his communication of the 3rd of May, entirely warrants what he did subsequent to its receipt, but before the arrival of General Baird at Bombay.

*To the Honourable Colonel Wellesley.*

SIR,

I AM commanded by the most noble the governor-general in council, to inform you that I have received, through the chief secretary to the government at Fort St. George, and have laid before his excellency in council, copies of your letters to the chief secretary at Fort St. George, and to the governor of Bombay, dated the 7th ultimo.

2. I am further directed by his excellency to enclose a copy of his instructions to Major-General Baird, and of his letter to you under date the 10th of February, which documents will furnish you with the plan which his excellency has adopted for the execution of his Majesty's commands of the 6th October, 1800.

3. As soon as this despatch shall reach you, his excel-

lency in council directs you to proceed immediately to Mocha.

4. If Major-General Baird should not have arrived at that place, you will act as chief in command of the whole force directed to assemble at Mocha, and you will carry into execution, with every practicable degree of dispatch, the plan stated in his excellency's instructions to General Baird, dated the 10th of February.

5. When Major-General Baird shall join the forces destined to be employed on the coasts of the Red Sea, you will act as second in command, according to the tenor of the same instructions.

6. Adverting to your letters to the chief secretary to the government at Fort St. George, and to the governor of Bombay, of the 7th ultimo, the governor-general in council directs me to remark, that under his excellency's orders of the month of October (adverted to in the 11th paragraph of the instructions to you from the most noble the governor-general in council, dated the 11th November, 1800), the government of Bombay were directed to hold in readiness a considerable force of native troops for the purpose of co-operating, in Egypt or elsewhere, with the armament assembled at Ceylon; and that a force of sixteen hundred Sepoys has accordingly been ready for embarkation for some time past at Bombay.

7. His excellency also directs me to remark that the stores embarked on the ships Shah Byramgow,\* Cecilia, and Anstruther, contain provisions which, in most articles, appear more than sufficient to meet the demand transmitted by you to the governor of Bombay.

\* Shah Byramgow left the pilot on the 14th ultimo.

Candidate ..... 20th ditto,

Cecilia and Anstruther expected to leave the pilot on the 5th instant.

8. Major-General Baird embarked for the port of Trincomalee in the Honourable Company's ship *Phoenix*, which ship parted with the pilot off the Sand Heads at the entrance of the river Hoogly on the 14th ultimo.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) G. H. BARLOW,

*Chief Secretary to the Government.*

*Fort William,  
3rd March, 1801.*

On the 31st of March, General Baird reached Bombay in the *Wasp* gun-vessel, on board of which he embarked on the 23rd, a little to the southward of Goa, in hopes of arriving a few days before the *Phoenix*, the whole anxiety of his mind being directed to expediting the departure of the transports as much as possible.

## CHAPTER XVI.

GENERAL BAIRD ARRIVES AT BOMBAY—FINDS COLONEL WELLESLEY THERE—SAILS FOR MOCHA—COLONEL WELLESLEY'S ILLNESS—LEFT BEHIND—GENERAL BAIRD ARRIVES AT MOCHA—HIS RECEPTION THERE—LETTERS AND PROCLAMATION OF LORD WELLESLEY—HIS CONTINUED ANXIETY CONCERNING THE FRENCH ISLANDS—COLONEL MONTRESOR'S ARRIVAL—GENERAL BAIRD PROCEEDS TO JEDDAH—NEGOCIATIONS WITH THE SHERIFF OF MECCA—THEIR RESULT—ARRIVAL OF SIR HOME POPHAM—VOYAGE TO KOSSEIR—COLONEL MURRAY—ADMIRAL BLANKETT—DESPATCHES FOR GENERAL HUTCHINSON—COMMENCEMENT OF THE MARCH—ORDERS—COLONEL BERESFORD—DIFFICULTIES WHICH ARISE—GENERAL BAIRD ACCOMPANIES THE DIVISION ON ITS MARCH—ACCOUNT OF KOSSEIR—GENERAL BAIRD RETURNS TO KOSSEIR.

WHEN General Baird reached Bombay, he found that owing to the activity of Governor Duncan and Colonel Wellesley, several of the transports were nearly ready, and before the 3d of April six of them had actually sailed, under the command of Colonel Beresford, with sealed orders.

General Baird, whose zeal was indefatigable, reached Bombay several days before the *Phoenix*; and when she arrived, having calculated the



time which she would require for getting ready for sea, he determined to embark on board the *William*, which had been represented to him as a remarkably fast sailer. In that ship he resolved to make the best of his way to Mocha, so as to gain as much time there, as possible, for making his further arrangements.

It was then arranged that Colonel Wellesley should sail in the *Susannah*, another fast sailing ship, which led General Baird to hope that they might reach Mocha nearly about the same time.

In his voyage to Bombay, General Baird had fallen in with some transports off Goa, and finding that they were remarkably dull heavy vessels,\* he ordered them into that port to take in their water, and, after having done so, they were instructed to sail under the orders of Colonel Champagné, to whom he delivered sealed instructions, intending to carry from Bombay sufficient provisions, not attainable at Goa, to complete their stock for six months, substituting salt fish for beef and pork; resolving also, for well-founded reasons, to adopt similar measures with respect to all the other transports.

At this period General Baird appointed Major Macquarie, of his Majesty's 77th regiment, deputy-adjutant-general of the army under his command, from a conviction that he was eminently qualified

\* These were the *London*, the *Wellesley*, the *Experiment*, and the *Hydra*, *Grab*.

for the duties of that important department; and also nominated Captain Wilson, Persian translator.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Colman, the general offered the deputy-quarter-master-generalship, but he declined it, although, as general Baird says, in one of the letters which passed on the occasion, "It is a situation of equal honour and importance with that of deputy-adjutant-general." It appears, however, by the list of the general's staff, which we shall presently submit to the reader, that Colonel Colman persisted in refusing the appointment.

There was one subject of annoyance to general Baird, which circumstances prevented his overcoming,—he was obliged to sail with his expedition without the convoy of any of the men-of-war, then at Bombay. The Trident and Orpheus, which *were* there, were in dock, and the Suffolk was in so bad a state as to require a general repair before she could be trusted at sea.

But this vexation even did not come alone. On the 3d of April, just as every arrangement was complete, Colonel Wellesley was seized with a return of intermitting fever, which had previously attacked him at Trincomalee. His anxiety to embark was with difficulty repressed by the injunctions of Mr. Scott, the surgeon. He had resolved to go, and to that determination he adhered until the last moment, thinking, as he said, that the voyage would be of service to

him, and that he should be completely recovered, long before the expedition reached Mocha.

But these expectations were unfortunately not realized in the sequel, and on the 5th of April, the day which General Baird had fixed for the embarkation, Colonel Wellesley was pronounced incapable of proceeding. General Baird, who was most anxious for his co-operation, hoped that a few days might work such a change in his disorder as would enable him, at all events, subsequently to join him; and as the *Susannah*, in which he was to take his passage, was a fast sailer, anticipated that his arrival at Mocha would follow close upon that of his own.

General Baird derived some consolation for the loss of Colonel Wellesley's immediate presence at starting, from the circumstance that Admiral Rainier being known to have left Point de Galle on the 9th of March, might be hourly expected at Bombay; for the general felt that considerable advantage would be gained from Colonel Wellesley's having the opportunity of discussing the practical parts of the expedition with the admiral, and urging him to afford whatever assistance to the arduous enterprise he could spare.

It proved, however, with all General Baird's mental anxiety and personal exertion, impossible to get away from Bombay until the morning of the 6th of April, upon which day he commenced an expedition such as has been rarely attempted at any period of history.

It would be superfluous here to enlarge upon the gigantic combination of labour and peril which a general must necessarily have to encounter in an enterprise like this, which had been hitherto unattempted, and which presented, besides the ordinary array of military, naval, and political difficulties, the awful responsibility of conducting a considerable army through an arid and (by him) untrodden desert. It is sufficient to call the attention of the reader to the following details—he will thence be able to judge of the magnitude of the undertaking, and the gallantry, wisdom, prudence, and humanity, with which it was so nobly and successfully achieved.

General Baird reached Mocha on the nineteenth day from his quitting Bombay. On his arrival there he found that Colonel Murray, who had been despatched to that place several months before, had sailed for Jeddah on the 17th, having previously sent off the Bombay detachment on the 12th, under the command of Colonel Ramsay.

The detachment which we have already mentioned, as having left Bombay so late as the 3d of April, under the command of Colonel Beresford, had arrived at Mocha on the 21st, but Colonel Beresford had likewise sailed on the 22d, without leaving any intimation of his instructions with Mr. Pringle, who was placed at Mocha by Colonel Murray in the character of resident; a silence on the part of Colonel Beresford which he no doubt observed in obedience to his orders, which

directed him to deliver his instructions, sealed, to the senior officer in the Red Sea; in pursuance of which, General Baird concluded he had made the best of his way to follow Colonel Murray.

General Baird, when he became acquainted with the actual state of affairs at Mocha, felt convinced that the moment Beresford reached and joined Murray they would make an effort conjointly to attack Kosseir; and the possibility of their failure in such an enterprise seemed to him to be fraught with so much danger to the ultimate success of the great undertaking in which they were all engaged, that he sent off despatches to both Colonel Murray and Colonel Beresford, in order, if possible, to prevent any of the ill consequences which might arise from a misapplication of their well known zeal and gallantry; his object being to await the arrival of another detachment under Colonel Montresor, to proceed with it to Jeddah, and thence carry on Colonel Murray to Kosseir, where he proposed to wait the arrival of the whole armament. In short, Kosseir was the place selected by General Baird for the *rendezvous*, and accordingly he left despatches at Mocha,\* detailing the arrangement he had decided upon, for Colonel Wellesley and Colonel Champagné, and for Sir Home Popham, who was also expected from England.

\* Mocha, a place of considerable trade in coffee, said to be the best in the world, bears from Cape Bab-el-mandeb

In a letter which General Baird addressed to Lord Wellesley from Mocha, on the 26th of April, he says,

“ When I was at Bombay, Governor Duncan informed me of the very high expectations he had from the abilities and exertions of Mehedi Ali Khan in the present service, and recommended him to me in the strongest manner. On my arrival, the Khan came on board and explained his reasons for not wishing to proceed to Jeddah ; since which I have had several conversations with him, and being convinced that every possible effort should be made to bring over the Sheriff of Mecca to our interest, or at least to be on friendly terms with us, I have with some difficulty prevailed upon Mehedi Ali to accompany me.

“ From the present disposition of the Sheriff of Mecca towards the British cause, no assistance is to be expected from Jeddah. I am given to understand that he has positively forbidden the pilots along the coast to carry any of our ships into that port ; and a number of Dhows from this, with horses and forage for the army, are detained at

about N. by W. half W. *true bearing*, distant thirteen and a-half leagues. By the mean of many observations selected from the journals of several intelligent commanders employed in the expedition, Mocha is in lat. 13° 20' N., long. 43° 20' E., corresponding exactly with Sir Home Popham's observations, and those made by Captain Charles Court during his survey of the Red Sea ; the variation in the road in 1799 was 9° W.  
—HORSBURGH.

Hodeida on that account. It is also reported here that Admiral Blankett has had some disagreement with the sheriff. I have, however, to hope, that through the good offices of Mehedi Ali Khan we shall yet be able to procure some assistance from him.

“ Your excellency is to be apprized, that at this moment *there is not one camel with any part of the army*, and should those which Ali Khan has commissioned from this country not leave Mocha prior to the 20th of May, there is every reason to believe, that from the lateness of the season they will not reach Kosseir in time to be of any use to the army. It is also to be presumed, from the influence of the French, that the Arabs in the neighbourhood of Kosseir will be hostile to our cause, and that camels there, will not be procurable at any rate.

“ From these circumstances it follows that no movement of the army (in the event of the capture of Kosseir) can be possibly undertaken for a considerable lapse of time, unless the enemy have met with a check in Lower Egypt, and the communication is opened with some of the native Beys, the Turkish, or Sir Ralph Abercrombie’s army.

“ Of the total impossibility of an army attempting to march across the desert from Kosseir to Ghenna, a distance of 120 miles, without the requisite number of camels, your excellency must be fully aware; and I beg leave to enclose an

estimate of the probable number of camels sufficient to enable an army of four thousand fighting men, and a thousand Lascars as followers, to perform the above march in twelve days.”

It appears by the despatch from which these paragraphs are extracts, that General Baird had been compelled to relinquish all hope of reaching Suez by sea, in consequence of the lateness of the season ; indeed he had great apprehensions that he should not be able to procure means of conveyance either from the Arabian coast or in Egypt itself, so as to enable him to carry into effect the great object of his expedition, that of creating a diversion in favour of the combined English and Turkish forces, in which case he was prepared, in accordance with Lord Wellesley’s instructions, to advise with Admiral Rainier and Colonel Wellesley as soon as they should arrive, upon the most eligible plans of future operations.

The information which General Baird received from Colonel Murray, who had preceded him, and from other sources, was extremely vague and contradictory. It was stated by some, that the French had evacuated Suez and Cairo, but the general prudently resolved to wait until he either met, or could again communicate with Colonel Murray or Admiral Blankett, before he gave credence to any of the numerous reports which were in circulation, or decided upon the measures which those reports were calculated to influence.

At Mocha General Baird was well received by



the Dola; he had an audience immediately after his arrival, and the Dola promised to afford him every assistance in his power; to *him* he also delivered some presents, and left others in the charge of Mr. Pringle, to be delivered to the Imaum of Sana, and the Sultaun of Aden, refreshing the good intentions of the sub-Dola of Mocha, (who was very much respected there, and whose assistance he considered likely to be very valuable,) with a present of five hundred rupees; gratifying also the harbour-master with a purse of three hundred, of which the general anticipated the beneficial effects in the expedition with which, under the inspection of that officer, the transports might get their water on board.

The immediate negotiation which was to conciliate the Arab chiefs, was one of the strong points of Lord Wellesley's policy in the outset of the expedition, and he accordingly wrote to the Sultaun of Aden, to the Imaum of Sana, to the Imaum's eldest son, to his first Vizier, to the Governor of Mocha, to the Sheriff of Mecca, to the first Vizier of the Sheriff of Mecca, and to the Vizier of Jeddah.

These letters, as shewing the political objects and character of the expedition itself, will be interesting to the reader; we therefore insert them, together with the proclamation with which Lord Wellesley accompanied them. The following was addressed to the Sheriff, the Imaum, and the Sultaun.

*To the* SHERIFF OF MECCA,  
IMAUM OF SANA,  
SULTAUN OF ADEN.  
(*Written 19th March, 1801.*)

THE friendship and harmony which, during a long course of years, has firmly subsisted between the Sublime Porte and his Britannic Majesty is well known to you. That friendship has been still more closely cemented by the faithless conduct of the French towards the Ottoman Porte; the French are now become the common enemy of both states. That perfidious people, disregarding all the obligations of friendship and the stipulations of treaties, has sent forth its armies to invade the peaceful provinces of Egypt, the acknowledged territory of the Ottoman Porte. Without urging the slightest pretext to justify this outrage, but, on the contrary, professing sentiments of perfect friendship and regard, these disturbers of the peace of nations have carried war and desolation into the most fruitful provinces of the empire, the venerated sanctuary of the Mahomedan faith. They have attempted to establish their authority upon the ruins of your religion. They have now unequivocally declared their resolution to maintain by force what they have acquired by the violation of every principle of public faith, and of every maxim of civil and religious obligation.

I entertain too high an opinion of your attachment to the interests and independence of the parent state, and of your zeal for the support of the religion which you revere, to believe that you can have witnessed without indignation and alarm this unexampled instance of the inordinate ambition and perfidious conduct of the French nation.

I am persuaded you cannot view with unconcern, the ambitious and encroaching spirit of the French nation,