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Whitehall, November 25.

Extract of a Letter from the President and Select Committee at Bombay to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, dated 27 June, 1783, received over Land 21st of November.

OUR last Letter left General Matthews, with his whole Force collected, in Possession of Onore, and under positive Orders to make an immediate Attempt upon the City of Bednure, in case the Intelligence then just received of Hyder's Death proved well founded. In Pursuance of these Orders, the General proceeded to Cundapore, which he reduced after some slight Resistance, and from thence represented, in very strong Terms, that the Condition of the Army was not such as would warrant the Attempt upon Bednure, but that nevertheless he should make the Trial; and this Advice of his Intention was conveyed in a Letter from Cundapore, dated the 19th of January, and received here the 8th of February.

The General's Representation of the Danger of the Enterprize, and fatal Consequences of a Failure, was expressed so forcibly, that we did not think it proper, after an Opinion given in such strong Terms by the Officer who was to execute the Service, to persist in exacting a Compliance with our above-mentioned Orders; and we therefore, though with Reluctance, dispatched discretionary Orders to the General to defer the Attempt, at the same Time recommending to him to give due Weight in the Scale to the Advantages Hyder's Death would afford him, which in our Opinion more than counterbalanced the Objections which might in strict Prudence be urged against the Attempt.

The Service, however, had been performed before the Dispatch of our Orders, and on the 14th of February the President received Advice in a Note from Captain Torriano, Commandant at Onore, of our Army having forced the Gaults, and gained Possession of the City of Bednure. Advice of this important Event was shortly after communicated to you by the President.

Subsequent Reports, and Intelligence collected from private Letters, made us very impatient to receive a Relation of his Success from the General himself, as we soon understood that a Treaty of a particular Nature had been concluded with Hyat Saib, the Governor of Bednure under Hyder Ally, and that he was continued in the Government of that City with an Authority, little inferior to what he held before we had become Masters of the Place.

On the 26th of February Colonels Macleod and Humberston, and Major Shaw, the Principal Officers of His Majesty's Troops, arrived here from the Army, which they left some Days after the Surrender of Bednure, but we had still no Letters from Brigadier General Matthews. These Gentlemen, on their Arrival, each gave in Memorials, stating their Reasons for quitting the Army.

Mangalore surrendered by Capitulation the 9th of March, after a practicable Breach had been nearly effected. Carwar and other Forts in the Soundah

Country, had been likewise reduced by a separate Detachment under Captain Carpenter; and some Forts inland, a considerable Distance to the Eastward of Bednure, by other Detachments.

In the Letter from the General above mentioned, dated the 4th of March, he taxes the whole Army in Terms the most severe and unqualified, but altogether general and indiscriminate, with Offences of the highest Criminality. He says, that after the Surrender of Bednure, the Flame of Discontent broke out amongst the Officers, which rapidly spread from those in the immediate Service of His Majesty to the Honourable Company's Servants, and that this Flame being blown by a few Zealots for Plunder and Booty, he was apt to think was one Cause of depriving him at that critical Time of the Service of Lieutenant-Colonels Macleod and Humberston. He mentioned in very concise Terms, some Points of Difference betwixt himself and Colonel Macleod, respecting a Claim of Rank, and the Mode of supplying His Majesty's Troops. That the Agents for the Captors had been loud in their Representations of the supposed Right of the Army, and they and the Officers had done every Thing that was disrespectful and injurious to him; which Circumstances, so contrary to good Order and Discipline, could not fail to increase the Spirit for Plunder in the Soldiery, who, encouraged by the Practice of Officers, were become loose and unfeeling as the most licentious Freebooters.

The General further said, he supposed Colonel Macleod would deliver the Papers on the Subject of these Disputes, and called upon us to take Measures to prevent such dangerous Proceedings: That the Troops in Bednure were almost in a State of Mutiny; the Enemy collecting a Force within Thirty Miles; the Prospect of re-settling the City every Moment more distant, owing to the Dejection of the Jemautdar Hyat Saib, who, from the illiberal and indecent Expressions of Officers, was filled with Apprehensions that made him utterly despond, and rendered him incapable of any Exertion.

Such was the Accusation against the Army, and such the Materials afforded by the General as Grounds upon which Government were to take their Measures in so delicate and critical an Emergency. Colonel Macleod had not delivered the Papers, as supposed by the General: He had only on his Arrival, as mentioned in a former Paragraph, given in a Memorial, assigning his Reasons for quitting the Army, and stating, with Candour and Moderation, the Circumstances of his own Rank and Services, and the Complaints of His Majesty's Troops, which had rendered it impossible for him to continue to serve under Command of Brigadier-General Matthews. These Circumstances, as well as our Resolutions in Consequence, will be communicated by a future Conveyance, only deeming it material to mention at present, that being of Opinion the Services of an Officer of Colonel Macleod's Ability and Experience were absolutely requisite at so critical a Period, we had made a Request to him, on the 7th of March, to continue to serve on this Coast until we could receive the Determination of the Governor General and Council, or General Coote, regarding his Case, giving him Assurances, that we would endeavour in

