

the mean Time to place him on a Footing that might be satisfactory, in any practicable Manner he could point out.

Colonel Macleod shewed a Readiness in complying with our Request that entitled him to every Mark of Attention from the Company. He recalled to our Attention his Difficulties in serving with General Mathews; still, however, offering to serve wherever and in whatever Shape we might command; but in order to avoid all Disputes relating to King's and Company's Troops, and to enable him to serve with more Efficacy, he suggested the Necessity of our bestowing Company's Rank upon him.

In consequence of the General's Reference, we called upon Colonel Macleod the 18th of March, for the Papers alluded to, who in Return demanded from our Justice an Extract of the General's Letter, in which those Disputes on his Conduct were mentioned.

Colonel Macleod being furnished with the desired Extract, delivered the Papers required, accompanied with a Letter from himself in Vindication of his own Character, and of the other Officers involved in one general Accusation. These Papers are of too great Length to be sent by an overland Dispatch; but they contain Imputations against the General of a very serious Nature, and supported by strong Testimony.

Our Want of Information from General Mathews laid us under a Necessity of applying to Colonel Macleod to furnish us with a Detail of the Operations of the Army from their leaving Cundapore to the Surrender of Bednure, and any Information he could afford respecting the Nature of the Treaty with Hyat Saib, and the Proceedings in consequence.

Colonel Macleod in consequence sent in the Journals kept by himself and Colonel Humberston, and gave us all the Information in his Power relative to the Surrender of Bednure and the Treaty with Hyat Saib. When the respective Details of these Gentlemen and General Mathews of the same Event shall come before you, you will doubtless make due Comparison.

We are informed that the General, notwithstanding the Capitulation, immediately on getting Possession of Bednure, confined Hyat Saib a close Prisoner, and that many bad Consequences resulted from the Alarm and Impression given by this Proceeding. That very great Treasures were found in the Durbar, amounting to Fourteen Lacs and upwards, besides much other Treasure and Jewels not exposed, which were at first publickly shewn to the Officers by the General, and declared to be the Property of the Army. That the Breach between the General and Hyat Saib was soon after made up; and, in a few Days, the Army were astonished to hear that Hyat Saib had claimed all this Money, which evidently belonged to the Government of the Country, as his private Property, and that the General had restored it to him on that Plea. Colonel Macleod had been detached at his Time; but this Transaction reviving a Discontent and Suspicion occasioned by a former Affair at Onore, some of the other principal Officers were carried to Hyat Saib by the General, who prevailed upon him to make a Donation to the Army of Half a Lac of Pagodas.

We took the General's Conduct and the State of the Army under Consideration on the 27th of March, and now transmit a Copy of our Proceedings on this very difficult and disagreeable Occasion.

Feeling the strongest Conviction that the Service could not prosper in his Hands, we thought it our indispensable Duty not to continue him any longer in Command of the Army in the Bednure Country; and we accordingly came to a Resolution to remove him therefrom, and to suspend him from the Honourable Company's Service until he can clear up the several Charges against him.

We appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod, of His Majesty's Forces, the Officer first in Rank upon

this Coast, and who had distinguished himself by the Defeat of Tippoo Saib at Panany; to succeed General Mathews in the Command of the Army in the Bednure Country; and we also desired Lieutenant-Colonel Humberston and Major Shaw to rejoin the Army.

We had some Days before, on the 17th of March, received Advice from Mr. D. Anderson, in a Letter dated the 20th of February, of the Mahratta Treaty having arrived from Poora.

The Peace had been duly proclaimed at Bombay, and every necessary Step taken on our Part for the Performance of the Treaty. The Ranger had sailed the 5th of April with Colonels Macleod and Humberston, Major Shaw, and other Officers, to join the Army. Lieutenant Pruen, the Commander of the Vessel, having been previously apprized of the Peace, and furnished with the same Orders as had been circulated to all the Marine, not to commit Hostilities against the Marattas; when on the 18th of April we were alarmed by an Account given by a Lascar, who had escaped, that the Ranger had been attacked on the 8th, three Days after leaving Bombay, by the Maratta Fleet, and, after a most desperate Resistance of near Five Hours, was obliged to submit to superior Force, and, with the whole Convoy of Boats, had been carried into Gheriah.

We were under great Anxiety and Uncertainty, for a considerable Time, regarding the Fate of Colonel Macleod and the other Officers, which was not entirely removed till the 23d of May, when the President received a Letter from him, dated at Gheriah the 5th of that Month. In this Letter the Colonel mentions he had made several unsuccessful Attempts to convey Advice of his Misfortune; and then relates some Circumstances of the Engagement, referring, for a more particular Account, to Lieutenant Pruen. The Account Colonel Macleod gives is, That on the Morning of the 8th of April, they found themselves near the Mahratta Fleet belonging to Gheriah, which, without speaking or Ceremony, attacked the Ranger with great Fury. Lieutenant Pruen fought his Vessel with the greatest Courage. Their Defence was desperate, and ceased not till they were almost all killed or wounded. Major Shaw was shot dead: Colonel Humberston was shot through the Lungs: Lieutenant Stuart, of the 100th Regiment, was almost cut to Pieces on Boarding: Lieutenant John Taylor, of the Bombay Troops, was shot through the Body: Lieutenant Seton, of the Bombay Artillery, and Lieutenant Pruen, Commander of the Vessel, were wounded with Swords on Boarding. In the Beginning of the Action Colonel Macleod received Two Wounds in his Left Hand and Shoulder; and, a little before it was over, a Musquet-Ball passed through his Body, which pierced his Lungs and Spleen. Lieutenant Pruen's Account likewise proves, that the Mahrattas began the Attack, and that he received a Number of Shot before he returned a Gun. Their Force consisted of Two large Ships, a Ketch and Eight Gallivats, with which the Ranger, carrying only Twelve Guns Twelve Pounds, sustained a close Engagement of Four Hours and a half; and for the last Hour the Two Ships and the Ketch were lashed along side of the Ranger, in which Situation the Engagement was continued with Musquetry only; and the brave Defence of the Officers and Crew prevented the Enemy from entering the Vessel, till, from the Number of Killed and Wounded, and most of the Musquets being rendered unserviceable, the Fire of the Ranger was so much reduced, that the Commander was under a Necessity of striking; and the Instant the Colours were down, the Enemy rushed on Board, and cruelly cut and wounded several of the Officers and Men, while others jumped overboard, to avoid immediate Death. The same Night the Ranger was carried into Gheriah, where the Subedar and Officers