

Our last Accounts from the Army left General Medows in Pursuit of Tippoo, and near Trichinopoly. As this Movement makes it uncertain when he can ascend the Ghauts, any Operations of ours must depend on a Knowledge of his Intentions & Expectations. If the General's Determination is, Colonel Hartley to join him still remaining in force, it is my Intention to return to Bombay, and leave the Troops I have brought down at Tellicherry, after reinforcing Colonel Hartley with two native Battalions for him to return to Paligauti with. (But if you are of Opinion, that joint Force can be employed with greater Effect, I am decided that a powerful Division might be made by us in the Canara Country, provided it is probable that the Grand Army does not soon ascend.

If fortunately, however, it is found practicable for it to move towards Seringapatam, we are of Opinion that we can march from thence with our Force, and all the Stores for the Grand Army, through the Tambercherry Pass, and joint above the Ghauts.

These I have the Honor to assure you are our Sentiments; how far they may accord with your Intention it is impossible for me to decide. We mean, however, to remain until your Orders arrive. Colonel Hartley to the Southward of Tellicherry, and my Detachment between Decla and Cananore.

The Necessity of our ultimate Decision on these Points has induced us to send an Express immediately with this Letter; and we have to entreat that positive and immediate Orders may be given us how to act.

Captain Byron has been kind enough to bring me hither in His Majesty's Ship Phoenix; I mean to return with him Tomorrow; and I am pleased at an Opportunity of assuring you he has been of essential Service, not only in a well directed Fire from his Ship, but in his Exertions in forwarding the Public Stores, and in landing with 2, Eighteen Pounders his Marines, and Part of his Crew, to assist in the Reduction of Carley.

I have the Honor to be,

&c. &c.

Rob. Abercromby.

*Extract of a Letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George, in their Political Department, to the Court of Directors, dated January 20, 1791.*

OUR last Communication respecting the Operation of the Grand Army advised you of the important Capture of Palicauclerry, by a Detachment of the Army under Colonel Stuart, and of a Check it had occurred by a sudden Attack of the Enemy upon the Force stationed on the Banks of the Bawanne River, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd; we shall now continue the Subject.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hartley, with the Force stationed in the Travancore Country, having received Orders from the Commander in Chief to advance to Palicauclerry, arrived safely at that Place a few Days after it had surrendered; and opportunely sent the Three Coast Battalions to Coimbatour just before the Enemy made his Appearance in the Neighbourhood of that Place.

We learn by a Letter from the Commander in Chief, dated the 27th of October, that the Enemy as usual had studiously avoided coming to Action, but that by a sudden Movement he had appeared before

Daraporah, where there were no Guns; that the Garrison were obliged to capitulate, and had in consequence been released upon the Express Condition of not serving during the War.

The General being extremely anxious that the Centre Army should enter the Baramahal Country, and proceed to Caveripatam previous to the setting in of the Rains, in order that the two Armies might be ready to act in conjunction, we sent Orders to Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell (who had succeeded to the Command of the Centre Army, upon the Decease of Colonel Kelly) as directed in our Letter of the 25th of October, to hasten his March to Caveripatam.

We were shortly after informed, by a Letter from the Colonel, that he had reached Trepature, distant from Caveripatam about Twenty-five Miles: That the Arrival of his Army in the Enemy's Country had inspired the Inhabitants with Confidence, and that the whole of the Villages had accepted a Coward Protection.

In subsequent Letters we were advised of the Arrival of the Army at Caveripatam, and of the Appearance of the Enemy in considerable Force. Colonel Maxwell at the same Time transmitted the following Account of an Attack that had been made upon the 1st Regiment of Cavalry. "The Enemy's Irregular Horse having driven off some Cattle from the Front of the Camp where they were grazing, the 1st Regiment of Cavalry imprudently pursued them through a narrow Pass, on the other Side of which 3000 Horse, regularly drawn up, immediately attacked them. Under these Disadvantages, however, the Regiment made good their Retreat, but not without considerable Loss. Lieutenant Fonbanque, Cornets Hoare and De Morgan, and Fifty Men and Horses, were reported missing. Cornet De Morgan was said to have been killed, the other Officers wounded and taken." Colonel Maxwell added, that the Army was surrounded by Horse, and that Tippoo was in the Field.

We immediately communicated to the Commander in Chief, by Express, the Situation of Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, for although we had no Apprehension that he could be worsted in an Action, yet we felt much Anxiety lest the numerous Bodies of Cavalry belonging to the Enemy hovering around him, might cut off his Baggage, and distress him for Want of Provisions; but we were soon relieved from all Uneasiness, by a Letter from the General, informing us, that he was crossing the Cavery with the whole Army in Pursuit of the Enemy, who had marched to the Northward a few Days before, with an Intention, it was supposed, of attacking Colonel Maxwell. The General added, that he was under no Alarm for the Safety of the Centre Army, which though perhaps not able to beat the Enemy in full Force, could certainly hold out until his Arrival.

On the 19th of November the Juno Pilot Sloop arrived in these Roads from Bengal, and brought us Dispatches from the Governor-General in Council, which announced the Intention of Earl Cornwallis to take upon himself in Person the Conduct of the War, in consequence of his Lordship's Apprehensions that the Marattas and the Nizam would be discouraged, if, from the Want of Provisions, our Army should not be able to invade the Mysore Country at the Time they had been taught to expect it.

Captain Kyd, the Company's Surveyor-General, and Lieutenant Robinson, Aid de Camp to the Governor-