



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1791.

Whitehall, October 5, 1791.

THE Letters from the East Indies, of which the following are Copies, were this Day received by the Warren Hastings, one of the Company's Ships :

To the Honorable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

HONORABLE SIRS,

I shall not trouble your Honorable Court with an Explanation of the Nature of the incessant Exertions both of Body and Mind which are required by the various Duties of my present Situation ; nor should I now have alluded to them, but that I am under the indispensable Necessity of stating them as the Cause of my being obliged, on this Occasion, instead of entering into a Detail of Particulars, to limit myself to a concise and general Account of our late Operations, and of my future Intentions.

Our Preparations for the Campaign having been completed at Madras, the Army marched from Vellore on the 5th of February ; and, having reached Vellore on the 11th, we halted there Two Days, for the Purpose of drawing from thence a Supply to my Stock of Provisions, and an Addition that had been prepared to the Battering Train, and of receiving some Stores and recovered Men from Arnee.

I had, previous to my Arrival at Vellore, employed every Means in my Power to obtain accurate Descriptions of the different Passes that lead into the Myfore Country ; and having seen sufficient Grounds to be confident that the Moogly Pass could easily be rendered practicable, I turned off to the Right at Vellore, and not only ascended the Pass without much Difficulty, but, by having taken a Route that Tippoo does not seem to have expected, I was also

lucky enough to be able to advance a considerable Distance into his Country before it was possible for him to give us the least Obstruction.

The Forts of Colar and Ouscottah lay in our Route to Bangalore, and surrendered to us without Resistance ; but as neither of them were in a tenable Condition, nor at that Time of any Value to us, I left them unoccupied, after disarming and dismissing their small Garrisons.

I arrived before Bangalore on the Afternoon of the 5th of March, and on the 6th the Engineers were employed in reconnoitring the Place both in the Morning and Evening : On their latter Excursion Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd, who escorted them with the whole Cavalry, discovered the Rear of Tippoo's Line of March, apparently in great Confusion, and unfortunately suffered himself to be tempted by the flattering Prospect of striking an important Blow, to deviate from the Orders he had received from me, and to attack the Enemy. His Success at first was great, but the Length and Ardor of the Pursuit threw his Squadrons into great Confusion. In this State they were charged by Tippoo's Cavalry, and being out of the Reach of all Support, they were obliged to retire with great Precipitation, and with the Loss of above 200 Men and near 300 Horses. Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd received a very severe Wound in the Face, from which, however, I have the Pleasure to add, that he is now perfectly recovered.

The ill Success of our Examination, the Fear of losing Time, and many other Circumstances, of which the Hopes of obtaining a Supply of Forage was not the least, induced me to determine immediately to attack the Fort from the Pettah Side. The Pettah was accordingly assaulted and carried on the Morning of the 1st ; and the Siege of the Fort, which was rendered singularly arduous, not only by the Scarcity of Forage,

[Price Four-pence.]

