

Forage, and Strength of its Works and Garrison, but also by the Presence of Tippoo and his whole Army, was happily terminated by an Assault on the Night of the 21st, in which the Kellidar, and a great Number of his Garrison, were put to the Sword, and our Loss, in Proportion to the Nature of the Enterprize, was extremely inconsiderable. I cannot, however, help expressing on this Occasion, my sincere Regret for the Death of that brave and valuable Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Moorhouse, who was killed at the Assault of the Pettah on the 7th of March.

I have not yet been able to obtain correct Lists of the Ordnance, or of the different Articles that were found in the Magazines of the Place; and I can therefore only say in general, that there were upwards of One Hundred serviceable Pieces of Ordnance, near Fifty of which were Bras, a large Quantity of Grain, and an immense Depôt of Military Stores.

Although Tippoo approached our Position, and even cannonaded the Camp both on the 7th and 17th, yet on these Occasions, and on all others during the Siege, he took his Measures with so much Caution as to put it effectually out of my Power to force him to risk an Action; and on the Night of the Assault he retired, in great Haste, from the South Side of the Fortress, where he was then posted, immediately upon his being acquainted with its Fall. After giving some Repairs to the Breaches, making a Number of necessary Arrangements, and leaving the Train of heavy Artillery to be refitted during my Absence, I moved from Bangalore on the 28th, with the Design of securing a safe and speedy Junction with a large Body of Cavalry that the Nizam had promised to send to me, and of receiving a Reinforcement of Troops and a Supply of Provisions and Stores, which I had some Time before ordered to be in Readiness to join me, by the Way of Amboor, from the Carnatic, considering those as necessary preliminary Measures for enabling me to proceed to the Attack of Seringapatam; and I, at the same Time, communicated my Intentions to General Abercromby, and directed him to use every Exertion in his Power, that might be consistent with the Safety of the Corps under his Command, to prepare himself in the Manner that I prescribed, to give me effectual Assistance when I should reach the Enemy's Capital.

Tippoo having made a Movement to the Westward on the same Day that I marched from the Neighbourhood of Bangalore, I fell in with his Rear at the Distance of about Eight or Nine Miles from that Place; but, from the Want of a sufficient Body of Cavalry, it was found impracticable, after a Pursuit of considerable Length, either to bring him to Action, or to gain any Advantage over him, except that of taking One Brass Gun, which, owing to its Carriage breaking down, he was obliged to leave upon the Road.

My first Object being to form a Junction with the Nizam's Cavalry, I made such Movements, or took such Positions, as I knew would effectually prevent Tippoo from intercepting them, or even from disturbing their March; but, although I was at great Pains to point out the Safety of the March to Rajah Teigewunt, and to encourage him to proceed, the Effects of my Recommendations and Requests were but slow; and, after Waste of Time, which, at this late Season of the Year, was invaluable, and which almost exhausted my Patience, the Junction was not made till the 13th Instant.

It is not easy to ascertain the Number of the Corps with Precision, but I suppose it to amount to Fifteen or Sixteen Thousand Horse; and, though they are extremely defective in almost every Point of Military Discipline, yet, as the Men are in general well mounted, and the Chiefs have given me the strongest Assurances of their Disposition to do every Thing in their Power to promote the Success of our Operations, I am in great Hopes that we shall derive material Advantage from their Assistance.

This Junction being accomplished, I marched on to effect my next Object without Loss of Time; and having arrived at my present Camp on the 18th, and ordered the most expeditious Measures to be taken for transporting the Stores from the Head of the Pass, I shall commence my March again to the Westward on the 22d, and, after calling at Bangalore for the heavy Artillery, I trust that I shall find it practicable to reach Seringapatam before the 12th of next Month.

No useful Purpose could be promoted by my enumerating the Difficulties which I have already encountered in carrying on the Operations of this Campaign, and it would be equally unprofitable to enlarge at present upon the Obstacles which I foresee to our future Progress; they are, however, of so weighty a Nature, that under different Circumstances I should undoubtedly act with more Caution, and defer the Attempt upon the Enemy's Capital till after the ensuing Rains; but, acquainted as I am with the unsettled Situation of political Affairs in Europe, and knowing that a procrastinated War would occasion almost certain Ruin to your Finances, I consider it as a Duty which I owe to my Station and to my Country to disregard the Hazard to which my own Military Reputation may be exposed, and to prosecute, with every Species of Precaution that my Judgment or Experience can suggest, the Plan which is most likely to bring the War to an early Decision.

I have, at the same Time, been the more encouraged to persevere in the Execution of my original Intentions, as both the Nizam and the Mahrattas have of late shewn an uncommon Alacrity in fulfilling their Engagements, which, by the smallest Appearance of Backwardness on our Part, would be immediately cooled; and which, I trust, will, in Addition to our own Efforts, essentially contribute to counteract many of the Disadvantages which the Difficulty of the March, the Risk of Scarcity of Provisions and Forage, and the Approach of the rainy Season, present against the Undertaking; and if those Obstacles can be overcome, the Capture of Seringapatam will probably, in its Consequences, furnish an ample Reward for our Labours.

A few Days after our Success at Bangalore, Tippoo repeated his Propositions to open a Negotiation for terminating our Differences; but whether with a sincere Desire to obtain Peace, or with the insidious Hopes of exciting Jealousies in our Allies, by inducing me to listen to his Advances, is not certain. The Line for my Conduct, however, was clear; and, conformable to our Treaties, I declined, in civil and moderate Terms, to receive a Person of Confidence, on his Part, to discuss the separate Interests of the Company; but informed him, that if he should think proper to make Propositions in Writing, for a general Accommodation with all the Members of the Confederacy, I should, after communicating with the other Powers, transmit our joint Sentiments upon them.

I shall refer you entirely at present to the Accounts that you will receive from the different Govern-
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