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Whitehall, December 1.

THE Letters from the East Indies, of which the following are Extracts and Copies, were Yesterday received by the Leopard, one of His Majesty's Ships:

Extract of a Letter from the President and Council at Fort St. George, in their Political Department, to the Court of Directors, dated June 21, 1791.

WE avail ourselves of an Opportunity that presents itself, via Bombay, of writing to your Honourable Court on the Subject of the Military Operations on this Coast, since the Date of our last Advices by the Warren Hastings.

Lord Cornwallis, having drawn Supplies from the Magazine on the Western Frontier, marched (as we had the Honour to inform you in our last) from the Head of the Vencatagherry Pass on the 22d of April, and reached Bangalore on the 29th of that Month; from whence his Lordship wrote to us, that as his Cattle had suffered very considerably during the March, by the heavy Rains which had fallen, it was necessary for us to provide, with all possible Expedition, a further Supply of Draft and Carriage Bullocks. Orders were in consequence immediately given for this Purpose.

The Army remained in the Neighbourhood of Bangalore Five Days, to recruit their Provisions, and prepare Materials for the Siege of Seringapatam. Colonel Duff was relieved from the Command of the Fort by Lieutenant-Colonel Oldham; and on the 3d of May Lord Cornwallis marched towards the Capital of Mysore.

We did not hear again from his Lordship until the 31st of May, when he informed us (in a Letter dated the 9th) that he found the Country more rugged and barren than he expected, and that his Cattle had suffered very much by the March: That the Zeal of the Troops alone had enabled him to go on, the greatest Part of the Carriages, loaded with the Stores of the Magazine, and a large Proportion of the entrenching Tools, having been drawn and carried almost all the Way by the Soldiers.

A few Days after, we had the Satisfaction to learn, by private Accounts from the Army on which we could depend, that Lord Cornwallis had, on the 15th of May, attacked and defeated Tippoo's whole Force, taken Four of his Guns; and driven him,

with all his Troops, under the Walls of Seringapatam. This signal Victory was the more honorable to the British Arms, as the Enemy had been forced from Heights, where he was strongly posted. Lord Cornwallis's Account of the Action has not yet reached us.

Our next Advice was by an Express from Lieutenant-Colonel Oldham, in which he stated, that he had received a Letter from Lord Cornwallis, dated the 22d of May, advising, that "the Want of Forage, Provisions, and the reduced State of the Cattle, had rendered it necessary for the Army to return immediately to Bangalore." Lieutenant-Colonel Oldham added, from other Intelligence, that "his Lordship, for Want of Bullocks, had been under the Necessity of destroying the Battering Train."

We were much concerned to observe, that the Wants of the Army had at length forced his Lordship to relinquish, in the Midst of Victory, the Object of his Enterprize; but, foreseeing that much might depend on immediate Exertion, we lost not a Moment in issuing our Orders for collecting all the Bullocks that could be procured in the Country under our Management, and for transporting to Amboor, for the Use of the Army, ample Supplies of Grain and every other Provision.

We advised Lord Cornwallis of the Steps we had taken for the Relief of the Army, and expressed our Hope that, by the Exertions we were making, added to those of Captain Alexander Read, whom we had before sent with a Detachment into the Mysore Country to procure Supplies, his Lordship would find his Distresses considerably relieved on his Arrival at Bangalore.

On the 7th Instant we were informed, by private Advices from Camp of the 26th of May, that the Maratta Army had joined Lord Cornwallis that Evening, and that great Hopes were entertained of Relief by this Means in the Article of Provision.

On the 10th Instant we received a Letter from his Lordship, dated the 24th Ultimo, stating that the rapid Destruction which the late heavy Rains and the Want of Forage had occasioned among his Cattle, in Addition to the very unexpected Obstructions to a Junction with General Abercromby, owing to the Badness and almost Impracticability of the Fords of the Cavery, had obliged him, not only to give up



Thoughts of attacking Seringapatam before the setting-in of the Monsoon, but also to destroy the heavy Iron Guns; which, for the last several Marches, had been drawn almost by the Soldiers: That the Fatigue which had prevailed amongst his Followers had likewise increased his Difficulties, by creating an alarming Deficiency in the Public Stock of Provisions, which could not be wondered at, when it was understood that Rice sold in the Buzar for a Pagoda a Seer, (about 2lbs.) and that, under this Consideration, it was not to be expected that Muntrees and Bullock-Drivers would be able to withstand the Temptation of plundering the Bags committed to their Charge on every March.

His Lordship concluded by observing, that he had been obliged to remain near Seringapatam to secure the Retreat of General Abercromby, who had advanced to Periapatam; but that he should march on the 26th to Bangalore and Vencatagherry. He requested that we would order every Bullock that could be procured to be sent immediately to Amboor, that he might be able, without Loss of Time, to furnish Supplies for the Troops, and to replace such Part of the Stock at Bangalore as he might be obliged to make Use of during the March.

We informed Lord Cornwallis, in Reply, that, from the Exertions which had been made by Government, there was the greatest Probability that we should have at Amboor, in the Course of Six Weeks, or Two Months at furthest, Six Thousand Draft and Twenty Thousand Carriage Bullocks, (the Number required by his Lordship) and that there were at present in the Neighbourhood of that Place 1,787 Draft, and 3,477 Carriage Bullocks.

A few Days ago we received Two Letters from his Lordship, dated the 3rd Ultimo and 5th Instant. By the former we were advised that he had marched on the 26th towards Bangalore, but that on coming to the Ground where he proposed to encamp, he was greatly surprized to hear that the Two Maratta Armies, commanded by Hurry Punt and Pururam Bow, (both of which he had every Reason to believe to be at the Distance of 150 Miles) were then actually within a Day's March, and that Pururam Bow's Son, with the advanced Guard, was in Sight: That this unexpected Event had naturally occasioned a total Change of his Plan, especially as he found that the Chiefs, although they had heard that the Attack of Seringapatam had been necessarily postponed till the Conclusion of the Rains, entertained no Idea of retreating towards their own Frontier, but were disposed to co-operate heartily with his Lordship in distressing Tippoo, and cutting off his Resources. That they had further assured him, at the first Meeting, that they had it in their Power to relieve the greatest Difficulties under which he laboured, viz. the Want of Grain and of Bullocks. That he felt tolerably confident he should procure a sufficient Number of the latter in their Camp to answer his immediate Exigencies, but that their Supplies of Grain, through the Means of Benjarries, were so precarious, and the Authority of the Chiefs over those People, even if they kept their Word in endeavouring to exert it, so inefficacious, that he was very apprehensive he should be held, for a considerable Time at least, in a State of wretched Dependence on the Maratta Buzar, where he would not only be obliged to pay an immense Price for a scanty Subsistence, but be exposed at all Times even to the Risk of a total Failure.

His Lordship thought it, however, so great an Object to keep 30,000 Maratta Horse in the Neighbourhood of Tippoo's Capital, that it was to be attempted almost at all Hazards; and that he had already in his Conversation with the Chiefs paved the Way for leading them towards the Sesa Country and the Vicinity of Bangalore, as soon as the Safety of the Supplies, which were following Pururam Bow, should admit of his moving so much to the Left.

His Lordship added, that several Letters had been written to him by the Maratta Chiefs during their March, to give him Notice of their Approach, but that no Letter from either of them had reached him till the Day of their Arrival, which he considered singularly unfortunate, as he would have adopted a very different Plan of Operations if he had known Eight or Ten Days before that he could have depended upon the Junction of so powerful a Force.

The concluding Paragraph of the Letter stated, that General Abercromby had marched from Periapatam on the 23^d of May, and was proceeding towards the Head of the Gaut, without any Interruption from the Enemy, leaving Four Iron Eighteen-pounders, which his Cattle could not remove, and which he could not totally destroy, at Periapatam, as well as a small Quantity of Provisions and Stores; and that the General expected to descend the Gaut on the 27th.

Lord Cornwallis's Letter of the 5th Instant advises us, that it was his Lordship's Intention to move the next Day towards Nagamungalum, to which Place the Benjarries of the Two Maratta Armies were to direct their March, and which, as well as the Roads leading to it from the Northward, it was consequently very necessary to take great Care to protect. That Tippoo still remained with his whole Force near to Seringapatam, and that no Judgment could be formed till the Cavary was on the Point of becoming unfordable, which would be the Case in a few Days, whether he (Tippoo) would determine to make Head against the Confederate Armies in that Quarter, or endeavour to disturb the Southern Provinces.

His Lordship pressed us not to lose Sight of the great Object of providing Bullocks and Grain, and of sending Supplies of Arrack and Camp Equipage to Amboor: That these, and various other Measures, he conceived to be absolutely necessary, upon the Supposition that the War might continue longer than we expected; for that although Tippoo had repeatedly expressed an earnest Desire for Peace, his Lordship was by no Means convinced that the Enemy was prepared to make the Sacrifices that the Confederates might think they they had a Right to expect.

Lord Cornwallis proceeded to inform us, that his Wants in Money would be pressing and extensive; that the Supply of the Army during the Rains, and its Equipment for the Field, exclusive of the Corps under General Abercromby, could not be estimated at less than between Thirty and Forty Lacks of Rupees; and he desired us therefore to take our Measures accordingly. He added, that he would have us consider whether it would not be advisable to take some Assistance from the Treasure sent out on the Company's Ships, which was destined for China; and that whatever we might resolve upon would have his Sanction. In the mean Time he desired that we would send Seven or Eight Lacks of Rupees to Vellore, to supply the Wants of the Army, as soon as the Communication was secured.

It was a peculiar Satisfaction to us at this Time to reflect, that we had actually in our Treasury the full Amount of what his Lordship represented to be necessary for him during the Rains, and for the subsequent Equipment of his Army, notwithstanding the ample Advances made for your Investment.

We have been thus particular in detailing to your Honorable Court the Transactions of the War, because the Subject is important; and we can readily conceive the Anxiety you must feel to receive Advices by every Opportunity.

We have the Pleasure to inform you, that the Fort of Coopee surrendered to the Nizam's Army on the 17th of April.

Extract of a Letter from the President and Council at Fort St. George, in their Political Department, to the Council of Directors, dated July 14, 1791.

WE shall now resume the Narrative of the Military Operations on this Coast since the 21st Ultimo, the Date of our last Address on this Subject.

On the 30th of last Month we received a Letter from Lord Cornwallis, dated the 14th, in which he informed us that the Cavery River had risen very considerably, but was then fordable: That Tippoo had not only brought his whole Force across the River, but a considerable Quantity of Artillery and Stores, from which his Lordship supposed that it was the Intention of the Enemy to give every Disturbance in his Power, to interrupt our Supplies, and in particular to prevent, as much as possible, the Equipment of our Part of the Army, from which he (Tippoo) well knew he had the most serious Misfortunes to fear.

That the Necessity of his Lordship's regulating his Movements in Concert with the Marattas, and protecting their Supplies, would keep him so much to the Westward, that it would be certainly possible, and he by no Means thought improbable, that Tippoo, who could have no Apprehension for Seringapatam for the next Four Months, might make a rapid March to Onnore, and from thence pass into the Barampaal and Carnatic.

His Lordship added, that we might be assured he would give us the earliest Intelligence of such an Event; but he desired us, in the mean Time, to be upon our Guard, and, amongst other Precautions, to reinforce the Garrison of Arnee, and take every Means in our Power to transport the Stores and Provisions, that were not wanted for the Use of that Garrison, from thence to Vellore, and, if possible, to Amboor.

We received a Letter from Lord Cornwallis of the 25th Ultimo, stating that the Marattas, having now no farther Apprehensions about their Communications, or Safety of their distant Detachments, acquiesced in his Lordship's beginning to move to the Eastward on that Morning; and that unless, after minutely reconnoitring the strong Hill Fort of Severndroog, (about Twenty-five Miles to the Westward of Bangalore) he should be encouraged to attempt the Reduction of that important Post, he should probably, in Four or Five Days, reach the Neighbourhood of Bangalore.

His Lordship added, that an Outline of his future Plan of Operations had been explained and concerted with the Maratta Chiefs: That they had agreed not to separate from him until the War was brought to an honorable Conclusion; and that he should take an early Opportunity of communicating to us the Particulars of what had passed between him and those Chiefs at some of his late Conferences with them.

We have received Letters from his Lordship, dated the 21st and 24th Ultimo: The First, stating that he had been obliged, for Reasons he could not then explain to us, to promise a considerable Loan to the Marattas; and desiring, therefore, that we would immediately take the Amount of Twelve Lacks of Rupees out of the China Ships, notwithstanding any Orders to the contrary that we might have received, and coin it into Rupees, with as much Dispatch as possible.

His Lordship, in the Second Letter, requested we would inform the Supreme Council, that he thought it would be highly expedient for the Public Service that the Swallow Packet should sail from hence for England in the very Beginning of the Month of September; and that he therefore recommended it to them to transmit their Dispatches, either by Land or Water, in such Time as would nearly ensure their Arrival at Fort St. George by the 31st of August,

In Reply to his Lordship's Letter respecting the Loan to the Marattas, we observed, that the Sum of Twelve Lacks of Rupees would be held in Readiness to answer any Call which he might have for it.

We have very sincere Pleasure in reporting to your Honorable Court, that Captain Alexander Read, whom we had sent into the Myfore Country, with a Detachment, to collect Supplies, arrived lately at Bangalore, with a very large Convoy of Bullocks, Sheep and Grain for the Use of the Army; a Circumstance particularly fortunate at this Juncture, when the Troops were reduced to so much Distress for all Kinds of Provisions.

We understand that his Lordship has expressed, in General Orders, his Acknowledgment of the Service rendered by Captain Read. The whole Supply, collected by that zealous and active Officer, amounted to 1952 unloaded Bullocks, about 9000 Load of Grain brought by the Benjarris, 14567 Sheep, and 100 Horses.

As the Service performed by Captain Read had been conducted throughout with great Ability and Judgment, we expressed to him our warmest Approbation of his Conduct; and we resolved, in order to enable him to defray the extraordinary Expence which he had sustained on this Occasion, and as a further Testimony of our Acknowledgment of his Services, to give him a Gratuity of One Thousand Pagodas.

As the Intercourse with the Army was opened by Lord Cornwallis's Movement to the Eastward, we thought it might be essential to his Lordship's Plans to inform him of the exact State of our Treasury, which stood on the 4th Instant as follows:

In the Cash Chest, Star Pagodas	-	2,41,469
In the Treasury, in Pagodas and Rupees	-	3,84,232
Ditto in Bills	-	8,528
Ditto in Porto Novo Pagodas	-	1,44,206
Ditto in Dollars	-	2,55,768
In the Mint, in Arcot Rupees	-	1,49,686
Total Star Pagodas	-	11,83,889

All the Bills drawn from Camp had been regularly paid, and our Garrison and Civil Establishment had been also paid up, so that we were fully prepared to supply the pecuniary Wants of the Army during the Rains, and to re-equip it for the ensuing Campaign.

Since writing the above, we have received Letters from his Lordship, under Date the 28th Ultimo, and 1st and 2d Instant, Copies of which we have the Honor to forward as Numbers in the Packet.

Your Honorable Court will observe, that it was his Lordship's Intention to approach near enough to Bangalore to enable him to deposit the Sick in that Place, and to avail himself of the large Supply of Provisions collected by Captain Read; after which he meant to proceed to the Reduction of Onnoor, and to place the Troops in such a Position as to exclude Tippoo completely from all the principal Northern Passes leading to the Eastward from the Myfore Country.

The great Satisfaction expressed by his Lordship at the Efforts of this Government to assist in the arduous and important Cause in which your Arms are engaged, affords us the most sensible Pleasure; we feel the Necessity of extraordinary Exertion at this critical Juncture; and your Honorable Court may rely upon our Assurances, that we will most heartily co-operate with the Governor-General in every Matter dependent upon us, to enable him to prosecute the War with the utmost Vigor, and, we sincerely hope, with the most signal Success.

Copy of a Letter from Earl Cornwallis to Sir Charles Oakeley, Bart. dated Camp near Seringapatam, May 16, 1791.

S I R,

I Have the Honor to inform you, that I had an Opportunity Yesterday of attacking Tippoo, and of giving him a total Defeat. The Vicinity of Seringapatam, and the Batteries which he had erected on the North Side of the Island, saved his Army from Destruction. His Loss of Men, however, must have been very considerable; and, besides a Number of Colours, we took Four Pieces of Brass Cannon.

The Difficulties of my own Situation, in Respect to Forage and Provisions, and particularly on Account of the advanced Season of the Year, are not much relieved by this Event, and indeed are very serious; and the Obstacles which this River presents to a Junction or Co-operation with General Abercromby, and which had never been described in any written or verbal Account of it, appear at present almost insurmountable.

I am, with greatest Esteem and Regard,

S I R,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) CORNWALLIS.

A true Copy,

(Signed) *Geo. Parry*, Act. Dep. Sec.

Copy of a Letter from Earl Cornwallis to Sir Charles Oakeley, Bart. dated Camp at Magri, June 28, 1791.

S I R,

WE arrived here this Morning, and I shall probably remain in this Neighbourhood, for the Purpose of thoroughly reconnoitring the Forts of Severndroog, and of giving the Marattas an Opportunity of employing their numerous Cavalry and Followers in searching the extensive Jungles for the large Quantities of Cattle and Grain, which are said to have been collected in them from the adjoining Country.

After accomplishing those Objects, I shall approach near enough to Bangalore to enable me to deposit the Sick in that Place, and to obtain a Supply of some Articles of Military Stores.

I am at present in hourly Expectation of hearing that Captain Read has arrived there with a large Convoy of Provisions; and, if I am not disappointed, my Intention is to avail myself of that Supply, and proceed directly to reduce Onssore, and to place our Armies in such a Position as to exclude Tippoo completely from all the principal Northern Passes leading to the Eastward from this Country.

I hope these Measures will perfectly secure our own Communications, and that they will also put it in my Power to make the further Arrangements that I intended, respecting the Troops of the Allies, without any material Interruption.

I am informed, that Tippoo has taken the Advantage of our being detained to the Westward for the Protection of the Maratta Communications, to detach some Cavalry and Infantry towards the Barriamul; but I think it highly probable, that, upon his being acquainted with the Direction of our Movements, he will soon recall them.

You will, I am fully persuaded, use every Exertion in your Power to provide us amply with Cattle; and I must recommend, that those which have been procured to the Southward of the Coleroon may be brought to the Presidency as soon as possible, to be employed in transporting Grain and other Articles

that we may want from thence; and I must particularly request, that no Pains be spared to engage the greatest possible Number of Drivers to attend them; as it is to the Deficiencies in that Class of People in the Army that our late Losses of Cattle are principally to be attributed.

In Addition to the Sum that I formerly mentioned, you will oblige me by dispatching, without Delay, Six Lacks of Rupées to Vellore, to be ready to be forwarded to the Army, when I shall be satisfied with the Security of our Communications:

I am, with great Esteem and Regard,

S I R,

Your most obedient,
and humble Servant,

(Signed) CORNWALLIS.

A true Copy.

(Signed) *George Parry*,
Acting Deputy Secretary.

Extract of a Letter from Earl Cornwallis to Sir Charles Oakeley, Bart. dated Camp at Solour, July 2, 1791.

I SHALL move on the 4th towards Bangalore, from whence the Arrival of Captain Read's Convoy will enable me to proceed in a very few Days to Onssore.

The Disposal of the Maratta Armies during the Rains is not finally arranged; but I believe it will be settled at a Conference which I shall have with the Chiefs To-morrow.

I cannot conclude without assuring you, that I shall ever retain the most grateful Sense of your Exertions to resist this Army, and that I feel myself fortunate, in this important Juncture, in seeing the Government of Fort St. George in such able and respectable Hands.

Extract of a Letter from Major General Abercromby to Earl Cornwallis, dated Tellicherry, June 19, 1791.

I Had the Honor of writing on the 14th Instant by one of your Lordship's Hircarrahs, acquainting you with the Arrival of the Corps at their several Cantonments. Before the End of the Month I am in Hopes to have the Men under Shelter; which I am the most anxious to hasten, as they require much Restitment from the late fatiguing Duties they have been engaged in. The Difficulty of procuring Materials, and the full Employment we find in erecting Buildings for the Men, must prevent my assisting the Officers, and will, I fear, oblige them to remain in Tents most, if not all the Monsoon. This, with the Loss they have sustained, from the Inclemency of the Weather and the Badness of the Roads, in their Baggage, their Cattle, and their Camp Equipage, the latter of which, on this Side of India, is their own Property, together with the Dearthness of almost every Necessary of Life from the increased Consumption, has determined me to continue the Troops on Batta, until I receive your Lordship's Directions respecting them.

Notwithstanding the Fatigues we have undergone, I am happy to acquaint you our Sick have not increased in the Proportion I had Reason to expect. In a few Weeks, I am persuaded, we shall be well refitted; and, with the Recruits to be expected from England for the Europeans, and those already entertained at Bombay for the Native Battalions, I hope we shall be nearly completed to the Establishment.