

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 Benjarries, 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.