

*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 Rupees 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 Solor, 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 Rest 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 Dearness 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 compleated to the Establishment.