

early in the Season: But unluckily, on that particular Night, we had for several Hours the most violent Thunder, Lightning and Rain that I have seen in this Part of India.

The Ground of our Encampment having been intersected by some ruined Villages and Inclosures, and several deep Ravines, much valuable Time was lost before it was possible to form the Troops in the Order of March which was directed; and, owing to the heavy Rain and excessive Darkness of the Night, I was obliged to halt so frequently after I had begun to move forward, either on Account of many of the Regiments losing at different Times the Line of March, or of the Weakness of the Gun Bullocks, which were jaded and exhausted by the Severity of the Storm, that I had only advanced a few Miles when the Day began to dawn.

All Hopes were then at an End of being able to execute my original Plan; but having accomplished the Part of the March that had been described to me as the most difficult, and having the utmost Confidence in the Valour and Discipline of the King's and Company's Troops, I determined to persevere in endeavouring to force Tippoo to hazard an Action on Ground which I hoped would be less advantageous to him than that which he had chosen, with the Expectation that a complete Victory might not only relieve many of our temporary Distresses, but tend to bring the War to a very speedy Conclusion.

The Army, therefore, continued its March; and the Movement had been so entirely unexpected by the Enemy, that we had begun to descend the Heights on the Eastward of the deep Ravine that I have mentioned, and at the Distance of Four or Five Miles from the Left of their Camp, before they took the Alarm.

After some Movements, the Object of which could not for a short Time be clearly ascertained, it appeared that Tippoo, notwithstanding that we were advancing by a Route for which he was not prepared, did not decline to risk the Event of a Battle in a new Position: He detached immediately from his Main Body a large Corps of Infantry and Cavalry, with Eight Guns, to occupy the Summit of a rising Ground, about Two Miles from the Extremity of his Left, which terminates to the Northward in an abrupt Precipice in the middle of a Plain; and though the Ascent is broken by large Rocks, and some intermediate lesser Heights, rises gradually for about a Mile and a Half, or Two Miles, from a Valley that was in our Front, and which continued to the Caveri, and divided the Ridge of Hills that we had crossed during the Night from another steep Ridge, consisting principally of Two large Mountains (on a projecting Point of the Southernmost of which stands the Carigut Pagoda) running nearly at right Angles to the former, at the Distance of about a Mile and a Half, and extending very near to the Caveri, opposite the Island of Seringapatam.

Whilst the Corps was on its March, to possess itself of the Summit that I have mentioned, Tippoo was employed in changing the Front of his Army to the Left, covering his Left Flank with the steep Hill, which had been in his Rear, and his Right Flank with the Ravine, which ran along his former Front.

The Disposition on our Side for Action could only be made on the Ascent of the Heights, to the Summit of which the Enemy's Detachment was then moving, and from which it was absolutely necessary to dislodge it before I could attack their Main Body.

Our March was therefore continued in that Direction across the Valley through which ran a Continuation of the Ravine which covered the Enemy's Right; but, owing to the Depth of that Ravine, the

weak State of the Gun Bullocks, and the near Approach of a large Body of the Enemy's Horse, that, though repulsed in several Attempts, appeared to be prepared to take Advantage of the least Disorder in any of our Battalions, it was upwards of Two Hours after the Passage of the Head of the Column before the whole Infantry could cross to the same Side of the Ravine with the Enemy, and consequently before the Disposition for Action could be completed; and during that Time we suffered some Loss from the Guns on the Height, opposite to the Head of the Column, but were severely galled by a well-directed though distant Fire from the Artillery of the Enemy's Main Body, which had formed nearly parallel to the Direction of our March.

Under these Difficulties, and under the Disadvantage of the Want of all satisfactory local Information beyond what could be seen, of the intended Field of Battle, and of the adjoining Country, Nine Battalions were formed opposite to the Enemy's Main Body, in a first Line, under the Command of Major-General Medows and Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart; Four Battalions in a Second Line, under Lieutenant-Colonel Harris, and Five under Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, were defined for the Attack of the Enemy's Corps on the Summit of the Hill upon our Right. This Attack had been unavoidably postponed until the other Parts of the Disposition could be made, and by that Means Tippoo should be effectually awed and prevented from making any Attempt on the Flank or Rear of those Troops whilst they were moving forward to drive his Detachment from their Post. Our own Cavalry and the Nizam's Horse were left out of the Reach of the Cannonade on the Descent of the rising Ground on the opposite Side of the Ravine, in Readiness to take Advantage of any Confusion they might observe in the Enemy's Army; and Orders were given to Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, after succeeding in his Attack, to leave only a sufficient Force to retain Possession of the Summit of the Hill, and to advance immediately with the Remainder of his Corps, and endeavour to possess himself of the Mountains which covered the Left Flank of the Main Army of the Enemy.

A rocky Height afforded considerable Protection to the Troops from the Enfilade from the Hill on our Right, during the Time that was necessarily employed in making the Disposition and forming the Lines; which being accomplished, I began the Action by ordering Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell's Corps to attack the Hill on our Right, and, upon observing that he had, without much Loss or Difficulty, completely succeeded, I moved forward with the Main Body of the Army, and the Action soon became general along the whole Front.

The Enemy's Cavalry, that had harassed us, and frequently attempted to break in upon the Infantry whilst the Column was passing the Ravine, made no Stand after we were prepared to advance, Part of it retreating to the Westward of the Ridge on which the Carigut Pagoda stands, with the Infantry that had been driven from the Hill by Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell, and the Remainder falling into the Rear of the Main Army.—Their Infantry, on this Occasion, shewed a much better Countenance than usual, which perhaps may be principally attributed to Tippoo's own Presence and Exertions amongst them; but, in a short Time, they began to waver, and soon after, upon the Cavalry moving towards their Right, and Three Battalions of Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell's Corps advancing rapidly to gain the Heights on their Left, they entirely gave Way.

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