

the Zumbuddra; to which, upon their Assurances that we should be able to purchase from the Grain Dealers attached to them, a sufficient Quantity of Grain to subsist our Troops and Followers for some Time to come, I consented.

In order, therefore, to effect these Purposes, we halted frequently, and having, soon after the Junction of the Mahrattas, sent back to the Nizam all those of his Troops that had, either from the Loss or the Weakness of their Horses, become unfit for Service, the Confederate Force moved together gradually, though slowly, towards Bangalore; and upon our Arrival within about Twenty Miles of that Place, it was thought adviseable to acquiesce in Perferam Bhow's Wishes to move with the Army under his own immediate Command towards Sera, to secure that Communication, and to possess himself of the adjoining Country, according to the Plan that had been arranged, Hurry Punt, with his Division and the Nizam's Cavalry, remaining with our Army.

After drawing from Bangalore Four heavy Guns and a Supply of Provisions, I marched from the Neighbourhood of that Place, on the 15th of July towards Oussore, a Fortrefs upon which Tippoo has bestowed much Labour and Expence, but which, though in a very defensible State, was not completely finished. The Garrison abandoned the Place on the Approach of a Detachment that I had sent forward to invest and summon it; but they at the same Time sprung a Mine under one of the Bastions that did considerable Damage, and attempted, though unsuccessfully, by a Train, to blow up the Powder Magazine.

Conformable to my Plan I placed the heavy Guns and the spare Stores and Provisions in the Fort of Oussore, with a good Garrison, and the Damage occasioned by the Explosion was ordered to be repaired with all possible Expedition: A strong Escort was at the same Time sent to bring a large Convoy of various Kinds of Supplies from Amboor.

On the 18th of July the Army marched to support a Brigade that I had detached to endeavour to reduce the Hill Forts adjoining to the Polycode Pass (by far the easiest and best in the whole Range of Mountains that divide the Mysore Country from the Carnatic) and in a few Days we were fortunate enough, by the spirited Behaviour of our Troops, and the Pusillanimity of the Garrisons, to obtain Possession of a sufficient Number of those small, but exceedingly strong Places, to afford considerable Protection to the March of our Convoys, and to render it hazardous and difficult for the Enemy to send Troops into the Baramaul.

I conceive it to be needless to trouble you with a Detail of the Preparations that will be made in the Course of the next Two Months for insuring Success to the Plan of Operations for the ensuing Campaign, which will be nearly similar to that which was intended for the last; and shall therefore content myself with assuring you, that no Exertions of mine shall be wanting to render them compleat; and that I have an entire Confidence in meeting with the most thorough Support from all your Governments.

It would be vain to suppose that we should remain long undisturbed by an Enemy so able and active as Tippoo: But although, from the immense Extent of our Possessions and Posts, it may be impossible to prevent him from gaining some small Advantages during the Period that we are restrained from carrying on offensive Operations, I trust it will not be in his Power to do any Thing which can either materially injure or impede the Execution of our main Objects.

He has lately, as I had long expected, made an Attempt to disturb the Country of Coimbatore and our Southern Provinces, in which he has been completely foiled by the Gallantry and good Conduct of the Officers in that Quarter. But he has been successful in routing a small Detachment of Irregulars, which Perferam Bhow had left at a great Distance from his Army, to blockade the Hill Fort of Madgaeri, not far from Sera. I cannot say that I was much surprized at this Accident; and indeed, notwithstanding my repeated Recommendations to them, to be cautious in detaching, and to avoid bad and distant Posts, they are so apt to deviate from System in the Execution of any Plan, that I am afraid they must feel the ill Consequences of improvident Conduct still more severely before I shall be able completely to command their Attention.

The Inconveniencies which the Expence of this War must occasion to your Finances have given me the most sincere Concern; but, on the other Hand, it is a Source of Satisfaction to myself, as it must be to every other Person who feels for the Interest and Honor of the Company and the Nation, that there is at present a favorable Prospect that it will be terminated with valuable Acquisitions to the Company, and to the other Members of the Confederacy; and with the Humiliation of a Prince, who forced us to draw the Sword by a wanton Violation of a solemn Treaty, and whose overgrown Power, directed by a perfidious and barbarous Disposition, and by a Spirit of insatiable Ambition, has frequently given just Cause of Alarm for the Safety of your Possessions in this Part of India, and has long rendered him an Object of the utmost Terror to all his other Neighbours.

Impelled, however, as I was, by the Consideration of the State of your Finances, to put something to the Hazard, in attempting to bring the War to a speedy Conclusion, the Information that I had received of the Situation of political Affairs in Europe operated also strongly to induce me to make an Effort to reduce the Enemy's Capital, and by that Means entirely break his Power, before the Setting-in of the periodical Rains; and although a Number of Circumstances combined to counteract my Endeavour to shorten in that Manner the Duration of the War, yet whilst the Failure has reflected no Disgrace upon the British Arms, the Attempt has in other Respects produced many solid Advantages to the common Cause, and without having been attended with any material Addition to the Expence, which we must necessarily have incurred if the Army had, during the same Period, remained in a State of Inactivity.

I have Reason to be persuaded that all Instances on my Part would have been ineffectual, and that nothing but an Apprehension that their Interests might suffer by their not being present at the Reduction of Seringapatam, could have prevailed upon both the Mahratta Chiefs to leave in other Hands the Collection of the Revenues in the Enemy's fertile Northern Dominions that they had over-run, and to advance so rapidly to the Southward to form a Junction with me; and it is in consequence of that Junction, and of their having consented to remain with their numerous and powerful Cavalry to act in Concert with us, that we have been able, for so long a Period, to hem Tippoo with his Army into a very circumscribed Space, and to deprive him of all Revenue or Supplies of any Kind from the greatest Part of his extensive Territories.

At the Time that we suffered the greatest Inconvenience from the Inactivity of the Nizam's Cavalry, and I expressed my Dissatisfaction, in the strongest

Terms,