

## POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Honorable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

HONORABLE SIRs,

WE have now the Pleasure to enclose, for the Information of your Honorable Court, Copy of a Letter from Lord Cornwallis, advising of the Capture of Nundy Durgum.

We have the Honor to be,  
with the greatest Respect,  
Honorab!e Sirs,  
Your faithful humble Servants,  
(Signed) Charles Oakeley.  
Will. Petrie.  
John Hudleston.

Fort St. George, October 25, 1791.

Sir GEORGE OAKELEY, Bart. &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

I HAVE the Pleasure to inform you, that we last Night carried by Assault the strong Hill Fort of Nundy Durgum, which is a Post of infinite Consequence, as it will tend to give us quiet Possession of a large Tract of Country, and to secure very extensive Communications behind us, when we move forward towards Seringapatam.

Although the Killedar refused to listen to any Terms that were offered him, and the Garrison appeared very vigilant during the whole Siege, they made but a feeble Resistance against the Assaultants, and our Loss has been inconsiderable; the First Killedar and Bukthey are Prisoners, and the Second Killedar and a few of the Garrison were killed, but the greatest Part of it escaped by scrambling down the Rocks on the Back of the Fort.

Reports of a Force in the Baramaul have, for some Days, made me a little uneasy about Affairs in that Quarter; but, from the best Information I have been able to procure, that it's Number has been greatly exaggerated, and that it is by no Means of sufficient Strength to occasion any serious Inconvenience to us.

The first Convoy is already come up the Peddana-durgum Pass, and I am now at Liberty to give my whole Attention to the Protection of the second. I shall march to the Eastward To-morrow, and can move with Dispatch if it be necessary.

I am, with much Esteem,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble Servant,  
(Signed) CORNWALLIS.

Camp, Four Miles South of Nundy Durgum, October 19, 1791.

(A true Copy) George Parry, Act. Dep. Sec.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

HONORABLE SIRs,

I Had the Honor to transmit to your Honorable Court, in my Letter dated the 7th Ult. a general Account of your Political Affairs, and of the State of the War now carrying on against Tippoo Sultan at that Period.

The most unremitting Exertions in every Shape have been made, since the Dispatch of my last Letter, in forwarding the various Preparations which are

indispensably necessary to enable the Confederate Forces to recommence offensive Operations with Vigor and Effect; and I have the Satisfaction to be able to say, that they are now so far advanced as to give me reasonable Grounds to expect, that soon after the Middle of next Month they will be completed.

As all other Preparations would have been ineffectual, unless sufficient Supplies of Provisions could have been secured, not only for the fighting Men, but also for the vast Multitudes of Followers that must unavoidably attend the different Armies, I spared no Pains to persuade as many as possible of the Native Carriers and Grain Dealers, commonly called Benjarries in this Country, to attach themselves to our Camp; and it gives me Pleasure to inform you, that my Endeavours have been so successful, that many Thousands of that useful Class of People, and a large Portion of them Persons who have hitherto been in the Service of Tippoo, are now engaged to employ themselves in collecting and transporting Provisions for our Consumption, by which Means the Wants both of the Soldiers and the Followers are at present supplied, in as great Abundance, and at as cheap a Rate, as can ever be expected in a large Army in this Country.

I had long wished, though I have till lately been prevented by other Objects, to reduce the Hill Forts of Rymenghur and Nundy Droog, the former at the Distance of about Forty-five Miles North-East, and the latter about Thirty Miles North of Bangalore, as being of the utmost Consequence for giving Confidence to our Benjarries, and for rendering the Communication with our Supplies to the Northward of Bangalore perfectly secure; and I determined to avail myself of the Interval between the Dispatch and the Return of one of our Convoys from Amboor to make the Attempt.

A Corps was accordingly detached with Artillery for that Purpose, under the Command of Major Gowdie, and found no great Difficulty in obtaining Possession of Rymenghur; but, upon proceeding to Nundy Droog, the Means of Resistance at that Place appeared so formidable, that I judged it expedient to send a considerable Reinforcement both of Troops and Guns; and I likewise thought it necessary to take a Position with the main Body of the Army to the Northward of Bangalore, to deter Tippoo from making any Attempt to interrupt the Siege.

The Steepness and Ruggedness of the Hill on which the Fort is built, and Two Walls of Masonry, at the Distance of about Eighty Yards from each other, with Cavaliers and Towers, with which the only accessible Part of the Hill is fortified, presented no very encouraging Objects to the Besiegers; and after having, with some Loss of Men and excessive Labor, constructed a Battery of Eight Embrasures on the Ascent of the Hill, within less than Five Hundred Yards of the Wall, and brought into it Four heavy Guns, and Four Twelve-pounders, the outer Wall proved to be of a Strength and Thickness so much beyond all our Calculation, as well as our Experience in all the other Hill Forts that we had seen in this Country, that practicable Breaches were only effected in it, after a most incessant and uncommonly well-directed Fire of Six Days.

I had taken a Position, with our own and the Maratta Army, about Sixteen Miles from the Fort, from which I received frequent Reports of the Progress of the Attack; and, having been fully acquainted with all the Obstacles that had been encountered, as

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