

Companies of the 71st and 76th Regiments to Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart's Corps.

I then established Posts, composed of Detachments of our own Infantry and the Horse of our Allies, at a considerable Distance on our Right and Left, for the Purpose of preventing the Enemy's Parties from going round to disturb the Communications behind us during the Siege; and I afterwards moved on, with the main Body of the Army, to the nearest Ground to the Northward of the Fort on which it was possible to encamp, and which was not less than Eight Miles distant from it, in order to be ready to act according to Circumstances, either in Support of the attacking Corps, or of any of the other Detachments, in case the Enemy should venture to form a Design against them.

I shall neither trouble you with a Description of this formidable Fortress, the lower Wall of which embraces, at a considerable Height on the Ascent, an immense Mountain, or rather Rock, but which actually consists of Two distant Forts, separated from each other by a deep Chasm across the Top of the Mountain, and to the Western Fort there is no Access, except by one narrow Path, that leads to it from the Northern Side; nor shall I enter into a Detail of the Particulars of the Siege, which, though attended with almost incredible Labour, in cutting Roads and Communications, and in dragging the Guns up the Precipices, on which it was necessary to construct the Batteries, was pushed on with the utmost Vigour and Expedition; but shall content myself with mentioning, that having had Reason, on the 20th Instant, to expect, from the shattered Appearance of the Two Walls of the Eastern Fort, that the Breaches in them would soon be practicable, and it being utterly impossible that Troops could find their Way amongst the Rocks and Precipices to ascend the Face of the Hill in the Night, I directed that all the Batteries should continue to fire incessantly during the Remainder of that Day, and from Day-break the following Morning, and that Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart should immediately make a Disposition for assaulting the Place in the Forenoon.

The Fire of the Artillery had every Effect that I could have wished; and Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart having made a most judicious Disposition for the Assault, the Troops mounted the Breach of the lower Wall, from Lodgements that had been made near to it, upon a Signal which was given, at Ten o'Clock; and the good Order and determined Countenance of the European Grenadiers and Light Infantry, who led the Assault, struck the Enemy with such Astonishment, and so thoroughly stupified them with Terror, that although they were posted in great Numbers in Situations, from which they might have done much Execution before they could have been dislodged, it soon appeared that they were totally incapable of making the least Resistance, and by that Means the Troops, without encountering any other Difficulty but that of the Ruggedness of the Paths and the excessive Steepness of the Ascent, not only gained the Summit of the Eastern Hill, but those of the Right Division also pursued the Fugitives to the Gates of the Western Hill, to which the Fire of our Artillery had not been directed, and there mixed and entered

with them. The Pettah, and a Chain of small detached Forts, at a short Distance from the Southern Side of the Hill, being commanded by the upper Works, were immediately abandoned upon the Appearance of our Troops on the Summit of the Mountain.

The Garrison, at the Beginning of the Siege, consisted of about 2,000 Men, from which there had been considerable Desertions before the Day of the Assault.

On that Occasion, although I had sent Two Battalions early in the Morning from the Camp of the main Army to endeavour to intercept the Runaways on the opposite Side of the Mountain, by far the greatest Number escaped over different Parts of the extensive Circuit of the Walls, leaving only between Two and Three Hundred killed and wounded, amongst the former of which was the Second Killedar, and the First Killedar and a few of the principal Officers Prisoners.

On our Side we were fortunate to a Degree, which, perhaps, can hardly be paralleled in History; only Seventeen Men, Officers included, were killed or wounded in carrying on the Approaches and in the Construction of our Batteries, one of which was within 250 Yards of the Wall; and I had the singular Gratification to acquire a Fortress of inestimable Value to the Public Interests, and which has hitherto been considered over all India as impregnable, without having to regret the Loss of a single Soldier in the Assault.

Being persuaded that the Garrisons of the neighbouring Forts would be impressed with great Terror by the Fall of Sevendroog, I lost no Time to avail myself of their Consternation. Captain Welsh, of the Bengal Infantry, who was posted with Three Native Battalions and a large Body of the Nizam's Horse, at a considerable Distance on the Left of the Position of the Army, was accordingly ordered to march with Two Battalions, before Day-light, on the Morning of the 22d, to the Fort of Ramghire, situated about Thirty Miles from Bangalore, on the great Road leading from that Place, by Anapatam, to Seringapatam; and Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart was directed, after leaving One Native Battalion in Sevendroog, to march, with the Remainder of the Corps under his Command, on the Morning of the 23d, to invest the strong Hill Fort of Outradroog, which lays about Twelve Miles to the North-West of Sevendroog.

Although Captain Welsh was furnished with no Means whatever to reduce the Fort of Ramghire by Force, he, by his Address and judicious Management, not only succeeded in alarming the Killedar of that Place and his Garrison, and inducing them to capitulate on the Forenoon of the 23d, but also obtained, in like Manner, Possession of the adjoining Fort of Sevenghire, on the Morning of the 24th.

At Outradroog we were equally successful, and with Circumstances much more brilliant.

The Afternoon of the 23d was employed by Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart, and by the Engineers who had accompanied his Detachment, in reconnoitring the Place; and he resolved to attack the Pettah on the following Morning.

A Detachment