

*To the Most Noble Marquis Cornwallis, K. G.
Lieutenant-General of His Majesty's Forces, Com-
mander in Chief in India, &c.*

MY LORD,

AS soon as Colonel Floyd, under whose Command the Forces most contiguous were assembled at Wallyabad, was in Force sufficient, I ordered him to march forward and encamp within a few Miles of Pondicherry; and as I knew all the Ground well, from having served as Second in Command at the last Siege, and from having commanded myself in Pondicherry some Months, I directed him, as his Force increased, to occupy the Pagoda of Villenore, lying South-West of the Fort, and the Village of Arian Coupang to the Southward, which would prevent the Garrison from drawing Supplies from those Parts of the Country from which they had been in the Habit of drawing them chiefly, and to distress them as much as he could in that Way, but to give Cover, or Protection, to the Villages in the French Districts that applied for it, and shewed any Disposition to assist the Army; I also informed Colonel Floyd of the Ground I intended to take up with the Army, which, having become an entire Forest, I directed him to clear, and forwarded a Supply of Tools to him for that Purpose.

In the mean Time the Admiral in the *Minerva* Frigate, reinforced by Three Indiamen, blockaded the Port most effectually, and took a Vessel from the Islands, on Board of which were some Shot and Shells, and gave Chase to the *Sybillie* Frigate, which, however, escaped, and never appeared more; the Intention of this Frigate, as we learned from *Tranquebar*, was to land some further Supplies, and an Officer of Artillery with about 150 Men, and the preventing this was a Service of much Importance.

By Means of the Post at Arian Coupang, which is near the Mouth of the River, and some Boats furnished by Mr. Kentworthy, the Resident at Cuddalore, the Means of a direct and speedy Communication with the Admiral was established.

While these Things were doing our Preparations in the Ordnance Department went briskly on, and Government took most active Measures to secure sufficient Supplies, by making large Purchases of Rice on the Company's Account, and by calling on his Highness the Nabob and the Rajah of Tanjore, both of whom, it is but Justice to say, shewed much Zeal to forward the Service, by striking off all customary Duties, and holding out every Encouragement to their respective Countries to furnish Supplies to the Army; and as no Tax or Imposition of any Kind was allowed of in Camp, the Army was abundantly supplied.

Having seen every Thing so completely brought forward, I joined, and took the immediate Command of the Army on the 28th of July. The Grand Park of Artillery from the Mount was but little behind me, great Part of the Stores had arrived in Camp, and large Depots of them well advanced on the Road, and arriving daily.

I immediately rode over the Ground on which I intended to encamp, and had every Reason to be satisfied with the Progress that had been made in clearing it, as it was nearly sufficiently cleared to admit of our Encampment. On the 30th the Grand Park of Artillery, under the Conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Gids, halted a few Miles in my Rear; and, on the 31st, I moved forward with the Whole, and took up my Ground on the Red Hills.

I then prepared a Letter of Summons to the Governor, Colonel Prosper de Chermont, which I communicated to the Admiral, proposing that he should

also summon the Place. The Admiral did me the Honor to approve my Summons, and returned it to me, accompanied by One from himself, both of which I sent in with a Flag.

I immediately reconnoitred the South Face of the Fort, which I found greatly improved and much extended since I saw it before, and that by this Extension of it very little Ground was left on that Side to attack it, on Account of the Contiguity of a Branch of the River and some Salt Works, and that that Ground was very low, and liable to be flooded if any heavy Rain set in; and in this Opinion the Chief Engineer, Lieutenant-Colonel Maud, concurred: I however determined upon a Post at a House and Garden on the Bank of the River, about 1,200 Yards from the Fort, which I resolved immediately to occupy, and in some Measure fortify, and brought forward to it Major Petrie's Corps, consisting of the Flank Companies of His Majesty's 71st and 74th Regiments, which had been stationed at Arian Coupang, where I stationed a small Party, now fully sufficient for all our Purposes. I caused Gabions and Fascines to be brought down to the new Post, so that they could be seen from the Fort, to deceive them into an Idea that I meant to attack that Side; and it had the Effect, for they brought more Guns to that Face, and kept up a continued Fire, not but they still fired in every Direction where they saw any Body, expending several Shot even at Individuals. I established Picquets, detached Guards and Patrols of Horse, which kept up an uninterrupted Communication between these Posts and the Main Picquet in Front of the Army, which was well advanced towards the Villenore Gate of the Fort, under the Cover of a Village and a large Garden House. On the next Day I reconnoitred the North Face of the Fort, which was not so strong as when I had seen it before, the Works here being much lower, though otherwise of the same Construction as those we had destroyed after the last Siege, and I found the Ground contiguous most favorable for an Attack, a very light Soil, and so high as convinced me it must be perfectly dry, even in a Moonsoon; and I caused Two of the Engineer's Corps to embark on a Country Boat, and reconnoitre the Sea Face, and particularly the Stockade and Defences behind the N. E. Angle Bastion: And every Thing concurring to determine me, I approved, with very little Alteration, a Plan of Attack of the North Face, calculated to work round the N. E. Angle into the Fort, suggested by the Chief Engineer.

I established the Engineer's Park in the Rear of the Village of Mootalpettah, on the Bank of a Creek on the Sea Side, under Cover of Major Vigor's Corps, consisting of the Flank Companies of the Hon. Company's 1st and 2d European Battalions, caused the Village to be traversed and every Thing well secured, and from this I extended Picquets, Guards and Patrols as on the Right, to keep up a Communication with the Main Picquet; and thus the Place was completely invested from Sea to Sea. The Engineer's Post was so situated as to land every Thing most conveniently from the Sea, and was distinguished by a St. George's Flag, of which Notice was given to Madras and Cuddalore, and large Quantities of the Rice purchased by Government, and great Supplies of Fascines and Gabions, prepared at Cuddalore by the Activity of Mr. Kentworthy, the Resident, were soon sent to it, with a Supply of Boats to facilitate their Landing; and to this End the Governor of Madras also very politely sent me a further Supply of Boats.

The Pioneers were put under the Chief Engineer, and all the Artificers and Detachments of working Men