



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1796.

Horse-Guards, January 6, 1796.

DISPATCHES from Colonel Stuart, of which the following are Copies, have been this Day received by the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

*Camp before Trincomalé in the Island of Ceylon,
August 17, 1795.*

SIR,

IN obedience to the Orders and Instructions I received from the Government of Fort St. George, and Colonel Brathwaite commanding the King's and Company's Forces on the Coast of Coromandel, I have the Honor to acquaint you, for His Majesty's Information, by the Royal Admiral under Dispatch for Europe, that the Armament, with the Command of which I am entrusted, embarked the 30th Ultimo at Fort St. George on Board His Majesty's Ships of War upon that Station and the Transports taken up for the Purpose of conveying it to this Place.

The Fleet arrived in Back Bay, to the Northward of the Forts of Trincomalé and Oostnaburgh, on the 1st Instant; and as Commodore Rainier and I were particularly anxious that the Commandant of those Forts should not misapprehend the Object of the Armament under our Command, every Precaution was taken to prevent any Misapprehension upon that Head, by explaining to him the Nature of it; and Two Days were spent in Communications between the Fort and Fleet for that Purpose.

As the Commandant, however, did not think proper to accede to the Requisitions made, in the Name of the King, by the Commodore and me, and refused obeying the Commands of his Superior, Mr.

Van Angelbeck, (the Governor of Columbo) to deliver up the Fort of Oostnaburgh to a Detachment of His Majesty's Troops, on Account of an Informality in the Order, the Commodore agreeing with me in the Propriety of landing the Troops, they were disembarked on the 3d, about Four Miles to the Northward of the Fort of Trincomalé, without Opposition.

Neither the Garrison of Trincomalé or Oostnaburgh have hitherto given us any Molestation in the laborious Service, in which the Troops have been employed, of conveying Provisions, Ordnance and Stores, along a steep sandy Beach, from a Distance of Three Miles; nor has any Act of open Hostility taken Place.

We are still employed in the same Service, as well as in preparing Materials for the Construction of such Works as may be necessary to reduce the Forts; and if the Commandant perseveres in his Resolution to refuse us Admittance as Friends, I hope to have it in my Power to begin our Approaches against the Fort of Trincomalé Tomorrow Night.

I cannot too strongly express my Obligations to Commodore Rainier for the Readiness with which he has afforded every Assistance which could be given by the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under his Command, in conveying and landing the Troops, Stores and Provisions, and in every Part of the Service where his Aid and Co-operation could be of Use; and his Zeal has been ably seconded by the Exertions of the Officers and Seamen employed in carrying his Orders into Effect.

I have the Honor, &c.

J. STUART.

[Price Four-pence Halfpenny.]