



The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday April 3, to Saturday April 7, 1804.

Downing-Street, April 5, 1804.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, was this Day received by the Right Honorable Lord Hobart, One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from the Honorable Frederick North, Governor of His Majesty's Possessions in the Island of Ceylon:

Lord Hobart, &c. &c. &c. One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, London.

MY LORD,

IT has pleased God to bless the Exertions of our small Force with the most extraordinary Success. Not more than eight Days ago, the King of Candy, at the Head of the most numerous Force which he could collect in his Dominions, burst into these Settlements at Sitawaca, and attacked the petty Forts of Hangwelle, at the Distance of eighteen English Miles from this City, which was defended by a small Garrison of Fifty Europeans, One Hundred and Sixty Sepoys, and Seventeen Gun Lascars, on the 3d, 4th, and 6th of this Month.

Of these Actions, the last was by far the most bloody and decisive. After a Combat of an Hour and a Half, the Candians were defeated with great Slaughter, their Guns taken, together with the royal Standard, and more than One Hundred and Twenty Bengal and Madras Lascars, who had been made Prisoners at Candy, and compelled to work at the Candian Guns, were brought back again to our Service. The King fled at the Beginning of the Action, and was followed by Leuke, Dessave of the Four Corles, and by the Maha M. Mottiar, or Chief Secretary of State, both of whose Heads he ordered immediately to be struck off.

A Reinforcement was sent up on the Night after the Battle, consisting of Fifty Europeans, and Eighty Sepoys, under Captain Hankey, to join Captain Pollock, who had commanded on that Day, the ill Health of Lieutenant Mercer, who had hitherto defended the Place with great Vigour and Judgment, having rendered it necessary to relieve him from that fatiguing Command. Captain Pollock marched forward towards the Candian Frontier, on the Morning of the 9th, and, after overcoming all Opposition, arrived, on the Morning of the 13th, at Kovanelly, on the Calany Gunga, in the Candian Territory, where the King had formed

his principal Magazine. Captain Buchan (who had proceeded with a Detachment from Negombo, through the Hina and the Hapittigam Corles) arrived there, at the same Time, on the other Side of the River; the Enemy fled; the Stores fell into our Hands, and have been brought away, and the Town, with the King's new Palace there, entirely burnt.

The Details of these important Occurrences are given at full Length in the enclosed Gazettes. The Districts of Galla and Matura, of Chilow and Putlam, are also delivered from the Enemy, and restored to perfect Obedience and Tranquillity, and the Increase of our Force, by the Recovery of the Malays, will enable me to send a small Body of Troops to Manaar, to protect the Northern Districts, of the Situation of which we have had no Information for these last three Weeks, as the Passage of the Mail has been intercepted.

Two Hundred of the 34th Regiment have been sent to Trincomale by the Madras Government, and will soon be relieved by Two Hundred and Fifty of the 10th; and Lord Wellesley has destined the Battalion of Bengal Volunteers for this Island.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

FRED. NORTH.

P. S. Since I concluded my Letter, I have received Intelligence from Ensign Pendergatt, commanding at Hambangtotte, that he had been blockaded in that new Colony from the 23d Ultimo, to the 9th of this Month, but had beat off the Enemy, and that His Majesty's Ship Wilhelmina had touched there with the Royal Artillery from Trincomale, destined for this Side of the Island, and left Eight Men there.

F. N.

Extract from the CEYLON GOVERNMENT GAZETTE of 7th September 1803.

Head-Quarters, Colombo, Sept. 2, 1803.

GENERAL ORDER. By Major-General Macdowall.

THE following Orders, by His Excellency the Governor, are published by his Desire to the Troops serving on Ceylon.

GENERAL ORDER. By the Governor.

THE Governor has observed with peculiar Satisfaction the rapid Series of well-judged and well-executed Operations by which Captain Her-