

In a military view, the resistance, and consequently the danger, has been comparatively trifling, but it would be the highest injustice to estimate, by the inadequate opportunities which have presented themselves, what might have been achieved if the occasion had called forth the full exertions of the troops. Of fatigue and hardship of weather, they have had considerable trials, the roads being indescribably rugged, with frequent interruptions both of mountain and morass, and every difficulty that marching can possibly admit. These, however, with the dispiriting addition of frequent rain, only served to display their ardour, which no obstacles, no discouragements could subdue. But that for which I hold myself principally indebted to the army which I have had the honour and good fortune to command in this undertaking is, their orderly behaviour, and abstaining from all acts of plunder, violence, and irregularity. They have in consequence been every where received by the Chiefs and inhabitants with unfeigned welcome, assisted with supplies and means of carriage, and their camps frequented by all classes of the natives, with extraordinary freedom and familiarity. Your Lordship will readily perceive the happy tendency of this kind of behaviour, in encouraging and propagating that confidence, on the part of the inhabitants of these provinces, in the justice and moderation of His Majesty's Government, and the protection of his arms, which served to invite and attach them to the cause in which they were engaged, and led, under Providence, to a conquest, the attempting of which has in former instances proved so fatal, as to leave terrific lessons of caution and forbearance to future invaders; an enterprize which, I have no hesitation in saying, could not, with any common prudence, have been entered upon, except with the most credible assurances of the concurring wishes of the Chiefs and people, nor could ever have been brought to a successful issue without their acquiescence and aid.

The army has enjoyed in a very surprising degree the blessings of health. Our returns of sick are much below the number which might be expected in the same force, stationed in any of the garrisons of the colony.

I am now occupied in returning to their former stations such parts of the troops as will not be required to remain for the maintenance of the British government in the interior.

I am not yet prepared to present to your Lordship any connected view of the complicated and important considerations, of a political and civil nature, which arise out of this great change: these I shall therefore reserve for a separate dispatch, and conclude the present, with soliciting your Lordship to do me the honour of presenting to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, the expression of my humble congratulations, in being enabled, by the speedy and happy issue of a campaign, ending with the unparalleled good fortune of not losing a single life, to tender for his Royal Highness's acceptance, the duties of a new and industrious hardy race of people, and the possession of a territory, bountifully endowed with natural gifts, and requiring only the blessings of a just government, and an equitable administration of justice, and the indulgent care and countenance of a humane and gracious Prince.

I consider the circumstances which have taken place to be of so much national interest and importance, as to warrant my entrusting them to the care of a confidential Staff Officer. My son, Major Brownrigg, Deputy Adjutant-General to this army, will therefore have the honour of delivering this dispatch, and as he has a perfect knowledge of all the occurrences of our short campaign, he is enabled to afford such information as your Lordship may be pleased to require of him.

He will be charged with the banner or standard of Kandy, to be laid, with my most respectful duty, at the feet of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

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